# FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE

K. K. DATTA

# INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

GENERAL EDITOR : T. RAYCHAUDHURI

# GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

In the words of Grant Duff the records of the East India Company are the best historical material in the world. Research scholars working in various parts of the country would undoubtedly like to have this raw material in a readily accessible form. But to bring the voluminous records within easy reach of scholars would be a superhuman task. While that task has not been attempted, the Government of India has, on the recommendation of the Indian Historical Records Commission, accepted a scheme which envisages publication of the correspondence between the Court of Directors of the East India Company in London and the Fort William Council in Calcutta. This correspondence forms a very small part of the records of the Government of India but its value and importance are without question. While it does not give the detailed story of every action or every policy, for which one has to go to the discussions, minutes, decisions etc., available in the proceedings of the Board, it nevertheless gives a bird's-eye view of the Company's activity in all its aspects, which enables the reader to form a clear idea of the history of the time. This series of records was considered suitable for *in extenso* reproduction. Since the Company's records of the period earlier than 1748 are not available in the National Archives of India, except for some stray documents, the series was started from that date. As a first instalment it was decided to publish the records of the period between 1748 and 1800 in 21 volumes as follows:

| Volume | Nature of records | Period |
|---|---|---|
| I | Home Department | 1748-56 |
| II | Do. | 1757-59 |
| III | Do. | 1760-63 |
| IV | Do. | 1764-66 |
| V | Do. | 1767-69 |
| VI | Do. | 1770-72 |
| VII | Do. | 1773-76 |
| VIII | Do. | 1777-81 |
| IX | Do. | 1782-85 |
| X | Do. | 1786-88 |
| XI | Do. | 1789-92 |

| Volume | Nature of Records | Period |
|---|---|---|
| XII | Home, Separate (Revenue) | 1793-95 |
| XIII | Home, Separate (Legislative) | 1796-1800 |
| XIV | Secret, Select Committee | 1752-81 |
| XV | Foreign, Secret | 1782-86 |
| XVI | Secret & Separate | 1787-91 |
| XVII | Foreign, Political & Secret | 1792-95 |
| XVIII | Do. | 1796-1800 |
| XIX | Military Department | 1787-92 |
| XX | Do. | 1792-95 |
| XXI | Do. | 1796-1800 |

These volumes were to be edited by scholars working in Universities and learned institutions under the general editorship of the Director of Archives, Government of India. Apart from the individual editor's introduction accompanying each of the 21 volumes, there is to be a general Prefatory Note to be written by the General Editor covering the entire series. It was felt that a knowledge of the period prior to 1748 when the series starts would be indispensable to a proper appreciation of the history of the succeeding period. The note is therefore to give a general survey of the Company's history and activities from its establishment up to 1748. In addition, it will highlight the trends of the Company's policy as unfolded in the letters now being published, in order that they may be appreciated more easily. The original intention was to include this review in the Prefatory Note in Volume I of the series. But the idea has been given up and it is now proposed to have a small separate volume for the purpose. For one thing, Volume I has become quite bulky and further addition to its bulk was considered undesirable. Secondly, as the Preface is to survey also the period 1748-1800, it was felt that the preparation of the Preface might conveniently await the completion of the editorial work of all the volumes in this series.

The present volume, though fourth in order of publication, is the first of the series. It had been sent to the press as early as 1952, but in view of other urgent work its printing was given a relatively low priority. The unfortunate delay in publishing the volume and the comparatively low standard of production are regretted.

The General Editor is grateful to the Commonwealth Relations Office, London, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, for permission to publish certain portraits and paintings from among their collections, and to the Director General of Archaeology, Government of India, for supplying photographic copies of some of the illustrations included in the volume.

T. RAYCHAUDHURI,
*Director of Archives*
*Government of India.*

*National Archives of India,*
*New Delhi,*
*27 August* 1958.

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# CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY*
## 1748-56

| *Year* | *Chairman* | *Deputy Chairman* |
|---|---|---|
| 1748 | Chauncey, Richard | Braddyll, Dodding** |
| 1749 | Baker, William | Chauncey, Richard |
| 1750 | Chauncey, Richard | Gough, Harry |
| 1751 | Drake, Roger (Sr.) | Baker, William |
| 1752 | Baker, William | Chauncey, Richard |
| 1753 | Chauncey, Richard | Drake, Roger (Sr.) |
| 1754 | Drake, Roger (Sr.) | Chauncey, Richard |
| 1755 | Drake, Roger (Sr.) | Godfrey, Peter |
| 1756 | Godfrey, Peter | Payne, John. |

# DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY
## 1748-56

| | |
|---|---|
| Baker, William** | 1741-52 |
| Barwell, William | 1753-59, 1761-64, 1766 |
| Benyon, Richard** | 1745-48 |
| Bootle, Capt. Robert | 1741-49, 1752-53, 1755-56 |
| Boulton, Henry Crabb | 1753-61, 1763-65, 1767-70, 1772-73 |
| Boyd, John | 1753-61, 1763-64 |
| Braddyll, Dodding** | 1728-48 |
| Braund, William | 1745-54 |
| Burrow, Christopher | 1735-58, 1760-61 |
| Chambers, Charles | 1755-57, 1763-66, 1768 |
| Chauncey, Richard | 1737-55 |
| Creed, James | 1749, 1755-58, 1761 |

*The lists are based on the following sources : the text of the letters published in this volume ; C. C. Prinsep's *Records of Services of the Honourable East India Company's Civil Servants in the Madras Presidency, 1741-1858* (London, 1885) ; the *Alphabetical List of Directors of the East India Company from 1758 to 1858*, compiled by C.H. and D. Philips and published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, October 1941 ; and the *List of the Heads of Administrations in India and of the India Office in England* (Imperial Record Department, 1939).

**These names do not occur in the letters but have been included on the basis of C. C. Prinsep's *Records of Services of the Honourable East India Company's Civil Servants in the Madras Presidency, 1741-1858* (London, 1885).

| | |
|---|---|
| Catts, Charles | 1749-54, 1758-61, 1763-66 |
| Dorrien, John | 1755-58, 1760-63 |
| Drake, Roger (Sr.) | 1738-58 |
| Ducane, Peter | 1750-54 |
| Feake, Samuel** | 1733-51 |
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| Godfrey, Peter | 1710-17, 1734-57, 1759-60 |
| Gough, Charles | 1749-57, 1759-62 |
| Gough, Capt. Harry (Sr.)** | 1730-33, 1736-51 |
| Gough, Harry (Jr.) ** | 1735-51 |
| Hope, John** | 1738-41, 1744-52 |
| Hudson, Capt. Robert** | 1721-29, 1732-34, 1745-48 |
| Hume, Alexander** | 1737-48 |
| Impey, Michael | 1736-57 |
| Jones, Robert | 1754-57, 1765-68 |
| Law, Stephen | 1746-56 |
| Linwood, Nicholas | 1754-55 |
| Mabbott, William | 1741-55 |
| Manship, John | 1755-58, 1762-65, 1767, 1769-77, 1779-82, 1784-87, 1789-92, 1794-97, 1799-1802, 1804-07, 1809 |
| Newnham, Nathaniel (Jr.) | 1738-58 |
| Payne, John | 1741-57 |
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| Raymond, Jones | 1734-58 |
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| Steele, William** | 1742-48 |
| Sulivan, Laurence | 1755-58, 1760-61, 1763-64, 1769, 1771-72, 1778-81, 1783-85 |
| Thornton, John** | 1749-50 |
| Tullie, Timothy | 1750-58, 1760-63 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Turner, Whichcott | 1742-56 |
| Walpole, Thomas | 1753-55 |
| Western, Maximilian | 1755-58 |
| Wilberforce, William (Jr.) | 1753-55 |
| Willy, William | 1746-55 |
| Winter, James | 1754 |

## GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL 1748-56

| | |
|---|---|
| Barwell, William | 18 April 1748—17 July 1749 |
| Dawson, Adam | 17 July 1749—5 July 1752 |
| Fytche, William | 5 July 1752—8 August 1752 |
| Drake, Roger (Jr.) | 8 August 1752—22 June 1758 |

## MEMBERS OF BOARD, FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL 1748-56

| | |
|---|---|
| Amyatt, Peter | 1756-58 |
| Barwell, William | 1748-49 |
| Becher, Richard | 1751-60, 1766-71 |
| Bellamy, Humffreys | 1748-50 |
| Blachford, James | 1750-52 |
| Boddam, Thomas | 1756-59 |
| Burrow Thomas | 1749-52 |
| Collet, Mathew | 1753-58 |
| Cruttenden, Edward Holden | 1748-55 |
| Dawson, Adam | 1748-52 |
| Drake, Roger (Jr.) | 1748-58 |
| Eyles, Edward | 1748-49 |
| Eyre, Edward | 1753-56 |
| Forster, John | 1748 |
| Frankland, William | 1752-59 |
| Fytche, William | 1748-51 |
| Hollond, John | 1750-51 |
| Holwell, John Zephaniah | 1752-60 |
| Kempe, William | 1748-49 |

*The years mentioned against the names of the Members do not necessarily indicate the entire terms of their membership but merely show that they were members during the period stated as verified from the Correspondence.

| | |
|---|---|
| Killpatrick, James | 1756-57 |
| Mackett, William | 1752-59 |
| Manningham, Charles | 1750-59 |
| Pattle, George | 1748-49 |
| Pearkes, Paul Richard | 1751-52, 1754-58 |
| Rooper, Samuel | 1749-50 |
| Watts, William | 1749-52, 1756-58 |

## GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST. GEORGE
### 1748-56

| | |
|---|---|
| Floyer, Charles | 16 April 1747—21 August 1749 |
| Boscawen, Edward | 21 August 1749—11 October 1749 |
| Lawrence, Stringer | 11 October 1749—6 December 1749 (Deputy Governor) |
| Prince, Richard | 6 December 1749—19 September 1750 (Deputy Governor) |
| Saunders, Thomas | 19 September 1750—14 January 1755 |
| Pigot, George | 14 January 1755—14 November 1763 |

## GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY
### 1748-56

| | |
|---|---|
| Wake, William | 26 November 1742—17 November 1750 |
| Bourchier, Richard | 17 November 1750—28 February 1760 |

# INTRODUCTION

# INTRODUCTION

The correspondence in this volume covers the years from 1748 to 1756 A.D., which form a significant period in the history of India. The disappearance of political unity and administrative order which followed the rapid decline of the Mughal Empire generated various disintegrating forces which accelerated India's decay in all respects and contributed to make European penetration into her politics bolder, quicker, and deeper than before. A careful and comprehensive study of these forces is an indispensable prerequisite for a correct understanding of the genesis of the political revolutions in India, and her rapid economic decline during the 18th century.

## *Alivardi*

Alivardi was the *subahdar* of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa during this period. He seized the *masnad* of Bengal after defeating and slaying his patron's son and his own master Sarfaraz at Giria, near Rajmahal, on 10 April 1740, and occupied it till his death on 9 (or 10) April 1756. Southern India was then distracted by the evil effects of the bitter conflicts between the English and the French trading companies and the civil wars among the rival claimants to the rulerships of the Deccan and of the Carnatic. By considerable vigilance and tact Alivardi was able to keep his province immune from the pernicious effects of the southern wars. But Bengal suffered much from the repeated onslaughts of the triumphant Maratha imperialism of the time and from the insurrections of the Afghans, both of which caused a tremendous strain on its government, traders and common people. The government of Alivardi was only partially successful in combating these evils. His death was, however, followed by general disorder which emboldened the European trading companies to interfere in the politics of Bengal just as they had been doing in southern India during the preceding few years.

Economically the period was brighter than what was to follow after Plassey. But the signs of the coming change had already appeared and the main lines of economic decline resulting from the prevailing political troubles were discernible; the situation after 1757 only hastened the process.

Bengal, rich in varied resources, naturally excited the cupidity of the Marathas who were then invading and plundering different parts of India. When the ambition of Raghuji Bhonsle I of Berar, virtually an independent chief, to dominate the affairs of his master, Shahu, at Satara, had been foiled by the superior tactics and ability of Baji Rao I, his eyes fell upon Bengal as a very suitable sphere for the extension of his influence and for acquisition of wealth by the imposition of *chauth*. His general Bhaskar Pant invaded Bengal at the head of a large army in the spring of 1742. Alivardi heard of this near Midnapur, on his way back from the Orissa campaign, and marched to Burdwan in April to oppose the Marathas who had already reached that town. But taken unawares by a surprise Maratha attack on his camp at dead of night, he retreated towards Katwa, 35 miles to the north-east of Burdwan, his troops fighting their way through the enemy ranks and suffering acutely from lack of even ordinary shelter and food. Not only important cities like Murshidabad, Hooghly, Burdwan and Katwa, but also several localities in the interior of the province were plundered by the Marathas, and their inhabitants put to unspeakable tortures. In the course of two or three months, the whole of West Bengal and part of Orissa passed under Maratha control. Only north and east Bengal and the city of Murshidabad remained under the Nawab's authority. The English in Calcutta anxiously watched the movements of both parties and took precautions for their own safety. The Nawab's Government, however, made effective arrangements to prevent Maratha advance into east Bengal and succeeded in driving them beyond the Chilka Lake in December 1742.

The first Maratha raid was thus warded off. But in the meantime early in December 1742 Safdar Jang, the *subahdar* of Oudh, had marched into Bihar, ostensibly to befriend Alivardi under the orders of Emperor Muhammad Shah but with the ulterior motive of adding Bihar to his dominions. Disgusted with Safdar Jang's domineering conduct at Patna, Alivardi managed to secure imperial orders for his recall, and Safdar Jang left Bihar by the middle of January 1743.

There was, however, no relief for Bengal from Maratha incursions. With ambition unsatiated Bhaskar Pant instigated Raghuji Bhonsle to invade this province at the head of a large army in February 1743. Himself reduced to complete political importance and incapable of prompt action, the Emperor sought to counteract this menace by persuading

Raghuji's great rival, Peshwa Baji Rao, to march into Bengal to oppose him there. Alivardi met the Peshwa in a conference at Plassey on 31 March 1743 and secured his alliance against Raghuji by agreeing to pay *chauth* for Bengal to Shahu and by presenting him with 22 lacs of rupees and some costly articles. By the end of May 1743 the allies forced Raghuji to leave Bengal with heavy losses, after which the Peshwa also returned to Poona.

The baffled Nagpur chief did not remain idle for long. Early in March 1744, he deputed his generals, Bhaskar Pant and Ali Bhai Qarawwal,[1] to invade Bengal. Realising that the exhaustion of his army and of his treasury would make an open encounter with the enemy risky, Alivardi now took recourse to finesse and stratagem to frustrate Maratha designs. Plying Bhaskar Pant with sweet messages and presents, the Nawab persuaded the Maratha general to meet him, without any military escort, at Mankarah on 31 March 1744, and had him assassinated. A large number of the leaderless Maratha soldiers were thereafter massacred by the Nawab's Afghan troops while the rest took to their heels.

This perfidy naturally roused a desire for revenge in Raghuji's mind. Next year the rebellion of Mustafa Khan, the foremost among Alivardi's Afghan generals, afforded him a suitable opportunity to strike again. Raghuji, in fact, allied himself with the distressed followers of Mustafa Khan in Bihar after the latter had been slain by the Nawab's troops near Jagdishpur on 20 June 1745. A number of engagements were fought between the Marathas and the Nawab's army at different places in Bengal and Bihar, till finally Raghuji was defeated near Katwa in December 1745 and returned to Nagpur. But practically the whole of Orissa remained under the control of his deputy Mir Habib, and roving bands of Maratha soldiers were still scattered in different parts of Bengal.

Alivardi's attempt to recover Orissa in 1746-47 failed, largely owing to the treachery of his generals Mir Jafar Khan and Ataullah Khan. Meanwhile Mir Habib had been reinforced by a large army under Janoji, son of Raghuji, which entered the districts of Burdwan and Murshidabad. But

1. He was "one of the Maratha leaders who had embraced the Muhammadan faith and was surnamed Ali Bhai". Ghulam Husain Salim, *Riyazus Salatin* (English Tr. A. S. B.), p. 347.

undaunted by these difficulties, Alivardi, though an old man of seventy-one, took the field against Janoji, defeated him near Burdwan and compelled him to flee to Midnapur, which remained the eastern limit of the territories under Maratha control during 1747.

The second Afghan insurrection in 1748, more serious than the first, the reappearance of the Marathas in different parts of west Bengal and their alliance with the Afghan insurgents in Bihar greatly embarrassed Alivardi. Some Maratha troops advanced up to Thana fort (near Matiaburuz, Calcutta), many reached the vicinity of Murshidabad and some tried to proceed towards east Bengal. The Dacca factors informed the Council in Calcutta on 4 March 1748 of "the utmost confusion in that city on news of the Marathas coming by the way of Sunderbund".[1] Many important centres of trade and manufacture were plundered and some goods of the English East India Company in charge of Ensign English were lost. The allied Maratha and Afghan armies were, however, completely defeated by the Nawab at Ranisarai (or Kala Diara) on the south bank of the Ganges 26 miles east of Patna on 16 April 1748. At this juncture Janoji heard of his mother's death and withdrew precipitately to Nagpur. Mir Habib, however, remained at Midnapur at the head of the major portion of the Maratha troops and continued to exercise control over Orissa.

In March 1749 Alivardi marched into Orissa and recovered it from the Marathas during the third week of May. He appointed a cavalry officer Abdus Subhan Khan as deputy governor and started back for Murshidabad. But within a week of his departure, the Marathas came out of their forest retreats and re-occupied Cuttack. The Nawab fell seriously ill as a result of the hardships of the distant campaigns. His illness continued till the middle of October 1749 and the Marathas were left free to plunder different parts of Orissa. They even threatened the English factory at Cuttack. Towards the end of the year a Maratha detachment reached the neighbourhood of Calcutta. On recovering from his illness Alivardi proceeded to Midnapur in December 1749 and forced the Marathas to retreat. But soon he had to come back to Bengal as "a body of several thousand Morattoes had passed him (early in March 1750) and plundered the country as far

1. *Letter to Court*, 19 November 1748, para 80.

as Rajamaul." Mir Habib, with 12,000 cavalry, advanced within four miles of Murshidabad and in a skirmish with Mir Jafar's troops "obliged them [Mir Jafar's troops] to retreat nearer the city .....the two armies were then encamped near each other and the Morattoes were daily sending out parties to burn and plunder all round them."[1] The raiders then retreated to Midnapur and the Nawab again went there determined to stay there for some time so that he might take effective steps to stop for ever the Maratha incursions into Bengal. But an ill-advised attempt on the part of Sirajud Daulah in June 1750 to seize the government of Bihar by removing the Nawab's agent Janki Ram compelled Alivardi to march to Bihar at once. Old and in poor health the Nawab got no rest or peace owing to the continuance of Maratha inroads during the remaining few months of the year 1750 and the beginning of 1751.

Sorely tried by the hard campaigns of about eight years both the parties considered it advisable to come to a settlement and signed a treaty in May or June 1751. According to its terms the Bengal Government was to pay to the Marathas twelve lacs of rupees a year as *chauth* of the Bengal *Subah* "on condition that the Marathas would never set their foot again" within its boundaries. The Marathas agreed not to march beyond the river Subarnarekha near Jalesar, which was fixed as the boundary of the Bengal *Subah*. Mir Habib was left as Deputy Governor of Orissa under Alivardi and as his employee. But Mir Habib's days were numbered. Jealous of his elevation to a high position his enemies poisoned Janoji's mind against him. When Janoji came to Orissa in 1752 as his father's deputy in charge of the Maratha infantry kept there for defence, Mir Habib was murdered by Janoji's troops.

The repeated Maratha inroads produced some significant consequences. They not only embarrassed Alivardi's government but also proved to be a terrible calamity to the province of Bengal with adverse effects on the economic life of its people in all respects. There was no opportunity for the country to repair the economic damage as it was soon confronted with other baffling problems.

While the Maratha inroads were a severe strain on Alivardi, he was faced with a grave internal danger. His

[1]. *Letter to Court*, 24 August 1750, para 164.

Afghan soldiers, who had previously rendered him valuable services, rebelled against him for various reasons about five years after the commencement of his *subahdarship*. Their alliance with the Marathas added to the gravity of the situation. Their first insurrection in 1745 under the leadership of Mustafa Khan was suppressed after they had been defeated by Zainuddin Muhammad Khan, nephew of Alivardi and *naib nazim* of Bihar, near Jagdishpur (18 miles south-west of Arrah town, Bihar) on 20 June 1745. Soon after this, Mustafa Khan was slain by an officer of Zainuddin. Mustafa's son and his followers fled to the village of Magror, 14 miles west of Chainpur on the bank of the river Karamnasa. On account of the intrigues of the Afghan rebels with the Maratha chief Raghuji Bhonsle, who had invaded Bihar in September 1745, the Nawab formally dismissed them all from his service, whereupon they returned to their respective habitations in Darbhanga.

The Afghan generals rose against the Nawab once more in 1748. This formidable insurrection indeed cost Alivardi much. The insurgents killed his nephew Zainuddin, tortured his brother Haji Ahmad to death on 30 January and made the members of their families captive. They usurped Patna and held it for three months, subjecting the people to acute miseries.

The news of these heart-rending mishaps reached Alivardi on 30 January 1748. He soon recovered from the first shock and made a firm resolve to recover Patna from the hands of the Afghans. He started from his camp at Amaniganj near Murshidabad on 29 February 1748 and completely defeated the allied Afghans and Marathas at Ranisarai on 16 April. By the first week of May, he found himself completely relieved of the Afghan menace[1]. The European traders in Bengal and Bihar too suffered some losses on account of the Afghan insurrections. In January 1748 the insurgents plundered the Dutch factory at Fatwa, near Patna, and Shamshir Khan, their leader, demanded "a general tax from the 3 European nations [the English, the French, the Dutch] of 40 or 50,000 Rupees."[2]

On account of all these troubles the Bengal *masnad* did not prove to be a bed of roses for Alivardi. Still, by acting with tact and prudence he maintained an efficient administrative

1. *Letter to Court*, 19 November 1748, paras 84-85.
2. Ibid., para 81.

system, and exerted his authority in all quarters. The European traders in Bengal (the English, the French and the Dutch companies and the Danes, the Prussians and the Portuguese) had to acknowledge it, and he did not tolerate any infringement of the laws. At the same time these traders were not unduly harassed. They had to make financial contributions to the Nawab only when the latter was called upon to meet extraordinary needs occasioned by the Maratha raids and the Afghan insurrections. Fully alive to the necessity of promoting the economic interest of his province, he encouraged in all possible ways the different classes of traders. All the European traders sought to conciliate him as best as they could, though they occasionally murmured or complained when impeded. In some of their despatches the Court of Directors emphasized that maintenance of friendship with the Nawab's government would be a prudent course.

The firm attitude of Alivardi towards the Europeans and his constant vigil of their movements in southern India saved Bengal from being converted during his lifetime into one of the theatres of hostility among them. In July 1745 Alivardi issued a *parwana* enjoining upon the Europeans the observance of neutrality in his dominions from Point Palmyras.[1] This neutrality was once violated when towards the end of 1748 the French at Chandernagore forcibly took possession of the Dutch Company's garden at Chinsura, situated in the centre of Fort Augustus. The Dutch and their allies, the English, protested, and the garden was restored to the Dutch in April 1749, after the close of the War of the Austrian Succession.

### *The Relations between the European Powers*

Thereafter the European powers in India were apparently friendly to one another till the echo of the Seven Years' War reached this land and caused a recrudescence of hostilities. On 23 December 1754, Godeheu had signed a provisional treaty with Saunders, the validity of which depended on its final ratification by the respective home authorities. But the interests of the English and the French in different quarters were then too much in conflict to admit of a cordial settlement. As a matter of fact, a war between the two powers was imminent and its formal declaration was only a question

1. Point Palmyras is a promontory and a small town on the coast of the Bay of Bengal to the south of Balasore.

of time. The Court of Directors communicated due notes of warning and advice to the Council in Calcutta and asked them to be well on their guard.[1] Some positive instructions in this respect were communicated by the Court of Directors to the Council in Calcutta in paras 7-10 of their letter dated 26 March 1755. They emphasized therein the need of mutual harmony and assistance among the three Presidencies. Apprehending that the French might exploit the confused state of affairs at Delhi, after the overthrow of Emperor Ahmad Shah in June 1754, to further their own interests at the cost of those of the English, the Court of Directors asked the Council in Calcutta in their letter dated 16 April 1755 to do the needful for the security of their "trade rights and privileges" against what they described as the "artful designs" of the French. After war had been formally declared on 18 May 1756 the Court despatched information about its course to the Bengal and Madras Councils. They asked the Bengal Council to use all "care and prudence for the future safety of our valuable settlements in Bengal" and even recommended that they should do all in their power "to engage the Nabob [Sirajud Daulah] to give you his protection as the only and most effectual measure for the security of settlement and property".[2] The repercussions of the Seven Years' War on Indian politics were profound. They included two of the decisive battles of Indian history, Plassey and Wandiwash, fought in the course of it. The British capture of Chandernagore in March 1757, followed by the expulsion of the French from Bengal, deprived Sirajud Daulah of the almost certain alliance of the French against the English and thus improved the latter's position on the eve of the crucial battle of Plassey. As for the battle of Wandiwash, it undoubtedly dealt the severest blow to French political ambitions in India.

Bengal was kept immune from the political effects of the southern wars by Alivardi. But their economic influence could not be wholly averted. The province was very often required to send assistance in the shape of provisions and funds to the south for the successful prosecution of the Company's military activities. In fact, the needs of the Company's southern wars were responsible for the origin about this time of one of the forms of economic drain on the resources of Bengal, which developed so much in subsequent years. In December

[1]. *Letters from Court*, 31 January and 14 February 1755.
[2]. *Letter from Court*, 29 December 1756, paras 3, 4 and 25

1748 Alexander Murray, agent for the squadron under Admiral Boscawen's command, requested the Council in Calcutta for two lacs and thirty thousand rupees for His Majesty's service. Taking into consideration their other expenses the Council advanced him only fifty thousand five hundred rupees. The "demands" on the Bengal Presidency "running so high" the Council in Calcutta directed the members of the subordinate factories in Bengal to "desist from drawing any bills of exchange" on them as they "had not money in the treasury to answer them" and also "to be as sparing as possible in their expenses in every respect particularly buildings and repairs".[1] In February 1749 Captain Thomas Field and Captain John Macnamara, commanders of the Company's ships the *Royal George* and the *Rhoda,* were supplied with 3,000 bags of rice each for the use of the garrison of Fort St. David.[2] Fort St. George and Fort St. David also secured supply of gunpowder and soldiers from Bengal.[3] The protracted wars in the south could not but produce adverse effects on the economic condition of Peninsular India as also to some extent on that of other parts. The troubles on the south-eastern coast had "greatly detrimented if not entirely ruined the markets there" so that some goods sent there from Bengal had remained unsold for three or four years.[4] The owners of these goods incurred a loss of forty or fifty per cent. So the Council in Calcutta permitted the Bengal ships to touch at ports other than Fort St. George or Fort St. David, where the scarcity of boats was an additional inconvenience. In June 1755 the Council at Fort St. George complained that the practice was against a standing order of the Company issued in 1734 and that it badly affected the Company's customs. The Council in Calcutta had already requested the Court of Directors not to enforce that standing order "till the times by a more favourable turn admit" of their "complying with the tenour thereof".[5] They again requested the Court in 1755 to "take this affair once more into serious consideration" and "to reverse the orders" they had passed prohibiting this practice.[6]

Mutual intercourse and co-operation among all the Presidencies in all spheres was very much needed, and frequently

1. *Letter to Court,* 22 December 1748, paras 9-11.
2. *Letter to Court,* 11 February 1749 para 2.
3. *Letter to Court,* 16 January 1752, paras 5-8.
4. *Letter to Court,* 3 September 1753, para 87.
5. Ibid.
6. *Letter to Court,* 8 December 1755, paras 100-04.

stressed. In fact, assistance rendered by one Presidency to another in critical moments had much to do in turning the scale in favour of the English. There are copious references in contemporary records to the frequent despatch of reinforcements in men, money and provisions from Bengal to the other Presidencies during the wars in Peninsular India.

*European Fortifications and the Nawabs of Bengal*

The European trading companies (the English, the French and the Dutch) began the construction of 'fortified' settlements in Bengal during the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century, chiefly as a measure of security against possible political disorders in the country. The English also believed that such a "show of power" was "the best way to keep the English in India free from the Natives' Insults and will most effectually keep off *Piscashes* [presents] the Consequence of most quarrells".[1] As a precaution against the repercussions of the political troubles during the Persian incursion of 1738-39, the Maratha incursions into Bengal from 1742 onwards, and the wars in the Deccan, the Court of Directors and the Council in Calcutta thought it highly necessary to strengthen their fortifications in Bengal. In June 1748 the Court sent instructions to the Council in Calcutta "in Order to put the Company's Possessions and Estate in Bengal in as perfect a State of Security" as possible. They expressed their desire to "have such necessary Works set about in the most Expeditious and Frugal manner that can be conveniently done"[2] and particularly instructed the Council in Calcutta to make all possible efforts to convince the Nawab that these additional fortifications in Calcutta were "calculated only for Self-Defence" and "Security against European Enemys".[3] In case the Nawab objected to the construction of the new fortifications, the Council in Calcutta were to let him know that they were acting under the orders of the Court of Directors, that they would stop issuing "any Money for Trade" to the prejudice of his revenues and the trade of the province in general, and that the King of England "having the Protection of the Company greatly at heart, as they may perceive by the Strong Force he hath sent to the East Indies, to chastise the French for their Insolence at Madrass, His Majesty will support the

1. Extract from *General Letter from the Court to Bengal*, 4 February. 1709. C.R. Wilson, *Old Fort William in Bengal*, 1, p. 76.
2. C.R. Wilson, *Old Fort William in Bengal* I, p. 206.
3. Ibid I, p. 207

Company in whatever they think fit to do for their further Security".[1] It was also suggested that if after all precautions were taken the Nawab still attempted to "Attack or Disturb" the construction then the English would immediately "stop all Navigation upon the River" to the utmost of their "Power in every Branch, Suffering no Vessel or Boat to stir whether Laden or Empty, except such as belong to European Settlements who have a right to give Dusticks [*dastaks*] or Passes for the River".[2]

The Court of Directors were sanguine that on the adoption of these measures the Nawab would "soon come to reason". But in this they had made an incorrect estimate of Alivardi's character. As has already been noted, during the Anglo-French conflicts in southern India, Alivardi closely watched the movements of the Europeans so that they might not interfere in the field of politics in Bengal as they had done in the Deccan. Thus, on hearing that the French and the English had begun adding to their fortifications in Chandernagore and Calcutta respectively, he immediately asked them to discontinue these works. He often said to the French and the English *vakils,* "You are merchants, what need have you of a fortress?"[3]

Such a view was not acceptable to the English, but practically nothing was done for the time being about fortifications or buildings in Calcutta because the Court of Directors had ordered the Council in Calcutta to form suitable plans for fortifications in consultation with Major Mosman.[4] Mosman reached Calcutta in March 1749, but died of fever on 30 April. In December 1749 the Court of Directors deputed Benjamin Robins as their Engineer-General in India, furnishing him with necessary instructions about the fortifications in Calcutta. Robins reached Calcutta on 11 March 1751, and on the 21st asked the Council to supply him with the materials required for the works with which he had been entrusted. The Council were trying to meet his requirements when he died at Fort St. David on 29 July 1751. In December 1752 the Court of Directors appointed Caroline Frederick Scott their Engineer-General in the East. Though he was to look after all the principal English settlements in the East, the "primary object"

1. C.R. Wilson, *op. cit.*, I, p. 208. "The Strong Force" refers to the expedition under Rear-Admiral Boscawen, who reached Fort St. David on 29 June 1748. Orme, *The History of Military Transactions of the British Nation in Indostan,* I pp. 98-100.

2. Ibid I, p.210.

3. S.C. Hill, *Bengal in 1756-57,* III, p. 161.

4. He was appointed Major of the Garrison of Fort William on 25 February 1748.

of the Court of Directors in appointing him Engineer-General was to arrange for the effective defence and security of Fort William. They ordered on 24 January 1753 that the President of Fort William, the Chief of the English factory at Kasimbazar and Colonel Scott should form a Committee to adopt proper measures for securing permission of the Nawab's government in this respect. To make persuasion more effective, they empowered the Committee to offer presents to the persons in authority in the Nawab's Court to the maximum of about one hundred thousand current rupees.

Colonel Scott reached Calcutta in September 1753. He drew up a comprehensive plan of fortifications to be implemented over a period of several years, as well as a short-term plan for immediate defence. The Council in Calcutta approved of the latter; so did the Court of Directors, who ordered its execution as soon as possible. The chief features of Scott's second plan were the completion of the Maratha Ditch, erection of two large redoubts at Perrin's and Surman's gardens, that is, the northern and the southern extremities of the British settlement, and the building of stronger defences on the river front of the Fort.

But Scott had to leave Bengal for Madras in response to a request of Saunders and his Council on 18 March 1754, and died there on 12 May. According to the directions left by him Lieutenant Wells was engaged to carry on his work in Bengal. But Wells died on 18 August 1755, whereupon Bartholomew Plaisted was entrusted with the work jointly with O'Hara, an assistant engineer. Plaisted was soon dismissed from the Company's service and O'Hara and Simpson, a subaltern in the army, were employed as engineers. Under their supervision the redoubt at Perrin's garden was completed and something was done to repair the line of guns on the river front of the Fort, though the fortifications were not made sufficiently strong.

The Court of Directors reiterated in one of their letters to Bengal, dated 29 November 1754, their instructions about securing the permission of the Nawab's government "to fortifye Fort William without any obstructions or impediment." They again suggested the offer of pecuniary inducements to the Nawab or other suitable persons to the maximum of one hundred thousand rupees, and hoped that their efforts would be "attended with success" because of the advanced age of the Nawab and the depleted condition of his exchequer. The Council in Calcutta communicated the suggestions of the Court of Directors to William Watts, Chief at Kasimbazar, in their letter dated

6 August 1755, and asked him for his opinion, which he duly forwarded.

There are some striking points in the Calcutta-Kasimbazar correspondence. We notice therein a strong inclination on the part of the Chief at Kasimbazar and the Council in Calcutta to ignore the instructions of the Court of Directors. They claimed that they had a right to strengthen the fortifications of Calcutta on the strength of an imperial *farman* and that the permission of the Nawab's government was therefore unnecessary. There is also a clear reference in Watts' letter to the "golden" means of bribing a high officer of the Nawab's government to prevent any possible obstruction to their work. It further says that the Nawab had never "taken the least notice of the ditch cut round Calcutta" or "any other works since carried on there." But as has been already pointed out, the Nawab was not indifferent to the building of fortifications in Calcutta. He had tolerated the construction of the Maratha ditch and the fortifications at Kasimbazar because of the repeated Maratha inroads into his province. He would not acquiesce in any violations of his authority after the Maratha menace had passed away.

Watts' contention that the Company had a right to strengthen the fortifications in Calcutta on the basis of an imperial *farman,* evidently that granted by Farrukhsiyar in 1716-17, is not supported by the said *farman.* The fortification of Calcutta after Shova Singh's rebellion (1696-97) had been carried out with the permission of the then Nawab of Bengal. But the troubles of Alivardi in 1755-56, of which it was quite possible for Watts to be cognisant from the proximity of his residence to Murshidabad, encouraged Watts, and at his suggestion the Council in Calcutta, to express and maintain a point of view which undoubtedly amounted to a defiance of the Nawab's authority. It is unintelligible why Mr. Holwell regrets, in his letter to Court dated 30 November 1756, that "the favourable moment," when "everything was in confusion and both parties [Sirajud Daulah and his rivals] were employed on their own schemes and designs", had not been suitably utilised by the English in Calcutta for the building of fortifications. In fact, during Alivardi's illness both the French and the English began, without any concealment, to repair and strengthen their fortifications.[1] The Bengal Council wrote to the Court of Directors on 21 February 1756 "of the redoubt at Perrins being nigh completed."

1. S. C. Hill, *Bengal in 1756-57,* I, xlvi.

The dying Nawab could not naturally take proper notice of these, and Sirajud Daulah must have been occupied in checkmating the ambitious designs of his kinsmen on the *subahdarship* of Bengal. On receiving information from the Court of Directors of the possibility of the renewal of Anglo-French hostilities, the English in Calcutta "began to put the settlement", as Holwell writes, "into as good a posture of defence as we could"[1] in May 1756.

### *Military Establishments and Appointments*

To meet the exigencies of war or other political troubles the English not only strengthened their defences but also improved their military establishments in India in certain ways. Determined to make the artillery of the three Presidencies much more efficient than before, the Court of Directors issued a circular letter on 17 June 1748, ordering the formation of a company of artillery in each Presidency on the model of that in the royal service. The offices of the Gunner and of all attached to the Gun-room were abolished. A military store-keeper was appointed to be in charge of the stores which had been so long looked after by the Gunner. A new military establishment was also started at the same time in Calcutta and regulations were framed for the administration of both. On 25 February 1748 James Mosman was appointed Major of the garrison at Fort William in Bengal by the Court on the same terms as Major Lawrence at Fort St. David. The Council in Calcutta informed the Court of Directors on 24 February 1749 that the army in Calcutta would be regulated according to their directions on the arrival of Major Mosman. On coming to Calcutta in March 1749 Mosman took his seat as the third of the Council in Calcutta according to the orders of the Court of Directors, and inspected the Gun-room crew, who were dismissed on 15 March because of the formation of the company of artillery. Mr. Roger Drake took charge of the office of the Military Store-Keeper on 20 March and on the same day the Council in Calcutta directed the commanding officers at Kasimbazar and Dacca to send to the Major a statement of the names of the military officers and a list of ordnance at their respective stations.

In 1751 the 'regular military establishment' of the English Company in Calcutta probably consisted of five companies of infantry and one company of artillery. As a precaution against apprehended Maratha onslaughts on Calcutta, the Council had

1. Holwell's *Letter to Court*, 30 November 1756, para 9.

formed on 24 April 1742 a regular militia of the local European, Armenian and Portuguese inhabitants and the Court of Directors had duly approved of these measures. On 16 January 1752 the Court sent orders for the training of the militia and ordered their formation into two companies. A body of militia was soon formed in Calcutta with Col. Cruttenden as Commander.[1] Some inhabitants of Calcutta having absented themselves from the militia the Council in Calcutta decided on 27 November that a list of their names should be affixed at the Fort gates and a notice given that for "non-attendance in future they may expect to meet with proper resentment".[2] In 1753 the militia mustered 200 men. Evidently the militia had not been formed according to the instructions sent to the Council in Calcutta by the Court of Directors in their letter dated 16 January 1752, and the latter asked the former on 11 February 1756 to establish a regular militia "for the better defence of the settlement." In his letter to the Court of 30 November 1756, Holwell complained strongly of the inefficiency of the Company's militia in Calcutta at the time of its capture by Sirajud Daulah.

Military officers with superior commissions were sometimes sent by the Court of Directors from England to India. But the subaltern officers in Bengal soon remonstrated against this practice of sending out annually from Europe gentlemen with military commissions superior to their own; and in February 1755, the Council in Calcutta forwarded their remonstrances to the Court for their favourable consideration.[3] The Court observed in their letter of 11 February 1756 that in view of the complaints of the military officers in the Company's service regarding their supersession they would not send out anyone that season above the rank of ensign unless circumstances created a real necessity.

Anxious for the safety of the Company's settlements in India in case of a renewal of conflicts with the French and also as a measure of precaution against any injury to their interests by country powers, the Court of Directors not only sent occasional reinforcements for the Company's army in the different settlements but also advised the respective Councils to tap useful sources of recruitment in India. The district of Shahabad in Bihar was one such important area of recruitment. The Rajputs settled there were recruited for police and military duties both by the Nawab's government in Bengal and the English East India Company and they are referred to in contemporary records as *Buxuries* (*Baksaris*).

1. *Letter to Court*, 1 January 1753, para 14.
2. Long, *Selections from Unpublished Records of Government I, p. 39.*
3. *Letter to Court*, 3 February 1755, para 16.

In 1754 Colonel Scott suggested the recruitment of Rajputs of Bihar.[1] The Court of Directors recommended its careful consideration by the Council in Calcutta and the Bihari Rajputs began to contribute from this time not an inconsiderable quota to the ranks of the East India Company's Indian troops.

### *The Squadron of Admiral Watson*

Not long after the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, the English and the French in India entered into another period of conflict as allies of the rival candidates for succession to the governments of the Deccan and the Carnatic. A contemporary, Edward Ives, tells us that "the French had a far superior number of European troops, and had been so artful as to form connections with the most powerful princes of the country; with these advantages they made so considerable a progress, as greatly to alarm the whole of the English settlements and to fill them with apprehensions, lest the day might come, when Mons. Dupleix's ambition might be gratified in its utmost extent".[2] Even after Dupleix's recall, the prospect of the success of the negotiations between the English and the French East India Companies for a convention with a view to "restoring union between them and putting an end to the troubles on the coast of Choromandel [Coromandel]"[3] was uncertain. As a matter of fact, the English apprehended a quick recrudescence of hostilities with the French. The settlements of the English East India Company in India, therefore, "sent repeated accounts of their disagreeable situation" to the Court of Directors in England, who in their turn petitioned His Majesty's Government for military help to safeguard the Company's interests in India.[4]

In response to this appeal, His Majesty was "most graciously pleased to order a squadron of his ships with a body of land forces on board to proceed to the East Indies".[5] The squadron, commanded by Charles Watson, Rear Admiral of the Blue, was composed as follows:

| *Ships* | *Commanders* | *Guns* |
|---|---|---|
| Kent | Henry Speke | 64[6] |
| Eagle | George Pocock | 60 |
| Salisbury | Thomas Knowle | 50 |
| Bristol | Thomas Latham | 50 |
| Bridgwater | William Martin | 24 |
| Sloop Kingfisher | Best Mighel | 16 |

1. *Letter from Court*, 29 November 1754, para 55.
2. Edward Ives, *A Voyage from England to India*, p. 2.
3. *Letter from Court*, 2 March 1754, para 17.
4. Ives, *op. cit.* p. 2.
5. *Letter from Court*, 2 March 1754, para 2.
6. 70 according to Ives.

The land forces, placed under the command of Colonel John Adlercron, comprised "815 men, officers included" of his regiment of infantry and a detachment of 78 men from the Royal Train of Artillery, the latter being under the command of Lieutenant William Hislop.[1]

Although the destination of the squadron and the land forces was Coromandel Coast, yet considering that there might be occasions for their presence at other settlements of the English, the Court issued suitable instructions for their reception. They instructed the Council in Calcutta on 2 March 1754 to behave properly towards all belonging to His Majesty's squadron and the land forces and to give them "all necessary help and assistance" in the matter of money, stores, provisions and accommodation.[2]

## *Swiss Companies and Captain Polier*

During the wars in Peninsular India the Court of Directors had sent to India four companies of Swiss troops, each composed of 100 men. Their services were utilised particularly against the French. Orme refers to the arrival at Madras in 1752 of two Swiss companies commanded by Swiss captains.[3] When the French had reached the proximity of Fort St. David in 1752, a company of the Swiss under Captain Schaub was sent on boats from Madras to intercept them. But they were captured by some Frenchmen sent by Dupleix on a vessel from Pondicherry and were detained there as prisoners of war. Immediately on hearing this news, Major Lawrence embarked for Fort St. David with another party of Swiss troops under Captain Gaupp.[4]

Captain Paul Philip Polier was the commander of one such company. The services of his company were for some time transferred from Madras to Bengal, most probably in 1752.[5] On 11 January 1753 he presented himself before the Council in Calcutta and informed the members that his men were daily deserting that place, and that sixteen of them, some belonging to his own town and enjoying his greatest confidence, had already gone. He observed that the French (at Chandernagore) seduced them by indirect means and sent them to Pondicherry,

1. *Letter from Court*, 2 March 1754, para 3.
2. Ibid., paras 5-12.
3. Orme, *A History of the Military Transactions of the British Nation in Indostan* I, p. 255.
4. Lawrence, *A Narrative of the War on the Coromandel Coast*, p. 34.
5. *Letter to Court*, 11 February 1753, para 61.

the "open situation" of Calcutta making it impossible for him to prevent their flight. He proposed to take back his officers and men to the southern coast, where he hoped to take effective steps against such occurrences and to render better service to the English Company.[1] Polier joined Major Lawrence with 100 soldiers on 1 April 1753. With this reinforcement Lawrence wished to storm the French camp at Trivadi, but on arriving at Trichinopoly on 6 May 1753 found that, among others, one sergeant and fifteen men of a Swiss company had deserted his detachment. But Polier and his party remained faithful, though they unknowingly committed a tactical military blunder. On 12 May 1754 Polier commanded some British troops as well. While he was trying to assist one detachment under Captain Caillaud, the French "disabled one of his field pieces" as also one of Caillaud's. Polier's battalion served in the army under Colonel Alexander Heron during its march from Madura towards the end of May 1755. Advised by the Madras Council to return to Arcot, the Nawab of the Carnatic left Trichinopoly for his capital on 9 July 1755, accompanied by an escort of 300 Europeans and 1,000 sepoys under the command of Polier. Towards the end of 1755, the Court of Directors decided to stop the recruitment of men from Switzerland for the four Swiss companies and to put them on an equal footing with the English companies in all respects, except that a Swiss company was to be limited to 140 men. Captain Polier being the oldest of the Swiss military officers in India was given a new commission investing him with the seniormost rank among them.[2]

*The Company's Servants*

The Company's servants in Bengal were paid low salaries.[3] But they made large fortunes through private trade, and indulged in various luxuries and extravagances to which the Court of Directors were strongly opposed. With a view to maintaining the efficiency and integrity of the public services the Directors sought to regulate the conduct of their servants in all respects. In 1749-50 they complained of the "spirit of gaming" that was reported to prevail among their servants in Bengal. To this the Council in Calcutta replied in February 1750 that had they "ever

1. *Letter to Court*, 15 January 1753, para 4.
2. *Letter from Court*, 11 February 1756, para 113.
3. In 1712 their salaries, as given by Wilson in his *Early Annals of the English in Bengal* Vol. II, Part I, pp. 82-83, were as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President and Governor | Rs. | 1,600 | per annum. |
| Senior Merchant | Rs. | 320 | ,, ,, |
| Junior Merchant | Rs. | 240 | ,, ,, |
| Factor | Rs. | 120 | ,, ,, |
| Writer | Rs. | 40 | ,, ,, |

observed the least appearance of this vice" they would have "suppressed it in its infancy" and assured the Court that they would henceforth punctually obey their orders in this respect.[1] The Court of Directors suspected the prevalence of other kinds of abuses also among their servants in Bengal. Thus in their letter of 24 January 1753 they accused them of being "underhand concerned in the contracts for the Investment." The Council in Calcutta pleaded that this charge was based on false reports of a "malicious nature" and assured the Court that they would do their utmost to check "extravagant and expensive" ways of living among the servants, whose high expenses were due to the dearness of all kinds of provisions and not to "uncommon extravagancies". They also observed that they would regard it as an act of the "greatest favour" on the part of the Court if the latter took into consideration the "small allowances" received by their servants and did whatever appeared to them to be just in that matter.[2] Whatever might be the pleas of the members of the Council in Calcutta to screen themselves and their subordinates, there is no doubt that their ways of living were in certain respects not above reproach. Early in 1754 the Court of Directors sent to the Council a strong note reiterating their previous warning against "prevailing licentiousness" among their servants in Bengal, and also forwarded to them some positive commands for the regulation of their "morals and manner of life."[3] As a luxurious style of living still prevailed among their servants of all ranks in Bengal, the Court asked the Council to take proper steps to check and prevent it. The remittance of large sums of money to England by the commanders of ships through bills of exchange on the Company led the Court to suspect that these were the 'produce of illicit trade' and so the Council in Calcutta were asked to take an oath from each commander to the effect that his money was earned through legitimate means.[4]

In 1757 the salaries were:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President and Governor | Rs. | 1,600 per | annum. |
| Member of Council | Rs. | 320 ,, | ,, |
| Senior Merchant | Rs. | 320 ,, | |
| Junior Merchant | Rs. | 240 ,, | , |
| Factor | Rs. | 120 ,, | ,, |
| Doctor | Rs. | 288 ,, | ,, |
| Writer | Rs. | 40 ,, | ,, |

All but the Doctors and the Writers also got gratuities in various capacities. They had other sources of income such as perquisites and profits of private trade. (*Long, Selections from Unpublished Records*, pp. 101-03).

1. *Letter to Court*, 25 February 1750, para 8.
2. *Letter to Court*, 3 September 1753, paras 61 and 70.
3. *Letter from Court*, 23 January 1754, paras 80-81.
4. *Letter from Court*, 31 January 1755, paras 100 and 111.

The Court also complained that an "unaccountable negligence appears to have taken strong possession of almost all our servants" and attributed to this the omission on the part of the latter "to send the usual and necessary books and papers".[1] They again observed in 1755 that the accounts were not "exact and methodical". Suspecting that it was a common practice at all the subordinate factories to present wrong accounts, and to conceal the real amount of allowances granted to the chiefs and other important officers, the Council in Calcutta directed each factory in 1754 to specify "in the plainest manner and under their real heads in their accounts all disbursements, allowances, and charges whatever" for their inspection and approval.[2] They agreed to pay the Sub-Accountant and the Accountant-General 250 *sicca* rupees each per annum and considered payment to the Registrar of the Mayor's Court at the same rate, on his representation that the new regulations for receiving deposits in the Company's treasury had increased his work.

At the end of January 1755, the Court of Directors emphasized the need of the "utmost attention" to the conduct of their servants at the subordinate factories whom they suspected of being "unfaithfully" interested in investments at the cost of the Company. For due control over these servants, the Court ordered the immediate formation of a Supervising Committee consisting of the President, Charles Manningham, Richard Becher, and John Zephaniah Holwell. This Committee was to "enquire into the manner of making the investments and the management in general at the subordinate settlements" and into the conduct of their servants employed at those places.[3] Taking into consideration the necessity of entrusting the management of the Company's affairs at the subordinate factories to men of experience, the Court made it a standing rule that there should be among their servants at Kasimbazar two members of the Council and at least one senior merchant, at Dacca one member of the Council and a senior merchant, and at Jagdia or wherever the Jagdia settlement was shifted one of the "best qualified" servants next below the rank of a member of the Council.[4] The Court also ordered the formation of a Committee of Accounts "to prevent any frauds and irregularities which are and may be covered or unobserved by this loose manner of passing accounts." They, however, felt that for due enforcement of all their rules and directions, and for effective management of their affairs, it

1. *Letter from Court*, 23 January 1754, para 94.
2. *Letter to Court*, 7 December 1754, para 142.
3. *Letter from Court*, 31 January 1755, paras 56-61.
4. Ibid, para 62.

was necessary to invest the President with sufficient powers as the "general inspector and supravisor of the whole machine" and so asked the Council to attend properly to whatever the President proposed to do for controlling the servants of all ranks and for management of the Company's affairs. The directions communicated by the Court were to apply to all the subordinate settlements.[1]

The Court at the same time favoured the encouragement by due rewards of such of their servants as proved themselves worthy by virtue of their "abilities, integrity and zealous endeavours to serve the Company".[2] Thus Charles Manningham, who discharged his duty as Export Warehouse-keeper greatly to their satisfaction, was granted by them a personal allowance of four thousand current rupees a year "in lieu of all fees, rewards or perquisites whatsoever as Export Warehouse-keeper" besides his salary as a member of the Council.[3]

Early in 1754 the Court of Directors sent some writers to the Bengal establishment, and to put a stop to what they considered the "pernicious custome of employing black people" in writing business, directed the Council in Calcutta to ensure that all their servants were "regularly and constantly employed in their respective stations particularly the younger sort".[4] The Council in Calcutta instructed the heads of their several offices to insist on their assistants attending to their respective duties from 9 to 12 in the forenoon and also, when necessary, in the afternoon as well as evening.[5]

In their letter to the Council of 24 January 1753, the Court suggested the occasional transfer of the junior servants in rotation from one factory to another. The Council, however, observed in their letter of 3 September 1753 that this practice would cause serious inconveniences and decided not to take any action until further orders of the Court were received in this matter. The arguments of the Council were considered unsatisfactory by the Court who ordered them in 1755 to put into execution their previous directions relating to this affair.[6] To enable all the servants to "acquire a knowledge of Investment" the Court ordered that every junior servant of the Company should be employed for some time in the *kotha*.[7] The Council in

1. *Letter from Court*, 31 January 1755, paras 101-03.
2. Ibid, para 95.
3. Ibid, para 92.
4. *Letter from Court*, 23 January 1754, paras 75-7
5. *Letter to Court*, 7 December 1754, para 143
6. *Letter from Court*, 31 January 1755, para 97.
7. Ibid, para 96.

Calcutta accordingly directed all their servants above the rank of writers to "attend the cottah every cottah day in order to acquire a knowledge of the Investment", constituted several committees, and transmitted to the respective factories relevant portions of the Court's orders. They also granted the Head Assistant at the *cutcherry* the same salary as the Deputies of other offices, that is 500 *sicca* rupees per annum.[1]

*Mayor's Court*

In 1726 the British Crown established, by letters patent, Mayor's Courts at Bombay and Calcutta, and remodelled the one at Madras. Each of these courts was to consist of a Mayor and nine Aldermen, seven of whom were to be "natural born British subjects". These courts were to be courts of record, and were authorised "to try, hear and determine all civil suits, actions, and pleas between party and party."[2] The Governor and his Council in a Presidency were to constitute a Government Court of Record competent to hear appeals from the Mayor's Court. Appeals in cases involving sums above 1,000 pagodas lay from the Government Court to the King in Council. The Government Court was also to be a Court of Oyer and Terminer and to hold Quarter Sessions for trial of all cases except high treason. The Mayor's Courts were authorised to give probates and exercise testamentary jurisdiction. The Court of Directors observed in their letter dated 17 February 1727: "This Charter being principally design'd for the Government and benefits of Europeans, and many of the Natives who live with you having peculiar Customs of their own, we are willing they should still enjoy them, so as they live quietly and do nothing that tends to publick disturbance or breaking into the settled Rules of the Place. You must continue to be as hitherto you have been very careful to avoid as much as possible the putting any of the Moors to Death, unless the Crime be of a very high nature such as Murther and Piracy and the proofs there of be very positive and plain.....". When the Council in Calcutta requested the Mughal Government to grant them "power to punish the Mogul's Subjects with Death" they were told in reply that "the Company's Charter could not extend to them who were Subjects to another Prince".[4]

The Royal Charter of 8 January 1753 remodelled the Mayor's Courts at Bombay and Calcutta in order to remove the defects

1. *Letter to Court*, 11 September 1755, para 33.
2. Cowell, *History and Constitution of the Courts and Legislative Authorities in India*, (sixth edition revised by S.C. Bagchi, Calcutta, (1936), pp. 14-15.
3. *Bengal: Past and Present* Vol. VIII p. 13.
4. *Ibid*, p. 16.

of which the Company had complained. It also created Courts of Requests at these two places for the trial of cases "where the debt duty or matter in dispute should not exceed five pagodas." This Charter of 1753 excluded from the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Courts all suits between Indians "unless by consent of the parties" concerned.[1] It also transferred the power of appointing Aldermen to the President and Council. The Mayor's Courts were each to present annually two members of their body to the President and Council who were to select one of them as Mayor for the ensuing year.[2] Thus the personnel of the Mayor's Courts came to be composed of the nominees of the Governor and Council and were subject to their influence.

On receipt of the Court's letter of 24 January 1753, relating to the Charter of that year, the Council in Calcutta promulgated the Charter on 5 October, and appointed twelve Commissioners for the Court of Requests.[3] As the Charter directed that all suits under five pagodas should be tried in the Court of Requests they ordered that the "Zemindar should not take cognizance of any disputes of property under 20 current rupees, to prevent the jurisdiction of the cutcherry [Zamindar's court] and that Court from interfering with each other and creating continual contests between them." Three members of the Mayor's Court being absent at the time the Charter reached Calcutta, the Council appointed Messrs. Valicourt, Verelst and Fullerton Aldermen in their places.[4]

Holwell informed the Council in Calcutta on 6 May 1754 that as the Charter of 1753 had "put a stop to the application of Indian natives to the Mayor's Court in disputes among themselves" they had begun to follow the practice of assigning over their notes or bonds to European, Portuguese or Armenian inhabitants of Calcutta, which in his opinion was against the true "intent and meaning" of the said Charter and prejudiced the Company's 'etlack'[5] (*itlaq*) and commission. Taking all these points into consideration, the Council issued a notification that by resorting to this practice in future one would subject himself to their "severest resentment".[6]

1. Cowell, *op. cit.*, p. 16.
2. *Bengal: Past and Present*, Vol.VIII, p.18.
3. For their names, vide *Bengal: Past and Present*, Vol. VIII, p. 25
4. *Letter to Court*, 4 January 1754, paras 140-51.
5. "Under the Mohammadan government, fees paid by suitors on the decision of their causes; also a fee exacted from a defendant as wages for a peon stationed over him as soon as a complaint was preferred against him". Wilson *A Glossary of Judicial and Revenue Terms*, p. 346.
6. *Letter to Court*, 9 September 1754, para 40.

Clashes between the Mayor's Court and the Zamindar's Court in Calcutta regarding their respective jurisdictions could not always be prevented despite the Council's efforts. One such clash occurred in May 1755 concerning a decree passed by the Zamindar's Court on a complaint lodged with it by a European and a 'Fringy' against another 'Fringy'. The matter being referred by Holwell to the Council in Calcutta, the majority there were of opinion that "as it had been the constant practice of the cutcherry to receive complaints from Europeans against natives, the Zemindar might continue to take cognizance of and decide upon causes of property where a European, Fringy or Armenian were complainant against natives as his decision by no means oblige the parties or prevent them from applying to the Mayor's Court afterwards" but that "the Zemindar had no right to determine upon matters of dispute between any Europeans, Fringys, and Armenians" as the Council "esteemed them to have the same title to the benefit of His Majesty's Charter, as British subjects themselves while they lived under our protection".[1]

*The Company as Zamindar*

In 1698 the English East India Company had obtained on the strength of letters granted by Prince Azimus-Shan, *Subahdar* of Bengal, the right of renting the three towns of Calcutta, Sutanati and Govindapur for an annual payment of about 1,200 rupees. For discharging the duties connected with the 'Zamindar rights' thus gained, the Company appointed in 1700 a special officer known as the Collector (or the Zamindar), Ralph Sheldon being the first Collector of Calcutta. The Collector was to "gather in the revenue of the three towns and to keep them in order", for which, in accordance with zamindari customs, he exercised till 1758 both civil and criminal justice through some zamindari courts established in Calcutta. The Collector had under him an Indian deputy, styled the 'Black Collector'. Govindaram Mitra held this post for over thirty years till he was dismissed for some malpractices by orders of the Court dated 16 January 1752.

In January 1752 the Court of Directors appointed Holwell to the post of Zamindar or Collector of Calcutta, and he assumed charge of this office in July 1752. On 20 July, he charged Govindaram with "heavy fraude" in the management

1. *Letter to Court*, 8 December 1755, para 141.

of the Company's revenues, particularly in farming out the bazars in Calcutta, and moved in the Council that he should "give good security for his appearance". Omichand was allowed to become his "personal security" for six months.[1] On 13 and 17 August, Holwell demanded that Govindaram Mitra should be kept in "close confinement". This was not done but Govindaram had to pay Rs. 3,397-10-6 to the Company's treasury.[2] Subsequently the farmers of the 'gunge' (*ganj*) were summoned by the Council and asked whether Govindaram Mitra was ever "concerned with or under them in that farm, which they respectively declared he never was directly or indirectly". As demanded by Holwell in his letter to the Council of 25 November 1754, Govindaram Mitra took a solemn oath on 30 January 1755 that the "accounts he had delivered in of the bazars he had farmed were just and true accounts, and that he had never farmed the gunge directly or indirectly". He was, however, required, according to the orders of the Court of Directors, to repay with interest the profits amounting to Rs. 4,875 "which he had made on the farms he had held by his own accounts" from October 1752.[3]

By increasing the revenues of the Company in Calcutta to "a very considerable amount without imposing any new duties" and by discharging his duties ably Holwell earned the good opinion of the Court of Directors, who expressed their determination to support him in all his endeavours to serve the Company. The Court also urged the Council to examine, without further delay, the working of the office of Zamindar and to consider if, in view of its very complicated nature involving the discharge of various duties, it would not be advisable to divide it into several branches, each being placed in charge of one man. The Council were further required to inform the Court as to which "duties or fines" appeared to be "particularly grievous upon the poorer sort of people".[4]

### *The Armenians in Bengal*

The Armenians had established their first settlement in Bengal at Saidabad near Murshidabad in 1665, on the strength of a Mughal imperial *farman*, and since then they had trading concerns in different parts of the province. In 1748 two vessels of the Armenians, on their way to Bengal from Jiddah and

1. *Letter to Court*, 18 September 1752, paras 85-86.
2. *Letter to Court*, 3 September 1753, para 78.
3. *Letter to Court*, 3 February 1755, para 14.
4. *Letter from Court*, 31 January 1755, paras 73. 76-77.

Basra, were captured by the English. The Armenians appealed to Nawab Alivardi for redress whereupon the latter "ordered Peons on all their (English) Gomastahs at the Aurungs and stopped the boats which were bringing down their goods".[1] The Nawab also wrote a 'menacing' letter to Governor Barwell in Calcutta charging the English with piracy, demanding immediate delivery of the captured goods and effects and threatening chastisement in the event of their non-compliance with his orders. Barwell replied that the goods had been seized by a King's ship not subject to his control, and that the French, then at war with the English, had captured some goods of the Armenians, wrongly considering these as the property of their enemy.

Not satisfied with this reply the Nawab adopted stern measures against the English traders at Kasimbazar and elsewhere. Acting on the instructions of the Council in Calcutta, Wadham Brooke, Chief of the English factory at Kasimbazar, tried to conciliate the Nawab through some of his officers and the Seths of Murshidabad.[2] But the Nawab pressed the English to give satisfaction to the Armenians. At last some leading Armenian merchants stated in a darbar of the Nawab held on 15 October 1749 that they had received satisfaction for the losses they had suffered by the capture of their vessels. The Company also paid a "large sum" to the Nawab and his officers. It was only then that the Nawab passed orders removing the restraints he had imposed on their trade.[3] The Council in Calcutta felt that they were entitled to reimbursement for this amount. So on 28 December 1749 they summoned before them all the Armenians living in Calcutta and asked them to "make good the same". The Armenians replied that they were not in any way concerned, and on 9 January 1750 the Council felt that, as it was not possible to prove the complicity of these Armenians, they could not be legally compelled to comply with the Company's demand. They also realised the inadvisability of expelling the Armenians from Calcutta, as the French at Chandernagore would then readily afford them protection and the English Company would incur the loss of 5 per cent customs payable by the Armenians on the export of raw silk and other goods to the Coromandel Coast. The Council, however, suggested to the Court of Directors that the Armenians living in Calcutta should, like the covenanted servants of the

1. Long, *Selections from Unpublished Records*, I, p. 12
2. *Letter to Court*, 10 August 1749, paras 25-26.
3. *Letter to Court*, 13 January 1749-50 para 109.

Company, the free merchants, and others who lived under the protection of the Company's flag, be required to pay consulage on their exports.[1] The Court approved, and the Council in Calcutta demanded payment of consulage from the Armenians.[2] But the Armenians in Calcutta delivered a letter to the Council on 21 November 1751 stating that they imported goods by virtue of a *farman* granted to them by the 'Great Mogul' for which they annually paid 7 per cent duty and that they did not use *dastaks* of the English Company to import goods. They requested the Council to defer demanding consulage from them till further orders were received on this point from the Court of Directors. The Council again referred this matter to the Court of Directors but meanwhile insisted on payment of the consulage. In January 1755 the Court reiterated their former orders in favour of realising consulage from the Armenians on the ground that they enjoyed the 'benefits' of the English Company's protection.

### *Sirajud Daulah and the English*

Early in May 1752 Alivardi declared Sirajud Daulah, in whom he lived and moved and had his being, as his successor. The relations of the Europeans in Bengal with Sirajud Daulah were cordial in 1752. In that year, during his stay at Hooghly, Sirajud Daulah "was visited by the French and Dutch Governors with a present equivalent to his dignity". As suggested by the *faujdar* of Hooghly and by Khwajah Wajid, one of the principal merchants of Bengal who resided at Hooghly, the Council in Calcutta "judged it highly necessary to pay the Nabob the compliment required". Accordingly, the President, Roger Drake, accompanied by Cruttenden, Becher and the Commandant, visited Sirajud Daulah at Hooghly in the beginning of the third week of September 1752. They were received there, as the Council in Calcutta expressed, "with the utmost politeness and distinction far superior than was paid the French or Dutch".[3] Appreciating this cordiality of Sirajud Daulah, the Court of Directors observed in their letter to the Council of 23 January 1754 that they should lose no opportunity of "improving the favourable opinion he seems to entertain of the English nation".[4] In another letter, dated 29 November 1754, the Court significantly noted that the "Country Govern-

1. *Letter to Court*, 13 January 1749-50, para 151.
2. *Letter to Court*, 20 August 1751, para 109.
3. *Letter to Court*, 18 September 1752, para 112.
4. Para 60

ment" (Nawab's government) had "always shown more preferable marks of favour to the English than to the other European nations".[1] In the course of three years, however, Bengal became the scene of a sanguinary contest between Sirajud Daulah and the English. The years 1756-57 formed, indeed, a critical juncture in Bengal's history.

Some are of opinion that Sirajud Daulah was guilty of perpetrating acts of violence and cruelty on the English without any cause. He has been accused of unprovoked acts of aggression, committed in compliance with what Holwell describes as the "death-bed instructions" of Alivardi to "destroy the forts and garrisons of the Europeans and to reduce their trade on the footing of the Armenians".[2] But Holwell's testimony is not unimpeachable. Though possessed of ability, Holwell had neither integrity nor veracity. He was accustomed to fabricating facts and inventing stories to vindicate his own point of view. Positive evidence of some English contemporaries of Holwell, all of whom were then in the service of the Company in Bengal (Watts, Chief of the English factory at Kasimbazar, Mathew Collet, second of the Council at Kasimbazar, and Richard Becher, Chief of the Company's factory at Dacca), proves that his story of the anti-European death-bed speech of Alivardi is a veritable concoction. There are references also in some 18th century Persian works which show that Alivardi had no such evil motive as Holwell imputed to him.[3] Besides questioning the genuineness of Holwell's statement, Richard Becher expresses the view that "the English had given Sur Raja Doula sufficient provocation to make him their enemy without any need of his grandfather's advice".[4]

In fact, a quarrel between Sirajud Daulah and the English East India Company had become inevitable because of the conflicting interests of the two. During the last days of his grandfather, Sirajud Daulah protested against certain acts of the English in Bengal as likely to prejudice the authority of the Nawab's government. He justly accused them of conspiring with the rival party which, under the leadership of Shahamat Jang's widow, Ghasiti Begam, and her chief *diwan*, Raj Ballabh, was opposing his claims to the *subahdarship*. According to

1. Para 5.
2. Holwell's *Letter to Court*, 30 November 1756, para 18.
3. K. K. Datta, *Alivardi and His Times*, p. 163.
4. S. C. Hill, *Bengal in 1756-57*, II, p. 162.

M. Jean Law, they, like some others, were "led away by the idea that he could not have sufficient influence to get himself recognised as Subahdar".[1] They were even suspected of having "an understanding" with Shaukat Jang, Nawab of Purnea—another rival of Sirajud Daulah,[2] Counting on the success of Sirajud Daulah's rivals and with a view to securing the favour of Raj Ballabh, one of their leaders, the Council in Calcutta, at the request of Watts, Chief of the English factory at Kasimbazar, gave shelter to Raj Ballabh's son Krishnadas (Krishna Ballabh), who had fled to Calcutta in March 1756 with his family and wealth on the pretext of a pilgrimage to Jagannath at Puri.[3]

All this strengthened Sirajud Daulah's suspicions and he reported to Alivardi about a fortnight before his death in the presence of Dr. Forth, surgeon of the Kasimbazar factory, who was attending on the Nawab, that the English intended to support Ghasiti Begam. Questioned by the Nawab regarding this charge, Dr. Forth described it as a 'malicious report' on the part of their enemies and disclaimed any intention on the part of the Company to interfere in political matters.[4]

But this did not satisfy Sirajud Daulah. He levelled three definite charges against the English. The first was that they had "built strong fortifications and dug a large ditch in the King's dominions contrary to the established laws of the country". The second was that they had "abused the privilege of their dustucks by granting them to such as were no ways entitled to them, from which practices the King has suffered greatly in the revenue of his Customs". The third complaint was that they had given "protection to such of the King's subjects as have by their behaviour in the employ they were entrusted with made themselves liable to be called to an account and instead of giving them up on demand they allow such persons to shelter themselves within their bounds from the hands of justice". He expressed his intention to "pardon their fault and permit their residence here" if they "will promise to remove the foregoing complaints of their conduct and will agree to trade upon the same terms as other merchants did in the times of the Nabob Jaffeir Cawn [Murshid Quli Jafar Khan]".[5]

1. Hill *op. cit.*, III, p. 16.
2. Ibid, pp. 163-64.
3. *Letter to Court* from Becher and some others, 18 July 1756; Holwell's *Letter to Court*, 30 November 1756.
4. Hill, *op. cit.*, II, pp. 65-66.
5. Nawab's letter to Khwajah Wajid, 1 June 1756; Hill, *op. cit.*, I, p. 4.

A careful scrutiny of the relevant contemporary documents shows that these charges were not baseless. The Council in Calcutta had attempted to improve their fortifications in defiance of the authority of the Nawab's government during the fatal illness of Alivardi. Even if it be argued that no new works of fortification had been undertaken at that time, and that Sirajud Daulah had received false or fabricated reports regarding the preparations of the English and the French, there cannot be any doubt as to their efforts to strengthen such constructions as had already been completed and to carry out certain repairs. Sirajud Daulah was not content to remain a silent spectator in this matter. Like Murshid Quli Jafar Khan and Alivardi Khan, he felt that it would not be advisable to allow the Europeans to build strong fortifications within his dominions, as this would adversely affect his own authority. In view of the military and political exploits and successes of the Europeans in southern India and the virtual subordination of the rulers of Hyderabad and Arcot to their control Sirajud Daulah, like his grandfather, thought it necessary to take adequate precautions for the prevention of European interference in Bengal politics.[1] The Carnatic episodes must have greatly influenced his policy towards the Europeans in Bengal.

It would be incorrect to say that Sirajud Daulah forbade the English to add to their fortifications out of a special bias against them. He wished to enforce the same injunction on the other European nations as well. Even Holwell states: "though liberty of trade is granted to the Danes and Prussians, yet they are prohibited fortifications or garrisons".[2] Sirajud Daulah simultaneously ordered the French at Chandernagore and Drake, the English Governor in Calcutta, to desist from building fortifications at their respective settlements. The former were able to satisfy him.[3] But he became "extremely disgusted"[4] at Drake's reply to the effect that the English were not "erecting any new fortifications" but were only repairing the wharf and that the report of their digging a new ditch was a pure concoction by their enemies, there being only the ditch which had been excavated during the period of Maratha invasions with the consent of Alivardi. Drake further stated

1. Hill, *op. cit.*, III, p. 384.
2. *Letter to Court*, 30 November 1756.
3. Hill, *op. cit.*, III, p. 165.
4. Ibid, III, p. 394.

that fearing a renewal of hostilities with the French, which was bound to have an echo in India, the English "thought it necessary to be upon our guard and make our place as defensible as we could".[1]

When Drakes reply reached the Nawab at Rajmahal, he is said to have exclaimed: "Who shall dare to think of commencing hostilities in my country, or presume to imagine I have not power to protect them?" Holwell regrets that the answer had not been "debated in Council before it was sent". He also observes: ". ....the whole of it had a tendency to confirm the Suba in a belief of those insinuations which had been already conveyed to him, that the war between us and the French would probably be brought into Bengal besides its carrying a tacit reflection on the Suba's power or will to protect us".[2]

There is plenty of contemporary evidence to justify Sirajud Daulah's complaint regarding the abuse of *dastaks* by the Company's servants to the detriment of the revenues of the government and the interests of Indian merchants. It had become an old practice by that time in spite of the previous attempts to eradicate it by the Nawabs as well as by the English Company.[3] In 1755 the Court of Directors asked the Council in Calcutta to "be extremely careful to prevent all abuses of the dusticks".[4] Referring to the "ill use made of this indulgence" by the servants of the Company, Holwell observed in his letter to Court dated 30 November 1756 [5]: "That the abuse of dusticks should be one cause of complaint, I am not surprised at". Roger Drake claimed that he "had in a great measure curbed that unlicensed practice", had "refused applications on that head", and "was warm to remedy and put those checks which were resolved on to prevent the abuse of that indulgence".[6] But he could not certainly remove this abuse which was to grow so much in the post-Plassey period.

So far as the third complaint is concerned, it is not really "difficult to understand".[7] Sirajud Daulah's point of view. There is clear reference in the account of David Rannie (August 1756) that the English Company gave protection to the "Nabob's

1. *Letter to Court* from Drake and others, Falta, 17 September 1756, para 3.
2. Holwell's *Letter to Court*, 30 November 1756, paras 11 and 18.
3. Hill, *op. cit.*, III, p. 384.
4. *Letter from Court*, 31 January 1755, para 65.
5. Para 23.
6. Hill, *op. cit.*, II, p. 148
7. Hill, *op. cit.*, LV.

subjects", though they were neither their 'servants' nor their 'merchants'. Further, the affair of Krishnadas (Krishna Ballabh) was a sufficiently provocative one. For certain reasons, particularly on account of Raj Ballabh's leadership of a hostile party, there was no love lost between him and Sirajud Daulah. Sirajud Daulah demanded from him an account of the administration of the finances of Dacca for several years.[1] Raj Ballabh, who happened to be then at Murshidabad, was placed in confinement in March 1756, and some persons were deputed to Dacca to attach his property and arrest his family. There is no doubt that Raj Ballabh's family fled to Calcutta, and that the Council in Calcutta continued to shelter the son and the family of an ex-officer of the government, who had incurred the *subahdar's* displeasure, even after he had demanded their dismissal. Richard Becher wrote that to harbour Krishnadas in Calcutta in defiance of the Nawab's demand was a "wrong step".[2] Other Englishmen considered it to be a risky course. On the eve of Alivardi's death, Watts himself suggested to the President in Calcutta that it would be "expedient" that "Kissendass and the rest of Rhagbullub's family should have no longer protection in Calcutta". Deeming this to be a "salutary advice" and fearing that the continuance of protection to them till the death of Alivardi "might be productive of troublesome consequences", Holwell "pressed more than once for the dismission of this family". He admitted, however, that it would have been dangerous to dismiss them, "the more especially as for some days advices from all quarters were in favour of the Begum's [Ghasiti Begam's] party".[3]

The treatment meted out to the Nawab's messenger, Narayan Das (also referred to as Narayan Singh)[4] by Drake and some other members of the Council in Calcutta added fuel to the fire. Narayan Das had come with a letter from the Nawab which contained a demand for the delivery of Krishna Ballabh, his family and treasures. He entered Calcutta on 14 April, in disguise according to somer and went to the house of Omichand, one of the most influential men in Calcutta. In the evening Omichand took him to Holwell and Pearkes, as Drake, the Governor, was then at Barasat. On the Governor's

1. Hill, *op. cit.*, I, pp. 250 and 278.
2. *Ibid*, III, p. 338.
3. Holwell's *Letter to Court*, 30 November 1756, para 4.
4. Brother of Rajaram, *faujdar* of Midnapore and head of the espionage system in the Nawab's Government.

return to Calcutta the next morning, the matter was being discussed by Drake, Holwell and Manningham, when they heard that Omichand and Narayan Das had reached the factory and were waiting for an interview with them. Omichand was then in disfavour with Drake, who, along with his colleagues, at once suspected this to be a trick on Omichand's part to take possession of the wealth of Krishna Ballabh by effecting his transfer to one of his houses.[1] They decided not to receive Narayan Das or the Nawab's letter brought by him and under their orders some of their servants turned him out of the settlement "with insolence and derision".[2] Soon realising, however, that this step might produce bitter consequences, they instructed Watts at Kasimbazar to take necessary precautions to avert such developments. Watts seems to have managed the situation satisfactorily for a time.

The expulsion of Narayan Das was regarded by the Nawab as a serious insult to himself. Becher describes it as "an affront that it could not be expected any Prince would put up with from a sett of merchants....."[3]. There was absolutely no ground for questioning the authenticity of the document carried by Narayan Das and construing the whole affair as a clever and selfish move on the part of Omichand. From Holwell's letter[4] it is clear that he believed in the deputation of Narayan Das by Sirajud Daulah. It is strange that in the same paragraph where Holwell expresses this view, he tries to justify the expulsion of Narayan Das by pleading that the latter "had stole like a thief and a spy into the Settlement, (and not like one in the public character he pretended and as bearing the Suba's orders)." The real motive of Drake, Holwell and Manningham in turning out Narayan Das can be read in the following statement of Holwell himself: "We were all a good deal embarrassed how to act on this occasion, (seeing) that the same reasons that before forbid the family being turned out of the place after the Suba's death still subsisted equally strong against delivering them up, as the contest was yet undecided between Surajud Dowla and the young Begum". Omichand's statement before Holwell on 14 April was that "Naran Singh had got, in the disguize of a European dress, into the Settlement". But the *jamadar* of the *chauki,* where Narayan Das had landed, reported to Holwell next morning

1. Hill. *op. cit.*, p. 121.
2. Orme. *op. cit.*, II. p. 54.
3. Hill. *op. cit.*, II, p. 160.
4. *Letter to Court*, 30 November 1756.

that he "came in the disguize of a common Bengali *pikar* (broker)." [1] There could be no similarity between the dress of a European and that of an ordinary Bengali *paikar*

Watts and Collet wrote to the Court of Directors from Chandernagore on 16 July 1756 "that the Nabob never intended to drive the English out of his province but would have been satisfied with a sum of money". They asserted that they had forwarded a letter to this effect to Drake from Hooghly through the Dutch Director, but Drake did not agree with them. It may be that the Nawab's resentment was too intense to be removed in the manner suggested by Watts and Collet. But it can be reasonably said that complete expulsion of the English was not his deliberate and premeditated design. He wrote to Pigot, the Governor of Madras, "It was not my intention to remove the mercantile business of the Company belonging to you from out of the *subah* of Bengal, but Roger Drake your *gomasta* was a very wicked and unruly man and began to give protection to persons who had accounts with the *Patcha* in his *Koatey* [*Kothi*-factory]. Notwithstanding all my admonitions, yet he did not desist from his shameless actions. Why should these people who come to transact the mercantile affairs of the Company be doers of such actions?" [2] Drake and his Council did not make sincere efforts to reach an agreement with the Nawab. The little they did was half-hearted and belated. A letter was, if the testimony of Khwajah Wajid's Chinsura *diwan* Shri Babu (Shiva Babu) is to be credited, sent by Drake to the Nawab at his persuasion and through him; but it was too late, hostilities having already commenced.[3]

Sirajud Daulah had left Murshidabad about 16 May 1756 for suppressing Shaukat Jang, Governor of Purnea, who had refused to acknowledge his authority. *En route,* at Rajmahal, he received Drake's reply of 20 May and heard of the expulsion of Narayan Das from Calcutta. He immediately ordered his army to march back to deal with the English. It was no longer necessary to proceed against Shaukat Jang, as about 22 May Sirajud Daulah had got a message from Shaukat Jang recognising him as the Nawab and his master. The Nawab's troops invested the English factory at Kasimbazar on 24 May. The Nawab returned to Murshidabad within a few days and brought the Kasimbazar factory fully under his control by 4 June, the English residents being made prisoners, with the exception

1. Hill, *op. cit.*, II, pp. 6-7.
2. Hill, *op. cit.*, I, p. 196.
3. *Letter to Court* from Watts and Collet, 17 July 1756, para 1.

of some who managed to escape to the houses of their friends. Acting with great promptitude, on 5 June he marched on Calcutta, taking with him Watts, Chief of the Kasimbazar factory, and another member, Collet, who were, however, delivered to the French Governor at Chandernagore with orders to send them "safe" to Madras. On 16 June the Nawab's army appeared before Calcutta and attacked Perrin's Redoubt, which covered the approaches to the Chitpur bridge over the Maratha Ditch but failed to take it. Nevertheless, many of the Nawab's troops, and the looters who were following his army, found their way into Calcutta and the Nawab himself took up his quarters in Omichand's garden in the area known as Simla. Having decided to defend only the European part of Calcutta, that is, the area later known as Dalhousie Square and the region east and south of it, the English set fire to the bamboo and straw huts in the Indian quarter or the "Black Town" during the night of the 16th "in order to drive out the Nawab's men." Next day the English caused all the Indian houses to the east and south to be burnt, and the looters accompanying the Nawab's army also set fire to the great bazar, that is, the old Bara Bazar situated north of the Fairlie Place, and to "many parts of the Black Town, which burnt till Fort on the 16th and next day the Portuguese and the Armenian women crowded into the Fort, as "the military and militia declared that they would not fight unless their families were admitted in the factory."[2]

The Nawab's troops attacked the British line of defence on 18 June. At about 10 A.M. on the 19th Governor Drake Commandant Minchin, Mackett[3], Captain Grant, and many other Englishmen abandoned Fort William to its fate. Frankland and Manningham had already deserted it and taken shelter on board the ships in the river. Those who remained in the Fort were greatly indignant at what has been described as "disgraceful desertion". Though not the seniormost member, Holwell was selected by them to be the Governor and Administrator of the Company's affairs. After a feeble resistance, Fort William surrendered before 6 P.M. on Sunday, 20 June.

On the capture of the English factory at Kasimbazar by the Nawab the Council in Calcutta had sent instructions to the other factories to take necessary precautions for their defence and, if necessary, for the safe withdrawal of officers.

1. Hill, *op. cit.*, I, pp. 257-58.
2. *Ibid.*, p.165.
3. Mackett is said to have gone aboard to see his ailing wife.

Peter Amyatt and Thomas Boddam, Chiefs at Lakshmipur and Balasore respectively, managed to escape with much of the cash and property belonging to the Company. They joined Drake's party at Falta. Richard Becher, Chief at Dacca, was obliged to surrender the factory to the Nawab's officers and with his subordinates and the English ladies took shelter in the local French factory, whose Chief, Courtin, treated them kindly and lent them a sloop on which they reached Falta on 26 August. According to M. Pierre Renault, the Nawab's people found in the Dacca factory "more than fourteen hundred thousand rupees in merchandise and silver."[1] The only factory that was then retained by the English was that at Balaramgarhi lying at the mouth of the Balasore River.[2]

We have, as Holwell wrote, many "different narratives and accounts" from his contemporaries of the causes of the loss of Calcutta by the English. This to a large extent is due to the attempt of each important officer concerned to justify his own conduct and establish his own innocence. Some said that Watts' surrender was a blunder and resistance on his part for some time at least could have prevented the Nawab's prompt attack on Calcutta. Watts pleaded in defence that it would have been "madness" on his part "to resist the Government" when "so great a part" of the Company's "estate amounting to many lacks of Rupees was dispersed over the whole country which would have been immediately seized" to the great loss of the Company. According to Holwell, the immediate causes of this "catastrophe" were weak and defective fortifications, remissness on the part of the garrison and insufficiency of military stores, and certain "capital errors" on the part of the officers. He describes it as a "Tragedy of Errors" of which the fifth act was the desertion of the Fort by Drake and others which was a "breach of trust". The flight of Drake and his companions was not, however, so greatly responsible for the debacle as Holwell tried to show. But there is no doubt, as has been observed by Grey (Junior), a servant of the Company who was present on the scene, that it damaged the morale of those remaining in the Fort and caused a terrible confusion, disorder and tumult which Holwell could not control.

1. Hill, *op. cit.*, I, p. 208.
2. *Ibid*, II, p. 14.

What happened to those in the Fort who surrendered to the victor? "The Armenians and Portuguese were at liberty, and suffered to go to their own houses."[1] Several Europeans just walked out of the Fort, and escaped to Hooghly or the ships at Surman's.[2] Holwell had three interviews with Sirajud Daulah who assured him of safety. The Nawab's troops "had plundered the Europeans of their valuables, but did not ill-treat them,.....Suddenly the scene changed. Some European soldiers had made themselves drunk and assaulted the natives. The latter complained to the Nawab, who asked where the Europeans were accustomed to confine soldiers who had misbehaved in any way. He was told in the Black Hole, and.... ordered they should all be confined in it."[3]

Holwell stated in his letter to the Council at Bombay, dated 17 July 1756: "The Resistance we made and the loss they [the Nawab's officers] suffered so irretated the Nabob that he ordered myself and all the prisoners promiscuously to the number of about 165 or 170 to be crammed altogether into a small prison in the fort called the Black Hole, from whence only about 16 of us came out alive in the morning the rest being suffocated to death." But pleading that this letter contained some "errors and omissions occasioned by the wretched state" in which he then was, he wrote in his letter to Fort St. George dated 3 August 1756 that he had "over-reckoned the number of prisoners put into the Black Hole and the number of the dead: the former only 146 and the latter 123", and that he had done injustice to the Nawab by charging him "with designedly having ordered the unheard of piece of cruelty of cramming us all into that small prison",[4] as he had only passed 'general' orders for their imprisonment and his guards perpetrated cruelties on them in a spirit of revenge for the personal losses which they had suffered.[5] Varying statements regarding the number of prisoners and victims are noticed in some other letters also.[6] It is very doubtful if there could have been as many men in the Fort on the evening of 20 June as Holwell mentioned, after death, desertion and evacuation had reduced the number.

1. Hill, *op. cit.*, III, p. 301.
2. Ibid, I, p. Lxxxix.
3. Ibid, I, p. xc.
4. "A cube of about eighteen feet" wrote Holwell. Hill, *op. cit.*, III, p.136. Eighteen feet long and 14 feet wide according to John Cooke. Hill, III, p. 302. C.R. Wilson calculated that the exact dimensions were 18 feet by 14 feet 10 inches. Wilson, *Old Fort William in Bengal*, II, p. 245.
5. Hill, *op. cit.* I, p. 186. He expressed a similar opinion in his letter to William Davis, dated 28 February 1757. *op. cit.*, III, p. 134.
6. Ibid, I, pp. 43-44, 50, 61-62.

The veracity of Holwell's story of the Black Hole came to be questioned on strong grounds some time back by two competent and careful writers, Messrs J. H. Little and A. K. Maitra. Mr. Little describes it as a 'gigantic hoax'.[1] Inconsistencies in a large number of contemporary records which cannot be satisfactorily explained, certain contradictions in Holwell's different accounts, absence of the mention of Holwell's story in some contemporary official despatches and documents and in the important contemporary histories written in Persian, and the physical impossibility of a floor area of 267 square feet containing 146 European adults[2] cannot but lead unbiassed students of history to doubt its authenticity.

## *Trade and Commerce*

The correspondence in this volume contains plenty of material relating to the economic condition of the Bengal *Subah* during a period of transition. Bengal had an extensive and profitable trade with other parts of Asia and also with different Indian provinces. During the first half of the eighteenth century "the balance of trade", as Dow wrote about 1770, "was against all nations in favour of Bengal; and it was the sink where gold and silver disappeared without the least prospect of return."[3] We read in an account of 1756 that till then "the Coast of Cormondel and Malabar, the Gulph of Persia and Red Sea, nay even Manilla, China and coast of Africa were obliged to Bengal for taking off their cotton, pepper, drugs, fruits, *chauk* [shankha], *cowrees*, tin, tooth-enague etc., as on the other hand they were supplied from Bengal with what they could not well be without, such as raw silk and its various manufactures, opium, vast quantities of cotton cloth, rice, ginger, turmerick, long pepper etc., and all sorts of gruff goods."[4] Wheat and sugar also were exported from Bengal to these Asiatic countries. In 1755 the annual exportation of sugar "was about 50,000 maunds, which yielded a profit of about 50 per cent and the returns for which were generally in specie."[5] From the early years of the 18th century, "forty vessels from five to six hundred tons burden each," went annually from Bengal to Assam chiefly with salt which produced 200 per cent profit and also articles like

1. *Bengal: Past and Present*, Vol. XII, 1916, pp. 136-71.
2. This was pointed out several years back by Shri Bholanath Chander.
3. Dow, *Hindostan* (1872 edition), III, p. l/xii.
4. Hill, *op. cit.*, III, p. 390.
5. Milburn, *Oriental Commerce*, II, p. 270.

betel-nut and tobacco. They brought in exchange silk, lac, *muga dhoties* (a variety of silk cloth), ivory and timber. The chief exports of Bengal to Tibet were cotton and silk fabrics, spices, broadcloth, hardware, pearls, coral, amber and *chauk* (shankha) etc., and the imports were gold, musk, woollen cloth and tails of cows. But the political upheavals of the mid-eighteenth century and consequent disorders in various quarters, the insecurity of traffic and the enhancement of imposts by independent provincial governments caused a decline in Bengal's trade, through her own merchants, with other provinces in India and with Asia—a decline from which it never recovered. The attempts of Warren Hastings to revive Bengal's Asiatic, coastal and inter-provincial trade did not prove successful. Though there were some signs of revival in the different branches of trade towards the close of the 18th century and again in some of the branches temporarily after 1813, these were mostly in the hands of the Europeans and excepting in China trade there was again a progressive decline soon after.

Trade by Europeans was indeed a highly important factor in the economic history of the province. It is well known that the English, the French and the Dutch had carried on active commercial transactions in Bengal for over a century. French trade began to decline after the transfer of Dupleix to Pondicherry in 1741 and its recovery did not become possible because of want of funds and the adverse influences of the rapid political revolutions in Bengal. The Dutch were the most active commercial rivals of the English till the battle of Bedara (1759); indeed for some time during the first half of the eighteenth century their trade seems to have been larger. The Portuguese and the other minor European trading companies (*e.g.* the Ostend Company) had by then lost whatever influence or interest they had previously possessed in the sphere of Bengal's trade, though individual Portuguese traders remained there and some of them were at times guilty of piratical practices. The Danes established their factories at Serampore in 1755 and at Patna in 1774-75.

The trade of the English East India Company was gradually growing in spite of the acute competition of the Dutch and some occasional interruptions caused by other factors Their factories and *aurangs* were scattered throughout the province. The Council in Calcutta exercises drict control

over the chiefs and subordinate officers of these factories, and compelled them to furnish securities for their good conduct, The goods sent by them were subject to close scrutiny and those considered of bad quality were sometimes returned with instructions to improve the quality of investments in future.

To procure commodities, the Company sometimes advanced money to *dalals,* merchants and manufacturers. They were thus "invested with a prior right to the goods for which they contracted, and hence their purchase in India acquired the name of investment." Usually at the commencement of each year the Council in Calcutta despatched to the respective factories lists of investments to be collected, musters (samples) of raw silk and cotton piece-goods to guide them in selecting goods, and also bullion or money for payment. The Company tried to keep the merchants under effective control by taking securities for the money advanced to them (*dadni*), exacting penalties for their failure to honour their contracts in time, duly warning them against supplying goods of inferior quality, insisting on settlement of accounts in the English factories not admitting in this any arbitration by the "subjects of this country" and sometimes even holding the securities responsible for payment of the dues in arrears. But, in spite of all this, the merchants often failed to supply the full quantity of goods according to the terms of their contracts, and asked for bigger advances. So in June 1753 the Company abandoned the method of procuring investments by entering into contracts with merchants and introduced the practice of getting them direct from the *aurangs* through their *gumashtahs* or agents.[1] To meet the growing demand for *garhas,* the Council in Calcutta permitted the Kasimbazar factory to start some new *aurangs* at Ilambazar, Nanur, Moortally and Kagram.[2] In conformity with the orders of the Court of Directors the Council in Calcutta encouraged the weavers to settle in the Company's territory in Calcutta for manufacturing different kinds of cloth.[3]

In their letter to the Council of 31 January 1755 the Court of Directors expressed a favourable opinion of the new method of procuring investments and communicated some instructions for the future. The Council in Calcutta were particularly asked to keep careful watch over the conduct of

1. *Letter to Court,* 18 January 1754.
2. *Letter to Court,* 9 September 1754, para 27.
3. Letter to Court, 18 January 1754.

their servants and to form a supervising committee to look after investments in all the factories and *aurangs*. Such a committee was formed the same year with Roger Drake, the President, Charles Manningham, Richard Becher and William Frankland as its members.

Notwithstanding its temporary success, the new method of procuring investments did not ultimately produce satisfactory results. It vested the *gumashtahs* and the agents of the Company with powers "which they frequently abused", as Verelst justly tells us, "to their own emolument; and an authority given to enforce a just performance of engagements, became, notwithstanding the utmost vigilance of the higher servants, a source of new oppression." During the post-Plassey period their influence "proved so destructive of industry" that the Council in Calcutta restored "the old method of forming the investment, by contracting solely with merchants in different parts of the country."[1]

The principal exports of the European companies from Bengal from the middle of the 17th century onwards were cotton and silk piece-goods, raw silk and saltpetre. The expansion of the English Company's trade in cotton and silk piece-goods during the second half of the 17th century excited the jealousy of the silk and cotton manufacturers in England. An Act was accordingly passed by the British Parliament in 1700 to the effect "that from and after the 29th day of September, 1701, all wrought silks, Bengals and stuffs mixed with silk or herba, of the manufacture of Persia, China, or the East Indies; and all calicoes, painted, dyed, printed or stained there, which are or shall be imported into this Kingdom, shall not be worn or otherwise used in Great Britain; and all goods imported after that day, shall be warehoused, and exported again." Muslins proper and white calicoes "which did not come under the operation of the above Act were subjected at this time to an import duty of 15 per cent *ad valorem*." One effect of this Act was that large quantities of white calicoes began henceforth to be imported from India to be printed in England. So Parliament passed another Act in 1720 prohibiting the use or wear of printed calicoes, whether printed in England or in any other place.

The restriction on the import of Indian cotton and silk piece-goods did not, however, greatly affect these industries

1. Verelst, *A View of the Ri Progress and Present State of he English Government in Bengal* (1772), p. 85.

in Bengal. England was then but one of the many markets of India; and further, the English traders still continued to import Indian cotton and silk goods for re-exportation to other countries, till the high tariffs of the closing years of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th century, the Continental System of Napoleon, and the Industrial Revolution in the West virtually stopped their importation into Great Britain and the Continent. But the import of raw silk by the English Company was encouraged as it was needed in abundance for the growing silk manufactures of England. Murshidabad was the most important centre of sericulture in Bengal, and the factory of the English at Kasimbazar (started about 1658) was very much concerned with the collection of raw silk for the Company's investment. The Maratha inroads into Bengal during Alivardi's regime had an adverse influence on production and manufacture of silk and enhanced the prices of raw silk and silk fabrics. Between 1757 and 1765, silk "imported from Bengal rose, on an average, to about 80,340 small pounds of 16 ounces each per annum."[1] To effect improvement in the quality of Bengal raw silk, the Court of Directors sent Richard Wilder to Bengal in 1757. For four years Wilder did his best to carry out the orders of his masters and died at Kasimbazar in 1761. Further efforts were made by the Company after the acquisition of the *Diwani* in 1765 to encourage the production of raw silk in Bengal.

There was a considerable demand for saltpetre by the European companies and a keen competition existed among them for procuring it, chiefly because of its use as an ingredient for manufacture of gunpowder, and also because it was utilised for some subsidiary purposes (glass-making, preserving meat, cooling water and dyeing). It was manufactured abundantly in Bihar. Patna was the chief centre for its distribution, though for its manufacture and collection the Europeans had factories at some other places in Bihar, such as Singhia (near Lalganj in the Hajipur sub-division), Chapra, Chowndey and Fatwa (seven miles east of Patna on the Ganges). The purchases were made through contracts with merchants like Omichand, Dipchand and Khwajah Wajid. The European wars of the mid-eighteenth century led to an increase in the quantity exported. On 24 July 1751 the Council in Calcutta entered into a contract with Omichand for 86,000 maunds of Saltpetre. "In 1755 the quantity of saltpetre offered for sale

1. Milburn, *op. cit.*, II, p. 252.

(in England) was 14,747 bags, the whole of which, under the prospect of a war with France, which took place early in 1756, was disposed of."[1] The following year (1756) the Council in Calcutta tried their best to comply with the directions of the Court of Directors to send 2,000 tons of saltpetre from India. In 1758 Clive secured from Mir Jafar a monopoly of saltpetre manufacture and trade in Bihar and thereafter the Dutch and the French had to purchase it from the English factory at Patna at prices fixed by the Council in Calcutta.

The chief articles imported into Bengal by the Dutch from Europe were precious metals, especially silver, and woollen goods. They also imported copper from Japan, tin and spelter from the Malay Peninsula, and pepper, cloves, mace and nutmegs from the islands of the Dutch East Indies. The imports of the English were very similar to those of the Dutch. Between 1708 and 1756, "bullion formed 74 p.c. of their total imports to Bengal." Their other imports were broadcloth and other woollen goods, lead, iron, tin, copper, quicksilver, stores and provisions and a variety of minor articles including stationery. The Court of Directors, in their "earnestness to promote the consumption of the English manufactures in India to the utmost extent",[2] sent considerable quantities of woollen goods, the prices of which were however very high. This sometimes caused a glut of these articles in the Bengal markets and many remained unsold and overstocked in the warehouses of the Company. Early in 1754 the Council in Calcutta wished to send half of these unsold woollen goods to Bombay to be disposed of "to more advantage".[3] But Bourchier and his Council at Bombay refused to accept these goods. Notwithstanding this, the Court of Directors being "still desireous of promoting the national advantage and hoping for a favourable turn in the Indian markets" asked the Council in Calcutta to promote the sale of woollen goods to the utmost of their power.[4]

One obnoxious feature in the economic history of Bengal was the private trade of the Company's servants, the growth of which can be traced from the early years of the Company's trading activity in India. Even the President of the Council in Calcutta indulged in private trade. The

1. Milburn, *op., cit.*, p. 239.
2. *Letter from Court*, 23 January 1754, para 39.
3. *Letter to Court*, 4 January 1754, para 43.
4. *Letter from Court*, 29 November 1754, para 26.

Court of Directors occasionally complained of the evils produced by it to the prejudice of the interests not only of the merchants but also of the Company itself. But the members of the Council in Calcutta, being themselves interested parties, urged its continuance as a compensation for the low salaries of the Company's servants, though in fact their lot was not so hard when the purchasing power of money in those days is considered. In some of their letters to the Court they pleaded that they had taken all possible steps to prevent its abuse. But whatever they might have done the evil continued to increase.

One of the pernicious evils was the fraudulent use of *dastaks* by the Company's servants for their private trade and their disposal of these, for some consideration, to Indian merchants. These malpractices which originated in 1704, if not earlier, caused great loss to the Nawab's exchequer and the local merchants who had to pay customs according to the current rates. The members of the Council in Calcutta had asserted in the days of Shujauddin Muhammad Khan that the *farman* of Emperor Farrukhsiyar entitled them to use *dastaks* for their personal trade. But their standpoint was based on an entirely wrong interpretation of this important document. What that *farman* granted was exemption from the payment of customs on exports and imports of the Company as a corporate body, and vessels conveying goods on behalf of the Company were to carry, for purposes of identification, *dastaks,* signed by the President of the Council in Calcutta. Farrukhsiyar never intended to extend this privilege to the private trade of the Company's servants.

Conscious of the evil effects of this practice the Court of Directors often called upon the Council in Calcutta to check them. Most probably as a result the Council took some steps to regulate the use of *dastaks,* which, however, proved to be ineffective. The Court reiterated their words of caution in this respect in their letter of 31 January 1755. But the abuse of *dastaks* continued and the results of Plassey tremendously aggravated it.

The English Free Merchants were sometimes rivals of the Company's servants in the coastal trade. The latter succeeded in driving the former out of Bengal at the beginning of the eighteenth century on the "pretext of avoiding political complications which might arise from the acts of irresponsible persons." But the Free Merchants were permitted by the

Court of Directors in 1713 to trade in Bengal, and thereafter they began to come in large numbers. The Company's servants regarded a Free Merchant as "an eyesore, as he interfered with the profits of the Company's servants in trade."[1] In January 1743, John Wood, a Free Merchant, applied for permission to trade, pleading that without it he would be reduced to "the condition of a foreigner, or indeed of the meanest black fellow." The servants of the Company were opposed to the grant of such a privilege. Holwell observed that the "foreign trade of the settlement is become much too general", and the Council in Calcutta, while granting a pass to John Wood for one particular vessel, sent a note of protest to the Court of Directors.[2]

### *Industries*

The varied industries of Bengal, particularly her cotton and silk industries, largely contributed to her economic prosperity. There were produced "cloths of all kinds, most beautiful muslins, silk raw or worked."[3] It is worthy of note that Bengal was as much a manufacturing as an agricultural country, and a fair co-ordination between agriculture and industries formed a striking feature of her economic life in those days.[4] It was only when, during the second half of the 18th century and the first three decades of the 19th century, the cotton and silk industries of Bengal declined to the point of extinction owing to various causes, that she was "reduced", as Henry St. George Tucker observed in 1823, "from the state of manufacturing to that of an agricultural country."[5] The weaving factories were dispersed throughout the province and produced different varieties of cloth. Dacca was the premier centre for the manufacture of fine muslins and cotton cloths of different types. Each variety of muslin was manufactured from "fabrics of three or four assortments or degrees of quality", which were described in the Company's factory as 'ordinary', 'fine', 'superfine' and 'fine superfine'.

Saltpetre, an important export of the European trading companies, was manufactured in abundance in Bihar. Sugar, manufactured in Bengal, was exported to different Asiatic countries. This profitable trade in sugar, however, declined

1. Long, *Selections from Unpublished Records of Government*, Introduction, p. xxv.
2. *Letter to Court*, 15 January 1783.
3. Hill, *op.cit.*, III, p. 216.
4. Orme, *op.cit.*, II, p. 4.
5. Quoted in R.C. Dutt, *The Economic History of India under Early British Rule*, p. 262.

due to the general economic disorders in Bengal following the battle of Plassey and the competition of Java sugar in the markets of Western India. Some of the subsidiary industries of the province were opium, lac and hand-woven jute. Good guns were also manufactured. Monghyr was an important centre of this industry and Alivardi used a gun manufactured at this place.

From remote antiquity, ship-building was an important industry of India. We have references in the records of the eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century to the use of ships built in Bengal and some other places in India for transporting merchandise even overseas. Various causes ultimately brought about the decline of this famous industry in the first quarter of the 19th century.

*Prices, Currency and Banking*

Prices of articles rose during this period chiefly because of four factors, *viz.*, (a) the frequent Maratha inroads, (b) imposition of high duties on gross sales of the articles of prime necessity, (c) competition among foreign traders and (d) occasional natural calamities like floods, etc. In 1738 nearly three maunds of rice could be purchased for one rupee and one maund of *kapas* (cotton) for 2 to 2½ rupees. But by 1751 the prices went up by nearly 30 per cent. Then rice began to be sold at the rate of 1 maund 32 seers for 1 rupee 4 annas, grains (pulses) one maund for 1 rupee, wheat 1 maund 32 seers for 1 rupee 4 annas, flour 1 maund 3 seers for 3 rupees, oil 1 maund for 5 rupees. The prices rose further thereafter, and the Company's Government in Calcutta took some steps to relieve the consequent hardships of the people.

The state of currency in Bengal from the early years of the eighteenth century was complicated. Coins of different mints in India, or coins of different years struck at the same mint, differed in value. "According to the trade usage of each different market they were liable to different rates of discount, and in order to make exchanges possible the values of actual rupees of every kind were expressible in terms of an ideal rupee known as the current or nominal rupee."[1] Thus in Bengal at the beginning of the eighteenth century, 100 *sicca* rupees were equivalent to 112½ current rupees. Subsequently, a hundred

1. Wilson, *Early Annals of the English in Bengal*, II, part I, p. liii

newly struck Murshidabad *sicca* coins were equal in value to 116 current rupees. But after three years of circulation their value diminished to 111 current rupees and they were then known as *sanwat* rupees.[1]

At Madras, where the English Company had a mint of their own, variations in the value of the rupee did not prove to be as troublesome as in Bengal. 89½ ounces of dollar silver could always be converted into a little "more than 218 rupees, allowing two per cent for the cost of coining",[2] and so long as the Mughal Court was in the south these passed without any difficulty in southern India and in Bengal. But after the death of Aurangzeb, when the Mughal court was transferred to the north, the Bengal Government no longer required Madras rupees for remittance of imperial revenues, and their value in Bengal consequently went down, a high rate of *batta* (discount) being charged on them.[3] The Company could not now get for its silver the same number of Bengal coins as before. In June 1752, they had to sell bullion to Jagat Seth at 201 *sicca* rupees for 240 *sicca* weight and paid to their merchants 106 Madras rupees for 100 *siccas* "which was the lowest *batta* they could take them at."[4] In the beginning of 1753 *siccas* were not available at less than 111½ Arcot rupees and 109½ Madras rupees for a hundred.[5] A year later the Kasimbazar factory complained of "scarcity of siccas".[6] In March 1755 the Council in Calcutta noted that there was no demand for bullion.[7]

To prevent new coins from being replaced by old ones in circulation, there was the pratice of charging discount or *batta* on a coin according to the period of its circulation. Further, there was then absolutely no uniformity of currency in Bengal, because, besides the Madras rupees and the Bengal coins, coins of mints situated in other parts of India poured into the province as a result of its having a favourable balance of trade. These coins were very often debased either by the mints or by some interested persons. The *shroffs* (money-changers) availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by this de-

1. Verelst, *View of the Rise, Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal* (1772), pp. 94-95.
2. Wilson, *op. cit.*, II, part I, p. liii
3. *Letter to Court*, 2 January 1752, para 36.
4. *Letter to Court*, 18 September 1752, para 69.
5. *Letter to Court*, 1 January 1753, para 8.
6. *Letter to Court*, 4 January 1754, para 68.
7. *Letter to Court*, 1 March 1755, para 5.

basement to charge *batta* at arbitrary rates for the exchange of such coins. All this must have created disadvantages for the local traders as well as for the Company.

As the proprietor of the premier banking house of the time, Jagat Seth of Murshidabad had considerable influence in the matter of currency. Watts wrote to the Council in Calcutta on 8 February 1753 that he was "the sole purchaser of all the bullion that is imported in this province by which he is annually a very considerable gainer." For purchase of investments the Council in Calcutta not only received from Bombay and Madras whatever treasure they could spare but also occasionally borrowed money from Jagat Seth and some minor bankers, which they repaid in bullion.[1] *Cowries* formed the lowest medium of exchange in Bengal and were generally used for small transactions.

To avoid the inconveniences arising out of the exchange of bullion the English Company sought the permission of the Mughal Emperors, Aurangzeb and Shah Alam I, to establish a mint near their settlement at Fort William on the ground that the mints at Rajmahal, Dacca, and Satgaon were far away.[2] But the Mughal Government did not then allow this infringement of one of its sovereign rights. The Company obtained from Emperor Farrukhsiyar permission for free use of the Nawab's mint at Murshidabad for three days in a week to coin their own bullion. But they could not avail themselves of this permission because of strong opposition from Murshid Quli Jafar Khan.[3]

In 1751 the Nawab's Government ordered that "all money whether bullion or rupees" should be sent to the mint at Murshidabad "to be coined there into Siccas or disposed of to Jugutseat"[4] and that the Europeans should not make payments to their merchants in any coins except new *siccas*. Fearing that the enforcement of this order would prove prejudicial to their interests, the English, French and Dutch companies directed their respective chiefs at Kasimbazar to act "in concert" in this matter and to make a representation to the Nawab's Government to grant the usual currency to bullion and

1. *Letter to Court*, 22 December 1748, paras 8 and 12 ; 4 February 1751, paras 72-75; 20 August 1751, paras 77-78.
2. Wilson, *op. cit.*, II, part II, pp. 263 and 276-77. There was a mint at Patna.
3. Wilson, *op. cit.*, II, part II, p. 232 ; *Letter to Court*, 31 January 1752 para 77.
4. *Letter to Court*, 17 February 1751/2, para 2.

the different types of coins. This joint action produced the desired effect. The English continued their efforts to obtain permission of the Nawab's Government for establishing a mint in Calcutta,[1] and they ultimately succeeded in getting it from Sirajud Daulah in February 1757.

[1] *Letters from Court*, 23 January 1754, No 3, para 57 and No. 4, para 1; *Letter to Court*, 30 January 1755.

# 1

# LETTER DATED 28 NOVEMBER 1753

*Shipping news—personnel of the Committee of Secrecy—goods for Bengal—instructions to draw up the list of investment at an early date—new writers for Bengal.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William.

1. Our letters to you last season were by the Winchelsea, Clinton and Harcourt under date of the 15th of December to be forwarded from Fort St. George, the 24th of January, by the Falmouth, Egmont, Portfield, Elizabeth and Montfort and a separate letter of the same date accompanying His Majesty's charter which went in [the] Falmouth.

2. We received by the Bombay Castle and Chesterfield your letters of the 29th of January and 11th February last, the several letters preceding those dates having before reached our hands.

3. We have taken into our service this season seventeen ships viz. the Lord Anson and Princess Augusta for China directly, the St. George to take in wine at Madeira and from thence to proceed to the Coast and Bay, the Grantham for St. Helena and the west coast, the Essex, Ilchester, True Britton, Onslow and Triton to proceed first with the several consignments intended for Fort St. George Presidency and then to Canton from whence they are to be finally dispatched home, the ships York, Denham, Norfolk and Anson are to call first at Fort St. George and then to proceed to the Bay with the consignments for that Presidency, the Warren, London, Kent, and Britannia will be consigned directly to Bombay.

4. The Lord Anson and Princess Augusta for China directly with a large consignment of woollen goods, the Grantham storeship for St. Helena and the west coast and the St. George for the island of Madeira and the coast of Choromandel and the Bay of Bengal are now under dispatch. The five ships for Fort St. George and China will be dispatched by the middle of next month at furthest, the four Coast and Bay ships will follow about the 20th of January and the Bombay ships about the middle of March.

5. The enclosed lists will inform you of the times our several ships sailed, as likewise of the arrival of the ships from all parts of India this season from the time the last were transmitted to you.

6. The gentlemen appointed this season to be the Committee of Secrecy are Richard Chauncy, Roger Drake, Christopher Burrow and William Mabbott, Esqrs.

7. You will receive this letter by the St. George on which ship wee have consigned to you about 130 tons of lead, and our correspondents at the island of Madeira have directions to load on her three hundred pipes of wine, 150 pipes whereof are to be consigned to you and the other 150 pipes to our President and Council of Fort St. George.

8. Notwithstanding wee have directed 150 pipes to be consigned to you as abovementioned, yet upon considering how much the number of our servants civil and military at Fort St. George exceeds that at your Presidency and consequently a larger proportion of wine may be necessary for them, wee have therefore empowered the President and Council there to detain out of the said 150 pipes consigned to you any quantity not exceeding 50 pipes if it is really wanted and in that case only.

9. You are to cause a careful survey to be taken of the wine and if it shall appear to have suffered by bad stowage or unusual leakage you are to oblige the commander to make good the amount of the loss.

10. Capt. Robinson and his ship's company have the usual indulgence of twenty pipes of wine. If any more is landed in India, the surplus is unlicensed and must be confiscated to the use of the Company, agreeable to former orders; and that you may be apprized of what shall be landed upon the coast of Choromandel, wee have given directions to the President and Council of Fort St. George to transmitt to you an exact account of the same.

11. Having made a larger investment of woollen goods for the Bengal market than the ships designed for your Presidency can take in, wee intend to load the surplus bales being 300—on the ship True Britton which is to call at Fort St. George in her way

to China, and as there will be roome in the St. George upon the delivery of her wine to stow all or the greater part of the said bales, we have directed the President and Council to send them on board that ship and consign them to you, having authorized them to detain the St. George until the arrival of the ship True Britton with the said bales accordingly.

12. But notwithstanding the said bales are provided for your market, yet if they can be disposed of to advantage at Fort St. George wee have authorized the President and Council to do so, or if they are informed they will sell well at Bombay for which place the sortment is as properly adapted, wee have given them liberty to forward them to that Presidency by any good conveyances which may offer, in either of which cases the St. George is not to be detained longer than is necessary for the sending aboard the treasure and any other consignments for you. Our reasons for giving liberty for forwarding the said bales to Bombay arise from the observation wee have made of the large remains of woollen goods in your warehouses, and the great and advantagious sales which wee are advised have been lately made at that settlement.

13. Our said President and Council of Fort St. George are to forward to you by this ship as much treasure as they can possibly spair, observing to send it in such proportions of bullion and rupees as you may have advised them is proper for your market.

14. You must exert yourselves in forwarding your investment to prevent such a cruel disappointment as wee now labour under from the late arrival of our shipping and the non-arrival of others arising from their untimely dispatch from Bengal.

15. The late arrival of the Bengal ships has likewise prevented our drawing up a list of investment to be forwarded by this conveyance; therefore that no time may be lost you must proceed upon the plann of the last until you receive a new one, and you must make an early and sufficient provision of saltpetre for the several ships to be dispatched from the Coast and Bay as well as what may be necessary for Bombay, which latter wee reckon at about 300 tons. And you are to observe that all the Coast and Bay ships of this season are to have their full charter-party kintlage in saltpetre as none of them have any iron kintlage.

16. Wee have entertained 13 writers for the service of your Presidency who will take their passage to you upon the ships of this season. Their names are viz.—Robert Wilkinson, Willes Orr, Robert Byng, John Drummond, William Grubb, Ralph Leycester, Patrick Johnstone, Aylmer Harrod, Stephen Page, Edwd. Page, John Street, Francis Gostlin and Saml. Howitt.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Richard. Chauncey (Chairman)/R. Drake (Deputy)/ W. Mabbott/Christo. Burrow/M. Impey/Whichcott Turner/W. Wilberforce Junr./Will Braund/Thos. Rous/ W. Willy/H. Crabb Boulton/Henry Plant/Willm. Rider/ Thomas Walpole/Stephen Law/ John Boyd/R. Bootle/ Timothy Tullie.

London, 28th November 1753.

(Ref:—Records obtained from India Office 1752/53, Vol. 17. Letters from Court, pp. 319—323.)

## 2

## LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1753

*Shipping news—personnel of the Committee of Secrecy—goods for Bengal—list of investment with necessary instructions forwarded—new writers for Bengal.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William.

1. Our letters to you last season were under date of the 15th of December by the way of Fort St. George, the 24th of January by the Coast and Bay ships and a separate one of the same date by the Falmouth relating to His Majesty's charter which went by that ship.

2. The Bombay Castle and Chesterfield brought us your letters of the 29th of January and 11th of February, your preceeding letters having been received.

3. Wee writt you a short letter under date of the 28th November by the St. George which ship was dispatched for the island of Madeira and the Coast and Bay on the same day.

4. Wee now write to you by three ships bound to Fort St. George and China and have directed the President and Council to forward our letters to you by the three first conveyances that offer that you may have some general directions and advices previous to what you will receive by the Coast and Bay shipping.

5. Wee have taken into our service this season seventeen ships, viz. the Lord Anson and Princess Augusta for China directly, the St. George for the island Madeira and the Coast and Bay, the Grantham for St. Helena and the west coast, the Essex, Ilchester, True Britton, Onslow and Triton, for Fort St. George and China, the York, Denham, Norfolk, and Anson for the Coast and Bay, the Warren, London, Kent, and Britannia for Bombay directly.

6. The ships Lord Anson and Princess Augusta, the St. George and Grantham were dispatched on the 28th and 30th of last month.

7. The ships Essex, Ilchester, True Britton, Onslow and Triton are now under their dispatches with the several consignments intended for Fort St. George Presidency from whence they are to proceed to Canton.

8. The York, Denham, Norfolk and Anson will follow about the middle of January with the consignments for your Presidency but they will first call at Fort St. George in order to have their treasure coined and for other purposes which will be mentioned in our general letters by those ships.

9. The Bombay ships viz. the Warren, London, Kent and Britannia will be dispatched about the middle of March.

10. Wee refer you to the accompanying lists for the times of the arrival and departure of shipping.

11. The gentlemen of the Committee of Secrecy this year are Richard Chauncy, Roger Drake, Christo. Burrow and Willm. Mabbott, Esqrs.

12. The St. George is to take in 300 pipes of wine at the island of Madeira, half whereof is directed to be consigned to Fort St. George and the other half to you, besides which the said ship carrys about 70 tons of lead for your Presidency.

13. But notwithstanding 150 pipes of wine are consigned to you, wee have empowered our President and Council at Fort St. George to detain out of it any quantity not exceeding 50 pipes if it is really wanted there and not otherways.

14. Besides the woollen goods which are intended to be laden on the Bengal ships for your Presidency, wee have now laden on the True Britton 300 bales which are to be forwarded to you by our President and Council at Fort St. George on the St. George.

15. Wee have authorized our President and Council however to sell the said bales at Fort St. George or send them to Bombay if they find they can be disposed of to advantage at either market. Our reasons for giving liberty for forwarding the said bales to Bombay arise from observing the large remains of woollen goods in your warehouses and the great and advantagious sales which wee are advised have been lately made at that settlement.

16. As there will be only five ships consigned to the Coast and Bay this year to bring home the investments at both Presidencys and one of them viz. the Anson is a small one, wee have reason to expect they will all be dispatched home the same season with full ladings of bale goods, and should it happen that you and our servants at Fort St. George want any further tonnage for your investments,, you must give as early notice thereof as possible to the President and Council of Bombay as well by pattamars overland as by the first sea conveyances, that they may give their assistance by sending a ship to Fort St. George if they can spair one in time to be dispatched home in a propper season.

17. To prevent such a cruel disappointment as wee met with by the Colchester's misfortune at Fort St. George owing to your unseasonable dispatch of her, and as wee shall depend upon having a September ship from that settlement, wee have authorized our President and Council to detain any one of the four following ships consigned to the Bay viz. the York, Denham, Norfolk or Anson, in which case the cargo of such ship is to be forwarded to you by the earliest and best conveyance that offer.

18. The ships bound to the Coast and Bay this year are to have their full charterparty kintladge in saltpetre viz. sixteen tons for every one hundred tons each ship is let for as they carry no iron kintladge.

19. And as wee have reason to expect the Coast and Bay ships will be returned to us with as many bales as they can carry, in that case each ship is to have 40 or 50 tons of saltpetre over and above the beforementioned charterparty proportions on the commander's requesting the same.

20. You must supply our Presidency at Fort St. George with whatever saltpetre they shall acquaint you will be necessary as well for the dispatch of the shipping from thence as for making gunpowder.

21. And you must send to Bombay by any good conveyances and as early as you can 300 tons of saltpetre at least, and as much more as the President and Council shall write for.

22. You must make upon the best terms you can an early provision of saltpetre sufficient for the beforementioned purposes.

23. The export for your Presidency this season will consist of about 1840 bales of woollen goods including the 300 bales to be forwarded from Fort St. George, 300 tons of copper, 280 tons of lead, 140 tons of iron and 30 tons of steel, besides stores and many other particulars which will appear in the invoices by the several ships.

24. Wee consigned to the President and Council of Fort St. George 30 chests of treasure on the St. George; wee now send them on the Coast and China ships to the value of two hundred chests, and wee intend to send on the Coast and Bay ships a further considerable quantity which latter, tho' consigned to you, our said President and Council will be empowered to take out.

25. But wee have and shall lay the strongest injunctions on our said President and Council not to detain any more of the beforementioned treasure than shall be absolutely necessary for the use of that Presidency and to forward all the rest as soon as possible by every safe conveyance that offers for Bengal.

Wee have likewise directed them to send the treasure in such proportions of bullion and rupees agreeable to the intimations they shall receive from you for that purpose.

26. Our principal view in making use of this conveyance is to forward the list of investment, as it may be the means of its coming to your hands before the arrival of the Bengal ships. The directions and observations therein are so full and explicit that wee shall have no occasion at present to add anything further than most earnestly to recommend it to you to be as dilligent and expeditious as possible in making such a sufficient provision of goods for the ships on hand that we may not again be so distressed and embarrassed as wee have been this season by the late arrival of the shipping from Fort St. George as well as your Presidency, all owing to your unseasonable dispatch of them.

27. Wee have chosen thirteen writers to proceed this year to the assistance of your Presidency who are to be ranked in the order they are named viz.—Robert Wilkinson, Willes Orr, Robert Byng, John Drummond, William Grubb, Ralph Leycester, Patrick Johnstone, Aylmer Harrod, Stephen Page, Edward Page, John Street, Francis Gostlin, and Samuel Howitt.

28. Mr. Drummond and Mr. Edward Page took their passage on the St. George, the others will go in the Bengal ships.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Richd. Chauncey (Chairman)/R. Drake (Deputy)/W. Mabbott/M. Impey/Willm. Rider/Christo. Burrow/ Peter Du Cane/Will. Braund/Henry Plant/Hy. Crabb. Boulton/John Boyd/Whichcott Turner/Stephen Law/ Timothy Tullie/Will. Barwell/W. Wilberforce Junr. Thos. Rous/Thos. Phipps/Thomas Walpole/W. Willy.

London, 19th December 1753.

(Ref. Records obtained from India Office, 1752-53, Vol. 17.— Letters from Court, pp. 324—330.)

# 3
# LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1754

*Free merchants entitled to Company's protection subject to good behaviour—directions to push the sale of English products —complaints against the late arrival of goods from India and their high prices—defects in the new method of assorting goods and suggestions for improvement—commendation of the Council's decision to present a gift to Siraj-ud-daulah—praise of J. Z. Holwell's zamindari management and opinion regarding the case of Govindaram Mitra—the Court's insistence on putting a stop to the licentiousness among the Company's servants—news regarding the negotiations for peace with France—attitude to be adopted towards Prussian ships coming to Bengal.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Wee writt you a short letter by the St. George under date of the 28th of November, a duplicate and triplicate whereof went in the ships Essex and Ilchester packetts to be forwarded from Fort St. George. Wee writt again on the 19th of December last by three of the ships bound to Fort St. George and China, which letters likewise were to be forwarded by the first conveyances, and wee hope as they contained some general notices and directions they will have come to your hands before the receipt of this letter, but for fear they should not wee shall recapitu[late] some of the most material parts at the same time that wee convey to you our further sentiments and commands which we shall range under the usual heads.

2. Notwithstanding our frequent directions for your writing to us by every good conveyance, a large packett of private letters was sent by the Speedwell sloop to Bussorah to be forwarded to England by the way of Aleppo[1] and not a single line to us; this was an almost unpardonable omission and wee must acquaint you that wee shall not easily pass over such another.

3. In such advices as you may have an opportunity of sending by the way of Persia we do not expect any long detail; on the contrary you are to confine yourselves to such information as

may without prejudice to our affairs be trusted to such precarious conveyances and the hazard of being intercepted.

4. The packet you sent upon the Colchester was extreemly damaged in the storm that ship mett with at Fort St. George and was afterwards forwarded to us by the Admiral Vernon; wee imagine it would not have been so much injured, had the box been enclosed in wax cloath as is the method of our other settlements beside gunny and therefore you must secure every packett for the future in cloth well waxed.

*1st, of shipping.*

5. Wee have taken into our service this season the undermentioned seventeen ships and have stationed them in the following manner viz.—

| Ships | Tons | Commanders | Consignment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lord Anson | 499 | Charles Foulis | China directly |
| Princess Augusta | 499 | Thomas Parker | |
| Saint George | 499 | Robert Robinson. | Madeira and Coast and Bay St. Helena and Bencoolen. |
| Grantham | 499 | John Oliver | |
| Essex | 499 | George Jackson | Coast and China |
| Ilchester | 499 | John Tedd | |
| True Briton | 450 | Henry Broadley | |
| Onslow | 499 | Thomas Hinde | |
| Triton | 499 | Gilbert Slater | |
| Denham | 499 | George Meard | Coast and Bay |
| York | 499 | Edward Ward | |
| Norfolk | 499 | Pinson Bonham | |
| Anson | 370 | Robert Veitch | |
| Warren | 499 | Alphonsus Glover | Bombay |
| London | 499 | Richard Allwright | |
| Kent | 499 | George Willson | |
| Britannia | 499 | Nevell Norway | |

6. The ships Lord Anson, Princess Augusta, St. George and Grantham sailed from the Downes on the 6th of December, the Lord Anson and Princess Augusta were obliged to put in at Falmouth from whence they sailed again the 28th of the same month.

7. The ships Essex, Ilchester, True Briton, Onslow and Triton were dispatched from hence on the twentyeth of December and sailed out of the Downes with a fair wind on the 27th and 28th of the same month.

8. The York, Denham, Norfolk and Anson are now under their dispatches, the commanders being directed to proceed first to Fort St. George from whence, after they have complyed with their instructions for delivering some consignments and performed some other services required of them, they are to make the best of their way to you, by which ships you will receive these advices.

9. The ships Warren, London, Kent and Britannia will be dispatched for Bombay about the middle of March.

10. The Supra cargoes appointed to transact our affairs in China are formed into the following setts viz.,

For the ships Lord Anson and Triton Messrs. John Misenor, John Burrow, Alexander Hume and John Mapletoft.

For the Stafford and Onslow Messrs. Thomas Thomson, Samuel Blount, Thomas Sandys, William Fead, and Benjamin Torin, but the cargo expected on Stafford from the Mallabar coast is to be disposed of by Messrs. Misenor, Thomson and Hume and the produce thereof paid to and invested by the beforenamed five gentlemen.

For the Princess Augusta, Mr. Samuel Harrison and Mr. Nathaniel Garland. For the True Britton, Mr. John Misenor, Mr. Samuel Harrison and Mr. John Burrow.

The ships Essex and Ilchester are consigned to Messrs. Thomas Liell, Mordecai Walker and Mann Horner now in China to bring home their investment, and to be filled up if that falls short by Messrs. Misenor, Burrow, Hume and Mapletoft.

Messrs. Misenor, Harrison and Hume are to dispose of the woollen goods by the Lord Anson and Princess Augusta and are to continue in China until the end of the year 1755, with a stock to make an investment and for other purposes.

Messrs. Misenor, Harrison and Thomson are to take charge of any ships that may arrive in China destitute of Supra cargoes.

11. The gentlemen of the Committee of Secrecy this year are Richard Chauncey, Roger Drake, Christopher Burrow and William Mabbott, Esqrs.

12. The accompanying lists will shew you the times of the arrival and departure of shipping.

13. The freighters of silver, coral, emeralds, pearls and such kind of licensed goods have agreed (as they have done for some years past) that if any ship or ships on which such articles are laden shall proceed to Bengal without touching at Fort St. George, or on the other hand arrive at Fort St. George and do not proceed to Bengal, that the President and Council at either place may forward such articles agreeable to their consignment on any of our European ships at the risque of the said freighters but without any further charge to them.

14. The ships bound to the Coast and Bay this year viz. the St. George, York, Denham, Norfolk and Anson carry no iron kintladge; therefore they are to have in lieu thereof their full charterparty kintladge in saltpetre, that is to say, sixteen tons for every one hundred tons each shipp is lett for as part of their ladings home.

15. The Bombay ships this season carry half kintladge in iron and the other half is to be made up in saltpetre, which wee take notice of, to prevent mistakes in case you shall have occasion to calculate the tonnage of any ships from that side of India.

16. Having reason to expect that the abovementioned five Coast and Bay ships will be returned to us with as many bales as they can carry, in that case each ship is to have 40 or 50 tons of saltpetre over and above the beforementioned charterparty proportions on the commander's requesting for the same; you may go even further if the commanders desire it as wee would chuse to have about 150 tons of saltpetre laden on each of the said five ships, provided it does not interfere with your loading all the bale goods you possibly can.

17. If it shall happen that larger investments are made at your Presidency and at Fort St. George than the five ships now

consigned thither can take in, you must carefully observe the directions in our last letter to apprize the President and Council at Bombay of your want of tonnage as early as possible that they may give you their assistance by sending a ship to Fort St. George if they can spair one in time to be dispatched home in a propper season.

18. To prevent such another disappointment as wee met with in not having a September ship from Fort St. George arising from your not dispatching the Colchester thither in time, wee have empowered the President and Council to detain for that purpose any one of the four following ships consigned to you viz. the York, Denham, Norfolk or Anson; in that case the cargo of the ship so detained will be forwarded to you by the first safe conveyances.

19. The best means must be used by an early and mutual intercourse between our three Presidencys to assist each other in sending home your respective investments in case of a want of tonnage for that purpose at either Presidency.

20. The disappointment wee have met with this season in not having the investments from your Presidency and Fort St. George in time to raise money at our sales for this year's export has been inconceivably great and entirely resulting from your late and unseasonable dispatch of the several ships on your hands, for besides the misfortune which attended the Colchester at Fort St. George, the Admiral Vernon did not arrive until the 20th of August, the ships Bombay Castle and Chesterfield were so late as the 5th and 14th of October and the Oxford and Godolphin are not yet arrived. Wee have every year pressed upon you the necessity of early dispatches and in particular directed you to send us a ship or two as soon as possible that they might arrive very early, the advantages whereof are too obvious to require their being pointed out and therefore wee expect and direct that you make the utmost efforts to comply with our frequent directions on this head.

21. We observe the several commanders of our ships under various pretences evaded their being sent to Fort St. George in a propper time to be returned to us from thence in September but wee are satisfied, if you had exerted yourselves and made a propper use of the authority you are invested with, the obstacles

thrown in the way by several of them would have been found imaginary, and the Colchester in particular might have been dispatched much sooner.

22. The answer you give to the observations in our letter by the Durrington with regard to your letting out our ships on country voyages is very unsatisfactory, and the method you mention of calculating the demorage for 8 months and readily accepting that sum when offered no way corresponds with our directions and intentions, which are to get as much as a country voyage is really worth and can be procured; the account you have transmitted to us of the Wager's voyage makes it plainly appear that if you had acted with a due attention to our interest in former instances wee should not have had such reasons to complain; for the proffitt on that voyage amounts to Rs. 28666. 10. 9, besides the advantage of sending on that ship on our account to Bombay 300 tons of saltpetre and 5000 gunnys.

23. Although wee are not desirous of having any of our ships detained in India if it can be possibly avoided, yet wee are convinced that such as shall happen to stay may with propper and just management instead of being an expence produce us a good proffitt. and wee shall expect to find the same accordingly in all future instances.

24. Capt. Cook's pretences for not taking in the cowries tendered to him were frivolous and you did right in protesting against him, as you likewise were in protesting against Capt. Hutchinson for returning 650 bags of rice under the pretence of reckoning the company of Swiss into his tonnage whereas wee have a right to the whole ship and shall make a particular enquiry into this affair upon the Godolphin's arrival in England.

25. Whenever any of the commanders dispute or disobey your orders, protest against them and give us a full and explicit account of their conduct that wee may do ourselves justice upon their return home.

26. If it has been customary to grant passes for vessells belonging to free merchants[2], wee would have no alteration made as wee look upon them to be entituled to our protection so long as they behave themselves irreproachably, but if any of them shall

at any time make an impropper use of their passes they forfeit our protection and you are accordingly to send the offenders to England with a particular account of the offence and your proceedings thereupon.

27. Wee expect to hear that upon the arrival of Joseph Bodley from the Mallabar coast you strictly complyed with our commands last year for making an enquiry into his conduct as Supra-cargoe of the Mary, a country ship in the service of the late Mr. Irwin, and if it appears that his ill behaviour drew upon us the insult our flagg mett with from the Portuguese, which the President and Council of Bombay and our servants at Tellicherry[3] charge him with, that you immediately send him home.

28. As you very well knew that wee always appointed an able seaman to fill the post of Master Attendant, you were extreemly to blame in acting so contrary to our intentions in choosing Mr. Cruttenden by the stile of Superintendant of the Marine upon the death of Capt. Pinson, and wee fear Mr. Cruttenden had some other objects than the interest of the Company in view in pressing so strongly for his admittance into that post.

29. Wee shall take it for granted that immediately upon the receipt of our last year's commands, Capt. Samuel Lutton was appointed Master Attendant and that you carried the regulations therein mentioned for the better conducting the business of the post into execution.

30. As wee have a good opinion of the capacity and integrity of Mr. B. Plaistead and of his fittness to discharge the post of Master Attendant, we direct that in case of the death or absence of Capt. Lutton or his not accepting of that post that Mr. Plaistead do succeed thereto.

31. If the post of Master Attendant shall at any time be vacant and wee have appointed noe successor, the assistant if sufficiently qualifyed is to fill it untill our pleasure is known, but if the assistant should not be qualifyed, you are to look out for and appoint the ablest seaman you can find to fill it provisionally until you receive our further commands.

32. You are hereby directed to take the state of the marine into your serious consideration and examine carefully whether there is a necessity for such a number of vessels as nine sloops and eight budgerows, and whether the great annual expense may not be considerably abated and point out to us in what particulars, and wee further direct that where any reductions are obviously necessary you do immediately carry them into execution, but in doubtful cases you must wait for our further orders.

*2nd, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another.*

33. By the ships St. George, Essex, Ilchester, True Britton, Onslow and Triton wee consigned to our President and Council at Fort St. George to the amount of £ 227,253-15-8 in treasure with a view that you should have a large proportion of it and wee have accordingly given directions to our said President and Council to forward to you by every safe conveyance as much as they can spair either in bullion or rupees agreeable to the intimations they shall receive from you.

34. Wee have laden on these ships the York, Denham, Norfolk and Anson chests of bullion but notwithstanding it is consigned to you, our said President and Council are empowered to take all or as much of it out of the said ships as they shall think propper to be coined for the use of your Presidency; they are likewise empowered to detain as much of it as shall be absolutely necessary for the various exigencys of that Presidency but not a rupee more upon any pretence whatsoever.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Denham** | . | |
| **York** | . 54 | **do** |
| **Norfolk** | . 53 | **do** |
| **Anson** | | |

35. And as our orders to Fort St. George are as strong as possible for your being supplied with as large a proportion of the treasure laden on the beforementioned ten ships as can be spaired, wee make no doubt of your having a sufficiency to proceed upon and compleat your investment in good time.

36. Wee shall pursue our scheme of exporting as large quantitys of woollen goods as can be vended at the several markets in India and for that purpose wee have sent you this season about 1840 bales including the 300 bales to be forwarded to you from Fort St. George as mentioned in our last advices.

But if you find yourselves at any time overstocked and are informed woollen goods sell to more advantage at Fort St. George or Bombay than at your market, you may send thither accordingly such quantitys as you cannot well dispose of.

37. Our other exports for your Presidency this season consist of 300 tons of copper, 280 tons of lead, 140 tons of iron and 30 tons of steel with stores and many other articles; for the particulars and amount of the whole you are referred to the several invoices and bills of lading.

38. Wee continue to give our orders to the President and Council of Bombay to forward to you by all opportunitys the amount of their surplus stock which wee apprehend from the advantagious sales they have lately made has been very considerable and wee have good reason to beleive you will have a constant supply from that side of India.

39. Wee observe a considerable quantity of woollen goods upon the coming away of your last letters remained unsold, and a large part of what had been sold were not cleared, but as you cannot but be convinced of our earnestness to promote the consumption of the English manufactures in India to the utmost extent, wee hope you have exerted yourselves in clearing your warehouses, and that by a constant application to forward our intentions you will approve yourselves to be dilligent and faithfull servants.

40. Wee are acquainted in your letter of the 18th of September that you will comply with our orders of the 8 January 1752 for the sale of goods as far as is practicable, and in your Consultation of the 21st of July wee observe some objections are made to the 1st and 4th paras of our said orders by the Import Warehouse Keeper and agreed to by you, but in your letter of the 11th February following you say our orders have been strictly complyed with; wee cannot reconcile these different accounts and therefore you must acquaint us whether the directions in the said 1st and 4th paras were or were not complyed with, as wee do insist upon a punctual observance of all our commands on this head unless you give us very convincing reasons to the contrary.

41. Notwithstanding the possitive orders wee gave you in our beforementioned letter of the 8th of January to send us a litteral

copy of the preamble to or terms of every sale, they are not mentioned in your Consultations or in any one of the accounts transmitted to us; wee therefore insist upon your acquainting us with the true reasons for this disobedience to our commands and wee expect a punctual complyance with our said orders for the future.

42. All accounts of sales ought to appear regularly upon your Consultations, but many very material ones of the goods under the care of the Import Warehousekeeper are omitted to be entered in the last book received; if you do not take effectual care to prevent such negligencies in future wee shall highly resent it.

43. Notwithstanding you acquaint us the fine plate copper by the Colchester did not sell so well in proportion as the other copper, wee have sent you a small parcell this year for a further tryal, but if you find it will not produce a reasonable proffit at your markett you may send the same as well as any other sort of that commodity under the like circumstance to Bombay where wee have reason to believe it will bare a good price.

*3rdly, of investments.*

44. In the list of investment now transmitted to you wee have been very particular in our observations and remarks upon the various species of goods received by the ships from your Presidency the last season, as likewise in the directions necessary to be given for making the investment for the ships now proceeding to you, to all which wee expect you will give due attention and obedience.

45. In general wee must observe to you that the species of the goods lately received are better than those which have been received for two or three years past and in particular the difference appears more remarkable in the Chesterfield's cargo; this injustice you ought to be acquainted with but at the same time you must be informed that unless the prizes can be greatly reduced, the Bengal trade will hardly defray the expenses of our settlements. Gurrahs[4] which have been a very great branch of your investment have been gradually advancing in price from year to year until they have reached to the present exorbitant rate that wee now actually lose very considerably by the importation of them; nothing therefore but the necessity

of enabling you to dispatch home the ships on your hands could induce us to order any to be provided. Wee mention this as a very considerable article wee could instance, how much wee suffer in many others, but what wee have writt to you for two or three years past makes it needless. We last year considerably reduced the quantity of gurrahs and in this year's list you will observe the number ordered greatly lessened, and even the quantity you are now directed to provide, inconsiderable as it is, will be a burthen upon us; therefore you must not exceed the quantity ordered in the list of investment unless you can considerably reduce the price and at the same time keep them up to the quality which if you can do you may enlarge the quantity provided you want to fill the ships on hand.

46. The not receiving your investment in a proper time for our sales is not only a real loss by being kept out of our money but it occasions likewise great difficultys in providing for the ensuing export as may easily imagine upon reflecting how large a part of our stock is invested in Bengal goods; the embarrassment this season has been inconceivable and wee expect you will exert yourselves to prevent our suffering in the like manner again. The late arrival of your investment is likewise attended with this further very material inconvenience that it prevents our making such observations upon the goods in time as are necessary to form and be incerted in the ensuing list.

47. The disapointment wee complain of takes its rise principally from the very late agreement made with the merchants for your investment in 1752 and wee cannot help thinking that if they had been managed with spirrit and address you might have got the better of their artfulness and trifling and struck a bargain much sooner as well as upon more advantagious terms with respect to price.

48. The indifferent circumstances of the greater part of your merchants is a very great impediment to your making advantagious terms for your investment. It is therefore necessary to find out some method for the more effectual execution of this important branch of our affairs, and the encouraging merchants of substance to come and reside under our protection. The directions wee sent you last year for reviving the office of a broker upon the old footing wee hope will have the desired effect.

49. We observe you had made an agreement with the merchants for the investment before the arrival of our orders by the Godolphin and therefore wee cannot blaim you for looking upon that agreement as valid, but wee expect to hear that you have paid a due regard to all the orders in our letter by that ship in contracting for the succeeding year's investment.

50. Wee likewise shall expect a punctual complyance with the several orders and directions sent you last year upon this branch of our affairs which were full and explicit both in the aslist of investment and our letter and wee hope the regulations there pointed out will be the means of the merchants bringing in their goods earlier than they have of late.

51. We have for some time past made great complaints of the sortment of your goods and the great inequallity in the quallity which has been found in one and the same bale; wee observe with satisfaction that Mr. Manningham and Mr. Frankland have endeavoured to remedy this evil by proposing a new method of sorting that they apprehended might obviate our frequent complaints. which method wee find you so far approved of at a Consultation on the 17 December 1752 as to order the different sortments of cloth in future to be examined and packed in the manner set forth in their letter entered after that Consultation. Although you are highly to be commended for making this attempt, and wee agree with you in opinion that a greater equality may be preserved in the bales by this method, yet wee cannot approve of it for this obvious reason that the merchants' names of whom the cloth is bought and the sorters who sort it cannot be noticed in the bale note for our information as has been always usual, and wee are affraid if those checks are removed there will be roome for many and great impositions; therefore you must fall into some other method, and as it is but within these few years that wee have had reason to complain of the inequality of the goods, we think if the same care and application is continued which wee observe in the present Export Warehousekeeper, it will not be difficult to remedy the evil, and wee recommend it to you as near as possible to pack every merchant's goods by themselves and if at any time goods are wanted to compleat a package, to add thereto the goods of any other merchant as near the quallity of the others as you can. And we further recommend it to you to comply strictly with the directions in the 31st para of our letter of the 24 January 1753 with

regard to sorting goods in such a manner so that they may be kept up to the quality of the respective musters, that is to say the head sort of every parcel must fully come up to the muster A, the second sort to muster B, the third sort to muster C, the fourth to muster D, and the 5th to muster E, the reason of our being so particular is that it seems to us as if you sorted every merchant's goods into five letters and prized them as A. B. C. D. E. without distinguishing whether they came up to the musters of those several letters, by which the letter A of one merchant's goods are packed with the same letter of another's although really no better than B and ought to be placed to that letter accordingly, and in the same manner with respect to the other letters, which method must certainly be one great occasion of the inequallity wee complain of and must be carefully avoided in future.

52. Wee observe your animadversions upon the investments made by our servants at Dacca and Jugdea[5] both with regard to the bad quality and the high prices of the goods provided by them, the reasons for which wee think are not satisfactorily accounted for. Your watchful eye must constantly attend the conduct of our servants at the subordinate settlements to observe every deviation from their duty from whatever inducement it proceeds that you may be able to rectify all abuses in time.

53. The fine Cossajura mulmuls by the Chesterfield, especially the head sort, gave great satisfaction and sold well, the inferior sorts not being much in demand sold but indifferently although the quality was not to be complained of.

54. The quantity of saltpetre requisite to be laden on the five Coast and Bay ships viz., the St. George, York, Denham, Norfolk and Anson agreeable to our intimation under the first head will amount to about 150 tons a ship or 750 tons, besides what may be necessary to be laden on any ship remaining on your hands of the preceeding year, over and above which you are to send to Bombay 300 tons by the first conveyances that offer and Fort St. George is to be supplyed with a sufficient quantity for making gunpowder, all which you must purchase as early as possible to prevent any disappointment and upon the most reasonable terms you can, and here we renew our last year's recommendation to you for purchasing from time to time any large quantitys of saltpetre that may be offered at low prizes so

as to have a stock of about 2000 tons by you more than sufficient to dispatch the ships annually; the utility of such a method is so apparent that the barely mentioning it is sufficient.

55. Upon mentioning in the preceeding paragraph 150 tons of saltpetre to be laden on each Coast and Bay ship wee mean that is to be the quantity on each ship whether laden in Bengal or at Fort St. George or in parts at both places, and you must accordingly take care that the President and Council at Fort St. George have always a sufficient supply to compleat the loading of the said 5 ships accordingly, as likewise for what may be necessary to be laden on any ship or ships remaining on their hands of the preceeding season.

56. Wee observe you paid CRs 52 per maund for the tincal provided in 1752 whereas wee are certain that the commanders who brought home that commodity the same season paid no more than 35 CRs per maund, and that theirs was as good or better than the Company's is evident from the sale, what you sent by the Wager selling in an average at £ 16·15 per cwt. and that in private trade by the same ship from £ 21 to £ 22 per cwt. Your giving such an extraordinary price is a certain proofe of great inattention to our interest, for surely wee may always expect to have goods upon as reasonable terms if not for less than private traders, and it is no wonder that wee have had so much cause to complain of the dearness of our goods in general if as little care has been taken in other branches as in the present instance.

*4thly, concerning the trade of India and transactions with the country Government.*

57. It gives us great satisfaction to observe that your application in concert with the Agents of the French and Dutch Companys to prevent the order from the Durbar taking effect for sending all money to the mint whether bullion or rupees to be coined has been attended with success.

58. Wee observe the present scituation of the affair relating to Deepchund's[6] deposit occasioned by the demise of Mr. Cole but wee hope some person has or will take out letters of administration and that in consequence thereof a legal determination may be made of this long depending and troublesome affair. In the mean time you must take all the prudent precautions

you can to prevent any embarrassments with the country Government if Coja Wazeed[7] should as he has threatened complain to the Nabob.

59. Wee find Hookumbegg[8] has again renewed his unreasonable demand for 3600 rupees on account of the sugar merchants. Wee observe you have not complyed with it and wee hope never will, for if you give way he will certainly levy it annually, unreasonable as it is, but however hard the case may be it is no concern of ours and wee do insist upon your recovering from the merchants any mony that may be extorted from you on this account agreeable to the directions wee gave you last year.

60. It gives us great satisfaction to observe that Nabob Sarajee Doula whom Alliverde Cawn appointed to be his successor received our President and the other gentlemen deputed by the Board to compliment him upon the occasion with such marks of distinction and wee hope you will loose no opportunity of improving the favourable opinion he seems to entertain of the English nation. A present could not be avoided and the not giving a handsome one would have been an ill timed piece of frugality and therefore wee approve of what you have done.

61. Wee entirely agree with you that an intimacy should be kept up with the heads of the government and the necessity of it appeared so obviously to us that wee gave you our sentiments thereupon very fully in last year's advices to which therefore you are referred.

62. You represent to us that the extortions of the government at Jugdea, the ruined condition and roguery of the delolls and other inconveniencies attending the carrying on business at that place has made it necessary to remove from thence and fix in some more commodious scituation and that as Luckipore[9] appears to be such you were making applications at Muxadavad for a grant accordingly. Wee hope this affair has been well considered, for as you very well know at what a price the government rate the least favour desired of it, nothing but necessity should oblidge you to apply to it and wee wish you have not been too precipitate in this affair; however since you have proceeded so far, wee must depend upon your conducting it at the least possible expence, and that you have taken the necessary care to secure the payment of what the delolls at Jugdea are indebted to us.

*5thly, concerning fortifications, buildings and revenues.*

63. As barracks for the soldiers are absolutely necessary wee hope you gave orders for building them upon the arrival of Col. Scott, [10] but if they are not begun you must consult that gentleman and sett about them immediately.

64. You may give directions for the repairing our factory at Patna but you are to expend no more upon it than is necessary to prevent its running to ruin.

65. As soon as you are employed in any works of consequence wee direct that you strictly attend to our orders of the 21 August 1751 for appointing a committee to examine into the methods of paying for workmanship and materials and to regulate them in such a manner as shall be most to our advantage.

66. Although under the circumstances you represent Mr. Knox's case with regard to the arrack farm wee think he is entitled to an equitable releife, yet you must take particular care that wee may have at all times the utmost value that licence will produce.

67. Notwithstanding what several of our servants have urged by way of justification of their conduct during their respective Buxey ships, wee are fully convinced that office wants greatly to be regulated. For that purpose wee transmitted you a copy of M. Plaistead's letter to us and ordered you in our letter of the 8th of January 1752 to carry the regulations therein pointed out into execution as fully as possible, but as wee do not find any have been made in consequence of our said orders, wee insist upon your reasons for this omission of your duty, and wee now acquaint you that if you do not immediately make a regular enquiry into the business of that office and regulate it in such a manner as may prevent in future the many abuses that have crept into it by the dishonesty of some of our servants or the negligencies of others, you may depend upon feeling the weight of our resentment.

68. Wee are fully apprized of the unkind and discouraging reception Mr. Plaistead met with upon his return to Calcutta for no other reason that wee can find than his well meant and honest endeavours to serve us but Mr. Macguire's behaviour, if what Mr. Plaistead charges him with is true, was of a nature

that must put an end to our authority and render our protection useless unless duely resented. The charge is that upon his waiting upon Mr. Macguire on his first arrival he cut him down with a sword and almost murdered him under a pretence of his having used him ill in England with us. It is very extraordinary that no enquiry was made into this affair but wee are determined it shall not be so lightly passed over. Wee therefore command you to make a full and strict enquiry into every circumstance of Mr. Macguire's behaviour to Mr. Plaistead and report the whole to us with your impartial opinion thereupon for our determination and in the mean time if you find Mr. Macguire culpable you are to suspend him from our service and wait for our further orders.

69. Mr. Holwell[11] has very fully answered our expectations in regulating and conducting the office of Jemindar[12], and has, by the considerable encrease in the revenues resulting from his good management and by transmitting to us such a clear and intelligeble account of the nature and state of them, convinced us of what wee long suspected that wee have been most grossly imposed upon in this branch of our affairs.

70. It will here naturally follow that wee acquaint you wee have with the greatest attention perused Mr. Holwell's charges against Govindrem Metre[13] for frauds and mismanagements in his post as an assistant under our Jemindars for a number of years past, Metre's replys and your whole proceedings thereupon, upon which wee shall give you our sentiments in as concise a manner as wee can. It would have reflected upon the justice of the Company if the request for Metre's confinement made by Mr. Holwell out of his zeal to serve us had been complyed with, for although there were strong presumptions of his guilt they were not reduced to a degree of certainty sufficient to take such a step; upon the principle therefore of conducting our affairs with lenity and justice wee cannot but approve of your holding him on security only.

71. Many of the various articles of Mr. Holwell's charge against Metre wee are of opinion might, if fairly enquired into, have been fully proved and Metre in consequence have been justly obliged to refund what he had wronged us off to a great amount, although perhaps not to a degree Mr. Holwell has estimated but it is with the greatest surprize wee observe the

damp thrown upon this enquiry by the extraordinary resolutions of the majority of your Board on the 11th of October 1752 viz., that Metre was not in trust to the Company from the nature of his office, that he had a right to purchase the farms (in question)—and that he was not accountable to the Company the proffitts made on them. These resolutions wee say threw such a damp upon Mr. Holwell's efforts to do his duty that wee cannot at all wonder at your acquitting Metre of every charge against him except a very trifling one, and it seems as if the majority had predetermined to render all Mr. Holwell's attempts to procure us justice abortive, for to us it appears most evident that Metre was a servant of the Company's and as such received a monthly pay, that as an assistant in the jemindarry he had a very great trust reposed in him in having the revenues almost entirely under his management, how or by what means acquired wee cannot pretend to say, but that so it was is most apparent, and that by Metre's voluntarily acknowledging himselfe answerable for the roguerys and embezlements of his under-agents he confesses himself in trust.

72. That Metre had a right to be a purchaser of our farms if fairly and openly sold wee will admit but that was far from being the case, for it plainly appears that he obtained the farms in question in a clandestine manner by misrepresenting their real value, then purchasing them in fictitious names for his own use and immediately disposing of them again (often the very same day) to other persons at a very considerable proffitt. Although these fraudulent transactions have taken their rise from negligence and want of attention in some of our servants and through the connivance and from worse motives in others, the fraud in Metre is no way extenuated. He has evidently cheated us and he ought to make us satisfaction. And here it is pertinent to observe that when Metre was known to be the real purchaser, as it appears he was, in the sale of the salt farm by Mr. Burrow and the great buzar by Mr. Manningham, they both sold at publick outcry at a considerable advance, which plainly shews that when he purchased under fictitious names his original intentions were to defraud us.

73. As this affair of the farms is such an apparent fraud wee do insist upon an adequate satisfaction and therefore wee direct that an account be stated of the proffitts Metre has made on all and every farm which you can trace back and find to have been purchased by him in a fraudulent manner and after making all

just and reasonable allowances you do oblige him to refund the overplus with interest.

74. Mr. Holwell's whole conduct in this affair has been entirely to our satisfaction and his abilitys, zeal and application to serve us are so sufficiently apparent that wee are satisfyed it will be in his power, if no obstructions are thrown in his way, to prove himself a very valuable servant to the Company. Wee shall therefore expect as you regard our future favour that you give him not only all necessary countenance and assistance in his particular station of Jemindar but allso in whatever he shall point out or intimate may be of service to the Company in any other branches of our affairs. At the same time you are to be particularly careful that the natives are treated with the strictest justice and humanity.

*6thly and 7thly, of covenant and military servants and accounts.*

75. Wee have chosen the following writers to serve us upon the Bengal establishment who are to take rank in the order they are named viz., Robert Wilkinson, Willes Orr, Robert Byng, John Drummond, William Grubb, Ralph Leycester, Patrick Johnstone, Aylmer Harrod, Stephen Page, Edward Page, John Street, Francis Gostlin, and Samuel Howitt.

76. In order to put a stop as soon as possible to the pernicious custom of employing black people in your writing business you must take care that all our servants are regularly and constantly employed in their respective stations, particularly the younger sort, and if the present number is not sufficient for the various branches of your business, lett us be acquainted how many more are wanting and you shall be fully supplied.

77. Your not being acquainted of our appointing William Hay a writer upon the Bengal establishment was an omission. You did right therefore in employing him in that station on his producing the counterpart of his covenants; his proper rank is as you have placed him upon the list next below Francis Sykes.

78. Wee have permitted Mr. Samuel Chandler to proceed to and reside in India under our protection to exercise his profession of a surgeon, and wee recommend him to succeed to the first vacancy that shall happen in our service wherever he may

be wanted or approved of, after those who have been already recommended are provided for. He accordingly took his passage on the Prince Edward in April last.

79. We now send you lists of the several persons we have permitted to proceed to India as free merchants in the seafaring way or in any other manner under the protection of the Company.

80. Wee are well assured that the paragraph in our letter of the 8th of January 1752 relating to the prevailing licentiousness at your place was received by many of our servants in superiour stations with great contempt and was the subject of much indecent redicule, but whatever turn you may give to our admonitions, call it preaching or what you please, unless a stop is put to the present licentious career wee can have no dependence upon the integrity of our servants now or in future, for it is too melancholly a truth that the younger class tread too closely upon the heels of their superiours and, as far as their circumstances will admit and even further, copy the bad examples which are continually before their eyes. After what has passed wee cannot hope for much success by expostulation. Wee shall therefore make use of the authority wee have over you as masters that will be observed if you value a continuance in our service, and you are accordingly to comply most punctually with our following commands viz.,

That the Governour and Council and all the rest of our servants both civil and military do constantly and regularly attend the divine worship at church every Sunday unless prevented by sickness or some other cause, and that all the common soldiers who are not on duty or prevented by sickness be allso oblidged to attend.

That the Governour and Council do carefully attend to the morals and manner of life of all our servants in general and reproove and admonish them when and whereever it shall be found necessary.

That all our superiour servants do avoid, as much as their several stations will allow of it, an expencive manner of living, and consider that as the representatives of a body of merchants a decent frugality will be much more in character.

That you take particular care that our younger servants do not launch into expences beyond their incomes, especially upon their first arrival, and wee here lay it down as a standing and possitive command that no writer be allowed to keep a pallankeen, horse or chaise during the term of his writership.

That you sett apart one day in every quarter of the year and oftener if you find it necessary to enquire into the general conduct and behaviour of all our servants below the Council and enter the result thereof in your diary for our observation.

81. Wee do not think it necessary to give such a direction with regard to our servants in Council because wee are and always can be well acquainted with their characters without a formal enquiry.

82. We cannot allow pentions to be paid to any persons in India and therefore whenever applications are made to you by the widows of any of our servants either civil or military or any other persons whatsoever, being Europeans, for reliefe, you are to make a strict enquiry into their circumstances as well for our information as your own and if you find them to be really necessitous and unable to maintain themselves in India, you must send them and their familys to England as soon as you can at our expence, and in the meantime you may allow them what shall appear reasonable and necessary for their immediate support until you can procure them a passage.

83. Although our orders for sending home Mr. Kemp and Mr. Goddard were possitive, you have proceeded no further towards putting them in execution than barely acquainting those gentlemen such orders were given. If they do not come home in the Oxford, the last ship of the season, wee shall highly resent your disobedience.

84. Upon Mr. Fytche's succeeding to the chair it necessarily occasioned an exchange of offices and according to the usual course Mr. Drake as second should have taken charge of the chiefship at *Cossimbuzar*[15], but wee find both he and Mr. Cruttenden, the next in station to him, declined it. The pleas for their refusal are no way satisfactory and wee are fully perswaded, if they had not been biassed by private views, a post of that importance to us would not have been so undutifully deserted.

85. And here wee think it necessary to lay it down as a possitive and standing order that if any one of our servants shall in future refuse to serve us in any station or post for which the Governour and Council shall think him qualified, and shall appoint him to, that such servant be immediately dismissed our service, lett his rank be what it will.

86. If Mr. Blachford's circumstances will not admit of the defraying the charges of his passage to England, you must send him home at our expence as wee are determined upon discouraging the allowance of pentions to any persons abroad.

87. You ought not to have given Mr. Ranson leave to return to England until his affair had been brought to an issue in the Mayor's Court notwithstanding he may have given the required security for the amount of the charge against him, as it will be impossible to proceed against him here so effectually as in Bengal for want of the necessary informations and proofs. Mr. Ranson wee find did not make use of the liberty you gave him by taking passage on any ships dispatched in 1752, wee hope therefore he is still with you. If that is the case he must not be suffered to leave Bengal until his accounts are finished.

88. It frequently happens that when any of our servants have been dismissed or suspended abroad or that they lay down our service and come to England under the pretence of severitys or hard usage they have met with, they apply to us for releife, but however willing wee may be to render justice to every person, wee are seldom informed sufficiently of the facts to form a propper judgement whether such persons are entitled to any releife or not, and therefore wee direct that for the future, when you have reason to beleive any of our servants have or do misbehave themselves in any respect whatsoever so as to deserve censure, you do state the facts as they appear to you of such misbehaviour in writing and deliver the same by way of a charge to the misbehaving person, and give him a reasonable time to reply thereto, likewise in writing, which done you must strictly and impartially examine the evidence for and against such person and determine whether he is or is not guilty of the charge against him. The whole of your proceedings must be transmitted to us for our information together with your opinion thereupon and the reasons for such your determination and opinion.

89. And you are hereby further directed never to refer any matters in dispute either with regard to persons or things to be determined by us which can be decided by you, and in case of a refference, not without fully stating to us all circumstances in writing and giving us your opinion thereupon and the reasons on which you ground such opinion.

90. A mistake was made in invoicing the iron by the Winchelsea last year, 2580 barrs of Russia iron are mentioned in the invoice to weigh 40 tons, whereas they really weighed 60 tons. You must therefore carry the said iron to account in your books accordingly.

91. Abundance of mistakes are still found in your bills of exchange which occasion much trouble. You must therefore take effectual measures to prevent such carelessness for the future.

92. The last pair of general books received from you are very badly copyed. Several articles in the journal are omitted which yet are posted into the leger, and many articles are entered in the journal but are not posted into the leger, particularly under the heads of account current London and proffitt and loss, although the ballances of all accounts are entered in the journal at the close of the books, by all which it manifestly appears they have not been compaired with the original books and cannot therefore be depended upon; there are likewise several mistakes and irregularitys which our Accountant has pointed out in a paper of remarks which you will receive herewith and are duely to attend to. Upon the whole wee must acquaint you that wee never received from yours or any other settlement such a shamefully careless sett of books, and if ever wee receive such another, wee shall be under the necessity of making use of some severity as an example to our servants in general to be more attentive to our business.

93. Your general books are so very voluminous that it is hardly possible for one person to keep them in order; therefore to ease the Deputy Accountant wee direct that a new pair of books be kept under the denomination of a callico journal and ledger by another person under his direction agreeable to the method laid down by our Accountant in the enclosed paper, which new pair of books must be ballanced and sent home at the same time with the general books.

94. An unaccountable negligence appears to have taken strong possession of almost all our servants. To what else can be attributed your omitting to send the usual and necessary books and papers? Your collection of letters received and sent are wanting, wee have received no account of your charges general—no account of dusticks, no list of ships importing and exporting, no register of the Mayor's Court, no list of the allowances to our several servants but one list of our covenant servants and not a book or paper from any of the subordinate settlements. These are some of the principal articles but there are many others which you will find upon looking upon your registers which always were and always must be sent us. Your Consultation book for the year 1752 is likewise very defective by the omission of many material accounts and papers which ought to be entered therein, as will plainly appear to you upon inspection without our pointing them out. Particular people are certainly to blaim, but it is you our President and Council are most culpable as it is evident you have left every servant to his own liberty to work or play without controul or giving yourselves the least trouble or concern to look into the conduct of our servants in their several employments and offices.

95. Wee not only insist upon your punctually sending to us yearly every book and paper which has been usually sent or which ought to be sent, but that the most material such as your general books, Consultations, letters received and sent, books of the subordinates &c. be transmitted by the very first conveyances in the season, as otherways it is impossible for us to make the necessary observations upon them in time.

96. Wee shall expect to find by your next advices the interest debt greatly reduced, and as you very well know what a canker it has been in our estate wee shall depend upon your utmost endeavours to have it totally discharged as soon as possible.

97. Notwithstanding the treasury accounts ought to be passed monthly, yet wee observe there were brought before the Board in October no less than six several months together viz., from April to September which wee highly disapprove of as it gives too much roome to suspect some sinister management, and wee possitively direct that in future the treasury and cash accounts be regularly laid before you and passed every month.

98. Wee have embarked on these ships as many recruits for the military forces in Bengal as they can conveniently carry as will appear by the accompanying muster rolls, and wee have cautioned our President and Council at Fort St. George to detain none of them if they can possibly avoid it. Wee have likewise recommended it to them, as soon as the circumstances of affairs will permit, not only to return the party you sent to their assistance but likewise to forward to you as many of the recruits, whom they have stopt from time to time, as may be wanted to compleat your establishment.

99. Wee have chosen Timothy Bridge Esq. to be a captain and Mr. John Hume to be a lieutenant in our forces in Bengal, who are to succeed to the first vacancys that shall happen after their arrival, that is to say, Mr. Bridge to the first vacant command of a company and Mr. Hume to the first vacant lieutenancy after those gentlemen have been provided for who were sent out last year and you are to give them commissions accordingly.

100. But notwithstanding the said officers may not immediately succeed to their beforementioned stations, yet their pay is to commence upon their arrival viz., Mr. Bridge as a captain and Mr. Hume as lieutenant.

101. As the desertion from Capt. Polier's company of Swiss[19] could not be prevented in Bengal, wee very much approve of your permitting him to reconduct them to the coast of Choromandel as the only likely method to render them useful to us.

*Supplement.*

102. Wee received from you sometime ago a muster of Japan copper, we now send you by the ship York a small parcel of copper in bars made according to that muster, and as it is intended for a tryal, you must dispose of it separately and advise us of the sale thereof, and if it sells to advantage you must particularly mention what quantity may be annually disposed of.

103. The Anson not being in readiness to proceed with these ships as was intended, her dispatch must therefore be deferred until some time in next month.

125 D. of A.

104. Wee have for a considerable time past been in treaty with the French East India Company for an accommodation of the differences between the two Companys upon the coast of Choromandel which we are not without hopes will be attended with the wished-for success. The project of an agreement for that purpose has been concerted here with commissarys from the French Company and transmitted to Paris, an answer to which wee are in daily expectation of. His Majesty has laid his commands on the ministry to support in his royal name the negotiation with the French commissaries for bringing the differences between the two Companys to an happy conclusion and has ordered the French Embassador to be acquainted with his firm resolution of maintaining and supporting the Company in the full enjoyment of all the rights and privileges granted them by the royal charter, and His Majesty has given the necessary orders for rendering such support effectual, in case an accommodation upon equitable and reasonable terms should not be obtained from the French Company, in consequence whereof a squadron of men of war is prepaired and ready to sail with a sufficient number of His Majesty's troops on board.

105. Mr. Godeau[20] sailed from France the 31st of December last with orders, as our Administration have been informed, to endeavour to pacifye the troubles and that it is with him only our agents are to treat, but if he should not be of that pacifick disposition he is represented to be of, we hope His Majesty's squadron will prove an effectual support to us.

106. A ship is actually fitted out and is ready to proceed from Embden to the coast of Choromandel and the Bay of Bengal in the service of a company erected at that place under the protection of the King of Prussia, on board of which one Mr. Harris proceeds as principal Agent. Wee give you this notice that you may be well upon your guard to prevent any encroachments upon our rights and priviledges and that the agents of the said company may not meet with encouragement from any persons whatsoever under our protection. You are to give possitive orders to all our pylots not to take charge of the said ship or the ships belonging to any other powers who are not established in India to bring them up the river and you are to endeavour to induce the Agents of the French and Dutch Companys to do the same; and you are likewise to use your endeavours in concert with the French and Dutch Agents to

prevent the Prussians getting possession of the late Ostend factory at Hughly or making any other settlement in Bengal.

107. Since forming the list of investment the alliballies and doreas[21] per Chesterfield have been sold; and we observe that the quality of the former is better than what we have generally received. However the profit is so small that unless you can reduce the price, you must omit sending any of that article; as to the doreas they proved very good, and we have only to recommend to you to keep up the quality and send us the quantity ordered.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Richd. Chauncy/Roger Drake/W. Mabbott/Will. Rider/Christo. Burrow/M. Impey/Peter Du Cane/ Will. Braund/Whichcott Turner/W. Willy/Thos. Phipps/H. Crabb Boulton/Thomas Walpole/Timothy Tullie/Henry Plant/John Boyd/Thos. Rous/W. Wilberforce Junr.

London, 23rd January, 1754.

(Ref.—Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 18, 1754-55, pp. 2—43.)

Paragraphs 30, 63 and 68 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* Vol. II, pp. 2-3. Para. 69 published in Holwell's *India Tracts,* p. 248.)

## 4

## LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1754

*The Court's directions regarding the establishment of a mint at Calcutta—the Council ordered to send samples of piece-goods manufactured near Calcutta.*

TO the President and second in Council for the time being at Fort William in Bengal.

We have received two letters from the President and second in Council, one dated the 28th of December 1752 and the other

the 12th of February following in answer to ours of the 16th of January 1752, in which wee observe the difficultys and impediments which lye in the way to prevent a complyance with our orders for your procuring a propper authority for the establishment of a mint at Calcutta for the present at least. However a time may come when these difficultys may vanish and a critical juncture may facilitate your applications for procuring us so great an advantage. You therefore must always have it in view and loose no favourable opportunity for complying with our beforementioned orders.

In your letter of the 28th of December you have sent us a statement of the real cost of several sorts of piece goods made in and about Calcutta which wee observe in general to be cheaper than what the same species are invoiced at to us, but as you acquaint us our orders came too late in the season for your carrying them into execution, by causing some pieces of the several sorts to be privately made, wee shall therefore depend upon your promise of transmitting some to us by the two first conveyances the following year, as without a view of the goods the statement of the prizes can answer no purpose.

The reason of our writing this separate letter to our President and second is that the contents may be kept as secret as the nature of the transactions will admit of and wee shall depend upon your observance of the same accordingly.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Rich. Chauncy/Roger Drake/W. Mabbott/Willm. Rider/Christo Burrow/M. Impey/Peter Du Cane/ Will. Braund/Whichcott Turner/W. Willy/Thos. Phipps/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Thomas Walpole/Stephen Law/Timothy Tullie/Henry Plant/John Boyd/Thos. Rous/W. Wilberforce Junr.

London, 23rd January, 1754.

(*Ref.*—Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 18, 1754-55, pp. 44-45.)

# 5

# LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1754

*Shipping news—His Majesty's troops sent for service on the Coromandel Coast—orders to provide tonnage for all ships of the season.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The commanders of the ships Denham, York and Norfolk received their dispatches on the 24th of Jany, but the Lords of the Admiralty having issued out press warrants for manning the squadron proceeding to the East Indies, many of the sailors left the said three ships which occasioned some loss of time before they could be remanned. However they are now prosecuting the voyage and they will sail from the Downes with the first fair wind.

2. The Anson not getting to Gravesend so soon as the Denham, York and Norfolk, she could not be dispatched with them as was at first intended, but being now under her dispatches it affords us the opportunity of transmitting this further letter.

3. You were acquainted in our former letters that wee had stationed the ships Warren, Kent, London and Britannia for Bombay, but as it was necessary to get three ships immediately ready to be employed in transporting some of the troops His Majesty has been pleased to grant for our service on the coast of Choromandel, wee altered the destination of the three last named viz., the Kent, London and Britannia from Bombay to Fort St. George to be employed as transports accordingly, and therefore you are to look upon them as Coast and Bay ships. They will be ready to sail out of the Downes the first week in March.

4. In lieu of the said three ships wee have taken up for Bombay the Prince Henry. Capt. Thomas Best commander, the Shaftsbury, Capt. William Bookey, and the Warwick, Capt. Nicholas Webb, each of them being of the burthen of 499 tons

which with the Warren, Capt. Alphonsus Glover, are the four ships for the Bombay station. The Warren and Shaftsbury will be dispatched about the 21st of March and the other two ships the beginning of April.

5. The Kent, London and Britannia carry whole kintladge in iron viz., sixteen tons for every one hundred tons each ship is let for, which wee mention to prevent any mistakes in calculating their tonnage as no other of the Coast and Bay ships this season have any iron kintladge. The four Bombay ships viz., the Warren, Prince Henry, Shaftsbury and Warwick carry half kintladge in iron.

6. But be careful to look into every ship's charterparty, and wherever you find iron kintladge stipulated for, observe it is to be reckoned into the charterparty tonnage for so many tons of goods as there are tons of iron kintladge mentioned therein, agreeable to the notifications you have already had from us.

7. Wee shall order the Warren one of the Bombay ships to proceed first to Fort St. George to accommodate with a passage Lieut. Col. Alexander Heron whom wee have appointed our Major and 3rd of Council and Mr. Robert Orme[1] seventh of Council at that settlement. After landing them she will make the best of her way to Bombay.

8. As the beforementioned three ships Kent, London and Britannia are an unexpected and additional tonnage to be provided for by you and our servants at Fort St. George, wee give you this previous notice that you may turn it in your thoughts how to dispose of them in the best manner. Wee shall choose to have them all (as well as the other ships of the season) returned to us the same season they arrive with the investments of the two Presidencys but if that is not practicable, wee would have them employed on freight voyages or in any other manner so as they may earn their demorage at least, until they can be sent home the following season, but as it may not be possible to dispatch them home the same season or employ them until the next as beforementioned, wee have acquainted the President and Council of Fort St. George that wee would have one or not exceeding two of the said three ships that can be first got ready sent to Canton on our account, provided they arrive at

Fort St. George in time to be dispatched to and returned from Canton to England the same season. Wee have thought it necessary to give you by this conveyance this general view of our intentions that you may concert the necessary measures with Fort St. George Presidency. At the same time wee must acquaint you it will be most to our satisfaction to have the said ships dispatched from the Coast and Bay the season of their arrival. Wee therefore hope you will exert your utmost endeavours for that purpose accordingly and give the earliest notice to the President and Council of Fort St. George what tonnage you shall have for them or how they can be most advantagiously employed.

9. Notwithstanding any directions in our former letters for loading surplus tonnage, you are to load no more on any of the Coast and Bay ships than the charterparty tonnage (allowing for the usual wastage) unless you can do it without prejudice to the dispatch of others. The additional ships you will have on your hands makes this caution necessary.

10. The amount of the several particulars consigned to you on the Anson is £ 37009...8...10. For the particulars wee refer you to the enclosed invoice.

11. On the 11th instant the Oxford, Capt. Thomas Stevens, arrived at Spithead having lost her passage round the Cape owing to her late dispatch from Bengal. She left St. Helena on the 5th of December last, at which time our other expected ships the Godolphin and Hector were not arrived there.

We are,
Your loving friends,

Richd. Chauncy/R. Drake/W. Mabbott/Will. Barwell/ Wilm. Braund/Henry Plant/W. Wilberforce Junr./ Thos. Rous/Willm Rider/Timothy Tullie/Christo. Burrow/Thomas Walpole/Whichcott Turner/Thos. Phipps/W. Willy/John Boyd/Peter Du Cane/Stephen Law/Hy. Crabb Boulton.

London, 15th February, 1754.

(Ref.—Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 18, 1754-55, pp. 47—50.)

# 6

# LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1754

*His Majesty's troops sent for service in the East Indies—directions to provide all necessary help and assistance to the troops—news regarding the success of Anglo-French conferences for the settlement of disputes—suggestions for putting a stop to all private trade—the Council ordered to re-establish the office of broker.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. You were advised in our short letter by the Anson that the Oxford, Capt. Thomas Stevens, arrived at Spithead on the 11th of February. She is since got to her moorings and has brought many of the books and papers and accounts which, wee complained in our general letter, were not transmitted to us, but they are come too late for our inspection and making any observations upon them this season. You must observe the directions wee gave you for sending in future all material books and accounts by the earliest conveyances in the season.

2. You have already been acquainted that His Majesty has been most graciously pleased to order a squadron of his ships with a body of land forces on board to proceed to the East Indies to protect the Company in their commerce and their just rights and priviledges. Wee are now to inform you that the said squadron is composed of the following ships and commanded by Charles Wattson Esq., Rear Admiral of the Blue, viz.,

| Ships | Commanders | Guns |
|---|---|---|
| Kent | Henry Speke | 64 |
| Eagle | George Pocock | 60 |
| Salisbury | Thos Knowle | 50 |
| Bristol | Thos Latham | 50 |
| Bridgewater | William Martin | 24 |
| Sloop Kingfisher | Best Mihell | |

3. The land forces His Majesty has graciously granted to us are Col. John Adlercron's regiment of foot consisting of 815 men, officers included, and a detachment from the royal train of

artillery of 78 men, likewise officers included, the latter being under the command of Lieutenant William Hislop.

4. The detachment of the artillery company proceeds on our ships Kent, London and Britannia, upon which will likewise embark a part of the regiment, for which purpose the said ships are now under their dispatches for Cork in Ireland to take it in; the other part of the regiment embarks on the men of war.

5. Although the present destination of the said squadron and forces is for the coast of Choromandel, yet as they may have occasion to be at times at our other settlements, particularly His Majesty's ships, it is therefore in such case necessary you should have some directions for your conduct which wee shall now give you viz.,

6. Upon the anchoring or arrival of Rear Admiral Wattson at your Presidency or any of the Company's settlements [wee] direct that he be saluted with 15 guns which he will return gun for gun, and in case the commodore who wears a distinguishing pennant shall arrive at any of our settlements when the admiral is not there, he is to be saluted with 13 guns who will likewise return gun for gun, and that you pay him all the honours due to his rank and behave to him on all occasions with great regard and friendship, and as you are to behave with all civility and respect to the several commanders belonging to His Majesty's squadron, so you are to give them as well as the admiral all necessary help and assistance.

7. You are hereby directed to allow to Admiral Wattson after the rate of 40s. a day sterling which wee desire his acceptance of, to defray the expences of house rent and for keeping a table for himselfe and such commanders and officers as he shall think propper, which allowance is to commence on his arrival upon the Chromandel coast and continued during his stay in India and is to be in full consideration for all expences whatsoever.

8. As His Majesty's ships will be in want of stores, provisions and necessarys during their stay in India, you are hereby directed to furnish Admiral Wattson or any of His Majesty's commanders with such sums of money as they shall require you to advance for those purposes, for which you are to talk bills of

exchange drawn by the admiral, commander or propper officers for the amount of the sums so advanced at the rate of six shillings and six pence per weighty dollar for the stores on the Commissioners of the Navy and for provisions on the Commissioners for Victualling, the same payable to us in money at 30 days sight, taking four bills of the same tenour and transmitting them to us by different ships.

9. And you are hereby possitively directed to adjust all accounts any way relative to the squadron with the propper officers and procure bills as beforementioned for what shall appear due to the Company for the ballance of such accounts, or at least lett them be so authentically certifyed that wee may not be put to the trouble of litigating such accounts in England, which wee too frequently were to our great loss in the late war.

10. What wee have here said with regard to supplying His Majesty's ships with money, stores, provisions and necessarys and adjusting accounts with the propper officers must be the rule you are to observe with respect to all accounts relative to His Majesty's land forces (if they shall happen to come to your Presidency) and bills are to be drawn at the same rate of 6s. 6d. per weighty dollar upon the [ ] the Broad of Ordnance or such other of His Majesty's officers in England whose province it is to discharge such bills or adjust such accounts.

11. You are to carry it with great respect to Col. Adlercron and you are to treat all the officers of His Majesty's forces in a gentleman like and friendly manner and take the utmost care to promote and cultivate a good understanding between the king's and our own forces.

12. You are to make an allowance to Col. Adlercron after the rate of 40s. a day sterling which wee desire his acceptance of, to defray the expence of house rent and for keeping a table for himself, the lieut col., major and such other officers as he shall think propper, which allowance is to commence on his arrival upon the Choromandel coast and be continued during his stay in India and is to be in full consideration of all expences whatsoever, our meaning being that your are to pay the same for the time of his residence in Bengal.

13. As it would be a discouragement to His Majesty's forces to serve at less pay than our own, wee have agreed at our own expence to make good to them the difference. You are therefore to pay out of our cash on the Company's account to the officers and soldiers of the regiment under Col. Adlercron after the following rates viz.,

| | s | d | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To the Captain of each company | 2 | — | a day |
| Lieutenant | 1 | — | |
| Ensign | 1 | — | |
| Sergeant | — | 2 | each |
| Corporals | — | 2 | do |
| Drummers | — | 2 | |
| Private men | — | 2 | |
| and to the Adjutant to the regiment | 1 | | a day |

14. You are likewise to pay on the Company's account the undermentioned additional allowances to the officers, cadets and gunners of the detachment from the Royal Regiment of Artillery viz.,

| | s | d | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 First Lieutenant | 1 | | per diem |
| 1 Second do | 1 | | |
| 3 Lieutenant Fireworkers | | 8 | each |
| Gentlemen Cadets and Gunners | | 2 | each |

15. You are to observe what wee said before that the beforementioned allowances are only to put His Majesty's forces with respect to pay upon the same footing as our own, and you are further to observe that no advanced pay is to be allowed to any other persons than as before directed.

16. You must take care that the said forces are propperly accommodated with barracks or places to live in (during their residence with you) and in general that they be treated with humanity, and as much care taken of them as of our own, and you are likewise to provide convenient magazines and places for His Majesty's stores so as they may be in the custody and care of their own propper officers.

17. The French Company have lately transmitted to us their project of a convention between the East India Companys of

France and England for restoring union between them and putting an end to the troubles on the coast of Choromandel. in answer to that concerted here with the French commissarys and transmitted to France so long ago as the beginning of November last. Wee are opening again our conferences with the French commissarys but at present wee can form no judgement of what may be the event of them.

18. Wee are well assured that the commanders of such of our Europe ships as are employed in country voyages load them with their own private trade in a most unreasonable manner; hence in a great measure have arisen the backwardness of the people in India to freight such ships, and the losses the Company have generally sustained by paying more for the demorage than has been received for their earnings. You are therefore to take notice that wee have a right not only to the charterparty tonnage, but to the tonnage of the whole ship excepting the three tons allowed to the commander, officers and ship's company for each 100 tons as stipulated in charterparty, and as we do and shall insist upon such right, you must take particular care to prevent all encroachments upon it, and if the commander and ship's company shall make use of more tonnage than they are as aforesaid allowed, you are to cause the surplus to be taken out, and you are hereby directed to transmit to us an exact calculate of the tonnage of the private trade laden upon or received from every ship, that wee may be able to do the Company justice, as wee certainly will, against such persons who shall encroach upon our just right in this particular.

19. The ships Norfolk and York were so encumbered with goods that the commanders have been under the necessity of returning to us, before their departure from Gravesend, all the cordage mentioned in their bills of loading.

20. We now proceed to make a few remarks upon the principal points in the letter from you by the Oxford which lately came to our hands.

21. In reply to the 20th paragraph of that letter wee say that unless the penaltys, which the merchants stipulate to pay in case of a failure in delivering in the goods contracted for in the limited times, are duly recovered, as well for the ready money as the dadney goods, wee shall be always liable to disappointments The stating their accounts with interest in case they

pay the pennalty in the manner they request is a fallacious method and must never be allowed of, and as wee take it for granted the merchants fully understand the terms and conditions of their engagements, wee shall always insist upon their punctual complyance with them, unless there are very extraordinary reasons to the contrary. If there are any such in the instance before us, wee shall leave it to you to give the merchants an equitable releife, but then wee expect that the case be fully and impartially enquired into by the Board and the justice and necessity of making any allowance clearly stated and demonstrated to us.

22. Wee observe the merchants had, upon the coming away of the Oxford, delivered but little more than half the goods they contracted for. Upon inspecting their letter to the Board which you refer to upon the occasion, wee do not find reasons sufficient to justifie so great a failure in their contracts, and indeed it is evident that the real and true occasion of this failure is the narrowness of their circumstances. Wee hope the orders wee gave last year for re-establishing the office of a broker will be the means of preventing such disappointments in future. Among other allegations in the said letter the merchants complain they are great sufferers by the strictness of your sorting in the cottah but in this particular wee will not allow of the least relaxation as wee shall expect and depend upon your punctual complyance with our repeated orders for keeping the goods fully up to their musters.

23. Wee have perused the Export Warehousekeeper's letter to you containing the reasons for the omission of late years in sending several sortments of goods which wee had ordered or partially supplying us with them, and so far as we can judge in the short time wee have had to peruse them, they appear satisfactory. However wee shall make the propper use of them on framing the list of investment for the ships of next season when it is probable wee shall have occasion to take further notice of them.

24. Wee find Joshua Bodley illuded your enquiry into his conduct by withdrawing himself from the settlement but wee shall depend upon your assurances of strictly complying with our orders whenever he returns.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Richd. Chauncy/R. Drake/W. Mabbott/Christo. Burrow/ Will. Braund/Peter Du Cane/Thomas Walpole/Thos. Phipps/N. Newnham Junr./Whichcott Turner/Thos. Rous/Z. P. Fonnereau/Stephen Law/W. Willy/Willm. Rider/Henry Plant/Timothy Tullie/Will. Barwell/ W. Wilberforce Junr./Hy. Crabb Boulton.

London, 2nd March, 1754.

(*Ref.*— Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 18, 1754-55, pp. 51—59.)

## 7

## LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 1754

*The Council directed to receive Col. John Adlercron with honours befitting his rank—the Act of Parliament empowering the Company to hold courts martial in the East Indies.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Wee take the opportunity of this conveyance by the Warren now under her dispatches to Fort St. George and Bombay to send you a quadruplicate of our letter by the London, Kent and Britannia dated the 2nd of this month, and likewise copy of our letter by the Anson under date of the 15th of Feby.

2. The ships Denham and Norfolk sailed out of the Downes the 18th of Feby and kept the sea; the York sailed at the same time but put in at Spithead where she lay until she took her final departure on the 28th of the same month.

3. The Anson sailed from the Downes the 6th instant, the Kent and Britannia the 9th and the London the 14th which three last named ships are bound to Cork in Ireland to take in His Majesty's troops as you have been advised in former letters.

4. Upon Col. Adlercron's landing at Fort William or any other of our settlements in the East Indies he is to be saluted with thirteen guns, and you are to shew him all the honours due

to his station as Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's land forces in the East Indies.

5. An Act having passed this present session of Parliament for empowering the Company to hold courts martial in the East Indies and at St. Helena, wee have sent a separate packet by the Warren directed to you containing the necessary powers and instructions together with a letter of directions dated this day for carrying the same into execution, which wee have ordered the President and Council of Fort St. George to forward to you by the first safe conveyance that offers, and to which therefore you are particularly referred.

6. Least any accident should happen to the Warren, wee send a duplicate of the said packet to Bombay to be carefully forwarded to you from thence by the first safe conveyance that offers.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Richard Chauncy/R. Drake/Whichcott Turner/Thos. Rous/W. Willy/Will. Braund/J. Winter/Stephen Law/ Willm. Rider/Timothy Tullie/Z. P. Fonnereau/W. Wilberforce Junr./Peter Du Cane/W. Mabbott/Christo Burrow.

London, 15th March, 1754.

(Ref.—Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 18, 1754-55, pp. 60-61.)

## 8

## LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 1754

*The Act of Parliament authorising punishment for mutiny and desertion among the Company's forces—persons authorised to appoint courts-material.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. His Majesty having been graciously pleased to assist us with a regiment of his forces under the command of Col. John Adlercron, and they being under the martial law, we thought it

necessary for our service that the troops in our pay should be subject to the same discipline, and although the Company are sufficiently authorised by their charters to exercise martial law in time of war or open hostility, yet there being some uncertainty in determining what should be deemed to be war and open hostility and it being likewise necessary to prevent our forces deserting and that they should be kept under due regulation even in time of peace so as to render them useful as occasion shall require, we have obtained an Act of Parliament for punishing of mutiny and desertion among our forces, and His Majesty in consequence of this Act has established articles of war for the trial of offenders and the better government of our troops as well as his own.

2. The Act of Parliament and articles of war as to the forces in our pay is to take place from the publication of them at your settlement, and so long as any of His Majesty's forces shall be there employed to act in defence of our settlement, or to assist against the Company's enemies, the power of appointing courts martial is lodged in the Commander in Chief of the King's forces, and the Court of Directors have power to authorise their President and Council to appoint courts martial within the jurisdiction of the settlement, and to authorise them to empower the commander in chief of any detachment of any of the Company's soldiers to do the like whilst detached from the settlement.

3. The several warrants or commissions for putting this Act in execution, we send you herewith, and as the appointing of persons to officiate as judge advocates at courts martial you will find to be necessary, we send you the form of such an appointment, and we shall give you such instructions with regard to proceedings at courts martial as we are informed are necessary and agreeable to the practice here.

4. The papers we send you are as follows, viz.,

The printed Act of Parliament with the articles of war annexed.

A commission under His Majesty's royal sign manual authorising Colonel John Adlercron and the Commander in Chief &c. to appoint courts martial.

A commission from the Court of Directors under the seal of the Company authorising their President and Council to appoint courts martial within their jurisdiction.

A commission from the Court of Directors under the seal of the Company authorising their President and Council to empower the commander in chief of any detachment of the Company's forces whilst detached from the settlement to appoint courts martial.

A form of an appointment of a judge advocate.

Instructions for the proceedings of the judge advocate.

Form of proceedings of a court martial.

5. The printed Act of Parliament and articles of war are evidence of themselves, they being printed by the King's printer by public authority and no other evidence can be had as the Act of Parliament itself is kept with the records of Parliament and the original articles of war signed by the King are lodged with the Company, and is the same evidence as is given at all courts martial held by any of the King's forces.

6. Upon receipt of the Act of Parliament and articles of war the same are to be published in the most notorious manner, and with as much pomp and solemnity as you can. We think you should yourselves be present, accompanied with some of the principal military officers and attended with some of the King's and our own forces under arms, and we think it will be proper to consult and settle with the principal officers the method of such publication, and an entry should be made of it in your Consultations.

7. After the Act and articles are published you must cause the forces in our pay to be mustered the first convenient opportunity, and the articles of war to be read over to them, and they must severally be asked if they are willing to continue in the Company's service, subject to these articles of war, for the remainder of the time they have contracted for; such as do not must be dismissed the service, and an entry must be made of

the names of such as shall be willing to continue, and of those that desire to be discharged.

8. If any of those that take their discharge shall afterwards incline to enlist again, the articles of war must be read to such person and his consent and submission to them had, and an entry made thereof.

9. You are to keep the original warrant under the King's sign manual, and to deliver a true and exact copy of it to Colonel John Adlercron and from time to time to the commanders in chief. &c, and you are at the foot or bottom of it to write and sign a certificate that the same is a true copy of the original warrant under His Majesty's royal sign manual, and that such original warrant is in your possession.

10. You are likewise to keep the original commission under the Company's seal, which authorises you to empower the commander in chief of any detachment of the Company's forces to appoint courts martial, and you are to give a true copy of it to the commander in chief of every such detachment under writing of it to the following effect:

11. We do hereby certify that the above written is a true copy of the commission under the seal of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, and by virtue of the power and authority thereby given to us, the President and Council at Fort William in Bengal, we do authorise and empower you A.B. appointed commander in chief of a detachment of the said Company's forces, to appoint from time to time courts martial on any of the officers or soldiers under your command and to do and execute the several matters and things expressed in the above commission and for your so doing this shall be, as well to you as to all others whom it may concern, a sufficient warrant. Given under our hands at Fort William in Bengal aforesaid this day of

To be signed by the President and major part of the Council.

12. It may be proper to deliver several of these in blank to the Commander in Chief of the Company's forces that, in case he

should have occasion to make detachments from his main body, he may give one to each commander in chief of every such detachment, filling up the blank with the name of every such commander.

13. In like manner also the President and Council should give blank appointments for persons to officiate as judge advocates to be lodged with the Commander in Chief to be issued by him as occasion should require.

14. The appointment of a court martial is not done by any written order; but the Commander in Chief who has the power of appointing a court martial gives his orders by word of mouth to the Judge Advocate to summon a court martial to meet at such time and place as shall be thought proper.

15. As these our instructions are framed from the best information we are able to get, so if, in the execution of them, they shall be found defective, you are at liberty, with the assistance of the military officers, to deviate and vary from them, always taking care that you strictly and exactly keep up to the Act of Parliament and articles of war, and by no means to exceed the powers thereby given.

16. And we direct you to transmit copies of the proceedings of all courts martial and of all other your transactions in consequence of this Act of Parliament and articles of war, and of these our instructions.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Richard Chauncy, Chairman/Roger Drake, Deputy/ Whichcott Turner/Thos. Rous/W. Willy/Will. Braund/ J. Winter/Stephen Law/Willm. Rider/Timothy Tullie/ Z. P. Fonnereau/W. Wilberforce Junr./Peter Du Cane/ W. Mabbott/ Christo. Burrow.

London, 15th March, 1754.

(Ref.—Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 18, 1754-5, pp. 62—67.)

# 9

# LETTER DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1754

*Shipping news—instructions to send a large quantity of saltpetre for the coming season—directions to encourage the sale of woollen goods—the Court welcomes the new plan of purchasing goods at the* aurungs *through the* gomastahs*—the inhabitants of Fort William to pay the expenses of fortifications—permission given to recruit Rajputs for military service.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Wee writt to you last season under the following dates viz.,

The 28th of November 1753 by the St. George.

The 19th of December by the way of Fort St. George accompanying the list of the investment to be made in the year 1754.

The 23rd of January 1754 by the Denham, York, Norfolk and Anson, and a letter of the same date to the President and second in Council.

The 31st of January a short letter to acquaint Lieut. Col. Scott it was our pleasure he should proceed to Fort St. George and a letter of the same date to that gentleman to the like purport.

The 15th of February by the Anson.

The 2nd March by the London, Kent and Britannia to be forwarded from Ft. St. George.

The 2nd of March by His Majesty's ships a short letter relating only to the manner of saluting them.

The 15th of March by the Warren to be forwarded from Fort St. George, and the Prince Henry by the way of Bombay

containing instructions for carrying into execution the Act of Parliament for punishing mutiny and desertion among our forces.

2. Since the departure of the several ships with our before-mentioned letters wee have received the following from you viz.,

Of the 1st of March 1753 by the Oxford.

Of the 3rd of September 1753 by the Delawar by the way of Fort St. George.

A short letter of the 17th of September by the same conveyance.

A short letter of the 31st of December by the Portfield, being a duplicate of that forwarded by the Dragon not yet arrived.

Of the 4th of January 1754 by the Portfield.

Of the 19th of January by the Falmouth, being a duplicate of one by the Durrington which is since come to our hands.

Of the 28th of February by the Falmouth.

Besides which wee have received the following letters from Lieutenant Col. Scott, viz.,

Of the 18th of September 1753 by the Delawar.

Of the 28th of the same month, being a duplicate of that since received by the Durrington.

Of the 6th of January 1754 by the Portfield.

Of the 2nd of March following by the Falmouth.

3. We send this letter by the way of Fort St. George as it may possibly reach you sooner than the general letter wee propose to write by the Coast and Bay ships, being intended to convey to you some general informations and directions previous to our said general letter.

4. The names and stations of the ships which wee have taken into our service this season are as follows viz.,

| Ships | Tons | Commanders | Consignment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drake | 499 | Benjamin Fisher | For China directly |
| Earl of Holdernesse | 499 | Matthew Court | For China directly |
| Prince George | 499 | Philip Jodrell | Bencoolen and China |
| Bombay Castle | 499 | Thomas Browne | Coast and China |
| Rhoda | 499 | John McNemara | Coast and China |
| Prince of Wales | 499 | William Peck | Coast and China |
| Exeter | 499 | William Fernell | St. Helena and Bencoolen |
| Hardwicke | 499 | John Samson | Madeira and Coast and Bay |
| Duke of Dorset | 499 | Bernard Forester | Coast and Bay |
| Eastcourt | 499 | Arthur Evans | Coast and Bay |
| Edgecote | 499 | John Pearse | Bombay |
| Stretham | 499 | Charles Manson | Bombay |
| Houghton | 499 | Richard Walpole | Bombay |

**5. The** ships Drake and Earl of Holdernesse, are now under dispatch and are to proceed directly for China, the first with the wollen goods intended for the Canton market this season, the other goes to Limpao or Chusan where wee are endeavouring to open and establish a trade.

6. The Prince George is now likewise under dispatch for Fort Marlbro' on the west coast of Sumatra with the necessary consignments for that settlement, from whence she is to proceed to Canton to be returned to England with a China cargoe.

7. The Bombay Castle, Rhoda and Prince of Wales are allso under dispatch for Fort St. George where, after having discharged the cargoes and sent ashoar the passengers and soldiers intended for that Presidency, they are likewise to proceed to Canton to be returned home with China cargoes.

8. The Exeter and Hardwicke are allso under dispatch, the first for St. Helena and the west coast of Sumatra and the other for the Coast and Bay, being to call at Madeira for a cargoe of wine for the use of our two Presidencys of Fort St. George and Fort William.

9. Wee propose to dispatch the ships Duke of Dorsett and Eastcourt for Fort St. George and Bengal about the 18th of Jany. next and the ships Edgecote, Stretham, and Houghton for Bombay about the 18th of March.

10. The Supracargoes chosen and appointed this season for conducting our affairs in China are viz.,

For the Drake to be dispatched from hence this season and the Warren expected at Canton next year from the Malabar coast Messrs. Frederick Pigou, Thomas Lockwood, Richard Peisley, Francis Wood and Thomas Smith.

For the Prince George and Rhoda Messrs. Henry Palmer, George Mandevile, Francis Kinnersley, John Goodere and Robt. John Harrison.

For the Earl of Holdernesse Mr. Samuel Harrison now in China, Mr. Thomas Fitzhugh who takes his passage from hence in the said ship and Mr. James Flint now in China.

For the ships Bombay Castle and Prince of Wales Messrs. John Misenor, Samuel Harrison and Alexander Hume who were directed to continue in China the year 1755.

For such ships as shall or may arrive or be at Canton in the year 1755 from any of our settlements in India destitute of Supracargoes Messrs. Frederick Pigou, Thomas Lockwood, Richard Peisley and Francis Kinnersley.

The beforementioned gentlemen are formed into other setts for different purposes which it is not necessary to mention to you.

11. Such orders as shall be given by Roger Drake, Richard Chauncy, William Mabbott and Jones Raymond Esqrs, who are our present Secret Committee, are to be duly attended to and observed by such person or persons to whome they shall be directed.

12. Wee have stipulated with the owners of the several ships taken up this season with regard to kintladge, that the Drake and Earl of Holdernesse for China directly, the Prince George for Bencoolen and China, the Bombay Castle, Rhoda and Prince of Wales for Fort St. George and China, and the Exeter for St. Helena and Bencoolen are to carry whole kintladge in iron, that is to say, sixteen tons for every one hundred tons they are lett for, the ships Hardwick, Eastcourt and Duke of Dorsett for the Coast and Bay are to carry none, but the ships Edgecote, Stretham and Houghton for Bombay are to carry half kintladge in iron, that is to say, eight tons for each one hundred tons they are lett for.

13. Although wee have given you the above information, you must always carefully inspect every ship's charterparty that you may have any concern with and it is the more necessary to do so as there are at present in India ships of different seasons and consequently different proportions of this article, and you must attend to what we have frequently directed in order to prevent mistakes in calculating the tonnage of any ship—that the iron kintladge is to be reckoned a part of the tonnage and as and for so many tons in goods as the charterparty mentions there are tons of iron kintladge. You are likewise to take notice that the kintladge is always full 16 tons for each 100 tons every ship is lett for either in iron or goods, and consequently if there is no iron kintladge mentioned in the charterparty, that proportion is to be supplied with saltpetre; if only 8 per cent in iron is mentioned then the other 8 per cent is to be made up with saltpetre. but if 16 per cent in iron is mentioned then you are not obliged to load any saltpetre unless to compleat the charterparty tonnage.

14. As we have had so few ships from the Coast and Bay this year, wee have among other articles been greatly disappointed in the quantity of saltpetre wee had reason to expect, and as the quantity wee would gladly have laden on the several ships to be dispatched from the three Presidencys in the season of 1755 should amount to 2000 tons in the whole, you are therefore to make an early provision thereof accordingly upon the best terms you can. This will be a probable method of getting a ship or two extraordinary off the hands of our three Presidencys and therefore wee recommend it to you to make the propper

use of it, making up every ship's charterparty tonnage with a large proportion of that article. You must take care to supply Fort St. George with a sufficient quantity for the ships which will be finally dispatched from thence and you must forward to Bombay by the first conveyance 300 tons at least but you must send as much more as our President and Council shall advise you may be necessary.

15. If you can spair saltpetre to any ships without prejudice to the dispatch of others, you may load on every ship over and above the charterparty tonnage to the amount of 50 tons and even larger proportions if it shall appear necessary for facilitating the bringing home the beforementioned quantity of 2000 tons at least, provided the commanders request for such surplus saltpetre at the low freight, and in order for your knowing how to act in this affair, you must make a calculation of what may be probably laden from Fort St. George and Bombay, which you may very well do by observing what supplys have been or are intended to be forwarded thither, and govern yourselves accordingly with regard to the ships to be dispatched home by you.

16. Wee expect you will use your utmost endeavours in concert with our other Presidencys to send home as many of the ships as are at present burthened with as possible, and wee must remind you of our frequent orders for dispatching one or two early ships from Bengal as being of the greatest importance to us in many respects.

17. In the preceding part of this letter you are acquainted the Hardwick is to call at Madeira for wine; wee have given directions to our correspondents there to ship three hundred pipes of the best wine the island produces and consign 150 pipes to our President and Council at Fort St. George and the other 150 pipes to you.

18. As wee observed in our last year's letters that the number of servants, civil and military, at Fort St. George greatly exceeded that at your Presidency and therefore then gave the President and Council liberty to detain out of the 150 pipes consigned to you by the St. George any quantity not exceeding 60 pipes if really wanted and in that case only, the same

reason still subsisting, wee have now given the same liberty and under the like restriction with regard to the wine to be consigned to you in the Hardwick.

19. You must cause a careful survey to be taken of the said wine and if it has suffered by bad stowage or unusual leakage, you must oblige the commander to make good the damage.

20. Captain Samson and his ship's company have the usual indulgence of twenty pipes of wine; if that quantity is exceeded, the surplus is contraband and seizable and you are to put into execution the orders wee have repeatedly given in such cases.

21. The freighters of silver, coral and other licensed trade have agreed as usual that if any ship or ships on which such articles are laden shall proceed to Bengal without touching at Fort St. George or on the other hand arrive at Fort St. George and do not proceed to Bengal, that the President and Council at either place may forward the same agreeable to the original consignment on any of our European ships at the risque of the said freighters but without any further charge to them.

22. Being satisfyed that you and our servants at Fort St. George must have more ships on your hands than you can provide loadings for, you must concert together the proper measures to employ in the most proffitable manner on freight voyages or otherways such as cannot be returned to us the season of their arrival and you are to act herein with that integrity and publick spirrit which the duty you owe to your employers requires of you.

23. Such ships are to be dispatched home first which have been longest out, and in order that as many may be sent home as possible, no ship is to have more than her charterparty tonnage (after making the usual allowances for deficiencys in weight), unless you can spair goods without prejudice to the loading of any other ship or ships.

24. Our servants at Fort St. George have directions to forward to you by the Hardwick and all other safe conveyances as large proportion of the treasure consigned to them on that ship, the Bombay Castle, Rhoda and Prince of Wales as they

can possibly spair, and are told that the earlier they do it the greater will be the service.

25. The treasure by the latter ships will be consigned as usual to you but as they will touch first at Fort St. George the President and Council will have liberty to detain so much of it only as will be absolutely necessary; what is to be forwarded to you as well what wee have laden on those as the first sett of ships, is to be in the proportions of bullion and rupees which you shall or many advise them will be most suitable to you.

26. It is with concern wee observe by your last advices that woollen goods were such heavy articles and that you had thought it necessary to send a considerable part of what remained on your hands to be disposed of at Bombay, where likewise wee find it was thought by the President and Council they could not easily be disposed of, without prejudicing their own sales, and had thoughts of returning them to Bengal. Notwithstanding the accounts wee have received from you are some thing discouraging, yet still desirous of promoting the national advantage and hoping for a favourable turn in the Indian markets, wee shall comply with the indents from the several parts of India at least, which, although very far short of what has been annually sent for three years past, yet may, with what remains on hand, be rather an overstock. Wee shall therefore depend upon your exerting yourselves to promote the sales thereof to the utmost of your power.

27. And here it may be necessary you should be informed that our exports of broad cloth this season will be about 333 bales to your Presidency (although you have not indented for any) 500 bales to Fort St. George, 1130 bales to Bombay and 240 bales to Persia.

28. Wee observe that you put up the woollen goods to sale at an advance of 15 per cent. upon the invoice price, agreeable to our former orders but that they would not sell at that rate: under the like circumstances in future, wee do hereby dispence with your observing those orders and do authorize you to lower that rate discretionally at future sales in order to find the real market price and sell them accordingly, provided you do not put them up under the invoice price, but wee insist upon the sales being as publick as possible and that you make use of this

indulgence with the utmost integrity and lay it aside again upon the first favourable occasion. And here it is necessary you should be acquainted that the course cloth and long ells which wee have bought for this year's export are in general considerably cheaper than those of former years and at the same time not inferior in quality.

29. Wee now transmit you a list of the investment to be made at your Presidency for the ships to be dispatched in the year 1755, the directions and observations wherein are to be duely attended to and complyed with.

30. Upon a perusal of your general letter of the 3rd of September 1753 and of the Consultations and papers relative to the method of making your investment, wee are fully convinced of the necessity you were under of laying aside your dadney merchants[2], and in general approve of the plann you proceeded upon of sending gomastahs to the several aurungs[3] to purchase goods immediately on our accounts, and wee observe by your last advices that, considering how late in the season it was before you carried it into execution, it has been attended with more success than could be expected, and wee have reason to believe wee shall feel the advantagious effects in your following year's investment. It has been intimated that there has been thoughts of taking into consideration whether this new method of providing the investment should be continued or annulled, and indeed an expression to that purpose in a letter from the President and Mr. Cruttenden dated 18th January 1754 gives us some reason to believe there was such an intention, but wee hope you have not deviated from your said plann without the most evident necessity. Wee shall defer giving you our further thoughts or directions upon this branch of our affairs until wee send them in our general letter, excepting that wee cannot but observe there is one principal defect in your new plann, which is that all the correspondence with the aurungs centers in the Warehousekeeper; although wee have a due sence of the integrity and abilitys of Mr. Manningham who fills that station, yet wee think it a matter of too great consequence to be entrusted with any one person whatsoever, and therefore wee possitively direct that for the future the advices to and from the gomastahs at the several aurungs be carried on by a committee to be composed of the President the second in Council

or in his absence the next in station to him (the Major excepted) and the Export Warehousekeeper, which committee is to report its proceedings from time to time to the Board.

31. As wee are desireous of having the fortifications and works at Fort William begun and carried on without loss of time, wee make use of this first opportunity, since the receipt of Col. Scott's letters noticed in the beginning of this letter, to send you our directions and sentiments on this subject. Although wee choose to convey them through the propper channel of a general letter, they are to operate in as full and effectual a manner as if they were particularly addressed to our Engineer General and you are accordingly to communicate them as well as all others relative to this subject from time to time to Col. Scott or whomsoever else they may concern, being intended as instructions, directions and authoritys as well for that gentleman as you our President and Council.

32. Upon carefully attending to the project for amending and enlarging Fort William as contained in a letter from Col. Scott, dated the 6th of Jany. 1754 and upon inspecting the planns therein referred to, wee entirely agree with him in opinion that the present scituation of Fort William is to be preferred to any other either down the stream towards Gobinpore[4] or up the river towards Perrin Point[5] and in general wee approve of Col. Scott's project as well in point of scituation as the several alterations and additions to the present works, which wee would have carried into execution accordingly. Wee are sencible, in the progress of the work new thoughts may arise and some alterations and deviations from the plann may be found necessary; yet as wee hope they will not be very material, wee do empower you and Col. Scott to execute his plann with such alterations as shall be thought necessary, but notwithstanding anything in the beforegoing directions you are hereby ordered not to begin or make any progress in the beforementioned fortifications and works until you have the sentiments, leave and concurrence of the President of Ft. William and Chief of Cossimbuzar for the time being, allso of Lieut. Col. Scott and Mr. Charles Maningham to whome wee have given some particular instructions on this subject in a letter of this day's date directed to those gentlemen only. In the absence of Col. Scott, the other three gentlemen are hereby empowered to act and carry into execution the said instructions.

33. Wee are sencible of the difficulty of making an estimate to any degree of certainty of the charge of the works projected by Col. Scott but wee hope the further experience that gentleman must have gained with regard to the prizes of materials and labour will have enabled him to send us one by the ships of the following season; if not, wee must desire he will form and send us one as soon as he can; wee shall consider it as an estimate only and make all due allowances accordingly.

34. Wee observe Col. Scott laid a project before the Board for securing our settlement from any attacks from the country forces which you were of opinion in the present juncture ought to be guarded against especially as the expence would not be considerable, and that you had therefore approved of it and given him directions to set about it accordingly. Wee have considered the said project, dated the 11th of Feby 1754 and examined the planns referred to, and upon the whole think you have acted very right in consenting to its being carried into execution.

35. As it appears, the enclosing Calcutta according to this project might be finished in one season (so much being already done to your hands and having very little buildings of either brick or wood to erect), wee shall expect to hear by your next advices that it is very near if not entirely compleated.

36. It being of great importance to the Company that the great sums of money which will be unavoidably expended upon the works should be applied properly and honestly, wee therefore expect and direct that you do, in concert with Col. Scott or in his absence with whoever else he shall have authorized to act as his representative, consider of and fix upon a propper method for carrying on the fortifications and works honestly, frugally and effectively. Although wee cannot so well form a plann of such method as you who are on the spott, yet the following articles must make a part of it and be punctually complied with.

37. Col. Scott is to be present at every consultation whenever any affair relative to the fortifications and works are under consideration and in particular at the purchase of all meterials.

38. Wee absolutely forbid the Paymaster, Storekeeper or any other of our servants whatsoever furnishing bricks, chunam, timber or any other materials whatsoever on their own private accounts directly or indirectly.

39. You are to give all fitting encouragement for the importation into your bounds of all sorts of materials as well as for the making of bricks by as many different persons as possible and you are with the utmost care to prevent all monopolys of materials.

40. You are to give publick notice that you will receive proposals in writing at Boards to be held for the purpose from all persons indifferently (our own servants excepted), who are willing to furnish you with materials of all kinds, and the person or persons who offer at the lowest rates, provided the materials are good, are to be contracted with.

41. You are to purchase no bricks but of such a size as Col. Scott or his delegates shall approve of, which wee are informed should measure when burnt 11 inches long, 5½ inches broad and 2 inches thick.

42. It Col. Scott or any person or persons acting under his authority shall find any material bad, insufficient or which shall be deemed not fitt for use, they are to absolutely reject and return them, and you are to gett them replaced or paid for by the person or persons of whom you purchased them.

43. The Paymasters, Storekeepers, Buxeys or whoever else shall have the care of materials are to furnish Col. Scott or his delegates with such as they shall want from time to time for immediate expence who are to keep propper accounts of them; however you are to give Col. Scott or his delegates such directions for keeping those accounts as may make them coincide with your general books.

44. Col. Scott is to employ as many engineers to assist in carrying on the works as he shall think necessary consistent with a prudent frugality, and upon his fixing upon any person or persons qualified for that station, which he is hereby authorized to do on all vacancys, you are to appoint them accordingly unless you have material objections to the contrary, and wee

hereby confirm the appointment of Messrs. Barker and Wells to be engineers and of all such others as Col. Scott has found to be propper subjects.

45. No person is to be employed or paid as an engineer, although recommended or appointed by you, without the approbation of Col. Scott.

46. You are to regulate all payments of workmen and for materials in a just and equitable manner and take particular care that no dishonest gains are made by any of our servants in the exchange of money or in any other shape whatsoever

47. As wee have a great opinion of the abilitys as well as the integrity of Col. Scott, you are to give all due attention to such observations as he shall at any time lay before you tending to the Company's advantage, and laying aside all selfish views, you are upon fair and candid examination to carry them into execution, so far as they relate to the conducting in a more regular manner not only the business of his particular department of Engineer General but any other branches of our affairs.

48. Col. Scott's assistants are to be assisted and supported in the execution of all such orders and instructions as he shall from time to time think necessary to give them which are not repugnant to the Company's interest.

49. You are to provide a house or convenient apartments for Col. Scott at our expence during his residence in Bengal or make him a reasonable allowance in money for one.

50. You are with Col. Scott to consider the abilitys and services of such assistants who shall or may be employed under him and give them all fitting and due encouragement, but wee earnestly recommend it both to you and Col. Scott to consider the present scituation of the Company and confine such allowances within the most reasonable bounds.

51. As the works at your Presidency will be of great utility to the inhabitants in general, it is highly reasonable they should bare some part of the expence of them; wee therefore direct that you immediately take into consideration what new or additional

duty or dutys can be levyed on imports, exports or in any other shape whatsoever that shall appear the most equal in general and least burthensome on the poorer sort of inhabitants, and you are to levy a reasonable duty accordingly and carry the produce thereof to account in your general books under a new head and you are to levy such duty until you have our orders to discontinue it.

52. Wee find you have taken Mr. O'Hâra one of the young engineers who went out under the care of the late Mr. Robbins into our service as a covenant servant, a step which you had no authority for, without our particular directions, and as wee are in want of engineers and are satisfyed by the accounts wee have had of him as well from Col. Scott as others that he will be of most use to us in that capacity, wee cannot agree as yet to admit him upon the line of covenant servants at Bengal or elsewhere, and therefore until further orders he is to continue under the direction of Col. Scott, but he may be assured and so may the other young gentlemen in the likewise scituation, wee mean such as wee appointed assistants to Mr. Robbins, that when they are admitted upon the line of covenant servants they shall rank agreeable to our promise.

53. Wee have permitted Mr. William Rider a writer upon your establishment, who came to England for the recovery of his health, to return to his station; his absence is to be no hinderance to his ranking in the same manner he would have done had he not come to England.

54. Wee have chosen the eight following named writers for our service in Bengal viz., John Dod, Richard Torriano, John Burdett, William Knapton, Henry Lushington, George Ballard, Francis Charlton, and George Gray, who are to take rank in the order they are here placed; the greater part, if not all of them, take their passage on the Hardwicke.

55. Wee intend to send on the ships bound to Bengal as many recruits for your military as they can conveniently carry but as those ships will call first at Fort St. George, wee cannot help giving leave to the President and Council to detain all or as many of them as the circumstances of our affairs may require. Wee are sencible of the difficultys you lie under by recruits intended for your Presidency being thus annually stopped at

Fort St. George, but as there has been and there still may be an unavoidable necessity for it, wee must depend upon yours and Col. Scott's best endeavours under these circumstances to keep up the garrison in the most respectable condition you can. Col. Scott has hinted to us that there are a sett of men called Rashpoots,[6] natives on the banks of the Ganges near Patna who are gentoos of the fighting cast, and is of opinion that if they are properly disciplined they will make excellent soldiers. Wee think in the present dilemma this project deserves attention and therefore you are with Col. Scott to give it a due consideration, and if you find it useful and practicable, wee give you leave to recruit your garrison with a sufficient body of those people.

We are,

Your loving friends,

R. Drake/Richd Chauncy/W. Mabbott/N. Newnham Junr./John Payne/Cha. Cutts/Whichcott Turner/P. Godfrey/Rob. Jones/W. Willy/Cha. Gough/W. Wilberforce Junr./Hy. Crabb Boulton/Z. P. Fonnereau/Nichs. Linwood/Stephen Law.

LONDON,

29th November, 1754.

(Ref.—Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 13, 1754/55, pp. 75—95.

Paras. 31—52 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William* Vol. II pp. 14—18.)

## 10

## LETTER DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1754

*The Council advised to obtain the prior permission of the Nawab for the fortifications of Fort William and establishment of a mint at Calcutta—William Watts recommended as the most suitable man for conducting negotiations with the Nawab.*

TO the President of Fort William and Chief of Cossimbuzar for the time being, allso to Lieut. Col. Caroline Frederick Scott and Mr. Charles Manningham or in the absence of Col. Scott to the other three gentlemen.

Gentlemen,

1. You will observe by our general letter to the President and Council of this day's date that wee have approved of Col. Scott's project for fortifying Fort William and have directed that it be carried into execution, but at the same time wee have ordered that they do not begin or make any progress in the works until they have your sentiments, leave and concurrence. The reason of this restriction arises from our apprehensions that if they are begun without the previous consent of the Country Government or at least such a connivance as you shall judge will be as effectual as their consent, wee may expend great sums of money and either be entirely prevented from finishing them or lye at their mercy for leave to proceed at an expence not to be borne. That these apprehensions are not without foundation appears by Col. Scott's letter to us of the 2nd of March last in which wee are informed that the French had been stopt for two years and upwards from finishing their projected works for the security of Chandernagore.

2. In order therefore for obtaining a propper grant or connivance from the Country Government for leave to fortify Fort William without any obstructions or impediment, you are hereby directed to make such applications to the Nabob and the members of his Durbar as you shall judge will be most likely to be attended with success, and as wee are sencible no favours can be obtained from such a mercenary government as that of Bengal without money, wee do empower you to dispose of any sum to the Nabob and to such others as you shall think propper, provided the several sums so to be disbursed do not altogether exceed one hundred thousand rupees. The manner of conducting this affair we shall leave entirely to your discretion and shall only say that the great age of the Nabob and the present emptyness of his coffres seem to be circumstances greatly in favour of an immediate application being attended with success.

3. When you have obtained a propper grant or connivance for carrying on the works, you are to acquaint the President and Council therewith and you are then to concur with them in every measure that shall be necessary for carrying Col. Scott's plann into immediate execution.

4. There is another object of great importance to the Company the accomplishing whereof has been strenuously recommended in our letters of the 16th of January 1752 and the 23rd of January 1754 to the President and second in Council for the time being; wee mean the procuring from the Country Government a propper grant or authority for establishing a mint at Calcutta, and gave them authority to apply any sums of money for that purpose not exceeding one hundred thousand rupees in the whole. Wee now empower you to pursue the directions given in those letters (extracts from which wee now enclose) and you are hereby directed to use your utmost endeavours to obtain a grant accordingly, provided the expence does not exceed one hundred thousand rupees as is beforementioned.

5. As the country Government have always shown more preferable marks of favour to the English than to the other European nations, wee have great hopes that you will be able to succeed in both the beforementioned points and for much less sums than wee have limmited you to expend, but at the same time wee know it will greatly depend upon the transactions being carried on at the Durbar by our own servants without the intervention of vackeels[1], who by experience wee find are not to be depended upon, and are always running us into extravagant expences in whatever they are employed. Mr. Watts[2] who, wee are acquainted, understands the language well is therefore to negotiate these affairs under your directions, or in case of his death or absence some other of our servants with the like qualification must be fixed upon.

6. In the application with regard to the fortifications the propper use must be made of the right wee apprehend the royal phirmaunds have conveyed to us for carrying on what works wee think propper in the places thereby granted to us. You must at the same time make the Government sencible that wee have no intentions to render ourselves formidable to them, that our only view in erecting any works is to protect our property against the attempts and designs of any European power, which at the same time may be the means of preserving the tranquillity of the country in general.

7. Wee have been informed that when Sir Francis Russell[3] was Chief of Cossimbuzor, the country Government offered a grant for a mint at Calcutta for a sum far short of what wee



William Watts

have limmited you to give. Wee recommend it to you to make the propper use of this mint by being as frugal of our money as possible.

8. The conducting the affairs recommended to your care by this letter, you cannot but observe, requires secrecy. Wee shall therefore depend upon your observing it as strictly as the nature of them will admitt of.

We are,

Yours loving friends,

Robt. Jones/W. Wilberforce Junr/W. Willy/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Cha. Gough/Z. P. Fonnereau/John Payne/Cha. Cutts/Nichos. Linwood/Richd. Chauncy/Stephen Law/ W. Mabbott/R. Drake/N. Newnham Junr./Whichcott Turner/P. Godfrey.

LONDON,

29th November, 1754.

(Ref.—Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 18, 1754-55, pp. 96—99.

Paras. 1-3 and 6 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William* Vol. II pp. 18—20).

## 11

## LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1755

*Approval by the Court of the Council's decision to purchase a plot of land near Calcutta for the settlement of weavers.*

TO the President and second in Council on the spott at Fort William in Bengal.

Wee observe by the letter from our President and second in Council of Fort William of the 18th of January 1754 that in order for the encouragement of weavers to live under the Company's protection Mr. Holwell was empowered to purchase a piece of ground therein mentioned, continuous to our bounds, being a large and commodious space and in all respects propper for a settlement of weavers and which he apprehended might be obtained for the rent of one rupee per bega, provided the

use it was intended for was concealed until possession was obtained. Wee very much approve of the design and although wee hope it will be carried into execution before this comes to your hands, yet least any unforeseen difficultys have retarded it and secrecy may be still necessary, you are hereby directed to take such measures for perfecting it as you shall judge propper and communicate the whole in due season to our President and Council, who are then to make the utmost advantage of the labours of such a useful sett of people, consistent with the good usage that will be necessary to make them easy and willing to live under our protection.

We are,

Your loving friends,

R. Drake/Richd. Chauncy/W. Mabbott/M. Impey/John Payne/Whichcott Turner/J. Raymond/Thos. Phipps/ Nichs Linwood/W. Willy/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Z. P. Fonnereau/Cha. Gough/Cha. Cutts/Stephen Law/Wm. Wilberforce Junr.

LONDON,

31st January, 1755.

(Ref.—Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 18. 1754/1755, pp. 106-107.)

## 12

## LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1755

*The Bengal Council ordered to work in concert with Fort St. George Council in shipping matters—orders to appoint a supervising committee for correspondence with the several* aurangs*—weavers to be encouraged to settle near Calcutta—the Armenians to pay consulage—instructions to keep the* Darbar *in good humour by timely presents—works of fortification to be expedited—the Court's appreciation of J. Z. Holwell's services and their sentiments regarding the office of Zamindar—orders for all the Company's ships going to the Coromandel coast to land their cargoes at Fort St. George—remarks on the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We sent in triplicates by the ships Bombay Castle, Hardwicke and Rhoda a general letter under date of the 29th of November last, one or all of which, we hope will have come to your hands long before this, as we gave particular directions to our President and Council of Fort St. George to forward those by the Bombay Castle and Rhoda by the first safe conveyances that offered.

2. Those letters contained some general information and directions, and were accompanied by lists of investment to be made at your Presidency, packets from the Secret Committee to the President, and from us the Court of Directors to the President, Chief of Cossimbuzar, Colonel Scott and Mr. Manningham of the same date with our general letter with other particulars mentioned in the lists of the respective packets, to which you are referred.

3. We shall now in the usual method send you such further informations as are necessary, together with our sentiments and directions upon the affairs of your Presidency in *general and*

*First, of shipping.*

4. The Bombay Castle sailed out of the Downes with a fair wind on the 16th of December as did the ships Hardwicke, *Rhoda, Prince of Wales, Drake and Earl of Holderness* on the 19th of the same month.

5. The ships Prince George and Exeter, *although dispatched* at the same time, were prevented by some unlucky incidents from getting to the Downes time enough to have the advantage of the favourable wind which carried the others away, and did not therefore sail from thence until the 2nd of January.

6. Besides the ships mentioned in our last letter we have been *under the necessity of taking* up another *viz.*, Dodington, James Samson commander, to accommodate the government with a conveyance for stores and provisions for the use of His Majesty's *squadron and land forces now in India*; she is lett for four hundred and ninety nine tons, mounts twentysix guns and is to be navigated by seventy Europeans. We have hired her for the run *from England to the East Indies and not to return* again to Europe, which we have done purposely to avoid adding to the burthen of shipping already on our hands in India; after

the said ship's arrival in the East Indies and having delivered the government's stores and the Company's effects and passengers, she is to be at the entire disposal of the owners upon condition that she shall not be sold to the French or any other European nation, and that at whatever settlement she shall happen to be disposed of, the Governor and Council are to take security of the person or persons who purchase her that they will agree to the said condition. We are to pay the owners for the hire the sum of three thousand five hundred pounds, *viz.*, one moiety in England, one fourth part on her departure from Fort St. George and the remaining fourth part on the final delivery of her consignments in Bengal. We are likewise to pay her...pounds a head for every soldier and passenger; if she is detained at her consigned ports, for the delivery of her cargo more than thirty days in the whole, we are to pay after the rate of eight pounds, seven shillings and eight pence a day for the time of such detention. This is a summary account of our agreement with the owners, which is intended for your immediate information. What further shall be necessary, together with the charterparty and other useful papers will be sent you on the ship itself.

7. It was our first intentions that the said ship should carry all the stores and necessaries for His Majesty's service but the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having intimated that there will be a want of beef and pork in the squadron before she will probably arrive in India, we have permitted the shipping a quantity on the Eastcourt and Duke of Dorset amounting to about sixty tons on each ship; this has in some measure prevented our sending all the consignments for the Company intended for your Presidency which will therefore be conveyed to you in the Dodington.

8. We have reminded our President and Council at Fort St. George of the advantage the early arrival of the ships Eastcourt and Duke of Dorset in Bengal must be to us; we expect therefore that they will be detained no longer than is absolutely necessary.

9. We have carefully perused your answers to the complaints made in our letter of the 24th January 1753 with respect to the employment, dispatch and other matters relative to our shipping, and we cannot help saying that they do not give us

a reasonable satisfaction, but not to enter upon further altercations we must acquaint you that a diligent, faithful and unbiassed conduct in this branch... our affairs is at all times of great importance to our... but now more particularly so under the present load of shipping. We shall expect you will make it the object of your most serious attention and save us as much as possible from the expence of demorage which a contrary behaviour will certainly bring upon us.

10. It is inconceiveable to us how you could make such an inadvertent remark as that in the fifth paragraph of your letter of the 3rd of September 1753 *viz.*, "That though we had dispatched six ships for Coast and Bay, yet our orders for the investment, could it be fully and in every particular complied with, would only be sufficient to load home three as by the calculate enclosed in the packet will evidently appear." Now, by the very calculate you sent us it appears that the total of the investment to be made at your Presidency amounted to twelve hundred ninety one tons exclusive of any saltpetre and redwood, which with the usual proportions of the two last articles is more than sufficient for three ships, and we must further observe to you that the amount of the investment to be made on the Coast was eleven hundred and twentyfour tons, likewise exclusive of saltpetre and redwood, so that you see the six ships destined for the Coast and Bay that season might according to our orders have been fully provided for. We call this an inadvertent rather than suppose it done with a view to mislead us and hope you will take more care for the future.

11. We are sensible of the necessity you were under of detaining the ships Winchelsea, Montfort and Elizabeth and we observe the efforts you made to employ them to the best advantage. What the two former will produce by their freight to and from Surat cannot yet appear but we are apprehensive it will not be adequate to their demorage, and what you lett the Elizabeth for to Captain Rannie *viz.*, twenty three thousand rupees is very far short of what we must pay for her detention; however as you appear to have done as much as you could to procure better terms we must rest satisfied, and in general whenever you are so burthened with tonnage we shall depend upon your faithful and diligent endeavours for employing our shipping to the best advantage, always remembring our former orders that when circumstances are more favourable you will

lett or employ them so as to earn their demorage least. And here we must add that we still observe a great backwardness in you to concert with our Presidency of Fort St. George proper and timely measures for employing our ships, notwithstanding our frequent orders and recommendations for that purpose. If we do not find a greater readiness in future we shall highly resent it.

12. You must always be mindful that such ships as are intended to fill up at Fort St. George be dispatched there as early as possible that we may not lay under the difficulties which their late arrival here necessarily occasions, instances of which have of late been too frequent.

13. As our settlement of the Negrais[1] is under the management of Fort St. George Presidency, you must punctually observe and comply with what our President and Council there shall desire you, with regard to sending shipping, artificers, stores, materials or whatever else may be necessary, and in particular that any ship which shall be stationed there is relieved in time to be dispatched home the same season, to prevent such another instance of extraordinary detention as the Colchester's, and we think if you had exerted yourselves, the Egmont might have been sent sooner to her relief.

14. You must attend to what advices you receive, likewise from our said Presidency, with respect to sending a ship for taking in surplus pepper on the west coast, and in all voyages whatsoever you must be extremely diligent to get our shipping away in time to answer the intended purposes.

15. The President and Council of Fort St. George have given it as their opinion that cargoes of rice may turn to account provided it be good, purchased at reasonable prices, that there is no embezzlement and the full tonnage is laden, and that it is possible for a ship which is detained a season in India to make three trips between Bengal and Fort St. George before the time of loading her for Europe. We have recommended it to our said President and Council carefully to digest this scheme and strenuously urge you to use your best endeavours to carry it effectually into execution, which we shall expect you will co-operate with them in accordingly. If the ships on hand cannot be better employed, they have likewise intimated

under the like circumstances that a ship or two may be employed in bringing timber from Pegue for the use of the fortifications at both Presidencies, which being bought at the best hand may be advantageous to the Company, but this likewise must be digested between you and carried into execution if the ships cannot be more profitably employed.

16. As you were doubtful whether the crime charged on the fourth mate of the Falmouth by the crew of that ship was, for the reasons you give, cognizable by you as a Court of Admiralty, we approve of your proceeding no further in it than in binding him over by recognizance to deliver himself up to the Court of Admiralty in England to be tried if any prosecutors shall appear.

17. We have permitted Mr. William Inglis, one of your assistant surgeons, who by your leave came to England as surgeon of the Falmouth, to return again without prejudice to his standing.

18. When you were by former orders limited to the value of the cargo to be laden on any ship, it was discretional and on a supposition that you had more than one ship on hand, and was intended to divide the risque; this was not the case with regard to the Falmouth; she was the only ship you had remaining. All the goods by the Durrington, Portfield as well as that ship were insufficient returns for the great remittances you had received and our difficulties must be consequently obvious; in such an extraordinary case therefore you might have laden a further quantity of goods on the Falmouth, but the more eligible method would have been to have reserved another ship to have been dispatched home, which we are satisfied might have been effected by the goods you had remaining, the assistance of a good quantity of saltpetre and by looking more strictly after our servants at Cossimbuzar to get in their investment in a reasonable time.

19. It is very observable that although you gave publick notice for contracting for stores and materials for the service of our marine, no proposal was given in by any person but Mr. Cruttenden and he was accordingly contracted with for all the coir, cables and cordage. The reason why other persons did not offer is evident upon the face of his proposal by which

it appears he had monopolized those articles under the specious pretence of fulfilling his contract, during the time he had, with your connivance, forced himself into the post of Superintendant of the Marine; if such methods are pursued we can expect nothing but gross impositions and if we find any future instances of the like kind we shall highly resent them.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another.*

20. We have consigned to you on these ships, the Eastcourt and Duke of Dorset, one hundred and sixty chests of treasure viz., eighty on each ship as also to a large amount in woollen goods, copper, lead, iron and other goods and stores for sale and use, for the particulars of which we refer you to the respective invoices.

21. The President and Council of Fort St. George have directions as usual to take out and coin as much of the bullion abovementioned as you shall have advised them may be necessary for you, and they are forbid detaining any part thereof unless obliged to do so by absolute necessity, and we hope you will not only receive the whole amount of the treasure by these ships but likewise a considerable proportion of that consigned to our said President and Council by the ships Hardwicke, Bombay Castle, Rhoda and Prince of Wales.

22. In our last letter you were acquainted that the broad cloth intended for you this season would be about three hundred and thirty three bales. We are now to acquaint you that we have sent but about two hundred and six bales. The export to our other Presidencies are the same as mentioned in that letter.

23. We have in general conformed to your indents as near as possible, which you will observe upon examining the invoices; the only material deviation is in the broad cloth as we send you the quantity above-mentioned for the reasons given in our last letter, although you did not indent for any.

24. You must strictly observe what we directed in our last letter with regard to putting up and selling our woollen goods, the liberty there given being to subsist no longer than until you have got off the heavy stock on hand or the first favourable

opportunity that offers for returning to the method of putting them up at an advance of fifteen per cent upon the invoice, agreeable to our former orders.

25. Your sending such a large parcel of your woollen goods to Bombay on the Winchelsea and the Montfort, without first having the opinion of the President and Council of that place upon such a measure, was not right as we are apprehensive they have been under the necessity of returning them by the said ship.

26. We shall continue our orders to Bombay Presidency to remind them of making you as large remittances as they can spare. We have the satisfaction of observing their punctuality hitherto and the great service it has been to our affairs.

27. As it will not answer to send more than one ship to Madeira, we cannot at any time order more than one hundred and fifty pipes of wine, to be consigned to you for the reasons given in our last letter; you may fall fifty pipes short of that quantity if the President and Council of Fort St. George shall think it necessary to detain so much.

28. The sample of gun powder by Captain Witherington which was sent to us by the Oxford, having been proved by His Majesty's officers in the Tower, appears to be of so weak a quality as to be not fit for service, and we observe the same complaint has been made of the powder sent to Fort St. George. We therefore approve of Colonel Scott's undertaking the making of gun powder, as we have reason to hope this manufacture will succeed to our satisfaction under his management.

29. We now transmit for your information instructions for making gun powder agreeable to the method practiced by the persons who make it for the use of the government, which will be of great service to the persons who manufacture it at your Presidency, and must therefore be carefully attended to.

30. Your accounts of remains of stores and indents received this season are faulty and defective in many articles, particularly in describing properly the sorts and sizes of cordage, anchors, canvas and many other sorts of stores, which has occasioned us a great deal of trouble and will prove some disappointment to you, which must be avoided in future by a more careful attention to the drawing up those accounts correctly.

31. Observing you have a large number of anchors remaining, and the different sizes of those indented for not being particularized, we have determined to send none.

32. And here we think it necessary to order that Colonel Scott and the artillery officers be always consulted when you are forming indents for cannon and all kinds of military stores. You are to have a due regard to the hints and information they shall give relative thereto, and they are to sign such indents as shall be so agreed on.

*Thirdly, of investments.*

33. In our letter of the 29th of November last you were directed to make an early and sufficient provision of saltpetre upon the best terms you can; you were likewise acquainted in what manner and proportions it was to be laden as well on the ships to be dispatched directly from Bengal as our other Presidencys; you must therefore attend to and comply with those directions, and as in the present situation of our being unavoidably burthened with shipping saltpetre will greatly facilitate the dispatch of more than could, without a considerable proportion thereof, to be returned home, you must lose no proportion of laying in a large stock agreeable to our former orders whenever you can procure it at reasonable prices.

34. We are satisfied with the pains you took in making the saltpetre contracted for the year 1753 and the success in consequence thereof in reducing the price from Arcot rupees six and four annas demanded by Omichund[2] to five Arcot rupees and twelve annas but we should have been better pleased, had you made the contract with Coja Wazeed whose property it was rather than Omichund, as it plainly appears to be the intentions of the latter to confine as much as lays in his power all your dealings in this article in particular to himself alone, for we can never suppose his alledged loss by this contract [to] be fact without concluding at the same time that he will in some shape or other make himself amends for it, and his excuses for asking such an extravagant price at first are no ways satisfactory; in short it is for the interest of the Company to encourage as many persons as possible to make proposals not only for this article of saltpetre but all

others whatsoever and you must always endeavour to stir up and promote a useful competition.

35. We observe and approve the President's conduct in the share he had in beating down the price of the said saltpetre and as it is reasonable he should be paid expences he has been put to on the occasion, you are therefore immediately to discharge the same whatever it is; by your advices it appears to be about t... thousand five hundred rupees.

36. As the sale of our Bengal goods is now ended, we find it necessary to confirm to you the several remarks made in the course of our list of investment on the several species of goods bought on the new plan at the aurungs, compared with the same kinds bought of or contracted for with the merchants, the sales which have answered even beyond our expectation in favour of the former, and was in no kinds more remarkable than in the orua cossaes[3] and mulmuls and doreas Cossajura[4]; the common sort of the two last kinds purchased at the aurungs sold from twenty to thirty per cent higher than what are invoiced as.....bought of the merchants per Durrington and Falmouth at higher prices. The mulmuls Santipore[5] in general are neither amended in quality or reduced in price, in proportion to most other sorts purchased at the aurungs.

37. Since our said list of investment was drawn out we have made a thorough inspection into the several articles purchased at our factory at Dacca, and the sales have but too well confirmed... in our sentiments thereon, and in the... ion that your reprimands to the gentlemen there was what their conduct hath very justly exposed them to. Notwithstanding our repeated complaints for these three years past in regard to the bad quality, as well as great advance in price of the most considerable articles of their investment, we find as much reason as ever to complain of the bad quality of almost every article of their fine goods. The seerbetties, alliballie mulmuls[6] terrindams[7], nainsooks and seerhaudconnaes[8], are in general very bad in kind, and unless the two last articles can be procured of a quality nearly equal to what we have formerly received, they will be quite unsaleable. It is the more extraordinary that we should be under a necessity of repeating these complaints at a time that the quality of several species of the Calcutta investment is not only amended but the price reduced.

and must give us no very favourable impressions of the conduct of those gentlemen at Dacca who have been principally intrusted with the care of the investments, which we shall expect you to enquire as fully, as carefully into, and show the strongest mark of our resentment to those whose behaviour hath exposed them thereto.

38. The fine Dacca doreas in general have proved very indifferent insomuch that only four bales out of nine put up at our late sale would sell, and those at a bare advance. The broader sort of two covids and quarter per Durrington were dearest of all, and would not sell. The bale of superfine per Falmouth and that per Durrington sold well, but so bad is the general quality of fine goods of that factory that unless it can be greatly improved, and brought up to the musters of former years, we shall be under a necessity of reducing very greatly our investment there.

39. By the ship Durrington we received two bales superfine mulmuls forty five covids long No. 1 and 2; some of them are most curious, and cannot suppose so high a price should have been given, had they not been bought or contracted for on a muster of one of the best pieces, whereas in the best bale there were some pieces thirty per cent inferior in quality to others. In the lower priced bale there was a much greater difference, as well as a greater number of very frayie, uneven, bad pieces. If they could be procured of an even quality, and without such a mixture of bad pieces, they would answer, but with them we apprehend they will be found very unsaleable.

40. In answer to the 20th and 21st paragraph of your letter by the Falmouth, we shall point out to you the several articles therein mentioned which either will not sell, or sell at so small an advance as to discourage us from ordering more of them viz., allibannies, romalls Canpore, and charconnae, new romalls Barnagore[9] and doosooties twenty four covids long and two and half broad, do twenty four covids long and two broad, do romalls, cuttanees, and do flowered. The carridarries of all sorts sell very ill, those of the common sort [most], carridarries chicow excepted, of which kind you may send us five hundred pieces (500) and if the price of the common sorts can [not] be reduced, you must reduce the quantity ordered of each kind in list of investment to five hundred pieces; the superfine carridarries chicow will not sell.

41. The nainsooks and seerhaudconnaes Jugdea are a [good] kind of cloth, but come so very dear, that they sold with difficulty [at] a bare advance.

42. The herba lungees and atchabannies per Falmouth sold tolerably well, and would have the full quantity ordered per list of investment of those kinds. Fine seersuckers, in general, sold well, more especially the two bales of a new sort No. 1 and 2 per Falmouth; the low ones sell for a bare advance only. The tanjebs sierra will answer, and shall expect the quantity ordered. The mulmuls radge cullubpury were tolerable good, but will not do in any large quantity.

43. The photaes of the common sort being all of one pattern sell very indifferently, which is entirely owing to the want of variety of checks, which is evident from the sale of those called the Dutch sort of which we had five bales per Falmouth which, though bought near one rupee per piece cheaper, sell for more than the former. You must therefore reduce the common sort, and send us so many more of those called the Dutch sort which contain a variety of differing checks or patterns in the same bale.

44. The callapattip[16], and cossaes Chaundpore[11] are well approved of; of each of those articles we would have five hundred pieces (500). The mulmuls Subadgpore[12] are good for their price, and would have the quantity ordered of them per list of investment. As to the mulmuls Santipore forty covids long and three broad, we find these of a very indifferent quality; if they cannot be procured of a better fabrick and more free from frayies, they will not answer.

45. The doreas charconnae Cossajura per Falmouth proved very good, and sold for a great price, but would be still more valuable if they could be made as even, but a little thinner, that the checks might appear more clear and distinct. What we have already observed in relation to the gurrahs, we find confirmed by the sale, that those purchased at the aurungs have found a preference, and those of lower prices sold equally well with more advanced ones of those purchased of the merchants.

46. The bad circumstances of the generality of the merchants employed in the providing your investments, their many impositions and non-compliance with their contracts have for a

long time been so notorious that other measures were absolutely necessary to be taken. We cannot therefore but look upon their obstinacy and insolence in their treaty with you for the investment of 1753 as the occasion of one of the luckiest incidents that could have happened to the Company, we mean the laying you under the necessity of making the investment in a new method which, from your accounts of it and the great advantage we have in its very infancy experienced by the superior quality of the goods provided under your new regulations, has been already a great advantage in point of profit and will, we are satisfied, be productive of much greater, if pursued with zeal and vigour and conducted with integrity. We hope therefore you will convince us by steadily pursuing this plan that you have our real interest at heart and that the intimations we have had of the inclinations of some of the Board to return to the old method again may prove groundless, especially as they go so far as to hi... that the merchants have found or are in hopes to find a way to reconcile them again to their interest.

47. And here we think it necessary to recommend it to your serious consideration, whether the investments at the subordinate settlements may not be made in the same manner as at Calcutta, and... you find it practicable and as advantageous you are hereby empowered to give directions to our servants to proceed upon the like plan.

48. Although this new method of sending gomastahs to the aurungs is what we highly approve of, yet it must be attended to with great care, and in particular no one person whatsoever ought to have an undue influence upon the gomastahs. It was for that reason that we directed in our last letter that all the correspondence with and management of them was to be carried on by a committee to be composed of the President, the second in Council, or in his absence the next in station to him (the Major excepted) and the Export Warehousekeeper, which committee is to report its proceedings from time to time to the Board. We hereby confirm those directions with this addition that it is our meaning the said committee is always to consist of four persons of which the President and Export Warehousekeeper and his Assistant are to be three, and one other of the Council whom you shall think the best qualified for it.

49. Great care must be likewise taken not to risque too much of our estate at a time in the gomastahs' hands and that they give at all times sufficient [and undoubted] security to be answerable for what they are entrusted with and that notwithstanding your method of sending a cash keeper with the gomastah, who by way of a check keeps one key of the cash chest, yet the gomastah is to be accountable for all the money you advance him.

50. It was one of your resolutions that no gomastah should be entrusted with more than twenty thousand rupees at one time, which we think a sum fully sufficient if not more than necessary, but upon an inspection of the state of the aurungs transmitted to us by the Falmouth you have in many instances considerably exceeded that sum, particularly it appears there was owing to the Company, as a balance from Hurricall aurung[13], forty seven thousand, eight hundred and seventy one rupees, nine annaes and nine pice, of which thirty thousand rupees was in cash and four thousand in the delolls' hands, the remainder was cloth in the godown and in the washerman's; this with the other instances in the said state has the appearance of too much remissness at first setting out as you have given no reasons for so doing.

51. Many regulations must occur to you, as you proceed on this plan, necessary for the better conducting it (which cannot be thought of by us), for the safety of our estate, the good quality and cheapness of the goods, as likewise for the early provisions of them, for all which we must and shall depend upon your integrity and judgment.

52. And here we cannot help observing that had you entered upon the consideration of your investment sooner, we might reasonably have expected even upon your new plan a much larger quantity of goods, the want whereof together with the lateness of their arrival have much distressed us but we depend upon your having made us ample amends for the disappointment by a large and early investment in 1754, especially as you had a flow of cash for the purpose.

53. Your opening the cottah to receive any ready money goods made in or near Calcutta and your setting the weavers to work upon romalls and other goods fabricated in our bounds meet with our entire approbation and we hope you will prosecute this branch likewise with the utmost vigour.

54. It has appeared to us very extraordinary that so exceeding populous a place as Calcutta is and no doubt inhabited by great numbers of weavers should be of so little immediate... to us; the merchants have employed those useful people and have hitherto run away with the advantage which we might with equal ease have obtained. But thanks to the conduct of those merchants which has drove you to expedients which might not otherways have been thought of, you now find many sorts of goods are fabricated within our bounds, cheap and of good qualities, and may be had at the first hand. As it is evidently for our interest therefore to encourage not only all the weavers now in our bounds but likewise to draw as many others as possible from all countries to reside under our protection, we shall depend upon your utmost efforts to accomplish the same and shall hope the time is not far off wherein we shall find a great share of your investment made under your own eyes.

55. The merchants' behaviour has been such as to deserve no favour. You have therefore acted very rightly in keeping them strictly to the terms of their contracts by obliging them to pay the penalties they had incurred according to your statement of their accounts.

56. The utmost attention must be always had to the conduct of our servants at the subordinates through whose hands so great proportion of our estate passes. The annual remarks we have made in our lists of investments, together with what appears upon the face of your letters and Consultations, especially those received last season, shew the necessity of it. At Cossimbuzar our servants have so remarkably fallen off, in that once valuable article of raw silk not to mention others, that we cannot suppress the suspicions that must naturally arise against their management. Our servants at Dacca likewise, who for a considerable time gave us great satisfaction, have of late done quite the reverse, and we have as much reason to complain of our people at Jugdea. In short, we have too much reason to believe our servants at the several subordinates in one shape or other unfaithfully interest themselves at our expence in the investments, and we are the more induced to believe so from the observation... have made upon the delolls of Jugdea complaint against Mr. Bayley and Playdell which was under your examination upon the departure of the Falmouth, together with some hints which have been given us of unfair practices

at Dacca which we are not yet sufficiently enough apprized of to mention, to all which add the very extraordinary instance of Mr. Wogan's raising from nothing such a fortune at Dacca as, it is generally reported, he has brought home, although so young and low in the service; upon the whole there appears a real necessity that their future conduct should be well looked after and a scrutiny made into their past management.

57. We therefore hereby direct that immediately upon the receipt of this a supravising committee be formed which is to be composed of the President for the time being, Mr. Charles Manningham, Mr. Richard Beecher and Mr. John Zepheniah Holwell, and in case of the death or absence of any of the beforementioned persons the President is to fill up the said committee to the number of four with such other members of the Council as he shall judge best qualified for such an important trust.

58. This committee is to enquire into the manner of making the investments and the management in general at subordinate settlements; they are likewise to enquire into the particular conduct of our servants employed there for some time past, now and in future, and whether they have or do make any unjust advantages and what in the management of the investment or in any other branches of their employs and they are to consider of and point out such regulations as they shall think necessary, and the said committee is empowered to send for such books and papers and examine all such persons, whether blacks or whites, as they shall judge can give any information in the matters before them, and they are to report the facts with their opinion upon the whole to the Council Board from time to time. The Board is then to take into consideration the said reports and determine thereupon impartially and according to the best of their judgments, always remembering to do the utmost in their power to recover what the Company are defrauded of, and you are further directed to enter all such reports together with your proceedings thereupon at large in your diary for our information.

59. If it shall be found necessary to send any one of the committee to the subordinate settlements, we would have Mr. Holwell proceed thither, unless he should represent that his absence will be of great prejudice to the Company in his particular employ as Jemmindar and in that case one other of the committee is to be sent, the President excepted.

60. If the said committee shall think it necessary to have any persons in our service suspended, you are accordingly to suspend them until our pleasure is known, unless you find good reasons to the contrary.

61. As the trust reposed in this committee is of great importance and their proceedings will we are satisfied be attended with many good consequences, we require every member of the Council and every person in our service to be aiding and assisting to the utmost of their power to the said committee if they expect a continuance of our favour.

62. As the entrusting the conduct and management of our affairs at the subordinates to people of experience is of the highest concernment to the Company, it must be observed by you for the future as a standing rule or order that our sett of servants at Cossimbuzar do consist of two of your Council and one senior merchant at least, besides junior servants, at Dacca of one of your Council, a senior merchant and junior servants. and that one of the best qualified servants next below your Council be always appointed Chief of Jugdea, Luckapore or wherever else the Jugdea settlement shall be moved to.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and transactions with the country Government.*

63. It appears very strange that the Dutch Directore and Council at Hughly should not long ago have made the claim you mention with regard to some transactions with the Ostenders in the year 1733 if they [were] satisfied it was a reasonable demand upon us; your not complying with the demand without our directions was right, but at the same time that you transmitted it to us you ought to have sent us what account you could find of it in your books and registers of that time together with your opinion upon the whole. for want of which we can give no other directions than that if the demand is renewed you must give us the best informations you can collect of the nature and justness of this demand and wait our further orders.

64. We agree in our sentiments with you that as Armenians enjoy the benefit of our protection they ought to pay consulage, equally with the Europeans; you are therefore to continue collecting it agreeable to our former orders, unless you find it will be attended with any bad consequences.

65. You must use all prudent measures, by applications to the Durbar and otherways, to get relieved from the impositions of the chokeys planted.....and down the country, represented to us in your letter of the 4th of January, but at the same time you must be extremely careful to prevent all abuses of the dusticks that the government may have no pretences to interrupt the trade on that account, which we are afraid they have some times too much reason for.

66. We observe your proceedings on occasion of the prohibiting the importation of rice from Bahar into Calcutta, and the stand you made against complying with the demand of three thousand rupees for a perwannah to take off the said prohibition, which for the reasons you give we approve of, [though] we shall depend upon your conduct to procure the free importation of grain in such a manner as according to circumstances you shall judge best, to prevent the necessity and misery which must be the certain consequences of a scarcity in such a populace place as Calcutta.

67. We do not find any other material complaints against the country Government in the course of your advices now before us, excepting that we see an extreme readiness to lay hold of every opportunity that will afford the least occasion for exacting money, which we hope you will take great care not to give them any real or plausible pretences for. It requires great prudence to ward them off, and the keeping a good correspondence with the Nabob and his Durbar and giving now and then a timely present agreeable to our former directions we still think to be the most likely method of effecting it.

68. We wish the removal from Jugdea to Luckapore may not be the effects of bad conduct in Messrs. Bayley and Playdell. We must therefore wait for the result of your enquiry into their conduct before we can give any further directions than we did last year that we must depend upon your conducting it to the best advantage. And with regard to their proposal for farming the district of Luckapore on our account, you did right in not complying therewith without our orders, but you ought to have given us your sentiments whether you thought it eligible or not, and before we give our consent you must send them to us very explicitly and your opinion whether the renting that district may be of any and what advantage, or the contrary.

69. Upon occasion of Mr. Holwell's motion to take more effectual possession of Patna factory, we find you are of opinion that without our leave for re-establishing that factory it would be of no benefit to send a covenant servant thither, but on the contrary would make us liable to exaction, and we think you judged right. Although from past experience we shall not be induced without good reasons to resettle at Patna, yet we shall be very glad to have your thoughts upon it, and therefore direct that you take this affair into your serious consideration and lay before us the advantages and disadvantages that may attend such an undertaking together with your opinion upon the whole, and if it shall be your opinion that a resettlement may be of utility to the Company you are to point out the manner and method of effecting it to the greatest advantage.

70. The death of the Nabob is an event that may on account of his great age be daily expected, and as it is highly probable it may be attended with great confusion and troubles in the province before another can be securely seated, we therefore recommend to you, whenever it happens, to take all prudent measures to preserve our possessions, effects and privileges and, standing only upon the defence, to observe to the utmost of your power the strictest neutrality between the competitors. It was with a view to this event that in our last letter we so readily approved of Colonel Scott's proposal for rendering the settlement more defencible, and as it did not appear to be a work of time or much expence, we hope your next advices will inform us it is near if not fully compleated.

71. We advised you by the ships of last season that we had for a considerable time been in treaty with the French East India Company for an accommodation of the differences between the two Companies on the coast of Choromandel, but notwithstanding our readiness to agree to all reasonable and honourable terms the difficulties thrown in the way by the French Ministry and Company, together with their usual chicanry, have hitherto prevented those differences from being terminated by a happy treaty; however as one of the commissaries still continues in England, we are not absolutely without hopes it will at last be attended with success for which no endeavours on our part shall be wanting.

*Fifthly, of fortifications, buildings and revenues.*

72. Having in our last letter been very full with regard to the fortifications and works at your Presidency and the methods to be observed in conducting them, we have at present little more to say than what relates to the revenues.

73. We have with great attention perused and considered Mr. Holwell's state of our revenues at Calcutta, Mr. Frankland's remarks, Mr. Holwell's reply and the other papers relative thereto and we must in justice to Mr. Holwell acquaint you that he accounts for the mistakes which have happened in that state in a manner that convinces us they were mere inadvertencies and no way calculated to impose upon us, that he has evidently encreased our revenues to a very considerable amount without imposing any new duties or oppressing the poor, but on the contrary several old ones have been abolished and the poor in many instances relieved, and we must as further piece of justice to him add that the insinuations of his raising his own character with us, at the expence of reputations of the gentlemen who preceded him in his office of Jemindar, are entirely without foundation; in short, his integrity, capacity and application have rendered him so well worthy our notice that we are determined most heartily to countenance and protect him in all his endeavours to serve the Company.

74. It was very natural to expect, when a piece of such importance as Mr. Holwell's state of our revenues was laid before you, which was so long ago as the 17th of December 1752, that you should have given it a speedy and serious consideration in order to have informed us of your sentiments upon an affair of such a complicated nature, but how great is our disappointment and surprize to find you have not from that time to the dispatch of the Falmouth in the beginning of March last considered it as a Board so as to come to any resolutions or opinion for our information. You have transmitted to us the remarks of one member only [who], notwithstanding what you say in your letter of the 4th of January 1754, does not appear upon the face of any of your Consultations to have been authorized to collect and make remarks for your information as ought to have been done, if you intended to have proceeded with any regularity in an affair of such consequence, and it is very observable that those remarks were designedly, as we have reason to believe, delivered in so late in the season as rendered

it extremely difficult for Mr. Holwell to reply to them in time to obviate impressions they might have made on us to his prejudice. But however well qualified Mr. Frankland may be to execute the work of such a nature, it ought to have been the business of a committee regularly appointed for the purpose and not the result of the voluntary enquiry of one person only, and we shall be greatly disappointed if we do not find you [...] that method upon the departure of the Falmouth so as that we may receive by the next ship at furthest a full and satisfactory account of your proceedings in, and sentiments upon this affair.

75. But if you have still delayed to enter upon the examination of the state of the office of Jemindar and the several papers which have passed upon the occasion, you are hereby positively directed immediately to set about the same in order for stating for our information the advantages and disadvantages of the present plan and pointing out what alterations and regulations you think necessary to be made in it, as well for the advantage of the Company as the ease and common benefit of the people.

76. We must here remark that the office of Jemindar is of so complicated a nature and the business so various and burthensome that it is almost impossible it should be conducted under the direction of one person. You are therefore to consider whether it may not be divided into several branches to be managed by different persons, and if you think such an alteration may be of general utility, you are to point out the proper methods of carrying it into execution. In proposing such a division we have a view not only to the general utility which may be the result, but likewise to ease Mr. Holwell, as far as is consistent, from the heavy load of business he labours under, that we may have the benefit of his abilities in other material branches of our affairs.

77. You are likewise to point out to us what duties or fines appear to be particularly grievous upon the poorer sort of people, such as the duty on marriages which we think ought to be either totally abolished or levied with great regard to circumstances, and the duty called etlack, if it is necessary to be continued, ought to be used with moderation and greatly redressed.

78. You must send us an account of your whole proceedings in this affair as soon as possible, and wait our confirmation and further commands, except that you carry into execution such regulations as shall appear to be immediately necessary without waiting for orders.

79. And here we must recommend it to you to fix [up in] all the buzars and other the most publick places in the town, in the different languages, exact accounts of all duties, fees of office and all other allowed collections upon all sorts of goods, provisions, necessaries and other particulars which contribute to our revenues, for the information of people in general, and you must take effectual care that the farmers, collectors and others do not exact a pice more than is allowed, and you are hereby directed to transmit to us for our information copies of such public notices.

80. It is our inclination and intention that the inhabitants be governed with mildness and equity and not oppressed by grievous duties. Yet at the same time the encrease of our revenues in general must be [the] constant object of your care as far as it may be reasonably and without oppression extended.

81. We think the duty of five per cent proposed to be levied on the sale of houses belonging to Europeans and others in the white town, as mentioned in your letter of the 4th of January, is reasonable and we direct therefore that it be levied.

82. We can form no judgment of the reason or otherways of the proposal mentioned in your said letter the 4th of January in relation to converting the ground...called cowries into siccas and raising the half rent in[to] full rent because we cannot have a sight of Mr. Holwell's letter which, although said to be entered in your diary, is carelessly omitted and a copy has not been transmitted to us as it ought to have been.

83. Although in the present circumstances of the Company we cannot afford to lessen our revenues unless it is absolutely necessary for relieving the distresses of the poor, we hope that only has been the motive for your taking the gunge into your hands and lowering the duty upon the import of grain, and although in extraordinary cases we leave you a discretional power to act according to the best of your judgment, you must

always remember to levy the old duties whenever circumstances will admit of it.

84. The importation of your ships and vessels at foreign ports upon the coast of Choromandel must without doubt greatly prejudice that branch of our revenues, the customs, and the President and Council of Fort St. George did their duty in representing to you the bad consequences of it and the necessity of reviving the standing order of the 31st January 1734. Although we are desirous of indulging all our servants in a freedom of trade, yet we will not allow of its being carried on in any respects to the prejudice of the Company; on the contrary, whoever enjoys the benefit of our protection ought to contribute, as far as lies in their power, towards the expenses we are constantly put to on that account. We therefore do most earnestly recommend it to you to take care that no ships or vessels belonging to yourselves, our other servants or any persons trading under the Company's protection do land their cargos or any part thereof at any ports, either European or Moors, to the northward or southward of Fort St. George but at Fort St. George itself or such other factories or settlements which belong to us, unless very satisfactory reasons are given to the contrary at either or both Presidencies. We have directed our President and Council of Fort St. George, as we now do you, to acquaint us from time to time how this recommendation is complied with that we may shew a proper resentment against such persons who shall be regardless of our interest. In order to prevent any restraints upon trade we have laid our positive command upon the President and Council of Fort St. George to take the utmost care to invite and encourage trade by the general good usage of all persons who may resort to Fort St. George or its subordinate settlements for that purpose and in particular by suffering them to buy and sell publickly or privately as they themselves shall chuse, to deal freely and without restraint with whoever they shall think proper, and that if any of our servants at that Presidency shall prevent or endeavour to prevent such a freedom of trade on any pretence whatsoever, we have acquainted them they will incur our highest displeasure.

85. And the more effectually to prevent all combination, monopolies and attempts upon the freedom of trade we have

directed our said President and Council to affix up in the most publick places at Fort St. George and the several subordinate settlements, in the usual languages, publications for the notice of all persons of these our intentions that they may be entirely freed from the apprehensions of being hindered, imposed upon and oppressed in their trade by the Governor, the members of the Council, our inferior servants or any other persons whatsoever, and we have directed them to transmit to us for our information a copy of such publications.

86. What we have laid down in the preceeding paragraphs must be observed by you and all our servants as inviolable rules for the good usage of traders and the entire freedom of trade at our Presidency of Fort William, and you are hereby commanded to give publick notice thereof accordingly and send to us for our information a copy of the publications you make on the occasion.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military servants and accounts.*

87. In our last letter you were acquainted we had permitted Mr. William Rider to return to his station according to his original standing. He took his passage on the Bombay Castle to Fort St. George from whence he will make the best of his way to you by some other conveyance.

88. The eight young gentlemen whom, we acquainted you, we had appointed to be writers upon the Bengal establishment viz., John Dod, Richard Torriano, John Burdett, William Knapton, Henry Lushington, George Ballard, Francis Charlton, and George Gray—all of them proceeded on the Hardwicke.

89. We now send you a list of the names of such persons as have our permission to reside in India as free merchants in the seafaring way or otherways.

90. Having taken into consideration the case of the young engineers who were assistants to the late Mr. Robins, we do agree and direct that they be immediately put upon the footing of covenant servants, and that they have the salaries and appointments of covenant servants according to their standing, that is to say, those that landed with Mr. Robins from the day of their arrival and Mr. John Call from the day Mr. Robins

first engaged him, upon this condition however that they still serve us as engineers so long as we shall have occasion to employ them in that capacity, or until our further pleasure is known; they are, over and above their appointments as covenant servants, to have such allowances as they shall merit in their capacity of engineers; we do not chuse at present to fix them on the establishment of any particular Presidency as they are to be occasionally employed wherever our Engineer General shall think them most useful. However they are to rank and be paid during their residence at any of our Presidencys in the manner beforementioned.

91. Although you have caused Charles O'Hara to execute the covenants transmitted to us by the Portfield as a writer upon the Bengal establishment, yet we reserve to ourselves the liberty of stationing him at either of our other Presidencys of Fort St. George or Bombay as we shall hereafter think fit. We have given directions to the President and Council of Fort St. George to cause the other assistants to the late Mr. Robins to execute covenants there with the like reservation of stationing them at Bengal or Bombay. Mr. O'Hara must write to his friends to give the usual security for his performance of covenants.

92. Mr. Manningham having discharged his duty as standing Export Warehouse-keeper greatly to our satisfaction and depending upon the same conduct so long as he shall continue in that post, which is to be until we signify our orders to the contrary, you are hereby directed to pay him Current Rupees four thousand a year, over and above his salary and appointments as one of the Council, which is to commence from the time you received our orders for appointing him Export Warehouse-keeper and is to continue so long as he remains in that post, but the said allowance is to be paid on this express condition that it is to be in lieu of all fees, rewards or perquisites whatsoever as Export Warehouse-keeper.

93. But you are hereby directed not to make [the] said allowance of four thousand Current Rupees to any person whatsoever who shall succeed or follow Mr. Manningham in the post of Export Warehouse-keeper without our express leave, as we shall not continue it but to persons who give as good proofs of their behaviour in it as Mr. Manningham.

94. Mr. Holwell has highly merited our particular notice and encouragement, and the least we can do for him is to lett him rise in our service equally with the rest of our servants. We do therefore hereby annul and make void the restriction in our commands of the 8th of January 1752 by which he was fixed as twelfth and last of Council and to remain so without rising to a superior rank therein, and we direct that upon the receipt of [this], Mr. Holwell take rank and his seat at the Board according to the time of his arrival in Bengal in the same manner as if no such restriction had been made, that is to say, next below Mr. Mathew Collett, but however it is our meaning and direction that Mr. Holwell do still continue Jemindar and that he is not to quit that post without our leave.

95. And here we think it proper to declare our sentiments for the encouragement of our servants in general that such of them as shall by their abilities, integrity and zealous endeavours to serve the Company render themselves objects of our favour will certainly be taken due notice of.

96. As it is extremely material that all our servants in general should acquire a knowledge of investment, we direct that every junior servant be employed part of his time in the cottah and that the Export Warehousekeeper do take the necessary care to employ and instruct them in such a manner as may effectually answer our intentions.

97. Your reasons for not employing our junior servants in their turn at the subordinate settlements are unsatisfactory; we therefore insist upon your carrying into execution the directions we gave for that purpose in our general letter of the 24th of January 1753.

98. The account you give of the behaviour of Mr. John Wood who is under covenants as a free merchant was such as made it necessary, to preserve the authority you are vested with from contempt, to order him to proceed to England, and we approve of your caution in giving him a year's notice. As it appears you found upon a strict enquiry into the conduct of Mr. Bodley on the Mallabar coast that his behaviour was highly culpable, you did right in obeying our commands for ordering him likewise home, and you may depend upon our supporting you in all your just and impartial proceedings against such persons as do not deserve the benefit of our protection.

99. We must suppose you were fully satisfied with the truth of the fact represented by Mr. Goddard for his not complying with your notice for proceeding to England and shall therefore admit it as a reasonable excuse for that time, but we insist upon our repeated orders being put into immediate execution, unless you can give convincing reasons to the contrary.

100. It was and still continues necessary that you are at all times ready to check and prevent the expensive manner of living and the strong bias to pleasure which, notwithstanding what you say to the contrary, we well know too much prevails among all ranks and degrees of our servants in Bengal, and we do assure you it will give us great satisfaction to find by your action that we shall have no further reason to complain on this head.

101. The original intention of having accounts laid before the Board at certain periods was that proper remarks should be made upon them before they are passed, but it plainly appears upon an inspection of your Consultation book that you look upon the method as mere form, and we have too much reason to believe that they undergo no examination whatsoever; in order therefore to prevent any frauds and irregularities which are and may be covered or unobserved by this loose manner of passing accounts, you are hereby directed to appoint a committee of accounts which is to consist of two, three or more of the Council and such a number of our servants next the Council as you shall judge will best answer the intention; the President is to be one of the committee and be present whenever he can conveniently. To this committee all matters relating to accounts are to be referred, who are to examine and state facts and report the same to the Board together with their opinion upon the whole. All monthly and other accounts passed at certain periods must likewise be strictly examined by this committee who are to report their observations upon them and give their opinion whether it is fit they should be passed; every person present at such committee is to sign his name to the several reports, which reports are to be read in Consultation previous to the passing the accounts they relate to and are to be duly entered in your diary for our observation.

102. Committees must likewise be appointed upon the same plan to examine and state facts and give their opinion on all affairs that require consideration and attention.

103. But all the rules and directions we can lay down will be of no effect nor can we ever expect to see our affairs properly conducted, unless the President for the time being, agreeable to his situation and the real intention of his post, is a general inspector and supravisor of the whole machine. In that light we look upon the President and we expect Mr. Drake will exert himself accordingly. We shall then find that the several important posts, which have been hitherto conducted too independently, will be properly checked and controuled and our servants in general will likewise be in all respects kept to their duty. Whenever therefore the President shall lay before you any complaints or observations upon the conduct or management of our servants of any rank or degree or proposes any regulations for the better management of our affairs in general or any particular branches of them, you are seriously to attend to and consider them and apply such remedies as the nature of them requires.

104. Whatever directions we give to you must always be understood to extend to all your subordinate settlements as far as circumstances will admit and you are to give the necessary orders accordingly.

105. In consequence of the authority the President is vested with, he is to call upon the several persons employed to see in what manner their business is executed and prevent giving us such continual reasons for complaint, for we are sorry to say that almost all the books, papers and accounts received this season, with regard to method as well as writing, are faulty and slovenly to a degree that we are quite ashamed, and plainly shew the great negligence of both our senior and junior servants.

106. The Consultation book in particular is very faulty and in abundance of respects, especially as many material papers and accounts are omitted to be entered and the greatest part of it so carelessly copied as to be hardly legible, and the general books have equal faults to be found with them.

107. It is a by law of this Company that the Court of Directors shall annually in the month of June cause a general state of the Company's affairs to be drawn out and laid before them. This is the principal reason for our directing you to send us by every opportunity an account of your quick stock.

and at the same time it is obvious how correct that account ought to be to answer the purposes for which it is intended. But you sent us none [by] your packet which was forwarded in September by the way of Fort St. George, or by the Portfield, neglects that you must never again be guilty of. and we must observe that the accounts in general are not so exact and methodical as they would be if the directions we formerly gave were punctually observed and which therefore must be more carefully attended to in future; in particular you must make a memorandum at the foot of them of goods and money either received or sent to our other Presidencies near the time the account is dated, as otherways the [value] thereof, by being discharged from yours and not received at the Presidency they are consigned to, may not be accounted for at either. This was the case in the account transmitted to us by the Oxford, the invoices by the Hector and Durrington for Bombay being neither included in yours or the Bombay accounts of quick stock.

108. We last year sent you particular directions with regard to the manner of keeping your general books so as to render them not so voluminous for the future, which you must exactly attend to, as we find you have previously made some regulations of the like kind though not exactly in the method we have pointed out.

109. We now forward some remarks made by our Accountant General upon your last books, which you are to take due notice of, particularly of the irregular seperating the invoices of the cargoes sent you into several parts and making as many entries in the journal as there are parcel or parcels and some in very distant pages, a method which must necessarily occasion confusion and is liable to mistakes.

110. Many mistakes and omissions appear in your bills of exchange and your advices relative to [ ... ] again this season, all owing to want of care and attention. [Do] not give us occasion to repeat our complaints so often on this head.

111. From the large sums of money which have been remitted to England by bills of exchange upon us for money paid into our cash by several of the commanders of our ships, we have some reason to suspect they are the produce of illicit

trade. You must therefore for the future oblige every commander to make oath before you, agreeable to his instructions, that the money paid in by him is [...] part of his allowed privileges and profits thereon and that he neither has taken up, nor will take up [...] money in India to trade withal in the room of it. Upon your so doing you are to grant a certificate for the amount.

112. The book of standing orders transmitted to us by the Portfield is very defective, and particularly for more [than] ten years past. We therefore positively insist upon and direct that you turn twenty years backward at least and make a careful abstract from our commands to you, not only of what are therein particularly termed standing orders, but of whatever else shall be judged to be rules of conduct, and here you are not to fail on any pretence whatsoever, and that we may be assured of your compliance you are not to fail sending us a copy as soon as it can be possibly compleated. That this collection may be made with judgment, it must be performed by one or more of your ablest hands.

113. All papers of consequence any way relative to the Company of their affairs should be constantly made a part of your packets and accordingly inserted in the lists. To shew you how defective you have been in this particular, we now send you an account of such papers only, which ought to have been inserted in the Falmouth's packet, as a specimen of many other omissions of the like nature.

114. Although the officers and military recruits on the ships Eastcourt and Duke of Dorsett are intended for your Presidency, we are apprehensive the President and Council of Fort St. George will be under the necessity of making use of the liberty we have given of detaining them for our service on the coast of Choromandel. Under these circumstances we can only recommend it to you with the assistance of Colonel Scott to recruit and keep up your garrison in the best manner in your power, until from a happy turn [of] our affairs you may be supplied in the usual manner.

115. We observe and approve of the method the President and Council of Fort St. George have agreed upon of continuing the detachments, belonging to and intended for Bengal, as properly belonging to the Bengal establishment, and it would be

a hardship on the officers to lose their rank at your Presidency by serving us on the coast of Choromandel. We therefore direct that all the officers as well those we send out for Bengal, as those who command the detachments sent directly by you to the assistance of Fort St. George, do preserve their rank upon the Bengal establishment without being superseded in case of their return.

116. To obviate a doubt which has been made we now declare it to be our intention and meaning that the captain of the artillery company (and not the major) is to provide the cloathing for the company in the same manner as the captains of the other companys are allowed that privilege by our military regulations.

117. It is but justice that the officers of the artillery company have equal encouragement with the rest of our forces. We therefore direct that they do succeed according to their ranks to vacancys as they happen in the military companys, provided you are fully satisfied of their me[rit] and good behaviour.

118. If it is practicable for the buxerys[14] employed in the zemindary to be rendered useful as a military body under the command of Colonel Scott, without putting the Zemindar to difficultys in the execution of the judicial branch of his office, we think it a desirable measure. We therefore recommend it to you to re-consider this case and determine upon it as you shall judge may be most conducive to our interest.

*Eighthly, concerning the Charter.*

119. With your general letter by the Falmouth we received the following papers.

A complaint of Messrs. Rannie and Kelsall, Aldermen, against Messrs. Goddard and Gray with their answers and the determination of our President and Council thereon.

Copy of the proceedings in the Mayor's Court relating to Deepchund's deposit with a letter from Mr. Dumbleton to Mr. Cole, our solicitor.

Proceedings of the Mayor's Court in the case of Solomon Margas and Sophia Aratoon.

Letter from Mr. Kelsall and others to the Court of Directors for enlarging the sums cognizable by them to one hundred rupees.

Letter from the Mayor's Court to the Court of Directors wherein most of the particulars beforementioned are repeated.

120. We shall consider these papers in the order we have stated them.

121. On the 30th October 1753 a rule of the Mayor's Court was made to oblige executors and administrators to deliver in inventories and accounts of the estates of the persons they represented within the times therein limited, which order we are of opinion was a very right and proper one.

122. On the 6th and 15th November 1753 Mr. Alderman Rannie made other motions for the further regulation of executors and administrators. The subject of these motions, however substantially right in themselves, do not seem to us to be so properly rules of practice as laying down rules for what should be the judgment of the court upon cases that may come before them. but however that may be, they were not questions in any particular cause then immediately under the consideration of the court but were motions only for the forming general rules of practice, which rules, if they had been agreed to by the court, were to affect all persons in general and were not calculated to affect any one person in particular or by name upon questions of this nature, and which carried, are to be the acts of the court. We are of opinion every member of this court has a right to give his opinion and vote as he thinks fit and the court ought not to have received Mr. Dumbleton's information. We think Mr. Goddard and Mr. Gray had a right as Aldermen to vote in these questions and that our Governor and Council were likewise right in dismissing the application that was made to them for removing Mr. Goddard and Mr. Gray from their office of Aldermen on this account.

123. As to Deepchund's deposit, Mr. Cole being the plaintiff in the cause obtained a decree to have Deepchund's deposit paid to him with interest and costs. From the decree an appeal was brought before the King in Council, upon hearing whereof the decree was reversed as to interest and cost, and

upon our President and Council giving security to pay the costs of the re-hearing, our President and Council have a year's time given them from the service of the Order in Council to proceed in the cause in the manner mentioned in that order. Mr. Cole never served this order and it seems rather to have been his duty to have carried this order into execution. In the meantime Mr. Cole died and his executor renounced the execution of his will so that there is no representative of him before the court and therefore we are of opinion the Mayor's Court were right in dismissing the application of our President and Council to have the dep[osit] paid to them, in as much as their complying with it would have been an *exparte* judgment without hearing what could be said against it by Mr. Cole's representative. We are advised nothing can be done in this cause till it is revived by a representative of Mr. Cole's and our President and Council are served with the order of the King in Council, and then such proceedings must be had as the order directs and according to the instructions we sent with it, and in the meantime the deposit must be delivered over to the Accountant General agreeable to the directions of the charter.

124. The case of Margas and Aratoon is very singular. In England the person and estate of lunaticks are by the king's prerogative under His Majesty's immediate direction. A writ issues to enquire by a jury whether the party is a lunatick or not, and upon being found to be so the custody of his person is granted usually to one person and that of his estate to another and the Lord Chancellor, who has the exercise of the prerogative in this particular, gives the necessary directions for the care of the one and of the other. Nothing of this kind is provided for by the charter. In the present case a deposit is made to answer the plaintiff's demands, and that the plaintiff may have an opportunity to prosecute his suit, sufficient proof upon oath should be laid before the court of the state of mind in which Mrs. Aratoon is, and an application should be made to have a guardian assigned to defend the cause for her, and if upon reading this evidence and upon a motion for the purpose of which the plaintiff must have notice and be heard if he thinks fit, it should appear to the court that Mrs. Aratoon is a lunatick or otherwise incapable of managing herself or her affairs, the court should appoint a guardian to defend the suit for her, and if no such application should be made on behalf of the defendant, the plaintiff in the cause may, upon proper

affidavits of the defendant's state of mind, apply to the court that a guardian may be appointed for the defendant and the court may appoint one accordingly and may afterwards proceed in the cause as in other cases, and though a like case with the present may not perhaps offer again, yet if it should, we are of opinion a common appearance only should be entered for such a defendant as [it] seems to be a great hardship that a person under such circumstances should be obliged to give bail.

125. We are very glad the institution of a Court of Request[15] is so agreeable and useful as Mr. Kelsall in his letter to us represents it to be, but we cannot extend their cognizance to larger sums than what are given them by the charter, since however useful it might be, there is no probability that His Majesty would upon any application enlarge the sums, as all the Acts of Parliament, of which there are several for the erecting of like courts in different parts of the kingdom, have not in any of them invested such courts with a power of hearing and determining in suits exceeding the value of forty shillings. The Zemindar must conform to the rules and orders we have established for [the] government and then we are not apprehensive any inconvenience can arise from the exercise of his office.

126. By what we have already said we have answered the greatest part of the letter from the Mayor's Court. We shall therefore take no further notice of it than of such parts only as have not yet been mentioned.

127. The Mayor's Court say they cannot find any provision made in cases where the bail dies, the defendant being dead or withdrawn before satisfaction made to a final decree, and that it is a point in question whether the estate [of] such bail is liable to make satisfaction.

128. A person who becomes bail for another enters a recognizance whereby he undertakes in a certain sum that if the defendant shall be condemned in the suit he will surrender his person or make satisfaction for him.

129. By this obligation the bail and his representative and estate are bound to the performance of the condition of it and the recognizance is a charge upon his estate preferable to bond debts.

130. If the principal withdraws and the ball is dead, the heirs, executors or administrators of the bail must be proceeded against in the manner mentioned in the book of instructions sent over with the former charter under the title or marginal note "MANNER OF PROCEEDINGS AGAINST BAIL". The precept against the representative of the bail must be in the form set forth in that book, with this addition that after the recital that the defendant had not surrendered himself to be charged in execution, there should be a further recital to this effect viz.,

> "AND WHEREAS it is alleged that the said A. B. (the Bail) is dead and that you are his Executor or Administrator as the case is THESE ARE THEREFORE &c."

131. This precept must be served and returned in the manner directed by the instructions, and besides the defence mentioned therein such executors or administrators (may) plead

> firstly that they are not executor or administrator, or
> secondly, that they have not assets or effects of the person to satisfy the recognizance.

132. In case of either of these pleas, the plaintiff may take issue and the matter of fact must be tried, and such plea if found to be false, judgment must go for the plaintiff and execution, not exceeding the sum mentioned in the recognizance, must issue against the representatives of the bail, who will be answerable to the amount of the as[sets] which shall be found to be in his hands or to have been wasted or misapplied by him, but the representatives of such bail are by no means to be charged with or liable for more than the amount of the effects of the person they represent and which have actually come to their hands.

133. We avoid entering into the case of Soodasiebdass and Gapat Burdar. The proceedings transmitted are not complete and we therefore recommend it to you to settle the matter between the Mayor's Court and the Zemindar and that you will as far as possible frame such rules to be observed by them respectively as may for the future avoid a clashing between their several jurisdictions.

134. The Mayor's Court say they are at a loss how to understand that part of our instructions directing the Accountant General to draw upon our President and Council for such deposits as the Mayor's Court shall order to be paid or delivered over to the suitors, as the form of the draft contains a proviso for making the same void if not complied with in a month after the date, and from thence form a question how the suitor is to recover his money or effects, if by any accident such draft should not be complied with within the limited time.

135. This provision is agreeable to the rules observed by the Accountant General of the Court of Chancery which, by the charter, we are directed to conform to and the reason [is] to prevent such drafts being negotiated as money and the better to enable the Accountant General to keep and ball[ance] his accounts, as many inconveniencies would arise if a time was not limited for the bringing in of such draft. If the draft is not complied with in due time, the person to whom such draft is made payable must deliver it up to the Accountant General who must thereupon cancel it and give a fresh one; but if a draft should be lost, in that case application must be made to the Mayor's Court, and the party to whom such draft was made must, by proper proof upon oath, shew how and by what means such draft happened to be lost, and upon making out their case to the satisfaction of the court, the court by a new order must direct the Accountant General to make another draft in the place of that which may so happen to have been lost.

136. The Mayor's Court complain of that part of the charter which takes from them the cognizance of disputes between the natives.

137. This insertion was occasioned by a representation which in the year 1735 was made to our President and Council at Fort St. George by petition in the names of the whole body of inhabitants of Madras Bramins, Guzzerats right and left, Gentoos and Moors, setting forth that they had laws and customs of their own differing from those of England and praying that they might be at liberty to determine the differences arising among themselves by arbitrators of their own chusing, to which we at that time agreed and in consequence thereof got this clause to be made a part of the present charter and under the words Indian natives [we] meant to include the several persons and

sects in whose names the beforementioned petition had been presented. We are of opinion that the Mayor's Court, notwithstanding this clause, may hold plea in suits between any persons, though born in India, who do not fall within this description.

138. We shall not willingly apply to His Majesty for any alterations in the present charter unless in such instances as are essential or very material, as all applications of this kind are very difficult and attended with great expence and trouble.

139. It is probable your letter in answer to this may furnish us with further observations upon the charter, and as we may be at a loss for the reasons that may be offered in support of such alterations as may be proposed, we desire for the satisfaction of His Majesty's ministers [and] for our own that in all cases where any alterations may be thought necessary in the present charter, you take the same into your consideration in consultation with other persons and particularly with some of the principal persons that be affected by such alteration and that you enter the reasons that may be offered for or against the alteration in your Consultations, and that in all cases you send us the precise form of the clause or paragraph in the words you would have it stand in any further grant which may be made by His Majesty in consequence of our application to him for the purpose.

140. In the 26th paragraph of our letter of the 24th Jany 1753 we directed the Mayor's Court and Court of Requests to point out to us such alterations in the charter as they should think necessary, but as we find that method to be inconvenient, we desire you will signify to the Mayor's Court and Court of Request, and to all others that for the future their applications for any purpose whatsoever be not made to us in the first instance, but they make the same to you, our President and Council, to the end that you may examine them and then transmit them to us with your opinions, reasons and observations upon them.

141. We have not received by any of the ships this season an account of wills registered at the Mayor's Court, which has proved a great disappointment to many persons who have applied for a sight of them; it must therefore be your business to call upon the Mayor's Court every season for all the books,

papers and accounts necessary to be transmitted to us, the register of wills in particular, all of which are to be made part of your packets, as we shall always expect them to pass through your hands.

*Supplement.*

142. Since what we have mentioned under the 3rd head with regard to Mr. Wogan, we are not surprised at the large fortune he has acquired in so short a time, having been informed that he supplied the Dutch with their Dacca goods on which he got at least fifteen per cent. This practice of furnishing our rivals with goods, we have great reasons to believe, has been for some time past and is at present carried on by our servants greatly to our prejudice, by furnishing the Dutch with those very goods which we ordered and were provided with our dadney and puttun, and particularly the best in quality which we are confirmed in from the general opinion of the Dutch gentlemen who come over to our sales, who all say that their Dacca goods are greatly superior to ours. This accounts for the cause of our justly repeated complaints of the badness of those goods and we can never expect to be remedied so long as these practices are continued. We therefore positively command you to a strict enquiry into this affair in particular and send us an account of your proceedings therein, by which we shall be able to judge whether you have proceeded in earnest and who (if any) have been guilty of this infamous practice. We are further informed that these very goods are sent down under the protection of the Company's dusticks, which could not be done without your knowledge if you did your duty, [...] will we suffer our rivals to run away with the benefit of our dear bought privileges. We therefore expect and require of you to take effectual care that the dusticks are not made use off to cover from the country dutys any but the Company's or their immediate servants' goods, and that you do strictly examine and compare the goods with the dusticks to see that they are delivered at Calcutta agreeable thereto, that they are not afterwards carried to the settlements of any other Europeans whatsoever.

143. Since writing the beforegoing we have taken up another ship upon the usual terms viz., the Pelham, Capt. George Lindsay commander, burthen 499 tons. We shall station her

some time hence according as circumstances may make it necessary.

144. Captain Samson of the Hardwicke upon the departure from the Downes advised us he had taken on board a young lady as a passenger for Madeira, whose name we have since been informed is Campbell. As he had not our leave for that purpose, and as we are apprehensive he intended to carry her to India, if therefore she shall be landed at Bengal or at any of our settlements under your Presidency, you are hereby positively ordered to take effectual care that she is sent back to England at the expence of the owners of the Hardwicke upon the first ship you shall dispatch.

145. We are very desirous that a provision should be made for the relief of the widows of such of our military officers who are left in indigent circumstances, as likewise for sick and wounded and disabled officers and privates upon the Bengal establishment. We therefore most earnestly recommend it to you to consider of ways and means for setting [up] a fund for those good purposes. We will not point out to you what each officer and private man shall contribute thereto of his pay according to his rank, as judging that you, in concert with our principal and other officers, may be better able to settle the same to the general satisfaction of the whole body. Among other good effects of such a fund, it will prevent your sending over to us many unhappy objects, whom we know not how to relieve, as having no fund out of which to support them, and you are hereby directed to send us a very particular account of your proceedings in consequence of this recommendation.

146. We have chosen the following persons to serve us in a military capacity at our Presidency of Fort William viz., Thomas Blagg who is to succeed to the first vacant lieutenancy that shall happen after his arrival, and after those gentlemen who went out in the same rank the preceeding years have been provided for, also Richard Geers, Henry Spelman and William Hastings who are to succeed in the like manner to the first vacancys as ensigns. Lieutenant Blagg and Ensign Spelman take their passage on the Duke of Dorsett and Ensign Geers and Hastings on the Eastcourt; their pay is to commence upon their arrival at Fort William viz., Mr. Blagg as a lieutenant and

the other three as ensigns, although they may not immediately succeed to the stations intended for them as beforementioned.

147. Notwithstanding our giving commissions to the said several persons [...] succeeding to any vacancies, yet [...] such commissions are not to determine the rank, which it is our pleasure shall be exactly in the [order] we have named them in the preceeding paragraph.

148. As the said persons are to receive pay as beforementioned, although there shall happen no immediate [vacancies], you must take care that they are usefully employed [until] you have an opportunity of giving them commission.

149. You will receive by these ships, the Eastcourt [and the] Duke of Dorsett, about two hundred recruits unless they happen to be detained at Fort St. George, agreeable to what we have mentioned in the preceding part of this letter. In case the beforementioned officers shall likewise be detained at Fort St. George, they are notwithstanding to preserve [their] rank at your Presidency according to the directions [we] have given in the 115th paragraph.

150. Having reason to be dissatisfied with the conduct of Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden, we [hereby] direct that upon the receipt of this he be immediately dismissed from the Company's service.

We are,
Your loving friends.

R. Drake/Richd. Chauncy/W. Mabott/M. Impey/John Payne/Whichcott Turner/J. Raymond/Thos. Phipps/ Nichs. Linwood/W. Willy/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Z. P. Fonnereau/Chas Gough/Chas Cutts/W. Wilberforce Junr.

LONDON,
31st January 1755.

(*Ref*:—Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1. 1755-58, pp. 1-51.)

(Extracts from paras. 19, 54, 56, 64, 77, 79-81, 105, 125, 136-37, 142 and 144 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records, 1748-67*, pp. 64-68.

Paragraphs 73, 74 and 94 published in Holwell's *India Tracts*, pp. 249-50.

## 13
## LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1755

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

It is highly necessary you should be informed that great naval preparations are making both here and in France; what the event of them may be cannot be foreseen; you will therefore do well to be upon your guard.

We are,

Your loving friends.

R. Drake/Richd Chauncy/W. Mabbott/J. Raymond/W. Willy/P. Godfrey/Whichcott Turner/John Payne/Nich. Linwood/Z. P. Fonnereau/Thomas Walpole/Will. Barwell/Hy. C. Boulton/Thos. Phipps/Charles Cutts/Charles Gough/N. Newnham Junr./W. Wilberforce Junr./Robt. Jones.

LONDON,

14th February 1755.

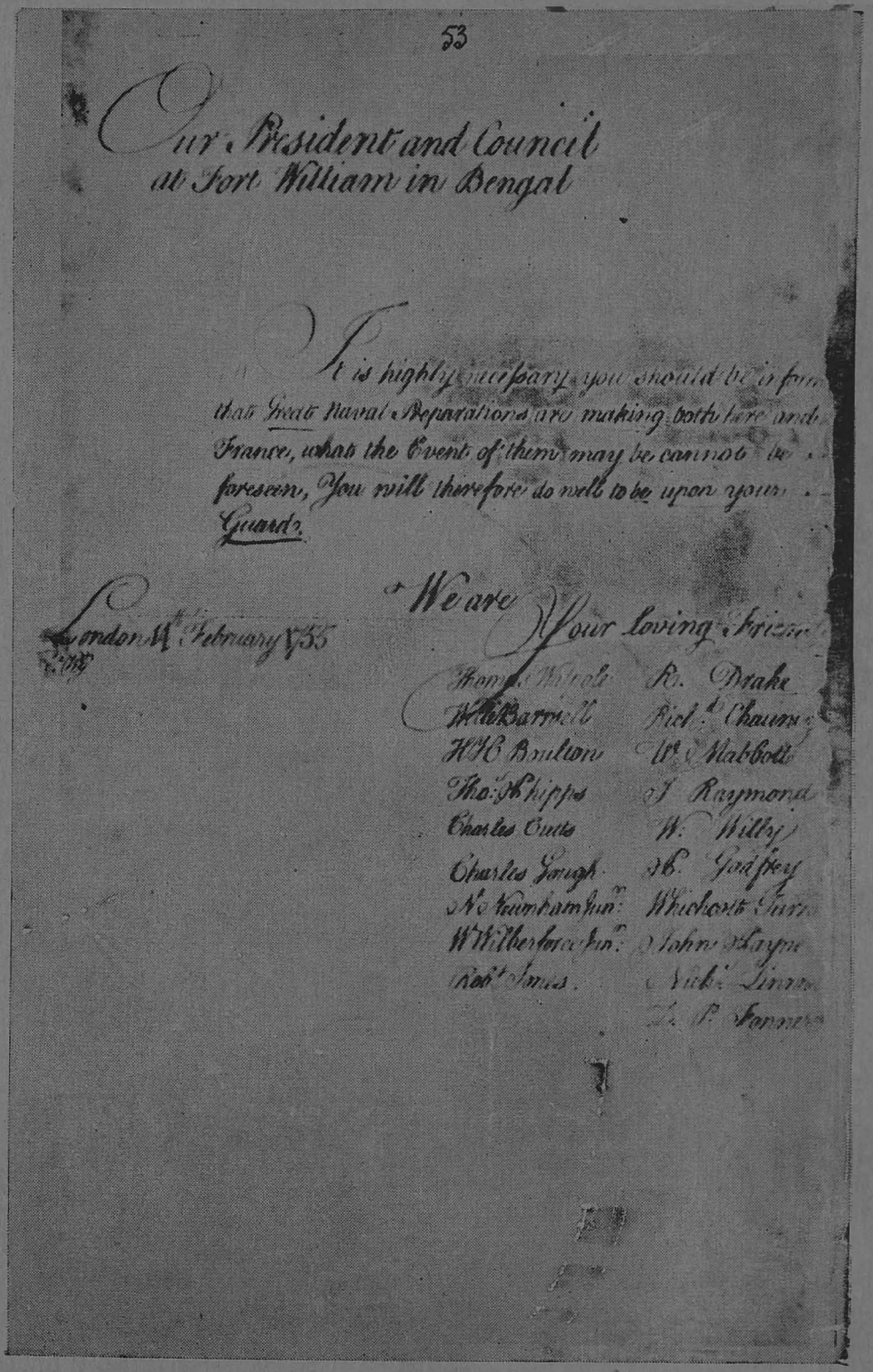
(*Ref*:—Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1, 1755-58, p. 52.)

## 14
## LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 1755

*Shipping news—the Court's concern at the mistakes in invoicing and the deficiencies in packing—apprehensions regarding recrudescence of hostilities with the French—His Majesty's troops sent for service in the East Indies.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The Eastcourt and Duke of Dorset sailed out of the Downes on the 17th of February, by which ships we sent in duplicates



53

Our President and Council
at Fort William in Bengal

It is highly necessary you should be informed that Great Naval Preparations are making both here and in France, what the Event of them may be cannot be foreseen, You will therefore do well to be upon your Guards.

We are Your Loving Friends

London 14th February 1755

Ric: Drake
Rich: Chauncy
Wm Mabbott
J Raymond
W. Willey
Sb. Godfrey
Richard Turner
John Payne
Nich: Linnell
Ja. P. Forrest

Facsimile of the letter on the opposite page

our general letter of the 31st of January, a triplicate whereof you will receive by this conveyance in the Dodington.

2. The Dragon, Captain Henry Kent, arrived at Spithead on the 14th of February last from the west coast of Sumatra having lost her passage about the Cape. She brought us your general letter of the 3rd of September 1753, duplicates whereof came to our hand long before, as you have been already advised.

3. The Dodington by which you will receive this letter now proceeds to Fort St. George with a large quantity of stores for His Majesty's land and sea forces and about two hundred soldiers, part of whom consists of a detachment from the royal regiment of artillery, together with several articles for that Presidency, which being delivered she is to proceed directly to Bengal, unless the President and Council of Fort St. George shall think it more for our interest to employ her in a different manner, in which case the goods and stores consigned on her to you will be forwarded by them, by the first safe conveyance together with this letter, the invoice and bill of lading and all other necessary papers.

4. In our last general letter of the 31st of January we gave you a summary account of our design in taking up the Dodington, and the terms on which we freighted her. We now transmit to Fort St. George the charterparty agreement between the Company and the owners, which will be forwarded to you in case she proceeds to Bengal, to which therefore we refer you for further particulars, and we expect your punctual observance of, but we must inform you that we have paid to the owners the sum of seventeen hundred and fifty pounds, being one moiety of the freight agreed for, and have or shall pay to them likewise in England the amount of the passage money for the passengers and soldiers. You will observe, if the said ship shall be detained at Fort St. George and Bengal for delivering her cargo more than thirty days in the whole at both places, we are to pay demorage. We have therefore directed our President and Council of Fort St. George, in case she proceeds to Bengal, to forward the charterparty and other necessary papers on her, together with an account of what money they have paid to the commander on account of the owners and other proper informations for the adjusting and finishing their account. You

must take out her cargo as fast as possible to prevent the expence of demorage. If she shall be disposed of in Bengal you must take particular care that the purchaser or purchasers give sufficient security that she shall not on any account or pretence whatsoever return to England again or be sold to the French or any other European nation; this must likewise be recommended in the strongest terms to the President and Council of Bombay, or to our servants wherever she may proceed to be disposed of, in case of her not being sold in Bengal.

5. On stating and setling the ship Chesterfield's account with the owners, we observe Capt. Carter paid for one hundred and forty plates of copper weighing fourteen maunds twenty eight seer and four pice, which was reported to you by the Import Warehousekeeper deficient but no notice is taken either in the report or on the Consultation whether the chests were delivered in good condition or not, and as the owners demand the repayment of the amount of the said copper alledging that the chests were delivered in good condition, you are therefore directed to make a particular enquiry as to the condition of the package of the said copper when it was delivered and send the same to us by the first conveyance together with your opinion thereupon. As it appears that the said report was not made until near two months after the delivery of the copper from the ship, and as we find continual difficulties arise in setling the accounts of shipping with the owners, as to that part of them which relates to goods damaged and wanting owing principally to the want of a due attention in describing the condition of the packages and other negligencies, you are therefore hereby possitively directed in future to cause all goods and treasure to be surveyed, weighed and told over in the presence of the captain or purser as soon as it can be conveniently done after they are landed, and you are to comply very carefully with the former orders we have given you for describing the condition of such packages in which there are any goods damaged or wanting, and you are particularly to observe the orders given to your Presidency in the general letter of the 20th March 1744 with regard to the manner of weighing goods.

6. You will observe by the accounts of pieces wanting and over annually sent you, and signed by our Warehousekeepers, particularly those transmitted this season, that there are pieces

wanting in many bales although the packages are entire and without any appearance of plunder, also, that there are many mistakes in invoicing piece goods. You must for the future give directions that particular care be taken both in invoicing and packing all goods to prevent such mistakes and deficiencies, for we now acquaint you that in case any goods in future are received short of invoice the person or persons who sign the tickets in the bales will be charged with such deficiencies.

7. Great naval preparations have been making in France for some time past, which has given so just an alarm to our administration and the nation in general, that a fleet is fitting out with the greatest zeal and alacrity, sufficient to protect the honour of the British nation. What may be the consequence of those armaments cannot be foreseen, but in all events, it will be absolutely necessary that you stand well upon your guard, until we can with some certainty give you further informations.

8. Although we expect that our three Presidencies at all times act in concert and with mutual harmony and give their aid, assistance and advice wherever and whenever it may be necessary for the common interest of the Company, without confining their views to their respective Presidencies only, yet it is at this critical time more immediately necessary, and therefore we most strongly enjoin your observance of it, and that you will give all due attention to the advices you may receive for those purposes from the Governours and Councils of our other Presidencies, or the Governours or any select committee constituted by us, or our Secret Committee.

9. His Majesty having, out of a tender regard for the welfare of the Company in the present crisis, most graciously assisted us with a detachment from his royal regiment of artillery, of four companies, each consisting, according to the establishment, of one hundred and seven men, commission and non-commission officers included, one of the said companies is embarked on the Dodington and the other three on the Bombay ships. The manner those companies are to be employed, and consequently the destination of our said ships, fall under the particular directions of our Secret Committee, who will give the necessary informations wherever they shall think fit.

10. As we think it right that the establishment of our artillery companies should be as near as possible conformable to His Majesty's, and having given commands for that purpose to our other Presidencies, we now do the same to you, and it is accordingly hereby ordered and directed that, instead of the establishment of the company at Fort William directed in our general letter of the 15th December 1752, that the said company of artillery be composed of the following officers and private men with the pay hereunder mentioned *viz.*,

A captain.....at two hundred pounds a year.

One captain lieutenant.....one hundred nine pounds, and ten shillings.

One first lieutenant.....one hundred pounds do.

One second lieutenant.....ninety pounds do.

Three lieutenant fireworkers.....three shillings a day each.

Three serjeants.....two shillings do.

Three corporals.....one shilling and eight pence do.

Eight bombardiers.....one shilling and six pence do.

Twenty gunners.....one shilling and four pence do.

Sixty four mattrosses.....one shilling do

Two drummers.....one shilling do.

TOTAL 107.

11. The regulations and rules laid down in our former establishment of the 17th of June 1748 are to continue in force so far as is consistent with this new one.

12. We had some thoughts of regulating your marines but we have upon further consideration judged it more adviseable to defer the same until next season, that we may have before us your proceedings in consequence of our commands in the general letter of the 23rd of January 1754, which as we shall depend upon being sent in the most disinterested, exact and explicit manner, they will render our commands on this head more perfect than they can possibly be this season.

We are,

Your loving friends.

R. Drake/Richd. Chauncy/W. Mabbott/M. Impey/ N. Newnham Junr./John Payne/Whichcott Turner/ Thos. Phipps/W. Willy/Rob. Jones/Stephen Law/ John Boyd/Will. Barwell/Cha. Cutts/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Chas. Gough.

LONDON,

26th March 1755.

(*Ref.*:—Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1, 1755-58, pp. 53-57.)

## 15

## LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1755

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. It is necessary you should be informed that the Committee of Secrecy for the ensuing season is composed of the following gentlemen viz., Roger Drake, Peter Godfrey, Christopher Burrow, John Payne and Jones Raymond Esqrs., three of whom are a quorum.

2. The British and French armaments continue preparing with the greatest vigour, and as we apprehend both fleets are upon the point of sailing, it is likely we shall in a short time know whether the event will be peace or war, we fear the latter.

3. A ship arrived a few days ago at Port L'Orient from Pondicherry by which the French are informed that the Mogul Emperor has been dethroned[1] and a prince of the royal family placed in his stead; this is an event, if true, that well deserves your attention and the best use must be made of it in conjunction with our other Presidencies, as well to secure our trade rights and privileges as to prevent as much as lies in your power the artful designs of the French at Delhi in procuring grants to the prejudice of this Company.

We are,

Your loving friends.

John Dorrien/John Manship/James Creed/Cha Gough/ Timothy Tullie/Thos. Rous./Maximn Western/Henry Plant/John Boyd/N. Newnham Jr./Lau. Sullivan/ Rob. Jones/R. Bootle/Charles Chambers/R. Drake/ P. Godfrey/John Payne/J. Raymond/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Heny. Savage.

LONDON,

16th April 1755.

(*Ref*:—Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 18, p. 146.)

## 16

## LETTER DATED 10 OCTOBER 1755

*Shipping news—personnel of the Secret Committee—orders for a large quantity of saltpetre for the coming season—the Council directed to take necessary precautions in view of strained Anglo-French relations.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We take this opportunity of sending you by the way of Fort St. George some general advices, the early information whereof may be of use.

2. The several letters we writ to you last season were dated the 29th of November 1754, the 31st of January, 14th February, 26th of March and 16th April 1755 all which we hope came safe to your hands, as likewise some separate letters to the President and others which went by the same conveyances as our said general letters.

3. The accompanying list will inform you of the times our several ships of last season proceeded on their respective



Emperor Ahmad Shah with grandees

voyages as likewise of the happy arrival of all those with us since we sent you the last accounts.

4. We are to acknowledge the receipt of your general letters of the 6th, 9th and 12th of September, the 7th, 20th and 23rd of December 1754, the 9th of January, 3rd of February and 1st March 1755 as likewise of letters from the President and others which came in the same packets.

5. The ships taken up for the Company's service this season are as follows *viz.*,

| Ships | Tons | Commanders | Consignment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Harcourt..... | 499 | William Webber | For China directly |
| Griffin..... | 499 | Thomas Dethick | St. Helena and Limpao in China |
| Caernarvon..... | 499 | Norton Hutchinson | Fort St. George and China |
| Stormont..... | 499 | Josiah-Hindman | |
| Ruffolk..... | 499 | William Wilson | |
| Godolphin..... | 499 | William Hutchinson | |
| Oxford..... | 499 | Thomas Stevens | St. Helena and Bencoolen |
| Chesterfield..... | 499 | Edwin Carter | Coast and Bay |
| Walpole..... | 499 | Francis Fowler | |
| Delawar..... | 425 | Thomas Winter | |
| Marlborough..... | 499 | Alexander Macleod | Madeira Persia and Bombay |
| Hector..... | 499 | John Williams | |
| Clinton..... | 499 | John Nanfan | Bombay |
| Royal Duke..... | 490 | George Cuming | |
| Portfield..... | 400 | Carteret Le Geyt | |

6. All orders, directions and instructions which shall be given by the Secret Committee for the time being must be strictly attended to and carried into execution by the Presidency or whoever else they are directed to. The gentlemen who compose that Committee the present season are Roger Drake, Peter Godfrey, Christopher Burrow, John Payne and Jones Raymond Esquires.

7. The several setts of Supra Cargos appointed this season to conduct our affairs in China are *viz.*,

For the ships Stormont and Godolphin Messieurs Thomas Shore, John Searle, Stephen Devisme and Joseph Harrington.

For the Harcourt to be dispatched from hence and the Houghton expected from the Mallabar coast Messieurs Edward Phipps, Richard Wood, Robert Mackett and John Hull.

For the Caernarvon and Suffolk Messieurs Frederick Pigou, Thomas Lockwood, Richard Peisley, and Francis Kinnersley who are now in China.

the ship Griffin stationed for Limpao Messieurs Thomas Fitzhugh, James Flint both now in China and Benjamin Torin who proceeds from hence, but if it happens that the said ship does not proceed to Limpao, but shall be under the necessity of loading home from Canton, in such case the Supra Cargos are to be Messieurs Phipps, Harrington, Devisme and Torin.

For such ship or ships as shall or may arrive at Canton in the year 1756 destitute of Supra Cargos Messieurs Shore, Phipps, Wood, Searle, Mackett, Harrington, Devisme and Hull.

8. You will observe that we have made no disposition for the continuance of any Supra Cargos in China for the year 1757. We have for good reasons dropt the practice we have lately fallen into of continuing a sett the year round (for the present at least) and we have ordered Messieurs Phipps, Wood, Mackett and Hull to dispose of the whole consignment of woollen goods intended for Canton this season, which all goes directly thither in the Harcourt.

9. The Griffin for St. Helena and Limpao and the Delawar for Fort St. George are now under dispatch. The Harcourt as above-mentioned directly for Canton, the Stormont and Godolphin with the Caernarvon and Suffolk for Fort St. George and China. also the Marlborough for Madeira, Fort St. George and Bengal, likewise the Oxford for St. Helena and the west coast will proceed on their voyages the beginning of December. The Chesterfield and Walpole for Fort St. George and Bengal will follow the beginning of February, and the Bombay ships about the usual time. This is the disposition of our shipping at present; it may be deviated from or altered as circumstances

require, and the several commanders will be accordingly under such orders and directions from the Secret Committee as shall be judged necessary as well for the security of the ships and cargos as any services they may render the Company in the course of the voyage.

10. The Delawar goes consigned to Fort St. George with a cargo of treasure, goods, merchandize and stores and about thirty recruits for our own forces at that settlement. We have given directions to the President and Council at Fort St. George to forward to you as large a proportion of the said treasure as can be spared by the first safe conveyances.

11. As in all probability the Delawar will be at Fort St. George very early in the season, the President and Council are directed either themselves or in concert with you to employ her usefully until the proper time of her being returned home from either of our Presidencies as shall be judged most for the Company's interest.

12. We shall not order any ship to call upon the west coast to take in pepper for China as was done last year in respect to the Prince George. You are therefore to concert proper measures with the President and Council of Fort St. George for sending a ship thither to bring to England the surplus pepper remaining after the annual store ship is provided for; we give you this early notice that the ship to be employed on this service may compleat her business in time to prevent the danger of a loss of passage home.

13. It may be of service for the more expeditious disposal of the woollen goods on hand at Fort William to give you this early notice that we shall not exceed the number of two hundred and five bales of broad cloth and sixteen bales of long ells for your Presidency this season, that none will be sent to Fort St. George, that the export for Bombay Presidency will consist of about eight hundred and sixty bales of cloth and one hundred and fifty three bales of long ells, besides complying with the Persia indent for about five hundred and sixty bales of cloth and five hundred bales of long ells of which last named article there are only ten pieces to the bale. We hope you will make the best use of this information.

14. As we cannot by this conveyance send you any particular directions with regard to the investment to be made in Bengal, we can only recommend it to you to proceed in the same manner and with the like diligence as you have done for two seasons past, and with regard to the sorts, quantities and qualities of the goods to be provided, the list sent you last season must be the guide until you receive a new one, at the same time making all due allowance for the number of ships to be provided for at yours and Fort St. George Presidency.

15. And you must make such an early and competent provision of saltpetre upon the best terms you can as will be sufficient for the several ships to be sent home not only from Bengal but from our other Presidencies. We shall expect to receive from our several settlements in the year 1756 at least two thousand tons of saltpetre and you are to guide yourselves accordingly in your purchases, first making as near an estimate as you can of what proportions of that quantity remain on hand and may be shipped off from our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay. As the quantity of saltpetre now ordered is very large you must be extremely cautious in your contracts for it so as to purchase upon the cheapest terms possible.

16. Having given permission for the lading some coral on the Delawar it is necessary you should be acquainted that the freighters of silver and other licensed trade do agree as usual that if any ship or ships of this season on which such articles are laden shall proceed to Bengal without touching at Fort St. George or on the other hand arrive at Fort St. George and do not proceed to Bengal, that the President and Council at either place may forward the same agreeable to the original consignment on any of our European ships at the risque of the said freighters but without any further charge to them.

17. Our principal view in dispatching the Delawar so early was to give information to you, as well as to our other Presidencys, that hostilities are commenced between the British and French nations in America, that a great number of French ships have been already and are continued to be taken in Europe by our men of war, but none of them have been yet condemned, nor have commissions been issued for privateers or any letters of mart[1] granted here, there is no account that the French have issued letters of mart or reprisals, nor have they taken

any British ships that we know of, except the Blandford man of war of twenty guns, which has been since restored by order of the Court of France, as yet there has been no declaration of war made by either nation, as likewise to inform you that we have heard nothing from the French East India Company relative to the provisional treaty and truce[2] made in December last by Mr. Saunders[3] on our part and Mr. Godeheu on the part of the French for restoring tranquility on the coast of Choromandel, although we delivered the said treatys to the French Company's Commissioners then in England so long ago as the beginning of last July upon Mr. Saunders's arrival on the Norfolk. This being the situation of affairs, it is highly necessary and we accordingly order you to be strongly on your guard, and in constant readiness in every respect to defend our estates, rights and privileges in all events. You are to watch all the motions of the French and stand upon your defence only, unless they shall commit hostilities against us, in which case you are to act as shall appear to be most for the Company's interest.

We are,

Your loving friends,

R. Drake/P. Godfrey/John Payne/Nath. Newnham Junr./Henry Plant/Whichcott Turner/John Boyd/ L. Sulivan/Robt. Jones/John Dorrien/Heny. Savage/ Charles Chambers/Timothy Tullie/Maxim. Western.

LONDON,
10th October, 1755.

(*Ref*:—Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1, 1755-58, pp. 59-64).

## 17

## LETTER DATED 3 DECEMBER 1755

*Madeira wine for Bengal—strained Anglo-French relations and the consequent race for armament.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We writ you a short letter by the Delawar, dated the 10th of October, to be forwarded to you either by that ship, or the first conveyance that offered from Fort St. George. She left Spithead in company with the Griffin on the last day of that month, having been retarded so long by several unavoidable incidents. A duplicate of our said letter comes herewith.

2. We forward this letter by the Marlborough, to inform you that we have desired our correspondents at the island of Madeira to load on her the annual supply of wines for our settlements, one hundred and fifty pipes whereof are to be consigned to Fort St. George, and the like quantity to you, but we have, as usual, indulged the President and Council at Fort St. George to detain part of the wine consigned to you, not exceeding fifty pipes, provided they are really in want of it, and not otherwise; upon arrival of the wine in Bengal, you must continue your method of having it carefully surveyed, as well on board as ashore, that we may judge whether we suffer either by our correspondents at Madeira, or by any embezzlements or carelessness in the people of the ship, that we may take the necessary measures for obtaining satisfaction accordingly.

3. Should the commander and ship's company of the Marlborough exceed the twenty pipes we have indulged them to carry, the surplus must be deemed illicit trade, and proceeded against agreeable to our repeated directions.

4. We have taken such notice of your complaint of the quality of the wine you received by the St. George, as likewise of complaint made by the President and Council of Fort St. George as to the deficiency in the size of the casks of what they received by the same ship, as we believe will leave no reason for complaints of this kind again.

5. The Marlborough having nothing more than the beforementioned one hundred and fifty pipes of wine consigned to you, it is left to the discretion of the President and Council of Fort St. George, either to send the said ship immediately to you with the wine and any other consignment they may have in readiness, or forward them by any other safe conveyances. Whether it will be best to return her to us from one or the other Presidency, you, in concert with our servants at Fort St. George, must determine according to circumstances; but

we have earnestly reminded them that the earliest and safest opportunitys must be embraced, to forward to Bengal, all the treasure they can possibly spare, in bullion or rupees, according to the notice you may have given them.

6. In our letter by the Delawar, we gave you a general view of the situation of affairs between the British and French nations. We have only to add thereto, that hostilities are carried on, with vigour, in America, that our men of war in Europe take all the French ships they meet with, of which great numbers now lay in the several ports of His Majesty's dominions, but none are yet condemned. No declaration of war is made by either nation, no commissions for privateers or letters of marque have been issued or granted here, and [so] far from any being issued by the French Court, all British merchant ships are suffered to go in and out of their ports without molestation. However the French continue to exert themselves in encreasing, with the utmost diligence, both their land and sea armaments, and have drawn down a great number of their forces to their coasts, and, it is generally believed, are meditating some grand effort. On the other hand, the most vigourous measures are taken in England, to be prepared against all attempts, and it is with great pleasure the whole nation sees the Parliament most heartily concurs therein with His Majesty. This being the present situation, you must carefully observe the directions we gave in our before-mentioned letter by the Delawar, to stand well upon your guard, that you may baffle any attempts which may be made by the French, upon our estate, rights and privileges.

We are,

Your loving friends,

R. Drake/P. Godfrey/John Payne/Nath. Newnham Junr./R. Bootle/Charles Chambers/Thos. Phipps/ Thos. Rous/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Henry Plant/Rob. Jones/Heny. Savage/Timothy Tullie/John Manship/ Cha. Gough/John Dorrien/Lau Sulivan/Maximn. Western/Christo. Burrow.

LONDON,

3rd December, 1755.

(*Ref*: —Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1, 1755-58, pp. 67-69).

# 18

# LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1755

*Shipping news—instructions to provide a large quantity of saltpetre for the ships of the season—the Court's approval of the goods purchased at the* aurungs *through the* gomastahs.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We writ to you this season by the ships Delawar and Marlborough; the letter by the first named ship was dated the 10th of October and that by the other the 3rd of December, duplicates and triplicates whereof are now sent on the Coast and China ships to Fort St. George, to be forwarded to you together with this letter.

2. The Delawar and Griffin sailed from Spithead on the 31st of October under a convoy, which left them in safety, and making the best of their way on their voyages the 14th of November in the latitude of 41 degree north.

3. The Harcourt directly for China, the Marlborough for the island of Madeira and the Coast and Bay, and the Oxford for St. Helena and the West Coast were dispatched on the 6th day of December; for the time of their final departure from England, we refer to the general lists of the arrival and departure of our shipping, which we shall cause to be sent you.

4. The ships Stormont, Godolphin, Caernarvon and Suffolk for the coast of Choromandel and China are now under dispatch, on which we have consigned to the President and Council at Fort St. George treasure to a considerable amount, as we likewise did by the Delawar and Marlborough, as large a proportion whereof as they can possibly spare, being to be forwarded to you by the first safe conveyances, and we hope will get to Bengal early enough to do us good service.

5. The treasure intended to be laden on the two Coast and Bay ships, the Chesterfield and Walpole, will be consigned in the usual manner to you, but at the same time we must give

leave to the President and Council at Fort St. George to detain such part thereof, as shall appear really necessary for the Company's service at that Presidency, but no more on any pretence whatsoever.

6. We propose likewise to make such consignments of treasure and goods to Bombay as will enable the President and Council to assist you with large remittances in treasure or by bills.

7. As we conclude the Britannia and Kent will be loaded home from China, and the Anson and London will, in all probability, according to the accounts we have lately received, be returned to us with full loadings of pepper from the Mallabar coast, neither you or our servants at Fort St. George will have more ships on your hands than will be necessary to bring home your respective investments, and consequently the four ships intended this season for the Coast and Bay will be but barely sufficient for the goods which, in all probability, will be ready for them. Under this circumstance we must leave it to your discretion and that of our Presidency of Fort St. George to proportion the loading of each ship, as well in point of value as tonnage, by giving such a surplus as shall be thought proper. And observing that, if there is not tonnage sufficient for your whole investment, such a part of the coarsest sort of it must be reserved for the following season, as will make room for the more valuable assortments.

8. When we informed you in our letter of the 10th of October that we should expect to receive from our several settlements in the year 1755 at least two thousand tons of saltpetre, and gave you directions to guide yourselves accordingly in your purchases of that article, we had reason to believe you would have had a ship or ships of a former season remaining on your hands, which, from what we have mentioned in the preceding paragraph, we now apprehend will not be the case. However, as we are desirous to receive as large a quantity of saltpetre in 1756 as possible, even to the amount of the said two thousand tons, we mean from all our settlements, if there shall happen to be tonnage for it, and if it can be brought home without interfering too much with the more valuable parts of yours and their investments, you must therefore make

such a provision of that article, both for the ships to be dispatched by you and our other Presidencys, as will be sufficient for the several ships to be loaded home, giving every ship such a proportion over and above the charterparty tonnage as she can conveniently carry, on the commander's requesting for it at the low freight.

9. Concluding that no ship can be spared to be sent either from Fort St. George or Bengal to the west coast of Sumatra to take in any pepper there the ensuing year, we have ordered our servants at Fort Marlborough to give the Oxford as full a loading of pepper as she can take in, and to acquaint the President and Council of Fort St. George with what they shall have remaining or may further expect, whose directions they are to follow as to the disposition of it, and from whom you will receive the necessary advices relative to such surplus pepper, if your assistance shall be thought necessary.

10. The few ships you will have to provide for, and the forwardness which we have reason to believe your investments will be in, must probably give you the best opportunity you ever had of giving them early dispatches, and therein of shewing your diligence and regard to our repeated recommendations on this head.

11. If there shall be a considerable quantity of goods provided by you and the President and Council at Fort St. George, more than sufficient for full loadings for the ships on your respective hands, and if our own ship the Dragon shall happen to be at either Presidency, or can arrive from Bombay in a proper season to be sent to England, we would have her loaded either from Fort St. George or Bengal or both Presidencys, with such surplus investments, and consigned therewith to us accordingly, taking care that she is properly manned and fitted for the voyage.

12. The ships Hardwicke and Dodington were freighted by us for voyages to India, as you have been already informed. They are now the property of particular persons, who have leave to employ or dispose of them there. If you and our Presidency of Fort St. George shall have very pressing occasion for further tonnage, and either of those ships can be procured and properly fitted and manned for Europe in a seasonable

time, we do empower either Presidency to agree with the owners, upon the best terms you can, to take up either ship on freight for a voyage to England with such a cargo as shall be thought proper to be consigned to us on her, and in case of such an event, all necessary care must be taken to settle the agreement as nearly conformable to the usual terms of the charterparty of our freighted ships, as circumstances will admit of. You are to look upon these directions as an expedient only in case it shall be absolutely necessary to send home another ship, and not otherwise to be made use of.

13. It was our intentions to have forwarded a list of investment by the ships now under dispatch, and for our better government therein had fixed our sale for the Bengal and Coast piece goods for the 2nd instant which was a few days after we received the news of the fatal calamity which befell the city of Lisbon, which by an earthquake that happened on the first of November, and a conflagration which ensued, hath almost reduced the whole of it to a heap of ruins, to the immense loss of the mercantile part of Europe, and of England in particular, though Holland and Hamburgh are also very greatly involved therein.

14. This melancholy event caused so great and immediate a stagnation in business, and so much affected publick credit in the negotiations of exchange with most parts of Europe, that we found ourselves under a necessity, on the pressing instances of many of our principal buyers, to postpone the sale, and whether it will be possible for us to have it ended by the time our latter ships for Coast and Bay sail is yet uncertain.

15. It is however necessary that you should be informed that our investment will, in general, be pretty much on the foot of our last, except in the article of gurrahs, in which it must be greatly lessened and restrained, as no ships will probably be left on your hands, and that the whole of your tonnage will be barely sufficient for the finer goods we shall expect from your Presidency.

16. It is with pleasure we can observe an amendment in the quality as well as a reduction in the price of several

articles of your investment. The goods in general purchased by the gomastahs at the aurungs are in both respects preferable to those purchased of the merchants, some very few articles excepted. The orrua cossaes per Colchester are much preferable to those per Winchelsea and Egmont purchased of the merchants. The cossaes cogmaria both those distinguished (C Cos and F C Cos) purchased at Harrial aurung are very tolerable, as are the several sorts of Commercolly cossaes (Cos C and F C) and the new sort of cossaes Chandpore, all purchased at the Jugdea factory, the latter in particular, and the common Cos C are much better than those per Winchelsea and Egmont, purchased of the merchants. The cossaes Burron are not so good in their kind. The Cossajura mulmulls and dooreas are very tolerable, the quality of the Coincola terrindams is much amended, as is that of the mulmulls Ballasore purchased at Harripaul aurung, but does not yet come up to that of former years.

17. We must do our servants at Jugdea the justice to commend them, in having brought about an amendment in quality of their baftaes. The baftaes chutty (I B F Chut) per Winchelsea and Egmont are good, and hope they will encrease the quantity of them as well as those per Egmont distinguished IBFM which are of a very good kind, of the narrow sort there were too many. The humhums[1] purchased at Luckipore factory are very good and cheap, and some of those at that of Abidpore; those bought at Harrial are much inferiour as well as dearer, for which reasons they should be dropped or decreased, as you can increase those of which we received two bales per Colchester invoiced among the Dacca goods, and distinguished thus H M ch and called humhums chardore.

18. Though some few sorts of the Dacca goods (particularly dooreas) are amended in quality, we still have great reason to complain of many others, as some of the terrindams and most of the nainsooks and seerhandconnaes, which cost very high prices, are very ordinary; those of the two last kinds per Egmont and Colchester from Jugdea factory will not answer.

19. The work of some of the Dacca dooreas especially per Egmont is very good, but the sprigs are at much too great a

distance, and they come so very dear, that we have reason to think they will not all sell at an advance, and we can but observe to you that if our servants at Dacca do not exert themselves in a very extraordinary manner to keep up the quality and reduce the prices of their several fabricks, we shall be obliged to withdraw that factory and put the investment there more on the foot on which it is carried on at present with you.

20. These general, though short, remarks on the goods received by this year's shipping will enable you to judge where and in what manner you are to extend or restrain the several artícles of your investment, though we cannot at present give you a compleat list thereof.

*Supplement.*

21. In case it happens that either of the ships Hardwicke or Dodington shall in consequence of what is intimated in the 12th paragraph be freighted for England, you must, in making the agreement with the owners, consider that it is only for a voyage to England and that therefore the freights mentioned in the charterparty of our other ships must not be the rule to go by, because those freights are in full consideration for the outward as well as homeward bound cargoes.

We are,

Your loving friends.

R. Drake/P. Godfrey/Nath Newnham Junr./John Payne/Charles Chambers/John Manship/Whichcott Turner/J. Raymond/Thos. Rous/James Creed/Lau. Sulivan/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Rob. Jones/Henry Plant/ Maximn. Western/Heny. Savage/Timothy Tullie/Chas. Gough/John Dorrien/Christo. Burrow.

LONDON,

19th December, 1755.

(*Ref*:—Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1, 1755-58, pp. 69-74. Paragraphs 13 and 14 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records, 1741-67*, pp. 68-69.)

# 19

# LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1756

*The Court welcomes the steps taken by the Council to check clandestine importation of goods—insists on the appointment of a committee to report on the state of the marine—instructions to humour the Nawab by timely presents—personnel of the Select Committee—Col. Scott's plan of fortifications not to be carried out into execution—the Court's comments on the case of Govindaram Mitra—instructions to regulate better the lives of the writers—collection of customs at Calcutta to be regulated—continuation of strained relations with the French.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We sent you a short letter by the Delawar, dated the 10th October last, principally to give you information of the then situation of affairs between the British and French nations, to acknowledge the receipt of your several advices this season, and likewise to acquaint you with the ships taken into the service of the Company for the several parts of India and China, their destination, and other general informations. We writ to you again on the 3rd of December by the Marlborough, and by the ships Caernarvon, Stormont and Suffolk on the 19th of the same month to be forwarded to you from Fort St. George. As all the said letters have been sent by a sufficient number of conveyance there is no necessity for sending any copies of them, but we shall recapitulate some of the most material parts and proceed in our advices, observations and commands in the usual method and

*First, of shipping.*

2. The Delawar in company with the Griffin sailed from Spithead on the 31st of October last, and were left in safety by their convoy on the 14th of November in the latitude of forty one degrees north.

3. The commanders of the ships Marlborough for the island of Madeira, Fort St. George and Bengal, the Oxford for St. Helena and the west coast of Sumatra, and the Harcourt directly for China, had their final dispatches from hence on the 6th of December, and the commanders of the Caernarvon, Stormont, Suffolk and Godolphin bound to Fort St. George and China had theirs on the 19th of the same month, all which ships have been prevented by a series of contrary winds from proceeding on their voyages until the times mentioned in the enclosed list.

4. You will receive this letter by the Chesterfield and Walpole, but notwithstanding those ships are consigned to and the cargoes almost entirely intended for Fort William, the commanders are ordered first to touch at Fort St. George and deliver to the President and Council there the packets, consignments and passengers designed for that Presidency and follow all such orders as they shall receive from them with regard to delivering all or any part of the bullion consigned to you to be coined and receiving rupees in lieu thereof with such other orders as they shall think proper to give them.

5. Notwithstanding the said ships Chesterfield and Walpole are consigned to Bengal, they as well as the Delawar and Marlborough are to be loaded home by you and the President and Council at Fort St. George, each of them wholly or in part, from one or the other Presidency as shall be mutually agreed upon between you according to times and circumstances.

6. As we conclude the Britannia and Kent will be loaded home from China and the Anson and London will, according to the accounts we have lately received from the Mallabar coast, be in all probability returned to us from thence with full loadings of pepper, neither you or our Presidency at Fort St. George will have any ships of former seasons on your hands, and if that should be the case, the four before-mentioned ships bound this season for the Coast and Bay viz., the Delawar, Marlborough, Chesterfield and Walpole, will be but barely sufficient to bring to England the investments which may be ready for them. Under such a circumstance we must leave it to your discretion in concert with the President and Council at Fort St. George to proportion the lading of each ship as nearly equal to their burthens as may be (the Delawar being

a smaller ship than the other three), as well in point of value as tonnage, and load as many goods on each ship over and above the charterparty tonnage as she can conveniently take in, without being pestered or rendered incapable of defending herself in case of an attack at sea, observing, if there is not tonnage sufficient for the whole of the investments provided at both Presidencies, that so much of the coarser sort of them must be reserved for the following season as will leave room in the ships for the more valuable sortments.

7. Concluding from what has been before observed that no ship can be spared to be sent either from Fort St. George or Bengal to the west coast of Sumatra to take in any pepper there the ensuing year, we have ordered our servants at Fort Marlborough to load for England on the Oxford as much pepper over and above her charterparty tonnage as she can possibly take in, and to give notice to the President and Council of Fort St. George by the first conveyance that offers of the quantity they shall have remaining, and what they have reason further to expect after fully loading the Oxford, that such surplus pepper may be disposed of in such manner as our said President and Council shall think best, who have directions to send you such advices as may be necessary on the occasion.

8. Being desirous of having as large a quantity of saltpetre brought home in the ships which proceed to India this season as possible, you are to load on each ship as much as she can conveniently carry over and above the kintlage proportion, and likewise over and above the charterparty tonnage, provided it does not interfere with your sending us the more necessary and valuable part of your investment, and provided the commander requests for the last mentioned surplus tonnage in saltpetre at the low freight.

9. If there shall be a considerable quantity of goods provided by you and the President and Council of Fort St. George more than sufficient for full loadings for the ships on your respective hands, and if our own ship the Dragon shall happen to be at either Presidency, or can arrive from Bombay in a proper season to be sent to England, we would have her loaded home either from Fort William or Fort St. George or both Presidencies, with such surplus investments and consigned therewith

to us, taking particular care that she is properly manned and fitted for the voyage.

10. The ships Hardwicke and Dodington were freighted by us for voyages to India as you have been already informed. They are now the property of particular persons who have leave to employ or dispose of them there. If you and our Presidency of Fort St. George shall have very pressing occasion for further tonnage and either of those ships can be procured and properly fitted and manned for Europe in a seasonable time, we do empower either Presidency to agree with the owners, upon the best terms you can, to take up either ship on freight for a voyage to England, with such a cargo as shall be thought proper to be consigned to us on her, and in case of such an event all necessary care must be taken to settle the agreement as nearly conformable to the usual terms of the charterparties of our freighted ships as circumstances will admit of, but you are to observe that the rates of freight inserted in the said ships' charterparties are in full consideration for the outward as well as homeward bound cargos, and likewise for four months service in India, all which must be taken into consideration and such a proportionable freight agreed to be paid as shall be deemed equitable upon the footing of a voyage to England only. You are to look upon these directions as an expedient only, in case it shall be absolutely necessary to send home another ship, and not otherways to be made use of.

11. We cannot help repeating a paragraph in one of our letters this season, that the few ships you will have to provide for, and the forwardness which we have reason to believe your investments will be in, must probably give you the best opportunity you ever had of giving them early dispatches and thereby of shewing your diligence and regard to our repeated recommendations on this point. To this we must add that ships which have late dispatches too often meet with bad weather in getting about the Cape and thereby damaging their cargos, as is the case of the Egmont arrived from Bengal this season in a very great degree, and which might probably have been avoided had it been possible for you to have sent her away sooner.

12. We are not insensible of the difficulties you have laboured under to employ and dispose of our shipping to the best advantage, and we must do you the justice to acknowledge you have

given us as much satisfaction therein as circumstances would admit of, particularly by sending the Elizabeth to fill up on the west coast and the York on the coast of Malabar, from whence likewise by your disposition (we mean the Mallabar coast) we have reason to expect the London and Anson. There seems therefore to be very little probability of any ships remaining on your hands; however if contrary to our expectations a ship or ships shall happen to be detained in India a season extraordinary for want of goods or from any other unavoidable incidents, we shall depend upon your best endeavours for employing them in the manner that shall appear most advantageous to the Company. We are sensible of the great decline of trade, and, in consequence, of letting out our ships on freight for so much money as we could wish, and what in better times we have reason to expect; in case therefore it shall be thought proper to lett out any on freight, we shall leave the terms to be settled by you, and if it shall appear you have acted therein to the best of your judgment, we shall rest satisfied, although we are not entirely reimbursed the amount of the demorage resulting from the detention.

13. We have revived our orders for encouraging the commanders of such of our ships as may happen to be dispatched from Bengal or Fort St. George after the 3rd of March, to use their best endeavours to get about the Cape of Good Hope and thereby gain their passage home the same season, by promising a gratuity of two hundred guineas in case of a French war, and at other time one hundred guineas; at the same time they are acquainted that at whatever time they are dispatched, if it shall appear they do not use their best endeavours to gain their passage, they are liable to be rendered incapable of the Company's service, which we mention for your information in order for your reminding the commanders thereof, and for your doing on your part whatever may be necessary for encouraging and enforcing their compliance with this part of their instructions.

14. Upon occasion of some late differences with the owners of our shipping, with respect to demorage, it is necessary to make it a standing rule, and you are to observe it as such accordingly, that you carefully take notice whether the commanders of our Europe ships loiter or mispend their time, and

whether any defects in their ships or the negligence and inability of the commander, officers and ship's company retard their voyages, and particularly if they do not proceed on their voyages to Great Britain immediately upon your giving them their final dispatches; in any of the said instances you are to make regular protests against them, that we may avail ourselves in procuring thereby ample satisfaction either from the owners of such ships, the commanders or both.

15. If on the beforementioned or any other occasion you shall come to a resolution to protest against the commanders of any of the Company's ships, such protest must be delivered the same day, or at furthest the day after such resolution is come to, taking notice of the delivery of the same upon your Consultations.

16. Being frequently at a loss in adjusting accounts with the owners of our shipping for want of proper accounts papers and vouchers, you are therefore to observe it as a standing rule in future, that an account current be stated between the Company and the owners of every Europe ship, in which you are to charge all money and stores supplied (mentioning the times when), also all goods damaged and wanting, and you are to credit the said account for every sum of money paid by the commander on the account of his owners, and you are in general to debt (*sic*) or credit the said accounts for every other money transaction which may pass between the Company and the respective commanders on the owners' behalf, and we further direct that three accounts of the same tenour and date be drawn out for each ship and signed by your Accountant, two of which are to be transmitted to us by the first conveyances (of which the ship concerned is to be one) and the other is to be delivered to the commander.

17. Upon settling accounts with the owners of the Oxford, among other items, the deficiency in the Madeira wine by that ship came before us, and it appeared upon your Consultations of the 16th of October 1752, that the Cooper reported one pipe to be empty, the other one hundred and forty-nine pipes in indifferent good order, and that it would take about twelve pipes to fill the leakage, notwithstanding which Capt. Stevens has produced the bill of loading for the same endorsed by the Import Warehousekeeper "Received the contents." This has prevented our

recovering any part of the deficiency from the owners; for the future therefore in all similar cases you must charge the ship with all deficiencies, or give your reasons for not doing it.

18. The Secret Committee has given and will give the necessary instructions to the President for the security of our shipping in the present situation of affairs, and you are jointly or separately to give him your best advice and assistance whenever he shall apply for the same, the better to enable him to take such measures as will be most conducive to their safety.

19. We very much approve of the method you have taken to prevent the clandestine importation of woollen and other goods, by ordering all sloops and boats which come from Europe ships to land their goods at the Crane Gauts[1] near the factory stairs, which, with the other precautions mentioned in your letter of the 9th of September 1754, appear to be so well calculated for the purpose that we direct them to be carefully continued every season in future.

20. It is highly probable that the copper mentioned in your letter of the 7th December 1754 was clandestinely carried from hence in one of the Europe ships, but although the presumption was strong, we do not think you had evidence sufficient, under the circumstances of its being in the possession of Capt. Coatsworth, a commander of a country ship, of his insisting upon its being his property, and that he bought it upon the Mallabar coast, but at the same time he ought to have given the desired satisfaction of an affidavit, or some proofs of whom he bought it, and we desire you will let him know that if he ever is found to act in such a dis-ingenuous manner for the future, you are to withdraw our protection from and send him forthwith to England. Upon the whole we approve of your proceedings in this case, and recommend the like vigilance and care in future.

21. With regard to the explicit directions you desire for knowing when you have a right to seize, we can only say that whatever goods are brought out in or landed from any of our ships which are not licensed by us, or by our orders, may be lawfully seized and confiscated, wherever they are found, but the manner of getting at a satisfactory and legal evidence to

fix it upon the person or persons who have been guilty of bringing out such unlicensed goods must depend upon a strict, discreet and impartial enquiry.

22. Your stating the facts relating to some bales of woollen goods transhipped at Bombay from the Winchelsea on the Montfort, on which there appeared a damage, (and as there were some difficultys in the case) the referring it to us to reimburse ourselves from the owners of whichever ship we may think liable to the damage was so far right, but you have thrown a further difficulty in the way by running into the like inadvertency which, you yourselves mention, the President and Council of Bombay did with respect to the Winchelsea, that is by your delivering up to Capt. Vincent [the] Montfort's bill of loading with a receipt on the back of it in the following words, *Received the Contents, Calcutta the 6th December 1754, Richard Beecher, Import Warehousekeeper.* Thus you see both ships' bills of loading have full discharges thereon, which may possibly prevent our getting satisfaction from the owners of either. The proper way would have been to have further mentioned on the said bill of lading, that the damaged bales to which Captain Vincent excepted were referred to be adjusted between us and his owners.

23. You inform us in your letter of the 7th December 1754, that you had agreeable to our orders scrutinized into your marine, and after mentioning that you could not dispense with fewer sloops and budgerows, you add that you had extracts of the marine's expences laid before you *and do not see where you can lessen any one charge.* But upon turning to your Consultations we cannot find any minutes of such scrutiny, or any proceedings thereon, further than ordering on the 22th of August, abstracts of the expences be prepared and laid before you, which was accordingly done on the 11th of November following, but neither then or at any time afterwards does it appear that any one observation was made thereon or any further enquiry directed. We expect very good reasons (if any can be given) for the little attention you have shewn in this instance to our possitive commands, and in the mean time we insist upon your taking up in the most serious manner the enquiry with regard to the marine as directed in the year 1754 and sending to us in the most explicit manner the result of it, in order to which you

must appoint a committee to make the necessary examinations and enquiries all which they are to report to the Board, the better to enable you to give us the satisfaction we desire, in failure whereof you may be assured of our highest displeasure.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another.*

24. We have sent to Fort St. George this season by the ships Delawar, Marlborough, Caernarvon, Stormont, Suffolk, and Godolphin to the amount of two hundred and sixty three thousand five hundred and sixty eight pounds sixteen shillings in treasure, and although it is consigned to that Presidency, a part of it is intended for Bengal, and we have accordingly in the most pressing manner directed the President and Council to forward to you by all safe conveyances as large a proportion as they can possibly spare.

25. The treasure now consigned to you in the ships Chesterfield and walpole amounts to the sum of forty thousand eight hundred and ninety six pounds sixteen shillings and as those ships are first to call at Fort St. George the President and Council are as usual empowered to retain what they may really want for the service of that Presidency, as likewise to follow any instructions they may have received from you with regard to the coining such part of it as you shall think most for the Company's interest.

26. We have likewise consigned to the President and Council of Fort St. George on the Chesterfield and Walpole to the amount of forty seven thousand four hundred pounds in gold with directions to forward to you the full value thereof in silver if they can possibly spare so much.

27. For the particulars of the further consignments to you on these ships the Chesterfield and Walpole and in [what] manner they agree with your indents, we refer you to the invoices and bills of lading.

28. The President and Council of Bombay will have the customary directions to make you as large and early remittances as they can; their punctuallity hitherto leaves no room to doubt of your having a plentiful supply through that channel.

29. Our correspondents at Madeira are desired to consign to you on the Marlborough one hundred and fifty pipes of wine, the invoice for which you will receive by that ship, and the letter we have writ to you by her will inform you of all further particulars relative to that consignment.

30. We sent by the ships Caernarvon and Suffolk bound to Fort St. George one hundred and fifty tons of copper, which being intended for sale in Bengal, the President and Council are directed to forward it to you accordingly by the first safe conveyances.

31. We now consign to you on the Chesterfield and Walpole the further quantity of one hundred and fifty tons of copper, which with what is mentioned in the preceding paragraph makes the whole you will receive this season three hundred tons.

32. As you have altered your opinions with regard to Barbary copper, we have sent none of that sortment, but have substituted instead thereof a quantity of battered plate copper as particularized in the invoices.

33. Having purchased the copper of several persons a distinguishing mark is put upon every parcel and inserted in the invoices that we may know which turns out better. You must therefore cause the several sorts to be put upon distinctly that we may be informed whose sortments are most to be preferred that we may regulate our future purchases accordingly.

34. It is material for us to be informed of the particular sortments of copper remaining in your warehouse from time to time, as likewise by what ships they were imported, which must be therefore carefully distinguished for the future in your accounts of remains.

35. Although we would always have the utmost care taken to prevent the buyers at your publick sales being distressed by any unreasonable proceedings, yet we think you have acted very justly and properly in obliging them to clear the several lots of copper purchased at the sales of 1753, as their objections to its not answering the samples were demonstratively proved to be grounded (*sic*).

36. In consequence of your representations to us this season we send you no more than two hundred bales and a few cases of cloth, and seven bales of long ells. We flatter ourselves this small export will enable you to dispose as well of these as all the remains in your hands, especially as we gave you liberty last season to dispense with our former orders for putting the old goods up with fifteen per cent advance, provided you did not put them up to sale under the invoice price, but it is our intention that the woollen goods now sent out, which are better and cheaper bought than for some years past, should be put up upon the terms formerly prescribed.

37. It is of consequence to us to have early informations of the remains of every articles of woollen goods and their value; you must therefore without fail send such an account as well as your indent for the same by the first ship you dispatch in the season, and by every other conveyance that happens after.

38. Observing by your account of remains a great number of anchors in your stores, you must send to Bombay all that can be spared, they being much wanted on that side of India.

39. In your indents for stores you must carefully distinguish what are intended for use and what for sale and you must with equal exactness distinguish the sorts of the several kinds of goods and stores remaining in your accounts of remains annually transmitted to us, in both which particulars you have been defective this season.

40. The makers of the velvets now consigned to you have put their names on each parcel; you must therefore take due notice thereof, and give us the necessary informations which of them are best liked.

*Thirdly, of investments.*

41. We would have you take every opportunity of laying in a stock of saltpetre agreeable to our former recommendations whenever you can purchase it upon reasonable terms. We should have been glad to have received, by the several ships to be dispatched from our different settlements in the year 1756, even to the amount of two thousand tons in the whole, but as that is not now to be expected, considering what has been

said under the first head with regard to the small number of ships to be provided for, you are to load as large a quantity upon every ship as she can take in, without interfering with your loading all your investment of piecegoods, or at least the greater and most valuable part thereof. You must take care to supply our Presidency of Fort St. George with sufficient quantities for the same purpose for such ships as are to have their final dispatches from thence. Bombay Presidency must likewise be supplied by every good conveyance with such a proportion of saltpetre as may in like manner be brought home in the ships from that side of India.

42. Should you not be able for want of tonnage to send home the whole of your investment, you must take care to ship all the finest and most valuable part thereof, and what you may be under the necessity of retaining must consist of the ordinary gurrahs and other coarse goods, taking care however to have a sufficient quantity of coarse goods for flooring as likewise that the sortment of the cargo of each ship may be general.

43. Having been under the necessity of postponing the sale of our Bengal goods for the reasons mentioned in our letter of the 19th of December, we could not form a list of investment to be then forwarded to you, but as we sent you some general though short remarks, we hope they will reach you time enough to instruct you in some measure to judge in what manner you are to extend or restrain the several articles to be provided. We now transmit to you a complete list of investment, which as it fully contains our directions for the quantities and qualities of the several species of goods to be provided, and such necessary observations as have occurred to us upon this interesting branch of our commerce in general, you are to look upon them as the most material part of our advices and give all due attention and obedience to them accordingly.

44. It is with great satisfaction we observe the success your new method of providing the investment by gomastahs at the aurungs has met with, as it is a plan that hitherto seems to be the best calculated to answer every desirable purpose, not only with respect to the quality and price, but likewise the quantity of the goods to be provided. The two first we have in a considerable degree already experienced; as to the latter we think when the method is fully established you cannot fail

of providing any quantity of goods you may want. The bringing therefore this scheme to its desired perfection must be left to your prudent management, and if the same attention and care is kept up as we must do you the justice to acknowledge has been hitherto shewn, we can have no reason to doubt of success.

45. The punishing such of the gomastahs who had defrauded the Company was a right and a proper measure, as was likewise the rewarding others who had behaved particularly well in their respective stations, and cannot but be attended with good consequences. We recommend both the one and the other method to be continued occasionally in the most impartial manner, according to the best of your judgment.

46. The encouraging a number of weavers to reside under our protection, within the bounds of Calcutta, has been already warmly recommended to you as a most useful expedient. It is an object you must never lose sight of, as we are satisfyed, if carefully and rightly attended to, it will greatly relieve you from the difficulties and embarrassments which continually arise at the subordinates, by giving you an opportunity of having many if not most of the goods usually brought from thence made under your immediate inspection.

47. Although the parcel of ready money goods mentioned in your letter of the 1st of March to be purchased of the merchants may not be quite so cheap or good in quality as those provided at the aurungs, yet it was a very right measure as we hope it will prove an encouragement for larger quantities to be offered to you in the like manner and which we recommend to be [also] accepted if you are satisfied with the goodness of the fabrick and that the prices are reasonable.

48. We are well assured that notwithstanding the great advances made to the dadney merchants they seldom sent to the aurungs about one third in ready money, the remaining two thirds consisting of merchandize on sale of which depended the completing their contracts. If this was the case, it was a gross imposition, and the genuine consequences must be as we too frequently found them, disappointments in quantity, the enhancement of prices and great debasement in quality, over and above the desperate debts incurred by this method, the bare

mention of which we think sufficient to prevent your recurring again to a practice so highly prejudicial.

49. When we pointed out a method in our letter of the 23rd of January 1754, for assorting the goods in the export warehouse, we had great reason to complain of the too general inequality of the pieces packed in one and the same bale, without the distinction which is now very properly made, but we are sensible that till the new method of purchasing goods at the aurungs is better established, and the quantities encreased, it is not in your power to avoid making up your bales of differing qualities, though of the same species. As our sole view in giving those directions was to have the pieces packed in each bale of the same quality and price or as nearly so as possible, we shall not tye you down to any particular method, provided in general you answer our said intention, but leave it to you to proceed in such a manner as you shall judge will best conduce thereto.

50. In consideration of Mr. Manningham's service in his station of Export Warehousekeeper, we last year gave directions for your paying him four thousand Current Rupees a year, to commence from the time you received our orders for appointing him Export Warehousekeeper. Being likewise well satisfied of the ability and application of Mr. Frankland, Assistant Export Warehousekeeper, and depending upon a continuance of his best services, we have thought proper in like manner to encourage him. You are therefore hereby directed to pay Mr. Frankland the sum of two thousand Current Rupees a year, over and above his salary and appointments as one of the Council, which is to commence from the same time as Mr. Manningham's as beforementioned, and is to continue so long as he remains in that post, but the said allowance to be paid on this express condition that it is to be in lieu of all fees, rewards or perquisites whatsoever as Assistant Export Warehousekeeper, but as we observe Mr. Frankland has an annual allowance of five hundred rupees as Assistant Export Warehousekeeper, the same is to cease upon his receiving the beforementioned allowance of two thousand rupees, and consequently a deduction must be made for what he has received from the time the last mentioned allowance commences.

51. You are not to make the said allowance of two thousand Current Rupees to any person whatsoever who shall succeed

Mr. Frankland in the post of Deputy Export Warehousekeeper without our express leave, as we shall not continue it but to persons who give as good proofs of their behaviour in it as Mr. Frankland.

52. For the particulars of our remarks with respect to the investments at the several subordinate settlements we refer to our letter of the 19th of December, and the now accompanying list, but we must in general add that the debasement in the quality and the dearness both of the raw silk and piecegoods provided at Cossimbuzar, the continual embarrassments in which our servants are involved with the merchants, together with the frequent disappointments you meet with in receiving the investment from thence in time, want a particular explanation. We shall therefore depend upon receiving a satisfactory account of the proceedings of the Supravising Committee we last year gave directions to be appointed and in the course thereof we hope to find such regulations made there, as likewise at the other settlements, Dacca in particular, as will put the provision of the several investments upon a better footing in future.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India, transactions with the country Government and European nations &ca.*

53. As you have given your opinion that Luckipore is a proper and more convenient place than Jugdea for the residence of our servants in respect to the provision of an investment and forwarding the same to Calcutta at all times of the year, and that in consequence thereof you had permitted Messrs. Baillie and Playdell to compleat the works and remove thither as soon as possible, we shall depend upon your care and vigilance to make the advantages resulting from that settlement answer the expectations you have given us of them, the principal of which, in our opinion, seems to be what you mention, that the investment may be provided there without the intervention of the delolls, and by that means buying the cloth at their real prices from the weavers. As this is a scheme of Mr. Baillie's, which seems entirely to have taken its rise from his disputes with the delolls at Jugdea, and as he has made the charge of the removal to Luckapoor much larger than you expected, it is highly necessary you should keep the most watchful eye upon the conduct of such of our servants as shall be employed there from time to time, as well to prevent their running us into unnecessary difficulties and expences, as to carry the said

scheme into an effectual execution, taking particular care that you do not lose the providing the limboo cloth by the removal of the factory.

54. The threats of the Nabob of Chuttack[2] to give the Company trouble on a disputed account between Mr. Kelsall and a Bramin not being yet brought to an issue, we can only observe how ready these people are to embarrass the Company upon every triffling occasion, and that it requires your constant attention to prevent as much as lays in your power, all occasion for complaints, as well as to obviate the extortions which are the general result of them. This being an affair of a private nature, it appears to us at present that Mr. Kelsall ought to be answerable for the consequences.

55. The relation you give of the behavior of the merchants at Cossimbuzar with regard to the sorting of their silk and their intending to make complaints to the Durbar on that account, seems to be extremely insolent as well as absurd, and evidently shews the expedience of some regulations in providing the investment at that place, by which the interventions of the merchants should be as little necessary as possible.

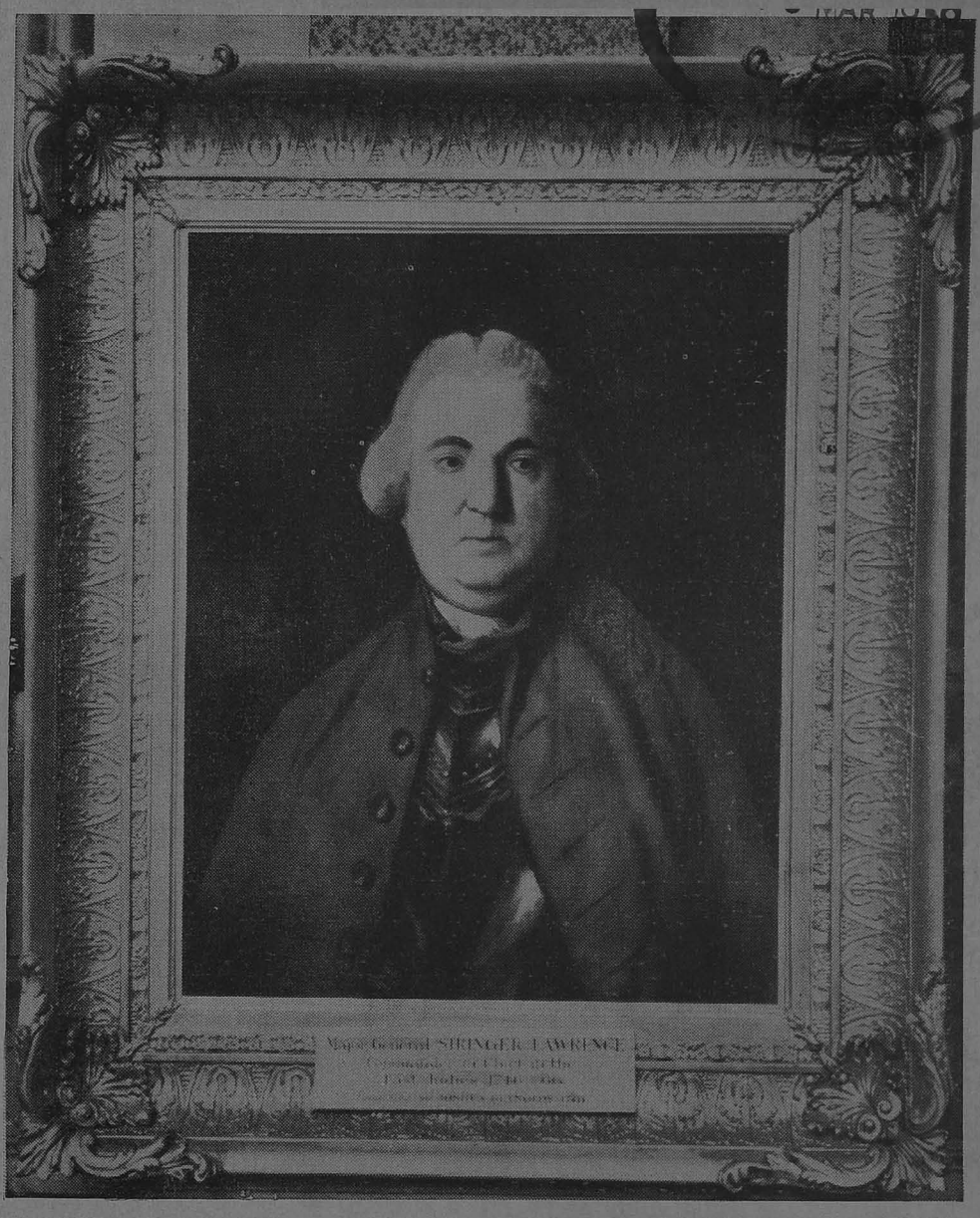
56. You must never submit to Hookumbeg's exaction on account of the sugar purchases, if it is possible to avoid it, and whenever you are under a necessity of paying it, we shall depend upon your assurances to recover from time to time of the private purchasers of sugar, the amount of such exactions.

57. Upon occasion of a late revolution at Dacca[3] we observe you were of opinion, under the then situation of affairs the payment of three thousand rupees by our servants there could not be avoided, without incurring the resentment of the Nabob, and that therefore you had approved their conduct, but at the same time your caution to them was very right to forbid their paying any large sums to the Durbar without your permission first obtained, a caution so obviously necessary that we make no doubt you will extend it to every other settlement.

58. We observe you have, in consequence of our recommendations for keeping upon good terms with the Government, made a present of a horse and some wax work to the Nabob amounting to two thousand three hundred Current Rupees, and to the Phousdar of Hughley and his Duan about seven thousand

rupees. As we are sensible a well timed present may obviate many embarrassment, we hope these were such, and you may be assured whenever they appear reasonable and necessary for the purpose of preserving harmony with the country Government, we shall always approve of them.

59. As the present situation of affairs requires more than ordinary vigilance to preserve and protect our estate, rights and privileges in Bengal, and as the various dangers to which they are at this time more particularly exposed, may be best foreseen and obviated by persons on the spot, we have thought proper to appoint, and do accordingly hereby constitute and appoint Roger Drake Esqr. or the President of Fort William for the time being, Lieutenant Colonel Stringer Lawrence[4] when in Bengal, Mr. William Watts or the second in Council for the time being, Mr. Charles Manningham and Mr. Richard Beecher to a Select Committee to transact affairs with the country Government and neighbouring powers, also with ye French, Dutch and other Europeans, and in general to take such measures as shall best conduce to the protection and preservation of the Company's estate, rights and privileges in Bengal, but they are not to disburse any of the Company's treasure or cash without the concurrence of the majority of the Council at a Board duly summoned; this Committee are to follow all such orders and instructions as shall from time to time be sent them by our Secret Committee, and they are to correspond and act in concert with our Select Committees of Fort St. George and Bombay, whenever the mutual interest of our settlements in general or any one in particular shall be concerned; they are likewise to concert all necessary measures with the commanders of His Majesty's sea and land forces whenever they are in Bengal; this Committee are to enter all their proceedings, resolutions and correspondence in books to be kept for that purpose only, and transmit them to us by every opportunity, and for the better carrying on the business of this Committee, Mr. Cooke or the Secretary of the settlement for the time being is to be their secretary, or if he is too much engaged in the Company's other affairs, then such other well qualified person as the said Committee shall think proper; in case of the death of any of the beforementioned persons, the Committee are to fill up the vacancy or vacancies with such person or persons as they shall



Stringer Lawrence

find best qualified for the purpose. We most earnestly recommend and enjoin the most inviolable secrecy to be observed in all transactions of this Committee as far as the nature and circumstances of the several affairs before them will admit of.

60. That we might give you the necessary information with regard to the situation of affairs between the British and French nations as near the time of dispatching these ships as possible, we do it by way of supplement to this letter; all further informations and directions will be communicated by the Secret Committee to your beforementioned Select Committee.

61. It is necessary you should be acquainted of what gentlemen our Select Committees at the other Presidencies are composed; that of Fort St. George consists of the President and second for the time being, Colonel Lawrence, Messrs. Powney, Orme, Wynch and Perceval. That at Bombay the President and second for the time being, Sir James Foulis, Mr. Brabazon Ellis and Captain Samuel Hough.

*Fifthly, concerning fortifications. buildings and revenues.*

62. The death of Colonel Scott is a very unfortunate incident, as it has deprived us of a very able engineer, and the more so as we are at a loss to find a person of sufficient abilities to succeed him and to carry on the works entrusted to his care. We are under the necessity therefore of revoking the orders we gave in the 32nd paragraph of our letter of the 29th of November 1754, with regard to Colonel Scott's plan for fortifying Fort William as contained in his letter to us of the 6th of January 1754, and to direct that you do not proceed in the execution of that plan, or carry on any other expencive works until you receive our further directions. We do not mean however to hinder you from putting the place in such a proper posture of defence as may be necessary in the present situation of affairs. We would also have Colonel Scott's project dated the 11th of February 1754 for rendering the settlement defensible against attacks of any country enemy compleated, if it is not already so, under the direction of Lieutenant William Wells to whom the necessary instructions we find were communicated by Colonel Scott by a letter dated 21st of March 1754.

63. The rules and orders which have been laid down by us for carrying on the works under the direction of Colonel Scott

must be observed in the carrying on the beforementioned works under Lieutenant Wells as far as the difference of circumstances will admit of.

64. We are informed all books, papers and plans belonging to the late Colonel Scott were delivered to his executors, but as many of them must entirely relate to the Company's affairs you must apply to the executors for them and, if any are necessary for our information or inspection, must keep the originals, and transmit copies thereof to us.

65. We observe you have made a purchase of the Seats of a compound and some godowns for the sum of four thousand nine hundred Current Rupees, which as you represent to be very commodious for warehouses and magazines, we must presume to be a necessary and good bargain. It appears also you were in treaty to rent a spot of ground called Similia[5] for the sum of two thousand two hundred and eighty one Current Rupees, and as, for the reasons you give, it seems to be necessary and advantageous to the settlement we shall leave it to you to compleat the bargain if it is not already done.

66. As our servants at Cossimbuzar have estimated the expence of repairing the factory at so high a sum as thirty thousand Dusmas Rupees, you did well in determining to send Mr. Wells to that factory to survey the condition of it, and as we must submit to the expence of necessary repairs, we shall expect to be informed that these have been, agreeable to your assurances, effected upon the most reasonable terms possible.

67. The brother of the late Colonel Scott having represented to us that Colonel Scott had, for the improvement of the bad quality of the gun powder at Fort William, bought a house and ground called Perrin's Gardens which, with his necessary expences thereupon, amounted in the whole to about nine or ten thousand rupees, and desiring that the same might be purchased by the Company, to whom it might be beneficial, as well as be some relief to the family of the deceased, we are so far willing to comply with the same request that, if the house and ground with the improvements can be made useful to us, and can be bought upon reasonable terms and not otherways, we do empower you to purchase the same of Colonel Scott's executors.

68. It is very surprizing that there should be such great and, we are satisfied, just complaints of the bad quality of the gun powder made at Calcutta, where every ingredient in the composition is to be had in plenty and perfection. Whether you contract with any person or persons to deliver it to you at certain prices, or have it made for the Company under the inspection of proper supravisors, we shall leave to your determination, but we must at the same time earnestly recommend it to you to cause the utmost care to be taken in either case, that the strictest justice is done us in the quality as well as price.

69. We have been informed that the apartments set apart for the lodgings of our writers are from the nature of their situation very damp, and consequently greatly prejudicial to their healths. You are therefore to allot some other places for that use, or if necessary erect such new apartments in the most frugal manner as may best answer the purpose, having a particular regard that they be as near the respective offices for business as possible.

70. Upon your suspicion of the Armenians who reside at Calcutta endeavouring to evade paying consulage upon their own goods, under the pretence of their belonging to persons up the country for whom they only act as agents, we find you had given directions to come at the truth, by administring an oath on the occasion. We approve of the method, and as we see no reason to alter our opinion with regard to collecting the consulage upon all goods belonging to Armenians who reside at Calcutta under our protection, we shall depend upon your continuing all such prudent measures as will prevent your being imposed upon in this branch of our revenues.

71. Having very fully given our sentiments upon the Zemindary affairs in the letters of last season, directed you to examine into the state thereof, and point out such alterations and regulations as may be necessary to be made in the present plan, we have now only some observations to make on the several paragraphs in your general letter of the 1st of March last relating to the gunge.

72. Had the real distress and misery of the inhabitants of Calcutta been the sole motive to the taking the gunge into the hands of the Company, it seems pretty extraordinary that it

was not attempted in the year 1752, when rice appears to have been near double the price at which it sold from October 1753 to October 1754, and when that farm was lett for near double the sum which had arisen therefrom from the fifteen preceding years. As we have never received from you any satisfactory information why that farm was lett for so small a sum during that period of fifteen years, we should be glad and do desire to have the best reasons that can be assigned for that disproportion of rent.

73. It cannot for many reasons be supposed that the gentlemen who purchased that farm for the year 1752 would have given more than the value of it, for which the Company had that year a credit for rupees twenty five thousand and thirty six, instead of twenty two thousand seven hundred and sixty, as mentioned in the general letter per ship Egmont, in which it must be supposed the dussutary[6] was inadvertently omitted, and there are reasons sufficient to believe that, had the gunge been lett the following year in the same manner, a larger sum would have been produced therefrom.

74. The apparent causes of the distress complained of seem to be the general calamity of a scarcity of grain, which is said to have been felt in a greater degree by the French and Dutch, if not other people of the province, which must have been still heightened by the exportation, whether at an advanced or reduced duty thereupon. If the measure was right to ease the inhabitants by the reduction of the duty on importation, that of reducing just at the same time the duty on the exportation seems absolutely contradictory, inconsistent, and not to be accounted for, but on a presumption that private views in that respect influenced much more strongly than publick ones, and that, notwithstanding the miseries and distresses so much enlarged upon, there were profitable markets to be found, at which private merchants might sell rice at higher prices than at Bengal.

75. Had you been able to have assigned any other causes for these repeated complaints, your duty required it, nor could your doing it have been looked upon as a presumption, and although we can never wish to see the revenues of the Company raised or extended by the oppression and distress of the inhabitants, we shall always wish to see innovations in regard to the methods of collecting the Company's revenues undertaken with

very mature deliberation, and supported by reasons, and on motives seemingly less contradictory and partial, as nothing can be more clear than that encouraging the export, which must be the result of lowering the duty thereof, must greatly tend to the encrease of those distresses which the general plan is said to be solely calculated for the alleviating of. Happy will it be (though the quantity of rice exported last year should fall short of many former) if that quantity so forced off by the reduction of the duty is not felt hereafter. Had the miseries and distresses of the people been so great as represented, or beyond what had been experienced in former times, it should seem that the reduction of the import duty should have been followed with a total prohibition of the exportation, as the most effectual and consistent means for attaining the desired end of relieving them.

76. In our letter of the 23rd January 1754 we directed you to state an account of the profits Govindram Metre had made on all and every farm which you could trace back, and found to have been purchased by him in a fraudulent manner and after making all just and reasonable allowances to oblige him to refund the overplus with interest. In the course of your enquiry into this affair, we find that Metre delivered in on oath an account of the profits he had accumulated on the farms in question, and you say in your Consultations of the 30th January 1755: "A statement was made of the profits he had made on the several farms he had held amounting to four thousand seven hundred and eighty five Current Rupees, eleven annaes and three pice, and the Company having directed that Metre should repay the profits on all and every farm by him held in a fraudulent manner with interest, upon which the opinion of the Board was required whether Metre ought to be accountable for the said sum with interest or no." After you had severally given your opinion, the whole is summed up in these words: "The majority are of opinion that Metre is accountable for the profits he has made on the farms by him held, that he should pay the sum of four thousand seven hundred and eighty five Currant Rupees, with interest thereon from October 1752." But in your letter of the 3rd February 1755, after giving a summary account of your proceedings herein, you say, "The majority of the Board take the liberty to acquaint Your Honours that they do not find, by what has hitherto ap-

peared before us, Metre farmed the buzars (he has given in an account of, and sworn to) in a clandestine or fraudulent manner." Your determination at the Board, and your opinion in your said letter seem to be so very different one from the other that we cannot reconcile them, and therefore can only say that we expect your punctual compliance for carrying into execution the orders we have already given you in respect to this affair. And if it appears to you Metre fraudulently obtained the farms in question, you must recover the said sum of four thousand seven hundred and eighty five Currant Rupees with interest; if you are convinced he did not, you must acquit him of the same, but give us your reasons very explicitly and separately for the difference between the opinion you were of in your Consultation of the 30th of January, and that in your general letter of the 3rd of February, it not appearing upon your Consultation held the day the letter bears date, that the said affair was then reconsidered, or that your said letter was read or signed.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military servants and accounts.*

77. We have chosen the following named persons to serve the Company as writers at our Presidency of Fort William, who are to be stationed in the manner they are named, viz., Thomas French, Charles Rogers, John Smith, Edward Leycester, William Smith, Edward Okes, William Shewen, George Williamson and Philip Dacres.

78. Mr. French took his passage on the Delawar, and as he has served the Company several years at St. Helena very faithfully and capably, we make no doubt of his proving a useful servant. The other young gentlemen proceed on these ships, the Chesterfield and Walpole, and as we have taken care to be satisfied of their qualifications in writing and accounts, we think they likewise may with proper care be of good service.

79. Mr. Culling Smith having recovered his health, we have given him leave to return to Bengal as he had your permission to come to England, and as you represented he was a young gentleman very diligent in the Company's service and worthy of our favor. He is to take his rank upon the list of covenant servants in the same manner as if he had not been absent.

80. We have now thought proper to give Mr. William Lindsay, at present a writer, one year of his time and consequently upon your receipt of this letter, he is to take rank next after Mr. Culling Smith.

81. We send you as usual lists of the several persons who are licensed this season to proceed to the East Indies as free merchants in the seafaring way and otherways, which lists are signed by our Secretary.

82. All such writers as are come of age are to execute fresh covenants, and our covenant servants in general must give the usual security as they advance in station, agreeable to the usage of the Company and our repeated orders, particularly that of the 29th of March 1749. We accordingly enclose a list of the names of the several persons on whom you are to call for fresh covenants as well as others who are to name the securities required.

83. Having received a very satisfactory character of Major James Kilpatrick, at present employed in our forces on the coast of Choromandel, we have entertained him to serve the Company as Major of our garrison at our Presidency of Fort William and of all our forces employed at and under our said Presidency. He is to be third of Council and to remain so without rising to a superior rank therein; he is also to have the command and cloathing of one of the companys, agreeable to the 22nd paragraph of the military regulations dated the 17th June 1748, for all which stations his salary is to be two hundred and fifty pounds a year, with the usual appointments for diet, servants and pallankeen as third in Council, to commence on his arrival at Fort William, which salary and appointments are to be in lieu of all other allowances whatsoever for the said several stations of Major, third of Council, and captain of a company. Notwithstanding Major Kilpatrick is appointed third in Council he is not to be embarrassed with any other affairs than the care of the military. We have sent the major's commission by the Chesterfield with directions to the President and Council of Fort St. George to deliver it to him, and at the same time to press his taking the first opportunity of proceeding to Bengal. Upon his arrival he is to execute the covenants enclosed in the Chesterfield's packet to you, which are to be returned to us by the next conveyance, and you are to acquaint

him that he is to nominate two persons in England to give the usual security of four thousand pounds as one of our Council.

84. Notwithstanding we expressed ourselves in the same terms with regard to the late Col. Scott's appointments as we have now done in respect to Major Kilpatrick's, which we apprehended to be so plain that our meaning could not be mistaken, yet upon turning to the abstracts of the monthly muster rolls entered upon your Consultation book, we find that, over and above all the allowances you were directed to make him, you paid him an additional pay of fifteen shillings a day as major. We therefore expect by the next conveyance to be informed what were the reasons that induced you to deviate in this manner from our orders and the agreement we made with Colonel Scott, and we also expect that you take the utmost care that no further or greater allowances are made to Major Kilpatrick than those mentioned in the preceding paragraph, which are exactly the same as the majors at our other Presidencies enjoy.

85. As upon a further inspection we find by the muster rolls and the account of allowances received per Winchelsea that you have continued to Capt. Minchin, as Captain Commandant upon the decease of Colonel Scott, the salary of two hundred and fifty pounds a year and all the appointments of a counsellor although not of Council, also the fifteen shillings a day, as we have never given you any authority for such allowances, you must likewise assign your reasons for making them, and upon any further vacancy in the majority, you are to pay the provisional Commandant a[...] fifteen shillings a day, only as Commandant and captain of a company. And we possitively direct that immediately upon the receipt of this letter all the said allowances to Captain Minchin excepting fifteen shillings a day only do cease, and upon the arrival of Major Kilpatrick the said fifteen shillings a day is likewise to cease, in lieu whereof Captain Minchin is to receive no more than the established pay of ten shillings a day as captain of his company.

86. You will receive by the Chesterfield a commission under the seal of the Company, whereby the undernamed persons are constituted and appointed to preside over and manage all the Company's affairs at Fort William in Bengal, and all the several dependanc[ies] thereunto belonging viz.,

Roger Drake Esqr.—President and Governor.

William Watts Esqr.—Second of Council, and to succeed as President and Governor in case of the death or removal of Mr. Drake.

James Kilpatrick Esqr.—as Major and third of Council and to remain so without rising to a superior rank therein.

Mr. Charles Manningham.....Fourth in Council.

Mr. Richard Beecher.....Fifth

Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes.....Sixth

Mr. William Frankland.....Seventh

Mr. Matthew Collett.....Eighth

Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell.....Ninth

Mr. William Mackett.....Tenth

Mr. Edward Eyre .....Eleventh

Mr. Nicholas Clerembault.....Twelfth

87. As vacancies happen in the said Council, they are to be filled up by the next persons in standing, unless their behaviour or circumstances may render them unfit for such important stations, but as we have been informed that Mr. Thomas Bellamy has not a capacity to render him of any service to the Company at the Council Board, if this appears to you to be the case, it is necessary he should be superseded, and we direct that Mr. William Baillie be not admitted to have a seat in Council without our particular orders.

88. For the reason given in your letter of the 7th of December 1754, we acquiesce to your giving up to your Secretary the pass money usually received on the Company's account amounting as you inform us to two hundred and fifty rupees per annum in a medium.

89. We are pleased to find Mr. Macguire has, since the rash action we complained of, behaved much to your satisfaction. Let him be informed that our entirely burying the remembrance it will depend upon the continuance of his good behaviour.

90. The insolent and refractory behaviour of Walpole Eyre, one of your writers, justly drew on him a suspension as a

measure highly necessary to preserve the respect due to the Board, but as you inform us he has made his submission and acknowledged his rashness and represent him to be capable and well qualified, we do not disapprove of your restoring him to our service, in hopes that his future behaviour will deserve this mark of our lenity.

91. In your letter of the 7th December 1754, you say you shall take care that all our junior servants be kept strictly employed, for which end you had ordered the heads [of] the several offices to insist on their attending their business from nine to twelve in the forenoon and in the afternoon and evening when occasion requires. This regulation to enjoin an attendance (short as it is) implies how remiss our junior servants had been in this particular, and indeed the copying part of almost every book and paper received from some time past strongly evince us of the truth of it; they are done in such a hurry that in general they are unfit to be seen, and many are scarcely legible. It will be as well for the advantage of the young people themselves as the Company, they be kept regularly, constantly and strictly to business, which we therefore most earnestly recommend and possitively enjoin to your care and attention to effect, and if any of our junior servants neglect or refuse to do the business allotted them, you are without regard to persons to suspend them from our service, and not restore them without a satisfactory amendment, and we insist upon it that all the junior servants do give their attendance in their respective publick offices or stations six hours in a day at least, and as much longer as shall be necessary. We very well know that the writers with pallankeens has not a little contributed to the neglect of business we complain of, by affording them opportunities of rambling when they ought to be otherways employed, as well as putting the greater part to an expence they are not in circumstances to support, and therefore since you have in a considerable degree dispensed with our orders on this head, we shall expect it from you that this indulgence be so strictly attended to that we may have no reason to complain of the abuse of it.

92. An original letter from the Chief and others at Patna, and a leaf torn out of the original dairy of Mr. Surman's embassy[7] to the Great Mogul, were picked up in a publick

necessary house which the writers make use of, and are now in our hands, where we are informed many fragments of papers of great importance have likewise been seen. We cannot avoid taking this notice, that you may prevent such idle mischief in future.

93. You have omitted to send your Consultations from the 3rd of February 1755 to the time of the dispatch of the Egmont on the 1st of March following, and in the book we have received, many papers said to be entered after Consultation are omitted. We take this notice that more care may be taken as well that we may receive your Consultations regularly brought up to the time of the departure of every ship, as that copies of all papers of consequence are entered therein.

94. We have been assured that the general letters are often carried to be signed by the members of the Council at their several houses, which, if true, is very irregular and must be discontinued, and for the future no general letter to us must be signed but at a Council to be held for the purpose.

95. The Company's Resident at Bussorah having complained to us as well as the Presidency of Bombay of the ill conduct of Mr. Baldrick, a Supracargo of one of your country ships, who used our said Resident with great insolence and might, by his folly and rash behaviour, have subjected the Company and private traders to a duty of seven per cent to that government, of all which the Governor and Council of Bombay having apprised you by their letter dated on or about the 1st of February last, we shall expect a full and exact enquiry has been made into this affair upon Baldrick's return to Bengal, and that if he has been guilty of what he is charged with, that he be sent to England, for we are determined to support the just authority of our agents and not suffer it to be trampled on with impunity by any persons who reside in India under our protection, which is not the case of Mr. Baldrick.

96. Your general books ending April one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four are sent home without an alphabet, the journal in various places has no totals, the leger wants many references to the journal, and in many other instances they are faulty and defective, and the leger in particular is copied in a very bad hand. We hope the bare mention of these faults

will be sufficient to prevent our having again the like causes for complaint.

97. In page two hundred and seventy of your journal, sundry stores are enumerated as remaining under the Storekeeper's care without distinguishing the Military from the General Storekeeper, which makes it very troublesome to compare the Storekeeper's account with the general books, as may be observed by the following instance viz.,

| | Said to remain by the general books | | | Said to remain by the Military Storekeeper's | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | A. | P. | Rs. | A. | P. |
| Artillery stores | 41712 | 12 | 9 | 20415 | 1 | 0 |
| Armoury stores | 22757 | 5 | 9 | 22736 | 5 | 9 |
| Petty stores | 8817 | 8 | 9 | 7133 | 2 | 3 |
| Iron ordnance | 30965 | 4 | 6 | 30965 | 4 | 6 |
| Stores for gun powder | 10001 | 4 | 6 | 10001 | 4 | 6 |
| Military stores | 521 | 4 | 0 | 521 | 4 | 0 |
| Gun powder | 16345 | 11 | 6 | 16345 | 11 | 6 |
| Grape shot | | | | 1684 | 6 | 6 |
| Mortars | | | | 1318 | 10 | 3 |
| Shells | | | | 3702 | 3 | 6 |
| Shott | | | | 14544 | 6 | 9 |
| Tents | | | | 1753 | 7 | 3 |
| Rs. | 131121 | 3 | 9 | Rs. 131121 | 3 | 9 |

It is true the totals agree with each other but the particulars differ widely. You must therefore in future cause to be distinguished in one view, what is under the care of the Military and in another what is under the care of the General Storekeeper that they may agree with each other.

98. You must in future send us annually the following particulars viz., the Master Attendant's account of dock head expences, in which the number of hands employed in each sloop are to be distinguished with the account of their wages. The Zemindar's monthly accounts and to explain the business of the several persons employed under him. Also the Military Paymaster's accounts, and the monthly muster rolls with an explanation of the stoppages charged therein, and how they

are adjusted. As these accounts are very necessary for our inspection, you must not fail to send them.

99. There is such an apparent irregularity in the manner of your carrying to account the money collected for consulage that we cannot avoid taking notice of it, that you may send us a proper explanation by the first opportunity. We observe then that by the several accounts entered after Consultation of the 4th July 1754, the following collections appear viz.,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| From 30th April 1753 to 31st July. The amount is | Rs. | 141 | 3 6 |
| 31st July....to 30th October . . . | „ | 1616 | 7 0 |
| 30th October....to 31st January 1754 . | „ | 7514 | 6 6 |
| 31st January 1754....to 30th April . . | „ | 4508 | 14 9 |
| | Rs. | 13780 | 15 9 |

The said collections are carried to account in your general books ending the 30th of April 1754, in the following manner viz.,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1754 April ... By Treasury Office . . . | | 2200 | 0 0 |
| By ditto . . . . | | 11580 | 15 9 |
| | Rs. | 13780 | 15 9 |

But by an account likewise entered after the said Consultation the Company is made Dr. as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1754 March 14. To cash paid into the treasury | | | | 2200 | 0 0 |
| May 6. To ..ditto..2160 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 13. To ..ditto..3391 | 3 | 0 | | | |
| June 12. To ..ditto..2381 | 10 | 9 | | | |
| 17. To ..ditto..1793 | 9 | 6 | | | |
| July 1. To ..ditto..1854 | 8 | 6 | | 11580 | 15 9 |
| | | | Rs. | 13780 | 15 9 |

By this it appears that the sum of rupees 11580/15/9 said to be paid into the treasury in April 1754 was not paid till the months of May, June and July following as mentioned above, which was after the said general books were closed, and consequently the collector must have the advantage of the moneys laying in his hands longer than it ought to have done.

100. Most of the bills of exchange received the last season are carelessly written, and many mistakes made both in the sums and names; which seem principally to arise from the little time the young people we are afraid bestow upon this as well as in most other branches of our business.

101. The General Court having taken into consideration the state of the Company's affairs, they came to a resolution to reduce the dividend upon the capital stock from eight to six per cent per annum and although the necessity of this reduction arises principally from the heavy expences incurred by the troubles upon the coast of Choromandel, yet the smallness of the profits upon the general balance of our Bengal trade has not a little contributed to this disagreeable measure. We cannot therefore too earnestly recommend it to you to be careful and frugal in the management and conducting of every channel of expence, *to improve the revenues of the Presidency to the utmost extent they will reasonably admit of, without oppression,* and to keep up that attention you have lately shown to the increase and improvement of the investment, that we may again be enabled to raise the dividend or at least satisfy the proprietors of this Company, that no care is wanting on our part in general, or yours in particular to effect it.

102. The present circumstances of the Company will not admit of any expense that can be possibly avoided, therefore no allowances are to be made by way of pensions to any persons whatsoever but such as are real objects of charity and want immediate assistance, and that we may have a collected view of what is paid at your Presidency on this account you must cause a list to be drawn out, and sent separately in the packets every year, of the names of such persons as have pensions or allowances in any shape whatsoever, as well civil as military, setting opposite to each person's name the monthly or annual allowance, together with the reasons for the same, as likewise his or her present circumstances, that we may upon the whole be enabled to give such orders as shall be reasonable, as well with regard to the Company as the pensioners. And you are to observe the orders we gave in our general letters of the 23rd January 1754, for sending to England at our expence the objects therein described.

103. Upon a very attentive consideration of your enquiry into the information of the Jugdea delolls against Messieurs Baillie and Playdell; we so highly disapprove of Mr. Baillie's conduct in general that we think him very unfit to preside in the management of affairs at Jugdea or Luckipoor. You are therefore immediately upon the receipt of this letter to call him down to Calcutta, where he is to remain until our further pleasure is known; but as Mr. Baillie has projected to make the investment at those places by providing goods at the aurungs in the manner it is now done at Calcutta, without the intervention of merchants or delolls, if therefore you find that scheme feasable (as we cannot help thinking you will), you must send thither some very capable person in the room of Mr. Baillie with instructions to use the utmost diligence and prudence to carry it into effectual execution.

104. The regulations made by you in consequence of the said enquiry, as mentioned in your letter of the 7th of December 1754, with regard to the manner of keeping the accounts at all the subordinate settlements are highly necessary, and we expect that you will take the utmost care that they are at all times punctually complied with.

105. It is very material that your annual lists of inhabitants transmitted to us should be exact and authentick, but we cannot help observing that they seem to be copied without any enquiry being made, from the preceding year's lists. As an instance of this, Miss Christiana Ross stands upon the list for the year 1754 when at the same time it could not but be publickly known that she was returned to Europe in a French ship.

106. We were advised in your general letter of the 28th September 1754 that Mr. Joseph Lowe one of our covenant servants died on the 24th May 1753 but it appears by your Consultations and the chaplain and surgeons' lists that he died on the 31st May. This difference has occasioned a contest with regard to an estate, and besides the trouble to his relations, it has not been a little to us in giving certificates and answering enquiries from the several parties concerned. To prevent such difficulties in future, you must be very exact in giving an account of the time of the decease of all persons, in which the letters, Consultations and lists must agree.

107. We have received no register of wills either this or the last season, to the great disappointment of many persons here. You must therefore call upon the Mayor's Court for those registers, and transmit them to us by the first conveyance, and you must demand from that Court annually the register of wills and forward it to us without fail the same season.

108. The recruits sent by these ships Chesterfield and Walpole, amounting to.....solely for your garrison, and as we are sensible how weak you are in Europeans, we have acquainted the President and Council of Fort St. George that we hope they will be so far from detaining any of them, that they will spare some of those on their establishment and forward them to you by the first conveyances, if circumstances can possibly admit of it.

109. As in the present situation of affairs it is absolutely necessary to have our military force as complete as possible you must take all prudent measures to engage as many good Europeans to enter as can be prevailed upon in Bengal, in some degree to make up for the disappointments you have hitherto met with, by the unavoidable stopping those at Fort St. George which have been yearly intended for your garrison.

110. That the officers who are at present in our service may have no reason to complain of being superseded, we shall not send out any this season above the degree of ensigns unless we shall find a real necessity to alter our present resolution.

111. George Nicholas de Lubbers and William Brown take their passage for Bengal on these ships, and are to have commissions given them as ensigns upon the first vacancies that happen after their arrival in the order they are named; their pay as ensigns is to commence from the day of their arrival; you must therefore take care that they are usefully employed until such vacancies happen.

112. We should be glad to know your reasons for not forming a militia as directed in our letter of the 16th January 1752; and as at this time in particular a regular militia may be of the greatest importance for the better defence of the settlement, you are without delay to cause a plan to be formed for the purpose, and you are to carry the same into execution as far as shall appear useful and practicable.

113. Having come to a resolution not to procure any more men from Switzerland for recruiting our four Swiss companies, but to unite them with our other troops, but although at present there are none in Bengal, yet it is necessary you should be informed of the directions we have sent to the President and Council of Fort St. George, that if Capt. Polier's company should return, or any others be sent to your assistance, that our said directions should be as effectually carried into execution in Bengal as at Fort St. George; for that purpose therefore we here recite them in the terms they were expressed in our general letter to that Presidency of the 19th of December last, and we likewise transmit to you attested copies of Sir Luke Schaub's letter therein referred to.

*Paragraphs* 91, 92, 93, 94, 95 *and* 147 *of the beforementioned general letter to the President and Council of Fort St. George.*

91. "As for avoiding of trouble and other inconveniencies we are come to a resolution, not to procure any more men from Switzerland for recruiting our four Swiss companys, but to unite these with our other troops, so as to leave no distinction between them; we recommend it to you and Colonel Lawrence to consider of such methods for carrying it into execution as will be most for the general service, and not disagreeable to the officers, for whom we have a great regard, and whose concurrence will be necessary during the term of their contracts."

92. "It is not however to be understood in the union or incorporation proposed, that draughts should be made out of the said Swiss companies against the inclination of the captains of each, but that they shall continue in the respective companies to which they belong, if it shall be most agreeable to the said captains; as to the dividing of the European recruits, the more equal it is, the less it should seem liable to objections, but that as well as the general method of recruiting them either with other Europeans or Topasses must be submitted to you."

93. "Our intention therefore is that the said four companies, officers as well as soldiers, be in all respects whatever put upon the same footing as the English, except only in regard to the number of each company, which is limited to one hundred and forty, and must continue on the same foot, agreeable to their capitulation during the term thereby limitted."

94. "Though it was expressly understood here that Captain Polier, being much the older officer, should take rank of the other three Swiss captains, when our commissions were given them the time of dating them seemed to be a matter of indifference since they were destined to different Presidencies, but as they now happen to be together upon the coast of Choromandel, and Capt. Polier insists with reasons on the rank promised to him, we, in order to remove the difficulties occasioned between him and Capt. Schaub, merely by the dates of their commissions, send herewith a new commission for Capt. Polier, which you are to deliver to him on his giving up the former, and if he should be returned to Bengal, you are to forward the same to him."

95. "It having been represented to us that the method of dieting His Majesty's troops in messes, and which is likewise followed by the Swiss, is of great advantage to the men, we can but recommend to you the ordering the same to be observed by all the military in our service."

147. "The several paragraphs of this letter from 91 to 95 both inclusive, relative to the Swiss troops in our service, having been communicated to Sir Luke Schaub, he has signified to us that he entirely agrees thereto, as he shall let the several commanders know and fully explain to them for their several concurrence in effectuating our intentions; an attested copy of Sir Luke's letter to our Secretary on this occasion accompanys this, in order for your making such use of it as may be necessary."

114. We have appointed Robert Boulton who takes his passage on the Walpole, to serve as a cadet in our forces at Bengal, and to be preferred to an ensigns' commission, if his behaviour shall merit it.

115. We having, in our separate letter of the 15th of March 1754, sent you instructions for summoning and holding of courts martial, and our President and Council at Fort St. George having represented unto us that the officers made a difficulty of acting at courts martial summoned in consequence of verbal orders only, we have advised upon it with the Deputy Secretary at War and with the Judge Advocate and they having given us their sentiments in writing, we send you a copy of it which is as follows:

"Regularly there must be an order in writing from the President and Council or Commander in Chief thereunto authorized for holding general courts martial which order should be produced to the court, for the power being originally delegated from the Crown by the sign manual and in the second instance transferred by the Court of Directions (*sic*) under the seal of the Company should be conveyed to the court martial by an act of like solemnity. A general order to the Judge Advocate to summon courts martial from time to time, describing the rank and rotation of the members and authorizing the courts so summoned to proceed to tryal of any offenders brought before them, might perhaps suffice and in that case the Judge Advocate might take verbal directions for the particular occasion of summoning them because he alone is answerable and the court would be obliged to proceed under the general order, but the usual practice and that which seems least liable to exceptions is for the Commander in Chief, duly authorized, to issue a warrant for that particular purpose as often as occasion requires a general court martial to be held, specifying the matters to be tried, in which is also inserted the name or description of the officer appointed to preside and this warrant may be directed either to the Judge Advocate or the President, possibly the former may be more adviseable as the Judge Advocate is charged with transmitting the proceedings to the person by whose warrant of authority the court is held and mention is to be made in the title or preamble of the proceedings to the effect following viz.,

"At a General Court Martial held at the day of 1755 by virtue of a warrant from (the President and Council of the settlement or the Commander in Chief as the case may be) bearing date the day of the same month" &ca.

*Supplement.*

116. Being sensible that iron and leaden weights by frequent use will lose considerably, we therefore now send you a sett of brass standard weights with proper scales and triangles, by which you are immediately to regulate the weights at your Presidency, and you are to carefully preserve the said standard weights for the same purpose at all times hereafter.

117. We now send you several remarks made by our Accountant upon the accounts of your Presidency, particularly the general books, to which you are to give the same attention as if they were inserted in the body of these our commands.

118. As we have a quantity of iron shott laying useless at Bombay, we hereby acquaint you that the same will be ordered from thence to you for kintlage for our sloops, being well assured that the ballast made use of for that purpose takes up a great deal of room, which prevents their taking in so much goods as they otherwise would do; therefore, we hereby direct that on receipt of the said shott, you do cause an equal proportion to be put on board each sloop, in order to answer our intended purpose; we further desire to have an account sent us of what useless iron, shott and guns you have lying by you, that our orders may be had as to the disposition thereof.

119. The method of collecting our customs at Calcutta has, for a long time, appeared to us very irregular, the extent of your limits on the river being large, and the merchant at liberty to ship off his goods from what part he pleases, must (admitting your utmost care and caution) be of great prejudice to this branch of our revenues. We therefore order that on receipt of this our letter you appropriate the Company's house, which we are informed is very proper, and the situation equally so, for the purpose of a place of receipt for all goods whatever to be exported from, and you are to affix notice at the fort gates and other most publick places that all goods whatever to be exported shall be brought to and shipped off at this house, and there only, and whoever shall be found to ship goods from any other place within your limits, the whole to be forfeited, one third to the informer and two thirds to the Company; and whereas we do hear that goods have, at times, been brought down the river and put on board your ships without landing at Calcutta, evading by this practice our export duty, we do also direct that you make publication that such goods shall be forfeited, in the manner and proportion abovementioned. And now having, we hope, regulated the branch to your future ease, and for the benefit of the Company and the fair trader, we shall next give you our sentiments concerning your President's request for an encreased allowance.

120. We are convinced that his station has not the advantages equal to our other governments of Bombay and Madrass; but then you must be sensible that we do not, nay, we could not bear the weight of those emoluments. It is the trader that pays the consulage and coinage to Bombay and the consulage at Madrass; in like manner we shall be very willing to indulge our Governours of Bengal, as we are satisfied that our allowances (though very handsome) will barely support their expences, and here we have been put under many difficulties as the loading your trade, already declared to be at a very low ebb, may be deemed an hardship by the community; but after mature deliberation, we have fixed upon the following method, which we judge can be liable to few or no objections.

121. Your sea imports have hitherto been exempt from all duties whatever, and this exemption we mean to continue on all merchandise that shall pay an import or an export duty to any of our other settlements, and this we do for two reasons, first, that an additional duty on goods already loaded may be esteemed and possibly felt as a burthen, secondly, that it may bring the French and Dutch, your competitors, too much upon a footing with you.

122. The articles then that we intend to be subject to an import duty are those that have always been introduced to Calcutta custom-free; such are all goods, all liquors and necessaries directly from England, all goods directly from China, Mocha, Juddah, Manilha, Batavia, Mallacca, Zeloan, the Malabar coast, the coasts of Sumatra, Borneo and Mozambique, the Maldives and other places, that do not pay us or our Residents a custom or consulage; and the proof that we require is that the Custom Master, or Chief at any of our settlements, from whence the goods are brought, shall signify that they have paid the Company or their Resident a duty, and this certificate produced to your Consulage Master shall be an exemption, but not else, and that we may be clearly understood in these our directions, we shall explain ourselves in two instances which will suffice for the rest. Tin introduced directly from England and tutenague from China will pay this duty, but tin and tutenague imported from Surat are exempt, for they have paid customs, but it is not our intention gold or silver either in bullion or coin shall pay any duty.

123. We do therefore order that on all such goods and those only, an import duty of one per cent be in future levied by our Consulage Master, at the Company's house, of which publick notice is to be given in the same manner as ordered for the export duty; the value of the said imports to be ascertained in the same manner as that of the export duty or consulage, unless a better method can be thought of; and all goods imported are to be subject to the same forfeitures, if landed at any other place, as are directed in case of shipping off any goods from any other than that of the Company's house.

124. By the imposition of this duty, we have not the immediate advantage which may accrue therefrom to the Company, so much in view, as the introducing of that order and regularity which we apprehend to have been long wanting with regard to the collecting of our export duties or consulage and which may have been greatly lessened for want of it; wherefore, in order to encourage our Governours in future to exert themselves in establishing and carrying into execution this plan for the better management of these two branches of our revenues, we do direct that, out of the produce thereof, the sum of ten thousand Current Rupees be paid from year to year to our Governour for the time being, which emoluments put him on a more equal foot with our Governours of Fort St. George and Bombay.

125. The collections may be paid our Governours quarterly, all duties entered and the import and export books fairly transcribed and transmitted us yearly.

126. In the execution of these regulations, the Consulage Master may require more servants, to which or any other additions you may see necessary we shall willingly acquiesce but we order that he always be one of Council and his residence at the Company's house.

127. As we are sensible the Consulage Master must be put to an extraordinary trouble in carrying into execution these regulations, you must give us your sentiments upon what you think he ought to be allowed for the same, which shall be properly considered and directions sent in consequence thereof.

128. Hostilities are still carried on between the British and French nations in America, His Majesty's ships continue to

take there as well as in Europe all the ships of that nation they meet with by way of reprizals, great numbers of which now lay in the several ports of His Majesty's dominions, but none are yet condemned; the French are using their utmost diligence to fit out a great marine force, and are drawing down to the sea coasts numbers of their troops with which they threaten an invasion. The British nation, on the other hand, were never better prepared to baffle their attempts as well as protect its honor and trade than at this time, both by land and sea. Notwithstanding all this, no declaration of war is made by either nation, no commissions for privateers or letters of marque have been issued or granted here, nor are we informed that any have been issued on the part of France. All British merchant ships were suffered to go in and come out of their ports without any hindrance or molestation until the end of last month, when it is said all the English vessels at Dunkirk (about nine small ones in the whole) were stopt, but we do not hear whether the like has been done in the other ports of that kingdom, or that they have made any other reprizals in Europe since the commencement of the present differences. It cannot well be imagined that affairs will remain long in this situation, therefore in all events you must stand well upon your guard.

129. Since writing the beforegoing advices have been received that the French king's orders were published at Dunkirk for all British subjects to quit his dominions before the 1st of next month, except such as may obtain his permission to remain. Another edict was published inviting his subjects to fit out privateers, promising a premium of forty livres for every gun and as much for every man they take on board our ships, with a further promise that in case peace should be concluded soon the king will purchase the said privateers at their prime cost.

We are,

Your loving friends,

R. Drake/P. Godfrey/John Payne/R. Bootle/John Raymond/Whichcott Turner/Thos. Phipps/Rob. Jones/ Hy. Crabb Boulton/John Dorrien/John Manship/ Henry Plant/Will. Barwell/ Lau Sulivan/Timothy Tullie/Maximn Western/Chas Gough/Heny. Savage/ John Boyd/Charles Chambers/Christo Burrow.

LONDON,

11th February 1756

(*Ref*:—Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1, 1755-58, pp. 75-125.)

Paragraphs 13, 14, 58, 69, 78, 91, 92, 93, 112, 113, 116, 119, 121 and 129 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records, 1748-67*, pp. 69-72.

Paragraphs 62-65 and 69 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Volume II, pp. 43-44.

## 20

## LETTER DATED 29 DECEMBER 1756

*Shipping news—outbreak of war with France—obedience to orders of the Select Committee enjoined—intended export of woollen goods for Bengal—censure of the conduct of the Company's pilots—the Bengal Council cautioned against the French force proceeding to India.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We writ to you last season by the conveyances and under the dates as follow, viz., the 10th October by the Delawar, the 3rd December by the Marlborough and the 11th February following by the ships Chesterfield and Walpole.

2. Your several letters to us by the ships lately arrived are come to hand as follow, on the 25th August a short letter by the Anson dated the 24th November 1755; on the 13th September by the Hardwicke your general letter of the 11th September 1755 and a letter from our President and Mr. Manningham of the 3rd of the same month; at the same time we received by the London your general letter by that ship dated the 8th of December; on the [...] of September a short letter overland of the 29th of September 1755 was received; on the 7th of October the Eastcourt brought your letter of the 5th of January 1756; on the 6th of November we received by the Duke of Dorsett that of the 26th January, and finally on the same day we received from the St. George your general letter of the 26th of February, together with the several other letters mentioned in the list of the packet from the Supravising and Private Committees.

3. From the accounts we gave you in our letters last season of the situation of publick affairs, an open war between the British and French nations might easily be foreseen; it has proved so in the event, His Majesty having proclaimed war against France on the 18th of May last, which was returned in a very short time after on the part of the French king; some of His Majesty's declarations are now sent for your information; not but we have great reason to believe you will know it long before this reaches you, by the dispatches sent immediately overland by His Majesty's ministers and ourselves, or by the Triton man of war and our own ship Prince Henry packet, the first of which left England on the 17th of July, and the other the 5th of August, both charged with the news of this important event.

4. We make no doubt you have, in consequence of the information you have most probably received, concerted every necessary measure for the defence of our settlements and property, and the security of our commerce, to the utmost of your power and circumstances. We shall only add that we shall greatly depend upon your care and prudence for the future safety of our valuable settlements in Bengal.

5. We enclose for your information a list of the arrival and departure of our shipping; you will there observe, how late in general our several ships arrived occasioned by unavoidable tedious detentions at St. Helena, Lisbon, Ireland and elsewhere; besides the many difficulties we labour under on this occasion, the late arrival of your dispatches and those from all the other parts of India is not one of the least, and in course lay us under the necessity of confining the contents of our advices by these conveyances to some general information and directions.

6. All due obedience must be paid to the orders and directions of the Secret Committee, or any three of them, by the President, those gentlemen who form the Select Committee or any other person or persons to whom they shall think proper to issue them, in as full and ample a manner as if they were signed by the Court of Directors; the gentlemen who compose the Secret Committee under the present direction are Peter Godfrey, John Payne, Christopher Burrow, Roger Drake and Jones Raymond Esqrs.

7. The names and destination of the several ships taken into the Company's service this season, are as follow viz.,

| Ships | Tons | Commanders | Consignment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Onslow | 499 | Thomas Hinde | St. Helena and China |
| Sandwich | 499 | John Purling | China directly |
| Triton | 499 | Francis Harris | |
| Boscawen | 499 | Benjamin Braund | Fort St. George and China |
| Norfolk | 499 | Pinson Bonham | |
| Tavistock | 499 | Benjamin Jenkins | |
| Princess Augusta | 499 | Thomas Baddison | |
| Falmouth | 499 | James Dale | St. Helena and Bencoolen |
| Warwick | 499 | Nicholas Webb | Madeira and Coast and Bay |
| Ilchester | 499 | John Tedd | Coast and Bay |
| Worcester | 499 | Edward Tiddeman | |
| Grantham | 499 | John Oliver | |
| Fox | 499 | Alexander Hume | |
| Elizabeth | 499 | Robert Burdett | |
| Prince Edward | 499 | James Haldane | Persia and Bombay |
| Hawke | 499 | Richard Drake | Bombay |
| New Ship | 499 | John Foot | |
| York | 499 | Peter Lascelles | |
| Lord Anson | 499 | Edward Lord Chick | |

8. Besides which ships, upon occasion of the present war, we purchased a vessel which we have called the Prince Henry packet, and given the command thereof to Capt. John Mumford; she sailed from the Downes on the 5th August last for Fort St. George, on purpose as has been beforementioned to carry the news of this event, in order for its being communicated to you, and to whomsoever else it may concern.

9. The ship Onslow for St. Helena and Limpo in China sailed from Spithead the 3rd of December.

10. The Sandwich and Triton for Canton direct with the whole consignment of woollen goods intended for that market this season, are now upon dispatch.

11. As are also the Boscawen, Norfolk, Tavistock and Princess Augusta bound first to Fort St. George and then to Canton, the Warwick for Madeira and the Coast and Bay, and the Falmouth for St. Helena and Bencoolen.

12. The ships Ilchester, Worcester, Grantham, Fox and Elizabeth for the Coast and Bay will be dispatched about the 26th of February, as will at the same time the Prince Edward for Persia and Bombay.

13. The Hawke, New Ship, York and Lord Anson for Bombay will be dispatched about the 25th of March.

14. We have appointed several setts of Supra-cargos for transacting our affairs in China, only one of which it may happen you can have a connection with, and that is for such ship or ships as shall or may arrive at Canton in the year 1757 from any of the Company's settlements in India, other than those we have particularly provided for, viz., Messrs. Thomas Liell, Thomas Thomson. Mordecai Walker and Thomas Smith.

15. The freighters of silver, coral and other licensed trade have executed the usual agreement, that if any ship or ships on which such articles are laden shall proceed to Bengal without touching at Fort St. George, or on the other hand arrive at Fort St. George and do not proceed to Bengal, that the President and Council at either place may forward the same agreeable to the original consignment on any of our European ships at the risque of the said freighters, but without any further charge to them. Although this is only a repetition of the annual and customary clause on this head, yet under the present circumstance of a French war it may require your more particular notice.

16. Besides one hundred tons of lead and the one hundred and fifty pipes of Madeira wine on the Warwick, [other] consignments to you are inconsiderable if any thing; for whatever relates thereto and in particular the wine we refer to a separate letter by that ship.

17. We have left it to the discretion of our President and Council at Fort St. George, either to detain the Warwick for an early dispatch from thence, or to forward her to you, according to circumstances, observing however that, if the first is determined upon as the properest measure, the wine and other consignments for Bengal are to be sent by the earliest and safest conveyances that offer, and in particular as large a proportion of her treasure (although not consigned to you) as can be spared.

18. We have also given very positive orders to the President and Council at Fort St. George, to send you as large a proportion of the treasure consigned to them on the China ships beforementioned, as they can possibly spare, by the earliest and safest conveyances.

19. The woollen goods providing for your Presidency and which will be sent on the Coast and Bay ships, are about six hundred and sixty bales of cloth, three hundred and sixteen bales of long ells and seven hundred and ninety pieces of long ells of yard and half wide in seventynine bales. The consignments to Fort St. George consist of about one hundred and forty bales of cloth and twenty bales of long ells, and those to Bombay of about fourteen hundred bales of cloth but no long ells, besides a considerable quantity of woollens for the Persia market to be sent on the Prince Edward. This previous notice may probably be of use and you are to make it publick or reserve it to yourselves, as you shall think most for our interest.

20. As we are advised from Bombay, that they have disposed of all the woollen goods they had on hand, and we have the satisfaction to observe you have likewise done the same, although not to that advantage we could wish, yet upon terms considering all circumstances we must approve of—we have intimated to the President and Council at Fort St. George that if they should be under any difficulties in the disposal of their woollen goods, and are assured they may go off to greater advantage in Bengal or at Bombay, in such case they are to consign them accordingly, agreeable to the advices they shall receive from either Presidency.

21. The very late arrival of our shipping this season puts it out of our power to send you lists of investment by these conveyances, or make any remarks upon the goods received from your Presidency; they must be deferred therefore to go by the Coast and Bay ships and we can now only recommend it to you to make an investment upon the best terms and in the best manner you are able, agreeable to the directions of last season.

22. As we are desirous of having as large a quantity of saltpetre provided for the ships to be returned to us from our three Presidencies in the year 1757 as they can conveniently

carry, consistently with the other parts of the investments, even in the whole to the amount of two thousand tons or thereabouts, you are therefore to set immediately about a provision accordingly, and to supply Fort St. George and Bombay with the necessary proportions in which no doubt you will be regulated by the advices you have and may receive from our servants at those places, as well as the manner of conveying it to them. Instructions as to the particular quantities to be laden on each ship will greatly depend upon the number of ships to be laden and the tonnage of your investment of piece-goods and raw silk. We shall consider these circumstances and send you directions by the Coast and Bay ships.

23. We are sorry to say we have been informed of very great remisness in our pilots during the last war which, had it sooner come to our knowledge, we should have resented in a proper manner; we understand it was a common practice with them to look out for any thing they could meet with in Ballasore Road, or otherways to get the charge of any foreign or country ships which first came in their way, for which they demanded and received an exorbitant price; by these means our ships, which at that season were daily expected to arrive, were totally neglected, insomuch that our commanders have been obliged to put a confidence in and trust the care of their ships to an enemy's pilot. We therefore direct that you give strict orders to our pilots that some of them do constantly keep on their proper stations off Point Palmiras[1], at the season our ships are expected, until they all arrive, and carefully attend upon them until they are safe at their moorings.

24. We have chosen Mr. Edward Barwell to be a writer upon the Bengal establishment, and he accordingly proceeds to his station on the Warwick.

25. The French are making great preparations at Port L'Orient for an expedition to the East Indies, according to the best information we can at present get. It consists of six men of war of the line, two frigates and eight Company's ships fitted in a warlike manner, on which are to embark about two thousand five hundred land forces; to what particular part of India this force is destined we cannot learn. We must therefore recommend it to you in the strongest manner to be as well on your guard as the nature and circumstances of your Presidency will

permit, to defend our estate in Bengal against any attempts that may be made upon it by this force, and in particular, that you will do all in your power to engage the Nabob to give you his protection as the only and most effectual measure for the security of settlement and property. We have the satisfaction of being further able to inform you that a squadron of His Majesty's ships will be soon ready to proceed to the East Indies, to continue there for a time in the room of that under Vice Admiral Watson, and although we are not at present fully apprized of its force, we have good reason to believe it will be sufficient to cope with the French squadron.

26. What further occurs to us on this interesting subject will be communicated to our Select Committee of Fort St. George, who will have directions to forward to you whatever shall be necessary for your information.

We are,

Your loving friends,

P. Godfrey/John Payne/R. Drake/J. Raymond/N. Newnham Junr./M. Impey/Henry Plant/L. Sulivan/ John Dorrien/Rob. Jones/Heny. Savage/Thos. Rous/ Cha. Gough/Trimothy Tullie/Hy. Crabb Boulton/ Stephen Law/Christo Burrow/Charles Chambers/ John Manship/M. Western.

LONDON,

29th December 1756.

(*Ref*:—Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1, 1755-58, pp. 127-134.)

## 21

## LETTER DATED 29 DECEMBER 1756

*Outbreak of war with France—intended consignment of Madeira wine for Bengal—complaints of the Bengal Council particularly regarding leakage of wine referred to the Company's representative at Madeira.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. This ship the Warwick, Captain Nicholas Webb, commander, being consigned to the island Madeira to take in the annual supply of wine for the use of our Presidencies of Fort William and Fort St. George, and as there is a probability of her proceeding singly from thence, as well as that some or all the Coast and China ships will arrive at Fort St. George before her, we shall confine this letter principally to what relates to the Warwick, and send our general advices by the said ships which are now upon their dispatch, being the Boscawen, Norfolk, Tavistock and Princess Augusta.

2. The accompanying list will give you a general account of the late arrival of the several ships this season; those from your Presidency brought the several packets the commanders were entrusted with.

3. In our letters last year you were, in general, apprized of the situation of affairs between the British and French nations, which was such as in all probability would draw on an open war; the event has proved so as you will observe by the accompanying declarations, His Majesty having proclaimed war against France on the 18th May last, which was likewise done soon after by the French king against His Majesty.

4. We make no doubt of your having information of this important event long before this reaches your hands, as advices were immediately sent by the way of Aleppo, as well by the Government as ourselves, to give notice of it to Admiral Watson and the Company's servants in general; for the same purpose, His Majesty's ship Triton sailed from Portsmouth on the 17th of July last and our own ship the Prince Henry packet the 5th of the month following from the Downes.

5. The principal consignment to you on this ship is lead, which and any other particulars laden on her in England for your Presidency will appear by the accompanying invoice and bill of lading, to which therefore we refer. The treasure by this ship is consigned to Fort St. George, but the President and Council are apprized by us of the real service it will be to send you as large a proportion of it as possible, and are accordingly ordered to supply you, by the earliest and safest conveyances that offer, either by this ship or others at their discretion

6. Messrs. Chambers, Hiccox and Chambers at the island Madeira have our directions to consign to you on the Warwick one hundred and fifty pipes of wine, and to our President and Council at Fort St. George the same quantity, but as the demand for wine at Fort St. George is so great, we cannot avoid indulging them with detaining (as we have done for some time past) fifty pipes, part of the consignment to you, but no more on any account whatsoever, and not even that quantity or any part of it without a real necessity.

7. In consequence of the 42nd paragraph of your general letter of the 11th of September 1755 relative to the leakage of Madeira wine, and of some complaints of the same kind from our Presidency of Fort St. George, as well as of the short gauge of the casks (which though not taken notice of by you, we make no doubt that there were the same reasons for), we have made the strongest representations thereon to our correspondents at Madeira, and we hope with good effect, but in order to prevent as much as possible any future complaints, we have concerted and agreed with them that the wines shall be upwards of a year old before they are shipped, by which they will be better assured of the quality, and as the fermentation by that time will be in a great measure over, it will in some degree prevent the leakage so much complained of. They are likewise to take particular care that the casks are made up to hold compleatly one hundred and fifteen gallons each, and before shipping them, they are to call upon the captain either to see every cask gauged and full himself, or depute one of his officers for that purpose. They are to draw out certificates of the particulars of such gauge to be signed by themselves and the captain or his officers aforesaid, one of which is to be sent to us, one delivered to the captain and the others forwarded to Fort William and Fort St. George. All the Company's wines for the future are to have our mark burnt on each cask. As it has been intimated that some of our commanders have had their pipes made up to gauge considerably less than the Company's standard of one hundred and fifteen gallons and as it is possible that such casks may have been delivered in lieu of some of the Company's, it may in some measure account for the short gauge so frequently complained of from Fort St. George, to prevent which in future, the marking the Company's casks only, as beforementioned, will be very useful. And we have

further given positive directions, as you will observe by Captain Webb's instructions, that he does not ship or suffer to be shipped upon his own account or that of any of his ship's company any pipe or pipes of wine but what shall contain the full quantity of one hundred and fifteen gallons each. These precautions will be continued every season, and we desire you will let us know what effect they have, by sending to us a very particular account from year to year of the condition of the wines consigned to you for our information and having justice done us, if there appears reason to apply for it.

8. The commander and ship's company have the usual indulgence of twenty pipes of wine.

9. We have chosen Mr. Edward Barwell to be a writer upon the Bengal establishment, and he accordingly proceeds to his station on this ship the Warwick.

We are,

Your loving friends.

P. Godfrey/John Payne/R. Drake/J. Raymond/ N. Newnham Junr./M. Impey/Henry Plant/L. Sulivan/John Dorrien/Rob. Jones/Heny. Savage/Thos. Rous/Cha Gough/Timothy Tullie/Hy. Crabb Boulton/ Stephen Law/Christo. Burrow/Charles Chambers/ John Manship/M. Western.

LONDON,

29th December 1756.

(*Ref*:—Home Public General Letters from Court, Vol. 1, 1755-58, pp. 139-142.)

Paragraphs 6, 23, 25 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records, 1748-67*, p. 74.

# LETTERS TO COURT

# 1
# LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1747/48

*Supply of rice to Fort St. David to meet scarcity—recrudescence of hostilities between the English and the French—instructions of the Council to subordinate factories regarding advance of* dadney*—contract between the English and the Dutch Companies for purchase of saltpetre—Omichund's failure to send down all saltpetre to Bengal—settlement of Coja Minas's case—outside arbitration not to be invited for settlement of the merchants' accounts—demand of securities from the merchants before advancing* dadney.

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

May it please Your Honours.

1. Our last address to Your Honours bore date the 22nd February 1746/7 per Kent, Montfort, Salisbury and Marlborough. These ships were dispatched from Kedgeree[1] by Messrs. Humphry Bellamy and William Kempe on the 27th of the same month when the Kent drew eighteen feet ten inches water forward and nineteen feet abaft, the Montfort eighteen feet ten inches forward and eighteen feet eight inches abaft, the Salisbury eighteen feet by the head and nineteen feet by the stern and the Marlborough eighteen feet two inches water by the head and eighteen feet six inches by the stern. We hope those ships have saved their passage and are safe arrived with Your Honours.

2. We have the pleasure to advise Your Honours of the arrival of the following of your ships with us vizt. on the 9th March the Princess of Wales, Captain Thomas Harry, on the 4th April the Houghton, Captain Isaac Worth, on the 1st May the Exeter, Captain William Weston, on the 16th of September the Oxford, Captain Thomas Stevens and on the 26th October the Warwicke, Mr. Edward Ward.

3. By the above ships we were favoured with Your Honours several commands under date the 6 June 1746/7 and 18th February 1746/7 and copy of your commands per Eastcourt and Caesar dated the 16 January 1746/7.

4. On the arrival of the Princess of Wales we wrote to the several subordinate factorys and transmitted them Your Honours' orders relating to them and directed them to go on

providing goods agreable to the list received by her. Again on the receipt of the new list of investment per Oxford we sent them copy thereof with orders to comply therewith as near as possible.

5. On the 6th April we received a letter from the worshipful John Hinde Esq., Deputy Governour and Council at Fort St. David under date the 24 February advising that five French ships sailed from Pondicherry on the 28th January, since which they heard from Anjengo[2] of their being off that place the 11th February, that they had been relieved in great measure by the arrival there of the Brittania, that they were unloading of her as fast as possible, but could come to no resolution what to do with her, for want of advices from hence, nor could they form any judgment of the King's ships or the Company's, which ought to have called there as well to relieve them as take away their bales, of which they had above two thousand, that among the heavy losses sustained on that coast for two months before, half the plunder of Madrass being carried away, in that time the Princess Emelia went into Madrass road and was taken there the 16th February.

6. On the 7th May we received a letter from Charles Floyer Esqr., etc. Council under date the 22nd April per sloop Occident, advising of their misfortune in losing Mr. Hinde, who died on the 14th of that month, that Mr. Edward Crooke having relinquished the succession on account of his age and ill state of health, it has devolved on Mr. Floyer as being next in station, that they received ours of the 4th February and thank us for the treasure and other supplys sent them per His Majesty's squadron, which very happily came to their relief on the 2nd March, the French having made an attempt against them the day before and would no doubt have besieged them the next day, but on the arrival of the squadron they retired, that on the 21st April Your Honours' ship the Lapwing arrived there by whom they received a very wellcome supply of fifty chests of silver, that they have detained the broad cloth etc. consigned to us by the Brittannia, as it was likely they might have large demands for those articles, that agreable to Your Honours' orders they should send the Lapwing to Port Marlborough which proved very convenient as they had it in their power to send by her what they should think necessary for the use of that settlement, that the Brittannia was just upon her dispatch for Europe, that by the Jenny, Fort St. George and Prince of Orange they received the cargoes of rice consigned them by those ships which will be a very suffi-

cient supply and that as they were not then furnished with more money than they had occasion for they should give bills on us for the payment of them. They also acknowledged the receipt of our further supply of treasure on the Jenny and Fort St. George.

7. On the 5th March having advice the three sloops were fitting out at Chandernagore which carried six guns each and several Europeans on board, we apprehended they might attack our sloops in Balasore Road, therefore thought it necessary to arm two of our sloops sufficiently for offence and defence by putting guns on board them and twelve soldiers upon each and as we thought it would be of great service to have those sloops destroyed to prevent their doing any mischief, we sent our Deputy Master Attendant on board one of them with a power to command all the sloops in the Road with directions not to act offensively on this side the Braces, judging we had a legal power to grant such commission by His Majesty's most gracious charter. The French sloops proceeded no lower than Ingellee[3] finding themselves too weak to encounter ours who tended them and therefore returned back to Chandernagore.

8. On the 12 March judging it necessary that the Princess of Wales should come up before the Port as a security to her and an additional strength to this place the captain had orders accordingly.

9. On the 16 March we wrote to the gentlemen at Fort St. David desiring they would supply us with 400 tons of redwood for the kentlege of Your Honours' ships.

10. On the 5th April we wrote to Captain Isaac Worth to bring his ship Houghton up to town as we judged it most secure for her to lay before the fort.

11. On the 2nd May we received a letter from Captain William Weston, commander of the Exeter, advising of his men being all sick and down with scurvy and requesting proper assistance to bring his ship up to town which we complied with and sent him 30 Europeans and fifty lascars.

12. The gentlemen at Fort St. David under date the 15 June, having requested a supply of rice, some stores, men and ammunition, we received the proposals of the owners of several country ships for transporting them thither but on due consideration thereof we found it most conducive to Your Honours' interest to send the Princess of Wales on that service and she was accordingly ordered to be got ready.

13. On the 7 July we received another letter from the gentle-

men at Fort St. David, bearing date the 25 June, advising of a great scarcity of rice with them and desiring a supply of 1,000 tons. We found it necessary to accept proposals from the owners of the Prince of Orange, Fanny, William, and Fort St. George and agreed with them to deliver their cargoes of rice at that settlement and as the Fanny was bound from thence to the West Coast, we sent on her such supply for Fort Marlborough as the gentlemen at Fort St. David had desired; at the same time they advised of the arrival of Your Honours' snow the Swift on the 10 June

14. On the 5 September the ship Princess of Wales was dispatched with all the rice, wheat and stores she could take in and one hundred and thirteen military officers included. She had orders to call at Vizagapatam and delivered 11 bales of woollen goods and 2 chests pagodas[4] designed them from Fort St. David by the Jenny which ship passed by that port. She accordingly arrived at Vizagapatam on the 19th September and from thence proceeded to Fort St. David from whence she returned on the 23rd November to us and by her we received a letter from the gentlemen there, acknowledging the receipt of the stores and military sent on her.

15. On the 9 July being informed that two ships were fitting out at Chandernagore in order to carry provisions to Pondicherry, the President at the same time laying before the Board a letter from Commodore Griffin dated the 6th June advising that the French intended sending the Princess Emelia to Bengal and that if we could arm two of our Europe ships and let him know when we were ready to receive her he would give her an opportunity to slip out of Madrass which he shall be obliged to do shortly as he must collect his whole force in expectation of a French squadron in August. From these advices we thought it necessary to prepare the Exeter and Houghton to proceed down the river with all expedition. The captains alledging they could not possibly get ready till the end of the month, they were promised all the assistance in our power and desiring 50 lascars, we supplied them accordingly and every thing was landed from the Exeter except lead and iron sufficient to make her sailworthy.

16. On the 28 July the seamen of the Exeter and Houghton petitioned to have security given them for the wages then due to them and requested the usual encouragement given upon expeditions of this nature, upon which we thought proper to offer them two months' pay in case they came to action, but their captains

informing us that they were not satisfied therewith, as we thought it proper to get them willingly to this work, we promised them four months' pay.

17. On the 31st ditto the seamen of those two ships and (*sic*) in another petition setting forth that unless they had something given them in hand as privateers or ships going upon such an account have and in case of prizes taken, an equal distribution of such prizes made, besides a sufficient security for their wages, they were all unanimous they would not fire a gun. As we found these people so troublesome and encroaching in their demands, we thought it best to order the captains to weigh their anchors and to proceed to Ingellee immediately and there to wait our further orders.

18. On the 5 August we consulted our Master Attendant with Captains West and Goring what place were best to station the ships Exeter and Houghton for the service designed and agreable to their opinions thereon the ships were stationed and orders were sent their captains agreable thereto and they were particularly directed to be in Balasore Road by the 25 August, but as they never got there nor proceeded lower than Ingellee from various excuses and delays for which we are unable to account and therefore protested against them, copy of the protest and many letters that passed between them and us on this occasion are all entered in books apart herewith sent and to which we beg leave to refer Your Honours.

19. On the 5 October Mr. Haman Agent Victualler to His Majesty's squadron arrived here informing us that he left the Lively man of war near the Braces and that the Princess Emelia was in Madrass Road guarded by the Pearl man of war, so that she could not come this way. And as the Exeter and Houghton lay at Ingellee at an expence and as it was necessary for the Exeter to prepare for her voyage to Bombay, we esteemed it proper to recall those ships and they accordingly returned to Rogues River.

20. In the book of letters apart herewith sent Your Honours will find entered a report of Messrs. Afson, Chapman and Hicks by which you will perceive that our sloops stationed at the buoy of the broken ground had made prize of a small French privateer sloop called the La Becquille which, after having landed some gentlemen at Balasore, proceeded into the Road and there took

Your Honours' sloop the Fort St. George and the Kitty a hired sloop. The Becquille had 27 Europeans and 3 blacks on board, six of which made their escape in a boat and the rest are prisoners here. The French have demanded her and her crew as being taken in the river and call it a breach of neutrality but we have refused to deliver them alledging that they first broke the neutrality by taking the Fort St. George to the eastward of the eastermost Brace. They also applied to the Durbar on this occasion but the Nabob has determined it in our favour.

21. On the 16 September Captain Thomas Stevens desiring permission to bring his ship the Oxford up to town, it was granted; when the captain arrived he informed us that he left the Madeiras the 31 March, that on the 22 of that month, Your Honours' ship the Eastcourt, Winchelsea, Benjamin and Colchester sailed thence in company with His Majesty's ships the Ripon, Exeter, York, Pool and Eltham but has heard nothing of them since.

22. On the 24 September Your Honours' sloop the Calcutta imported here from Fort Saint David; by her the President received a letter from Mr. Floyer advising that he sent her down being unfit for service on that coast for want of repairs.

23. On the 9 October the Boneta sloop built for our own use for the gentlemen at Bombay arrived here.

24. On the 28 October Mr. Edward Ward desiring leave to bring his ship up to town he had our permission and on the 29 ditto Mr. Ward, the Chief Mate of the Warwicke, being arrived in town informed us of the death of Captain Misenor and as he was an approved man we ordered our Secretary to confirm him in the command of that ship.

25. On the 16 November we received a letter from Vizagapatam, advising that the Mermaid sloop, provided for our use by the gentlemen at Bombay, having left that port the 9th September lost her mast on the 10th October upon the Arracan coast and was obliged to bear away for that place where they will endeavour to furnish her with a mast that she may proceed hither when the season will permit.

26. From the Mermaid sloop we received advices from Bombay that they were concerned to acquaint us with the loss of Your Honours' ship Anson which after a brave resistance on

the 2nd September of nigh an hour and three quarters struck to a French ship supposed a privateer of fifty guns in sight of the island but her treasure and packett were saved by one of the boats they had dispatched for intelligence, that the Portfield from Mocha was that morning chased by the same ship, but it proving calm she was towed out of their reach by their advice boats and got to Suratt, that the above French ship with another of about 36 guns came in the offing of that port the 26 August, that they cruized in sight of the fort till the 4 September since when they have not been seen, that the Heathcote which sailed from England with the Anson in February last parted company from her the 15 April in latitude 21.49 So. is not yet arrived there nor had she been at Mocha the 13 August when the Portfield sailed thence, that the Anson spoke with the Grantham on the 22 April in 27.43 So., that having in their advices of the 21 August wrote us with regard to sending any of Your Honours' ships to that side remarking at the same time the inconvenience they experienced last year, that three of their ships not being able to take in goods on the Malabar coast from the French squadron's being there, they now judge it important to acquaint us that unless a superior force should come that way it would be very hazardous to dispatch any of Your Honours' ships to the Malabar coast.

27. These advices from Bombay being of great consequence we judged it necessary to advise Commodore Griffin thereof that he might take such measures as he should think proper thereon and the Boneta sloop being in the greatest readiness, we accordingly dispatched her to him, the President being well acquainted where to find him.

28. As we expected so large a tonnage from Your Honours this year which must necessarily fall on our hands, as none of them could be provided for on the coast, we designed sending ships Exeter, Houghton and Oxford to the Malabar coast to be laden home with pepper and on the 19th October the captains were ordered to prepare their ships accordingly but by the late advices from Bombay it appearing too hazardous to send any of Your Honours' ships to that coast and the gentlemen at St. Davids having desired a large supply of rice to be sent to them in December and the commodore having applied to the President to be reinforced by some of Your Honours' ships of the largest weight of metal and the Exeter and Oxford being the only ships here which carry nine pounders, from all which considerations we could not think of a more proper method of disposing of those

two ships than by sending them to Fort St. David; we therefore on the 16 November ordered the Exeter to be unloaded and we shall dispose of such of her cargoe as will sell here and wait a safer opportunity for sending such part thereof as we cannot dispose of to Bombay.

29. The next day as by the advices from Vizagapatam and Ingeram[5] we learned that there would be about 550 bales laying there and as they had no tonnage there to bring them away we came to a resolution of sending the Houghton thither and the captain was ordered to get here in readiness for that purpose.

30. We are now to proceed in giving Your Honours a summary view of the state of your affairs under our management to the present time, first beginning with the most material, the investment.

31. On the 9 March being a proper time for beginning our Calcutta investment for the ensuing season the merchants were ordered to attend on the 11 which they accordingly did but having heard of the arrival of the Princess of Wales we deferred proceeding therein till we received Your Honours' orders by her.

32. On the 13th of that month the Calcutta list of investment was ordered to be drawn out and laid before us. On the 16 ditto the merchants attending we informed the Seats of the favourable mention made of them in Your Honours' orders per Princess of Wales and they were told that this favour ought to make them exert themselves to the utmost in providing goods for the ensuing season in the manner as directed by Your Honours' orders this season which would be most for their own interest, in order not only to retain but increase Your Honours' good opinion of them. We then acquainted them and all the merchants with the new orders in regard to providing goods this season and informed them that we were ready to contract on those terms. They desired time to consider thereof and on the 19 they told us they could not pretend to provide goods on the terms proposed, there being but few articles on which they were to receive but little dadney and the rest were to be provided for ready money that it was in vain for them to promise, for we should certainly fail in having cloth for the lading of our ships, for there were many articles in which there is no gain but some times a loss even when full dadney has been advanced for them, particularly on the coarse goods, as well as there are some

articles on which there arises a gain and that we might be assured if the merchants found any goods so dear at the aurungs as not to yield them a profit, they will never bring them in for ready money and we should be thereby disappointed of what we might expect. They also apprehended that should the government come to learn that we had altered our method of providing goods and find that the merchants furnished goods with their own money they would certainly make a handle thereof to fleece them and will put a stop to their bringing in goods till their demands were satisfied, as they lately served the Dutch at Cossimbuzar, whose custom was always to wind off the silk in their factory and having provided a small part on dadney last year, the government put a stop to all their business till they had paid a sum of money for this new method of acting. To this latter objection they were answered that for some years past they had provided some fine goods viz., Cossajurahs for ready money, of which the government had taken no notice, to which they replied that what they had provided without dadney was but a small part in proportion to the dadney goods and that they had kept it very private among themselves, from whence it might have escaped the government's notice. The merchants were then told we expected they would comply with Your Honours' orders as near as possible and directed them to let us know what goods they would provide for ready money and what sortments it was absolutely necessary to advance dadney upon. They were also told that we should have a large tonage on hand and could not have the usual assistance from Madrass, that settlement being lost and that it was therefore expected that they in general and the Seats in particular should for the credit sake of Your Honours exert themselves in providing the full quantity of coarse goods as well as fine agreable to the list of investment to which they promised to give us an answer in a few days and on the 25th of that month they delivered us their proposals for contracting for the ensuing season, which are entered after that day's Consultation.

33. The proposals being taken into consideration on the 27th we observed that what they offered to provide for ready money was but a small part of the investment and that they only offered to contract for fifty thousand, 50,000, pieces of gurrahs whereas we thought they might provide one hundred thousand, 100,000, besides what is due on last year's ballance and that many more articles of the fine sortments may be provided for ready money. We therefore drew out proposals such as we thought most proper

which they were directed to consider of and let us know how near they could comply therewith; our proposals are entered after that day's Consultation.

34. On the 9th of April the merchants informed us that they had thoroughly considered of our proposals and find that it is impossible to comply therewith, that the times are such from the great scarcity of money and apprehensions of impediments from the Morattoes, the most they could think of undertaking for ready money was one fourth part of the investment and unless they received dadney for the other three fourths, they could not promise to complete the investment and that they could not possibly undertake more than fifty thousand (50,000) pieces of gurrahs besides the last year's ballance of that article. As we found it impracticable to bring them to engage for so many ready money goods and gurrahs as we had hopes they could have undertaken we thought the most likely way to procure a quantity of gurrahs and goods for readymoney was to set aside all the Cossajurah goods which would amount to about four laacks and a half, also to the amount of three laacks and a half more of the finest sortments of goods which we thought they could provide for ready money and that the person who contracted for the Cossajurah goods should deliver in one piece of gurrahs for every piece of that sortment and for the other sortments of ready money goods they should deliver in one piece of gurrahs for every two pieces of those fine sortments and that we offered them 30 per cent dadney on all the other sortments of goods and that they should besides undertake 75000 pieces of gurrahs on dadney and we acquainted them that whoever being joined in good security would undertake the provision on those terms, we would agree with them. The merchants promised to consider thereof and give us their answer.

35. On the 13th following the merchants declared themselves incapable of performing agreable to our proposals made them on the 9th for they said there was a considerable sum due to them on last year's dadney, also a great deal of money lent us last year at interest, so that it was impossible for them to go to work without that money or new money advanced them for goods to be provided this year, that the only way they could think of making this year's investment was as follows: to provide seventy five thousand pieces of gurrahs in all, to set aside to the amount of seven or eight laack of rupees as ready money goods of all sortments in proportion, except gurrahs of which 25000

pieces of the above quantity to be reckoned therein and to contract for the remainder on dadney as usual, that is to have 85 per cent on the medium price, 30 per cent to be advanced them in ready money on contracting and the remaining 55 per cent to be paid them by the 1st August following or interest notes to be then given them to that amount. As in Consultation of the 9th we had determined to receive offers for goods to be provided for ready money from any substantial merchants who would contract for to deliver them in, we again agreed to wait some time to try if any merchants would offer themselves on the terms proposed.

36. We accordingly waited till the 25th May when the merchants being called upon their final answer was required on what terms they would or could carry on the investment, they declared on no other terms than the following: that they would provide 50,000 pieces of gurrahs upon dadney, that one fourth part of the investment including all the Cossajura goods they would provide for ready money, the rest on dadney, on which eighty five per cent to be advanced as last year. That is sixty per cent first and 25 per cent afterwards and that they could not undertake it upon any other terms.

37. On the 28th we took this their final answer into consideration and observing from thence that they were obstinate and refused coming to our terms, we agreed to use our endeavours to engage some other merchants to contract on better.

38. On the 8 June Omichund proposed to undertake one third of Your Honours' investment in equal proportion for ready money to be paid him as the goods were prized and at the same price agreed for with other merchants and a third of 50,000 pieces of gurrahs besides which to deliver in a piece of gurrahs for every piece of Cossajurah goods and to have interest allowed him on this last sortment from the 1 January till paid for and on all the other goods from the first July, requiring also to be excused the deduction 12a. 6. [?] for brokerage as Your Honours were to run no risque of your money. Upon which we agreed to take his proposal into consideration, the next time we met and accordingly on the 10th we debated thereon and were all of opinion it should be agreed to except Mr. Jackson who said as on one hand he would be far from depressing any of our merchants, so on the other he thought it imprudent to lift up any particular one too high and the flinging a whole third of the investment into one man's hands seemed a ready step towards it. It has never been

practised and ought in his opinion to be avoided; he was therefore for contracting with all the merchants in general for the investment as has been customary and not with Omichund separately. The President was of opinion that as we had been so long contending to bring the merchants to contracts as near as possible to the Company's orders and they obstinately refused to alter their former method of contracting on dadney and as on the 28 May we agreed to look out for merchants who would perform the investment on easier terms he thought Omichund's proposals ought to be agreed to as agreable to Your Honours' orders and much for your interest, and as it might be the means of engaging other merchants to follow his example, in providing goods without advancing money; Omichund's proposals being thus approved of by the majority of the Board it was agreed to be put in execution, but that the brokerage should not be excused him.

39. On the 13th June sixteen mercnants of which seven were new men proposed to undertake a part of the investment to the amount of 7,70,000 rupees on the following terms—to be advanced 50 per cent dadney as we should be in cash, and interest to be allowed thereon till paid, from the time of signing the contract and 35 per cent more to be paid them when their goods were prized and interest to be allowed thereon from the 1st October, that one third of what they should provide to be for ready money of which the Cossajurah goods to be a part and for every piece of Cossajurah goods to deliver in one piece of gurrahs, on which gurrahs dadney as before mentioned was to be advanced them. The merchants' names and the sums each person would undertake is entered on that day's Consultation.

40. On the 15th June we sent for the Seats and other merchants and informed them of the proposals made us on the 13th and asked them if they would comply on the same terms. They desired till the next day to give their answer. The next day we took into consideration the proposal made us on the 13th instant and it was unanimously approved of. It was then debated whether the merchants who made those proposals should be employed or not; our several opinions are given at large on that day's Consultation to which we beg leave to refer Your Honours, when the majority being of opinion that these merchants ought to be employed on their giving security we agreed to employ them accordingly. The Seats and other merchants then appeared and made us another offer, that for the two thirds remaining of

the investment they would undertake them on condition of having 50 per cent paid them within the month of August and the remaining 35 per cent to be paid them on delivering in goods to the amount of the 50 per cent, but the Cossajurah goods they desired to be dadney; in case they were not so far favoured that they would then provide the Cossajurah goods for ready money, that for every piece of Cossajurah goods they would give one piece of gurrahs, but those gurrahs to be dadney. The Cossajurah cloth and gurrahs to be made a separate head of, but if there are any new men introduced into the dadney they would do no business at all.

41. On the 18 the Seats and other merchants were again sent for and asked if they would agree to the proposal made them on the 15th and directed to give their final answer. They replied that they abided by their answer given us on the 16th upon which the majority were of opinion that as they obstinately denyed contracting with us, unless upon their own terms and impertinently refused to let us employ any other merchants, that we should look out for such as would contract conformable to the proposals already agreed to; Messrs. Jackson and Kempe being of another opinion it is minuted on that day's Consultation, to which we beg leave to refer. The musters being brought in the same day, we proceeded to make a price thereon with such merchants as we had already agreed to employ and accordingly proposed to them the lowering the prices of the several musters to which they replied it was impossible for them to lower anything as the price of cotton was so high, workmen so scarce and times so bad and that some articles must be raised as they could not perform them *viz.*, gurrahs, soosies[6] and chucktaes. The two latter articles being silken goods and the price of silk being so extravagantly raised they would be excessive thin and the fabrick spoiled unless there be an advance allowed on them. We agreed to take this into consideration and to finish the prices the next day, when we went upon this affair. The merchants insisted upon raising the gurrahs of 36 and 2¼ to 82 rupees per corge assuring us it must be done if we expected them to be good and to have the full quantity, cotton being so very high and rice so dear the aurungs where the gurrahs are made. After using our utmost endeavours to contract for this sortment at a lower rate than what they demanded, we found it impracticable, as they declared if we lowered anything from that price that these goods would be worse in short and as our last year's gurrahs were excessive thin and the fabrick near spoilt, we therefore complyed therewith, having been already informed of the

price they bore at Cossimbuzar. In regard to the soosies of 50 and 1·5/8 and 40 and 2 fine, they long insisted upon an advance of rupees two, 2, per piece on account of the excessive dearness of silk and at last agreed to allow them 1 rupee 8 annas per piece more than last year on those two sortments and on the muster of ordinary soosies of 40 and 2 an advance of 1 rupee 6 annas per piece and the serry[7] to remain as usual. For the same reason, we were obliged to advance 1 rupee 12 annas on the muster of chucktaes and agreed that all the other sortments of goods should remain at the same price as last year and the list of investments at the A. and medium price was then ordered to be drawn out, which being laid before us on the 23 June is entered after that day's Consultation and a division whereof was ordered to be drawn out.

42. On the 25 June a list of Omichund's proportion of the investment was brought in and is entered after that day's Consultation, amounting to rupees 877038-2, the remaining part of the investment being to the amount of rupees 1754973-12, one third thereof to be set aside for ready money amounting to rupees 584991-4 and the amount of the Cossajurah goods being only rupees 411000, we set aside such sortments to make up the remainder as we thought most likely for the merchants to bring in for ready money. The several species are entered after that day's Consultation to which we beg leave to referr Your Honours.

43. On the 6th July the division of the list of investment was brought in and entered after that day's Consultation; at the same time the merchants, with whom we had agreed, gave in their proposals of becoming security for each other in three setts, which we accepted of but Mr. Jackson objected against two of them as being persons whom he objected to on the 16th June.

44. On the 9 ditto Messrs. Jackson and Kempe delivered in a letter to the Board containing their opinions of our proceedings in the investment which being entered after that day's Consultation, we beg leave to referr thereto. Mr. Jackson also beged leave that a minute might be made of his opinion on the security proposed by the merchants on the 6th instant which is entered on the Consultation of that day.

45. On the 13 ditto eight of the old merchants offered to undertake part of the investment to the amount of 360000 rupees on the same terms as the merchants we engaged with before and to be

joined in security with each other. Their names and sums they offer to engage for are entered upon the face of that day's Consultation. Being asked how they came to be so obstinate before and to give such an improper answer to the Board they desired us to excuse it as they only sought their own advantage as merchants. In consideration of their repenting of their obstinacy and offering to provide goods on the same terms as the other merchants we agreed to accept of their proposals and a division of the goods among them was ordered to be drawn out.

46. On the 16th ditto the division of the list of goods to be provided by the merchants was accordingly brought in and is entered after that day's Consultation.

47. On the 6th July having some bullion lying in our godowns we offered it to our merchants as part of their dadney at the same rate as Juggutseat's House[8] allows, which they accepting of we agreed to advance them 15 per cent and on the 10 ditto the security bonds, with their receipts for the same, were laid before the Board. On the 20 July we agreed to advance in the same proportion to the last contracting merchants in bullion and their security bonds and receipts for the money were duely brought in as were also all their teeps.

48. On the 15 August the President delivered in a letter to the Board animadverting on the proceedings in making this year's investment in order to obviate any ill impressions which the several objections made by Messieurs Jackson and Kempe in relation thereto might occasion if not answered and proper reasons given for the method taken in this material branch of Your Honours' affairs. This letter is entered after that day's Consultation and we beg leave to refer Your Honours thereto.

49. On the 21st September the Warehouse Keeper compared Your Honours' orders about the investment per Oxford with those received per ship Princess of Wales and there being some alterations therein we directed him to lay the same before us which he accordingly did on the 5th October when the merchants were sent for and acquainted therewith. They promised us they would write to their gomastahs to forbid them providing any more of those sortments that were diminished in this new list and that they would bring in as many of the goods, whose quantitys was increased, as they possibly could; but till we advanced them more money, they should not have it in their power to provide them.

50. On the 26th October having sufficient in our treasury we advanced the merchants with whom we contracted as above ten, 10, per cent dadney in further part of their contracts, which is all that we have been able to advance them as yet.

51. On the 3rd September the Export Warehouse Keeper laid before us an abstract of the gurrah contract last year, and as no dustucks had been asked for gurrahs, due on that year's ballance, we sent for the merchants and they were required to deliver in the gurrahs that were due from them, to which they replied that from the troubles in the country and the Morattas falling in among the gurrah aurung they could not possibly bring in all the gurrahs last year, but being ashamed to keep any of Your Honours' money in their hands, they delivered in other goods to a larger amount than they had received money on dadney and that we are largely indebted to them on the last and former years' account, which ballances if we would pay them, they would send the money to the aurungs to provide gurrahs and that they were wholly unfurnished with money of their own to provide that article.

52. The merchants again attending the next day we took their above answer into consideration and it appearing to us that the dadney they had received last year for gurrahs they laid out in goods more to their advantage, we were of opinion that they ought to deliver them in this year and they were told we expected their compliance fully with that article.

53. On the 21st November the Accomptant laid before us the gurrah contract for 1742 with the ballances due from the merchants on that account, by which it appears that the sum of rupees 90744-9 is still outstanding and due from persons, who were either dead or insolvent and as there was no likelyhood of any more gurrahs being delivered in on their account we thought proper to finish this affair by placing their ballances to their respective securities to which end we called those merchants before us and demanded the principal with the interest thereon. They agreed to make good the principal but refused to allow interest, alledging the heavy loss sustained by that contract, occasioned by the arrival of the Morattoes immediately after that contract was made, which rose the price from 51-8 very considerably. They also alledged that as they made good this ballance for deceased and insolvent persons, they ought not to be charged interest thereon, as they had not the use of the money.

Upon this we agreed to accept of the principal and refer the interest to Your Honours' consideration, the merchants having we are well assured been great sufferers by this contract.

54. The same day we took into consideration the gurrah contracts for the year 1745 by which it appears the 30 April 1746 there was due on that contract rupees 142350-12-6 upon which sum we charged them an allowance of interest 5 per cent; on the 30 April 1747 there appeared a ballance on that contract of rupees 65915-7-9 which we thought proper to settle to prevent confusion in our books by charging interest thereon for one year to the 30 April last.

55. On the 3rd March the gentlemen at Jugdea having wrote for money to carry on that investment, we took into consideration Your Honours' commands per Marlborough in relation to that factory and were unanimously of opinion that it was most for Your Honours' interest for those gentlemen to remain there and provide goods without advancing money, as were very certain we could not purchase those goods in Calcutta but at a much higher price than they are now provided and that we could be at no certainty of having the sortments directed. The list of investment was therefore ordered to be drawn out, and as the gentlemen of Dacca had also wrote for a supply of treasure and none but Sicca Rupees being procurable here, we agreed to send 60,000 Sicca Rupees to Dacca, with orders to send forty thousand Current Rupees, 40000, to Jugdea if to be had, otherwise such rupees to that amount as were most proper and keep the remainder for their own occasions. At the same we advised the gentlemen at Jugdea of these our resolutions, sent them the list of investment and ordered them to begin and provide goods for ready money, expressly forbidding them the advancing any on dadney. At the same time, we sent the list of investment to Dacca directing them to comply therewith as near as possible by purchasing goods for ready money, as we waited Your Honours' further orders to what amount might be advanced on dadney at their settlement which they must till then forbear to do.

56. On the 21st March we received a letter from Jugdea under date the 14th February advising of their then sending by boat 175 one hundred and seventy five bundles of baftaes. On the 23rd following we acknowledged the receipt of the above letter and sent them a new list of investment per Princess of Wales and again directed them to provide their goods without advancing

dadney. We then appointed Mr. Thomas Bellamy of Council there, in the room of Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes who we had appointed of Council at Dacca.

57. On the 7 May we received a letter from Jugdea dated the 4 April acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 23rd March, promising to comply with our orders therein as near as possible, that the delolls having applyed to them for advancing them money as had been usual for two years past which was always in small sums they had acquainted them with our orders to advance nothing on dadney and that they had taken time to give their answer thereto. They also enclosed invoice and manjees' receipt for two hundred and ninety 290 bundles and jucktates of cloth sent at that time.

58. On the 8 June we received another letter from Jugdea and the 28th May inclosing their account current for the last year in which we observe that the ten thousand, 10000, rupees in part of the old debts has been duly collected, they also sent invoice and receipts for one hundred seventeen, 117, bundles of cloth, that the delolls assure them it is not in their power to transact Your Honours' business in any other method than has been practised two years before, which has been by advancing money in small sums and they humbly petition this method may be continued, otherwise they should be obliged to seek some other protection. On the 10th following we acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 4th April and the 27th May, also of the cloth mentioned in the former, in which we observed the delolls could not carry on their business unless they were advanced small sums of money, that as this was the case we must submit thereto and directed them to beware to have the goods for the money they advanced, all or near all in before they advanced any fresh sums, that the President had laid before us a muster of gurrahs of 36 and 2¼ which he had received from thence, the price marked thereon would come out to sixty two rupees per corge, washing included. We have had it dressed here and find it good, though if made of a coarser thread would be better; however as it comes out cheaper than any gurrans this way, we would have them provide as many pieces as they could to be down this season.

59. On the 23rd June, we received another letter from Jugdea dated the 30 April, advising of one hundred seventeen bundles of cloth sent us by that dispatch.

60. On the 24th July we received a letter from Jugdea under date the 4th of that month inclosing invoice and manjee's receipt for fifty three 53 bundles of cloth, dispatched from thence the 18 June, that the superfine hummums mentioned in that invoice they could not send directly to Dacca, without putting the delolls to an expence of ten thousand, 10,000, rupees as by contract with the Government not to provide cloth at an inland markett above three rupees per piece; they also acknowledged to have received from Dacca factory a supply of forty thousand, 40,000 Arcott Rupees, before the receipt of which the ballance in their hands was not above four thousand, 4000 rupees. At the same time we received another letter of the 7th July, acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 10th June, that they should pay strict obedience to the directions and orders contained therein, that they had advanced two thousand, 2000 rupees for gurrah to be made of a coarser and rounder thread, that should Your Honours' ships arrive in time to supply them with money, they should be able to provide twenty five thousand, 25000, pieces of that sortment and to make an increase in the article of baftaes to make an investment to the amount of 500000 five hundred thousand rupees, therefore hope to be favoured as soon as conveniently we can, with a lack or a lack and a half of rupees.

61. On the 28th August we acknowledged the receipt of their letters of the 18 June, 4 and 7 July and that the cloth therein mentioned was safe arrived and then directed them to send the remainder of the superfine hummums as soon as possible, that we were glad to observe the large quantity of cloth they could provide this year and that we should supply them with money as soon as we were able, but till the Europe ships arrived it was not in our power.

62. On the 3rd November we received another letter from Jugdea under date the 6th October advising that they will send us the remainder of the hummums, as soon as possible, that they have been greatly disappointed in getting in this sortment, account the large increase of this year's orders. They also inclosed invoice and receipts of one hundred thirty nine, 139, bundles of cloth dispatched the 30th September.

63. On the 22nd ditto we received another letter from Jugdea dated the 6th of month, acknowledging the receipt of the list of investment per Oxford which, when they receive a further supply, shall be complied with as the remainder of the season

will admit of, that they shall shortly make another dispatch of cloth and hope that we would supply them shortly with treasure as they had not then above five thousand, 5000, rupees in cash.

64. On the 12th March we received a letter from the Chief and Council at Dacca dated 4th of that month, advising that they had dispatched to us forty three, 43, bales and a bundle of musters and inclosed invoice of thirty, 30, bales, the other thirteen, 13, bales being part of that invoice of the 3 February, and what were returned thither to be dressed, the boats they were dispatched on having been oversett in a storm, as they advised us under date the 6th February, that as the time is near for Futtichund's House and other shroffs demanding the interest due on the money borrowed of them, and as they have no money to pay off the same, desired our directions how to act when the demands should be made.

65. On the 16 March we wrote to Dacca and sent them by Charles sloop seven chests of treasure, fifteen, 15, bales of doreas and three, 3, bales of hummums for flowering and on the 19th following, we acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 4th of that month and directed that should the shroffs demand the amount of their notes they must endeavour to renew them, till we could supply them with money sufficient to pay them off; at the same time forwarded to them the list of investment received per Princess of Wales, directing them to comply with Your Honours' orders relating thereto.

66. On the 30 March we received another letter from Dacca under date of the 20th that month, acknowledging the receipt of the list of investment, which they should endeavour to comply with as near as possible, that unless they were supplied with more money they should be able to do little or nothing, that they should not advance any money on dadney, till they received our orders, but without advancing puttun it would be impossible to provide any of the fine goods and desired us to send them an ample supply of treasure. On the same day we replied thereto and observed the situation they were in for money and promised them a supply as soon as we could get any, directing them to keep as near as possible to Your Honours' new orders and to advance no more money at a time than was absolutely necessary for getting in your goods.

67. On the 11 April having laden six chests of treasure and a bundle of velvets on the Cloe sloop for Dacca factory, we enclosed them invoice thereof and advised them of the death of Mr. John Smith who departed this life the 4th of this month, that we had appointed Messieurs Paul Richard Pearkes and Edward Eyre third and fourth of Council at their factory.

68. On the 25 April we received another letter from Dacca dated the 13th of that month, acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 19 and 31 ultimo and of the arrival of the treasure and piece-goods sent there on the Charles sloop, but that they were to acquaint us, on the arrival of the money, the Seats' gomastah made an absolute demand of the interest on the sums due to them and apprehending great inconvenience in not complying with this demand they deferred sending the forty thousand rupees to Jugdea till our answer thereto arrived. The same day we replied thereto and allowed them to pay off the Seats with the money already arrived and that having dispatched to them 60000 sixty thousand rupees on the 11th instant we directed them to supply Jugdea as soon as that money arrived at their factory.

69. On the 7th May we received a letter from Dacca, acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 25th April and they should obey our orders in paying the Seats and supplying Jugdea factory, that several claims being made on the estate of Mr. John Smith deceased by the shroffs and others there to the amount of twenty thousand, 20000 rupees, they advised us thereof to take proper measures to prevent the Company being sufferers and inclosed a list of the demands. On the 16th we replyed thereto and directed that in regard to the claims made on Mr. Smith deceased, the shroffs etc. must be told they must make their demands on the executor and that they must by no means admit of any claims being made on the Company for his private debts, that they are to take the properest measures to obviate any such demand on that factory.

70. On the 24th June we received a letter from Dacca, dated the 13th of that month, advising that they would do all in their power to obviate any demand on their factory, account Mr. Smith, and entreated earnestly for a supply of treasure, otherwise it would be impossible to send down any goods this season as they could get no money there. On the 1 July we acknowledged the receipt of the above letter, that as we were not in cash, we had

wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to procure an order on Jugutseat's House to supply them with a lack of rupees. On the 14th July we wrote to them that we were sorry to say the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar had not been able to succeed in getting them any remittance from Jugutseat's House that therefore they must endeavour to carry on their investment with what money they may be able to borrow at Dacca till we were in cash to supply them from hence.

71. On the 27th and 30th of July we received two letters from Dacca under date the 16 and 25 of the same month complaining that, if money be not soon sent them, they should be able to make but a small investment and have no puttun goods and that they could take up no money there or at least under twelve, 12, per cent which, if we approved of giving, they would try what sums could be had, that the creditors of Mr. Smith deceased had put peons on Mr. Pearkes who acts for the executor and prevents his sending down the goods, belonging to the deceased, that Mr. Pearkes had petitioned them to interfere in the Company's name but they were assured should they do so, the creditors would immediately come upon the Company and the Durbar would stand by them.

72. On the 11st August we acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 11th, 15th and 26th ultimo and that we had again wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to endeavour to get them money from Juggutseat's House and hoped they would be able to succeed for that we had not money to send them from hence, that we observed the application made to them by Mr. Pearkes, as Mr. Smith by his ill management in borrowing more than he was able to pay had greatly abused Your Honours' indulgence and thereby forefeited your protection, we could not approve of their interfering in any manner that may tend to a Durbar dispute or subject the Company to the payment of his debts, but that as we are informed Mr. Smith's banyan[9] had signed a security for the money his master borrowed, we directed they should oblige him to make good such debts in a manner that may cause no further trouble therein.

73. On the 30th of this month, we received another letter from Dacca, dated the 23rd of that month, advising of their having received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar, inclosing a note on Jugutseat's House for twenty five thousand, 25,000, Sica Rupees which was all they could obtain from the Mautobray,[10]

that this small supply would be of very little use towards providing their investment and that if some greater supplys cannot be sent them very shortly, they had but little hopes of procuring one as the season was so far advanced and no money to be got, that they had acquainted Mr. Smith's creditors with our orders that the Company were no ways concerned in his debts, they being of a private nature, that they had enquired and found Mr. Smith's banian was not security for his debts.

74. On the 23rd September under date the 15th of that month, we received another letter advising that in a few days they should send us some bales and that could money be supplied them, they did doubt not still, though the season was so far advanced, they should be able to send down three hundred, 300 bales.

75. On the 25th September we acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 13th, 20th, 23th and 25th ultimo and 15th instant, advising that Your Honours' ship Oxford had brought us a small supply of bullion which the currency of our own business and that at Cossimbuzar required, that we were in hopes of a further supply soon, when we shall do our utmost in aid of their investment.

76. On the 22nd November we received another letter from Dacca dated the 15th of that month, representing their inabilitys to proceed in their investment, not having where with all to defray their monthly expences, no one being willing to lend them one rupee as the Company's ships were not arrived with treasure.

77. On the 3rd March we wrote to the Chief and Council at Patna and acknowledged the receipt of their letters of the 10th January and 15 February and observed that they would enquire if any saltpetre could be contracted for with security there to be delivered in Calcutta, the money to be paid on delivery and that they would advise us thereof. We directed them to perform this as soon as possible, as we waited their answer with the utmost impatience, that in case they should fail of contracting in that manner we might purchase it here.

78. On the 12 of March judging it essentially necessary to come to a speedy resolution about Patna factory and the provision of petre there we agreed to meet the next day to take that affair into mature consideration. Accordingly on the 13th we

took into consideration Your Honours' orders per Princess of Wales in relation to that factory and were unanimously of opinion it would be absolutely necessary to keep your servants at that factory for this year at least, in order to get all the petre we could from thence and to procure the piece-goods ordered, which we apprehend could not be provided there this season by any other means and also to try if the Government would do Your Honours justice with Deepchund and others who owe money on ballances. And as in the 23rd paragraph of your above mentioned orders Your Honours appear satisfied to purchase saltpetre in company with the Dutch in order to lower the price, we thought it would be proper to pursue that method provided they would suffer us to furnish the petre in Patna this year in our turn, that we may not be deceived by them as last year. As the gentlemen at Patna formerly wrote for bullion to be sent them, we then agreed to send ten chests thither; the same day we wrote to the gentlemen at Patna informing them of these our resolutions and sent them a list of goods to be provided for the ensuing season and directed them to inform us what woollen goods, copper and other articles they could dispose of there to be sent them at a proper time, but as we had not received their answer to our orders about contracting for saltpetre sent them under date the 8th January, we were in hopes they had been able to come to such an agreement as we then directed; however as we were in want of a large and early provision of petre for the expected tonage and as the season was far gone and would not admit of writing to and fro upon this head, we should leave it to them to act in the best manner they could for procuring as large a supply of that article as would be in their power and directed them immediately to set about that work and recommended it to them to purchase in company with the Dutch, that we should desire the Directore and Council of Hughley to do the same with their Chief and Council and permitted them to appoint such person their vacqueel as they should judge most proper and directed them to acquaint the country Government that one inducement for our not withdrawing Your Honours' factory there was in hopes they would do you justice with Deepchund and others who owe money on ballances and that in case they refused us assistance herein we should absolutely withdraw it next year.

79. On the 14 March we received a letter from Mr. Barwell Chief etc. Council at Patna dated the 2nd of that month which

containing only a conversation between Mr. Barwell and Mr. Drabbe about the petre is extracted in the Consultation of the 16.

80. On the same day we wrote to the Directore and Council at Hughley informing them of that conversation, by which it appeared that the reasons they gave for refusing us our share of petre purchased the last year at Patna as well as our proportion of Deepchund's petre at Hughley was palpably invalid and our right thereto manifest, that having recommended it to our Chief and Council at Patna to make a provision of petre for the ensuing season and to perform that business in conjunction with their Chief there, we hoped they would approve of this method and desired them to send the same orders.

81. On the 24th March Messrs. Bisdom[11] and D'arnaud two gentlemen of Council at Hughley arrived and delivered us a letter from the Directore and Council dated 2nd April N.S. setting forth that the conversation Mr. Barewell mentions to have had with Mr. Drabbe is so different from Mr. Drabbe's manner of telling it, who offered to take his oath upon what he has already alleged, that they can't but think him in the right and their refusing us saltpetre valid, yet as they are desirous to prevent the raising of the price of saltpetre they are ready to agree to any reasonable terms for framing a new contract and therefore depute the above mentioned gentlemen to conferr with us hereon, in case we should desist from our proposals of having the provision done by Mr. Barwell, which they cannot consent to, as well because their Chief has advanced a lack of rupees on petre, as for other solid reasons. The Dutch deputies then proposed some articles in order to form a contract for the provision of petre for both Companys the next season which are entered after that day's Consultation and having taken them into consideration, such alterations as we thought proper to make therein, we delivered to the deputys and are likewise entered after that day's Consultation; we also wrote to the Directore and Council of Hughley informing them of these our alterations and hoped they would approve thereof. that we might make a contract for the provision of petre on equal terms.

82. On the 20 March we received a letter from our Chief and Council at Patna dated 13th ditto advising that the present situation of that factory was such as would not admit of the contracting for saltpetre with any security to be delivered in

Calcutta upon the terms we mentioned and upon the best enquiry they could make they believe that any attempt of theirs for that end would prove vain and fruitless.

83. On the 30th March the Dutch deputies Messrs. Bisdom and D'arnaud returned and brought us a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 8th April N.S. with the article enclosed which being extracted in that day's Consultation, we shall trouble Your Honours with the principal points insisted on, which are, to have the contract made for four years at least, that Mr. Barwell should not have the providing of petre this year, but that business should rest in their Chief Mr. Drabbe, that in case we agreed to the above propositions, that they were willing to give us our full quantity of petre provided by Mr. Drabbe last year and also of the petre bought by them at Hughley. Having taken this letter into consideration, Your Honours will perceive our proceedings with the Dutch deputys thereon, upon the face of that day's Consultation and they having withdrawn the objection to Mr. Barwell's having the provision of petre in his turn and we judging it proper to agree with them to make the contract for four years, as it might be a means to reduce the price of petre, we drew up a sett of articles for the contract and that day returned an answer by the hand of the deputys as entered upon that Consultation to which we beg leave to referr.

84. The next day we wrote to our gentlemen at Patna and informed them of the agreement we had come to with the Dutch and directed them to forbear the provision of petre for this season and to give Mr. Drabbe all the assistance in their power for carrying on that business.

85. On the 1st April the articles of our contract with the Dutch being read and approved Messrs. Kempe and Eyre were deputed to carry them to Hughley and to receive the Dutch articles in return. At the same time we wrote to the Directore and Council at Hughley to send express orders to their Chief at Patna to provide as large a quantity of petre as was procurable this season and that they would inform our deputies at what time we were to have the saltpetre they are to deliver us in Hughley and the price it stands them in.

86. On the 9th April Messrs. Kempe and Eyre returned from Hughly and delivered us the exchange of articles with a letter from the Directore and Council which being extracted in that day's Consultation, we beg leave to refer thereto. Your Honours will perceive thereby that the price of the petre they purchased of Avazeed is Arcott Rupees six and two anaes, 6·2 per maund besides some small charges.

87. On the 13th of that month we wrote to the gentlemen at Patna inclosing copy of the Dutch articles and directed them to act conformable thereto. We also sent them copies of the letters which passed between the Dutch and us on this occasion and directed Mr. Barwell to explain the part of his conduct which they complain of in regard to the petre business and that as soon as they can learn from Mr. Drabbe the quantity of petre he expects to provide this season, to advise us thereof and provide boats to bring it down whilst there is water enough for them to pass Mircha.[12]

88. On the 18th April we received a letter from our gentlemen at Patna dated the 4th of that month, acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 13th March with the list of investment, that they would comply therewith as near as possible, though the season is too far advanced to expect the whole quantity of goods ordered, that agreable to our orders they immediately went upon the petre business and what they have done herein will appear by their Consultations herewith sent to which Mr. Jackson on his request was admitted, that on the 28th March they sent to the Dutch Chief to know if they could depend on having from him thirty thousand, 30,000 maunds saltpetre in a limited time and a stipulated price, on the 30th he told them that he could say no more on that subject but that he would advise his principals at Hughly and wait the orders, that on the 31st Omichund Deepchund came and made a proposal to enter into a contract for fifty thousand, 50,000 maund saltpetre dobarrah and cootea at three Sicca Rupees, eight annas, 3.8 per maund, to be paid for as weighed off, one half to be delivered in two months and the other in five months after the date, to be weighed off at his carconnans at Singia, Chaprah and Futtipore and he signs the teep on this condition that they acquaint the Durbar that he transacts business for the English, that he agrees his old transactions shall not in the least interfere with his new engagements, that further he is willing to have Muccoomsing go down to Calcutta to settle his old accounts, that this proposal they took

into consideration as will appear by the said Consultation where their different opinions thereon are recited and agreable to the sentiments of the majority, it was concluded to close with Omichund's proposal immediately. He signed his teep in Council accordingly the 3rd of that month, that they gave him on his request one hundred and one, 101 rupees to bind the bargain and also a letter to the Nabob and Hajee Hamet[13] which he desired, that they have continued Narsing vacqueel of their factory and shall advise us after due enquiry what broad cloth etc. may be disposed of there.

89. Having taken the above letter into consideration, we thought proper to direct the Directore and Council at Hughly of this contract to know if they approved thereof and to offer them the teep, which we would direct to be delivered Mr. Drabbe if they consent thereto which we doubted not of, as a large quantity of petre is thereby secured at the price they were willing to give when their deputys were here.

90. On the 22nd of that month we received an answer from the Directore and Council of Hughly shewing their satisfaction that the contract was made upon very advantageous conditions which they entirely approve of and shall order their Chief in Patna to receive Deepchand's teep, whenever Mr. Barwell offers it.

91. The same day we wrote to our Chief and Council at Patna, acknowledging the receipt of theirs of the 4th of ditto, that we approved of the contract made with Omichund Deepchund as we had left it to them to act in the best manner they could for the provision of petre, of which they knew we were in great want and as no money was advanced into those people's hands though, from their former ill behaviour, Mr. Barwell had just reason to doubt their performance and we wished they could have brought them to settle their own accounts, before they entered into this new contract, which the hopes of selling their petre and being employed hereafter might have induced them to. We directed them to deliver Omichund Deepchund's teep to Mr. Drabbe in order to have the petre added to the provision he is already making, that having sent our bullion to Cossimbuzar, we ordered ten, 10, chests to be reserved for their use and the gentlemen ordered to send it them as soon as they write for it, but it would be more for Your Honours' interest if they could borrow money at Patna as we are in great want of money for our investment here as at all the subordinates.

92. On the 11th May we received a letter from our Chief and Council at Patna dated the 29th April inclosing their Consultations from the 15 to the 28th of that month and informing us that the Dutch Chief had protested against the teep with Omichund Deepchund and had desired thirty thousand rupees, 30,000 to be advanced him account the petre business provided they break their teep with Omichund Deepchund otherwise he does not want it, that they being of opinion the teep should not be broke, no money was advanced him but desire our sentiments clearly and fully for their further proceedings.

93. On the 12 May we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 21st May N.S. advising that their gentlemen at Patna, hearing that Deepchund had made himself entirely master of the petre business, had for a gift of four thousand, five hundred, 4500, rupees to Hajee Ahmet obtained that the purchasing of it should be interdicted to him. They desired our sentiments thereon to enable them to send proper orders about it, that our remaining share of the petre purchased by their Chief last year amounts to four thousand five hundred fifty eight, 4558, maunds which they are ready to deliver us as well as the half of that they bought at Hughley our portion of which was twenty one thousand, five hundred forty three maunds.

94. The same day we wrote in answer to the foregoing letter, that we observed the advice they had received from their gentlemen at Patna and informed them of what our gentlemen had wrote us by which they would observe how matters stood between our factory there, but as we had given orders for Deepchund's teep to be delivered Mr. Drabbe, we doubted not their coming to an amicable agreement and notwithstanding Mr. Drabbe's fears concerning Deepchund, we could not think it adviseable to infringe the contract lately made by our gentlemen with him and desired him to direct Mr. Drabbe accordingly, but if it should be judged improper between us to purchase petre of them the year after, we might take such resolution as might be thought expedient to prevent his becoming master of the petre business.

95. On the 16th we sent Mr. Richard Court to Hughley to weigh of the petre we were to receive from the Dutch and wrote to the Directore and Council to deliver it to him and desired their assistance to help him with boats to bring it away.

96. On the 19th we wrote to the Directore and Council at Hughley that we were apprehensive the contract lately made at Patna with Omichund Deepchund would not be complyed with unless that Mr. Drabbe removed the impediments he laid in their way at the Durbar. We therefore desired them to give orders immediately to that gentleman not only to remove that impediment, but also to get an order from the government for their providing petre on our joint account and when he has obtained one, to get a writing from Omichund Deepchund signifying the receipt of such order and then we doubted not their complying with the contract.

97. On the same day we wrote to our gentlemen at Patna and acknowledged the receipt of their letters of the 22nd and 29th of April that we observed what passed between them and the Dutch Chief and approved of their resolution not to infringe the teep made with Omichund Deepchund, that we had informed the gentlemen of Hughley of their proceedings with Mr. Drabbe and desired them to direct Mr. Drabbe to get an order on the government for Deepchund's procuring petre on our joint account.

98. On the 21st the above letter to Patna being wrote fair and brought to be signed, Mr. Jackson proposed a paragraph to be added, which is entered in next day's Consultation, together with our several opinions thereon to which we beg leave to referr; the majority of the Board being against the addition it was omitted.

99. On the 22nd May, the petre that we were to receive from the Dutch, being begun to be weighed off and we having money in our treasury we sent Mr. William Frankland to Hughly with one hundred forty thousand, 140000 Sicca Rupees to be brought to our account for petre. At the same time we wrote to the Directore and Council desiring them to receive it and the remainder should be sent them when they made up our account.

100. On the 25th we received a letter from the Directore and Council of Hughley dated the 3rd June N.S. advising that they should enjoin Mr. Drabbe not to hinder Deepchund in the purchase of petre, as far as it would be necessary for his complying with his contract with us for fifty thousand, 50000 maunds, but as for getting him an order for permitting the purchase of petre, they would not only think it unnecessary, but even dangerous

because they should doubtless be obliged to obtain an order the next year for the interdicting it to him again which must be attended with an expence. The President also received a letter from the Directore desiring that we would receive four thousand five hundred, fifty eight maunds, 4558, of petre being our portion of last year's in Patna, as from some losses they met with in bringing their petre down last year they should be obliged to charge us with our part thereof, if we received it in Hughley. We therefore agreed to receive it in Patna to avoid disputes and the President advised the Directore thereof.

101. The same day we answered their letter of the 3rd June N.S. wherein we insisted on their giving orders to Mr. Drabbe to obtain an order from the Government of Patna for Omichund Deepchund's purchasing the full quantity of fifty thousand maunds, 50000 of saltpetre this year, as we apprehended that if such a power was not obtained those merchants would not comply with their contract, in which case we declared that any failure in the contract and the consequences thereof must lay at their door as we had done the utmost in our power.

102. On the 28 May we wrote to our gentlemen at Patna to receive of Mr. Drabbe there the four thousand five hundred fifty eight, 4558, maunds of petre which the Dutch had promised us.

103. On the 29th May a letter from our Chief and Council at Patna, bearing date the 14th ditto, came to our hands acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 22nd April and enclosing their Consultation of the 13th May, whereby we might observe that Mr. Drabbe the Dutch Chief who was then present told them that he accepted the teep agreable to his superiours' orders and that he would acquaint them of whatever accidents might happen with Omichund Deepchund in relation thereto, and that they were to give him an answer, that they then agreed to advance Mr. Drabbe forty thousand, 40000, rupees for the provision of petre this year, that they apprehended the bullion and copper they had then on hand would prove sufficient for their present occasions, but if it should happen otherwise they would endeavour to borrow money agreable to our directions.

104. On the 31st May, we received another letter from our gentlemen at Patna dated the 18th of that month, inclosing a

letter to them from the Dutch Chief and their answer thereto, which being entered after our Consultation of the 1st June we beg leave to refer Your Honours thereto.

105. The same day we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 8th June N.S. acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 23 May and the one hundred forty thousand, 140000 rupees sent them by Mr. William Frankland.

106. On the 1st June we received another letter from the Dutch Directore and Council at Hughley dated 11 June N.S. advising that on receipt of ours of the 25th May they resolved to renovate their orders to their gentlemen at Patna, not to hinder Omichund Deepchund in the purchasing saltpetre as far as would be necessary for complying with their contract, but on the moment they were dispatching that order they received a letter from their Chief importing a conference between him and Muccomsing, Omichund Deepchund's gomastah, about the permission from the government and their saltpetre teep, the particulars being extracted fully on that day's we beg leave to refer to, from whence they thought that those people never intended to comply with their contracts, and were only seeking evasions that they might say hereafter it was no fault of theirs if their contract was not fully complied with and therefore desire we would send orders to Mr. Barwell to assist their Chief in obliging Omichund Deepchund to comply with their contract or at least to deliver them all the petre they may have purchased, that Mr. Drabbe in the same letter advises that their assammies will take no more money on saltpetre unless he agreed to give them three rupees eight annas per maund, being the price Deepchund contracted for, which Mr. Drabbe refused, upon which they desired to know if we thought it convenient to grant the assammies the price they ask, though perhaps the quantity be not much enlarged thereby or to be satisfied with as much as the money amounts to which has been advanced them before.

107. On the 2nd June we received a letter from Omichund Deepchund setting forth that they would not transact any business with the Dutch as they had made the contract with our gentlemen and calling on us to procure the order from the government agreable to their contract and declaring us answerable for any losses they might sustain in case we do not perform our part of the agreement. The translate of the letter is entered after that day's Consultation.

108. The same day we wrote to the Dutch Directore and Council of Hughley and acknowledged the receipt of their favour of the 11th June N.S. and advised them of the purport of Omichund Deepchund's letters and desired them, as we looked upon our contract with those people to be a mutual advantage and as we found it would come to nothing unless absolutely under our own management, to send immediate orders to Mr. Drabbe to return the teep to our Chief and Council and direct him to acquaint the Durbar that he would not in any respect obstruct Omichund Deepchund in the purchase of petre that year, that in case of their compliance therewith, we should direct Mr. Barwell to act agreable to the contract and on his receiving any petre from Omichund Deepchund, to deliver Mr. Drabbe their proportion and that we knew of no other method of adjusting this affair at that time so much perplext, that we observed their assammies would take no more money on saltpetre unless Mr. Drabbe agreed to give them three rupees eight annaes, 3.8 Sicca per maund, which we supposed to be for an additional quantity and should readily consent thereto if Mr. Drabbe should find it necessary but we could see no reason for giving that price for petre before contracted for, for though Omichund Deepchund's contract is at 3:8 per maund they will observe no money is advanced them, which makes a considerable saving in interest exclusive of the risque of trusting the assamies.

109. On the 6th following we received a letter from the Directore and Council dated the 15th June N.S. in answer to the foregoing that they concurred in opinion with us and should immediately dispatch orders to their gentlemen accordingly and recommended it to them to make the assamies sensible of the unreasonableness of their demand and endeavour to persuade them to provide as much petre as possible at the price they contracted for at first.

110. The same day we wrote to our gentlemen at Patna and acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 14 and 18 May and directed them to receive the teep back from Mr. Drabbe and without delay to apply to the government to get an order for Omichund Deepchund to purchase petre for us conformable to the contract and to deliver the said order to Omichund Deepchund asking the receipt for the same and when they should receive any petre from them, to deliver Mr. Drabbe his proportion thereof agreable to our contract with the Dutch. At the same we

enclosed them letters from the President to Zeind Hamet Cawn and Kajee Hamet and copys thereof for their observation and directions, when they received the teep from Mr. Drabbe, to deliver them if they judged they would be of use towards obtaining the order for Omichund Deepchund's providing petre.

111. On the 8th June we received a letter from our gentlemen at Patna under date the 24th May, setting forth the embarrassments the Dutch Chief laboured under with Omichund Deepchund's teep and as they could not perceive it to be in their power to extricate him from them, they desired us to favour them with our directions thereon, in reply to which we referred them to our letter of the 6th.

112. On the 17th June we received a letter from Mr. Richard Court at Hughley dated the 15th that in lading the boats, one of them had the misfortune to start a plank as she was lading which damaged fifty nine, 59, bags in such a manner that he was afraid there would not be a third of it left when it was dry.

113. On the 19th Mr. Richard Court being returned from Hughley delivered us a letter from the Directore and Council there dated the 28th June N.S. advising of their having weighed off to Mr. Court eleven thousand, two hundred, nineteen bags, 11219, being the half of the quantity purchased from Coja Wazeed the account of which should be made up and sent us, that they had ordered their gentlemen at Patna to deliver four thousand, five hundred fifty eight, 4558, maunds of petre, our portion of last year's purchase in Patna to Mr. Barwell on the first division that was to be made.

114. On the 25th June we received a letter from our Chief and Council at Patna dated the 10 ditto owning the receipt of ours of 12 and 19 May, referring to their letters of the 14, 18 and 24 May for what had passed between them and the Dutch relating to Deepchund's teep, from whence we might from a judgment how that matter stands and according to our directions they neither had nor should infringe it, that they inclosed sent their indent for woollen goods etc. in which they did not insert any bullion, on leaving it to us to send them what quantity we thought proper or none as we thought agreable to the circumstances of that factory.

115. On the 26th ditto the Warehousekeeper delivered in his report of the saltpetre, received from Hughley, which is entered for that day's Consultation.

116. On the 9th July in a letter dated the 18th ditto N.S. the Directore and Council advise us of the receipt of a letter from their Chief at Patna under date the 6th wherein he writes that he sent his vacqueel to the Durbar to desire the Nabob and his father Hajee Ahmett to permit Omichund Deepchund to proceed this year in the purchase of petre, but that they had refused it, saying the season was too far spent and that they would give him leave next year, upon which he desired twice or thrice Omichund Deepchund to go to the Durbar with his and our vacqueels to obtain such permission, but they always declined it positively, declaring they could not give us any saltpetre this year, neither did they want leave because Hajee demanded fifteen thousand, 15000, rupees for such an order which they did not intend giving, that they thought proper to advise us of this and desired to know what information our gentlemen had sent about this affair and what measures we thought proper to take for obliging Omichund Deepchund to comply with their contract or at least to deliver Mr. Barwell all the petre that was remaining in their hands from what they purchased anno 1745 and what they got clandestinely this year.

117. The same day we acknowledged the receipt of the foregoing letter, but could say nothing on this head till we heard how Mr. Barwell had proceeded therein of which we should advise them.

118. On the 13th July we received a letter from our Chief and Council at Patna, dated the 26th June being extracted in that day's Consultation, we beg leave to referr your Honours thereto, the chief purport whereof being that Mr. Drabbe would deliver them four thousand, five hundred, fifty eight, 4558, maunds petre agreable to the orders he had received, and agreable to our orders of the 25th May they had demanded Omichund Deepchund's teep from him which he had accordingly delivered and acquainted them that his vacqueel and ours had been at the Durbar and in short that they could obtain no such order and that Omichund being sent for and informed hereof replyed that he found the order could be obtained and the season was elapsed for getting in petre, therefore what could he say further.

119. The same day we received another letter from our Chief and Council at Patna dated the 29th June advising of the Dutch Chief's application to them, for twenty five thousand 25000 rupees more to carry on the petre business which sum they accomplished by borrowing to pay him, but finding whenever they want money on a particular pinch, some rubs and difficultys thrown in their way they desired us to send them thirty or forty thousand. 30 or 40000 rupees.

120. On the 20 July we wrote to the Directore and Council at Hughley advising them of what our gentlemen of Patna wrote us under date the 26th June, that in regard to what they desired in theirs of the 8th July N.S. we are at a loss to know what method could be taken to oblige Omichund Deepchund to a performance of their contracts as no permission from the government for their purchasing petre could be obtained, which might be in a great measure attributed to the dilatoriness of their Chief, to convince them whereof we remarked that under date the 15th May O.S. their teep was delivered and yet the licence was not attempted to be obtained from the Durbar till after the 21st June O.S. Nor did we find that Mr. Drabbe ever desired the restraint to be taken off them till the 24th June, from whence it was evident that the non-performance of Deepchund's contract was owing to the backwardness of their Chief in supporting it, which they themselves acknowledged to be an advantagious one and we apprehend it had been complied with, had they ordered the perwannah to be obtained as we desired in ours of the 12th and 19th May and which they decline in theirs of the 3rd June N.S. However if they could point out to us any reasonable and proper methods for promoting the business we should readily comply.

121. On the 27th we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley under date the 4th August N.S. expressing their surprise at ours of the 16th July attributing the nonperformance of Omichund Deepchund's contract to Mr. Drabbe whereas they might more justly lay the fault to our gentlemen's door who had the teep in their hands from the 3rd April to the 15 May and never gave themselves the least concern about getting an order from the Durbar, which they believed proceeded from their being convinced it would be of no use, that Omichund Deepchund in the very beginning were unable and never intended to comply therewith, which probably they made with no other views. They then proceeded to give reasons for their

Chief's conduct and also why they approved of the teep and add that the only and best means for bringing the saltpetre business on a good footing and making ourselves entirely masters of it was to join in obliging Deepchund to deliver all the petre that was in their hands and if need be to be at an expence at the Durbar for that purpose and afterwards forever to seclude Omichund Deepchund and all other natives and conclude with desiring our concurrence herein.

122. The same day Mr. Jackson delivered in a letter to the Board in relation to the contract to be made with Omichund Deepchund and containing his opinion of settling the merchants' and assamies' accounts which being entered after that day's Consultation, we beg leave to refer Your Honours thereto.

123. On the 28th of the same month we wrote in answer to the last Hughley letter that we agreed with them that our gentlemen at Patna were much to blame in not attempting to get an order from the government for Deepchund's carrying on the petre business, whilst the teeps remained in their hands, of which neglect we had taken due notice, but from the time Mr. Drabbe received the teep, till he delivered it back to our gentlemen, it certainly lay upon him to have got the government's licence and then we should have performed our part and might have expected Deepchund would have performed his, that in regard to their proposal of applying to the government to force Deepchund's petre from him, we could not think it would be performed by such means, because the nonperformance of the contract may be attributed to us, for not obtaining the government's order, as we ought; besides experience has shown us that an expence of money to tie up the hands of those who buy petre is useless and therefore think it most adviseable that their gentlemen at Patna in conjunction with ours should endeavour to prevail with Deepchund to deliver what petre he can in part of his contract.

124. On the 3rd August we received a letter from Hughley under date the 12 ditto N.S. wherein they agreed to send order to Patna as we desired, but as they could not think perswasions would have any effect, they again leave it to our consideration whether it would be adviseable, in case amicable means fail, to enjoin our gentlemen at Patna to apply to the government for the obtaining Deepchund's petre, provided the money given in such case does not exceed two annaes per maund.

125. On the 5th we answered the above letter and could not think it adviseable to risque Your Honours' money on so precarious a footing as forcing Omichund's petre from him when so just an objection lays against us, for the nonperformance of the contracts lays on our side and as they were desirous of giving proper orders for secluding Deepchund from the petre business we took the liberty to remind them, that in November next, it would become our business to provide petre for the ensuing season, therefore could not consent to tying up of our Chief and Council's hands from dealing with any merchants or assamies at Patna as they should judge best corresponding with our mutual interest.

126. At the same time we wrote to Patna that we had consulted the Directore and Council of Hughley concerning the advices they sent us under date the 26th June in regard to Omichund Deepchund's petre contract and directed them to join the Dutch Chief in endeavouring to prevail upon Omichund Deepchund to deliver us what petre they could.

127. On the 10th we received a letter from the Dutch Directore and Council under date the 20th August N.S. The purport thereof was to show how improper it would be for us to employ Deepchund in the petre business and to declare whatever pernicious consequences might attend the making a contract with him must lay at our door.

128. On the 11th we took into consideration Mr. Jackson's letter delivered into Council the 27th ultimo, our several opinions thereon being entered in that day's Consultation, we beg leave to referr thereto.

129. On the 21st August we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 30th August N.S. enclosing the account current of saltpetre bought from Coja Vazeed as made up by them, the ballance thereof being Sicca Rupees twelve thousand two hundred forty nine, four annaes, three pyce, 12249.4.3. in our favour, they sent us the same and by a letter from their gentlemen at Patna dated the 14th August, they perceived that Deepchund had farmed the whole district of sircar Syriang giving for each twenty five thousand, 25000, rupees, more than was paid for before and that by another gift of twenty five thousand rupees he had obtained a grant that none but himself should buy in petre in sircar Syrang and that he actually designs to make himself master of the saltpetre

business in the province of Bahar; thereupon they had many reasons to engage us to write our endeavours to frustrate his design as the only means of obtaining the aim of the contract made between us; they added that their Chief had twice demanded money from Mr. Barwell for the providing saltpetre but had been as often put off and therefore desired us to order it to be paid witnout delay.

130. The same day we replyed to the above and acknowledged the receipt of the money they sent us and promised soon to send them our thoughts upon what they wrote concerning Deepchund, that we were surprised at Mr. Barwell's having refused to advance their Chief money on account saltpetre as he had not mentioned a word thereof to us, but that we would send him positive orders to pay it.

131. On the 26th we received a letter from our Chief and Council at Patna, dated the 8th ditto enclosing a letter from the Dutch Chief with their answer which being entered after that day's Consultation, we beg leave to referr Your Honours thereto.

132. On the 28th we received another letter from our gentlemen at Patna, wishing we had sent them forty or fifty thousand, 40 or 50000 rupees agreable to their request as it might have been of use towards enlarging their investment and enclosing another letter from the Dutch Chief with their account current and their answer from him by which we would perceive that he charged them, nineteen hundred twelve rupees, eight annaes, 1912. 8. for their proportion of the four thousand five hundred rupees 4500 paid Hajee to stop Omichund Deepchund from purchasing petre which they referr to us; they also enclosed another letter from the Dutch Chief, all which letters are entered after that day's Consultation.

133. The same day we wrote to the gentlemen at Hughley and enclosed copys of Mr. Drabbe's account current and a letter that they might observe he threatens by his letters to have recourse to the 6th article of the contract and which we desired them to give orders to prevent, for though Mr. Drabbe's account current made us indebted twenty nine thousand, six hundred, seventy six 29676 rupees, yet they might observe that part of this sum arises on four thousand, five hundred, fifty eight 4558 maunds of petre which was to be delivered in Hughley, though at their desire we agreed to receive it in Patna, so that the real deficiency of money on the present year's petre is short of fifteen

thousand, 15000 rupees, that the reason of our money not being ready in Patna was because we could not get a bill of exchange, that we were sending treasure on light boats and would allow them interest for the difference of time, which we hoped would satisfy them for such a trifling defficiency, that we can't by no means allow of nineteen hundred and twelve rupees eight annaes, 1912.8. charged in Mr. Drabbe's account current as that money was spent before we entered into contract. We also remarked to them the large interest charged by Mr. Drabbe, which we doubted not but they would order to be reduced to the currency of Patna, that then these two articles would considerably reduce the lawful demand Mr. Drabbe had upon our gentlemen there.

134. On the 3rd September, we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 13th September N.S. acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 25th and 28th August O.S. and that they should order the two articles in Mr. Drabbe's account current to be adjusted agreable to our desire and to forbid him to charge any interest on the four thousand, five hundred, fifty eight, 4558, maunds of petre out of last year's purchase but that this did not take away the lawfulness of his demand for the principal of that quantity, which as it was to be delivered us at Patna, ought likewise to be paid there, as it was weighed off. They approved of Mr. Drabbe's design to have recourse to the 6th article of the contract, as Mr. Barwell did not advance them money in time for this year's purchase of petre and as they had been much streightened for this neglect of Mr. Barwell's and had been obliged to get a bill of exchange at an excessive high agio (*sic*).

135. On the 7th September, we received a letter from our Chief and Council at Patna dated the 22nd August, acknowledging the receipt of ours of the 6th, that they in company with the Dutch Chief had sent two or three times to Omichund in order to prevail with him to give them their petre, but that he would not come near them.

136. The same day we wrote to the gentlemen at Hughley and acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 13th September, that we agreed to our gentlemen at Patna paying Mr. Drabbe the amount of the four thousand five hundred, fifty eight, 4558, maunds of last year's petre, but could not allow it lawfull for him to deprive us of any part of our proportion of this year's purchase, on account of the trifling deficiency of money which

did not amount to more than ten thousand—10,000 rupees, but if they were determined to act with so much strictness, that we must remark that the 6th article allows time for our gentlemen at Patna, which as we could not get bills we were obliged to send treasure by water and was accordingly on the way, so that in case Mr. Drabbe detached any part of our proportion of this year's petre, we declared him guilty of a breach of the contract.

137. The same time we wrote to Patna and acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 8th and 12th ultimo and advised them of the money we had sent them and in case they wanted more, we hoped they would be able to borrow there, for we could see no likelyhood of supplying them till our ships arrived and informed them of all that had lately passed between us and the Dutch and directed them to protest against Mr. Drabbe as guilty of breach of the contract, if he detained any part of our proportion of this year's purchase of petre.

138. On the 15th we received a letter from the Directore and Council of Hughley dated the 23rd September N.S. in which they could not allow any breach of the contract, in having recourse to the 6th article thereof, since the money which their Chief so long ago demanded for the provision of petre was not then advanced.

139. The same day Mr. Jackson delivered in a letter to the Board containing the contract made with Deepchund, which being entered after that day's Consultation, we beg leave to refer Your Honours thereto.

140. On the 16th Messrs. Bisdom and D'Arnaud brought us a letter from Hughley dated the 26th September N.S. advising of the information they had from their Chief at Patna of Deepchund's design to oblige the Europeans not to buy petre for the space of five years, nor ever to demand what was owing them from the assamys and that he had framed a project not to sell any petre in Patna but to send it all down to Bengall, that they had sent the above mentioned gentlemen to deliberate with us thereon and to settle with us such means as should be found necessary to frustrate Deepchund's designs.

141. Having that day advice of the arrival of Your Honours' ship Oxford and hoping that some new orders might arrive in relation to Patna factory which might direct us in our answer

to the Dutch, we prevailed with the deputys to wait till the packets should arrive.

141-A. In our Consultation of the 20th Your Honours will perceive our proceedings therein and our answer to the Dutch letter, wherein we only endeavoured to gain time, as we had then received no information from our gentlemen at Patna in relation to Deepchund's project and as we hourly expected Your Honours' further orders in relation to the affairs of that factory.

142. On the 21st September we wrote to our gentlemen at Patna and acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 22nd August, informed them of the letter we daily received from Hughley in relation to Deepchund's project and directed them to let us know if he was engaged in any such scheme.

143. On the 23rd we received two letters from the gentlemen at Patna dated the 5th and 8th September advising that the Dutch Chief had informed them, the Nabob had given the farm of all the saltpetre in the Subahship of Bahar to Omichund Deepchund and that he believed they had no intention of dealing with us, as they were sending their gomastah to Bengall with a view of selling their saltpetre there, that what truth there might be in this, they knew not, but left it to our judgement. They also advised that the Dutch Chief had wrote them that as so much time was elapsed without their advancing money he would give them no more petre than he had received money for and would send the rest down on his masters' account. They added it was most two months and a half since they advised us of their wanting a supply of money but had not then received any from us.

144. On the 25th September we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 5th October N.S. urging us in the strongest terms to join with them in oversetting Deepchund's schemes and declaring, if we deferred coming to an agreement with them therein, we should be guilty of a breach of the contract and they should be under a necessity of taking such measures as their duty and the interest of their Company required.

145. On the 29th we took the above letter into consideration and were of opinion that it would be endless to engage in any expence to tie up Deepchund's hands as that method had several times proved ineffectual and that the best way to obviate the effects of his proceedings was to keep to our

resolutions agreable to the contract with the Dutch, not to purchase from him on any account whatever. We wrote to the Directore and Council to that purport which Your Honours will perceive at large in that day's Consultation.

146. On the 12 October, we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 20th October N.S. by which they appeared quite dissatisfied with our interpretation of the 6th and 15th articles of the contract and that, as we were pleased to reiterate our declaration against Mr. Drabbe's stopping any part of our proportion of this year's purchase of petre, they apprehended we had an inclination to separate from them, thereof they must look upon the contract as broke yet not by them but us.

147. Having on the 13th October taken this letter into consideration, we apprehended from the purport thereof, that the Dutch had a mind to break the contract and throw the blame upon us and wanted to extend the purport of the 15th article to oblige us to an expence for defeating of Deepchund's schemes. We thought it therefore necessary to obviate that intention by deputing two gentlemen of the Board to confer with them to show the unreasonableness of their persisting in depriving us of our part of this year's petre for the accidental deficiency of ten thousand 10.000 rupees and to learn what method they proposed to take to defeat Deepchund's designs and to know to what amount they imagine any expence they may be at on this account might arise. Messieurs Bellamy and Eyre we accordingly deputed to Hughley with a letter to this purpose.

148. On the 19th October Messrs Bellamy and Eyre returned from Hughley and delivered us a letter from the Directore and Council there dated the 29th October N.S. the contents whereof they desiring to be kept secret, it was entered on our private Consultations which come herewith, the purport whereof was that they thought it for the mutual interest of both our Companys to seclude Deepchund and all other country people from the saltpetre business, that they apprehend this end may be obtained for the expence of twenty thousand 20000 rupees or thereabouts, provided the affair be kept secret and nobody gives notice to Deepchund of this our design and that in case we agreed to the reasonable and necessary proposition, they were ready to deliver us our full proportion of petre of this year's purchase. Having taken this letter into consideration, it was debated whether it was proper to comply with this

proposal of the Dutch gentlemen. Our several opinions were entered on that day's private Consultation and the majority of the Board being of the opinion to comply therewith, we wrote the Directore and Council at Hughley and informed them of our resolution to join them in an application to the Durbar, provided no money should be paid till they were sufficiently assured the expence would answer the designed end.

149. The same day we wrote to Patna informing them of the resolution we had come to and directed them to join the Dutch Chief in an expence not exceeding twenty thousand 20000 rupees between them, provided no money be paid unless they were assured the expence would answer the end designed and for the other parts of our letter, as they are not so material, we beg leave to refer Your Honours to that day's Consultation.

150. On the 26th October we received another letter from Hughley dated the 5th November N.S. and is entered in our private Consultation of that date together with our answer thereto which being of little or no consequence we beg leave to refer thereto.

151. On the 18th November we received a letter from our Chief and Council in Patna dated the 28th October advising that Mr. Drabbe had sent for his account current and acquainted them he had orders from his principals to rectifie it in conse quence of their agreement with us and promised to send them a new account current, which he had not then done and that if he should refuse to deliver them either the four thousand five hundred, 4500, maunds of last year's purchase of our proportion of this year's petre, they should protest against him agreable to our directions, that on the 27th October they dispatched to us thirty, 30, boats with petre and turmerick.

152. On the 20th we received a letter from our Chief and Council at Patna dated the 2nd ditto advising that since their last, they had advised that one of the saltboats with three hundred and sixty five, 365 bags, of saltpetre was lost a little below Panarack[14] and that thirteen, 13, of the boats had run ashore in a very strong eddy on a sand and that they hoped to dispatch their cloth and the remainder of the petre in a fortnight's time.

153. On the 25th we received another letter from our gentlemen at Patna, dated the 14th ditto, informing us that the Dutch Chief had been with them and that agreable to the

contract it was our turn to provide petre for the ensuing year, that they replied they could not give him an answer till they had orders from us, that then he talked over with them the affair of paying the government twenty thousand rupees, 20,000, to oblige Omichund Deepchund to deliver their petre at three rupees, four annaes 3.4 per maund but not to pay the same till they had sufficient security that all his petre should be delivered them upon consideration hereof, they were of opinion that the dependence on this government under the present management either before or on the payment of the money would not be a sufficient security, therefore judged it best to wait to see whether we should order Your Honours' money to be risqued and paid away on such terms. They then desired to know of the Dutch Chief if he would give them their proportion of last and this year's petre, to which he replied he would give them what he had there and write to his superiours to give us at Hughley what might be wanting to make up the full quantity.

154. The same day we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 5th December N.S. desiring us to give orders to our Chief at Patna not only to make a beginning in advancing what money was required for providing petre for the ensuing season, but also that their Chief might be assisted in executing the agreement made between us against Deepchund and prevent his having anything to do with the petre trade, that as they had no more in Patna than nineteen hundred ninety nine, 1999, maunds of petre it would be very agreable to them. if we would receive our proportion out of what is now to be received which our Chief might take from the first parcel.

155. At the sametime we took the Dutch letter into consideration and a debate ensued thereon, whether it was more for Your Honours' interest for our Chief to set about the provision of petre this season or leave it in the hands of the Dutch for a year longer, when the majority being of opinion that the provision of the petre for the ensuing season ought to be left to the Dutch, we accordingly wrote to the Directore and Council of Hughley to send orders to their Chief to provide petre for us both as they did last year, there being some impediments at that time in our way, which made it not so convenient for us to undertake it. and that we should give orders that their Chief should be supplied with our proportion of money, that as by this means they will have had the provision the first two years of the contract, we must have the furnishing of it the two

remaining years in case it should suit our conveniency to undertake it, that being advised from Patna that Mr. Drabbe in Council with our gentlemen had considered the affair of paying the government twenty thousand, 20,000 rupees to get Deepchund's petre and apprehended it too great a risque to trust the government with Your Honours' money beforehand, it was therefore our opinion that both our Chiefs should be directed to make the agreement with the government as before ordered, but not to pay the money till Deepchund's petre should be delivered to them, or sufficient security given for the delivery thereof, that as they say it will be agreable to them for us to receive our remaining proportion of petre out of what is now to be received at Patna we agreed thereto.

156. On the 30th November, we received a letter from the Directore and Council at Hughley dated the 9th December N.S. acknowledging the receipt of the above, agreable to the contents whereof, they will order their Chief to take charge of the provision of petre this year and that our Chief should have the provision of petre for the two last years of the contract, that in regard to what we wrote concerning paying money to the government for obtaining Deepchund's petre, they think it absolutely necessary that both our Chiefs should be left at liberty and empowered to use the best methods they could to accomplish their ends.

157. The same day we took the above letter into consideration and agreed to write in answer, that as Mr. Drabbe and our gentlemen at Patna were of opinion that our Companys' money ought not to be risqued or paid away, without sufficient security for the government's performance of articles, we should keep to those terms and send such orders to our Chief and Council at Patna and desired they would send the same to Mr. Drabbe as it was the only secure method to prevent our being duped.

158. On the 1st December we wrote to our gentlemen at Patna and gave orders conformable to what had lately passed between us and the Dutch.

159. On the 10th December by the boats from Patna we received a letter from our gentlemen there, dated the 30 October, advising of their having dispatched to us, six thousand, one hundred and seventy three, 6173, bags of saltpetre and eighty bags of turmerick thereon.

161. On the 11th March we ordered the list of investment for Balasore to be drawn out and sent thither, and as there was twenty, 20, bales of brown sanoes, which came from Balasore for Madrass Presidency and apprehending they would not be wanting on the Coast for the use they were designed, we thought it most adviseable to return them to Balasore to be whitened.

162. On the 21st March we wrote to Mr. Heath at Balasore and enclosed him such paragraphs of Your Honours' orders per Princess of Wales as related to that factory, as also the list of investment by her and directed him to comply therewith as near as possible, having a due regard to that paragraph of Your Honours' orders directing him to provide as many goods as possible without advancing dadney.

163. On the 17th June we received a letter from Mr. Heath at Balasore dated the 7th ditto accompanying invoices of eleven, 11, bales of sanoes and that the troubles there on account of the Morattoes had obliged him to send us up seven bales of brown cloth on the Balasore sloop.

164. On the 1st July, we acknowledged the receipt of the foregoing and approved of his sending up the sanoes for the reasons he gave.

165. On the 8th August, we received a letter from Mr. George Heath at Balasore dated the 1st ditto, requesting a supply of money, to carry on his investment there.

166. Under date the 28, we acknowledged the receipt of the foregoing and permitted him, as we apprehended he might take up the money he wanted for the investment there, to draw a bill on us for the amount as the risque was thereby saved Your Honours. that there being twenty seven bales of his brown cloth, part received from him this year and part the last, which we could not get properly whitened and dressed here, we directed him to advise us of the time proper for returning it to him in order to be cured there.

167. On the 9th September we received a letter from Mr. Heath at Balasore dated the 3 acknowledging the receipt of the foregoing advising that he should take up what money he wanted there and draw bills on us, agreable to our permission, that the earlier the twenty seven bales of brown cloth were returned the sooner they would be whitened and dressed.

168. On the 16th we dispatched the abovementioned bales to Mr. Heath with direction to get them whitened and to return them to us in proper time.

169. On the 21st October, we received a letter from Mr. Heath dated the 5th ditto acknowledging the receipt of the brown cloth and should forward the whitening and dressing of them and return them to us as soon as possible, that he had drawn on us for eight thousand, 8000, Madrass Rupees in favour of Bogbutpaul, which he had taken up for carrying on his investment.

170. On the 12 November we received another letter from Mr. Heath under date the 1st ditto advising that the rains continuing late would impede the return of the brown cloth sent him to be dressed early enough for this year's shipping.

171. On the 12th March some bullion being arrived by the Princess of Wales and Mr. Brooke being then down in Calcutta on his private affairs, as we thought it necessary to get it disposed off as soon as possible, the President wrote to Seat Mautobray, to know if he would purchase it.

172. On the 21st March we received a letter from Cossimbuzar enclosing a letter to the President from Seat Mautobray desiring the bullion to be sent up to our factory, from whence he would receive it and pay us in rupees there and on the 23rd ditto we acknowledged the receipt of their letter and advised them of our having dispatched thither thirty, 30, chests of bullion and at the sametime enclosed them the list of goods to be provided there, with such paragraphs of Your Honours' orders per Princess of Wales as related to them, directing them to comply therewith as near as possible, and to pay due obedience to that paragraph for providing as many goods as they could without advancing dadney.

173. On the 31st March, we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to endeavour to procure one lack, fifty thousand new Sicca Rupees, we supposed they might have from Futtichund upon our bullion lately sent and to send it us down immediately, but in case that house could not supply them with ready money, to get an order for that sum on his house here or at Hughly as we then had an immediate call for that sum.

174. On the 5 April, we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 31st March advising of the receipt

of the thirty, 30, chests of bullion sent them and acknowledging the receipt of the list of investment and Your Honours' orders relative to that factory, to both which they promise due obedience, but till they came to some terms or canvassed with their merchants, they could not possibly judge how matters would go with regard to their investment.

175. On the 11th April, we received a letter from Cossimbuzar dated the 6 ditto and advising that agreeable to our orders, under date the 31st March, they should send us a lack of rupees as soon as they could get it from the Seat's House and an order for the other half lack, on one of his houses, but they apprehended the drawing of so much money from them would hurt their credit.

176. The same day we replyed in answer that as soon as boats could be got ready we should send them some more bullion, which we lately received per ship Houghton and directed them to send us the rupees, we before wrote for, by the party that convoyed the bullion and accordingly on the 18th we sent them, 20, chests.

177. On the 22 April we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 17th of that month, advising they had for sometime been treating with their merchants in order to settle the price of raw silk for the ensuing season but could not possibly prevail with them to contract for a muster of November bund equal to that of last years, as they had suffered thereby before but at last prevailed on them to agree on the prices following, viz.,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Novemberbund[15] | ... | ... | @ 9·4 per seer the A |
| Guzzeratt[16] | ... | ... | @ 9·13 |
| Commercolly[17] | ... | ... | @ 9·1 the musters |

of which they sent herewith, the two last of which pretty near equal to those of last year, that they acquainted the merchants with Your Honours' orders for not advancing above thirty, 30, per cent upon raw silk and gurrahs and providing all other goods for ready money, but finding them so adverse to these propositions, that they thought it impossible were to bring them to agree thereto, that they believed one great reason was the inability of their circumstances, which but too plainly appeared from the ballances then due from them; that this would ever be the case till an expedient was found out to prevent the people in mean condition becoming security for each other, which they thought necessary to offer for our consideration.

178. On the 23 having inspected the musters of raw silk, we found the Novemberbund much inferiour to that of last year, appearing mixed with the Marchbund[18], the Guzzerat was near last year's muster in fineness but very dirty and the Commercolly near equal.

179. On the 27 we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar that we could not think of agreeing to the prices affixed to their raw silk as they were so extravagant and directed them to use all proper methods for recovering the ballances from their merchants and to inform us of such methods as they judged most proper for the security of the money they should trust them with in future.

180. On the 5th May we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated 29th April acknowledging the receipt of the twenty, 20, chests of bullion sent them under the care of Ensign English, by whom they have returned one hundred thousand, 100,000, new Siccas and enclosed to us a bill on Jugulseat's House for fifty thousand, 50000, Siccas more. The same day Ensign English arrived with the above-mentioned sum.

181. On the 15th May we received another letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 7th ditto advising that they could not possibly reduce the price of raw silk for many reasons therein mentioned and that the lowest price their merchants would contract for gurrahs was eighty, 80, D'Massa Rupees per corge, that they had and should continue to use their utmost endeavours to recover the ballances due from the merchants, before they trusted any more money in their hands, and in regard to the expedient for securing the money to be trusted with their merchants hereafter, they were of opinion that the abolishing the office of broker has been by experience found highly detrimental to Your Honours' affairs, especially in contracts for the investment, the merchants being come to such a pitch as to fix what prices they pleased on their goods, which evil they conceived could be cured by no other method than by having a ruler over them, of wealth and credit of their own cast, in order to obviate any imposition of this kind and to secure any debts from falling on Your Honours in future and if we should approve of this proposal, the person whom they recommend is Bully Cotmah, who formerly acted there as broker with great credit and reputation.

182. On the 22nd May we took the Cossimbuzar affair as represented by them into consideration and it was debated whether it was proper to permit them to act with a broker as they desired. Our several opinions are entered upon that day's Consultations to which we beg leave to referr and the majority of the Board were of opinion that no broker should be appointed at Cossimbuzar and as the gentlemen there could not lower the price of silk which was so high that we apprehended Your Honours could get nothing by it, yet we thought it necessary to provide a part and agreed that a *third* of the former orders should be contracted for.

183. The same day we wrote to Cossimbuzar and advised them of our above resolutions and directed them to proceed in providing the silk peice goods and as many gurrahs as they possibly could on the best terms, advancing no more dadney than was absolutely necessary, for the provision of their goods and to trust their money only with such merchants as would give security and advance none to any already indebted till they had paid off their old ballances.

184. On the 21 June, we received a letter from Cossimbuzar dated the 17th advising that they had not been able to prevail with the Seats to take away the bullion on account of the troubles in the country and stoppage in the mint, but promised to send for it soon, but had given them to understand that he could give no more than two hundred and one, 201, Sicca Rupees for two hundred and forty, 240, Sicca weight for any more bullion that should come, alledging by way of excuse to the imposition that the profit thereon was less than formerly, the rupees being made of finer silver.

185. On the 25 June we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to apply to Jugulseat's House to get an order from them on their house at Dacca to supply the gentlemen there with a lack of rupees.

186. On the 4th July we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 1st ditto advising that they were about giving out dadney for raw silk they contracted for ten, 10, annaes per seer less than what affixed to the musters and that had it not been from the troubles they met with from the government, they should have been able to have provided a considerable quantity of gurrahs notwithstanding their principal merchants were encouraged for that end in Calcutta where they then resided.

187. The same day we wrote to Cossimbuzar that we knew not who informed them that their principal merchants were encouraged here to get gurrahs, none but Cotmah and Russee Coprah having offered to take dadney from us, that the former had resided here several years and his gomastah was at Cossimbuzar to provide goods as usual, the other had left his son with them as he informed us to provide goods as formerly.

188. On the 7 July we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar advising that the Seats had sent them word, they could not supply Dacca factory with the money there ordered.

189. On the 9th August we received another letter under date the 5th ditto that having in theirs of the 1st July wrote us that they had contracted with their merchants for ten, 10, annas per seer less than what affixed to the musters sent us, but as the teeps were not then signed on account of the troubles coming on, they have since prevailed with them to lower it four annas more which they apprehended was the most they could lower it to this season, therefore desired our orders for a further provision if we thought it necessary, that the Seats had taken away their bullion but persisted in the resolution of giving no more than two hundred and one.

190. On the 10 we wrote in answer to the foregoing, that as they had lowered the price of silk four annaes more and apprehended it would be reduced no lower, notwithstanding it was very high, yet we thought it adviseable to encrease the quantity before ordered and directed them to provide four hundred, 400, bales in all, in the same proportion of each sortment as was first ordered, that we observed Jugulseat's House persisted in reducing the price of bullion to two hundred and one, 201, which was so low that it would not be worth while to bring from Europe and to represent this in the strongest manner and use their utmost endeavours to keep it up to the price they agreed for in the beginning of the season.

191. On the 26th August, we received a letter from Cossimbuzar dated the 22nd of that month advising that having been obliged to pay off the interest of their notes to Jugulseat's House for two years past, it had swept away the amount of their twenty chests of bullion, which put them under the greatest difficulties for carrying on their investment, which we must be sensible of from the small ballance of their cash and treasury accounts enclosed, that they could procure no more for Dacca

factory than a bill of twenty five thousand, 25000, rupees which they had sent them, that the Seats had agreed to allow them two hundred and three, 203, Sicca Rupees for the bullion, they observed that we had ordered them to encrease the quantity of raw silk and hoped we would supply them with money to carry on that as well as other parts of the investment.

191. On the 28th we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar that we were in daily expectation of the arrival of Your Honours' ships, till when we were wholly unable to send them any supply, that they must therefore use their endeavours to furnish themselves from Jugulseat's House.

192. On the 23rd September we received a letter from Cossimbuzar under date the 17th advising that they could not prevail on Jugulseat's House to lend them any more money and despaired of getting any from thence or elsewhere till Your Honours' ships arrived.

193. On the 25th ditto we wrote to them and enclosed them the new list of investment per Oxford and were preparing boats to send them twenty, 20, chests of bullion in order to be sold to Jugulseat's House, to whom we send a letter from the President desiring them to order ten chests thereby to be paid for by their house in Calcutta for the currency of our business here and to pay them for the other ten chests for carrying on their business and to assure them that we have certain advice of a large supply of bullion being on the way and it shall be duely sent to be disposed off to them and if that they could get a further supply for Dacca it would be an acceptable piece of service, that from what they wrote in theirs of the 17th we could not judge of the situation of their investment and directed them to let us know how far they had proceeded therein.

194. On the 9th October we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 4th ditto, advising that the Seats had agreed to pay for the bullion in the manner we desired, but had given them their final answer that they would give no more than two hundred and one for the bullion, notwithstanding their utmost endeavours to keep it at two hundred and three, 203, that in regard to their investment they had made no great progress for want of money, that they had contracted for fifty eight thousand, 58000, pieces of gurrahs at seventy five, 75, rupees per corge but if we could not furnish them with money speedily or the Morattas should come as was reported, their

measures would prove abortive, otherwise we might expect the full quantity ordered. In respect of their raw silk they had agreed to give their merchants bills of debt at interest, for the whole quantity ordered, but whether they would be able to comply without assistance of money, time only could evince; as to the silk piece goods a considerable quantity might be procured, had they money to purchase them.

195. The same day we answered the foregoing letter and directed them to inform the Seats, in case they reduced the price of bullion so low, we were apprehensive Your Honours would in future order it to be disposed of on the Cormandell coast, but if they still insisted to give us no more than two hundred and one, 201, we must submit thereto as we had it not in our power to resist their imposition, their being no other purchasers, that with regard to their investment they may assure their merchants that they shall be supplied with money as soon as ever we had it in our power.

196. On the 10th October we received a letter from Cossimbuzar dated the 30th September accompanying thirty two, 32, bales of gurrahs on Your Honours' account.

197. On the 19th October we received a letter from Cossimbuzar under date the 16 ditto advising that the Seats had obstinately persisted in giving no more for the bullion than two hundred and one, 201, which they were obliged to comply with and delivered it them accordingly at that price, that they enclosed a bill of exchange on their house here for seventy seven thousand, 77000, new Sicca Rupees.

198. The same day we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and acknowledged the receipt of their bales and the bill of exchange on Futtichund's House and as the gentlemen at Saint Davids had made large draughts on us and being much in debt for our current expences, we directed them to use their endeavours to procure another bill for us for fifty thousand, 50000, Siccas unless they should have paid the money into their factory for the other ten, 10, chests of bullion. In such case we directed them to forward that sum by boat as soon as possible.

199. On the 29 October we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 24th ditto in which they were sorry to observe the necessity we were under of drawing so much money out of their hands at a time when they were about delivering out to their merchants to enable them to perform

their contracts for raw silk, as it was certain that many of them had strained their credit so much in purchasing the putney as to be unable to carry on the expence of winding it off without some assistance which would be then quite out of their power to give them and under such circumstances they left to us to judge of the fate of their investment. That they had dispatched to us thirty six thousand, 36000, Sicca Rupees which was all the money they were able to procure from the Seats on account the ten, 10, chests of bullion, but that they had promised to pay the remainder in three or four days. The scarcity of money was such that even from them they could not depend on a punctual compliance and desired to know if they must compleat the sum of fifty thousand. 50000. Siccas. when they received it from the Seats; they also advised that agreable to former orders, they had excluded those merchants the dadney who had not paid their ballances, among whom was one Mohunbiswass indebted to the Company, four thousand and forty five rupees, six annaes and nine pyce, 4045.6.9. and is a considerable creditor of Sir Francis Russell, on which account he threatened to renew his complaint at the Durbar and their vaqueels were apprehensive he might succeed therein at this juncture. They therefore advised their giving him dadney to prevent Your Honours' affairs being embroiled, he promising to pay half his debt this year and the remainder the next. that there were other merchants indebted to Your Honours, whom they apprehend might pay all or the greatest part by this method but very little without it. therefore they desired our orders thereon.

200. The same day we received another letter from Cossimbuzar dated the 24th of that month accompanying four chests of silver.

201. At the same time we replied to the two foregoing letters and acknowledged the receipt of the four chests of silver therein mentioned, that as their merchants were in so great want of money to pay for the winding off the putney, they might keep the remainder of what they were to receive from Jugulseat's House on account bullion, that we observed what they wrote about Mohunbisswass and others indebted to Your Honours on ballance, but could not think it reasonable to be obliged to advance them dadney for fear of their making application to the Durbar, therefore peremptorily ordered them not to advance money to Mohunbisswass and others indebted on their old contracts, unless undoubted security be given for money to be

advanced on fresh contracts as also for the payment of the old ballances at the time they stipulated.

202. On the 28 November we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 25 ditto advising that they had delivered the remainder of the money they were to have sent us to their merchants on dadney for raw silk, which amounting to no more than three rupees, five annaes per cent, they were apprehensive many of them would fall extreamly short in performing their contracts, that they should obey our orders with regard to Mohunbisswass and other merchants indebted to Your Honours and not trust them again without proper security. They advised they had received a letter from Sergeant John Richards, acquainting them of the arrival of the Patna fleet at Mircha, but not having received orders from us, relating thereto, they judged it would be most expedient for the fleet to proceed the lower way, as the quickest and least expensive passage, that accordingly they sent a banian with money to the sergeant for that purpose. What further relates thereto, Your Honours will observe in our Consultation of the 30 November.

203. The same day we replyed to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar, wherein we observed their apprehensions of their merchants falling short in performing their contracts for raw silk from the small advance of money but that we should not fail to supply them as soon as possible. In the meantime we directed them to use their utmost endeavours to get the merchants to comply with their contract and we also approved of their transporting the petre from Buddlepoor[19] to Jillengee,[20] if they could not send it cheaper the lower way, and as Your Honours in the fortieth paragraph of your orders per Princess of Wales, seemed desirous to know how the Dutch came off from the Nabob's demand at the time when he forced from us three hundred and fifty thousand, 350,000, rupees, we directed them to learn what sum the Nabob took from the Dutch that time or since for Your Honours' information.

204. In our address to Your Honours per Kent and Montfort, we advised of having appointed a committee for examining into the nature and rise of the deficiencys in the import warehouse. That committee having finished their enquirys and delivered them into the Board we on the 19 November took the same into consideration and it appearing that those deficiencys arose whilst Mr. Wadham Brooke was Import Warehousekeeper, we thought it necessary to order him down from Cossimbuzar as

soon as he could conveniently leave that factory to be examined thereon. We therefore beg leave to referr Your Honours for the conclusion of this affair to our address under the established heads.

205. On the 5th March, we took into consideration the disposal of Your Honours' woollen goods laying on hand and which would not sell at the last outcry; a list thereof being laid before us, we agreed to put them up the 6th of April, when we accordingly put them to sale as Your Honours will perceive by our Consultations of that day and the account sales are entered after the Consultation of the 13th April, as also the reasons for the smallness of the sale and deferring the outcry till a more proper season.

206. As we were informed the Morattas were retiring out of the Budwan country we had hopes that some of the woollen goods and copper might sell and therefore ordered, by our Consultation of the 25 June, the Warehousekeeper to lay before us an account of what goods were in the warehouse.

207. On the 29 following the account was accordingly laid before us and we then agreed to put them up at outcry on the 30 July ensuing.

208. On the 29 July we took into consideration at what prices to put up Your Honours' woollen goods, copper, lead and iron and then agreed to the rates which Your Honours will observe by our Consultation of that day as also our reasons for deferring the sale of the aurora broad cloth. The accounts of what then sold at outcry were laid before the Board the 10th of August and are entered after that day's Consultation.

209. Some of the Madeira wine being landed from the Oxford and as all the country ships were come in and the place being then as full as might be expected, we on the 19 of October, agreed that the wine designed for this place as well as that for Madrass should be put up at publick outcry the 26 following when we resolved to put it up at one hundred and sixty, 160, rupees per pipe.

210. There being 30 pipes remaining that would not sell at the price, we agreed the 26 to put them up at outcry, we on the 29th thought it necessary to deferr the sale till Saturday the 28 November when they were all sold as Your Honours will observe by the account sales brought in the 7th December which are entered after that day's Consultation.

211. On the 16 November we came to a resolution of keeping the woollen goods per ship Exeter and then ordered them to be surveyed in the presence of the captain and as we had received some woollen goods from St. Davids and likewise having some remaining in our warehouse, we then agreed that they should be put at publick outcry the 17th December folowing with the copper, lead and iron, laying on hand except what was wanted for Your Honours' use, to which Consultation we beg leave to refer Your Honours for the price we agreed to put them up at. The account sale was brought in the 22 December and is entered after that day's Consultation.

212. On the 26 March, the President received a letter from the Phousdar of Hughley[21] informing him that he had received an order from the Nabob to receive of the executors of Coja Minas the sum of sixty thousand, 60000, rupees which their vacqueel at Muxadavad had obliged himself to pay to the government in part of the effects of Cōja Minas and desiring the President to receive that money and to send it to him at Hughley, otherwise the persons of the executors who are ordered to attend us by that day's Consultation.

213. The executors attending us, the next day, the Nabob's order to the Phousdar of Hughly was read to them. Their reply and our directions, Your Honours will observe at large on that day's Consultation.

214. On the 1st June, we received a letter from gentlemen at Cossimbuzar concerning the Nabob's demand on the executors of Coja Minas with copy of a perwannah enclosed, which we acknowledged the receipt of on the 6 ditto and sent directions thereon which Your Honours will perceive on that day's Consultation.

215. On the 21 ditto we received two letters from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 17th and 18th of that month, enclosing two letters to the President from Raja Junkeram[22] and Golumhassun Cawn[23] and copy of the Nabob's answer to the President's letter to Rajah Junkeram, by which we might perceive the Nabob's intention in besetting their factory with his forces in case his demands were not complyed with and desiring our directions how to act in such an emergency, which we sent them as Your Honours will perceive by our Consultation of the 25.

216. On the 2nd July we received advice from our gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 29th June, that the Nabob had put horsemen on their factory who were to attend their vaqueels to Muxadavad as occasion required and had also given orders to one of his jemindars to surround their factory with his forces if speedy satisfaction was not made to his demands.

217. On the 4 July we received another letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 1st ditto advising further of the Durbar and their proceedings on this affair of which we advised the executors and represented to them the troubles which were brought on Your Honours' factory on their account and required to know how they proposed settling this affair with the government. Their reply with our answer being entered on that day's Consultation, we beg leave to referr thereto.

218. Your Honours will likewise observe by our Consultations of the 9 and 13 July that we received two other letters from our gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 4th and 9th of that month relating to this affair, of which we on the 14th advised the executors of Coja Minas, who then agreed to have this affair made up for twenty five thousand, 25000, Sicca Rupees, for which they signed an obligation empowering us to get this affair finished, upon which we wrote to our gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and sent them directions accordingly as Your Honours will perceive by that day's Consultation.

219. On the 9th of August we received two letters from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 5th of that month, advising that they had at last with much difficulty finished this affair with the Nabob for twenty five thousand, 25000, rupees and about six thousand, 6000, rupees more for Durbar charges.

220. On the 10th of ditto we sent for the executors and acquainted them of our having concluded this affair who promised us to pay our expences thereon, upon which we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to let us know the amount thereof.

221. On the 12 of August the executors delivered us a bill of exchange for seven thousand and twenty one Sicca Rupees, four annaes, 7021.4, payable to Mr. Brooke in part of the money, which we forwarded to Cossimbuzar and directed them to credit of the executors for the amount as soon as they received it. They also paid into Your Honours' treasury here four thousand, 4,000, Sicca Rupees as a further part.

222. On the 26th August we received another letter from Cossimbuzar dated the 20th of that month, acknowledging to have received the amount of the abovementioned bill of seven thousand and twenty one Sicca Rupees, four annaes, 7021.4, as also further on that account thirteen thousand one hundred seventy six Sicca Rupees, thirteen annaes, nine pyce, 13176.13.9, both which sums they had brought to the credit of Coja Minas and enclosing the account of sundry sums paid on their account to the Durbar amounting to twenty nine thousand, six hundred and sixteen rupees, seven annaes, 29616.7. They have since paid into Your Honours' treasury seven hundred, 700, rupees and have been several times called upon for the remainder which nothing but the great scarcity of money in the place has prevented their fulfilling but they absolutely promised that the remainder shall be made good and we shall take care that they comply therewith.

223. On the 3rd November Mr. William Kempe, Jemindar, acquainted the Board that Hajee Saluis a Turk having died without any heirs or any claim being laid to his estate, he went to his house as usual in such cases, taking with him the Cauzee Ockoon and others as witnesses and having found four thousand, eight hundred, eighty six Arcot Rupees, seven annaes and nine pyce, 4886.7.9, we ordered the same to be paid into Your Honours' treasury and brought to the credit of Saluis's estate in order to be repaid in case any heir should appear to lay claim thereto.

224. On the 30 November, the President received a perwannah from the Nabob, advising him, that he had appointed Mahomud Yearboy Cawn to seize Saluis's estate and directing him to take care that there were no embezzlements which, with the answer thereto, being entered on the face of that day's Consultation we beg leave to referr Your Honours thereto.

225. Your Honours will please to observe in our Consultation of the 7th March we took into consideration the best method of fortifying the weakest part of the factory *viz.*, the new godown and what we have done therein appears upon that Consultation.

226. Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted, Engineer, informing us that some part of the barracks was the most proper place to make bombproof, especially as the timbers thereof were very rotten and must necesarily be removed, we that day agreed that a part of

each end should be appropriated for that purpose and be immediately set about and as he advised us against pallisadoeing the fort it being useless and expensive, we agreed that such pallisadoes as were then provided, should be applied to the ends of the wharf, where the walls were very low.

227. On the 3rd September Captain Commandant Robert Hamilton[24] sent in his proposals for strengthening the place in the best and most expeditious manner it would bear which we thought highly necessary to comply with and then ordered them to be set about immediately. His proposals are entered after that day's Consultation.

228. On the 12th March we acquainted Captain Holcombe with Your Honours' favour to him in your 48th paragraph of your commands per Princess of Wales, for which he desired to return his thanks.

229. In the course of our Consultation Your Honours will please to observe our proceeding against Mr. Bartholomew Clarke late Storekeeper who was indebted to Your Honours upon ballance twelve thousand, six hundred ninety three rupees, six annaes, three pyce, 12693.6.3, which he upon several applications to him. evaded payment of and as he continued to misbehave himself by breaking the peace, carrying pistoles in his pocketts all over the town and threatening in different places to shoot the President and others and also abusing him causelessly abroad in a scurrilous manner, we looked upon such behaviour in one of Your Honours' servants as an high insult to the authority of the place and tended to give a bad example to others. Therefore on the 2nd April, we agreed to suspend him the service till Your Honours' pleasure should be known.

230. On the 10th of that month the persons who had demands on the store godown as per Consultation of the 26th March again desiring payment, we thought it absolutely necessary for Your Honours' credit that those debts should be discharged and agreed to pay them out of your cash and finding by Mr. Clarke's frequent evasions he had made use of Your Honours' money and continuing obstinate in not making satisfaction, we dismissed him Your Honours' service and proceeded against him for the recovering of Your Honours' demand at a course of law, since which we have received several sums of money, which we had made over and when the process in the Mayor's Court is finished

and the rest that he has made over, sold by their order, we hope to have this debt made good.

231. On the 29th April Your Honours will observe by the several letters received from Patna, therein extracted, Mr. Barwell's treatment of Mr. Jackson, his violent behaviour in Council there and our observations thereon.

232. On the 15th May Mr. Jackson being arrived from Patna delivering in a paper which is entered after that day's Consultation, we then required him to give his reasons in writing for leaving Patna without our permission which he complied with the next day and are entered after that day's Consultation. Your Honours will likewise observe our several opinions which being unanimous that Mr. Jackson was not culpable, he was admitted to his seat at the Board and was ordered to take charge of the general books of this factory.

233. In our Consultation of the 19 May, 25 June, 20 and 23 July are contained our proceedings on Mr. Barwell's behaviour and his answer, to which we take the liberty to refer Your Honours, wherein you will observe the majority being of opinion that Mr. Barwell ought to be removed from the Chiefship, we appointed Mr. Jackson to succeed him and he was accordingly ordered to get ready to repair thither, of which we advised the gentlemen at Patna.

234. On the 20th August Mr. Jackson represented to the Board that his affairs required him to remain here sometime longer in order to settle them and purposed to follow the fleet in a light boat, sometime in the ensuing month. which we complied with as his presence was not then immediately necessary at Patna.

235. On the 9th October we took into consideration whether it was a proper time for Mr. Jackson to proceed to Patna or not; upon due consideration thereon and as he was to enter upon a new scene of action to purchase petre for us and the Dutch, the next season, we thought it would be in vain for him to make such an attempt without having a supply with him and as we were in hopes of the arrival shortly of some of Your Honours' ships with proper supplys and new orders with regard to that factory, we judged it most adviseable to wait their arrival when we should be better able to come to a final resolution with all affairs relative to that factory.

236. On the 12 May Mr. Samuel Parks being arrived from the Coast, we appointed him Sub-Accomptant agreable to Your Honours' orders and then directed Mr. Cruttenden to deliver him the charge of Your Honours' books and papers in the Accomptant's office.

237. On the 4th May Mr. Joseph Briggs one of Your Honours' servants departed this life of a fever as per advices from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 7th ditto.

238. On the 1 August the Accomptant laid before us the general books of this Presidency brought up to page 145 and then acquainted us that Mr. Parke was unable to carry them on account his ill state of health and desired that one of Your Honours' servants might be appointed for that purpose untill Mr. Parkes recovered. We accordingly appointed Mr. Robert Orme to that business as being well qualified.

239. On the 27th Mr. Samuel Parkes departed this life of a consumption and the next day we appointed Mr. Robert Orme to succeed him in the office of Sub-Accomptant.

240. On the 21st August Captain William Holcombe addressed the Board to lay down his commission as captain, being unable to officiate as Captain and Commandant on account of his ill state of health which we acquiesced to and the succession as follows *viz.*, Captain Hamilton, Commandant and captain of the first company, Nathaniel Jacobs, captain of the second company, Thomas Fenwicke, captain of the third company and ordered commissions to be drawn out accordingly.

241. On the 23rd September Captain Edward Frederick Read departed this life of a fever, whereby the posts of Gunner and Master of Arms became vacant; Captain James Irwin being a proper and well qualified person for those employs, was appointed thereto.

242. Your Honours will observe by our Consultations of the 5th October that Captain Edward Fredericke Read late Gunner of this garrison has by his last will and testament bequeathed Your Honours a legacy of eight thousand, 8000, Madrass Rupees, which we shall receive from the executors at a proper time.

243. On the 11th of October Mr. George Hooper Sub Secretary departed this life of a fever and the 12th of that month we appointed Mr. John Cooke to succeed him, as he is very diligent and in every prospect (*sic*) qualified for that post and has since given us great satisfaction therein.

244. On the 10th November we received a letter from Mr. George Heath at Balasore dated the 1st of that month acquainting us that his ill state of health renders him incapable of attending the business of that factory and as he designed to return to Europe this season, he requested us to appoint a Chief in his room.

245. On the 12th we took Mr. Heath's letter into consideration and then appointed Mr. Henry Kelsall, who had been as assistant at that factory for some years and acquainted with the business there, and as he was shortly to commence factor having served a longer time at Madrass, we thought him a proper person to succeed Mr. Heath and for a further character of that gentleman, we beg leave to referr Your Honours to the 107 paragraph of our letter per Tryall sloop.

246. On the 6th April Messrs. Sisson and Starke two of Your Honours' covenanted servants arrived here upon the Houghton, the former for this settlement and the latter for Madrass. We enquired how the captain treated them in the passage, they answered very kindly.

247. On the 12th May Messieurs Fleming and Scrafton two more of Your Honours' covenanted servants being arrived here were asked how Captain Sumner treated them to which they replyed very kindly.

248. And on the 2nd July Mr. Batson whom Your Honours appointed a writer for this place being arrived from Fort St. David was asked how Captain Sumner treated him in his passage to which he replyed extreamly well.

249. Your Honours having peremptorily ordered Mr. Charles Hampton to be sent to Bencoolen he took his passage on the Princess of Wales to Fort St. Davids and from thence proceeds on the Fanny for Fort Marlborough.

250. In the course of our Consultation Your Honours will observe that Messrs. Mansell, Orme, Speck and Pybus, four of your servants that were upon the Madrass establishment and came down thither from the Coast, as they were desirous of being employed, we accordingly stationed them in your several offices as monthly writers till your pleasure be further known with regard to them. Mr. James Mansell is since dead of a dyssentary.

250. (*sic*) On the 3rd March we wrote to the Supravisors at Patna, acknowledging the receipt of theirs of the 7th February to which we should have replyed sooner, but extraordinary business prevented us, that we observed Omichund stopped from going on in settling and adjusting his accounts and proposed referring them to the arbitration of the merchants and shroffs there, that this method was wholly unprecedented and we could by no means submit to have Your Honours' affairs arbitrated by the subjects of this country, it being particularly specified in the phirmaund, that all merchants dealing with Your Honours should settle accounts in your factory and the government is thereby ordered to compel the merchants to do so. They must therefore endeavour to bring Omichund Deepchund to comply therewith, which should they refuse, they must apply to the government to oblige them thereto and enclosed we sent letters from the President to the Nabob and Hadjjee Ahmet which we would have had them deliver if they thought they would be of use.

251. On the 26th March we received a letter from the Supravisors at Patna dated the 16th of that month, owning the receipt of ours of the 3rd upon which they immediately called upon Omichund to proceed on his accounts. He accordingly attended them on the 14th and referred us to what then passed to their Consultation of that date, by which we may observe that they could not prevail on him to go on with his accounts unless they would acknowledge and write to us that the endorsement on the teep was fictitious. This proposal of his being so very extraordinary they told him it must be referred to us and having formerly and lately made the strictest examination into this affair as fully set forth in their Consultations enclosed, therefore the determination of it must rest with us, for that further enquiry to make about it there they knew not, the persons who transacted this business being here and they having no books or accounts to inspect for their guidance, that with regard to an application to the government to oblige Omichund Deepchund to settle their accounts in the factory if he should still insist upon arbitrators so many ill consequences were to be dreaded from a step of this nature, that they hoped it would plead their excuse for their not having ever mentioned it to Omichund, that they apprehended it would first be a means of Omichund's gaining his point by an order from the government, for on application formerly made them about some other merchants' accounts, the Nabob immediately ordered arbitrators to decide them which

is the usual course in the Durbar and will they suppose be the first step in the present case and to evade so seemingly reasonable an appointment might be attended with difficulties, that as we have resolved not to spend any money at the Durbar on this occasion is a good reason for their not applying to them. For daily experience shews that no good issue can be expected unless attended with proper presents, which is always the first introduction and which they imagined from what they had observed there will not be spared by their antagonists, that we well knew what slight obedience the Nabobs pay to the present government and therefore it might be presumed little benefit could accrue from their mentioning King Furruckseer's phirmaund and in this opinion they joined with the Supravisors as set forth on the 9th November 1746, that under date the 15th November the Supravisors mentioned to us how sensible they were of the little service they could render Your Honours there and how poor an equivalent it would be for the large expence of maintaining that factory and notwithstanding their best endeavours, the little they have been able to do since still confirms them in their opinion and they should have been backward in their duty to Your Honours were they to give us the least hopes of their rendering service, which to them seemed absolutely impracticable, that if we in answer to this should insist upon their applying to the government they would immediately comply with our command but cannot look upon themselves in any respect answerable for the consequences, at the same time assuring us they would exert themselves to the utmost for Your Honours' service and interest in the prosecution of this affair, if we determined to have it proceeded on there.

252. On the 22nd April we wrote to the Supravisors and acknowledged the receipt of theirs of the 16th March, which we should have answered sooner, but expecting to hear further from them in regard to ours of the 13th, that notwithstanding their reasons for not applying to the government, we thought it necessary they should make it in the manner we prescribed, unless they were well assured it would be of disadvantage to Your Honours' affair of which as they were on the spot they were the best judges, that we observed the proposal of Omichund Deepchund for sending Muccoomsing down to settle their accounts here, which we apprehended would be entirely useless, as we should be unable to make proofs on our side or disapprove what their gomastah might assert and more particularly the endorsements on the teeps, and were of opinion that Patna was the

most proper place for settling all accounts depending in that factory for if we could not come to any conclusion when Deepchund was here in person there could be but little hopes of any success from his gomastah and supposing Deepchund to be in a more equitable way of thinking and to have made the proposal in order to have matters settled amicably, surely they might do it more properly in Patna as they were authorized to adjust those accounts in the best manner they were able, and this we would have them set about if they could dispose them thereto or bring them to any equitable way of thinking.

253. On the 29th September the President acquainted the Board that he had received a letter from Muccomsing, gomastah to Omichund Deepchund, advising of his arrival at Hughley and desiring to know if he could come with safety to Calcutta to talk with us in person; as Mr. Cole might have design to make demands on this agent of Omichund Deepchund, we agreed to send for him to know his intentions. Mr. Coles was thereupon sent for and his answer to the questions we put to him, Your Honours will observe are entered upon that day's Consultation, whereupon we agreed the President should send to Muccomsing to know his intentions in coming here.

254. On the 3rd October Mr. Coles sent in a letter to the Board which is entered after that day's Consultation and the same day we received a letter from Muccomsing, the translate whereof is entered after our Consultation of the 5th of that month to which we beg leave to referr Your Honours and his proposals therein were so extravagant that we could not admit of them.

255. And on the 17th November having again taken the Patna affairs into consideration, after duly weighing all circumstances, the majority were of opinion that the gentlemen at Patna should hold themselves in readiness for withdrawing that factory sometime in January next in case Your Honours should not make any alteration in your former orders for that purpose. We directed them to send us an answer to the first paragraph of our letter to the Supervisors under date the 22nd April last. The debate we had on this affair and our several opinions thereon Your Honours have in that day's Consultation.

256. On the 10th April as the administrators of the estate of Sir Francis Russell deceased had given notice that they would make a dividend of his effects, we ordered the Accomptant to

draw up an account of what Your Honours had suffered by the Cossimbuzar merchants detaining their ballances in their hands on account of Sir Francis Russell's debt to them that we might claim a dividend agreable thereto and as the sum of twenty five thousand, 25000, Sicca Rupees paid to Futtichund was in dispute, whether the dividend belonged to Your Honours or the securities of Sir Francis Russell, we desired the administrators to keep the dividend that will be due thereon in their hands till the property was determined.

257. The day following the Accountant laid before us the account, which is entered after that day's Consultation, upon which we demanded a dividend from the administrators who replied they could not make a dividend according to that amount, but agreable to the debts due to the merchants as they stand upon Sir Francis Russell's books, of which they would send us a copy. They also promised to keep the dividend of the money paid Futtichund in their hands untill the property was determined. The copy of the account as it stood on Sir Francis Russell's books they sent us on the 20th following and is entered after that day's Consultation. We then ordered our Secretary to make a demand agreable thereto in form and the answer he received Your Honours will observe in our Consultation of the 29th following.

258. On the 9th September the administrators to Sir Francis Russell's estate, acquainting us that Mr. Stephenson had got a decree of the Mayor's Court in his favour and that there would be a meeting of his creditors to consult about an appeal from that decree, we then directed our Secretary to attend the meeting and with the other creditors agreed to an appeal in behalf of Your Honours, which appeal is carried before the King and Council.

259. The gentlemen at Patna under date the 28th October transmitted to us the books of that factory closed to the 30th April last, by which there appears wrote off in the proffit and loss article one hundred and ten thousand, 110,000, rupees. Their reasons for it Your Honours will please to observe in their letter of that date extracted in our Consultation of the 16th November.

260. On the 17th following we tooke the same into consideration and then appointed Messrs. Jackson, Dawson and Eyre to dissect the profit and loss article of any three preceeding years

since 1735 in order to form a judgement how this difference arises.

261. As this dispatch will not admit of our sending a state of this Presidency, we take the liberty to lay before Your Honours a calculate of the debts due at interest and on dadney contracts both here and at the subordinates to the 30th December amounting to fifty five laack, sixty five thousand sixty six rupees, four annaes, and three pies, exclusive of interest, which is enclosed in this packet for Your Honours' inspection.

262. We come now to advise Your Honours what sums have been received into your cash for bills of exchange, payable at ninety days of sight as usual, and first of those paid in by Your Honours' covenanted servants at two shillings and four pence, 2s. 4d., per rupee, who have been sworn that the money so paid is on the accounts under mentioned.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| On the 17 December of Mr. Richard Court account William Davis Esq. fifteen thousand, three hundred, eighty six rupees, eleven annaes and six pies, 15386.11.6, payable to William Davis Esq. or order at 2.4. each is ... | £ 1795. | 2. | 4 |
| On the 21 December of John Jackson Esq. on his own account, twenty two thousand four hundred, forty nine rupees, 22449, payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennett or order at 2.4 per rupee is ... ... | 2619. | 1. | 0 |
| On the 26 December of William Kempe Esq. on his own account eight hundred fifty seven rupees, two annaes and three pies, 857.2.3, payable to Christopher Wywill and Mrs. Anne Kempe or their order at 2s.4d. per rupee ... ... | 100. | 0. | 0 |
| On the 30 December of Captain Nathaniel Jacobs on his own account five hundred rupees, 500, payable to Mr. William Denne or order at 2.4 ... | 58. | 6. | 8 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| On the 5 January of Mr. Perry Purple Templer account of Mr. Edward Croke one thousand, seven hundred and fourteen rupees, four annaes and six pies, 1714.4.6, payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennett or order at 2s. 4d. per rupee ... ... | 200. | 0. | 0 |
| On the 5 January of John Jackson Esq. on his own account five thousand, one hundred, and forty two rupees, thirteen annaes and nine pies, 5142.13.9, payable to Mr. William Dunster or order at 2.4 per rupee ... | 600. | 0. | 0 |
| On the 5 January of John Jackson Esq. on his own account, five thousand, one hundred and forty two rupees, thirteen annaes and nine pies, 5142.13.9, payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order @ 2.4 per rupee is ... ... | 600. | 0. | 0 |
| On the 5 January of Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden account of William Davis Esq. one hundred and twenty thousand five hundred and six rupees, 120506. payable to Mr. Robert Cliffe or order at 2.4 per rupee ... | 14059. | 0. | 0 |
| On the 5 January of Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden on his own account, fourteen thousand, three hundred, seventy four rupees, three annaes and three pies, 14374.3.3, payable to Mr. Robert Cliffe or order at 2.4 per rupee ... ... | 1676. | 19. | 9 |
| On the 7 January of John Jackson Esq. on his own account, eight thousand, five hundred, seventy one rupees, six annaes and nine pyce, 8571.6.9, payable to Mr. William Dunster or order at 2s.4d per rupee is ... | 1000. | 0. | 0 |

On the 9 of John Jackson Esq. on his account, one thousand, seven hundred and fourteen rupees, four annaes, six pies, 1714.4.6, payable to Samuel Feake and Thomas Braddyll Esqs. or their order at 2.4 ... ... 200. 0. 0

On the 9 of John Jackson Esq. on his account, fifteen thousand, seven hundred, seventy four rupees, ten annaes and nine pies, 15774.10.9, payable to Thomas Godfrey Esq. or order at 2s.4d. per rupee ... ... 1840. 7. 6

On the 9 of John Jackson Esq. on his own account, five hundred and fourteen rupees, four annaes, and six pies, 514.4.6, payable to Messrs. William and Euen Campbell or order at 2.4 per rupee ... ... £ 60. 0. 0

On the 9 of Mr. Jonathan Ranson on his own account ten thousand, six hundred eighty seven rupees, eight annaes, payable to William Davis Esq. or order at 2s.4d. ... ... 1246. 17. 6

263. The whole amount of sums paid in at two shillings and four pence per rupee is twenty six thousand and fifty five pounds sterling fifteen shillings and five pence three farthings, 26055.15.5$\frac{3}{4}$.

264. We have likewise received the following sums at two shillings and two pence per rupee from the following accounts viz.,

On the 17 December of Messrs Samuel Court and William Young account Richard Eyre Esq. four thousand, seven hundred, forty five rupees, thirteen annaes and six pies, 4745.13.6, payable to Richard Eyre Esq. or order at 2s. 2d. per rupee ... ... 514. 2. 7$\frac{3}{4}$

On the 21 December of John Jackson Esq. account the estate of Mr. Bevil Cruttenden, three thousand, four

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| hundred, sixty four rupees, four annaes, payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennett or order at 2.2 per rupee is ... | 375. | 5 | 10½ |
| On the 5 January of Mr. Thomas Boddam on account Mr. William Shiers. two hundred thirty rupees. twelve annaes and three pies. 230.12.3, payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Shiers or order at 2s.2d. per rupee ... ... | 25. | 0. | 0 |
| On the 7th January of Mrs. Anne Peirce nine hundred twenty three rupees, one annae. three pice. 923.1.3, payable to Mr. Robert Pulleyn or order at 2s.2d. per rupee ... ... | 100. | 0. | 0 |

265. The whole amount of sums paid in at two shillings and two pence, 2.2, per rupee is one thousand and fourteen pounds sterling eight shillings and six pence, one farthing, 1014.8.6¼.

266. We have also received into Your Honours' cash, the following sums, for which we have granted three certificates to each of one tenour and date. one of which being accomplished the others to become void viz.,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| On the 5 January of John Jackson Esq. account Captain Charles Pigot, Current Rupees ... ... | 553. | 4. | 3 |
| On the 7 January of Captain Edward Ward account the estate of Captain Robert Misenor Current Rupees ... | 2139. | 8. | 0 |

267. The whole amount of certificates received is two thousand, six hundred ninety two Current Rupees, twelve annaes and three pies, 2692.12.3.

268. On the 26th November Captain Edward Ward sent in a letter requesting a survey on the Warwick within board. We then ordered the Master Attendant and Carpenter on that service and to deliver in their report thereof, which they complied with. The report and captain's request comes enclosed.

269. The President acquainted the Board on the 30th November that he had received a letter from Commodore Griffin, under date the 5th October in which he advised that he should

prepare the Medway to send home and hoped to have her ready by the latter end of December or beginning of January and if we thought proper to send any ships to Europe he desired they might be ordered down to Fort St. David, but could not be fully determined till he was joined by a reinforcement and received his letters from the admiralty. Thereupon we agreed that the Warwicke as being most in readiness to be laden and finding we should have bales of different sortments sufficient to dispatch her by that time, should proceed to St. Davids of which we acquainted Captain Ward.

270. On the 1st December Captain Ward sent in a request for two thousand, 2000, bags of saltpetre to be laden on board, which we complied with, reserving to ourselves the power of turning it into whole freight if we should hereafter have occasion and Captain Ward's request for the same comes in the packett.

271. On the 15th following we sent for Captain Edward Ward and acquainted him that we had about four tons of turmerick and tendered it to him on charterparty terms to be shot loose in the hold, which he accepting of, we ordered the Warehousekeeper to lade it on board.

272. We on the 18th again took into consideration whether it was most adviseable to send the ship Warwicke to Fort St. David to proceed for Europe under convoy or to detain her to go from hence with the others of Your Honours' ships and having maturely considered thereof, we thought proper to dispatch her to Europe via Fort St. David under such convoy as the commodore could give there, as it might be a means of getting her cargo earlier and safer, as also advices both from hence and the Coast to Your Honours. We therefore agreed that the President should advise the commodore of this our resolution and at the sametime wrote to the gentlemen at Fort St. David to prepare any advices they may think necessary to go by her.

273. On the 28th December the Export Warehousekeeper acquainted the Board that he had shipped off fourteen hundred and sixty one, 1461, bales to the Warwicke and there being then eighty seven, 87, tons wanting to compleat her tonage which would require upwards of four hundred, 400, bales, we judge it proper to turn so much of her requested peter into whole freight.

274. The same day Captain Ward sent in a letter requesting fifteen thousand, 15000, Arcot Rupees for the use and expences

of his ship Warwicke which we complied with on his executing two bonds of one tenour and date as usual, one of which with his request is enclosed in the packett.

275. Agreable to our order of the 22nd December, the Import Warehousekeeper and Storekeeper laid before us the account remains of their respective warehouses with draughts of their indents which having been duely weighed and considered and compared with the particulars what was indented for last year, together with the consumption of Europe goods this year, we compleated the indents on the 5th instant, which Your Honours have in this packett, with the several account sales of Europe goods and shall reconsider it by the last ship making such alterations as may be necessary.

276. On the 26th December we had the agreable news of the arrival on the 23rd of that month of the Winchelsea, Colchester, Benjamin, Caesar and Eastcourt in Balasore Road under convoy of the Exeter, York and Eltham, three of His Majesty's ships of war and the day following we took into consideration how to dispose of them, and being informed by Captain Nathaniel Stevens, commander of the Lively, that his orders from Commodore Griffin were in this case to get the stores for the squadron as soon as possible and as the commodore had sent the same directions to the Commander in Chief of the squadron and considering we should not have goods sufficient for lading those ships home we concluded it most adviseable to send the three former of Your Honours' ships as they had the King's stores on board to Fort St. David under the same convoy and then ordered the Caesar and Eastcourt to proceed into the river and in order to further the dispatch of those ships we sent down Mr. Thomas Coales on the Ballasore sloop with directions to the commanders to deliver all the treasure to his order and to receive from him such treasure as we should direct to be reladen on board them for Fort St. David, signing bills of lading for the same, which was as follows:

Nine, 9, chests upon the Winchelsea

Eight, 8, chests upon the Colchester and

Eight, 8, chests upon the Benjamin and for the remainder we directed Mr. Coales to lade upon such ships and sloops as were in the Road and of our proceeding herein we advised the gentlemen at Fort St. David. At the same time we ordered Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs one

of Your Honours' covenanted servants down to Ingellee to wait the arrival of ships Caesar and Eastcourt to bring up their packetts with which he returned yesterday. Your Honours' commands therein we found to be the same as those formerly received by the Lapwing and Oxford.

277. On the 31st December Captain Edward Ward sent in a letter, advising that the time limited by charterparty for the ship Warwick's sailing expired the 30th day of January. His letter is enclosed in the packett.

278. On this ship Warwick we have laden sundry goods and merchandize which goes consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rupees seven hundred sixty one thousand, three hundred and one annae. 761300.1.

279. Mr. Humphry Bellamy who dispatches this ship from Ingellee will advise your Honours with her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from thence.

280. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most
obedient humble servants,
John Forster/A. Dawson/Humffreys Bellamy/W. Kempe.

Fort William,

10 January, 1747/48.

(*Ref.*—Bengal letters from the Coast and Bay, 1747-48, Vol. 13.

Paragraphs 225—27 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. I, p. 201.)

## 2

## LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1747/48

*Shipping details—little sale of copper—Seth Mahtab Rai's refusal to transact business of the mint with the Company—Maratha incursions hinder trade—arrest of Shaikh Farhat Ullah*

125 Dir. of Arch.

*by the Company's soldiers and his subsequent release—assassination of the Subah of Patna and arrest of Haji Ahmad—occupation of John Nagore by the Company.*

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

May it please Your Honours

1. We addressed Your Honours this season under dates the 10th January per ship Warwick and the 23rd ditto via Bussorah and therein gave Your Honours as full a state of your affairs as the several circumstances would admit of. Duplicate of our letter under the 10th January comes herewith.

2. We now proceed under the established heads to give Your Honours a further account of your affairs under our management and to reply to your several commands favoured us with this season and

*First, concerning shipping.*

3. Since the dispatch of Your Honours' ship the Warwick we have received Your Honours' favour per George snow under date the 13th April under cover to the President from Charles Floyer Esq. Deputy Governour of Fort St. David.

4. Under the same cover the President received a letter from the Honourable the Secret Committee sent by that vessell and the several other letters from that Honourable Committee have been received from the captains of the ships in whose list of packet this same were mentioned to which the President will reply apart.

5. On the arrival of each of Your Honours' ships this season one of your servants was sent down to search for private trade and a strict charge given them not to connive at any illicit clandestine goods and we assure Your Honours we shall not fail to inform you if any such should be found on board. The several reports go in the respective packets of each ship.

6. The proper surveys have been made on all Your Honours' ships within board before we began to lade any goods on them. Such of their reports and captains' requests as have not already been sent come in their respective packets.

7. As Your Honours in the 9th and 46th paragraph of your commands per ship Princess of Wales were pleased to take notice of the charges and expences of your sloops, on the 16th March the Master Attendant was sent for and acquainted therewith and his reasons in writing were demanded for the same. Copies of the said paragraphs were sent him for that purpose and his reasons are entered after Consultation of the 10th August. Your Honours may depend upon us that we shall never knowingly suffer any embezzlements, overcharges, impositions or neglect in this branch of your expences. We annually contract with the Master Attendant and no stores are sent on board your sloops but what he indents for agreeable to your former orders and in order to lighten the expences as much as possible Your Honours' sloops are employed in loading and unloading your ships as often as they are disengaged from duty in the Road and attendance on your outward bound ships.

8. On the 9th April and again on the 9th November being the proper seasons for surveying the river the Master Attendant and pylots were ordered on that service. Their reports are entered after Consultation of the 22nd May and the 26th December.

9. Captain Isaac Worth was called upon the 13th April to give his reasons for going to Fort St. David after the last of August and afterwards for quitting that place contrary to Mr. Hinde's positive orders to send his packets ashoar. On the 16th following he delivered his reasons in writing which are entered after that day's Consultation.

10. The same day we likewise demanded his reasons for his conduct at Bencoolen as complained of in their letter of the 4th February to which he replyed as per Consultation of the 16th April to which we beg leave to refer.

11. On the 27th April the Master Attendant having recommended Albert Hicks to be made a pylot in the room of Peter Evans deceased as a person capable and of good character he was entertained as such and again under date the 25th September William Craggs was appointed a pilot in consequence of the Master Attendant's recommendation.

12. Captain Thomas Harry having under date the 28th April requested red wood on charterparty terms we ordered the Warehouse Keeper to comply with his request which comes enclosed in this packet.

13. Captain William Weston, commander of the ship Exeter, was on the 5th May sent for and asked his reasons for deviating from his voyage which he delivered us in writing the 25th June and are entered after that day's Consultation.

14. Captain Isaac Worth sent in a letter to the Board dated the 30th April requesting red wood on charterparty terms which we complied with and his request for the same goes in the packet per his ship.

15. The Master Attendant sent in his report of Peter Debatts, one of the masters in Your Honours' sloop service, dated the 19th May complaining of his excesses, incapacity and breach of duty. We then ordered him to be dismissed the service and the report is entered after that day's Consultation.

16. Mr. George Heath, Chief at Ballasore, in a letter dated the 1st June which came to hand the 8th following advised us that a boat with six lascars on board belonging to the Belvidera sloop was cast away on the barr, the boatswain drowned and packet etc. letters all lost. That sloop returned to us being frightened out of the road by vessells that pursued her which the pylot took to be French but proved to be English inward bound. On the 10th of that month we wrote to Mr. Heath and acknowledged the receipt of his letter and returned the sloop with the rice and presents directing him to hasten boats to unload her on the first signal.

17. On the 25th June Captain Weston sent in a letter desiring his ship Exeter to be lightened, the Master Attendant having given it as his opinion that it was not consistent with the safety of the ship to lay during the freshes at so great a draught of water. We thereupon permitted Captain Weston to land such part of his cargoe as he might think proper in Your Honours' godowns. His letter for this purpose is herewith sent.

18. On the 10th July the Master Attendant delivered in his proposals for contracting for stores wanted for the marine this season, with the prices he could contract for them at annexed thereto, which lay under our consideration till the 23rd September when the same being examined the several articles mentioned therein were contracted with him for as per the said agreement entered after that day's Consultation, which upon due examination we thought not unreasonable.

19. Captain Weston by a letter dated the 11th July advised the Board that his ship entered into demorage from the date of our orders to him to get in readiness to prepare to proceed down the river. His letter Your Honours have in this packet.

20. On the 13th July Captains Weston and Worth sent in their indents for sundry stores necessary for their ships on the expedition they were then ordered upon, promising at the same time to return such as were not expended on that service, but being sent for and asked if they intended to pay for them they desired it might be referred to Your Honours to be adjusted with their owners in England, both which indents are entered after that day's Consultation.

21. The same day Captain Worth acquainted us by a letter that the demorage of the Houghton commenced from the date of our orders to him to get his ship in readiness to proceed down the river. His letter is sent Your Honours in the packet per his ship.

22. On the 16th July there being two good teake budgrows offered to sale and as we judged it much better to purchase new boats than repair the old ones we ordered the Master Attendant to survey them. His report thereof sent in the 20th following is entered after that day's Consultation, upon which it appearing to us that the English budgrow was very commodious and proper for Your Honours' service we agreed to purchase for two thousand five hundred, 2500, rupees.

23. Captain Worth applying to us for twenty men as it was necessary to compleat his complement we on the 27th July agreed to comply with his request and enclosed we send Your Honours the Buxey's account of the expences of the men sent on board ships Exeter and Houghton upon their designed expedition into Ballasore Road in order to adjust the same with the owners.

24. Your Honours' dock being much damaged by the force of the late rains insomuch that the foundation on each side was forced inwards and the marine godowns in danger of falling, we on the 5th August ordered a survey thereon and proposals for preserving and repairing it to be laid before us by the Master Attendant, Engineer, Gunner and Carpenter which they sent in the 10th following and is entered after that day's Consultation when we ordered their proposals to be complyed with.

25. On the 5th August Captain Thomas Harry, commander of the Princess of Wales, sent in a letter requesting fifteen hundred, 1500, Current Rupees for the use and expences of his ship which we advanced him on his executing two bonds as usual of the same tenour and date, one of which with the captain's request is sent in this ship's packet.

26. Captain William Weston sent in a letter to the Board under date the 19th October requesting six thousand, 6000, Arcott Rupees for the use and expences of the Exeter which we complied with on his executing the usual bonds, one of which with his request is enclosed in this packet.

27. The same day we sent for Captains Weston and Worth and directed them to return such stores as were not expended on their late expedition, which they agreeing to we ordered the Storekeeper to receive and endorse off their receipts such stores as came to his hands, which receipts are forwarded on this packet.

28. On the 29th October Captain Isaac Worth sent in his request for saltpetre to be laden on board the Houghton on charterparty terms which we ordered the Warehouse Keeper to comply with and his request for the same goes in that ship's packet.

29. Captains Weston and Worth sent in a letter to the Board requesting an allowance for their tables during the late expedition on which they were ordered. We took the same into consideration on the 3rd November and then agreed to referr the same to Your Honours. Their request is forwarded in this packet.

30. On the 16th November having stationed the Exeter and Oxford for Fort St. David as advised Your Honours per ship Warwick, we ordered the Buxey to provide rice sufficient for loading those two ships, the musters of which were laid before the Board the 24th following at one maund ten seer per rupee Arcott and it being the best August rice then procurable we ordered it to be purchased accordingly.

31. Captain William Weston in his letter dated the 26th November requested a long boat in the room of one which was lost in transporting the stores for the military sent on board his ship or to make him such allowance as we should think reasonable. We then agreed to referr that affair to be decided by Your Honours and his owners in England. His request is enclosed in this packet.

32. The gentlemen at Fort St. David under dates the 13th and 15th October having advised us that there was a deficiency of rice, wheat, cartridge, paper, saltpetre and twine per ship Princess of Wales on the 1st December we sent for Captain Harry and desired him to account for the same. He then requested leave to deliver in his answer in writing which is entered after Consultation of the 11th December and therein having desired the same to be referred home to be adjusted between Your Honours and his owners we agreed thereto.

33. Captain Thomas Harry on the 10th December requested two thousand, 2000, baggs of saltpetre to be laden on board his ship the Princess of Wales on charterparty terms we ordered the Warehouse Keeper to comply therewith, reserving to ourselves the power of turning it into whole freight if we should hereafter have occasion. Captain Harry's request is sent in the packet by his ship.

34. On the 7th December Captain Thomas Stevens having requested five thousand, 5000, Arcott Rupees for the use and expences of his ship Oxford we advanced him that sum on his executing the usual bonds, one of which with his request comes enclosed.

35. The same day Mr. Haman, Agent Victualler to the squadron, sent in a letter to the Board requesting us to lade sundry stores and provisions on board the Oxford and Exeter for the use of His Majesty's squadron which we thought proper to comply with as the commodore had wrote to the President for to supply him with all the tonnage we could spare and directed Captains Stevens and Weston to receive them on board.

36. On the 15th December Captain Worth having requested six thousand, 6000, Arcott Rupees for the use and expences of the Houghton we complied therewith upon his executing the usual bonds, one of which with his request is sent in his packet.

37. Under date the 15th December we wrote to the gentlemen at Vizagapatam per ship Houghton and desired them to dispatch her to Ingeram to take in the bales there and then return her to us as soon as possible in order to be dispatched home this season. We also advised them of having laden on her iron and gunpowder for the use of that factory agreeable to their request under date the 14th October.

38. On the 18th following Captain Worth having signed his bills of lading and his dispatches being prepared we directed him to repair on board and make the best of his way to Vizagapatam and to follow all such orders as he should receive from the Chief and Council there for his further proceeding.

39. Captain Thomas Stevens sent in a letter dated the 22nd December advising that his ship's demorage commenced the 25th of that month which comes enclosed.

40. The Master Attendant being in a bad state of health requested our permission on the 28th December to go on the Coast for the recovery thereof of which we complied with.

41. The same day we advanced Captain Thomas Stevens two thousand, 2000, Arcott Rupees for the use and expences of his ship agreeable to his request which comes in this packet together with one of the two bonds duly executed.

42. The papers etc. relating to the dispatch of ships Oxford and Exeter being in readiness we on the 28th December ordered Mr. William Frankland to proceed therewith down to Ingellie and get the bills of lading signed, with directions to advise the gentlemen at Fort St. David of what was necessary relating to the dispatch from thence and then give the captains their sailing orders, from which service Mr. William Frankland being returned on the 7th ultimo he reported their dispatch from thence on the 4th of the month in writing to the Board when they drew eighteen foot water on an even keel.

43. Captains William Benson and Matthew Court being arrived in town on the 9th January, copies of such of Your Honours' standing orders as related to the commanders of your ships were sent them and they were enjoined to pay strict obedience thereto. They were also directed to follow all such orders as they should receive from the Warehouse Keepers for the unloading and loading their ships.

44. On the 12th January Mr. Thomas Coales returned from Ballasore Road and delivered us Your Honours' packets per ships Winchelsea, Colchester and Benjamin which upon opening we found to be the same as those formerly received. He likewise sent in his report of his having dispatched those ships to Fort St. David and disposed of their bullion agreeable to our orders.

45. The 14th January we took into consideration the disposal of Your Honours' ships and found we should be able to dispatch

home three of them with the aid of about one hundred, 100, tonns of saltpetre to be laden on each ship. We therefore ordered the Caesar to be unloaded and Captain Court was ordered to get her in readiness as fast as possible.

46. Mr. Bellamy being returned from Ingellie on the 18th January reported to us the dispatch of ship Warwick from thence on the 13th at which time she drew seventeen foot nine inches water forward and eighteen foot abaft.

47. Captain Matthew Court having under date the 20th January requested two thousand, 2000, baggs of saltpetre on charter party terms which we ordered the Warehouse Keeper to comply with, reserving to ourselves the power of turning it into whole freight if we should hereafter esteem it necessary, to which the Captain consented and his request is enclosed in the packet of that ship. At the same time we ordered the Warehouse Keeper to lade red wood on board agreeable to charter party.

48. On the 29th January the Eastcourt, Captain Benson, laying on hand and as we could not dispose of her with any advantage to Your Honours, we thought it most adviseable to order his ship up before the fort as a defence to the settlement, there being a likelihood of a revolution in the country as also against the French, should they make any attempts.

49. On the 26th January Your Honours' sloop the Mermaid imported here from Vizagapatam. By her we received a letter from the Chief and Council there dated the 21st December enclosing an account of her charges amounting to Arcott Rupees one thousand two hundred and seventeen two annaes and nine pies, 1217-2-9, and on the 29th we ordered the master of her to deliver her over to the care of the Deputy Master Attendant.

50. The same day we ordered the master, Europeans and lascars to be returned on the Northesk one of our country ships then bound to Suratt.

51. By Your Honours' ship the Houghton which imported here the 5th February last from Vizagapatam we received letters from Messrs. Thomas Saunders, Resident at Ingeram, and Richard Prince, Chief and Council at Vizagapatam under dates the 28th December and 14th January advising of their having laden on board her five hundred sixty seven, 567, bales as per invoice which they enclosed us

52. The same day by the Margaret brigantine we received a letter from Mr. John Andrews, Resident at Ganjam, dated the 22nd December advising that he had laden on that vessel twenty four, 24, bales of salampores agreeable to the invoice which came enclosed.

53. We at the same time ordered the Warehouse Keeper to land the bales from the Houghton in order to be surveyed and repacked and to proceed in lading her with saltpetre and bales.

54. The 8th instant Captain Worth having sent in a letter requesting six hundred, 600, baggs of saltpetre we complyed therewith, reserving to ourselves the power of turning it into whole freight. His request for the same goes in the respective packet of his ship.

55. Mr. Archibald Sterling for John Jackson Esq. requesting an order for Captain Isaac Worth and Thomas Harry to receive the following bulees of diamonds on board their respective ships we complied therewith being

Per Princess of Wales

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MS<br>M No. 2 | 1 bulee consigned to Messrs. Henry and Peter Miulman and Joseph Salomons. Value | 1000 |
| W R No. 6 | 1 bulee consigned to Thomas Waters Esq. Value | 1500 |

Per Houghton

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MS<br>M No. 3 | 1 bulee consigned to Messrs Henry and Peter Miulman and Joseph Salomons. Value | 1106·2·49 |
| W R No. 7 | 1 bulee consigned to Thomas Waters Esq. Value | 1536 |

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe and from one part of India to be disposed of in another.*

56. We are now to advise Your Honours of the particulars of our transactions under this head and to reply to your commands thereon by this year's shipping.

57. After the dispatch of Your Honours' ships we on the 2nd of March ordered Messrs. Sheldrake and Bellamy to reassume their enquiries into the deficiencies of the import warehouse. Accordingly on the 7th following they laid before us the fair

minutes book of their whole proceedings to that time by which it appeared that the merchants had severally cleared out their goods and paid for them, which money Kissenchundsoor acknowledged to have received and applied to his own use and upon examining Ramrambesswass and the said Kissenchundsoor in what manner they had disposed of Your Honours' money and how they proposed to reimburse the same they evaded coming to an explanation. Therefore the committee thought proper to referr this affair to us before they proceeded any further. Our proceedings thereon Your Honours will perceive in that day's Consultation.

58. The committee gave in their report the 13th of March of an account current delivered them by Ruttirampodar, the Company's shroff, between him and Kissenchundsoor which we took into consideration the 20th following and our resolutions thereon Your Honours will observe in that day's Consultation.

59. The next day the committee laid before us their minutes of the 18th of that month wherein was contained their enquiry into the account current of Ruttirampodar with Ramrambesswass, the ballance of which the 30th April 1745 is three thousand and thirty four Current Rupees fifteen annas and nine pie, 3034-15-9. Having examined into this affair and being unable to settle our judgments by what the parties on both sides alledge and the account between them containing transactions of many years and kept in the Bengall language, we thought proper to order Diaram Tagoor, Condoo Gosaul and Jonkeram to examine into those accounts depending and give us the true state of them which they complyed with the 25th following and Your Honours have the same at large with our proceedings thereon in that day's Consultation.

60. On the 10th July the Import Warehouse Keeper sent in a letter to the Board relating to the different sortments of copper found in Your Honours' warehouse on examining the ballance, which is entered after that day's Consultation. The next day we took his letter into consideration. Our resolution thereon is therein set forth at large whereby you will please to observe we have directed a separate head thereof in your books. This copper was sold on the 29th of July and the account sale brought in the 10th of August following and entered after that day's Consultation. The coarse copper in a medium went at thirty three rupees eight annas, 33-8, per maund and the fine at fourty

rupees five annas and six pie, 40-5-6, per maund. The difference being six rupees thirteen annas and six pie, 6-13-6, per maund on maunds three thousand two hundred and sixty four two seer, 3264-2, amounts to rupees twenty two thousand three hundred forty one eleven annas and six pie, 22341-11-6, which we humbly referr to Your Honours' determination.

61. In our Consultation of the 20th July Your Honours will observe the recovering of debts due from several persons to the banians was attended with difficulties which they attributed to their close confinement. We thought proper to deliver them over to the black Jemindar in the day time to assist them therein.

62. The committee having acquainted the Board the 23rd July that they had examined the account of Collichurn Sircar with Ramrambesswass and Kissenchundsoor and found the difference of two thousand four hundred seventy rupees four annas and three pie, 2470-4-3, which Collichurn Sircar offered to prove the payment of the next day, but Mr. Sheldrake's indisposition putting a stop to the proceedings of the committee we on the 31st August joined Mr. Robert Eyre with Mr. Bellamy on that service and on the 3rd September Collichurn Sircar was called upon to bring his witnesses to prove the payment of his ballance which being unable to produce we ordered him into the custody of the Zemindar till he made good that sum.

63. On the 5th September Mr. William Kempe, Zemindar, acquainted us that Collichurn Sircar was not in cash to pay his debt to the Company but that he offered to make over his effects to a large amount and sign an obligation payable to the end of January on condition of his being set at liberty which we agreed to as judging it most for Your Honours' interest.

64. The same day as the time was elapsed which the warehouse banians had fixed for the sale of their effects, we ordered them to be sold the Fryday following at publick outcry but the sale of the houses to be deferred, till we could learn the real value of it. The account sales of their effects was brought in the 21st following and is entered after that day's Consultation.

65. The committee on the 9th November delivered us a letter and laid before the Board their proceedings referring the same to us for our sentiments thereon. They likewise informed us that every thing belonging to the banians was disposed of

except Ramrambesswass' house and a few women's jewels which we ordered to be sold on Saturday the 28th following. The account sales thereof was brought in and entered after the Consultation of the 30th November.

66. On the 19th November the committee having referred three articles to our consideration we examined into the same the 1st December following. Our proceedings and decision thereon Your Honours will see at large in that day's Consultation.

67. Mr. Wadham Brooke being arrived from Cossimbuzar in consequence of our directions to him for that purpose on the 5th February we agreed to examine into the state of the deficiencys and to settle and adjust them and accordingly ordered the banians and others concerned to attend the Board the Monday following but the ill state of health of Ramrambesswass and Kissenchundsoor obliged us to deferr proceedings thereon till the day following when we entered upon the examination into the affair of the broad cloth referred to us by the committee of enquiry. How far we then proceeded Your Honours have at large in that day's Consultation but there being an account current then laid before us between Omichund and Ramrambesswass which Kissenchundsoor said he drew out of the books, we ordered the same to be translated and laid before us the next day which was accordingly complyed with and the same with the minutes of our proceedings the day before being read and duly considered of, the opinion of the Board was required thereon as per that day's Consultation, when the majority were of opinion that Omichund should make good the amount of what it sold for at outcry when purchased and orders were given that his account should be debited therewith.

68. On the 15th instant we took into consideration how Your Honours were to be reimbursed the deficiencys in the warehouse and our several opinions are entered at large upon that day's Consultation to which we beg leave to referr.

69. In this packet we send Your Honours an account of what has been already received into your treasury account those deficiencies, and what is to be received from the sales that have been made of the banians' effects, and we are in hopes of recovering several other sums on their accounts.

70. On the 15th February we took into consideration the 41st paragraph of Your Honours' orders by ship Princess of Wales wherein you are pleased to require our opinions concerning the office of broker. Our several judgments passed thereon will appear in that day's Consultation to which we beg leave to referr.

71. In the course of our Consultation Your Honours will observe that when your bullion and woolen goods were landed from the several ships we ordered the same to be surveyed and the reports thereof have been duly brought in and entered, and the several damages that appeared upon surveying the captains have accounted for.

72. The foreign silver, coral, emeralds, bugles and other articles licensed upon Your Honours' ships have been delivered here by the several commanders agreeable to the manifest sent therewith.

73. As we were offered the same price for five chests of bullion here as Jugulseat's House gave for it, which was two hundred and three, 203, Sicca Rupees for two hundred and forty Sicca weight, we on the 11th April ordered it to be weighed off and delivered, the amount being paid into Your Honours' treasury.

74. The Import Warehouse Keeper informing us on the 11th April that there were seven pipes of Madeira wine bought at the sales in November 1746 and six at the sales in January following remaining in the warehouse uncleared and the time being elapsed, we agreed that they should be put at sale the 30th of that month unless cleared out in the interim. It was accordingly put up and the account sale brought in the 12th May and is entered after that day's Consultation when we ordered the Accomptant to lay before us the difference between that and the former sales which he complied with on the 16th and the difference appearing to be five hundred sixty six rupees eight annas, 566-8. the Warehouse Keeper had our orders to demand the same of the former purchasers.

75. On the 29th April as we had a large quantity of Your Honours' copper remaining on hand, which we tryed at outcry the beginning of that month when no more went off than one hundred and twenty, 120, maunds, though put up at thirty five rupees. We then wrote to the gentlemen at Bombay to know if they would help us off with any quantity of that article as it

would be of great service to Your Honours, to which they under date the 17th July replyed to, that though the price for that commodity had been low there, yet they judged four thousand, 4000, Suratt maunds might be disposed of to pretty good advantage, but by our late advices from thence that it was unsafe to send any of your ships to that coast we did not think it adviseable to risque it.

76. Under date the 19th May we wrote to the gentlemen at Patna to advise us what quantity of broad cloth and copper they could dispose of there, to which they replyed under date the 10th June when they enclosed their indent.

77. In reply to the 15th paragraph of Your Honours' commands per Princess of Wales to inform you whether your copper will again find a vend here and to give our reasons why it does not go off, we are now to advise that all your copper sold at outcry though at a very low price but very little of it is cleared out, for which several reasons may be assigned as the great scarcity of money, the Morrattoes being in the country the merchants do not transport any quantity of good out of this place as formerly and the Nabob daily taking money from the jemindars who extort it again from the subjects who by this means are so impoverished that they cannot afford to buy copper utensils as formerly but are even forced to sell their old ones. The quantity of copper we have now indented for is as much as we can reasonably think will go off in these times but if the troubles in the country should cease we apprehend a much larger quantity may be disposed of.

78. Such of Your Honours' woolen goods and stores as were damaged we put up at outcry the 9th May, 27th June and 28th November as per account sales entered after our Consultation of the 12th May, 1st June and 1st December.

79. Your Honours will observe in the course of our Consultation that several interest notes were deposited in your treasury for the clearing out of woolen goods, copper etc., purchased at your sales which we admitted of, judging it to be the best method of easing the growing interest and the scarcity of money for this whole year past laying us under a necessity of complying with the merchants' request in this particular, by which means we have been able to clear out a large quantity of goods which otherwise must have remained in your godowns.

80. On the 18th December the reports of the elephant's teeth, cochineal and iron per ship Exeter were laid before us and are entered after that day's Consultation. There appearing a deficiency in the cochineal of two quarters five pounds twelve ounces, 2 qrs. 5lbs. 12oz, and in the iron of twelve hundred weight two quarters twenty pounds, 12 cwt. 2qrs. 20 lbs, we sent for Captain Weston and demanded payment thereof, which he desiring might be referred to be adjusted between Your Honours and his owners we agreed thereto as per that day's Consultation.

81. Upon the agreeable news of the arriving of Your Honours' shipping we on the 27th December advised our subordinates thereof in hopes it would gain them credit with Jugulseat's House and particularly Cossimbuzar to induce that shroff to supply them with money for to carry on their business.

82. Some of the bullion per Eastcourt being landed on the 10th January we ordered a survey thereon and being offered the same price as Futtichund gives for it to the amount of sixteen thousand, 16000, rupees and as we were in want of money we ordered the Committee of Treasury to sell to that amount.

83. On the 12th January we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to advise us if the way was clear to send up the bullion to Jugulseat's House if they could not prevail on them to receive it here, to which they replyed under date the 17th of that month that the Seats upon their application gave for answer that such part of the debt as was owing to them at the respective settlements and we intended to order payment if they would receive there, but the business of the mint being at a stand and the troubles in the country pleaded their excuse from taking any more off our hands, since which Seat Moutabray wrote the President a letter which he laid before the Board the 8th instant that as he had been always ready to forward the Company's business and take the bullion off their hands he would do so now if it was in his power but the late accident at Patna has caused such confusion, everyone flying to save his life and he himself having taken leave of the Nabob and crossed the great river as also that he had no rupees to supply us with, the mint being shut up, desired to be excused doing business with the Company till the country is settled.

84. On the 29th January as the elephant's teeth and cochineal imported here per Exeter would not sell at outcry we agreed to freight the same on the Northesk then bound to Suratt and we accordingly consigned it on Your Honours' account to the Chief and Council there advising the gentlemen at Bombay hereof.

85. As we were offered ready money for twelve, 12, chests of bullion to be delivered at Cossimbuzar factory we on the 15th instant agreed to send it up under convoy of an ensign and twenty men.

*Thirdly, concerning investment.*

86. We have already given Your Honours a full account of this branch of your affairs under our management in our address per Warwick. We shall now proceed to acquaint you with our transactions herein since that time.

87. On the 22nd December we received a letter from our gentlemen at Patna under date the 9th December advising that they had finished their investment and that on the 2nd they dispatched under the care of Lieutenant George Male thirteen thousand seven hundred and sixteen, 13716, maunds of saltpetre and eighty six, 86, bales.

88. On the 20th December we received a letter from Mr. Henry Kelsall at Ballasore acknowledging the receipt of that factory from Mr. George Heath, likewise twenty two, 22, bales of brown cloth which he had delivered to the washermen and should do his utmost to get them ready in time for this year's shipping, which under date the 22nd ultimo he advised us were washed and in the factory excepting five which he was in hopes to have ready by the time a sloop arrived there to bring them away.

89. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 22nd December which came to hand the 25th of that month advised us that they had received a letter from Serjant Seller who had the care of the Patna fleet and that he was arrived a little below Cutwa[1] where he had notice of many Morrattoes being thereabouts, upon which they sent immediate orders to him to proceed with the fleet as far as Hughley if there was occasion and then to return with the military to them, leaving the charge of the boats to the Jemindar and buxerys.

90. In our Consultations of the 26th December Your Honours will please to observe the Export Warehouse Keeper gave in his report of saltpetre and turmerick received from Patna which was dispatched under the care of Serjant Richards, by which there appearing a deficiency of five baggs we on the 18th of January examined the serjants thereon as appears by that day's Consultation and wrote the same day to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to inform us who were the manjees of the boats on which the deficiency appeared that we might write to Patna concerning it, which they informed us of under date the 26th ultimo.

91. Ramkissenseat and Rossbehaıryseat sent in a letter to the Board on the 26th December offering to deliver in goods fit for Your Honours' use to the amount of four laack of rupees as per lists annexed which are entered after that day's Consultation, which we took into consideration the 14th ultimo and such of them as we agreed to take appears upon the face of that day's Consultation, for which we are to allow them interest from the 1st March ensuing.

92. As it was late in the season and a great quantity of Cossajurah goods remaining to be sorted and prized, for which the merchants had not brought in their gurrahs agreeable to contracts occasioned by the Marrattoes falling in among the gurrah aurungs, upon their assurances that they would comply with their contracts we ordered them to be sorted and prized the same day.

93. The gentlemen at Dacca under date the 9th January expressed their concern that it would not be in their power to get any goods ready to go by the shipping to be dispatched home this season, notwithstanding that we had directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to endeavour to get them a supply of fifty thousand, 50000. rupees.

94. Omichund on the 18th February having delivered in to the amount of upwards of four laack of rupees in ready money goods and having a great quantity ready for prizing applyed to us for some money in part payment, upon which we ordered the Committee of Treasury to deliver him ten chests of bullion at two hundred and one, 201, Sicca Rupees for two hundred and forty, 240, Sicca weight.

95. In our Consultation of the 20th January Your Honours will observe the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 14th of that month advised us that their merchants would fall very short in their contracts for gurrahs and raw silk and their reasons for the same as well as for the badness of the silk, and that they had endeavoured agreeable to our orders to learn what sum the Nabob had taken from the Dutch at the time he extorted three hundred and fifty thousand, 350000, rupees from us but could get no particular account. Only in general it was said that about that time and since he had taken much greater sums from them than from us.

96. On the 25th January the merchants acquainting us that they had some goods laying about Nuddea[2] which they could not bring away as the Morrattaes were plundering about Culna,[3] which we being in want of for the tonnage on hand we ordered a serjant and ten men to convoy them down.

97. The same day we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to send down to us what goods they had ready as soon as possible.

98. On the 30th following apprehending the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar could not get away their goods without a convoy on account of the troubles in the country we ordered an ensign and thirty private men for that service, of which we then advised the gentlemen at that factory, who in a letter of the 31st January assured us they would use their utmost endeavours to procure as many goods as possible by the time the party arrived there and as there were no boats to be hired they requested us to supply them from hence, to which we replyed the same day that it would be impossible to get up boats in time so as to return the goods to be dispatched by this year's ships and directed them to exert themselves too in getting boats at Muxadavad, Coosaulpoor or elsewhere and to send us down all the bales they could, but particularly raw silk.

99. As there was one hundred and sixty, 160, bales of brown cloth received from the Coast which we had not time to get whitened we on the 19th instant ordered the Warehouse Keeper to lade them on board Your Honours' ships agreeable to the invoices received from thence, also such of the brown cloth received last year from the Coast which we could not get whitened for want of a sufficient number of washermen and as it was judged too risquous to send them to other aurungs.

100. The same day we sent for our merchants and offered them bullion in part of what was due to them on their contract for ready money goods anno 1745 and 1746 as Jugulseat's House would not purchase it, to which they replyed they had regard to Your Honours' interest they were willing to take to the amount of two hundred and twelve thousand four hundred and fifty one rupees fourteen annas, 212451-14, in bullion. We thereupon ordered the Committee of Treasury to deliver it to them at two hundred and one Sicca Rupees for two hundred and forty Sicca weight.

101. Our merchants having brought in two new sortments of cloth viz.,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cossaes Boualea[4] 20 and 1 yds. | ... | 45 peices |
| Cossaes Busna[5] 40 and 2 Co. | ... | 25 |

we have prized the same and send them for Your Honours" inspection. They tell us that the cossaes Bussna used to be sent home in great quantitys by the French.

102. The same day the President having received a letter from Mr. Edward Eyles advising him that by a lucky accident he had met with boats sufficient to bring away all the goods and that he should dispatch them on the 13th instant, we counterordered all the boats that were designed for that purpose.

*Fourthly, concerning trade of India and therein any transactions with the country Government.*

103. In our address to Your Honours per ship Warwick we gave you an account of the most material occurrences under this head and shall now proceed on what was then omitted.

104. The Morrattas have continued in and about Ballasore the whole season as Your Honours will observe by the several letters received from thence, which has in a great measure prevented the currency of trade and occasioned a scarcity of all sorts of grain, the country people flying from their habitations upon every trifling rumour of their entring into this province. They are now dispersed in large partys from about Muxadavad to Budwan and all the western country.

105. On the 25th June the President received a purwannah from the Nabob for delivering up the Cotmahs to his order which they being translated entered after that day's Consultation, which we took into consideration the 3rd July following and agreed that the President should write an answer as entered upon that day's Consultation, to which we beg leave to referr as having heard nothing further upon this head.

106. A body of the Morrattas situated at Deans Town[6] having been a long time troublesome by stopping the rice boats coming to our markets, forty of which were under their embargo, which occasioning almost a famine in this settlement we on the 12th October ordered Captain Fenwick to proceed down the river to head the men who were at that time returning from ships Exeter and Houghton with directions to clear all boats with our dustucks, which service he having performed we on the 21st of that month ordered him to return.

107. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 11th November advised us that one Shake Faraut Toola who went by the Nabob's order to bring rice from below to Hughley complained that he was seized on by a party of soldiers and plundered of his necessaries and was afterwards carried to Calcutta, where being confined sometime he was at last set at liberty without obtaining any redress and many aggravating circumstances to which we replyed under date the 17th that he was seized upon by mistake and the people of the villages about Rangafoulla[7] had declared him to be a Morrattoe as having stopped several rice boats whereupon he was brought up hither but as soon as we knew him to be an officer of the Nabob's he was set at liberty, civily treated and everything taken from him returned, as they would observe by the enclosed acknowledgment wrote by himself and the Cauzee's seal affixed thereto.

108. The 16th November the Import Warehouse Keeper delivered in his report of ten bales of cotton landed here from ship Warwick, which the Export Warehouse Keeper being in want of for the use of his warehouse we ordered the same to be delivered him. The report thereof is entered after that day's Consultation.

109. The gentlemen of Cossimbuzar in their letter under date of the 22nd January advise that early that morning the Nabob

sent for their vacqueels and informed them he had received certain advice that Sumshee Caune had assassinated the Subah of Patna[8] into whose service he had lately entered with a body of twelve thousand, 12000, Pattans, that Hadjee Hamet was a prisoner and it was not to be doubted but that the next step will be an endeavour to make a conquest of this kingdom, part of his forces being already advanced, as is said, as far as Mungeer, that the Nabob is greatly distressed for money and mentioned to their vacqueels the supplying him with a certain sum to be repaid in Calcutta, which they evaded by answering that at present we were quite destitute of cash.

110. Again under date of the 31st of that month they advise the Nabob still continues encamped near Muxadavad and hath increased his force considerably but his intentions are not known nor can they learn from the Durbar the least news of what may have happened at Patna since the first advices that there are many straggling bodies of forces about the country under no kind of government, plundering daily.

111. In our Consultation of the 8th instant Your Honours will observe a letter received from the gentlemen of Dacca under date of the 29th ultimo advising of the late revolution at Patna, as also a letter from the gentlemen at Patna under date the 14th of that month to the same purpose.

112. On the 29th January we ordered the cotton per Mermaid sloop to be landed, which being surveyed the report was brought in the 1st instant and entered after that day's Consultation. At the same time we ordered ten bales thereof for the use of the export warehouse and the remainder to be sold the 12th following, as per account sales brought in the 15th instant and entered after that Consultation.

*Fifthly, concerning buildings and revenues.*

113. Having given Your Honours a full account of our proceedings in regard to strengthening our fortifications in our address per ship Warwick we shall now proceed to lay before Your Honours the state of your revenues for the last year.

114. Mr. Humphry Bellamy, Zemindar, on the 9th of March laid before us the account revenues for the months of November and December, the nett amount thereof being paid into Your Honours' treasury as per that day's Consultation. At the same time he gave his reasons for their being considerably less than formerly which was occasioned partly by the extraordinary

expence of buxerys, ponsways etc., which we were under a necessity of entertaining in these troublesome times and partly by a loss on cowries which fell considerably in value by a great quantity being imported.

115. On the 24th November Mr. William Kempe, Zemindar, acquainted the Board that the buyers (*sic*) were so bad in the rainy season that the country people deserted them and as the expence of repairing them was calculated at about one thousand, 1000, rupees, we ordered him to perform that service.

116. Under date the 1st December we directed the gentlemen at Dacca to lessen their expences in every branch where it was possible to be done and in particular positively forbid any expences in building either in town or at Feizgong[9] which they in a letter dated the 19th of that month promised to comply with.

117. In obedience to the 30th paragraph of your commands per Princess of Wales directing us to tax all the merchants both black and white in order to make a contribution for the heavy expence Your Honours had been at three years before, we on the 20th ultimo took the same into consideration and before looking back to find what had been formerly done with regard thereto, we observed that Your Honours had been fully advised of the steps that had been taken and the opinion of the Board thereon in the 85th and 86th paragraphs of the letter per Wager, and as the objections against levying money on the inhabitants are stronger at present than at that time from the situation of affairs, dearness of provisions and scarcity of money we humbly beg leave to referr to those paragraphs.

118. Having always in view how to promote Your Honours' interest and advantage in the branch of your revenues and having received information that a spot of ground in extent one hundred fifty five, 155, beagres and five cottahs laying and situated to the eastward of Calcutta about a league distance from it and, after a very strict search made among the neighbouring zemindars, finding that it formerly belonged to the districts of this place and after many arguments and debates having convinced the zemindars and other proprietors of Your Honours' title to this spot of ground, they did at length entirely give up their claims, upon which we set up Your Honours' flag and erected a cutcheree there. We have also set up a buzar and market and named the place John Nagore which is now inhabited by three hundred sixty seven, 367, families or houses.

These families chiefly composed of caulkers, weavers, peons etc., and the revenues thereof collected the first year being 1746 was rupees seven hundred fifty five rupees thirteen annas and three pie, 755-13-3 as will appear by the account revenues of that year and from that April to the last October 1747 it amounted to six hundred eighty seven rupees nine annas, 687-9, and we are in hopes hereafter to make larger additions as well in the number of inhabitants as likewise the revenues of the place, which we hope will meet Your Honours' approval.

119. In the box of books herewith sent Your Honours have the account revenues from October 1746 to October 1747; also an account of the loss and gain in the zemindary for three years past, in which Your Honours will observe an encrease for the last six months of Current Rupees one thousand two hundred eighty six and six annas, 1286-6.

*Sixthly, concerning servants, factors, writers, officers and their accompts.*

120. On the 3rd March Your Honours will observe that as Mr. Thomas Cooke in compliance with your commands was dismissed from all employs in your service and as he had been a most diligent and useful person to us for a long time past, particularly when our Secretary was disabled from attending his office by a long sickness as also on many other occasions, we agreed the President should present him with five hundred, 500, Madrass Rupees as an acknowledgment of his extraordinary services.

121. On the 16th April the President acquainted the Board that he had thought proper to conferr lieutenant's commissions on Ensigns Male, Pearson and Saunderson and on the 3rd September to give ensign's commissions to Serjants McKeion and Bishop.

122. Mr. Thomas Miles who was sent up as assistant to the Supervisors at Patna we on the 6th June appointed to remain upon that establishment but being in an ill state of health he had our permission to quit that factory and soon after his return to the place he on the 1st February sent in a petition to the Board desiring our leave to resign Your Honours' service and return to Europe for the recovery of his health which, with the doctor's certificate that it was necessary for him to return to his native country to restore his health, is entered after that day's Consultation.

123. Under date the 15th October we received a letter from the gentlemen at Fort St. David advising that Ensign Nasmith, two serjants and a private man died on their passage thither and as the services of Captain Holland whom Your Honours had designed for the command of a company on this establishment had rendered himself very acceptable to them and he being desirous of remaining there some months longer to assist them as occasion may require, they perswaded themselves his stay there would meet with our approbation.

124. In a letter under date the 14th November from the gentlemen at Patna Your Honours will observe that Mr. Barwell refused to interfere in the purchase of petre, as likewise our reply thereto the 1st December wherein we peremptorily directed him to comply with all orders from the Board, declaring at the same time that should any loss arise or inconveniency happen to Your Honours' affairs on his refusal or neglect thereof or from his omitting to perform the functions of a Chief, that such loss, damage or detriment must lay upon him to make good.

125. On the 22nd December we received another letter from the gentlemen at Patna dated the 9th of that month wherein Mr. Barwell acquainted us that he could be of no further use or service to Your Honours there and again under date the 24th he wrote that he was resolved not to suffer our hard and injurious treatment any longer and having sent his family to Calcutta, as supposing Your Honours' orders would have been put in execution in regard to withdrawing that factory or that Mr. Jackson would have gone up there, he intended leaving that factory in eight or ten days and would deliver what remains there were to the gentlemen of the factory.

126. On the 18th January we received a letter from the gentlemen at Patna under date the 1st of that month advising that Mr. Barwell had that day delivered to them the charge of that factory.

127. Mr. Barwell being arrived here the 23rd following we ordered our Secretary to write to him for his reasons for quitting Patna without our leave and contrary to your standing orders and for what further passed between the Board and him we beg leave to referr Your Honours to our Consultation of the 26th, 29th and 30th January and 1st instant when Mr. Barwell was admitted to his seat at the Board and ordered to take charge of the books of this factory.

128. On the 22nd December Mr. John Jackson delivered in a letter to the Board requesting our permission to go to the Cormandell coast to settle his affairs which we permitted as per that day's Constitution and the 7th following he accordingly proceeded on his voyage.

129. In our address per ship Warwick upon Captain Commandant Holcombe's resigning his commission, we acquainted Your Honours that we had appointed Captain Robert Hamilton to succeed him. We now take the liberty to mention him to Your Honours again as an experienced officer who has long served Your Honours with great diligence and fidelity and is a person of whose behaviour we much approve.

*Seventhly, touching accompts.*

130. The Accomptant laid before the Board the account earnings of Your Honours' sloops to the 30th April last with their several open accounts current which having been carefully examined and the Master Attendant consulted in regard to the then value of each your sloops, the difference was ordered to be wrote off to profit and loss and the accounts closed and entered after that day's Consultation.

131. On the 1st instant the Sub-Accomptant laid before us the profit and loss article as the same arises on the different heads in the general books which being examined we ordered the debit side thereof to be entered after that Consultation.

132. The same day we wrote to the gentlemen at Bombay and desired them to recover of the executors of Captain Gentleman deceased the difference arising on the sale of Madeira wine purchased at our sales which he did not clear out, amounting to seventy two, 72, rupees and bring the same to Your Honours' credit.

133. The gentlemen at Jugdea under date the 18th ultimo enclosed us the state of their factory to the last of December and at the same time advised that nothing was brought to account of the delolls' old debt, who being pressed to comply therewith they declared their inability to perform it as Your Honours had but a small investment there this season they had barely a subsistence for their families. besides being obliged to pay off some other old debts as well as making good the ten thousand, 10000, rupees last year.

134. The same day we received by the Houghton copys of the Vizagapatam and Ingeram books and other papers and accounts to be forwarded in the box of books.

135. On the 9th instant Serry Kissen and Anundiram shroffs advised us by their gomastah that they had received intelligence from Suratt that two bills of exchange for fifty thousand, 50000, rupees each were drawn on them in our favour and that they had the money by them which they were ready to pay into our factory at Cossimbuzar. As we supposed those bills to be for the laack of rupees Mr. Wake advised the President he designed to remit upon Your Honours' account, we apprehended it would be an advantage to receive this money in these troublesome times and as the shroffs desired no interest unless the bills were longer than fifteen or twenty days coming to hand and accordingly ordered the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to receive it on those terms.

136. In obedience to the 51st, 52nd, and 53rd paragraphs of your commands per Princess of Wales we have made a strict scrutiny into the general books of this Presidency as also the Storekeeper's books but find no entry made of the three bales of canvass received per ship Montfort, but as that canvass was landed here in order to be forwarded to Fort St. George the three bales were laden on the Princess Augusta on the 13th August and sent thither and the twenty one cannon received from that ship were also designed to be sent on the Princess Augusta, being shipped on board of boats for that purpose, and she not being able to receive them, having before taken in a large quantity of saltpetre, they were returned to the stores godown and afterwards brought to the credit of Madrass Presidency and are the same as entered on our books R R in journal page 392.

137. In reply to the 58th paragraph of your above mentioned commands we have made strict enquiry about the goods said to be over and wanting in the account received from Your Honours. In regard to the bale of soot romals N 866 per Godolphin said to be wanting we find it incerted in the bill of lading signed by the captain, which bill of lading was agreeable to the receipts signed by his officers and as there were no bales returned from that ship it must certainly have been carried in her. As to the bale of Commercolly raw silk N 93 said to be over, it was put in the bill of lading and afterwards endorsed off by mistake but should not have been endorsed off as it went in that ship. As to the several bales and chests sent per ships Godolphin, Winchelsea and Duke of Dorsett, some bale whereof are said to be ripped and cut and some of the chests to have been broke, we beg leave to remark to Your Honours that this could not have happened before they were sent on board because the captains or in the absence the

commanding officers will receive neither bales or chests that have the least appearance of damage or any such marks upon them as abovementioned, being always so cautious as to return back upon our hands all goods that have not a fair appearance on the outside. Moreover had the number of pieces said to be wanting in those bales and chests been plundered in our godowns or in those of the subordinates, the package must have appeared loose and so much less than other bales and chests of the same sortment of goods that they would have been too remarkable to have escaped observation before they were received into Your Honours' ships. We assure Your Honours the strictest care is taken to prevent any abuses of this kind. The persons employed in your export warehouse are very old servants and such as have hitherto proved themselves faithfull and honest.

138. We are now to advise Your Honours what sums have been received into your cash for bills of exchange payable ninety days after sight as usual and first of those paid in by Your Honours' covenanted servants at two shillings and four pence, 2.4, per rupee, who have been sworn that the money so paid in is on the account undermentioned.

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 9th January of Mr. Jonathan Ranson on his own account ten thousand six hundred and eighty seven rupees eight annas, 10687-8, payable to William Davis Esq. or order at 2s. 4d. is | £1246-17-6. |
| On the 20th January of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Mr. Nicholas Clerembault six hundred forty two rupees thirteen annas and nine pie, 642-13-9, payable to Mr. Nicholas Clerembault or order at 2s. 4d. is | £75-0-0 |
| On the 15th February of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow on their own account eight hundred twenty eight rupees thirteen annas and six pie, 828-13-6, payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order | 96-14-0. |
| On the 15th of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Mr. Richard Prince four hundred twenty eight rupees nine annas and three pie, 428-9-3, payable to Mr. Richard Aspinwall or order | 50-0-0. |

On the 15th of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Mr. Richard Prince four hundred twenty eight rupees nine annas and three pie, 428-9-3, payable to Mrs. Dorothy Prince or order 50-0-0.

On the 16th February of the Reverend Mr. Gervas Bellamy on his own account five hundred fifty seven rupees two annas and three pie, 557-2-3, payable to Mr. Thomas Pomfrett or order 65-0-0.

On the 20th February of Mr. Robert Orme account John Jackson Esq. twenty five thousand seven hundred and fourteen rupees four annas and six pie, 25714-4-6, payable to William Dunster Esq. or order 3000-0-0.

On the 16th February of Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden on his own account two thousand four hundred and four rupees twelve annas and nine pie, 2404-12-9, payable to Mr. Robert Cliffe or order 280-11-2.

On the 20th February of the Honourable John Forster Esq. account Thomas Braddyll Esq. sixty four thousand five hundred and ninety seven rupees and six pie, 64597-0-6, payable to Thomas Braddyll Esq. or order £7536-6-5.

On the 20th February of William Barwell Esq. on his own account thirteen thousand rupees, 13000, payable to Mr. George Shorwood or order 1516-13-4.

On the 20th of William Barwell Esq. on his own account twenty thousand rupees, 20000, payable to Richard Barwell Esq. or order 2333-6-8.

On the 22nd of Mr. William Young account Captain Charles Butterwick two

hundred fifty seven rupees two annas and three pie, 257-2-3, payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Glover or order 30-0-0.

On the 22nd of William Barwell Esq. on his own account seventy eight thousand two hundred and forty three rupees five annas, 78243-5, payable to Barwell Smith and Richard Barwell Esqrs. or order 9128-7-9.

On the of Messrs. John Zephania Holwell and Charles Bedford account Mr. Jonathan Ranson two hundred and fourteen rupees four annas and six pie, 214-4-6, payable to Mr. Thomas Hill or order 25-0-0.

The whole amount of sums paid in at two shillings and four pence, 2s. 4d. per rupee is £25433.16.10.

139. We have likewise received the following sums at two shillings and two pence 2s. 2d per rupee from the following viz.,

On the 15th February of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Mr. John Fullerton two hundred and thirty rupees twelve annas and three pie, 230-12-3, payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2s. 2d. is £25-0-0.

On the 16th February of Mr. James Ross account Mrs. Janett Rannie two hundred seventy six rupees fourteen annas and nine pie, 276-14-9, payable to Mrs. Jannet Rannie or order at 2s. 2d. is £30-0-0.

On the 16th of Mr. James Ross account Francis Jackson Esq. two hundred and sixteen rupees, 216, payable to Francis Jackson Esq. or order £23-8-0.

On the 19th of Mr. Christopher Craddock on his own account nine hundred twenty three rupees one anna three pie, 923-1-3, payable to Mr. John Cossamajor or order 100-0-0.

On the 20th of the Honourable John Forster Esq. one thousand five hundred ninety three rupees two annas and three pie, 1593-2-3, payable to William Monson Esq. or order 172-11-9½.

On the 22nd February of Mr. Thomas Cooke account of Mr. Miles Barne five hundred fifty three rupees thirteen annas and six pie, 553-13-6, payable to Mr. Miles Barne or order 60-0-0.

On the 22nd of Mr. William Young on his own account nine hundred twenty three rupees one anna and three pie, 923-1-3, payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order 100-0-0.

On the 22nd of Mr. William Young on his own account four hundred sixty one rupees eight annas and six pie, 461-8-6, payable to Richard Eyre Esq. or order 50-0-0.

On the 22nd of Mr. Roger Drake account Mr. John Hall nine hundred twenty three rupees one anna and three pie, 923-1-3, payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Carter or order 100-0-0.

The whole amount of sums paid in at two shillings and two pence, 2s. 2d. per rupee is £660-19-9½.

140. We have also received into Your Honours' cash the following bill at two shillings and three pence, 2-3, per rupee.

On the 16th February of Messrs. Adam Dawson and William Frankland account the estate of Mr. Charles Adams deceased eleven thousand eight hundred forty one rupees fifteen annas and nine pie, 11841-15-9, payable to Doctor Thomas Adams and Mrs. Mariana Stephenson at 2s. 3d. is £1332-4-6.

141. We have likewise received into Your Honours' cash the following sums for which we have granted three certificates tc each of one tenour and date, one of which being accomplished the other to become void.

February 11th of the Honourable John Forster Esq. account Captain William Robson Current Rupees 13081-13-9..

February the 16th of Mr. James Ross account Captain John Stevens 337-12-6..

February the 16th of Mr. James Ross account Captain Christopher Burrows 224-6-0..

February the 16th of the Honourable John Forster Esq. account the estate of Mr. Dudley Rider 2048-7-0..

The whole amount of certificates received is Current Rupees 15692-7-3.

*Supplement.*

142. On the 9th October the gentlemen at Bombay in their letter dated the 14th August advise of their having shipped on board the Dragon a small parcell of stores for the use of Anjingo factory but as she passed that port and the stores may be of service to this Presidency they desired we would take them and credit their Presidency for the same amounting to Bombay Rupees one thousand three hundred forty one, one quarter, fifty one raes,[10] 1341.1.51, which we accordingly complyed with. In the same letter they advise that Captain Norton in the Wake landed four hundred fifty baggs of pease at Tellichery which were said to be for the use of the men of war and of which Mr. Wake in June last advised Commodore Griffin but he refusing to have anything to do with them they desired our directions about them.

143. On the 21st November following we ordered the Secretary to write to Mr. Rosewell the late Agent Victualler and desired his orders about them, to which he replyed that untill he knew Commodore Griffin's sentiments thereon to whom he had wrote for that purpose he could give no answer with regard to the disposal of them.

144. The gentlemen at Fort St. David in a letter dated the 14th October having requested us to mention to Mr. Rosewell the necessity of his going up thither to settle some accounts relating to the squadron both before and since Mr. Barnet's

decease. we ordered our Secretary to transmit him a copy of that paragraph and desire his answer thereto which is entered at large upon our Consultation of the 26th November.

145. On the 19th October Captain Nathaniel Stevens, commander of His Majesty's ship Lively, having applied to the President for a house for himself and Mr. Haman, the Agent Victualler, to reside in, we ordered such a house as they should approve of to be hired (the rent whereof amounting to one thousand one hundred, 1100, Current Rupees was discharged the 14th ultimo).

146. The same day the President delivered in his account charges of private intelligence amounting to Current Rupees one thousand five hundred twenty one four annas and nine pie, 1521-4-9, which was paid out of Your Honours' cash.

147. At the same time Mr. Humffreys Cole sent in a letter to the Board acquainting us that Mr. Wake had made him offers for putting him into business whereby to enable him to maintain and support himself without being any further expence or incumbrance to Your Honours and if that we had no objections he proposed to take his passage on the Success galley to Bombay upon which we sent for him and acquainted him that we might possibly receive orders by the next ships in relation to him, whereupon he replyed that he should deliver all his papers over to Mr. Goddard, his attorney, who would answer all the questions we might put to him, promising likewise that he would not leave India and if we should find it necessary to send for him he would return hither. We thereupon complyed with his request.

148. The 12th instant by the Essex, one of our country ships, we received a letter from the gentlemen at Fort St. David dated the 25th ultimo advising of the arrival there of His Majesty's ships the Exeter and York on the 11th ditto and of Your Honours' ships Winchelsea, Benjamin and Colchester under convoy of the Eltham man of war two days after, as likewise of the Oxford and Exeter on the 15th, that they have thought proper to put the two former with the Exeter under the directions of the commodore, that they purpose sending the Oxford to Batavia and the Colchester to us in a few days with orders to touch at Dougazapatamn to take in as much red-wood as she can find tonnage for and desiring us to provide two thousand baggs of wheat for her return.

149. The same day Your Honours' sloop the Bonetta imported here from the Coast and last from Ballasore where she took in twenty two bales, 22, of sannas as per Mr. Henry Kelsall's letter of the 9th February.

150. Pinatz, one of our pilots, who was sent down to take charge of the Houghton to carry her from Rogue's River [12] to Ingellie, returned the 12th instant and informed us it was impossible to move her, she being in no readiness 'till the next neeps which would fall out the 22nd. As this will be too late for her to be dispatched within the month we shall protest against the captain if he is not ready to sail in charter party time. We at the same time ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to compleat the lading of the other two ships with all expedition.

151. The same time being in great want of money we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to send us down fifty thousand, 50000, Sicca Rupees out of the money the shroffs were to pay into their factory, account of the expected bills of exchange from Bombay.

152. On the 16th instant the Warehouse Keeper delivered in his report of the lead received from ship Princess of Wales, by which there appearing to be a deficiency of five maunds thirty one seer four chetah, 5-31-4, we sent for Captain Harry and directed him to account for the same, which he desiring to be referred to be adjusted by Your Honours and his owners we agreed thereto.

153. The same day we took into consideration the Patna affairs and the question was put whether we ought not to withdraw that factory agreeable to Your Honours' orders. Our several opinions are entered at large upon that day's Consultation, when the majority being of opinion it ought to be withdrawn, we sent orders to the gentlemen there for that purpose and advised the Directore and Council of Hughley of this our resolution and desired them to deliver us our proportion of petre at Hughley during the term of our contract with them in consequence of their letter of the 5th October N S.

154. The 19th instant the Tryall snow, Captain Taylor commander, imported here. By her we received Your Honours' commands under date the 24th July wherein you are pleased to dismiss Messrs. Sheldrake and Eyre from Council. Mr. Eyre thereupon accordingly withdrew.

155. The next day Mr. Samuel Sheldrake departed this life of a complication when Your Honours' aforesaid orders were again read, and Messrs. Edward Eyles and William Fytche being the next in succession, we agreed that Mr. Eyles should be acquainted therewith, he being at Cossimbuzar and Mr. William Fytche being on the spot was admitted to his seat at the Board and was ordered to take charge of the import warehouse, and Mr. Robert Eyre to act as Deputy Storekeeper 'till such time as the Board was full when we intend to make the proper exchange of offices.

156. Enclosed we send Your Honours a letter from the ministers, church wardens and sidesmen. Your Honours will therein perceive what they request which we take the liberty to recommend as a very charitable design.

157. We shall perform Your Honours' commands in the 4th paragraph of your orders per Tryall snow as near as possible and shall endeavour to obtain a quantity of fine white goods but we fear it will be impracticable while the troubles in the country subsist and the different armies continue to harass it in the manner they do at present.

158. In answer to Your Honours' 5th, 6th, and 7th, and 10th paragraphs of the aforementioned commands we do assure you that the information Your Honours had of our being filled with terrours on the success of the French at Madrass is wholly groundless and without any foundation and must have proceeded from the malice of ill-designing people, for we continued to act calmly in discharging our duty as before and in our advices at that time transmitted Your Honours, we only made a plain recital of what had come to our knowledge, which had no otherwise affected us than with concern for the loss of Your Honours' property and for the disadvantage to your affairs by being deprived of so advantageous a settlement. The President takes the liberty to assure Your Honours that his fixed resolution was then and is now to defend this settlement with his utmost abilities and we all join in declaring that we abhor the thought of giving it up or of accepting a ransom for it should be torn from us by a superiour force. Since the loss of Madrass we have carried on a friendly correspondence with Your Honours' settlement at Fort St. David which we shall continue and chearfully join with them in concerting the most proper methods for promoting Your Honours' wellfare and for the security of your settlements.

159. Captain Taylor, the master of the Tryall snow, informs us that he parted with Your Honours' ships the Prince William, True Briton, Porto Bello and Swallow snow in the lattitude of 2 N. to the westward of the Cape.

160. The 20th instant we received a letter from Ensign Joseph Bradford at Nuddea informing us that Ensign English and his party had been attacked by the Marrattoes at Cutwah and were defeated and as the goods under his charge from Cossimbuzar had been plundered and that he waited our orders whether to proceed or return with the treasure under his charge. We immediately sent him orders to make the best of his way back.

161. The same day some of Ensign English's party being arrived, two corporals, a gunner and some private men were examined and their reports are minuted upon that day's Consultation with the resolution we then came to.

162. The next day Ensign English being arrived, delivered in his report in writing copy whereof comes in the packet as we had not time to enter it upon Consultation.

163. The day following he was examined before the Board and as the account he gave us in person was no more satisfactory than what he had set forth in his letter and as it appeared to us he had acted very imprudently and unbecoming an officer in leaving his soldiers to go and treat with the enemy and afterwards suffered the goods under his charge to be plundered without one of the party being hurt, we judged it so scandalous an action that we agreed to take his commission from him and to break him at the head of the military, never to be employed as a soldier again, as an example to deter others from behaving in so cowardly a manner in future.

164. We are sorry to say that we cannot yet learn the names of any of the Morrattoe generals who commanded when this unlucky accident happened. We therefore cannot yet give Your Honours any hopes of recovering the loss which has severally affected the private concerns as well as the publick, but proper persons are sent to apply to the Cheifs for restitution.

165. The 22nd instant Mr. Wadham Brooke sent in a letter to the Board copy whereof comes in the packet. As it relates to the deficiency in the import warehouse and as he has desired that the concern we have adjudged him to have therein may

be referred to Your Honours' decision and also that the difference arising on the sale of the fine copper, which stood on Your Honours' books only at the value of ordinary copper, may be brought to the credit of the deficiencys, we hope to have Your Honours' orders hereon.

166. Since writing thus far we received letters from Mr. Eyles etc., Council at Cossimbuzar under dates of the 15th, 17th and 18th February enclosing the invoice of the goods they dispatched under the care of Ensign Edward English amounting to Current Rupees three hundred ninety five thousand and thirty one, fourteen annas and three pie (395031-14-3) as also the several letters that passed between them and him about his being attacked by the Marrattoes. which not having time to extract upon our Consultations we take the liberty to send Your Honours copies thereof and beg to be referred thereto, as also to copy of the report of Serjant Joseph Pishott in relation to this unlucky accident at Cutwah.

167. Yesterday Ensign Bradford returned from Nuddea with the bullion under his charge and the same has been landed and returned unto Your Honours' treasury.

168. On this ship Princess of Wales we have laden sundry goods and merchandize which goes consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed.

169. We have this day granted bills of exchange and certificates as follow, the amount being received into Your Honours' treasury.

On the 24th February of Mr. George Gray account Mr. Robert Coult thirteen thousand three hundred and twenty one rupees nine annas (13321-9) payable to Mr. Robert Coult or order at 2s. 2d. per rupee is £1443-2-4.

On the 24th February of Captain Thomas Harry account the estate of Mr. William Watts deceased three certificates of one tenour and date. the one of which being accomplished the other two to be void for Current Rupees 753-1-9.

170. Mr. William Barwell not being present at the several transactions contained in this letter hopes Your Honours will excuse him from signing it, having signed the Consultations of February at which he was present.

171. Mr. William Kempe who dispatches this ship will advise her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from below.

172. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants

John Forster/A. Dawson/Humffreys Bellamy/W. Kempe/William Fytche.

Fort William,
the 24th February, 1747/8.

(Ref. Bengal Letters from the Coast and Bay 1748, Vol. 14, pp. 1—67. Paragraphs 113, 115 and 118 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. I, pp. 201—202).

## 3
## LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1748

*Death of the late President John Forster and his successor John Jackson—succession of William Barwell.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Having no sure conveyance to advise you fully in relation to your affairs here and being fearfull that this letter may be intercepted we think it proper at present to advise you no further of your affairs that it may prove of no ill consequence in case this letter should fall into the enemy's hands.

2. On the 26th March John Forster[1] Esq. our late President departed this life of a fever as did John Jackson Esq. on the 20th March at Fort St. David whom Your Honours ordered to succeed him, by which means the government has devolved on Mr. Barwell who hopes for Your Honours' favour.

3. We had only two hundred and fifty thousand/250,000/, rupees in the treasury in the month of May to begin Your Honours' investment with. However after canvassing with the merchants for fifteen or twenty days we have entered into contracts with them on dadney and ready money for near thirty laack of rupees of which we hope that the best part will come in and had we been supplied with a further sum of money we should not doubt of getting in the whole.

4. We have sent eight chests of bullion to Dacca and six to Jugdea but have not been able to supply Cossimbuzar.

5. Our debts remain much the same as when we wrote Your Honours last.

6. Your Honours' ships the Prince William and True Briton are safe imported here, and the Swallow snow arrived here from Vizagapatam this day but brought no letter from the gentlemen at Fort St. David. The Colchester and Eastcourt two of Your Honours' last year's ships remain likewise here. We are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most
obedient humble servants

William Barwell/A. Dawson/Humffreys Bellamy/W. Kempe/E. Eyles/William Fytche/Roger Drake/E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,

the 26th July, 1748.

(*Ref*:—Bengal Letters from the Coast and Bay 1748, Vol. 14, pp. 68-69.)

## 4

## LETTER DATED 19 NOVEMBER 1748

*Merchants' offer to provide one third of investment for ready money—confusion at Dacca at the news of the advance of the Marathas through Sundarbans—Afghan insurrection at Patna and*

*Shumsher Khan's demand for a general tax from the European companies.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Last address dated 26th July *via* Fort St. David.

2. Shall now proceed under established heads.

*First, of shipping.*

3. Princess of Wales and Caesar dispatched from Ingelle 29 February and the Houghton 19 March.

4. On 19 March the Tryal snow was dispatched to Fort St. David with stores for garrison.

5. The following ships are safe arrived *viz.*,

On 25 April, Prince William.....From Fort St. David
12 May, True Briton
26 July, Swallow snow.....Vizagapatam
12 September, Winchelsea
27 September, Exeter.....Fore St. David.
3 October, Porto Bello

6. The President has received the Secret Committee's orders by those ships.

7. The Colchester arriving too late to be returned to the Coast, permitted Captain Wood to bring her up to Calcoola[1], agreeable to his request.

8. On 15 September dispatched the Colchester to Fort St. David with stores etc.

9. Captain Morton Hutchinson representing the Swallow snow as not serviceable to the squadron, resolved to leave her refitted for Company's service.

10. On 15 August Captain Hutchinson representing that 11 of his men were entered on board His Majesty's ship Lively, ordered the Secretary to write Captain Parker, whose reply is entered on Consultation 18 August.

11. The 11 September received Company's commands per Lapwing, and then ordered Secretary to get proxies for the owners of the Chardinagore to sign, but the owners have excused themselves from signing.

12. On 19th September allowed Captain Hutchinson £50 for table expences etc., as per his request enclosed.

13. On 3 October Captain Hutchinson requests impress money for men he enlists at 45 per month and for 4 months; and on 17th following he also requests an advance for the lascars he has entered on board the Swallow, which comply with, and now enclose his requests and copy agreement of lascars.

14. On 17 October paid Mr. Edward Roche, 2nd mate of the Swallow, 4 months' wages, he producing the captain's certificate that he was discharged the 18 April last.

15. The 17 October ordered the Warehousekeeper to lade on the Swallow, 3 tons redwood and 200 bags saltpetre.

16. On 3 instant Captain Hutchinson requests leave to purchase a long boat, in room of one left at Fort St. David, which consent to, and enclose his request.

17. Shall forward on respective ships the requests and bonds for money advanced the captains.

18. Have received from Fort St. David by the Company's ships imported here 150 chests of treasure containing twelve laack rupees which have disposed of as per Consultations 9 June, 22 and 27 September, and 3 October.

*Secondly, goods from Europe.*

19. On 19th Jugulseat's gomastah applyed for 40 chests bullion, which agreement was to be delivered at Cossimbuzar, and the risque and expence being thereby saved, agreed to deliver them here.

20. On 10th March ordered Ramrambiswass and Kissenchundsoor late banians in import warehouse under the management of the Jemindar, till they discover where the money is, of which they robbed the Company etc.

21. On 18 August ordered the Accomptant to draw out state of deficiencys in that warehouse, which goes in the packet.

22. On 31 March ordered the damaged goods and remnants in retail godown to be sold at outcry.

23. On 4th April received Company's commands dated 12 June 1747 relating to coral etc.

24. Woolen goods per Prince William and True Briton surveyed as usual.

25. On 20 June, agreed to sell the remains of goods in import warehouse; also some copper purchased by Monsooram in December 1746 which he is unable to clear.

26. Same day agreed with Omichund to deliver him the unsold copper at Patna at a rupee and an half per maund advance on what it sold for at the last sales here, and on same terms.

27. The red and green broad cloth would not sell at the usual advance of 20 per cent.

28. Account sales of damaged and worn out stores, sold the 20 and 22 October comes enclosed.

*Thirdly, of investments.*

29. On 7 March, the merchants who contracted last year on dadney, applied for 15 per cent in further part in bullion which agreed to, on their promising not to sell it under the price given by Jugulseat's House.

30. On 4 April Omichund requested 9 chests bullion on account of ready money goods delivered in by him anno 1747 which comply with, and also advance 5 chests bullion to the other merchants on account of goods delivered in this year agreable to their request.

31. The 5 May the merchants propose to undertake investment on same terms as in 1743 and 1744 and on 9th ditto, they agree to contract for some ready money goods.

32. On 16 May, the merchants offer to provide investment one third for ready money, and to have dadney on fine goods, and 2/3 on dadney as last year.

33. The Seats refusing to join with other merchants for same reasons as last year, propose to take their share of the dadney, which the majority approve, but Mr. Bellamy dissents in Consultation 2 June.

34. Omichund offering to undertake a fifth part of the investment for ready money on same terms as last year, accept his proposal, as likewise the offers of Goopenautseat for 100,000 rupees and Radachurnmetre for 50,000 on same terms as Omichund.

35. The 23rd May merchants desire to have settled their gurrah contracts anno 1746, and 1747, upon which proposed to give up those contracts taking the penalty, which they consent to on the contracts this year being in the penalty of 15 per cent, which agreed to.

36. Having insisted on the merchants lowering the prices of goods they agreed to lower 8 anaes in one sortment and 6 anaes in the other sortment of soosies and 8 anaes in the chucklaes.

37. On 30 May list of merchants brought in as security for one another.

38. On 9 June divisions of investment entered on Consultation and agreed to advance merchants 15 per cent.

39. On 14th ditto shewed the merchants patterns of dooreas per Eastcourt and ordered them to keep as near as possible.

40. On 21 July sent for the merchants to borrow money who reply they had already advanced what they had in providing investment.

41. On 15 August directed merchants to bring in what fine goods they could get, for dispatch of the Swallow.

42. On 12 September the President acquaints the Board of Admiral Griffin's[2] intention to sail the 1st January, of which inform the merchants and direct them to bring in goods time enough for this convoy.

43. On 10 March Cossimbuzar advise they had confined such merchants as were indebted to Company; that silk might then be contracted for more reasonably than last year, that our vackeels had informed Nabob of endeavours to recover silk seized by the Morattas, who was not displeased therewith.

44. On 31st March replyed to foregoing, and at same time forwarded list of investment.

45. On 19th following summoned the persons employed by Mr. Forster for recovering raw silk plundered by Morattas; what followed entered at large in Consultation 25th same month.

46. On 2 May directed Cossimbuzar to set about investment on arrival of Mr. Brooke, who reply the 24th following that it was impracticable to make any, their merchants alledging want of money and credit, and very pressing for ballances due them last year for goods delivered to the amount of 3 laacks of rupees; that when this sum was paid, they would contract for silk at the following rates, being as low as they could reduce them.

| | |
|---|---|
| November bund..... | 7·8 per seer. |
| Guzzerat..... | 8·1 |
| Commercolly..... | 7·5 |

47. Cossimbuzar under date 14th July, advise how clamorous the merchants were for money indebted to them etc. to which reply 21th that would supply them out of first money that came to hand.

48. On 1st August directed Cossimbuzar to send down all last year's goods, as the river was then open.

49. Cossimbuzar the 1 August advise, their merchants were a little easy at promise of speedy supply, but still thought themselves hardly dealt by, not receiving quite 3 annaes in the rupee on whole investment.

50. On 26 August received a letter from Cossimbuzar that had dispatched all Company's bales which were stoped by the Sydabad[3] chowkey under pretence no investment was made this year, and which could not get cleared without paying 2500 rupees: In reply, directed them on no account to comply with this demand.

51. The 20 September received 2 letters from Cossimbuzar, one accompanying 110 bales raw silk and 18 bales gurrahs; the other advising they had cleared goods at small expence; and that the Seats insisted on deduction of one per cent on 40 chests bullion delivered them here; which direct them to comply with.

52. Cossimbuzar dated 23 September that their merchants were sollicitous to know what part of the money would be sent them, with which if satisfied they might then promise a considerable investment in raw silk and silk piece goods, but few or no gurrahs, the season for providing them being almost over.

53. The 10th October, examined the musters of raw silk received from Cossimbuzar, which being inferior to musters, Mr. Eyles is asked the reason, who refers to paragraph in Cossimbuzar letter dated 15 February 1747/8, entered on Consultation.

54. Cossimbuzar dated 27 October, advise they had fixed the price of raw silk at 12 anaes per seer less than the musters sent, which reduced the price to rupees 6·12 for the November bund, and that they had agreed to bring in 1490 maunds at this rate.

55. The Directore and Council of Hughley desiring bill of exchange on Patna in favour of their Chief, direct Cossimbuzar 4 March to procure a bill accordingly for Sicca Rupees 25000: at same time acquainted Dutch Chief and Company thereof; who reply 19th that their intention was to let us know that a remittance by bill was the best way for getting our proportion of petre in time.

56. Patna under date 26th February advise that Sumsheer Cawn had demanded a general tax from the 3 European factorys of 40 or 50000 rupees, and refer for proceedings to Consultations 11th and 18th February.

57. The gentlemen at Hughley the 4 April N. S. desire a bill for 30 or 40000 rupees payable to the Chief; that they had purchased 4000 maunds saltpetre for ready money at Sicca Rupees 3·5 $^{25}$ per maund.

58. Patna dated 11 April that they will withdraw the factory when circumstances and times would permit; that refer to their Consultations for what had passed between them and Dutch Chief on purchasing Omichund's petre; also for the further sum which Dutch and themselves were obliged to pay government.

59. Hughley under date 17 April N.S. that they were informed from Patna, that an agreement was made with Deepchund for all the saltpetre he then had at 2·8 $\frac{2}{3}$ per maund, that they should be obliged to 4 or 5 annaes per maund more to Sumsheer Cawn, therefore desired us to supply them with 30 or 40000 rupees, to which replyed 14th of that month as it seemed a government affair must defer answering it at present. On 30th April their surprize, at our not declaring thereon, till had seen how the affair would turn out and again insisted on our supplying them as desired. In answer dated 25 April that our servants at Patna being ordered to come away 16 February neither could nor ought to interfere in any contract etc.

60. Same time wrote Patna that they ought not to have paid any sums to the government for factory; and that they ought not to have interfered with any contract; and again repeat orders for their coming away.

61. Hughley under date 11 May advise new purchase of 5000 maunds saltpetre at 3·2 $\frac{25}{68}$ per maund.

62. On 30 May repeated orders to Patna for withdrawing that factory; who in reply, will come down as soon as rivers were open.

63. Hughley on 14 June N. S. advise, their gentlemen at Patna had contracted with Deepchund for all the petre he could gather till October at 4·8 per maund, and request a supply of 60000 rupees for this service.

64. On 14 June wrote Hughley our surprize at their Chief raising the price of petre without our consent; they reply on 7 July N. S. setting forth the reasons and on 22 July they desire to know if we will partake of this petre and deliver the refining coppers to their gentlemen at Patna. On 1st August replyed that if they would deliver their petre at Hughley at 4·8 per maund free of other charges we would take it and pay them what money should be thought necessary to be advanced thereon.

65. On 14 August received a letter from Hughly, that our proposal of the 1st was so extraordinary they would keep the petre on their Company's account; on 29th following answered them, that as our gentlemen had left Patna, desire they would bring down for us our proportion of petre purchased at 3·4 per maund. On which, the 19 September they promise to give us half of the ready laying petre etc.

66. On 18 September received advice from Hughly that 27449 bags of petre were arrived and that 1800 bags were lost by a boat's taking fire: On which sent Mr. Richard Court to receive our proportion and desired Hughly to transmit proper proofs of loss of this boat; with which they comply under date 3 October and advise delivering Mr. Court 8198 maunds, being our proportion.

67. On 31st October Export Warehousekeeper delivers in report of petre received from Hughley.

68. Same day received invoice and account current of petre from Hughly being Sicca Rupees 8627 for which sent them a bill.

69. On 4 March advised Dacca of orders sent Cossimbuzar to procure a remittance of 50000 rupees which they on 16 following acknowledge receipt of.

70. On 19 April sent Dacca 214 pieces dooreas and mulmuls to be flowered, and 8 chests bullion which on 5 May they acknowledge to have received.

71. Dacca dated 22 May, enclose list of puttun contracted for, and request a further sum of money.

72. On 16 June, they advise having disposed of bullion, and unless a supply was shortly sent should be obliged to stop investment.

73. On 17 July sent Dacca 2 bales dooreas who acknowledge receipt but that business was at a stand for want of money.

74. On 5 September forwarded Dacca 7 chests bales dooreas Cossajura to be flowered and on 22nd ordered them to get down their flowered goods by the last of October, for the dispatch of the Swallow snow.

75. On 14 April sent six chests bullion to Jugdea.

76. On 14 August directed Jugdea to send down all the brown cloth they had ready for chinting.

77. On 22 September expressed our surprize at not hearing of the 6 chests of bullion; and on 3 October forwarded them invoice of 20000 Arcot Rupees we directed Dacca to send them.

78. On 31 March sent Mr. Kellsall, Resident at Ballasore, 1 chest bullion and enclose list of investment.

79. On 15 September Mr. Kellsall wrote for a supply of money and on 3 October ordered him 4000 Arcot Rupees.

*Fourthly, of trade in India.*

80. On 4th March Dacca advise, the utmost confusion in that city on news of the Morattas coming by the way of Sunderbund,[4] etc.

81. On 31 January Patna write that Hajee Hamet was dead, supposed to be poisoned; that the Pattans had plundered the Dutch factory at Futtua[5] of white cloth etc. to the amount of 65000 rupees and under date 21 February they advise that Sumsheer Cawne had extorted from the shroffs and others 6 laack of rupees; and had demanded a general tax from the 3 European nations of 40 or 50000 rupees. Refer for proceedings to their Consultations of the 11th and 18th of that month.

82. On 14 March Cossimbuzar write that their shroffs were absconded on account extortions of Nabob.

83. On 21st ditto they advise the Nabob had passed Sighighilly and that a battle was expected.

84. On 6 April Cossimbuzar, that the Nabob and Sumsheer Cawne were preparing for battle; and on 28th following they advise their vaqueels brought word of the Nabob's victory.

85. On 7 May Patna, advise the Nabob's compleat victory over Sumsheer Cawne, killing him and almost every one of his head officers. That they had received advice of the death of Mahumet John[6] the late king, who is peaceably succeeded by his son.

*Fifthly, of buildings, fortifications and buildings.*

86. On 4 March Mr. George Heath request leave to transfer his arrack licence, which agreed to.

87. On 20 June, Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden declares about the consulage due from Mr. Forster's estate which is entered on Consultation that day.

88. On 20th June appointed Mr. Charles Hampton Senior Surveyor.

89. On 15 August ordered the Cutwall prison to be repaired.

*Sixthly, of factors, writers etc.*

90. Fort St. David requesting all the servants designed that coast, Mr. Richard Fairfield took passage on Tryal snow the 19 March, and Mr. John Starke the 5 September on the Colchester.

91. On 28 March Mr. Roger Drake was admitted to his seat at the Board.

92. On 14 April ordered Mr. Fytche to receive charge of store godown from Mr. Eyre, and appointed Mr. Charles Donnet assistant.

93. Mr. Jonathan Ranson being returned from the Coast acquaints the board on 18 April of the demise of Mr. John Jackson, which occasioning a vacancy admit Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden.

94. On 25 April being assembled in Council took the oath of fidelity.

95. On 2 May, made the exchange of posts at the Board.

96. On 16 May Mr. Eyles being arrived from Cossimbuzar takes his seat at the Board, and receives the charge of Zemindary from Mr. William Kempe.

97. On the 16th May the President grants lieutenant's commissions to Matthews d'Pen and James Dunkley; and ensign's commissions to Robert Rea and John Kemp.

98. On 24 May Cossimbuzar advise the death of Mr. Samuel Manship of a fever the 19th of that month.

99. On 4 August appointed Mr. John Brown of Council there.

100. On 18th August forwarded a commission to Captain Holland to command a company here.

101. On 31 August Dacca advised that Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes claimed his seat at the Board and also post of Export Warehouse Keeper as he commenced junior merchant the 30 August and thereby became Mr. Clerembault's senior, to which answered the 8 September that unless they had any objection to the capacity and integrity of Mr. Pearkes they should admit him accordingly. On 19th of that month they reply, that their reasons were as Mr. Clerembault had shewn himself capable and was also recommended by the Company and therefore waited positive orders, which sent them the 3rd October, the employ being Mr. Pearkes's right according to his standing and the custom of that factory.

102. On 8 September Mr. Pattle arrives from Patna and takes his seat at the Board and receives charge of general books from Mr. Dawson.

103. On 21 July appointed Mr. William Frankland Sub Export Warehouse Keeper.

104. Recommend to Company's notice Mr. William McGwin, Secretary, being very capable and using much diligence.

105. On 28 September died Reverend Mr. Robert Wynch of a fever.

106. On 12 instant died Mr. Roger Altham of the small pox and appointed Mr. Peter Amyatt Military Pay Master in his room.

107. On 14 instant appointed Mr. Thomas Boddam of Council at Cossimbuzar.

108. Not having sufficient number of servants request a supply.

*Seventhly, touching accounts.*

109. Accomptant ordered to regulate and settle all money, stores etc., advanced commanders of His Majesty's squadron.

110. A new sett of transfer books opened and the charge of them given to Mr. William Watts.

111. On 3 October the Accomptant delivered in Mr. Clarke's account when ordered the 2 bales baftaes therein specifyed to be sold; and Mr. Badley, attorney to receive the money from Mayor's Court.

112. Have granted bills of exchange as per body.

113. Amount of those at 2·4.....rupees 245676-11-9 or £28662-5-5.

114. Amount of those at 2·2.....rupees 17281-2-3 or
115. £1872-2-5.

116. Amount of certificates.....rupees
117. 31592-15-6.

*Supplement.*

118. On 4th April ordered the pylots to obey senior pylot.

119. On 25 April Mr. Kellsall at Ballasore advises the arrival there of 3 French pylots who report they daily expect a squadron.

120. Under date 21 April Fort St. David, enclose copy letter from Negapatam, containing orders from Batavia, to suppress the French and to keep up a strict correspondence with English.

121. On 18 following received a letter from Hughley referring to their deputies for measures in consequence of foregoing orders. For what passed refer to Consultation 30 May.

122. On 27 June, President lays before us, letters received from Commander Griffin and Captain Parker, advising that a French squadron had appeared off Negapatam 9 June. Resolutions came to, entered on Consultation, also the assistance promised by Dutch at Hughley.

123. Company's Carpenter and another capable man sent down to examine the stern and rudder of the Lively man of war, agreable to Captain Parker's request.

124. On 14th July advanced Captain Parker 2000 rupees for use of the Lively which he has since repaid.

125. On this vessel send Edward English a prisoner, in consequence of the Commandant and other officers' opinion delivered in Council 25 April.

126. Captain Baron of the Winchelsea not touching at Durassapatam are without redwood for dunnage.

127. The 10th instant Captain Hutchinson requested to be paid for sundrys provided on account the Swallow snow amounting to rupees 693-1-5 which complyed with and enclose his request.

128. Have granted a bill of exchange to
Thomas Godfrey Esq. at 2·4.....£60-4-9.
Mrs. Margaret Wright at 2·2.....24-11-6.

129. Master Attendant being down the river, cannot send account snows repairing by this conveyance.

130. Invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to rupees 249625.

131. Send 447 pieces of cossaes Malda fine of 40 and 2½ for a tryal.

132. Request a supply of Madeira wine not receiving any this year.

133. Wish this vessell a safe and speedy passage.

*Postscript*

Since closing the foregoing received advices from Fort St. David dated 5 October that the general had raised the seige of Pondicherry.

William Barwell/George Pattle/A. Dawson/Humffreys Bellamy/William Kempe/E. Eyles/William Fytche/ Roger Drake/E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,

the 19th November 1748.

(Ref: Bengal Letters from the Coast and Bay, 26th July to 22nd December 1748, Vol. 14, pp. 70—91.)

## 5
## LETTER D TED 22 DECEMBER 1748

*Large supply of provisions to Fort St. George—Alwardi Khan's reaction at the capture of two Armenian ships by the English—lack of funds at Dacca delay the dispatch of goods.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our address under the established heads bore date the 19th ultimo per Swallow snow duplicate whereof Your Honours will receive herewith.

2. We shall now proceed to advise of your affairs under our management since that time.

3. The President and Council of Fort St. David in their letters per Lapwing having wrote very pressingly for a large supply of rice, wheat and sundry stores and the gentlemen at Bombay having likewise acquainted us of the provision of pepper they had made on the Mallabar coast, we on the 21st November came to a resolution of sending three of Your Honours' ships *viz.*, the Winchelsea, Porto Bello and True Briton to Fort St. David with supplys for that Presidency and of giving orders to Captain Baron in the Winchelsea to touch at the Northern Settlements for their bales, leaving it to the gentlemen of Fort St. David to send such of those ships to Europe or the Mallabar coast as they should judge most advantageous for Your Honours' interest. They were accordingly dispatched thither this day.

4. At the same time we agreed to return the Exeter as soon as possible to Your Honours, for which purpose she is now taking in her lading, and after her the Eastcourt and Prince William, but the Bombay Castle arriving here from the Coast and the merchants on the 1st acquainting us that after the dispatch of this vessel they should not be able to bring in goods sufficient for more than three ships, we resolved upon sending the Prince William to Suratt and Bombay for a lading of cotton, advising the gentlemen of Bombay hereof that they might have a cargoe in readiness and notice was put up at the fort gates for freight as usual and Captain Brown ordered to get his ship in readiness to proceed to Europe.

5. We have laden on board the Winchelsea thirteen hundred /1300/baggs of saltpetre, on the Porto Bello eight hundred baggs /800/ and on the True Briton twelve hundred bags/1200/ on charter party terms, reserving the power of turning it into whole freight should we find occasion, of which we advised the gentlemen at Fort St. David and we herewith transmit Your Honours

the captains' requests for the same, as they in all probability will not be returned hither, as also Captain Wood's and their several requests for the money advanced them for the use and expences of their ships together with one of each of the bonds they had executed for the amount.

6. The 10th instant we put up at outcry Your Honours' broad cloth, lead and iron, the account sales whereof is herewith sent, by which you will please to observe that the aurora broad cloth sold at a high price and part of the green at twenty per cent advance but the red would not sell. As this last is an improper sortment for this place and was originally designed for Bombay, we have come to a resolution to send it by the Prince William.

7. Enclosed in this packet we send Your Honours an indent of sundries wanted in the import warehouse which we request your compliance with.

8. On the arrival of the forty chests of treasure per Bombay Castle our merchants pressed us very much to advance them sixteen per cent on their dadney contracts without which they alleged they should be wholly unable to comply therewith, the cloth which they had provided at the aurungs being stopped there on account of money they owe and Omichund by letter acquainted us that he was apprehensive of interruptions in getting down the goods he had contracted for through want of supplying his correspondents with money and therefore requested us to pay off the ballance due to him anno 1747.

9. At the same time Mr. Alexander Murray agent for the squadron under Mr. Boscawen's command sent in a letter requesting two laack and thirty thousand /230000/ rupees for His Majesty's service.

10. Having taken those several requests into consideration and having other demands that we were obliged to comply with, such as captains' requests, a bill of exchange from the gentlemen at the West Coast for twenty four thousand two hundred and thirty rupees and purchasing of rice for the Coast, besides our own current expences, we came to the following result.

To advance the merchants sixty thousand rupees /60000/

To advance Omichund sixty thousand rupees /60000/ and

To advance Mr. Murray fifty four thousand five hundred rupees /54500/ which last sum has been adjusted here by transfers.

11. The demands on this settlements running so very high have obliged us to direct the subordinates to desist from drawing any bills of exchange on us as we had not money in the treasury to answer them, as also to be as sparing as possible in their expences in every respect, particularly buildings and repairs. The same caution shall be continued here.

12. Under date the 2nd instant the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote us that they had finished their contracts for silk but were unable to lower the price advised of in the fifty fourth paragraph of our last address and that their merchants importuned them to request us to send them a share of the treasure per Bombay Castle to enable them to perform their contracts. And again under date the 13th instant they advised that Futtichund's House was much exasperated at not receiving a part of their treasure as such large sums of money were owing them at Your Honours' factories. They at the same time acquainted us that the Nabob being informed that two ships belonging to the Armenians on their passage hither from Juddea and Bussorah were taken by the English, on which account ships bound to Bengall are afraid to proceed, by which means the King is deprived of his customs and that he is resolved to do justice to those who have suffered by such usage. In reply thereto we wrote that those affairs were no ways relative to Your Honours and were always adjudged by the established laws of our country from which the proprietors might be assured of having fair and equal justice and that we hoped the Nabob would not insist on these matters in future as it is out of our power to give any answer thereto. And in order to bring Futtichund to temper we wrote that we should be always glad to serve him when in our power but that the supply of the Bombay Castle was so very small that we could not spare him from our own investment any money that would be satisfactory and therefore hoped he would not take amiss waiting a little longer as we expected a large supply by the latter ships.

13. The gentlemen at Dacca under date the 30th November enclosed us an invoice of goods to the amount of seventy six thousand nine hundred and eighteen Current Rupees and then advised that they should shortly send us another parcell and it was only the want of money that prevented their sending us a large quantity which they had got but had not money to dress it.

14. On inspecting the Dacca goods we found the superfine alliballies, though the difference was ten rupees /10/ in the price,

very little superiour to the fine alliballies, that the seerhaud-connaes were not kept up to the due thickness and of the cambrick kind bordering upon the mulmulls, that the nainsooks were dearer than the former years and not so good in quality, of which we acquainted the gentlemen at Dacca and directed them to have due regard thereto in future.

15. The 24th November as there was a vacancy for a chaplain at this place by the demise of the Reverend Mr. Robert Wynch we appointed the Reverend Mr. Charles Webber, Batchelor of Divinity, to fill up the same at the usual salary and allowance, he being a gentleman of merit and general good character.

16. We advised Your Honours in our last of having appointed Mr. Thomas Boddam of Council at Cossimbuzar, he being a young gentleman of great industry and merit.

17. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums for which we have granted bills of exchange payable ninety days after sight as usual and first of those granted your covenanted servants who have been duly sworn that the money is on the following accounts.

On the.....instant of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account of Mr. John Andrews eight hundred sixty five rupees six annas and nine pie/865-6-9/ payable to Messrs. Thomas and Nicholas Crisp or order at 2·4 each is £100-19-3¾.

On the 16th of Captain Jonathan Ranson nineteen thousand five hundred and four rupees two annas and nine pie /19504-2-9/ payable to William Davis Esq. and Captain Thomas Hill or order at 2·4 each— £2275-9-9.

On the 19 of Mrs. Mary Harrison account of Mr. Samuel Harrison thirty eight thousand five hundred sixty four /38564/, payable to Mr. Samuel Harrison or in his absence to Mr. Robert Harrison or order at 2.4 each— 4499-2-8¼.

On the 19 of Mr. George Heath two thousand five hundred eighty eight rupees nine annas nine pie /2588-9-9/ payable to Mr. Richard Barwell or order at 2.4 each— 302-0-1.

On the 19th of Captain Nathaniel Jacobs eight hundred and fifty seven rupees two annas and three pie /857-2-3/ payable to William Locke Esq. or order at 2·4 each is £100-0-0.

On the 20th of Mr. William Lyndsay two hundred and fourteen rupees four annas and six pie /214-4-6/ payable to Messrs. George and John Ouchterlony or order at 2.4 each— 25-0-0.

On the 20th of Mr. William Young account Captain Charles Butterwick two hundred fifty seven rupees two annas and three pie /257-2-3/ payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Glover or order at 2.4 each is— 30-0-0.

On the 21st of Edward Eyles Esq. two thousand eight hundred sixty seven rupees eight annas and six pie /2867-8-6/ payable to Sir Francis Haskins Eyles Stiles Baronet or order at 2.4 each— 334-10-10.

On the 22nd of William Barwell Esq. and Messrs. Fytche and Burrow six thousand nine hundred and sixty rupees ten annas and six pie /6960-10-6/, payable to Thomas Godfrey Esq. or order at 2.4 each— 812-1-6.

18. The whole amount of bills granted at two shillings and four pence each rupee is seventy two thousand six hundred and seventy eight rupees fifteen annas and three pie /72678-15-3/ or £8479-4-2.

19. We have likewise granted the following bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee to the following persons *viz.*,

On the 28th November of Mr. James Taylor four thousand and eighty six rupees /4086/ payable to Mr. William Taylor or order at 2s. 2d each is— £442-13-0.

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 21st December of Captain David Rannie account Mr. John Munro nine thousand two hundred and thirty rupees twelve annas and three pie /9230-12-3/ payable to John Munro Esq. or order at 2.4 each— | 1000-0-0. |
| On the 21st of Mr. George Gray three thousand six hundred and eighty rupees fifteen annas /3680-15/ payable to Mr. Robert Coult or order at 2.4 each— | 398-15-4. |
| On the 22nd of Mrs. Elizabeth Beard ten thousand rupees /10000/, payable to Richard Benyon and Osmond Beavoir Esqrs. or order at 2s. 2d each is | 1083-6-8. |

20. The whole amount of bills granted at two shillings and two pence each rupee is twenty seven thousand two hundred and twenty four rupees nine annas and three pie /27224-9-3/ or £2924-15-0.

21. As we had not money to pay off Mrs. Mary Harrison's interest note Your Honours will observe that we have granted her bills of exchange at two shillings and four pence 2.4 each rupee in consequence of her request, copy whereof we send herewith for Your Honours' perusal.

22. The doctor's indent for sundry medicines wanted in the shop comes enclosed.

23. We have permitted Mr. George Heath, one of Your Honours' covenanted servants, to take his passage for Europe in the Porto Bello, Captain Fisher commander, in consequence of his request and the usual ninety six rupees /96/ to be paid by all persons returning to Europe will be received into Your Honours' treasury from his attorneys here.

24. The Nabob arrived at Muxadavad the 30th ultimo and still continues in both the subaships of Bengall and Bahar. His great success we are apprehensive will make him haughty and in all probability troublesome.

25. Enclosed is a register of diamonds laden on board this vessel.

26. The Master Attendant's and Buxie's account expences of the Swallow snow are herewith sent and the account of the expences of this vessell shall be forwarded by the next conveyance.

27. We have laden on the Lapwing sundry goods and merchandize amounting as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to Current Rupees four laack and nine thousand/409000/.

28. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Yours Honours

Your most faithful humble

servants

William Barwell/George Pattle/A. Dawson/Humffreys Bellamy/William Kempe/E. Eyles/William Fytche/, Roger Drake/E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,

the 22nd December 1748.

(*Ref*:—Bengal letters from the Coast and Bay, 1748, Vol. 14, pp. 91—102.)

## 6

## LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1748/49

*His Majesty's proclamation regarding cessation of hostilities between England and France—the road from the Fort to Sutanuti to be repaired by taxing the merchants—the President regrets inability to redress the grievances of the Armenians.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address bore date the 22nd ultimo per ship Lapwing, duplicate whereof is enclosed, since which time we have

been favoured with Your Honours' commands under date the 10th May 1748 accompanying His Majesty's proclamation for the cessation of arms to which we shall pay due obedience.

2. This waits on Your Honours per Exeter to advise of your affairs under our management since the 22nd December and serves to transmit you Captain Weston's requests for the several sums of money which have been advanced him for the use and expences of this [ship ?] with one of the bonds he has executed for the same together with the bonds entered into by Captains Baron, Fisher and Broadley for the sums of money which they took up here for the expences of their ships.

3. We are preparing to dispatch the Eastcourt and Bombay Castle and hope to get them away sometime in February.

4. Before any bales were laden on the ship she was duely surveyed and the captain's request with the Master Attendant's report comes enclosed as also Captain Weston's requests for saltpetre laden on the Exeter.

5. Your Honours having ordered ten tonns (10) of turmerick to be sent you we have laden on board this vessell on charter-party terms to be shot loose in the hold, the captain having first consented thereto.

6. Enclosed in this packet we send Captain Weston's request for men upon which we sent for the Commandant to know if any could be spared him to which he replied that we could not spare any.

7. In our address per Swallow we advised Your Honours of Messrs. Blachford's and Bellamy's not having wrote us for some time since when we thought proper to order one of the gentlemen of Dacca to repair thither and the Chief and Council there dispatched Mr. Pearkes on that service who inspected in that matter.

8. In a letter from those gentlemen under date the 13 December they represent to us their having wrote by the way of Dacca the 27 May last as by duplicate enclosed acknowledging the receipt of the treasure and pinnace as likewise triplicate of an invoice amounting to five thousand two hundred seventy six rupees and three annas (5276/3/-), that they forwarded the original to the gentlemen at Dacca who acknowledged the receipt

and dispatch thereof, the duplicate whereof was likewise forwarded, all which letters to their great surprise and concern they found had miscarried, that their silence and neglect to forward the account current has been occasioned by the long sickness of Messrs. Blachford and Bellamy who have been much indisposed. They at the same time sent us the account sale of the bullion by which we might observe that a gain arose to Your Honours thereon which they hoped would be acceptable, they having disposed thereof at two hundred and ten Sicca Rupees (210) for two hundred and forty Sicca weight (240) and informed us, should we have occasion to send them any more, they believe they should be able to dispose of it at nigh the same price.

9. In the same letter they acknowledge the receipt of twenty thousand rupees (20000) sent them by the gentlemen at Dacca, part of which they had invested and requested us to send down a laack of rupees to go on with their investment in the months of February, March and April as then the cloth will be better, their being but few buyers.

10. They likewise advised that the Mugs and robbers who have done great mischief about that place (Dacca) obliged them to keep the pinnace till the 8th of that month when they dispatched her as likewise a boat of goods amounting to twenty three thousand eight hundred fifty one rupees fourteen annas and nine pie (23851-14-9). The goods arrived safe the 12th instant and consist mostly of brown cloth and arrived too late for chinting this year.

11. Our merchants on the 31st December representing to us that the Nabob, upon the complaint of the Armenians, Moguls etc. about two of their ships [being?] taken, had ordered peons on all their gomastahs at the aurungs and stopped the boats which were bringing down their goods, we came to a resolution to threaten stopping the Armenian ships from passing our fort, the season being too far advanced to wait for redress and then directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to inform those Armenians who complained at the Durbar thereof and we had hoped these threats might have been of use but were informed afterwards that the ships on which their goods were had fallen down the river before.

12. Under date the 2nd instant the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar enclosed us copy of a perwannah from the Nabob to the President which they judged was probably sent to stop the clamour of the Armenians, at the same time advised that the Nabob had heard

of an Arab horse to be disposed of in Calcutta which they believed would be very acceptable to him. Copy of the translate of the perwannah and the President's reply we herewith send for Your Honouss' notice.

13. The gentlemen at Dacca in a letter dated the 8th instant advised that positive orders arrived there from Muxadabad to put a stop to their business in general.

14. In reply to the above letters we acquainted the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar that we should not be against their keeping the Durbar easy if to be done on reasonable terms and sent them the horse which they informed us would be agreeable to the Nabob to lay hold of a proper opportunity to present it to him and to the gentlemen at Dacca that we should have been glad they had got away their bales, as they write a full stop is put to their business, which we hope will be shortly cleared from the President's answer to the Nabob's perwannah for that purpose.

15. The Export Warehouse Keeper informing the Board the 5th instant that the merchants can bring in over and above their contracts about one hundred and seventy bales (170) of different sortments of goods viz., coopees, cossaes, cossajurah, hummums, mulmuls, Santipore mulmulls, Cossajurah do do fine, nillaes, soosies and terrendams and as at this juncture they may be serviceable to Your Honours and of aid to our tonnage we agreed to accept the same.

16. Under date the 15th October the gentlemen at Bombay advised us that they had received information that the messenger they had sent to the Sou Rajah to obtain redress for the seizure of Your Honours' raw silk was arrived there but were then unacquainted with the reception he met with or whether it will have the desired effect.

17. By a letter bearing date the 18th instant the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar acquainted us that our boats were stopped at Sydabad and that they had informed the Armenians of our threatning not to permit their ships to pass this fort which had not then the wished for effect, that what silk and silk piece goods they should be able to procure this season would be in readiness to be sent down by the 8th of next month, which they presumed we would send a strong party to escort, which party was accordingly ordered in a Consultation of the 23rd instant and the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar advised thereof.

18. The 11th instant the Zemindar acquainting us that the road on the wharf to Sootamally[1] market was washed away by the river whereby Your Honours' revennues arising from that buzar suffered great prejudice, we ordered him to rebuild the same by taxing the merchants who lived thereabouts in proportion to their ground.

19. We herewith transmit Your Honours the account revennues from October 1747 to October 1748, also an account of the loss and gains in the zemindary for three years past.

20. In our address per Swallow snow we acquainted Your Honours that we were in want of covenanted servants for carrying on the business of your offices, which we again take the liberty to request you will supply us with, as also to enclose the petitions from Messieurs William [Powney] and John [Wood to be] entertained here as such, they [having assisted in your offices] some time past [without any gratuity].

21. The gentlemen at Jugdea having mentioned in their letter to have sent their account current by the way of Dacca and the same not being come to hand, we on 24th December wrote to them as also to the gentlemen at Dacca to forward the same with the utmost expedition and then ordered the Accomptant to bring up the books of this Presidency without it which account current arrived since on the 23rd instant.

22. On the 5th instant the Accomptant laid before us the account earnings of Your Honours' sloops to the 30th April last with their several open accounts current, which having been carefully examined and the Master Attendant consulted in regard to the present value of each sloop, which being incerted and the difference wrote off to profit and loss, the accounts were closed.

23. The Accomptant laid before us the 9th instant the merchants' accounts anno 1745 whereby it appearing that a transferr from Radakissen Cawne's account for five thousand nine hundred fifty five rupees, seven annas and three pie (5955-7-3) to Luckicondseat's account was wrote back to the other merchants' accounts in that sett which account they refused signing, alledging that Luckicondseat never acquainted them thereof, which he on the other hand asserted he did, upon which the question was put whether when any one of the sett was broke the whole body is answerable to make good the ballance and particularly in this case whether it shall stand to the merchants' names as it does

now in Your Honours' books or be transferred to Luckicondseat's account, when we all agreed [that it should] stand to the several merchants' names [.....] and the merchants were accordingly ordered [.....] accounts.

24. The 16th instant the Accomptant acquainting us that he was then upon striking the ballance of the general books and that it was impossible for him to proceed therein till the affair was settled with those merchants for whom Bulram Cotmah was security and having received a petition from Bulram Cotmah in relation thereto, copy whereof is enclosed, we took the same into consideration the 19th when the majority of the Board being of opinion that he ought to make good the ballance due from his sett to Your Honours immediately, we ordered the Accomptant to transferr the ballances due from them to his account which transferr, if not sufficient, we shall demand the ballance of him. However we take the liberty to mention to Your Honours that we look upon the allegations in his petition to be matters of fact and therefore not unworthy of your consideration.

25. The 20th instant the Accomptant brought in the profit and loss article, the ballance [then] being ten laack twenty three thousand five hundred seventy nine rupees fourteen annas and nine pie (1023579-14-9) which, exclusive of the loss occasioned by the Marrattoes plundering of the raw silk and increase of interest, appears to be much the same as last year.

26. The gentlemen at Dacca in a letter dated the 16th instant, in answer to our remarks on their investment of which we advised Your Honours in our address per Lapwing, write that though the fine alliballies may appear in the outward fold near as good as the superfine, yet as they are cuttall goods they fall very considerably in the inward folds which is not the case of the superfine, they holding their goodness through [out]; besides there is the difference of one hundred and fifty threads (150) in those sortments, that the seerhandconnahs are agreeable to their musters and instructions in their list of investment and that the nainsooks are four annas per piece cheaper than any sent last year except seventeen pieces which were dispatched at the close of the season. In the same letter they advise that the government[2] have not only put a stop to their business but have taken mutchulkas from the moodys not to supply them with any provisions.

27. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 21st instant enclosed a letter from Coja Wazeed to the President to which a speedy answer was desired, he staying at Muxadavad on that account only. They advised at the same time that they were unacquainted with the purport of the letter but were informed that a clearance of their business depended upon him alone, to which we yesterday replyed that the purport of Coja Wazeed's letter was concerning the complaint of the Armenians, Moguls etc. about the Bussorah and Juddah ships to which the President has sent an answer acquainting him it was out of our power to give them any redress but should always use our best offices for their advantage, so hope that our business will meet with no further interruption.

28. In this packet we send Your Honours duplicates of the accounts sale of goods in the import warehouse as specified in the list thereof together with duplicate of our indent and the price current of Europe commodities here.

29. The indent of stores wanted here likewise transmit Your Honours as also the price current of stores anno 1748 together with the account remained of stores here the 31st October 1748 and abstract thereof for last year.

30. Enclosed is a list of coral imported here since the year 1746 which has not been hitherto claimed, copy whereof we shall forward to the Coast by the first conveyance.

31. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums for which we have granted bills of exchange, payable ninety days after sight as usual, and first of those granted to Your Honours' covenanted servants at two shillings and four pence each rupee, who have been duly sworn that the same is on the following accounts:

On the 26th January of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow on their own account thirty thousand two hundred fifty eight rupees twelve annas and nine pie (30258-12-9) payable to William Dunster Esqr. or order at 2.4 each is £3530-3-10.

On the 26th January of William Fytche Esqr. on his own account seven hundred eighty seven rupees three annas and nine pie (787-3-9) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2.4 each 19-16-11.

On the 26th January of Mr. John Hipwood on his own account sixty six rupees (66) payable to Mrs. Hannah Hipwood or order at 2.4 each 7-14.

32. The whole amount of sums for which we have drawn bills at two shillings and four pence each rupee is thirty one thousand one hundered and two rupees and six pie (31102-0-6) or £3629-14.

33. We have likewise granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee, for the following sums viz.,

On the 5th January, of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Miss Elizabeth Torriano eleven thousand two hundred ninety two rupees six annas and three pies (11292-6-3) payable to Richard Binyon and Thomas Hall Esqrs. at 2-2 each is £1223-6-10.

On the 18th January of Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme account the estate of Mr. John Saunders one hundred twenty eight thousand nine hundred eighty nine rupees eight annas and six pies (128989-8-6) payable to John Horn and Edmund Godfrey Esqr. or order at 2-2 each 13973-17-4.

On the 26th January of Mr. Joshua Bodley account Mr. James Meredith one hundred eighty four rupees nine annas and nine pie (184-9-9) payable to Mr. Thomas Barrat or order at 2-2 each 20

On the 26th January of Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell four hundred thirty five rupees three annas and nine pie (435-3-9) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2-2 each is 47-3.

34. The whole amount of sums for which we have drawn bills at two shillings and two pence each rupee is one hundred forty thousand nine hundred and one rupees twelve annas and three pie (140901-12-3) or £15264-7-2.

35. Enclosed is a manifest of private trade laden on the Exeter to which the captain has been duly sworn.

36. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed, amounting to seven laack thirty one thousand Current Rupees (731000).

37. Mr. Roger Drake who dispatches this ship will advise Your Honours of the necessaries from Ingellie.

38. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most humble servants

Will. Barwell/Geo. Pattle/A. Dawson/Hum. Bellamy/W. Kempe/E. Eyles/Roger Drake/E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,
the 27 Jany. 1748/9.

P.S.—

By private advices from Bombay we are informed that the Durrington and Stratham arrived there the 20th October from St. Augustin's which place they sailed from the 19th August where they left the Houghton who lost her passage round the Cape having lost her bow-sprit and foremast.

(Ref: L. to C. 1749. Home Public, Vol. I, 1748-49, pp. 1-11. Extracts from paragraphs 10, 11, 13, 14, 18 and 20 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records*, 1748-67, p. 12).

## 7

## LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1748/49

*Supply of provisions to Admiral Boscawen—difficulties experienced by the stoppage of business at Jagdia—new regulations concerning the military and artillery to be enforced.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Under date the 27th ultimo we addressed Your Honours by the Exeter which ship was dispatched by Mr. Roger Drake the 1st instant from Ingellie when she drew seventeen feet nine

inches water forward (17 feet 9 inches) and seventeen feet three inches abaft (17 feet 3 inches). Duplicate of said address comes herewith.

2. Your Honours' ships Royal George and Rhoda being arrived from the Coast, Captain Thomas Field, the commander of the former, sent in a letter to the Board the 2nd instant to advise us that Admiral Boscawen had sent him down here to take in provisions for the fleet but finding by information from the agents that there would not be sufficient lading for him he requested us to order three thousand (3000) bags of rice to be laden on board him for Fort St. David garrison which quantity he judged would be sufficient to compleat his tonnage and Captain John McNemarra, commander of the latter, having sent in a letter to the same purpose, we ordered that quantity to be purchased and laden on board them and we judge those ships will be ready to sail about the 25th instant.

3. The Governor and Council of Fort St. David having wrote to us about the badness of the wheat sent them up per Colchester we called upon Mr. Bellamy, then Buxey, to know how it happened who referred us to the Consultation of the 27th February 1747/8 where it appears to be purchased by the Board, there being at that time no other wheat in the place and the Colchester not being then able to proceed to the Coast, the wheat lay in our goaloes the last rains which must consequently prejudice it.

4. Enclosed we send Your Honours Captain Benson's requests for the several sums of money which have been advanced him for the use and expences of the Eastcourt with one of the bonds he has executed for the same together with the bonds entered into by Captain William Weston for the money granted him for the expences of the Exeter.

5. This ship was duly surveyed by the Master Attendant before we proceeded to lade bales on her as by the captain's request and Master Attendant's report herewith transmitted.

6. The gentlemen at Dacca have since our last address informed us that their affairs remain in the same situation as when they wrote us last and by letters from Messrs. Blachford and Bellamy at Jugdea we are informed the like stop is put to business there and that it is a great favour that they can procure common subsistence.

7. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums for which we have granted bills of exchange payable ninety days after sight as usual and first of those granted at two shillings and four pence per rupee (2.4) to your covenanted servants who have been duly sworn that the money so paid in is on the following accounts viz.,

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 30th January of Mrs. Mice Forster account coral three thousand two hundred twentynine rupees, one anna, nine pie (3229.1.9) payable to Mr. Jacob Dias or order at 2.4. each is | £376.14 |
| On the 30th January of do do account coral sixteen thousand nine hundred ninety seven rupees, thirteen annas, nine pie (16997.13.9) payable to Mr. Lewis Mendez or order at 2.4 each is | 1983 . 11 . 8 |
| On the 2nd Feby. of William Fytche Esqr. on his own account two hundred fifty seven rupees, two annas and three pie (257.2.3) payable to Richard Binyon Esqr. or order at 2.4. each is | £30 |
| On the 6th Feby. of William Kempe Esqr. and Mr. William Lyndsay account Mr. George Heath six hundred rupees (600) payable to Mr. George Heath or order at 2.4 each is | 70 |
| On the 6th February of William Kempe Esqr. on his own account one hundred seventy one rupees, six annas, nine pie (171.6.9) payable to Cristopher Wyirll Esqr. and Mrs. Anne Kempe or order at 2.4 each is | 20 |
| On the 6th February of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Doctor Stephen Lightfoot six hundred and fifty rupees, eleven annas and three pie (650.11.3) payable to Mr. Richard Boddicott or order at 2.4 each is | 75.18.3 |

8. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and four pence each rupee is

twenty one thousand nine hundred and six rupees three annas and nine pie (21906.3.9) or £2555.14.6.

9. We have likewise granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee for the following sums viz.,

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 7th Feby. of Mr. Thomas Cooke account Mr. Miles Barnes three hundred ninety six rupees, fourteen annas, nine pie (396.14.9) payable to Mr. Miles Barnes or order at 2.2 each is | £43 |
| On the 7th Feby. of do do account Capt. Richard Thelwall eight hundred fifty one rupees, one anna, three pie (851.1.3) payable to Capt. Richard Thelwall or order at 2.2 each is | 92·4 |
| Of Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme account Richard Nevill Esqr. one thousand four hundred ninety six rupees, eleven annas and three pie (1496.11.3) payable to Richard Nevill Esqr. or order at 2.2. each is | 162.2.10 |
| Of Mr. James Senegat nine thousand and seven rupees, seven annas and nine pie (9007.7.9) payable to himself or order at 2.2 each is | 975.16.2 |
| Of Mr. James Ross two hundred eighteen rupees (218) payable to Mr. James Gay or order at 2.2. each is | 23.12.4 |
| On the 11 Feby. of Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme account Mrs. Sarah Hawkins three hundred sixty nine rupees, three annas and nine pie (369.3.9) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2.2 each is | £40 |
| On the 11 Feby. of Capt. John Coales nine hundred twentythree rupees, one anna and three pie (923.1.3) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennett or order at 2.2 each is | 100 |

10. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee is

thirteen thousand two hundred sixty two rupees, eight annas (13262.8.-) or £1436.15.4.

11. We have also granted three certificates [...] one tenour and date for each of the following sums one of which being accomplished the other two to become void viz.,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| On the 6th Feby. of Mrs. Mice Forster account the estate of John Hope Esqr. | Crs. | 1521.11.3 |
| Of Mr. William Lyndsay account Capt. Thomas Stevens | Crs. | 933.6. |
| On the 11th Feby. of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Capt. Matthew Court | Crs. | 1000 —— |

12 The whole amount of sums for which we have granted three certificates as above is three thousand four hundred fifty five rupees, one anna, three pie (3455.1.3.).

13. Since closing the register of bills of exchange at two shillings and four pence each rupee we have granted the following bills at that rate the amount thereof being made good here viz.,

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 11th Feby. of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. one thousand seven hundred and fourteen rupees, four annas and six pie (1714.4.6) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at 2.4 each is | £200 |
| Of Mr. Robert Orme three hundred and forty rupees (340) payable to Mr. Benjamin Allen or order at 2·4 each is | 39.13.4 |

14. Your Honours' ship the Prince William, Captain William Webber, is now under dispatch from Ingellee for Suratt and Bombay having on board sundry gruff goods and broad cloth amounting to one hundred twenty five thousand four hundred seventy six rupees and three pies (125476-0-3) exclusive of freight which amounts to sixteen thousand three hundred thirty eight rupees, fourteen annas and six pies (16338-14-6).

15. We have now the pleasure to advise Your Honours of the safe arrival here of the Sommerset, Captain Tolson who acquaints us that he parted with the Pelham Indiaman, twelve digrees (12) to the southward of the line.

16. We have received Your Honours' commands of the 17th June 1748 with copies of your orders under date the 9th March and 18th May preceeding. In obedience thereto Captain Nathaniel Jacobs was this day dismissed the military service and the charge of his company conferred on Captain George Minchin who came on the Somersett till the arrival of Major Moseman when Your Honours' regulations for the military and artillery shall be punctually observed.

17. We beg leave at present to defer replying to the other parts of your commands by this ship till the dispatch of the Bombay Castle which ship is detained for the arrival of the Cossimbuzar goods which we expect in a few days.

18. Enclosed is invoice and bills of lading of sundries laden on board the Eastcourt amounting to seven laack eighty thousand rupees (780,000.....).

19. The state of Dacca factory not being yet arrived obliges us to send Your Honours an open account current of this Presidency which we shall transmit closed by the Bombay Castle.

20. Mr. Edward Eyles who dispatches this vessell from Ingellie will advise Your Honours of the necessaries from thence.

21. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the utmost respect

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most humble servants

Will. Barwell/Geo. Pattle/A. Dawnson/Hum. Bellamy/ W. Kempe/E. Eyles/Roger Drake/E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,

the 11th February 1748/9.

(Ref. L to C. 1749, Home Public, Vol. I, 1748/49 pp. 13-18.

Paragraph 6 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records,* 1748-67, p. 13.)

# 8

# LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1748/49

*Shipping matters—high prices of coarse goods due to incursions of the Marathas—case of the Jedda ship captured by Captain Browne—measures contemplated to check the abuses of* dastak.

TO the Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Duplicate of our address under date the 11th instant per Eastcourt we herewith transmit Your Honours and are now to acquaint you of your affairs since that time as also to reply to your commands per Somersett.

2. The Eastcourt was dispatched from Ingellie the 15th instant by Mr. Edward Eyles when she drew seventeen foot, seven inches (17′ 7″) water forward and eighteen foot (18′) water abaft.

3. In obedience to your orders for dispatching the Somersett to the Coast, we directed Captain Tolson on the 13th instant to get her in readiness to proceed thither with all expedition. In consequence whereof he petitioned us for three or four sloops to lighten her to such a draught of water as the pylot should esteem requisite for carrying her down from Rogues river where she then lay to Ingellie, which request we complied with and directed the Warehouse Keeper to keep ten chests of treasure in readiness to be reladen on board her for China in case of the Pelham's arrival before her departure from hence.

4. Enclosed Your Honours will receive the manifests of the private trade landed here from the Eastcourt and Somersett together with the reports thereof which on a strict scrutiny was found on board them.

5. In the course of our Consultations, one sett whereof has been already transmitted you and another goes by this conveyance, Your Honours will observe that the goods imported here

by your ships were duely surveyed as by the reports entered after the Consultations when they were delivered in but we esteem it proper to specifye the particulars of such as were damaged and short delivered which, on the captains' refusal to pay for, are at their requests referred to be adjusted by Your Honours and their owners. That you may have the same at one view the amount of the damaged woolen goods per True Briton was seventeen thousand nine hundred seventy three rupees, eleven annas and three pie (17973-11-3) and of that per Prince William was four thousand one hundred seventy seven rupees, fourteen annas, nine pie (4177-14-9) in which is included the prime cost and thirty per cent thereon. The amount for which the captains sold these goods they have paid into Your Honours' treasury but requesting the difference between that and the thirty per cent on invoice might be referred home as per Consultations of the 1st September and 3rd October, we complied therewith, having no power to compel them to pay the difference.

6. There was also a deficiency of cotton by those ships viz., by the Prince William ourteen maunds thirty one seer (14m. 31 sr.) and by the True Briton fourteen maunds (14) for which we demanded payment as well as for the damage which the cotton sustained but have agreed to refer the same to be adjusted by Your Honours and their owners in consequence of their request entered after our Consultation of the 7th July.

7. On demanding payment of Capt. Brown for a short delivery of thirty eight maunds, twenty two seer, eight chatack (38″ 22″ 8) of lead per Bombay Castle he refused to comply therewith alledging that it was landed at Fort St. David and there he supposes mixed with other lead and therefore at his request the same is referred to be adjusted by Your Honours and his owners.

8. We have ever since the receipt of Your Honours' commands of the 10th February been endeavouring to get the persons concerned in the Chardenagore to execute the papers sent out but were unable to prevail on any of them till just on the dispatch of the Eastcourt when Coja Mirzah and Coja Stephan signed two proxies one whereof our Secretary enclosed in a letter apart to Mr. Secretary Mole and the other goes in this packet.

9. Mr. Adam Dawson, Export Warehouse-Keeper, had our order agreeable to the 21st and 22nd paragraphs of your letter of the 10th February 1747 to procure Your Honours' satisfaction for the pieces wanting in the five bales per Montford and to examine into the same.

10. The gentlemen now in Calcutta who signed to those notes beg leave to represent unto Your Honours that the prizings that year were not concluded till the afternoon when there were a hundred bales and upwards to be packed up before sunsett that the merchants might have room sufficient in the warehouse to begin sorting other goods, that there was always one of your servants who counted the cloth as it was carried to the bales. The other junior servants are constantly employed in filling up the notes, besides which there are two centinels placed to have an eye that none of the cloth is stolen after it is carried out of the warehouse untill the ropes are made tight and the bales locked up until the next day when they are screwed and gunnys sewed on. Therefore they hope Your Honours will not deem them liable to make good that deficiency as they represent they always acted with the utmost caution to prevent any fraud being committed herein. They also desire to observe that by the bales appearing to be cut it is more probable they were plundered after they left the warehouse.

11. We shall agreeable to Your Honours' directions endeavour to reduce the price of coarse goods if possible, but the country where those sortments are made, having greatly suffered by the incursions of the Marrattas and the march of the Nabob's armies and the workmen being dispersed and numbers destroyed and ruined, will prevent us we fear as yet from reducing the price in any great degree and cotton still continues at so high a price as from twenty two to twenty three rupees per maund (22 to 23).

12. Your Honours will observe in the paragraph of our address per Swallow snow in what manner we acted in relation to the gurrah contracts unadjusted and how we contracted for this season to which we shall exact a compliance as far as the nature and circumstances of the contract will admit.

13. The 13th instant we acquainted Ramnaut Bose with Your Honours' orders in relation to him who replied that he has not wherewithal left to purchase victuals and on the 20th we ordered Ragometre and Monickdutt to examine into his books and accounts, and shall, if he is found unable to pay the annual two thousand rupees, proceed to the sale of his house in obedience to Your Honours' directions.

14. We have directed Your Honours' orders in relation to the Dutch pretences to an exclusive trade in opium to be affixed at

the publick places in our town and shall acquaint all the commanders of ships to act agreeable to your directions.

15. On the 20th we read Your Honours' 19th paragraph in relation to the saltpetre contract with Omichund and directed him to give his answer thereto in writing which he this day complied with and is entered after our Consultation. We thereupon debated this matter and observing that the stress of Your Honours' paragraph lyes upon the long use you imagine this man hac of your money and which he absolutely denying to have received any advantage from, we ordered him to bring his proofs that the money advanced him on account his saltpetre contract was appropriated by him to that service at the time he received it and that the saltpetre was absolutely provided and delivered by him to Mr. Braddyll' etc. Council on their requiring the same. Mr. Kempe has given his opinion of the affair as per this day's Consultation.

16. The houses in Calcutta are held of Your Honours viz., some by lease signed by the Governour and Council, others by a paper called a pattah in the Bengall language signed by the Zemindar for the time being.

17. Agreeable to your directions in the 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th and 39th paragraphs of your commands of the 17th June we took the dustuck affair into consideration and appointed Mr. Roger Drake Register thereof who in the next Consultation representing to us that he being now a member of the Board where his time is so taken up at Councils, prizings and other business that it would be impracticable for him to attend the business ordered him in a due and requisite manner and therefore desiring that an inferior servant in station to him may be appointed to that service and some other employ allotted him more proper for one of the Board and Your Honours having directed the Gunner and gunroom crew to be abolished and a Military Storekeeper to be appointed to receive all the military stores from the Gunner, he therefore requested that employ to be conferred on him and it was agreed on this representation to appoint Mr. Drake Military Storekeeper and to let Mr. William McGuire, Secretary, remain Register of the dustucks as usual.

18. We take the liberty to acquaint Your Honours that during our administration we know of no abuse of your dustucks and are firmly resolved not to permit any ill use thereof but in the busy season of the year when the goods are brought to be sorted and

prized our merchants are obliged to have dustucks every day and to bring in their goods in such a manner as they can get them away from the several petty jurisdictions under which they are made so that there is sometimes more and sometimes less brought either by land or water than the dustuck mentions.

19. Your Honours may be assured that if any fraud is discovered or proved to be committed by those who take dustucks, the goods shall be seized or if you are brought into any trouble with the country Government they shall be obliged to answer it and make good the damages. Thus far we are of opinion the nature of the country and people will permit and may be advantageous to Your Honours' affairs, but losing time at an improper season of the year when the business is transacting in a hurry by severe searching and using forms on the arrival of every boat will only we apprehend tend to impede your business and retard the dispatch of your shipping.

20. We assure Your Honours that if the country Government endeavours to encroach on any of the privileges granted you by the royal phirmaund we shall support them with our utmost efforts.

21. The military on the arrival of Major Mosman will be regulated agreeable to Your Honours' directions.

22. The 13th instant our dadney merchants delivered us a petition concerning their goods at Jellingee in the Naugree language, translate whereof is enclosed in this packet, and for our resolutions thereon we beg leave to referr Your Honours to our Consultation of that day, copies whereof we transmitted to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to act agreeable therto, whose reply thereto under date the 19th instant is extracted at large in this day's consultation.

23. As by the several letters lately received from thence it appeared that there was no likelihood of a clearance to their business so as to get away their silk and silk peice goods in time for the dispatch of the Bombay Castle and as it was very late in the season, we on the 20th instant came to a resolution to dispatch her with all expedition to Your Honours with such goods as were on hand judging with what bales we picked up by one means or other we should have sufficient for her tonnage or very near it and which is now compleated

24. We wrote to Cossimbuzar the 20th instant and gave them our final sentiments on the affair of the Judda ship taken by Captain Brown of the Bombay Castle to which we have yet received no answer but by their replys to our letters of the 26th January and 14th February Your Honours will perceive in what situation matters are.

25. Your Honours will observe translate of a letter delivered us by an Arab from the merchants who claim the ship which was taken by Captain Thomas Brown of the Bombay Castle is entered after our Consultation of the 20th instant, which being read to Captain Brown he replied that this vessel was deemed a legal prize by the Judge Advocate at Fort St. David, and if those people had a just claim thereto he doubted not but on proper application they would obtain redress in England.

26. The report of the dispatch of Your Honours' ship Prince William you will please to observe is entered on our Consultation of the 14th instant whereby it appears that five hundred bags (500) of rice, twenty one freight bales (21) and seven bags (7) mentioned in the list of freight did not arrive in time to be laden on board before she sailed on account of bad weather and Captain Webber insisting on being dispatched without them it being very late in the season and the pylot being of opinion that if he did not go with the first of the neeps he would run great risques of losing his passage, Mr. William Frankland delivered them to the captain, at the same time a protest for any damage that might accrue to Your Honours by his not staying.

27. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums for which we have granted bills of exchange to each payable ninety days after sight as usual and first of those granted to Your Honours' covenanted servants at two shillings and four pence each rupee (2s. 4d) who have been duly sworn that the money is on the following accounts:

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 20th February of Mr. Gervas Bellamy on his own account eighty five rupees, eleven annas and six pie (85.11.6) payable to Mr. Thomas Pomfret or order at 2:4 each is | £10 0 0 |
| On the 20th February of Messrs. Edward Holden Cruttenden and John Zephaniah Holwell account William Davis Esqr. eight thousand five hundred | |

seventy one rupees, six annas and nine pie (8571 : 6 : 9) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order @ 2:4 each ... 1000 0 0

On the 24th of Humphrey Bellamy Esqr. account Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes four hundred rupees (400.—) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Pearkes or order at 2.4 each ... 46 13 4

28. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and four pence each rupee is nine thousand fifty seven rupees. two annas and three pie (9057 : 2 : 3) or £s 1056 : 13 : 4.

29. We have likewise granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee for the following sums·

On the 20th February of Messrs. Samuel Court and William Young account Mrs. Catharine Stackhouse five thousand five hundred ninety five rupees, six annas (5595 : 6 : —) payable to Messrs. Richard Eyre and Joseph Styles or order at 2 : 2 each is £606 3 4

On the 23rd of William Fytche Esqr. account Mr. Stephen Austen four hundred ninety nine rupees (499) payable to Mr. Stephen Austen or order @ 2:2 each 54 1 2

On the 23rd of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow and Orme account the estate of Mr. John Saunders seven hundred thirty five rupees, six annas and nine pie (735: 6: 9) payable to Messrs. John Herne and Edmund Godfrey or order at 2 : 2 each is ... 79 13 4

30. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee is six thousand eight hundred twenty nine rupees, twelve annas and nine pie (6829 : 12 : 9) or £739 : 17 : 10.

31. Your Honours in your list of investment persisting in knowing the reasons why no bandannoes were sent you anno 1746 Messrs. Dawson, Kempe and Eyles who were at that time at Cossimbuzar acquaint us that the bandannoes were prized and packed but could not be sent from thence on account of the Marrattas that were all over the island.

32. Enclosed Your Honours will receive Captain Benson's second bonds for the money advanced him for the expences of the Eastcourt with one of Captain Webber's bonds for the money advanced him for the use of the Prince William as also Captain Browne's requests, by which Your Honours will observe that he was at first advanced eight thousand Arcott Rupees (8000) but not having occasion for that sum he has repaid into the treasury six thousand (6000) and entered into bonds for the remaining two thousand (2000) one of which is enclosed.

33. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per invoice and bills of lading amounting to eight laack two thousand five hundred rupees.

34. Your Honours will be pleased to take notice that there are two separate bills of lading for saltpetre, one for three hundred sixty baggs (360) laden on board this ship in lieu of his kintledge with which he supplied the Lapwing at Bencoolen, the other for one hundred ninety five baggs (195) laden on board her at low freight.

35. Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden who dispatches this ship from Ingellie will acquaint Your Honours with what is necessary from thence.

36. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient

humble servants

Will. Barwell/Geo. Pattle/A. Dawson/Hum. Bellamy/W. Kempe/E. Eyles/W. M. Fytche/ Roger Drake/E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,

The 24th February, 1748/9.

(Ref:—Copies of records obtained from India Office 1749/51, Vol. 16, pp. 1 to 13.)

# 9
# LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1749

*Shipping details—the Maratha attack repulsed by the Nawab's forces—various attempts made to obtain clearance of business—the road from the Fort to Sutanati to be repaired out of the merchants' account current—alterations in the personnel of the Council.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. The gentlemen at Fort St. Davids having advised us that they intend dispatching two of Your Honours' ships to Europe in September and a conveyance now offering to the Coast, we lay hold of the opportunity to enclose Your Honours duplicate of our last address under date the 25th of February per Bombay Castle which ship was dispatched by Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden from Ingellee the 2nd of March when she drew 17 feet 5 inches water forward and 18 feet 3 inches abaft. We shall now proceed to give Your Honours an account of your affairs under our management since that time ranging the same under the usual heads.

*First, concerning shipping.*

2. By the Hawke sloop built for the service of this Presidency which imported here the 27th of February last from the Coast the President and Council there forwarded to us Your Honours' commands by the Tarter man of war and Pelham Indiaman which being opened were found to be the same as those received per Somerset.

3. In their advices by that sloop they acquainted us they were then coining the bullion received per Tarter and Pelham into rupees, fifteen chests whereof they sent us by that conveyance and fifteen more by the Fort William, a countrey ship then bound to this port, and at the same time they requested us to send them a large supply of petre to keep in store for any occasion that might offer.

4. On the third of March the Fort William arrived here with the fifteen chests of treasure mentioned in the foregoing advises.

5. Your Honours' ships the Royal George and Rhoda was dispatched from hence to the Coast the 28th of February and the Buxey informing us on the 30th of March that part of the rice designed for those ships were lost in the way down, an account whereof he then laid before us amounting to two thousand four hundred and ten maunds (2410), we sent for the manjees and peons belonging to the boats on which this rice was laden who on examination declared their boats were overset in a hard gale of wind they met with as they were going from Ingellee Creak on board their ships.

6. Mr. William Ffytche, Store-Keeper, acquainting us that Captain Browne, commander of the Bombay Castle, carried away an anchor from Ingellee amounting to five hundred and fourteen rupees, fifteen annaes (514-15) and producing his mate's receipt for it which his attorney refusing to take and discharge we now transmit the same to Your Honours to be adjudged with his owners.

7. The 9th of May we received a letter from Mr. Edward Teddeman, Chief Mate of the Edgbaston, advising of his arrival at Culpee[1], of the death of Captain John Hereford and of a violent storm which happened on the Coast the 12th of April. Copy of his letter we herewith send Your Honours.

8. As Mr. Teddeman in the said letter esteemed it necessary that the Edgbaston should come up to town to be repaired and desired us to send him an anchor and cable to Culpee we gave him permission to bring her up accordingly and ordered the Store-Keeper to supply him with a cable and anchor.

9. On the 23rd of May the Edgbaston being arrived at town and having no objection to the capacity or character of Mr. Edward Teddeman, the Chief Mate, we ordered our Secretary to repair on board to confirm him in the command.

10. Under date the 8th of April the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids wrote to us that they had agreed with the owners of the Success, a country ship, to call in at Durassapatam in her passage to the Bay and take in such part of the redwood we had wrote for as she was able, and that they would send us an account as soon as they were furnished with the receipt that the master had

orders to give for the quantity he took in. She arrived here the 3rd of May and the captain delivered us one hundred and eighty one peices (181) weighing factory maunds three hundred and eighty six and five seers (386.5) of which we advised the gentlemen at the Coast.

11. By the Essex, a countrey ship, which imported here the 29th May from Fort St. Davids the President and Council advised us of the arrival there of His Majesty's ship the Syren with fifty (50) chests of treasure consigned to us which they took out to enable them to send the Pelham and Somerset to China. At the same time they forwarded Your Honours' commands of the 21st July.

12. Under date the 28th of May the gentlemen on the Coast forwarded the invoice of the redwood per Success and promised to send us a further supply as opportunity offered, requesting at the same time that we would furnish them with four thousand bags of saltpetre (4000) for their kintladge by the earliest conveyance. We replied thereto under date the 14th of June and advised them of the arrival of the Edgbaston here and if any of Your Honours' ships should go thither in August or any of the countrey ships should take it on easy terms we intended to supply them with what saltpetre we could spare, that we had observed they received the fifty chests (50) of bullion designed for the service of this Presidency per Syren of which we were in hopes to have received some part but our expectation being disapointed, we greatly feared it would prove very prejudicial to Your Honours' investments and desired them of taking all opportunities of sending us some supply.

13. The President and Council of Bombay in a letter dated the 11th of May advised us of the arrival of the Prince William there with the consignment of broad cloth, iron, gunneys, and twine, which were then landing, that as they esteemed it too late in the season for her to proceed to Surat they would land her freight, and transmit suitable directions to the Chief and factors there to get the persons to whom it was consigned to consent their sending it thither by the first good conveyance that offered. They wrote us at the same time that the returning of the Prince William to us was uncertain as it depended on the setting in of the monsoon. However they directed Captain Webber to get his ship in readiness to proceed as soon as the season would permit; in such case they would consign us a cargoe of cotton.

14. Your Honours' ship the Elizabeth, Capt. Wills commander, imported here the 3rd instant from the Coast being sent from thence by the Admiral to carry up stores for the squadron. By her the Governour and Council there favoured us with the agreable news of the arrival of Your Honours' ship the Griffin there and then requested a further supply of two thousand bags of saltpetre (2000) per Edgbaston and Elizabeth as they had obtained leave of the Admiral for it to be laden on board them. In consequence whereof we ordered the Warehouse-Keeper to lade two thousand bags of that commodity on board the Elizabeth.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe.*

15. On the third of March we took into consideration the disposal of the bullion and treasure then laying in the warehouse and came to the following result

To pay 17 chests of bullion to Futtichund
12 do.—of rupees to dadney merchants.
7 do.—of bullion to those merchants

who provided ready money goods and six chests of bullion to Serrikisua, to reserve five chests of bullion for Cossimbuzar, five chests for Dacca and four chests of rupees for Jugdea and ordered the same to be disposed of accordingly but Futtichund's gomastah refusing to take it at the rate he formerly used to do, and desiring to have it delivered him by the weight of the Secca Rupee we ordered his request to be complyed with, it being a custom at Cossimbuzar.

16. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar by a letter received from them the 13th of July informing us that the Seats advised them of their intentions to send their gomastah to settle their accounts and therefore they desired to know what part of the above seventeen chests of bullion was paid on account of that factory with the price and weight of it, that as the Seats would not permit them to endorse from off their interest notes the amount of the forty chests of bullion delivered them in Calcutta in March 1748 without a deduction of one per cent thereon they apprehended they would likewise demand one per cent on what we paid them in March last account of that factory and therefore desired our orders thereon, as they seemed absolutely determined not to give it up, and they feared a dispute with them at this juncture may be attended with very bad consequences; in reply thereto we

directed them to inform the Seats that if they insisted on having the one per cent deducted we should chuse rather to bring the whole to the Calcutta account.

17. On the 20th March we ordered the damaged goods then laying in Your Honours' warehouse to be sold at publick outcry and notice to be given as usual; the account sales thereof comes in this packet.

18. The Import Warehouse Keeper informing us the 19th June that there were several pieces of broad cloth laying open in the godown and esteeming it a proper season to dispose of the poppenjay broad cloth belonging to Your Honours, we agreed to put it up at outcry the 19th instant on the established terms and publick notice was affixed at the fort gate as usual but were obliged to defer the sale on account of the badness of the weather till the 22nd instant when we agreed to put it up at the following prices viz.,

Aurora————@ 68 rupees per peice
Poppinjay————49
Ordinary Red———50
Yellow————51
Blue————49

19. Your Honours will herewith receive the account of what then sold but finding no bidders for the red poppinjay and blue at the foregoing prices we came to a resolution of trying those sortments again at outcry the 24th of next month together with the woolen goods per Walpole as also those designed us per Britannia should she arrive by that time, of which we have given publick notice as usual.

20. The 6th instant the damaged stores were surveyed by the Board and put up to sale the 13th following as per account thereof herewith transmitted Your Honours.

*Thirdly, concerning investments.*

21. The Export Warehouse Keeper layed before the Board the 20th March an account of the damaged goods in that warehouse which by order of the Board were put up to sale the 20th April, the [.....] sales Your Honours will receive herewith.

22. On the 20th March we forwarded the list of goods to be provided at Ballasore to Mr. Henry Kelsall with orders to comply therewith as near as possible and at the same time sent him a chest of rupees.

23. The gentlemen of Cossimbuzar having wrote to us very pressingly for money, and particularly for the five chests of bullion we designed sending them, we under date the 30th March transmitted them our reasons for altering our intentions which were that we esteemed the charges would run very high in sending a large party of guards with so small a sum of treasure, that we were then endeavouring to procure a bill of exchange which Ramkissenseat having obtained for twenty three thousand, four hundred Secca Rupees (23400) on the 6th April we forwarded the same.

24. On the 12th ultimo we received a letter from the gentlemen of Jugdea accompanying one hundred and thirty three (133) bundles of brown cloth and three tuctaes of white which were dispatched from thence the 9th of January and arrived safe.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and therein any transactions with the countrey Government.*

25. In our address per Bombay Castle we acquainted Your Honours of the situation of affairs at Cossimbuzar on account of the Armenians' complaint at the Durbar about the capture of the Judda and Bussorah ships and that there was then no likelihood of soon obtaining a clearance to our business. It is with the utmost concern that we are to inform Your Honours that this stoppage to the currency of trade has ever since and does still continue—and in order to convince Your Honours that we have used all methods that could be thought of to bring the Nabob to temper we shall now [proceed] to give Your Honours a particular account of our proceedings herein from time to time.

26. On the third of March we directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to apply to Hookumbeg and the Seats to induce them to assist us in finishing this affair, which if they should be able to effect we should not look upon a small present of about two thousand rupees as thrown away. They informed us by letter the 22nd of that month that they had made the application directed but were told by those very persons that without a present to the Nabob it would be impossible to obtain a clearance to business, that the Nabob was then encamped a little distance

from the city with an intent to go in a few days on some expedition then unknown, which if true they were apprehensive the stoppage would continue till his return.

27. As we were at a loss to judge what presents the Nabob might want, they not being explicit on that head, we wrote them in reply that we could not enter upon a full discussion thereof till the Durbar ministers gave them a definitive answer.

28. Under date the 6th April the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar informed us that Carooleybeg came to their factory and told them the Nabob expected they would satisfie the Armenians without any further delay and for the present had ordered two hundred horsemen and two hundred buxeries to be quartered on that factory, that he himself was come as a mediator between them and the Armenians and would do them all the good offices in his power. The Seats also advised them to make up this affair with the Nabob as soon as possible, that the longer they deferred it the more money they must pay but what sum would be sufficient for this they could not learn nor till some advances were made by us and under date the 10th following [.....] to us that the jemindar who commanded the forces put over them, being dissatisfied at their not paying him and his people as usual, gave orders by beat of drum prohibiting all manner of provissions from coming into their factory.

29. In reply to the foregoing we acquainted that Your Honours having taken notice of the large sums of money which have been extorted and paid the Nabob and having frequently complained thereof as great leaks to your estate, we could not make any advances on such an affair as this wherein Your Honours had nothing at all to do, and we therefore directed them to find out the Nabob's views and ends in endeavouring thus to distress the Company's affairs without any manner of reason when we should be the better able to take our measures, and told them it would be also very necessary to find out what would satisfie the government, that in regard to the threats and vaunts of the jemindar and soldiers set upon their factory they were not to be regarded as they signified little to the decision of the main question.

30. Mr. Wake and Council of Bombay informed us by letter of the 13th of January that the messenger whom they had sent to the Sou Rajah about Your Honours' raw silk which was plundered by the Morattoes was returned but without any written

answer from him, and from his triffling excuses they had no hopes of redress for the loss Your Honours sustained therein, but as the officer who made the seizure was expected to wait on him shortly they intended in such case to renew their addresses.

31. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar by the advice of the Carooleybeg under date the 24th April desired us to procure a paper signed by the Armenians who resided here by way of an address from them to the Nabob in Persian expressing their satisfaction at what we had done and wrote in their behalf, that this it was thought might be of considerable service in the then posture of affairs, that the general opinion of the Nabob's distressing Your Honours' affairs was he wants to get a sum of money from each party, that it was thought some time before about fifty thousand (50,000) rupees would have composed matters but before they can come to any certainty in regard to what he expects, offers must first be made on our side and on the 4th May they forwarded two letters, one from Nunadges Mahmud Ceewne[2] to the Nabob with his answer thereto, whereby we might perceive that the Nabob remained seemingly fixed in doing what he called justice to the Armenians.

32. In consequence of the above letter we ordered our Secretary to draw up a paper for the Armenians to sign when translated into Persian, and advised the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar that when the Armenians had signed thereto we should forward it to them, hoping it might prove satisfactory. At the same time we directed them, when they heard any reasonable proposals made, to advise us thereof as it was impossible for us to make any offers.

33. Mr. Henry Kelsall by a letter dated the 5th May advised us of the Morattoes being encamped within sight of the Kuttack factory and that the Nabob's forces were distant but 3 corse from that place and under date the eighth following he wrote us that Nilla Pundit with the command of a strong party of the Marattoes horse were encamped close to the factory and that their putting off the plundering of that place till the next morning was the saving of it for as their horse entered the town the Nabob appeared and immediately sent part of his forces over the river who pursued him and got up with him in a very small time, that what their loss was he could not learn, the reports being various, that on the Nabob's arrival he sent the vacqueels to him for permission to wait on him, which being granted he met with a very

gracious reception from the Nabob who asked him if he had been to visit Mierabib[3] but on informing him that he had not, he seemed exceedingly well pleased and told him when he returned whatever he asked should be granted.

34. On receipt of those letters, we wrote to Mr. Kelsall that we were pleased to observe the gracious reception he met with from the Nabob, and as the troubles at Cossimbuzar still continued we would have him visit him again and deliver him an arsdast from the President which we then transmitted him.

35. Under date the 19th May he wrote to us that the Nabob was encamped within three leagues of Cuttach and that he hourly expected to hear the news of Meerabeeb's and Auga Sheriff's being delivered into the Nabob's hands by their own jemindar and two days following he advised us that some of the people whom he had sent to follow the Nabob's army were returned with the news of his having entered Cuttach, that on his approach Meerabeeb with the Morattoes fled, that five of the head jemindars stayed behind and surrendered themselves to the Nabob who immediately cut of their heads, that no judgment could at that time be formed how long the Nabob would stay there as Doolooberam[4] and Meer Jaffeir to both of whom he offered the Nabobship having refused it as they doubted not but the Morattoes would return next season.

36. As we had not received any encouragement from Cossimbuzar concerning the clearance of our business and Mr. Kelsall being near the Nabob, we directed him to use his utmost endeavours to get an order from him for the clearance thereof in order for which to represent to him that this affair was as prejudicial to him as to Your Honours and if he stopped the business much longer it would be impossible to do any this season, which clearance if he could procure we doubted not but Your Honours would esteem it a service done you.

37. The Armenians having delivered us an address in Persian, we ordered the same to be translated and took it into consideration the first of June when they attended the Board and were asked to sign the paper to the Nabob which they then declared they would not. Copy of the paper drawn up for the Armenians to sign as also their address to the Board we now enclose to Your Honours.

38. This refusal of the Armenians putting a stop to any hopes of accomodating the dispute with the Nabob and throwing our

dependant entirely upon his favour, the President asked the opinion of the Board how to proceed with regard to the Armenians when we are of opinion they ought to be acquainted that in case Your Honours were obliged to pay any money to the Durbar, if they did not consent to repay the same, we should after the expiration of two months withdraw from them Your Honours' protection and dismiss them the town and the Armenians were accordingly called in and acquainted therewith. Mr. William Kempe then gave it as his opinion that the staying two months might impede Your Honours' business so far as to prevent our getting a tonage for your shipping and therefore they ought to be forced to satisfie the Nabob immediately. We at the same time wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and advised them of the Armenians' refusal as also of our orders to Mr. Kelsall for obtaining from the Nabob a clearance to Your Honours' business and directed them to use their endeavours to obtain such clearance either through the Nabob's favour or else on easy terms for which purpose we permitted them to offer as far as fifteen or twenty thousand rupees (20000).

39. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar in reply to the foregoing under date the 14th of June wrote to us that they had applyed to the Seats and Biramdutt[5] from whom they understood that nothing could be done till the arrival of the Nabob at Muxadavad and that they were of opinion the sum we limited them to give would be too small (if the Nabob should favour them so far as to take nothing for himself) for the forces that were put over them and would be rejected with contempt and therefore they should be glad to know the utmost extent of what we intended to give in order to expedite this business as soon as possible on the Nabob's arrival at Muxadavad.

40. Mr. Kelsall under date the 9th ultimo wrote us that the Nabob arrived there three days before to whom he delivered the President's arsdast, that the Nabob told him he was resolved to befriend the English and desired him to transport his cannon and ammunition to Calcutta with the utmost expedition, the roads being so bad he could not carry them with him; he then obeyed our orders in representing to him how prejudicial this stoppage would be as well to his revenues as to Your Honours' investment and asked him what we were to expect, to which the Nabob replied he would finish the affair on his arrival at Muxadavad and then gave him a letter for the President.

41. We then wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and enclosed them a copy of Mr. Kelsall's letter which gave us hopes that they would be able to accomodate matters on the Nabob's return without exceeding the former sum limited for that purpose any great matter.

42. Under date the tenth instant the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar advised us of the Nabob's return on the seventh when they sent their vacqueels to wait on him whom he asked if they had procured the raudjee nomma from the Armenians in Calcutta, to which they replied in the negative and gave for reason that the Armenians were fearfull to give the raudjee nomma under their hands least they should be obliged to pay the choute, that the Nabob then said he would give them a mutchulca under his own hand not to take a rupee from them and asked them if Mr. Kelsall was arrived agreable to a promise made him when at Ballasore and spoke much in that gentleman's commendation, from whence they judged that he would be the most acceptable person that could be sent him to extricate Your Honours from those troubles.

43. In consequence of the foregoing letter we ordered Mr. Kelsall to proceed to Cossimbuzar and advised the gentlemen there that they might send him to the Durbar after which to acquaint us from time to time how this affair went on and what probability there might be of success. We sent him at the same time a paper delivered us by the Armenians with a translate thereof in Persian to make use of as they might see advantageous. Copy of the said address comes enclosed.

*Fifthly, of revenues.*

44. Mr. Edward Eyles, Jemindar, acquainted the Board on the thirteenth of March that he had used all means possible to get the merchants to acquiesce to an order of Council for making a wharf to the road leading to Soota Loota bazar without which it would be in danger of being quite washed away next rains and thereby extremely prejudicial to Your Honours' revenues arising from that bazar but to no effect. We ordered him then to repair the same out of Your Honours' cash and that the merchants' accounts current should be debited for the amount.

45. Rogometre and Monickdutt two banians whom we had ordered to inspect Ramnaut Bose's books reported to the Board that he was willing to pay the annual two thousand rupees in part of his debt but not being then in cash he requested us to accept

of a transfer to Otteram's dadney accounts which we agreed to and in case he should fail in making such annual payment we shall proceed agreable to your directions in the thirty first paragraph of your orders per Somerset.

*Sixthly, concerning factors, writers, officers and their accounts.*

46. On the 28th February Lieutenant Saunderson with thirty five soldiers of the Bengal detachment arrived here in the Hawk sloop from Fort St. Davids and on the third of March Lieutenant Usgate with eighty men under his command imported here in the Fort William one of our countrey ships.

47. The same day Major James Mosman with Captain Lieutenant Martin Bennet and Lieutenant David Clayton arrived here and were presented at the head of the military and their commissions read.

48. Major James Mosman on the 3rd of March took his seat at the Board as third agreable to Your Honours' orders and was then directed to inspect the gunroom crew and advise the Buxey when he thought it would be necessary to stop their pay, as the artillery company was to be formed therefrom; they were accordingly dismissed the 15th following.

49. We ordered Mr. Roger Drake, Military Store Keeper, to enter on his office the 20th of March and for that purpose directed him to receive from the Store-Keeper General and Gunner the stores etc. belonging to the military, the receipts for which were signed in Council.

50. Captain Thomas Fenwick addressed the Board by letter on the 20th of March requesting us, as we had presented Captain John Holland to the command of his company and the two new raised companies were commanded by the officers from Europe, to order him his rank agreable to his commission as captain and to succeed to the first vacancy which we complied with.

51. On the 15th of March Mr. Charles Dennot, one of Your Honours' covenanted servants, departed this life of a flux.

52. We wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and Dacca the 20th March and directed their commanding officer to transmit the Major a return of the number of military at those places incerting their names and the companys to which they belonged as also

to transmit us a list of all their ordnance whether great guns, mortars, royals cohorn, paltararoes, expressing their several lengths and weights with their dimensions at the base, trunnion and muzzle which they have since complied with.

53. The President on the 30th of March acquainted the Board that he had received a letter from Mr. James Blachford advising him that he was so much indisposed at Jugdea that it would be necessary for him to come to Calcutta to recover his health and Mr. Thomas Bellamy having desired leave to quit that factory, we then agreed to take into consideration the next day who were proper persons to send thither in their room to carry on Your Honours' business and then we appointed Mr. William Watts Chief and Mr. Peter Amyat second.

54. Major Mosman having layed before the Board on the 30th of March a list of invalids who were unfit for service at which time, we then ordered the Buxey to form a pension list in the charges general and allows the Europeans eight rupees per mensem and the blacks four.

55. Major James Mosman departed this life of a fever on the 30th of April whereby a seat at this Board becoming vacant which was filled up by Mr. Edward Holden Cruttenden on the 4th of May, when we ordered Captain Robert Hamilton to act as Commandant of this garrison and a captain's commission to be drawn out for Captain Thomas Fenwicke to command the fifth company.

56. The command of a company here becoming vacant by the death of Captain John Whiting who departed this life of a fever on the 15th of May we ordered a captain's commission to be drawn out for Captain Lieutenant Martin Bennet.

57. On the 24th of the same month Captain Commandant Robert Hamilton departed this life of a fever when we ordered a commandant's commission to be drawn out for Captain John Holland as he was next in standing and bore a commandant's commission on the Coast and at the same time agreed to give him the monthly allowance of a member of the Board in consideration of his superiour trouble in the care of the garrison.

58. Lieutenants David Clayton, Thomas Sewell and Ensign Chase sent in their petitions to the Board on the 29th May setting forth that on entering into Your Honours' service they were then promised that all right of succession to vacancys should be conferred on no other officers than those at that time promoted and

requested that they might succeed thereto accordingly, which petitions we took into consideration and then agreed that the old and new officers should succeed to vacancies as they happened and turn and turn and that the command then vacant should be conferred on Lieutenant Charles Butterwicke who had the command of the military at Dacca to which place we sent orders for him to return to Calcutta.

59. On the 12th of June we ordered a captain's commission to be drawn out for Lieutenant David Clayton to fill up the vacancy occasioned by the death of Captain Martin Bennet who departed this life of a fever and flux on the 6th of the month.

60. Mrs. Chatharine Hamilton relict of our late Commandant petitioned us on the 19th of June for an allowance for herself and family, which we took into consideration the 26th and then ordered the Buxey to allow her the same as the widow of Major Hunt receives viz., 35 rupees per mensem. Copy of her petition we hereby transmit Your Honours.

*Supplement.*

61. We have now the pleasure to congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival here of the Walpole and Tavistock, the former on the 19th instant and the latter on the 26th; by those ships we were favoured with your commands of the 2nd and 21st December 1748 and 27th of January 1748/49.

62. In obedience to Your Honours' orders of the 18th of January Adam Dawson Esqr. received the charge of the factory from William Barwell Esqr. together with the ballance of cash, one of the keys of the treasury as also the royal phirmaunds, merchants' teeps and contracts, with all other papers belonging to Your Honours for which regular receipts were signed.

63. As the death of Major James Mosman occasioned a vacancy in Council, Mr. Thomas Burrow being next in standing was sent for and admitted to his seat at the Board.

64. The Chiefship of Cossimbuzar becoming vacant by the dismission of Mr. Wadham Brooke from your service, we appointed Mr. Edward Eyles to take the charge thereof, esteeming him from his great experience there to be a fit person in the present posture of affairs to succeed him and we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to direct Mr. Richard Becher to receive the charge of that factory from Mr. Brook till Mr. Eyles' arrival.

65. Your Honours having been pleased to appoint Mr. Nicholas Clerimbault to be your Chief at Dacca, we advised the gentlemen thereof and directed Mr. Thomas Feake to deliver over the charge thereof to him as soon as he conveniently could and then to repair to his seat at the Board here.

66. The alterations in Council occasioning a change of the posts at the Board here we settled them as follows, viz.,

Mr. Feake, Accomptant
Mr. Bellamy, Export Warehouse Keeper and to take charge of the books till Mr. Feake's arrival.
Mr. Ffytche, Import Warehouse Keeper.
Mr. Drake, Buxey and to continue Military Store-Keeper till Mr. Blachford's arrival.
Mr. Cruttenden, Jemindar.
Mr. Rooper —— Store-Keeper.
Mr. Blachford —— Military Store-Keeper.
Mr. Watts —— Collector of Consulage.
Mr. Burrow —— to continue Sub-Treasurer till an employ is vacant.

67. Agreable to Your Honours' orders we took an oath to be true and faithful to Your Honours and shall write to our friends in England to give the usual security.

68. We have acquainted Mr. James Irwin that Your Honours thought proper to employ him in your service as a junior merchant for which favour he desires his humble thanks to be returned Your Honours. The covenants designed for him to execute were omitted to be sent per Walpole but he has our orders to write to his friends to give the usual security.

69. On the 21st instant Mr. William Ffytche, as Major Mosman was dead, desired his seat as third of this Board agreable to Your Honours' orders in the 54th paragraph of your commands per Walpole. When the President asked the opinion of the Board thereon, the majority of the members thinking he ought to take his seat as third till Your Honours' pleasure was known, he was admitted thereto accordingly and there ordered to take charge of the general books as also of the export warehouse till the arrival of Mr. Feake.

70. As Mr. Watts being taken into Council occasioned a new appointment of a Chief of Jugdea, we appointed Mr. William

Bailie Chief, and on Mr. Peter Amyat's request to stay here on account of his health, we appointed Mr. Charles Stafford Playdell second of that factory and ordered them to set out thither with all expedition.

71. As the Governour and Council of Fort St. Davids indented for six thousand bags of saltpetre to be sent them, we wrote them we should comply therewith and ordered two thousand bags to be laden on board the Elizabeth of which quantity the captain could only take in fifteen hundred and as Your Honours in the seventh paragraph of your orders per Tavistocke positively forbid us to purchase more saltpetre than what might be necessary for the charterparty kintladge of your ships, as you had a large quantity thereof in your warehouses at home and were in expectation of more, and as you directed that those ships whose charterparty kintladge consisted of iron and stones should not have any saltpetre laden on board them, we came to a resolution of sending them no more petre than we had laden on the Elizabeth and of this have advised the President and Council there.

72. On the 27th of July Your Honours' ship the Tavistocke imported here from Madeira. The supply of wine Your Honours have sent us on her is now landing and in our next address we shall advise you how it turns out.

73. As the Tavistocke had stores for the King's squadron on board and a supply of wine for Fort St. Davids we asked the captain his reasons for not touching at the Coast to which he requested to reply in writing and we shall transmit the same to Your Honours by the next conveyance. We then asked Captain Cush if he could get his ship in readiness to proceed to the Coast to which he replyed he would use his utmost endeavours to sail as soon as possible after we had landed the wine and stores designed for the use of this place, but on unloading his ship, he informed us by letter that he found a great many drains in her sides which made it requisite to [caulk] them all round and that having sprung two topmasts and broke his main yard it would be impossible to get on the Coast before the monsoons set in.

74. Hereupon we resolved to return Your Honours' snow the Tryal to the Coast from whence she imported here the 3rd instant, having passed by the settlements of Vizagapatam, Ingeram and Gunjam for which places she had some bales and

treasure on board, on account of hard gales of wind the captain informed us he met with off Dew Point, which set him so far to the Eastward that he could not reach any of those ports, and for this purpose have directed the Master Attendant to be as expeditious as possible in caulking of her and getting her in readiness when we shall send her to the Coast with what Medeira wine she can take on board and shall order the master to call in at Vizagapatam with the money and bales designed thither.

75. As soon as the troubles are over which we hope soon to accomodate, we shall set about Your Honours' investments when the strictest regard shall be paid to Your Honours' orders thereon.

76. Omichund on the arrival of the treasure per Walpole informed us by letter that he had entered on his own account into engagements for so considerable a part of your investment as seven lack of rupees and hearing the French are supplied with money, should any part thereof arrive at the aurungs before he was able to supply his correspondents, he feared his contracts with them would be ill complied with, therefore requested us to pay him two hundred thousand Arcot Rupees (200,000) on his last year's ballance whereby he hoped to obviate all difficulties and to be able to deliver in to the amount he told us he contracted for. We then ordered him a lack of Arcot Rupees and since on the accounts being laid before us of what was due from Your Honours to the merchants the 3rd of July we ordered him six chests of bullion on the ballance in his favour and [15] per cent to be paid the merchants account the ballance due to them.

77. We shall pay due regard to Your Honours concerning the dispatching of your ships [home] this season, and in order to lighten your expences for dead freight we have wrote to the gentlemen at the Coast to lose no opportunity of supplying us at least four hundred (400) tons of redwood.

78. We request Your Honours' permission to defer replying particularly to the other parts of Your Honours' commands lately received till our next address and in the interim we assure Your Honours the utmost regard shall be paid thereto.

79. Our President Adam Dawson Esqr. embraces this opportunity to return Your Honours his most humble thanks for the favour you have been pleased to confer on him and begs leave to assure you that he will exert himself to the utmost of his

power in the management of your affairs, hoping therein to give Your Honours satisfaction and thereby to merit your future regard.

80. The other gentlemen of Council whom Your Honours have thought proper to promote desire leave to return you their most humble thanks.

81. We are now to advise Your Honours of our having granted the following bills of exchange at two shillings and four pence each rupee payable at ninety days after sight as usual, and the gentlemen have been duly sworn that the money so paid in is on the accounts as follows, viz.,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| On 10th of August of Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell on his own account, one thousand Current Rupees (1000) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2.4 each is ... | £116 | 13 4 |

82. We have likewise granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee to the following persons, viz.,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| On 10th of August of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. and Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. account Mrs. Martha Warren of London twenty three thousand eight hundred and fifty two Current Rupees, eight annaes (23852.8) payable to Mrs. Martha Warren or order at 2.2 each is ... | £2384 | 5 5 |
| On the 10th August of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. and Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. account Miss Isabella Warren seven thousand and sixty three Current Rupees and six annaes (7063.6) payable to Mrs. Martha Warren or order at 2.2 each rupee is ... | £765 | 3 11 |

83. The whole amount of sums paid in at two shillings and two pence each rupee is thirty thousand, nine hundred and fifteen rupees, fourteen annaes (30915.14) or £3149.4.4.

We are with the greatest respect

May it please Yours Honours

Your most faithful and most
obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Hum. Bellamy/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/Saml. Rooper/ Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow.

Fort William,
the 10th August 1749.

(Ref. Letters to Court 1749. Home Public Vol. I, 1748-49, pp. 21—43. Paragraphs 29, 30, 35, 44, 48, 54, 58, 60, 67, 76 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records, 1708-67,* pp. 13-15.)

## 10

## LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1749

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. We addressed you the 10th instant under the usual heads, duplicate whereof this serves to enclose.

2. We have now the pleasure to congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival of the Brittania here the 16th instant and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most
obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Hum. Bellamy/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/Saml Rooper/ Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow.

Fort William,
the 22nd August 1749.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office 1749/51. Vol. 16, p. 14.)

# 11

# LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1749/50

*Shipping matters—promise of ample investment notwithstanding serious encumbrances—supply of treasure to different factories for provision of investment—clearance of business obtained from the Nawab by payment of money—the Marathas plunder the Company's goods near Dane's Town—the Nawab's order forbidding all persons except the Seths to purchase silver.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. The accompanying is triplicate of our address under date the 10th August via Fort St. David which the President and Council there advised us was forwarded to Your Honours on the Chesterfield and its duplicate on the Royal George.

2. We therein acknowledged the receipt of Your Honours' commands under date the 2nd and 21st December 1748 and 27th January 1748/9, since which time we have been favoured with your orders per Severn dated the 29th March, which we shall now reply to more particularly as also give Your Honours a full and exact account of your affairs under our management here ranging the same under the usual established heads and

*First, concerning shipping.*

3. Your Honours' several ships imported this season as hereinafter specified viz.,

4. The Edgbaston arrived in Ballasore Road the 6th May, at Rogues River the 9th and came up before the Fort the 16th May.

5. The Walpole arrived in Ballasore Road the 14th July, at Rogues River the 17th ditto and came up before the Fort the 26th.

6. The Tavistock arrived in Ballasore Road the 20th July, at Rogues River the 24th ditto and before the Fort the 25th.

7. The Britannia arrived in Ballasore Road the 12th August and at Rogues River the 16th ditto.

8. The Prince William arrived in Ballasore Road the 18th September, at Rogues River the 21st and before the Fort the 30th.

9. The Dragon arrived in Ballasore Road the 25th September, at Rogues River the 28th and at town the 2nd October.

10. The Severn arrived in Ballasore Road the 27th October and at Rogues River the 2nd November.

11. The captains of those ships which came up to town had our permission in consequence of their requests which go in this and their respective packets enclosed.

12. His Majesty's ship the Harwich arrived here the 17th August when Mr. Brett, the Agent Victualler, applied to us for the Tavistock to carry up provisions for the squadron as he had not sufficient tonage through the disappointment of the Edgbaston and as there were none of the country ships to be had on freight. But Captain Cush informing us that she could not be got in readiness in less time than five or six weeks, we, in order to satisfye His Majesty's officers that they should have all the assistance in our power, ordered a survey on her by the Master Attendant and Carpenter with such persons as the captain of the Harwich should think proper to send on board her, who delivered in their report of her the 19th August as entered after that day's Consultation as also their report of the Brittania the 24th following on which ship we ordered a survey for the same reasons.

13. On the arrival of the Harwich we ordered the Buxey to send Captain Tiddeman the customary and usual present of arrack, sugar, limes etc. and to provide a palanquin and peons as before allowed to His Majesty's officers.

14. In our last address we advised Your Honours of our intention to send your snow the Tryal to the Coast with the money and bales designed for their northern settlements and fifty one pipes of the Madeira wine designed for their Presidency. She was accordingly dispatched thither the 24th August but having

sprung her foremast in a gale of wind she put back to this place the 4th September and upon Captain Taylor's informing us that it was his opinion she could not be got ready in time to proceed to the Coast as the knees of her head were obliged to be taken off and as she was in want of a new sett of rigging and a spare deck, whereupon (apprehending your servants at Vizagapatam might be greatly distressed in providing Your Honours' investment for want of the supplies designed them) we on the 7th September dispatched thither the Fort St. George sloop with the money and bales.

15. The Master Attendant informing us that the Tryal snow was an improper vessel for the service of the river unless turned into a sloop which would be attended with a very great expence we sold her at publick outcry the 7th November for seven thousand two hundred rupees (7200:—:—).

16. Captain Edward Tiddeman acquainted us the 9th September that the Edgbaston was discharged from His Majesty's service and was immediately under our direction.

17. By the Prince William we received a letter from the Governor and Council of Bombay under date the 6th August advising of their having consigned to us on her, account Your Honours, five hundred bales of cotton and one hundred thousand rupees Bombay, being all the treasure they could spare us and at the same time acquainting us, in case we were unable to return her to Europe from hence, we might send her to Tellicherry to take in a loading there, that there was a deficiency in the weight of iron we sent by her of twenty five hundredweight three quarters and seventeen pounds which Captain Webber desiring might be adjusted here they returned us his bill of lading. We accordingly called upon the captain to know how the deficiency arose and he informing us that he delivered the same number of bars at Bombay as he received here and having no other iron on board there could be no mistake but as it was extremely bad and flaky (for which he referred us to his letter concerning it entered after our Consultation the 5th January) we delivered him up his bill of lading.

18. The 2nd October we received a letter from the Governor and Council of Fort St. David by Your Honours' ship the Dragon dated the 3rd September acquainting us that they had ordered Captain Kent to touch at Durassapatam and if he found he could get any quantity of redwood within five or six days to take it in,

otherwise to proceed without it. But Captain Kent on his arrival here informed us that at Madrass he received information from one of the redwood merchants that there would be nobody there in less than seven days to weigh it off to him and his orders being to stay there only five, least he should lose his passage, he thought it adviseable to proceed agreeable thereto.

19. As we had at that time an offer made us of about two hundred maunds (200) of redwood and being in great want thereof we agreed to purchase the same at two rupees four annaes per maund 2-4-.

20. Captain William Webber by a letter dated the 20th October requested us to lade on board his ship one hundred tonns of saltpetre on charterparty terms exclusive of his kintledge as he esteemed that quantity absolutely necessary for making her sailworthy. At the same time Captain Tiddeman requested one hundred and fifty tons on the same account but as Your Honours had ordered that those ships which had iron and stones for their charterparty kintledge should not have any saltpetre laden on board them we informed them we could not comply with their requests.

21. On the receipt of Your Honours' commands per Severn we acquainted Captain Lowe with your orders in relation to the Walpole and directed him to get her in readiness with the utmost expedition but he informed us he was afraid she could not be got ready in time, his reasons for which are entered after our Consultation of the 6th Nov., on which account we have delivered him a protest, copy whereof will be forwarded by her.

22. Your Honours having ordered us in the fifth paragraph of your commands of the 2nd December to send the Dragon to Tillecherry, Anjengo or Bencoolen and the gentlemen at Fort St. David under date the 3rd Sept. having wrote us that your servants at Bencoolen were obliged to send the New Castle to them, not having a sufficient cargo for her, whereupon they resolved to send her to the Malabar coast, whereof they advised the gentlemen there, as likewise that the Dragon would be sent thither from hence and the President and Council of Bombay having also wrote us that there would be pepper sufficient at Tillecherry to lade the Prince William for Europe in case we sent her thither, we came to a resolution of sending the Dragon to the Malabar coast with a rice cargoe and she was accordingly dispatched the 1st ultimo to Tillecherry with orders to call at Anjengo to take in what pepper might be laying there.

23. The Buxie's expences and the Master Attendant's account repairs of the Dragon we now transmit Your Honours as also Captain Kent's several requests for sundries together with one of the receipts he signed for Arcot Rupees five hundred and eighty (580) advanced him out of the cash.

24. The Export Warehouse Keeper on the 7th November laid before us a calculate of this year's tonage which is entered after that day's Consultation which, amounting to no more than nine hundred tonns, would not, with the goods which we might expect from the subordinates, fill more than three ships and as the gentlemen at the Coast had not advised us of any number of bales that they should have ready and as we might expect a deficiency in the delivery of the goods from our merchants, we on the 13th following agreed to lade the Prince William and Edgbaston, the two war-freight ships, for Europe as also the Tavistock and to let the Walpole out on freight to Juddah for twenty four thousand rupees (24,000.-.-) which being the most we could get for her we hope Your Honours will approve thereof.

25. The same day being offered some freight for Surat we came to a resolution of sending the Severn, Captain Richard Dorril, thither in obedience to the ninth paragraph of your orders of the 29th March and then wrote to the gentlemen of Bombay to acquaint them how we had stationed Your Honours' ships and to desire them to give proper directions to their Chief and factors at Surat to provide six hundred bales of the best Broach cotton for her returning cargoe.

26. In regard to the Brittania we at that time agreed to detain her 'till we heard from the gentlemen at Fort St. David what tonage they might have on hand as well as our own subordinates when we should be able to station her for Great Brittain or send her on a country voyage.

27. The gentlemen at Vizagapatam by a letter received from thence the 18th November informed us that they should have two hundred or at furthest two hundred and fifty bales ready by the beginning of January, to which place we agreed the 11th December to send the Prince William to take them in.

28. Your Honours will observe by our Consultation of the 8th December that as we had not goods sufficient for returning the Britannia to Europe and at that time not having heard from the gentlemen at Fort St. David what tonnage they might have and

likewise having received further proposals of freight for Surat, we agreed to send her thither and to use our endeavours to procure some sugar for that market, of which resolution we advised the Governor and Council at Bombay that they might give orders for purchasing six hundred bales of the best Broach cotton for her returning cargo, should they think proper to return her to us.

29. As we have sold the cotton which came by the Prince William for twenty four rupees twelve annas per maund (24: 12:) we doubt not (as cotton cargoes are ordered for your ships, the Severn and Brittania), provided that article should bear a tolerable price, of making for Your Honours profitable voyages.

30. The 9th ultimo we received a letter from the gentlemen at Fort St. David advising us not to depend on their filling up any more tonage than what the gentlemen at their northern settlements might have occasion for.

31. The 27th November being offered five thousand (5000) buzar maunds of red wood at three Arcot Rupees per maund to be delivered at the French factory and being in great want of that article, not only for the charterparty tonage of Your Honours' ships but for to assist in lading them for Europe and being unable to procure any but that parcel, we agreed to purchase the same and ordered the Buxey to send boats thither to bring it down.

32. The 14th ultimo we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to proceed in lading bales on board the Prince William and Edgbaston, those ships having been first carefully surveyed by the Master Attendant whose report survey with the captain's requests for the same Your Honours will receive in their respective packets.

33. We have received the following supplies of treasure this year from Fort St. David which the gentlemen there informed us was all they could possibly spare us though far short of our expectations viz.,

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Per Hawke sloop | 15 | Chests | Containing Arcot Rupees | 120,000.— |
| Per Griffin | 15 | do | do . . . | 120,000.— |
| Per Fort William | 15 | do | do . . . | 120,000.— |
| Per Walpole | 30 | do | do . . . | 240,000.— |
| Per Tryal snow | 20 | do | do . . . | 160,000.— |
| Per Brittania | 50 | do | do . . . | 400,000.— |
| Per Dragon | 20 | do | do . . . | 160,000.— |
| Per Severn | 35 | do | do . . . | 280,000.— |

In all sixteen laack of Arcot Rupees besides twenty chests of bullion which they transmitted us per Walpole.

34. By the Somerset and Tavistock we received the following supplies of bullion from Your Honours viz., by the former 50 chests, by the latter 30 do which, with one hundred thousand Bombay Rupees (100,000"-"-) the gentlemen on that side of India forwarded to us on the Prince William, is the whole we have received this year and which on being weighed off and surveyed was found agreeable to the several invoices.

35. On the arrival of Your Honours' ships a strict search for the private trade on board them was made by one of Your Honours' covenanted servants, the report of which together with the Warehouse Keeper's manifest of goods landed here Your Honours will receive in their respective packets.

36. Captain William Webber has been advanced here for the use and expences of the Prince William the following sums on charterparty terms viz.,

On the 30th October 1748 ten thousand Arcot Rupees **(10,000)**

On the 5th January 1748/9 six thousand Arcot Rupees (6,000), one set of the bonds for which were transmitted to Your Honours by the Bombay Castle and the other with his requests are enclosed.

37. On the 20th February last we advanced Captain John McNemarra eight thousand (8000.-.-) Current Rupees on charterparty terms for the use and expences of the Rhoda for which Your Honours will receive enclosed one of the bonds he then entered into with his request for the same.

38. Captain Nathaniel Cush sent in a letter the 20th ultimo requesting lascars and stores of sundry kinds for his ship which we complied with and is entered after that day's Consultation.

39. The same day we ordered the Buxey to lade on board the Prince William and Edgbaston the St. Helena stores.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe.*

40. In the accompanying address we promised to give Your Honours an account of the Madeira wine you were pleased to consign us per Tavistock. It turned out pretty good though not

equal to the vintage of former years; however through the great scarcity then in the place, on it's being put up at outcry it sold on a medium at two hundred forty four rupees per pipe as Your Honours will observe by the account sales thereof enclosed.

41. We are to request Your Honours will favour us the ensuing year with a consignment of at least three hundred pipes.

42. The 21st August the Warehouse Keepers delivered in their report survey of the woolen goods per Walpole which is entered after the Consultation of that day. The amount of the damage thereof being one thousand four hundred and thirty six rupees (1436), Captain Lowe has paid the same but Mr. Humphry Bellamy, Import Warehouse Keeper, having compared them with the invoice reported that he found a difference in the sortments and numbers of the perpets as likewise that he had received two bales of flannels not mentioned in the invoice. Copy of said report Your Honours will herewith receive and we have ordered the Accomptant to give Your Honours credit for the flannels.

43. The 24th August being the day appointed for the sale of your woolen goods we took it into our consideration what prices to put them up at and agreed as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| To put up the aurora at sixty eight rupees per peice | | 68 |
| The popinjay at forty five rupees | do | 45 |
| The blue at forty five rupees | do | 45 |
| The scarlet perpets at twentyfive | do | 25 |
| The ordinary do at sixteen | do | 16 |
| The crimson do at nineteen | do | 19 |
| The ordinary do broad at thirty | do | 30 |
| The crimson do. do. at thirty five | do | 35 |
| and the red do. at thirty five | do. | 35 |

The account sales thereof amounting to one hundred fifty three thousand seven hundred and eighty three rupees eight annaes (153783″-8″-) Your Honours will receive in this packet.

44. The Warehouse Keeper informing us on the 28th August that he received per Britannia three bales of flannels with Your Honours' mark that were not specified in that ship's invoice and instead of a bale of scarlet perpets he received a bale of ordinary, we ordered our Accomptant to credit Your Honours for the former and rectifye the difference of the latter in the general books.

45. On the 31st August most of the woolen goods per Britannia being landed we ordered them to be surveyed and agreed to sell them at outcry the 30th September following. Publick notice thereof was given as usual. The report survey is entered after our Consultation of the 7th September. The amount of what were damaged being only four hundred twenty two rupees five annaes and nine pie (422″5″9) the captain paid the same.

46. The 30th September the woolen goods were put up at the same prices as those per Walpole with the lead which was put up at five rupees per maund. The account sales thereof comes enclosed amounting to one hundred thirty five thousand eight hundred and thirty rupees (135830″-″-).

47. Your Honours will observe by the report of lead imported here this year that the deficiency in weight was as follows viz.,

Per Walpole right in tale but short in weight maunds 2.14.
Per Tavistock short in weight——————————4.24.4
Per Brittania short in weight——————————15.36.12.

which the several captains have paid for.

*Thirdly, of investment.*

48. We have already acquainted Your Honours of the request of Omichund to be advanced two laack of rupees in aid of the contracts he told us he had entered into for seven laacks, which request Your Honours will find is entered after our Consultation of the 24th July and that at that time we gave him a laack of Arcot Rupees, since when we have advanced him the other laack therein requested for.

49. The Accomptant on the 3rd August laid before us the merchants' ballances due to the 30th July, whereon we advanced them fifteen per cent in the whole amounting to sixty five thousand nine hundred and forty seven rupees nine annas and three pie (65947″9″3).

50. The Export Warehouse Keeper delivered into Council the 28th August the list of investment for the current season drawn out agreeable to Your Honours' orders and the merchants being summoned to attend us the next Council day we desired them to inform us on what terms they would provide the goods ordered

and to what amount, to which they replied they would consider thereof and then give us an answer.

51. The Cotmahs delivered into the Board a petition the 31st August requesting two laack of rupees on account of their interest notes to enable them to provide double the quantity of goods they had agreed for, which is entered after that day's Consultation.

52. As we had at that time in the treasury nineteen chests of bullion and about tnree laack of rupees the President proposed to the Board setting it aside for the following uses:

> Nineteen chests of bullion and four of Arcott Rupees for Cossimbuzar. Twenty chests of Arcot Rupees for Dacca and seven chests of Arcott Rupees for Jugdea and to keep twenty five thousand Arcott Rupees (25,000) to supply the cash, but the Board differing in opinion concerning the disposal of the treasure in this manner Your Honours will observe the same at large on that day's Consultation when the majority being of opinion the money should be set aside for the uses proposed by the President it was set apart accordingly.

53. The merchants attending the Board the 4th September informed us that they were willing to undertake Your Honours' investment on the same terms as last year viz., one third for ready money and two thirds on dadney and that they would deliver in the goods at the same prices except on the following sortments which, on account of the dearness of silk, they must have the following advance:

On the soosies of 50 and 1 and $\frac{5}{8}$ 8 annas
On ditto of 40 and 2.....6
On the chucklaes.....8
On the charconnah dooreas of 40
and $2\frac{1}{4}$.....12
On do of 40 and 2.....8
On the Santipore mulmuls.....8
On the orua cossaes 40 and 2.....6
On ditto 40 and $2\frac{1}{4}$..... 6 and
On the midling checquered doreas 2 rupees

and that they would deliver in this year fifty thousand pieces of gurrahs inclusive of those in proportion to the fine goods as last year. They also told us they expected to be allowed interest on the ready money goods from the 1st July as also on the Cossajurah etc. fine goods and interest on the fifty per cent allowed them as dadney to commence from the 15th June and on the remaining thirty five per cent to commence from the 1st October.

54. Your Honours in the nineteenth paragraph of your orders of the 27 January complain that there are several sortments of goods ordered in the lists of investment for some years past which have not been sent you. The reasons for not complying with your orders herein were that the merchants refused to contract for them without a large advance thereon and a list whereof being laid before us we asked the merchants to provide them this year to which they replied they could not but promised to bring in a few peices of each sort to send home to Your Honours.

55. We have received the account of the prices of gurrahs for seven years past both here and at Cossimbuzar and with the utmost concern observing the yearly advance thereon beg leave to assure Your Honours that we shall have due regard to your directions in endeavouring to reduce the price thereof in future as well as improving that manufacture.

56. Your Honours have thought proper to order us to send you home this year two hundred peices of Bushon cossaes of 40 and 3 and as many peices of 40 and 2 as were procurable but our merchants refused contracting for the former sortment as it was so late in the season and promised to provide of the latter as many as possible.

57. In regard to the Patna goods ordered in the investment our merchants give us hopes of providing them next year if the troubles should cease. On which account they refused to take them this.

58. The 28th of September our merchants in Council informed us that as the business was not then cleared and they had not received any money to send to the aurungs where they were endebted and the Marrattas being come into the country occasioning a great risque at the gurrah aurungs, they were afraid they should be unable to comply with the list of goods they proposed to undertake the provision of, and in case of a failure therein they hoped it would not be laid to their door as they intended

doing all in their power to comply therewith, for which end if we could advance them a little money it would be greatly serviceable.

59. The 18th October as by the advices then received from Cossimbuzar we were in hourly expectation of the arrival of the perwannahs for the clearance of our business we summoned our merchants to proceed on the investment and the next day after having considered of their proposals recited in the 53rd paragraph of this address and thinking it impossible to lower the prices of any of the goods this year we sent for the merchants and proposed to contract with them on the same terms and prices as last for all the sortments of goods ordered except the gurrahs which we expected they would lower two rupees per corge, to which they replied the next day that they would undertake the investment agreeable thereto excluding the article of gurrahs which they could not lower. They also informed us that there were many articles which they contracted for last year the whole whereof they should be unable to provide and the deficiency would be as Your Honours will find particulars in that day's Consultation. They likewise desired that the cloth stopped at Jellingee on the commencement of the troubles might be brought to their credit as last year's goods and that they might be allowed interest thereon agreeable to the contract then made, a particular account of which goods they delivered to us the next day in Council, wherein Your Honours will find them specified.

60. On comparing the foregoing list with that wherein our merchants apprehended a deficiency and finding many of the articles would be pretty near equal in number we told the merchants they must contract for the whole investment as we could not admit of prizing those goods as last year's dadney and of course could not think of allowing them interest thereon, to which they replied if we could excuse them the penalty due on the deficiency on all goods last year they would then contract with us for all the sortments ordered on the terms we proposed to them the 19th October excepting the gurrahs of which article they would not contract for more than about forty thousand peices (40,000), whereupon we ordered the Accomptant to draw out a list of goods which were not delivered in the last year agreeable to the merchants' contracts with the penalty due thereon.

61. The Accomptant laid before us the 23rd October the said abstract whereby it appeared that the penalty on the gurrahs

amounted to twenty seven thousand two hundred seventy one rupees thirteen annas and six pie (27271 " 13 "6 ) and on the other goods to thirty five thousand eight hundred forty eight rupees two annas and three pie (35848" 2" 3), which penalties being then demanded of the merchants they begged leave to reply thereto in writing as some of their setts were then absent, which reply is entered after our Consultation of the 26 October wherein we proposed to them, in order to finish the investment as it then was exceeding late in the season, to remit the penalty on the Jellingee goods and prize them in this year's contracts but that we must insist on their paying the penalty on the gurrahs to which we could not then get them to agree.

62. The day following the merchants offered to enter into contracts for forty thousand peices of gurrahs (40,000) and to pay ten per cent on the deficiency that might arise on the eighty five per cent on that article but that they would not consent to the paying of any penalty thereon, should the Marrattoes arrive at the gurrah aurungs and as for the other goods ordered they were ready to undertake them on the same prices as last year and do business as formerly, which proposal we accepted of and ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to draw out the division of the list of investment amongst the merchants.

63. The 1st November we received Your Honours' list of goods to be provided which being examined and compared with that before received was found to be same.

64. The merchants on the 9th November applying to us for money to send to the aurungs in order to have their goods brought down in time we then agreed to advance them twenty per cent dadney and promised to advance them five per cent more as soon as the division of the list of investment was drawn out and that they had signed their teeps.

65. The Export Warehouse Keeper on the 13th November brought in the division of the list of investment among the merchants which Your Honours will find entered after that day's Consultation, at which time we agreed to advance Omichund forty thousand Arcott Rupees (40,000-.-) on account of last year's ballances, and as Nianchund and Anunchund had delivered in goods which were then prized in Your Honours' cottah to the amount of six thousand one hundred rupees (6100 "- "-) and were not advanced twenty per cent with the other merchants as they had not any securities, we ordered the Committee of

Treasury to pay them that sum and when the rest of their goods were prized, to be paid to the amount of the other merchants.

66. The 23rd following the merchant's teeps for the twenty per cent dadney being brought in signed were deposited in the hands of the President when we agreed to advance them the other five per cent for which the usual warrants were issued out to Your Honours' Committee of Treasury.

67. Anunchund and [?] Nianchund the 21st December having delivered in to more than the amount of their proportion of the twenty per cent dadney advanced the merchants which were then prized and there remaining due to them on that account eight thousand two hundred and fifty one rupees and three annaes (8251.3.-) we agreed to give them an interest note for the same in consequence of their request.

68. In our address per Bombay Castle we informed Your Honours that we had acquainted Omichund with the nineteenth paragraph of your commands of the 17th June 1748 per Somerset in relation to his contract for providing the Perrenea saltpetre when he denying absolutely to have reaped any advantage from the money advanced him on that account and assuring us it was appropriated solely to the provision of the petre we ordered him to bring his proofs thereof which Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 13th September when we resumed the consideration of this affair and for our different opinions thereon we beg leave to refer Your Honours to that day's Consultation as well as that of the 18th following wherein the Accomptant was ordered to debit Omichund's account for the ballance which appeared to be due from him by the account then before us and which is entered after that day's Consultation.

69. Mr. Edward Eyles and his Council at Cossimbuzar under date the 22nd October advised us that as soon as a currency was granted to their business they immediately set about Your Honours' investment and were then treating with their merchants upon such musters of silk as they said they could contract upon, being so late in the season, which as soon as they had reduced them to the lowest price they would send us.

70. Under the care of Lieutenant Broadford and twenty five men we transmitted them five chests of Bombay Rupees the 27th October for the carrying on their investment.

71. The 30th October Lieutenant D'Pen and his party arrived here from Cossimbuzar with one hundred sixty three bales of raw silk and twenty nine chests of taffaties as also the musters of plain taffaties.

72. By our Consultation of the 31st October Your Honours will observe that we received the musters of raw silk from Cossimbuzar which the gentlemen there advised us were the best their merchants would agree to contract for so late in the season at the following prices, Guzzerat at seven Dussmassa Rupees nine annas per seer, Novemberbund at seven Dussmassa Rupees, Commercolly at six Dussmassa Rupees thirteen annas.

73. Having inspected these musters and compared them with those of last year we found them much inferior particularly in the lower letters and as Your Honours in the 22nd paragraph of your commands of the 27th January complain of the dearness of silk and direct us to send you no more than two hundred bales as sorted in your investment unless the letter A can be procured at five Current Rupees twelve annas (5 : 12 :-) per seer and so in proportion for the lower letters and as by the advices from Cossimbuzar we found the price of silk to be much dearer we sent directions to the gentlemen there to provide no more than forty bales of the following sortments and proportions viz.,

Guzzerat, eleven bales
November Bund, fifteen bales
Commercolly, fourteen do.

and likewise to use their utmost endeavours to reduce the prices thereof and to procure as many gurrahs and silk peice goods as they possibly could.

74. On the 6th November we sent a further supply of six chests of Arcot Rupees to the Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar in aid of their investment under the charge of an ensign and twenty men.

75. The gentlemen there under date the 9th November promised to comply with the foregoing directions as near as in their power but could not prevail on their merchants either to raise the muster or reduce the prices, that being offered about forty maunds of white Rungpore silk at seven Dussmassa Rupees four annas (7 : 4 : ) per seer the A the same price in proportion to that which they contracted to give for the other sortments, they

waited our orders whether to take it or not, that as to the gurrahs and silk peice goods their merchants would not contract for any certain quantity as the season was so advanced and they in order to induce them to bring as many as possible had offered to allow them last year's prices for what they delivered in agreeable to muster, that they have been informed a large quantity may be had if we could supply them with what money we could spare.

76. We thereupon directed them to purchase the Rungpore silk and sent them the invoice of the treasure dispatched thither the 6th November to the amount of which we hoped they would be able to send us in peice goods.

77. The receipt of the abovementioned treasure they acknowledged under date the 19th November but could not then with any certainty inform us what quantity of goods they might be able to procure for this year's shipping, particularly of gurrahs and silk peice goods, as it depended on their receiving a further supply, that their merchants had only given them assurances of the following quantities, viz.,

Raw silk, forty bales
Do. white Rungpore, eight bales
Gurrahs, fifty two bales
Silk peice goods, fifty chests

and should we send them a farther supply speedily and the gurrah aurungs continue free from disturbances they might be able to send us a further quantity of gurrahs and silk peice-goods by the 10th February next.

78. Mr. Nicholas Clerembault, Chief and his Council at Dacca under date the 9th September advised us of the clamours of their creditors to have the sums due to them paid off, on which account they desired a supply of money as also a further and speedy one that they might lose no time in proceeding on Your Honours' investment as soon as the business there was cleared and we under date the 25th of that month promised them a supply as soon as the troubles were over and the ways were cleared.

79. On the 27th October we complied with our promise by sending them under the care of a serjeant and eight men twenty chests of Arcot Rupees and under date the 2nd November we directed them to make use of this money in providing goods and to defer paying off their interest notes as much as possible till

we could send them a further supply. At the same time we forwarded Your Honours' list of investment which we enjoined them strictly to comply with.

80. Under date the 9th November the gentlemen at Dacca repeated their complaints at the clamours of their creditors particularly of the Seat's gomastah who threatened to stop their business unless they immediately paid him and that it was with the utmost difficulty they could prevail on him to wait our answer which was that having sent them twenty chests of treasure we were in hopes it would make those merchants, they were indebted to, easy and enable them to provide an investment besides. At the same time we directed them to send us down all the goods they had ready with the utmost expedition.

81. The President on receipt of the foregoing letter wrote to Seat Mowtabray under cover to Mr. Eyles who in reply thereto acquainted him that he had prevailed on the Seats to accept of forty thousand rupees (40,000) and that he had advised Mr. Clerembault thereof to the same purpose. We wrote the gentlemen there under date the 2nd December in reply to their letters of the 18th and 25th November, the latter advising that they would send us in a few days forty bales of cloth on Your Honours' account and in about twenty five further they hoped to have forty bales more ready besides one hundred bales by the last of January.

82. The 18th October as it was then late in the season and imagining the gentlemen would be unable to invest to the amount of the seven chests of treasure set apart for that factory we agreed to send thither only five which was dispatched on the 27th following under the care of Messrs. William Baillie and Charles Stafford Playdell whom we advised Your Honours in our address via Fort St. David we had appointed to succeed Messrs. Blachford and Bellamy and at the same time we forwarded the list of goods to be provided there with Your Honours' orders in relation to that factory to which we enforced an implicit obedience.

83. The gentlemen at Jugdea under date the 22nd November acknowledged the receipt of the above supply and advised that although the perwannah for the clearance of their business was arrived at Dacca, yet as the gentlemen there were unable to obtain a ratification thereof they continued in the same state of

uncertainty with regard to the clearance of Your Honours' business as they had for almost eleven months past; they therefore could not send us a calculate of the goods they should be able to send down 'till the business was effectively cleared.

84. Messieurs Baillie and Playdell arrived at Jugdea the 21st November and under date the 3rd Dec. acknowledged the receipt of the money sent up under their care from Mr. Blachford with the list of goods to be provided but that the accounts of the factory would take up some time before Mr. Blachford could settle them, that they had delivered the delolls a copy of the investment with eight thousand rupees (8000″-″-) for the carrying it on but were unable to say what quantity of goods they should be able [to have] ready for this year's ships.

85. In a letter of the 25th following they wrote us that having received from the delols goods to the amount of the money they advanced them they supplied them with eight thousand rupees (8000″-″-) more and the reason for their investment going on so slow proceeded from the long stoppage of their business which occasioned numbers of their weavers leaving the aurungs but were in hopes upon its being once set agoing that obstruction would be removed, and that they should procure about twenty or twenty five thousand peices (20 or 25000) of goods this year.

86. Mr. Henry Kelsall whom in our last address we advised Your Honours we had sent to Cossimbuzar being returned from thence on the 5th September, we took into consideration Your Honours' orders for withdrawing that factory and observing they were positive we directed Mr. Kelsall to return thither to withdraw it in the best manner he could and to repair to Bulramgarry[1] to reside there.

87. On the 9th of that month he acquainted us that he was ready to set out when we delivered him a copy of Your Honours' orders for his observance as likewise a chest of treasure for to defray the expences there with the annual present of broad cloth etc.

88. In a letter under date the 9th October he advised us of his arrival there and promised an implicit obedience to our orders for withdrawing Your Honours' effects from Ballasore to Bulramgurry as soon as he possibly could but the return of the Marrattoes then prevented him.

89. Under date the 24th November he wrote us that the cloth for which he had advanced three thousand rupees (3000) before the receipt of Your Honours' orders was then at the wash and he hoped shortly to send it up and that the remaining seven hundred peices ordered he would endeavour to provide which would have met with no difficulty, had not the Marrattoes' stay been very long there, that he was in hopes of recovering two hundred peices of the weavers' old ballances and requested us to supply him with money to pay for the abovementioned seven hundred peices.

90. Having given Your Honours an exact account of this important branch of your affairs under our management we cannot here desist without expressing the utmost concern under which we have laboured for this year past through the disputes with the Durbar which rendered it impracticable for us to commence your investment so early in the season as we could have wished, since thereby you may suffer greatly by not receiving so large a quantity of goods as you might reasonably have expected, particularly gurrahs and silk peice goods.

91. We imagined an easy submission to the exactions of such an arbitrary and oppressive government would have been attended with much worse consequences to Your Honours as it would have encouraged them on the least plea to an annual demand, for they might conclude that rather than hazard an investment we must submit to any imposition. Therefore we hope our standing it out with them so long as we did would remove that notion and induce Your Honours to consider us under those difficulties to have acted in the manner which appeared to us most conducive to your interest. This digression leads us to enter upon the fourth established head viz.,

*The trade of India and therein any transactions with the country Government.*

92. In our address under date the 10th August we transmitted Your Honours an account of the troubles throughout the country and the exactions of the government occasioned by the complaints of the Armenians about two of their ships which were taken by the English to the time Mr. Eyles was dispatched to Cossimbuzar accompanied thither by Mr. Kelsall, since which time we shall proceed to advise Your Honours of the measures we took to bring the Nabob to reason though it gives a damp to our spirits that they were not attended with the success we so fervently wished for.

93. Under date the 13th August the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote us that on the arrival there of the abovementioned gentlemen they sent Mr. Kelsall to wait on the Nabob and the proper Durbar officers to try what effect their representations by him would have with the Nabob for which purpose they gave him such instructions as they thought necessary for his conduct.

94. The 23rd of that month they wrote us that Mr. Kelsall was received very graciously by the Nabob and met with great professions of service but that Hookumbeg and Caroolybeg, two of the Durbar officers, being present (by whom the Nabob was entirely influenced in this dispute) seemed inclinable to prevent any private discourse that Mr. Kelsall might desire to have with him on this subject and as soon as they found that those two persons had the whole management of this affair they thought it improper to send Mr. Kelsall back again to him lest they might thereby incense two such powerful men and make it more difficult for them to accommodate the dispute. They then proposed Mr. Kelsall's waiting on the Seats to prevail with them to interfere herein but they seemed so much in awe of Hookumbeg that they did not care to admit of any visit till the dispute was made up.

95. The next step they took was to use their skill and endeavours to bring those men over to them from the Armenians who they were informed paid them a constant court and made them great promises to espouse their complaint but were sorry to advise us that arguments alone were not like to take effect and that this dispute could not be finished without charge to Your Honours, that they were then endeavouring to find out on what terms it might be easiest accommodated but feared from what was privately intimated to their vacqueels that the Nabob would not be satisfied with a small sum.

96. Upon the receipt of this we directed the gentlemen there to finish this affair soon and with as little expence as possible to Your Honours and as soon as they were able to find out the sum that would do to advise us thereof.

97. Under date the 28th following they advised of their having permitted Mr. Kelsall to return but before he left the place they thought it proper to ask Hookumbeg's and Carooleybeg's permission for him to wait on the Nabob again to enquire if he had any commands for him at Ballasore to which they assented. When Mr. Eyles took that opportunity to present an arsdast

to the Nabob setting forth in the strongest terms possible Your Honours' great sufferings by the stoppage of your business and the little foundation for the Armenians' complaint wherewith Your Honours had nothing to do, which remonstrance had not the desired effect, for after he read it he told Mr. Kelsall the Armenians must be satisfied.

98. That notwithstanding Mr. Kelsall had some interest with the Nabob and met with a very handsome reception at the Durbar they found he was not inclinable to favour him in the present dispute which, resting with Hookumbeg and Caroolybeg, men of such oppressive and mercenary tempers, left them little hopes of accommodating matters under a large sum of money.

99. They then gave those people to understand that they would not be ungrateful for any services they should do Your Honours on this occasion, to which they replied when they knew what sum they intended to offer to the Nabob they would tell them whether it lay in their power or not, upon which they mentioned the sum we permitted them to give under date the 1st June viz., fifteen or twenty thousand rupees (15 or 20,000) but this they rejected as being far short they said of what the Nabob expected. On this they requested our orders how to proceed and in the interim promised to use their endeavours in reducing the demand as low as possible, that the forces then remained round their factory and they were informed unless the Nabob received speedily a more satisfactory answer that they would be encreased.

100. On the receipt of this we repeated our orders to them for finding out what sum would be sufficient for accommodating matters to which having then received no reply though late in the season we directed they would be as expeditious as possible in sending us an answer thereto.

101. Under date the 9th September they wrote us that on Mr. Eyles' arrival there they were informed nothing less than four laack of rupees would satisfie the Nabob but on their giving Hookumbeg and Caroolybeg to understand that no great sum would ever be complied with on so unjust a pretence and standing it out with them till then, they reduced it to two laack which they were told the Nabob would certainly insist on; notwithstanding which they were of opinion that standing out a little longer they might be able to reduce it to a laack besides twenty five or thirty thousand rupees (25 or 30,000) to Hookumbeg etc. Durbar officers.

102. The offers which they before made were refused with much anger, Hookumbeg saying they were insufficient to pay the charge of the forces the Nabob was obliged to put upon their factory and they were likewise of opinion that although the Nabob made the Armenians' complaint a plea for this demand that he never intended they should be the better for it and served only to raise money to relieve his necessities, which was corroborated by this circumstance of which they were credibly informed that as soon as he had finished this affair with them he intended to attack the French and Dutch in the same manner.

103. Having seriously considered of the above advices from Cossimbuzar we thought it most conducive to Your Honours' interest to empower the gentlemen there to put an end to the present disputes with the Nabob for a laack and twenty five or thirty thousand rupees if not possibly to be done for less and the reasons which induced us to be of this opinion were as follows.

104. By all the advices from Cossimbuzar we found a clearance would not be obtained for Your Honours' business without paying the Nabob and his officers a sum of money. The season of the year was very far advanced to provide an investment for Your Honours' ships and a longer delay might have put it out of our power entirely to have procured any goods at all. Besides, the heavy demorage of the ships then here and expected being a great charge to Your Honours and not being in a capacity to use force to bring our merchants' goods from the aurungs or any from our own subordinates, we were obliged for a speedy currency to business to give the above power to Mr. Eyles and his Council directing them at the same time to use their endeavours to reduce this sum.

105. Under date the 14th September the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar advised the Nabob's sending Caroolybeg to their factory to sound their intentions with regard to making up affairs when they repeated to him their former remonstrances and assured him that we would never agree to pay much money but in case he with Hookumbeg would use their interest with the Nabob to make it up on easy terms they would readily reward their service, on which assurance and finding it in vain to insist on so high a demand he returned to the Nabob promising to use his interest for finishing this affair as well as he could.

106. Mr. Eyles understanding the Nabob intended to sit on this affair that day wrote to the Seats, Golumhassein Cawne

and other Durbar officers of any influence representing the case in a proper light to them and desiring their interest in Your Honours' favour which they hoped would have a good effect by prevailing on the Nabob to accommodate matters on more moderate terms than he lately insisted on.

107. The President produced a letter from Mr. Eyles dated the 24th September wherein he acquainted him that ever since the receipt of our orders of the 12th he used his utmost endeavours to finish the dispute with the Nabob and that he had brought them down to the sum limited within twenty thousand rupees (20,000), which Caroolybeg informed him the Nabob would absolutely insist upon to stop the mouths of some few Armenians, which would make the whole amount to one hundred and fifty thousand rupees (150,000.-.-) and as it would be better to give him this twenty thousand rupees (20,000) than suffer the inconveniency of a longer stoppage he hoped we would not disapprove thereof, should he be obliged to pay it, concerning which he requested our answer as soon as possible and which if we should agree to, Mowtabray he believed would furnish the money to be repaid him out of the first treasure sent up.

108. Esteeming it at that juncture absolutely necessary we permitted the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to pay as far as that sum but on no account to exceed it as we were determined to advance no further, to which they replied under date the 13th October that finding it impossible to perswade Caroolybeg to accept their offer of one hundred thousand rupees (100,000), he having received the Nabob's orders for insisting on one hundred and twenty thousand rupees, they agreed to pay the same on Caroolybeg's promising to procure the perwannahs as soon as the Dusserry was over but the Nabob being confined to his room at that time prevented his gaining access to him and as the complaint of the Armenians made a great noise at Muxadavad the Nabob would first of all require them to appear before the Durbar whilst he was present and publickly acknowledge themselves to be satisfied for their losses which Hookumbeg made them promise to do on their agreeing to pay the twenty thousand rupees they before advised of.

109. Under date the 18th following they informed us that the Armenians made the abovementioned acknowledgement at the Durbar held the 15th when the Nabob gave orders for a currency to their business and the forces to be taken off their factory, whereupon they sent to the Seats to request that they

would advance the money who at first made the greatest difficulty to comply therewith but after representing to them the ill consequences which would arise to Your Honours' affairs by a longer delay to the currency of trade they promised to advance one hundred and fifty thousand Sicca Rupees (150,000"-) directly on their delivering up to them a bill of exchange drawn on their house for twenty three thousand Sicca Rupees (23,000"-), the four chests of bullion remaining in their factory and drawing a bill on us for Sicca Rupees two hundred thousand (200,000"-), that the perwannahs for Hughley and other places were writing out and when they received them they should be forwarded with the utmost expedition.

110. As the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar advised us they had drawn upon us for two laack of Sicca Rupees (200,000) we agreed, instead of sending them the nineteen chests of bullion and ninety thousand Bombay Rupees (90,000), to send thither only fifty thousand rupees (50,000), being all the money we should have in Your Honours' treasury when we [had] supplied your other subordinate factories with the money we designed for them and advanced dadney to our own merchants.

111. The bill of exchange was paid by our order the 21st October and the perwannah for the clearance of our business here arrived the 26th when it was immediately forwarded by the President to Hughley.

112. We advised Your Honours in our address of the 10th August of the Marrattoes' return into these parts and it gives us the utmost concern to acquaint you that they still continue plundering all over the country and in a letter from Mr. Kelsall at Ballasore under date the 17th October he acquainted us that they were encamped within sight of that factory with Meerabeib and Moansing[2] and that the rear guard consisting of Pattans was expected to arrive that day and altogether to form an army of forty thousand men.

113. Having frequent reports of several stragling parties of this banditti plundering about this place we on the 20th November ordered the Zemindar to entertain one hundred buxeries and fifty pike-men over and above what were then in pay for the protection of the outskirts of Your Honours' town.

114. The 8th December our merchants having acquainted us that several of their boats were stopped at Deanstown by the Marrattoes who had plundered them of some money and being

then in expectation of the arrival of Your Honours' goods from Dacca to a considerable amount, least they should be stopped and plundered we ordered the Commandant to send thither an officer and forty men to clear all the boats that had English dusticks and to remain there till we should think proper to recall them.

115. The 13th following the boats returning from thence without any orders we called upon Surgeon Peckard who accompanied the party thither to know the reason thereof, but he informing us that Captain Usgate being shot as also two of the serjeants and the ensign being dangerously wounded was the occasion of the party's returning, as will appear to Your Honours by that day's Consultation when we immediately sent a light boat to the commanding officer of the party coming from Dacca with Your Honours' goods under his charge to direct him to lay too till further orders but in case he should be on this side Deanstown then to proceed directly to us.

116. At the same time we ordered two of Your Honours' sloops to be got in readiness to transport Captain Minchin and sixty private men with ten of the train exclusive of their officers to lay at Deanstown to protect your boats coming from Dacca from any attempts of the Marrattoes as also all other boats with English dusticks.

117. The 17th following he wrote us that on his arrival there the Marrattoes treated him with the utmost insolence and contempt upon which he fired upon them with grape shot but without effect, that he had brought too an advice boat belonging to them by which he understood they would be reinforced with five hundred men in a few days, that he judged the number which were then there to be about three hundred and among them several Europeans, upon which we agreed to send the Tavistock to lay off there and demolish their batteries, of which we advised Captain Minchin and in the interim left it to him to distress the Marrattas in whatever manner he should think proper as we would have them entirely rooted out of that place but on no account to land his men.

*Fifthly, concerning fortifications, buildings and revenues.*

118. In obedience to Your Honours' orders of the 17th June 1748 per ship Somersett we informed you in our address of the 10th August that we had received of Ramnautbose two thousand rupees by transfer and then promised, in case of his failure of

payment of that sum annually, to proceed against him agreeable to your orders at that time transmitted us. He is since dead and on the 21st August last we made his son Bisnochundutt enter into bonds in the sum of thirty seven thousand three hundred and fifty two rupees and ten annas (37352″10″-) jointly with five merchants whom we esteem substantial men for his personal appearance and shall at the expiration of the time due for this annual payment call upon him for the same.

119. As there were several beams in the barracks and cottah godowns which were rotten and in bad condition we on the 21st September ordered the Buxey to shift them.

120. The same day we ordered the Zemindar to survey the drains about the town and see what repairs they wanted and lay his report with a calculate of the expence before us. He complied therewith the 15th November as by said report entered after our Consultation of that day when we ordered him to put the same in execution as this was the most effectual method we could think of for making the settlement sweet and wholesome.

121. We advised Your Honours under date the 10th January 1747 that Captain Edward Frederick Reade bequeathed you by his will a legacy of eight thousand Madrass Rupees (8000″-″-) which we received from his executors the 29th ultimo on giving them an indemnification bond for the same.

122. In the box of books Your Honours will receive the account revenues from October 1748 to October 1749 with the particular account of the loss and gain in the Zemindarry for three years past whereby Your Honours will observe they have annually increased and in the last six months to two thousand one hundred twenty five rupees fifteen annas and three pie (2125″15″3).

123. Had Captain Delavaux[3], the Engineer, arrived here we should agreeable to your directions have received his plans and transmitted them to Your Honours; however by the President's order a plan of Calcutta has been taken by Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted who has since returned to Europe via Bussorah which plan is committed to Captain Webber's care to be delivered to Your Honours.

*Sixthly, concerning factors, writers, officers and their accompts.*

124. Having in our accompanying address already returned Your Honours our humble thanks for your great favour in appointing us to be the Governour and Council of this Presidency, we hope to give Your Honours no occasion to repent of the great confidence reposed in us and shall make it our study to demean ourselves as becoming persons under such obligations so generously conferred.

125. We shall now proceed to reply to your several orders under this head and to give Your Honours all necessary advices herein since our last address.

126. Captain Charles Butterwick whom we have already advised was appointed to the command of one of the companys here returned from Dacca on the 27th July when he was presented as such at the head of the military and Lieutenant Sewell was ordered to take charge of the soldiers at Dacca in his room.

127. Captain Lawrence Withrington whom Your Honours appointed Captain Lieutenant of the train having laid before us his proposals for making gunpowder we took the same into consideration on the 4th September when he assuring us that he could not afford to make the powder good on easier terms and esteeming them not unreasonable we agreed thereto as per his contract entered after that day's Consultation.

128. In obedience to your commands of March 1742 we appointed Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell one of your surgeons on this establishment in the room of Doctor William Lyndsay who departed this life of a fever on the 27th of that month.

129. In the paragraph of this address we informed Your Honours of Mr. Eyles setting out to take charge of Cossimbuzar factory on the 30th July and are now to advise that Mr. Thomas Boddam accompanied him to take his seat in Council there to which we appointed him sometime before but was prevented from setting out sooner by the late troubles.

130. We acquainted the gentlemen of Fort St. David on the 10th August that Your Honours allowed of a bounty not exceeding forty rupees a man as an encouragement to the non commission officers and private men to enter into your service and at the same time requested them to prevail on as many as they possibly could of the forces and mariners in His Majesty's service to serve Your Honours here and since being greatly distressed for men we repeated our request to them under date the [.....].

131. The writers Your Honours entertained on this establishment arrived here except Mr. Robert Lawrence and have been stationed in your several offices according to their capacities. We assure Your Honours those as likewise all your other servants shall be kept constantly employed in their respective stations and should any of them misbehave we shall comply with Your Honours' orders of the 29th March 1749 in regard thereto.

132. The President on the 28th August acquainted us that he thought proper to grant lieutenants' commissions to Ensigns Broadford and Chase and ensigns' commissions to Messrs. Creed and Kirk.

133. At the request of Mr. Gervas Bellamy, Chaplain, we take the liberty to recommend to Your Honours' favour his son John Bellamy to be instated in Your Honours' service as a writer either at this settlement, Fort St. David or Bombay any of which establishments we humbly submit to Your Honours' judgement for his reception.

134. Captain Jacobs in a letter to the Board under date the 12th September requested us to continue the pay of lieutenant which Your Honours ordered him to Mrs. Jacobs for her and her family's subsistence, his physicians having advised him to return to Europe on account of his bad state of health and we have complied with his request till Your Honours' pleasure herein is known.

135. Mr. Nicholas Clerembault advised us under date the 9th September that he had received the charge of Dacca factory with books, papers and accounts belonging to Your Honours from Mr. Thomas Feake who arrived here the 2nd October much indisposed under which he has laboured ever since.

136. On Mr. Thomas Burrow's request we permitted him to relinquish the office of Sub-Treasurer and conferred the same on Mr. Peter Amyatt who at that time resigning his post of Military Pay Master the President was pleased to confer the same on Mr. William McGwire.

137. The 20th October we appointed Mr. Luke Scrafton to be assistant at Dacca factory in the room of Mr. William Wogan who commencing factor the 27th November we ordered him of Council at that factory.

138. The 9th November the President ordered a lieutenant's commission in the train to be drawn out for John Shaw.

139. We delivered Captain Francis Taylor who commanded the Tryal snow a copy of Your Honours' twentieth paragraph of your commands per Severn wherein you were pleased to recommend him to an employ in the seafaring way but there being none here which he thought worth his acceptance we wrote in his favour to the Governour and Council of Fort St. David.

140. We have received a list of persons in Your Honours' service who are to enter into covenants or give security and in obedience to your orders hereon now transmit the covenants of Mr. James Irwin. Your other covenanted servants here have our directions to write to their friends to give security according to their several stations and we shall direct your servants at the subordinate factories to do the same.

*Seventhly, touching accompts.*

141. We are now to advise Your Honours of our having granted the following bills of exchange at two shillings and four pence each rupee payable at ninety days after sight as usual and the gentlemen have been duly sworn that the amount thereof is on the following persons' accounts viz.,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| On the 28th Dec. of Mr. John Hipwood on his own account ninety eight rupees three annas (98″3″-) payable to Mrs. Hannah Hipwood or Elizabeth Maggs or order at 2s. 4d. each is ... | £11″ | 9″ | 1 |
| On the 28th Dec. of William Barwell Esqr. and Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account coral four thousand nine hundred sixty five Current Rupees eight annas and three pie (4965 ″ 8 ″ 3) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. or order at 2s. 4d. each is ... | £579″ | 6″ | 2 |
| On the 2nd Jany. of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Mr. Nicholas Clerembault two thousand Current Rupees (2000″-″-) payable to Mr. Anthony Clerembault or order at 2″ 4 each ... | 233″ | 6″ | 8 |
| On the 2nd Jany. of Mr. Jonathan Ranson on his own account two thousand three hundred twenty three rupees, | | | |

three annas and three pie (2323″ 3″ 3) payable to William Davis Esqr. and Mr. Thomas Hill or order at 2″ 4 each 271″ - ″16

On the 2nd January of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. and Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account coral twelve thousand two hundred ninety eight Current Rupees and six pie (12298″-″6) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. or order at 2s. 4d. each is ... £1434″ 15″ 5

On the 4th January of Mr. Richard Court on his own account eleven thousand and two Current Rupees and six annas (11002 ″6 ″ -) payable to Messrs. William Verelst and John Lodge or order at 2″ 4 each ... 1283″ 12″ 2

On the 8th January of William Watts Esqr. on his own account one thousand Current Rupees (1000″-″-) payable to Peter Godfrey Esqr. or order at 2″ 4 each ... 116″ 13″ 4

On the 8th January of the Revd. Mr. Gervas Bellamy on his own account six hundred forty two Current Rupees, thirteen annas and nine pie (642″ 13 ″ 9) payable to Mr. Thomas Pomfret or order at 2″ 4 each ... 75 ″ - ″-

On the 8th January of Roger Drake Esqr. Junr. on his own account eight hundred fifty seven Current Rupees, two annas and three pie (857 ″ 2 ″ 3) payable to Roger Drake Esqr. or order at 2s. 4d. each ... 100 ″- ″-

On the 8th January of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on his own account three thousand seven hundred and thirty Current Rupees, eleven annas and three pie (3730″ 11″ 3) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order at 2 ″ 4 each ... £435 ″ 4 ″ 11

On the 8th January of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior account Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes four hundred ninety Current Rupees and eight annas (490 ″ 8 ″-) payable to Mr. Percival Bentley or order at 2 ″ 4 each is ... £57″ 4″-

On the 8th January of Humffrey Cole account the Hon'ble William Wake Esqr. forty two thousand eight hundred and fifty seven Current Rupees, two annas and three pie (42857-2-3) payable to Joseph Godfrey Esqr. or order at 2″ 4 each ... 5000″ - ″ -

On the 8th January of Mr. William Kempe on his own account eight hundred fifty seven Current Rupees, two annas and three pie (857″ 2″ 3) payable to Cristopher Wyvill Esqr. and Mrs. Anne Kemp or order at 2″ 4 each ... 100″ - ″ -

On the 8th January of Mr. William Kempe account Mr. George Heath eight hundred Current Rupees (800″-″-) payable to Mr. Henry Crabb Bolton and Mrs. Jane Worth or order at 2″ 4 each ... 93″ 6″ 8

On the 8th January of Mr. William Fullerton on his own account two hundred Current Rupees (200 ″ ″) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2 ″ 4 each ... 23″ 6″ 8

On the 8th Jany. of Mr. George Gray on his own account one thousand and twenty eight Current Rupees and nine annas (1028″9″-) payable to Mr. Archibald Sterling or order at 2″ 4 each is £120″ - ″ -

On the 9th Jany. of William Fytche Esqr. on his own account two hundred twenty seven Current Rupees, eleven annas and three pie (227″11″3) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order @ 2.4. each ... 26 ″ 11 ″ 4

On the 9th Jany. of William Fytche Esqr. on his own account four hundred twenty eight Current Rupees, nine annas (428″9″-) payable to Richard Benyon Esqr. or order at 2″ 4 each 90″ - ″ -

On the 10th Jany. of William Barwell Esqr. on his own account three hundred twenty one thousand five hundred and seventy seven Current Rupees, nine annas (321577.9″-) payable to Richard and William Barwell Esqrs. or either's order at 2″ 4 each ... 37517 ″ 7 ″ 6

On the 10th Jany. of Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell on his own account eight thousand five hundred and seventy one Current Rupees, six annas and nine pie (8571 ″ 6 ″ 9) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order at 2″ 4 each is ... £1000″ - ″ -

142. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and four pence each rupee is four hundred and fifteen thousand nine hundred and fifty six Current Rupees nine annas and nine pie (415956″ 9 ″ 9) or £48528″ 4 ″ 9.

143. We have likewise granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee to the following persons viz.,

On the 31st Dec. of Mr. William Spiers one thousand two hundred Current Rupees (1200″ - ″ -) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Spiers or order @ 2″ 4 (*sic*) each as £130″ - ″ -

On the 4th Jany. of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow and Orme account the estate of Mr. James Kirkpatrick deceased six thousand six hundred eighty eight Current Rupees and three pie (6688″ - ″ 3) payable to Peter Godfrey, Cristopher Burrow and Thomas Fytche Esqrs. at 2″ 2 each is ... 724 ″ 10 ″ 8

On the 4th Jany. of Mr. Samuel Court three thousand two hundred and ninety eight Current Rupees, four annas and six pie (3298″ 4″ 6) payable to Richard Eyre Esqr. or order at 2″2 each ... 357 ″ 6 ″ 3

On the 8th Jany. of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account the surviving brother and sister of Perry Purple Templer deceased four thousand six hundred and fifteen Current Rupees, six annas and three pie (4615″6″3) payable to Peter Godfrey Esqr. or order @ 2″2 each ... 500″ - ″ -

On the 8th Jany. of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. one thousand four hundred eighty five Current Rupees, eleven annas and six pie (1485 . 11 . 6) payable to Mr. John Munroe or order @ 2.2 each ... 160″ 19 ″-

On the 8th Jany. of Mr. William Fullerton one thousand three hundred twenty nine Current Rupees, four annas and nine pie (1329 ″ 4 ″ 9) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order @ 2.2 each ... 144″ - ″ -

On the 8th Jany. of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. one thousand nine hundred and four Current Rupees and four annas (1904 ″ 4 ″-) payable to Capt. John Wood or order at 2.2 each is ... £216 ″ 6 ″ 6

On the 9th January of William Fytche Esqr. six hundred seventy five Current Rupees and six pie (675″-″6) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2·2 each to 73″ 2″ 7

144. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee is twenty one thousand one hundred and ninety five Current Rupees, fifteen annas and nine pie (21195″ 15″ 9) or £St. 2306 ″ 3 ″ 1.

145. We have also received the following sums from the underwritten persons for which we have given three certificates of one tenour and date, one of which being accomplished the other two to become void and the gentlemen have been duly sworn the money is on the accounts as follows.

| | |
|---|---|
| On 8th Jany. of Captain William Webber on his own account Current Rupees | 18788″ 8″ 6 |
| On the 8th Jany. of Mr. William Nixon account the estate of Samuel Manship deceased CRs. ... | 5600″ - ″ - |
| On the 9 Jany. of Mr. Holland Goddard account the estate of Samuel Parkes deceased CRs. ... | 2214″ 3″ 3 |
| On the 10th Jany. of Captain John Somner account the estate of Mr. Harry Cross CRs. ... | 3595″ 4″ - |

146. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted three certificates of one tenour and date to each is thirty thousand one hundred ninety seven Current Rupees, fifteen annas and nine pie (30197″15″9).

147. The Accomptant on the 27th November laid before the Board the state of the deficiencys in the import warehouse the ballance whereof being fifty one thousand six hundred and fifty four rupees and nine pie (51654 ″ - ″9) we ordered our Secretary to demand the same of Mr. Wadham Brooke who was then arrived in Calcutta to which he received for answer that he would take this affair into consideration and reply to the Board in writing.

148. Mr. Brooke complied therewith the 4th instant which with another letter he sent us the 9th are entered after the Consultations of those days but as the dispatches of this ship took up so much of our time we agreed to defer at present coming to a determination thereon but shall proceed in bringing this affair to a conclusion before the Edgbaston sails.

*Supplement.*

149. We have already acquainted Your Honours of the large sum we were necessitated to pay the Nabob and his officers to procure a currency to your business which last was obtained in the month of October at which time, apprehending that falling upon measures for reimbursing Your Honours the money so paid might greatly impede your investment, we deferred the

consideration thereof till the 28th ultimo when we had pretty near finished the investment for this season. We then ordered all the Armenians who lived under Your Honours' protection here to attend the Board and asked them what methods they proposed to reimburse the expences you were at on this account as we expected they would make good the same, to which they replied they were ready to pay any fine we might think proper to inflict upon them, should we prove that they or any of them were concerned and declared that they had nothing to do with those persons who lodged the complaint.

150. The 9th instant we resumed the consideration of this affair with the Armenians' answer to our demand but as we could not prove that they were concerned in this complaint and as we could not legally oblige them to repay the money given to accommodate the troubles we agreed to wait till we were favoured with Your Honours' orders hereon, for, should we proceed to oblige them to pay the whole or part and, in case of their refusal to comply, to turn them out of the place, the French as we have heard would embrace the opportunity to give them a protection at Chardinagur which would not only be greatly serviceable to those rivals in trade but extreamly prejudicial to Your Honours' revenues in as much as you would thereby suffer by the loss of your duty of five per cent arising from those Armenians' great importations of raw silk and other goods on the coast of Cormandell.

151. We are now to request Your Honours' orders for making the Armenians who reside here pay consulage on their exports and that you will favour us by pointing out what manner you would have us proceed in collecting the revenue arising thereon as we esteem it quite reasonable that they should pay Your Honours equally with your covenanted servants, free merchants and others who live here under the protection of the English flag.

152. In the 86th paragraph of this address we acquainted Your Honours that the return of the Marrattoes had prevented Mr. Kelsall from withdrawing Ballasore factory in obedience to our orders under date the 9th September which he has since complied with as by a letter received from him at Bulramgurry the 10th instant.

153. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having advised us by a letter received yesterday that the Nabob had crossed the Kissnagur River and proceeded within eight coss of Hughley but as his

intentions were unknown and apprehending that should he come nearer the town his forces might plunder about it, we came to a resolution to put ourselves in the best posture of defence we could in case of an attack and for this purpose we sent orders to the commanding officer at Deanstown to return with the military under his command and ordered the Buxey to repair the pallisadoes and the President has sent out proper persons to bring him intelligence of the Nabob's motions and to endeavour to find out his designs as there are no Marrattoes on this side the river.

154. In the same letter the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar write us that their vacqueels informed them the Seats have lately obtained from the Nabob an order which forbids all persons besides themselves from purchasing silver or taking any Arcot Rupees.

155. The Severn, Captain Dorril, is now under dispatch for Surat and we are in hopes to be able to dispatch the Brittania thither within the month.

156. The Edgbaston is now loading and we expect to get her away by the latter end of this month or the beginning of next.

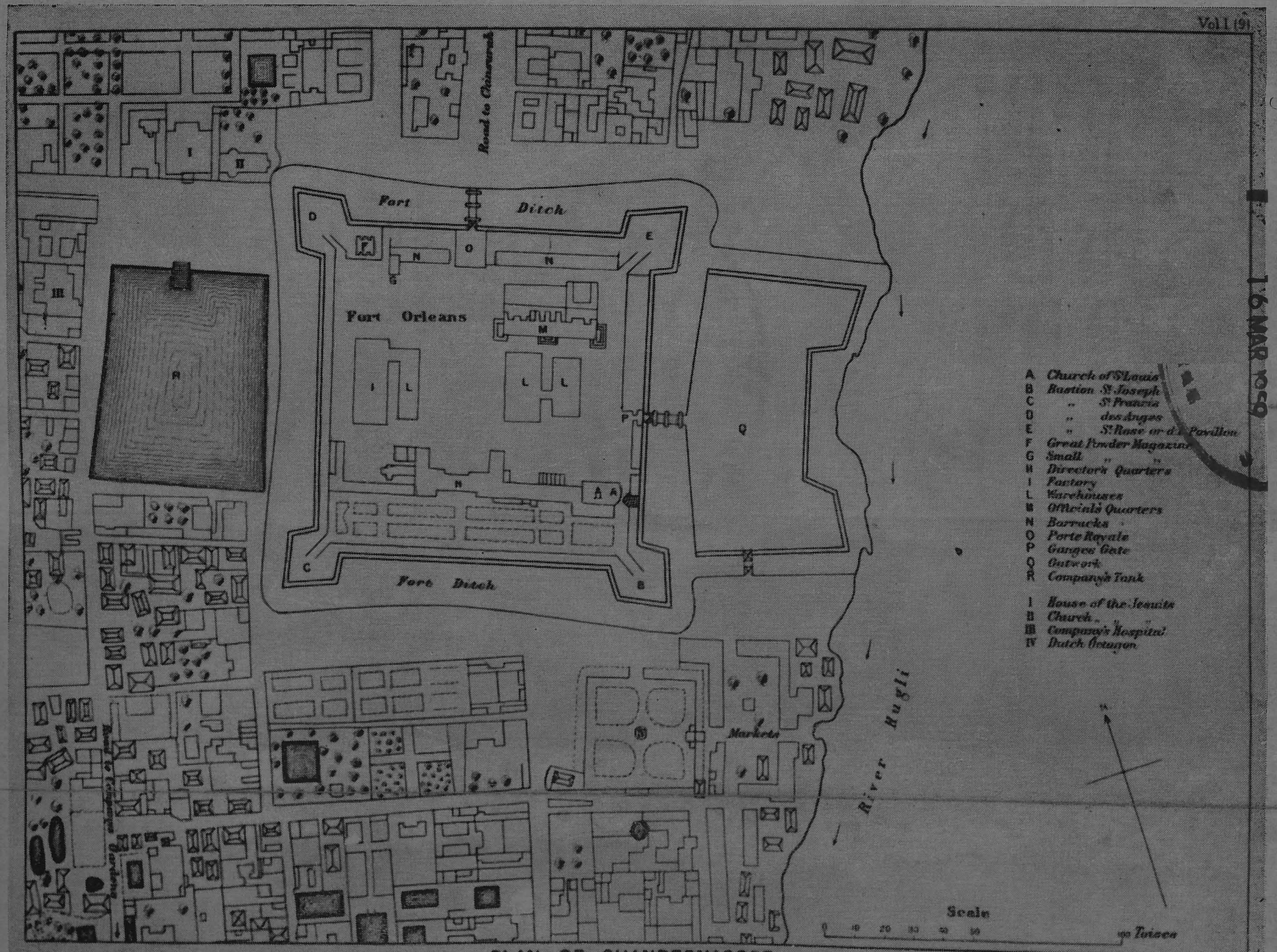
157. Captain William Webber has delivered us a protest in case the Prince William is not dispatched for Europe on or before the 31st instant the time her charter party expires, on which account we have wrote to the Chief and Council of Vizagapatam to be as expeditious as possible in lading their bales on board, at the same time transmitted them the necessary instructions for dispatching her to Your Honours.

158. We have laden on board this ship sundry goods and merchandize which goes consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to nine laack fifty one thousand and five hundred Current Rupees (951,500-).

159. We have also laden on her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St Helana as per copy of the invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to one thousand two hundred and thirty five rupees three annas and three pie (1235:3:3).

160. Mr. William Macket who dispatches this ship from Ingellie to Vizagapatam has our orders for enclosing abstract of her invoice to Your Honours and to transmit you all other material occurrences from thence.

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PLAN OF CHANDERNAGORE

Made by M. Mouchet 15 Dec., 1749.

16 MAR 1959

161. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most
obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Hum. Bellamy/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/Sam. Rooper/ Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow.

Fort William,
the 13 January 1749/50.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office 1749/50, Vol. 16. Letter to Court, pp. 15-70.

Paragraphs 41, 54, 112, 113, 120, 121, 128, 131, 133, 150 and 151 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records 1748-67*, pp. 50-57.

Paragraphs 119, 120, 123 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. I, pp. 227-28).

## 12

## LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1749/50

*Alivardi Khan's movements towards Midnapur—a suit filed against Wadham Brooke for deficiencies in the import warehouse —James Twiss to act as attorney.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Enclosed is duplicate of our address under date the 13th ultimo per Prince William which ship was dispatched from Ingelie to Vizagapatam the 16th following by Mr. William Macket when her draught of water was seventeen feet six inches on an even keel.

2. This waits on Your Honours per Edgbaston to advise of your affairs under our management since that time and serves to transmit you Captain Edward Tiddeman's requests for the several sums of money which we have advanced him for the use and expences of his ship on charterparty terms with one of the bonds he has executed for the same as also a bond entered into by Captain MacNemara and a receipt signed by Captain Kent for the money they took up here for the same purposes.

3. The 16th ultimo we received intelligence of the Nabob's return to Plassey and the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote us the 20th following that he had crossed the river at Cutway and proceeded for the Burdwan country, that Meer Jaffeir was to follow him with a considerable force and had orders to join him with the utmost expedition, since which time they wrote us that the Nabob was arrived at or very near Midnapore and that Meer Jaffeir was then at Cutway.

4. In consequence of our promise in the 147th paragraph of the accompanying address we took into consideration how to reimburse Your Honours the amount of the deficiencies in the import warehouse agreeable to your orders of the 27th January 1748/9 and as Mr. Wadham Brooke absolutely denied that he was indebted to Your Honours and refused to appear before the Board or give security for his personal appearance we came to a resolution of commencing suit against him in the Mayor's Court and accordingly ordered Mr. James Meredith whom we retained as attorney in this cause to acquaint him thereof.

5. Forty bales of Dacca goods arrived here safe on Your Honours' account the 26th ultimo under the care of Lieutenant Sewel and six private men and forty three bales more with a bundle of musters were dispatched the 21st ultimo from thence under the care of a serjeant and three men as by a letter from the Chief and Council received the 1st instant, and under date the 29th January they promised to send us forty bales more which would be the last for this season.

6. The gentlemen at Jugdea in a letter dated the 25th January advised of their having dispatched to us on Your Honours' account two hundred and twenty five bundles and one tucktae amounting to nineteen thousand five hundred and fifty eight rupees eight annas and six pie (19558:8:6) and then wrote us they would dispatch another boat of goods in a few days.

7. The 29th ultimo Bisnochurndutt the son of Ramnautbose accounted for the annual two thousand rupees (2000) by transfer.

8. We have received the several papers relating to the cause with Deepchund and Mr. Humffreys Cole and have delivered copy of the instructions from Your Honours' sollicitor Nathaniel Cole Esqr. to Mr. James Twiss whom we have retained as attorney in this cause and shall when the suit is commenced have close regard to Your Honours' directions.

9. By this ship we send Your Honours three bales of the superfine Santipore mulmuls of 40 and $2\frac{1}{4}$ and three bales of the superfine Cossajura mulmuls of 40 and 2 which have not been contracted for but the merchants brought in for a tryal.

10. On the 29th ultimo Omichund delivered in a letter to the Board in relation to his contract for Perrenna saltpetre which is entered after that day's Consultation as also Mr. Rooper's reasons for dissenting to its being entered.

11. The Accomptant on the 1st instant laid before us the general books of this Presidency ballanced to the 30th April last and remarked to us at the same time the reason of their not being ballanced sooner was owing to the indisposition of Mr. Robert Orme Sub-Accomptant.

12. Mr. Humphrey Bellamy having delivered over his charge of the import warehouse to Mr. Drake on the 1st instant the receipts for the same were signed in Council when Mr. Bellamy remarked that there was an overplus in the several articles to the amount of about two thousand rupees (2000) and desiring the same to be adjusted in the warehouse books that Your Honours might have due credit for the amount, we ordered the adjustment to be accordingly made.

13. Mr. Bellamy, having bought broad cloth, cotton etc., to a large amount at Your Honours' sales and being on his departure for Europe, acquainted us that Omichund to whom he sold them would clear out the same in due time to which Omichund appearing before us agreed.

14. We are now to request Your Honours' orders for re-building the church steeple which was thrown down in the storm, the foundation for which being already laid we imagine the expence will not exceed eight thousand rupees.

15. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange payable ninety days after sight as usual and first of those granted Your Honours' covenanted servants at two shillings and four pence each rupee who have been duly sworn the money is on the following accounts.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| On the 29th Jany of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. and Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account coral four thousand seven hundred and forty three rupees, seven annas and six pie (4743.7.6) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. or order at 2.4 each is ... | £553." | 8" 1 |
| On the 29 Jany of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior account Mr. Thomas Boddam one thousand six hundred and twenty rupees, two annas and three pie (1620:2:3) payable to Captain Charles Boddam or order at 2.4 each ... | 189" | - " 3 |
| On the 1st Feby. of William Fytche Esqr. on his own account four hundred and ninety three rupees, six annas and nine pie (493:6:9) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennett or order @ 2:4 each ... | 57 " | 11 " 4 |
| On the 1st Feby of Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell account William Davis Esqr. five thousand one hundred forty two rupees, thirteen annas and nine pie (5142.13.9) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order at 2.4 each ... | 600" | - " - |
| On do do of Captain Nathaniel Jacobs on his own account two thousand one hundred and forty two rupees, thirteen annas and six pie (2142.13.6) payable to Captain Nathaniel Jacobs or order at 2.4 each ... | 250" | - " - |
| On the 5 Feby. of Humphrey Bellamy Esqr. on his own account four hundred and twenty eight rupees, nine | | |

annas (428.9.-) payable to Mr. Henry Jacques or order at 2:4 each is ... £50" - " -

On do of do do on his own account two hundred and fourteen rupees, four annas and six pie (214:4:6) payable to Mr. Garsham Parsons or order @ 2:4 each ... 25" - " -

On the 8th Feby of William Watts Esqr. on his own account five hundred rupees (500) payable to Mr. Henry Allen or order @ 2:4 each ... 58 " 6 " 8

On do of Humphrey Bellamy Esq. on his own account sixty two thousand five hundred and seventy eight rupees, six annas and six pie (62578:6:6) payable to Humphrey Bellamy Esqr. or order at 2.4 each. ... 7300 " 16 " 3

16. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and four pence each rupee is seventy seven thousand eight hundred sixty three rupees, fifteen annas and nine pie (77863: 15: 9) or £9084:2:7.

17. We have likewise granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee for the following sums viz.,

On the 25th Jany of Messrs James Ross and Thomas Raitt account the estate of Alexander Talyour deceased twelve thousand one hundred rupees, three annas and nine pie (12100:3:9) payable to Mr. Donald Talyour or order @ 2:2 each is ... £1310 " 17 " 2

On the 25th Jany of Mr. James Ross two hundred and thirty rupees, twelve annas and three pie (230:12:3) payable to Mrs Jennite Rannie or order @ 2.2 each ... 25" - " -

On the 1st Feby of Mr. Thomas Cooke account Mr. Miles Barnes nine hundred rupees (900.-.-) payable to Mr. Miles Barnes or order @ 2.2 ... 97" 10" -

On do of do do account Captain Richard Thelwall three hundred rupees (300-.-) payable to Captain Richard Thelwall or order @ 2.2 each ... 32″ 10″ -

On the 4th Feby of Mr. Thomas Holme one thousand seven hundred and fourteen rupees, fourteen annas and three pie (1714:14:3) payable to the Hon'ble Colonel Charles Russel or order at 2:2 each ... 185 ″ 15 ″ 6

On the 5th Feby of Messrs Eyles and Lascelles account the estate of John Reynolds deceased four thousand and forty nine rupees and six pie (4049.-.6) payable to Mr. Archibald Sterling or order @ 2.2 each ... 438″ 13″ -

On do of do do four thousand one hundred and forty eight rupees and seven annas (4148.7.-) payable to Mr. Archibald Sterling or order @ 2.2. each 449 ″ 8 ″ 1

On the 5th Feby of Messrs Fytche and Burrow and Orme four hundred and eleven rupees, fifteen annas and three pie (411 : 15 : 3) payable to Mr. Timothy Tullie or order @ 2:2 each 44 ″ 12 ″ 6

On the 6th Feby of do do six hundred and sixty six rupees and one anna (666:1:-) payable to Captain Robert Baillie or order @ 2.2 each ... 72 ″ 3 ″ 1

On do of do do account the estate of Thomas Saunders deceased one thousand five hundred rupees (1500.-.-) payable to John Home and Edmund Godfrey Esqrs @ 2:2 each 162″ 10″ -

18. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and two pence each rupee is

twenty six thousand and twenty three rupees, six annas (26023: 6: -) or £St. 2821: 1: 4.

19. We have also granted bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence each rupee to the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esq. and Mr. William Frankland account the estate of Mr. Charles Adams deceased for eight hundred and thirty five rupees, twelve annas and three pie (835:12:3) payable to Doctor Thomas Adams and Mariana Stephenson or order being £Stg. 94.-.5.

20. We have likewise granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sums, one of which being accomplished the other two to become void and the persons have been duly sworn that the money is on the following accounts viz.,

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 25 Jany. of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. account John Hope Esqr. and estate of Joseph Hope deceased Current Rs. ... | 1521:11:3 |
| On the 29th Jany. of Messrs Fytche and Burrow and Orme account Mr. Alexander Wedderburn CRs. ... | 11628:10:9. |
| On the 5th Feby. of Captain Nathaniel Cush on his own account CRs. ... | 10445:15:6 |

21. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted certificates is twenty three thousand five hundred and ninety six rupees, fifteen annas and six pie (23596:15:6).

22. We are to advise Your Honours that we have received into your cash account the estate of James Mosman Esqr. deceased fourteen thousand and ninety eight rupees and nine pie (14098-0-9) for which sum we have granted interest notes.

23. In this packet we enclose Your Honours the state of this Presidency which we were under an obligation to send open as the Jugdea accounts are not yet arrived.

24. We have laden on board this ship sundry goods and merchandize and consigned the same to Your Honours as per invoice

and bill of lading enclosed amounting to eleven laack fifty six thousand five hundred rupees.

25. We have also laden on board her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena as per copy of the invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to one thousand two hundred and thirty six rupees, eleven annas and three pie (1236:11:3).

26. Mr. Humphrey Bellamy having settled and accounted for the several ballances due from him in the warehouse by transfer as will appear to Your Honours by our Consultation of the 6th instant and on examining the general books finding he is not any ways endebted to Your Honours we have permitted him to take his passage on this ship and the usual ninety six rupees will be received here of his attorneys.

27. Mr. William Watts who dispatched this ship from Ingellie has our orders to enclose Your Honours the abstract of her invoice and to transmit you all material occurrences from thence.

28. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the utmost respect

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most

obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Roger Drake Jr./E. H. Cruttenden/Sam. Rooper/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow.

Fort William,

the 8th February 1749/50.

(Copies of records obtained from India Office 1749/51, Vol: 16. Letter to Court pp. 71-80.

Paragraph 14 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records 1748-67*, p. 23.)

# 13
# LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1749/50

*The Council's determination to suppress the habit of gambling among the Company's servants—censure of James Blachford's conduct in delivering over charge of Jagdia factory—large investment for fine muslin.*

TO the Honble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. We have already addressed Your Honours this season under date the 13th January per Prince William as per triplicate enclosed and under date the 8th January per Edgbaston duplicate whereof comes herewith.

2. Mr. William Watts agreeable to our orders dispatched the Edgbaston to Your Honours from Ingelie the 12th instant when her draught of water was seventeen feet four inches forward and nineteen feet eight inches abaft as by his report entered on our Consultation the 15th instant.

3. We now enclose to you Captain Edward Tiddeman's request and receipt for useless and condemned guns which we have laden on board the Edgbaston and which was omitted to be advised of in our address by that ship as also his receipt for four serviceable guns for the use of said ship.

4. We have the pleasure to congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival here of your own ship Lapwing. She imported the 18th instant from Madrass to which place she was ordered by the President and Council of Fort St. David to deliver her consignments of coral. The gentlemen at Fort St. David sent us only eighty chests of Arcott Rupees in lieu of so many chests of bullion. So the difference of what we ought to have received from thence and what they sent us account this consignment is a deficiency of upwards of ten chests of Arcot Rupees.

5. We observe Your Honours' orders in relation to the ships expected from Leghorn, in consequence whereof the President transmitted a copy of that paragraph to Henry Speke Esqr, commander of His Majesty's sloop the Swallow, to request his assistance to put the Acts of Parliament therein mentioned in execution, to which Captain Speke replied he would render Your Honours all the service in his power. The President will likewise write to Commodore Lisle for the same purpose. We shall do all in our power to comply with Your Honours' commands and have given orders to our Master Attendant in case of their arrival here to direct the pylots on no account whatever to give them any assistance.

6. We shall take due care that all account sales in future shall be drawn out agreeable to the method or form Your Honours have been pleased to send us in the Lapwing's packet as also the lists of the servants military and others employed here agreeable to Your Honours' directions.

7. Enclosed we transmit Your Honours the state of this Presidency drawn out as near to the form particularized in the 21st paragraph of your commands now before us as the shortness of time will admit of and due regard shall be paid to the 27th paragraph of the said letter.

8. We are extremely concerned to observe that Your Honours should have an intimation given you that spirit of gaming prevails among your servants here and assure you that had we ever observed the least appearance of this vice we should have suppressed it in its infancy. Your orders on this head shall be punctualy observed if we shall hereafter find any of your servants guilty thereof, as we concur in opinion with Your Honours that no trust or confidence can be placed in persons guilty of a vice so pernicious.

9. We have transmitted Mr. Webber a copy of your orders in relation to him who in obedience thereto takes his passage on this ship and as this gentleman has behaved himself during his residence here in every respect as became his profession we have given him a testimonium thereof which he desired.

10. As Mr. Humphrey Bellamy's return to Europe occasioned a vacancy in Council we agreed to defer filling up the same till the arrival of Mr. Charles Maningham who was the next in succession and whose arrival we expect by the first ships.

11. Your Honours will observe by the several letters received this year from Messrs. Baillie and Playdell at Jugdea the manner of Mr. Blachford's delivering over the charge of that factory and, by the state or account current thereof made up to the 30th November last, there is a ballance of ten thousand Dussmassa Rupees to be accounted for by him, part of which Messrs. Baillie and Playdell under date the 8th instant write us he has accounted for as follows: By a bill of exchange for five thousand Sicca Rupees (5000.-.-) on Ommerchund and Liamchund at Dacca payable in twenty one days after sight to Mr. Baillie on Mr. Blachford's account and by a bill drawn on Mr. Baillie for two thousand Arcot Rupees (2000.—.—) which he accepts so that in case the amount of the bill on Dacca comes to hand Mr. Baillie will have in his hand on account of Mr. Blachford between seven and eight thousand Duss Massa Rupees.

12. As in the foregoing letter from Jugdea the gentlemen write that Mr. Blachford left that place the 6th instant we came to an agreement on his arrival here to make a strict scrutiny into his conduct during his residence at that factory.

13. The gentlemen at Dacca wrote us under date the 8th instant and transmitted us the invoice of sixty one bales and a bundle of musters amounting to seventy four thousand six hundred and six Current Rupees and six annas (74606″6″-) then dispatched to us on Your Honours' account under the care of Ensign Bishop and at the same time remarked to us that in the bale of silk flowered hummums there were twenty five peices damaged which proceeded from their having lain half washed during the stoppage of business.

14. As those goods were not arrived on the 22nd instant and apprehending the inclemency of the blowing weather might prevent their being laden on board the Tavistock in charter party time, should we wait for their arrival here, we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to send a sloop with the utmost expedition to lay off Rangafoula to take in those bales and transport them to the Tavistock, which goods Your Honours will find specified in this ship's invoice.

15. On inspecting the Dacca goods we found the seerbetties very much frayed and very badly raffagurred or joined and that the flowered Cossajurah dooreas were marked with very coarse thread, of which we shall take due notice to the gentlemen at Dacca when this ship is dispatched.

16. The 18th instant Captain George Minchin arrived here from Cossimbuzar with one hundred and fourteen bales and chests on Your Honours' account and the Chief and Council there wrote us that as they had refused taking the November-bund from the merchants, it being exceeding bad, they could not make more than two or three of them deliver in any silk at all and what they took being inferiour to muster they cut it accordingly in price, that the gurrahs and peice goods were the best procurable for ready money so late in the season which they prized as low as the merchants would allow of, alledging that they were not advanced the prices of the silk peice-goods this season though silk was four annaes per seer dearer and they were at more expence and trouble to procure them than formerly, that great part of what they brought in being very ordinary obliged them to make a large terret[1], by which they were disappointed of the full quantity they expected.

17. We shall proceed on the investment agreeable to the last list transmitted us and shall strictly adhere to Your Honours' orders for procuring as large a quantity of goods as possible particularly fine muslins of all sorts.

18. In obedience to the 15th paragraph of your orders we have laden on board this ship the following sortments of goods which are sent home by the French.

Five bales of dooreas Gopaulpoor of 40 and 2
Two do do do 40 and 2¼
One do of Barnagur handkerchiefs of 17½ and 1¾

19. Our merchants have brought in several new sortments of goods whereof we have laden on this ship the following bales for a tryal viz.,

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Six | bales | of | mulmuls | Santipore | superfine | of | 40 | and 2¼ |
| Nine | do | of | do | Cossajura | do | of | 40 | and 2 |
| Eight | do | of | seer hand | connas | Kissedpoor | of | 40 | and 2 |
| Nine | do | of | hummums | Chaunpoor | | of | 24 | and 3 |
| One | do | of | do | do | fine | | 24 | and 3 |
| One | do | of | tenjebs | Beerpoor | | | 40 | and 2 |
| One | do | of | cossaes | Rajapoor | | | 40 | and 2 |
| Eight | do | of | cossaes | Commercolly | fine | | 40 | and 2 |

20. We have laden on board this ship one hundred and eighty maunds of shellaack which we purchased at sixteen rupees,

eight annaes per maund being unable to procure any on cheaper terms.

21. Mr. William Fytche, who has the charge of the export warehouse till Mr. Thomas Feake recovers, delivered in a letter to the Board complaining of the sorters of Your Honours' cloth which is entered after our Consultation of the 19th instant in consequence whereof he has received our orders to punish and dismiss those whom he finds negligent in their duty.

22. The 22nd instant the Belvidera sloop imported here from Bulramgurry. By her we received five bales of sannoes amounting to Current Rupees three thousand five hundred and sixty eight, three annaes and six pie (3568:3:6).

23. On Captain Cheyne's arrival at town we called on him to know the condition of the Lapwing to which he replied that she was in good order and wanted only caulking and to have her rigging overhauled but was sorry to acquaint us that most of his people were down in the scurvy and in a bad state of health and that his chief and fourth mates were dead as likewise his boatswain, carpenter's mate and two seamen, exclusive of three he was obliged to leave at Fort St. David who were incapable of service and on our asking him if he could get her in readiness to proceed for Europe by the 20th of next month he offered it as his opinion that it would be too late in the season for him to get his passage round the Cape with his ship's company in the abovementioned condition without the utmost risque and danger to the ship and cargoe, whereupon we agreed to detain her here till the month of July when we intend to dispatch her to Your Honours with a lading of fine goods as directed.

24. We are now to advise Your Honours the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at the rates ordered in the 31st paragraph of your orders per Lapwing and first of those to your covenanted servants at two shillings and three pence each rupee, they having been sworn that the amount thereof is on the following accounts.

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 19th Feby. of Captain David Clayton on his own account nine hundred Current Rupees, nine annas and nine pie (900:9:9) payable to himself or order @ 2:3d each is ... | £102 8 10 |

On the 22nd Feby. of Mr. John Cooke account Mr. James Valicourt eighty eight rupees, fourteen annas and three pie (88:14:3) payable to Mrs. Mary Valicourt or order @ 2.3 each is ... 10

On the 22nd do of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. on his own account five thousand six hundred rupees (5600) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order 600

On the do of Mr. William McGwire on his own account one hundred seventy seven rupees, twelve annas and six pie (177:12:6) payable to Arthur Annesley Esq. or order @ 2:3 sach 20

25. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence each rupee is six thousand seven hundred and sixty seven rupees, four annas and six pie or £732:8:10.

26. We have likewise granted bills of exchange at two shillings and one penny each rupee for the following sums.

On the 19th Feby. of Mrs. Elizabeth Thorpe five hundred Current Rupees (500:—:—) payable to herself or order @ 2s. 1d each is ... £52 1 8

On the 22 do of Mr. William Fytche account Captain John Wood three hundred and twenty eight rupees, fifteen annas (328:15:—) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order @ 2:1 each ... 34 5 3

27. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and one penny each rupee is eight hundred and twenty eight rupees and fifteen annas or £86:6:11.

28. We have also granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sums, one of which being accomplished

the other two to become void, and the persons have been duly sworn the amount is on the accounts that follow:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| On the 21st February of Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme account the estate of John Jackson Esqr. deceased Current Rupees | 70,000 | | |
| On do of Mr. Daniel Lascelles account Captain Christopher Baron Current Rupees ... | 2,632 | 8 | 9 |
| On the 24th do of Captain Nathaniel Cush on his own account Current Rupees | 11,831 | 8 | |

29. The whole amount of certificates is eighty four thousand four hundred and fifty five rupees and nine pie (84455:—9).

30. There being a ballance in Your Honours' treasury of six laack twenty seven thousand four hundred and fifty four rupees, eight annas (627454:8: . ) we came to a resolution of disposing of it in the following manner:

To pay Futtichundseat one laack sixteen thousand (1,16,000)

To send to Cossimbuzar one laack and four thousand (104000)

To send to Dacca one laack and thirty six thousand (136000)

To keep in the treasure to advance our merchants for the ensuing year's dadney one laack (1,00,000)

and the remainder to supply the cash and to pay off the notes of interest granted to Captain Speke on account of the bill of exchange drawn on us from Fort St. David for forty thousand Arcot Rupees (40,000. . ).

31. Having reconsidered the indents sent Your Honours by the Prince William and Edgbaston, and finding no occasion to make any alterations we now transmit you triplicates of them in this packet.

32. Enclosed in this packet Your Honours will receive the several papers relating to this ship.

33. The 23rd instant we received advice that the boat on which the stores designed for the use of Your Honours' island

St. Helena were laden was lost in a gale of wind, whereupon we ordered the Buxey to send down a fresh supply to the Tavistock as per copy of the invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rupees twelve hundred and twenty two and eight annas (1222:8:)

34. We have laden on board this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rupees fourteen lack, forty one thousand and three hundred (14,41,300 ." .)

35. Mr. Thomas Burrow who dispatches this ship from Ingelie will acquaint Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from thence.

36. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Roger Drake Junr./
E. H. Cruttenden/Saml. Rooper/Wm. Watts/
Thos. Burrow.

Fort William

the 25th February, 1749/50.

(Copies of records obtained from India Office 1749/51, Vol: 16 pp. 81-91.

Paragraph 8 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records, 1748-67*, p. 23.)

# 14

# LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 1750

*Want of tonnage in the Presidency—freightage of country ships for supply of saltpetre to Fort St. George—Mir Jaffar's forces encounter Maratha raiders near Murshidabad—case of James Blachford and the Council's decision—question regarding the status of Major Mosman referred to home authorities.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address bearing date the 25th of February waited on Your Honours per ship Tavistocke which ship was dispatched from Ingellie by Mr. Thomas Burrow the 3rd of March when her draught of water was 17 ft. 5 in. on an even keel. Duplicate of said address comes enclosed.

2. We shall now proceed to give Your Honours a particular and full account of your affairs under our management since that time under the usual heads and

*First, concerning shipping.*

3. In the above mentioned advices we acquainted Your Honours of the safe arrival here of your own ship Lapwing which we permitted to come up before our fort in consequence of Captain Cheyne's request the 1st of March when we ordered the Buxey to supply her with what stores Capt. Cheyne indented for as likewise Your Honours' Cooper to supply her with provisions. The account particulars of the several disbursements on this ship Your Honours will receive herewith.

4. The 1st of March Mr. James Valincourt returned from Ingellie when he reported the dispatch of the Britannia from thence to Surat on the 28th of February at which time she drew 17 feet water on an even keell as likewise that he had protested against Capt. Somner for returning one thousand (1000) bags of rice and nine hundred and fifty (950) bags of sugar.

5. The 5th of March we received information from one of Your Honours' soldiers who was sent down to guard the rice designed for the Britannia that a sloop whereon there was laden three hundred and fifty bags (350) was lost in a gale of wind at Ingellie on her return from the ship whereof he saved one hundred (100) bags and left it under the care of a peon at that place. We thereupon ordered the Buxey to send down a boat to bring up the same and likewise to sell at publick outcry the sugar and rice returned from that ship on the 19th following the account sales whereof is enclosed.

6. Capt. Cheyne on the 8th March requested us to lade on board his ship fourteen tons of redwood and thirty tons of iron

kintladge which we ordered to be complied with and his request is forwarded herewith.

7. The same day the Master Attendant with the head pilot recommended Alexander Scott and William Vicary as thoroughly qualified for pilots and David Moor and Alexander Holst to succeed them as masters. As we were in want of pylots and having no objection to the characters of those men we ordered their appointments agreable to the above report and recommendation which is entered after that day's Consultation.

8. Your Honours' sloops the Grampus and Bonetta being in readiness to proceed to the Coast with the Madeira wine designed for that Presidency, the Jugdea baftaes for painting and such part of the packing stuff indented for by the gentlemen there as they could take on board we dispatched them thither on the 8th March when we advised Mr. Floyer and his Council of our intentions to return this vessel to Your Honours with a lading of fine goods and should direct the captain to call in there to receive such advices as they might think necessary to transmit by her. We at the same time enclosed a bill of exchange drawn on Mr. Alexander McPherson the Naval Storekeeper by Capt. Henry Speeke for four thousand nine hundred and fifty one rupees thirteen annaes and six pice (4951″13″6) which amount we advanced that gentleman for the service of His Majesty's sloop the Swallow.

9. In compliance with the 8th paragraph of Your Honours' orders of the 30th August 1749 we advanced Mr. Alexander Knox, Surgeon of the Lapwing, sixty Current Rupees (60) head money for fifteen lascars landed here for that ship his request for which is enclosed.

10. The river has this year been surveyed as usual as Your Honours will perceive by our Master Attendant's report thereof entered after our Consultation of the 7th of May.

11. Your Honours' sloop the Grampus returned from the Coast the 5th May; by her we received eighty nine candy and twelve maunds (89 ″ 12 ″-) of redwood as did the Bonetta the 13th following with eighty six candys five maunds and seventeen pounds (86 ″ 5 ″ 17) which being landed turned out agreable to invoice

12. By the Judda Merchant one of our countrey ships which imported here from Bombay the 22nd May Mr. Wake and his Council wrote us under date the 22nd April that neither the Severn or Britannia were then arrived but that they had provided on Your Honours' account six hundred bales of cotton (600) for each ship at Surat where, in case they did not arrive by the 28th of that month, they ordered it down for Bombay as it would then be to late for them to deliver their freight there.

13. Under date the 8th of May they wrote us again by the Danbury another our countrey ships advising that the pylot run the Severn ashore on the Eastern Sea reef where she struck several times and lost the keel of her rudder and Capt. Dorrill's apprehensions that she had received some other damage occasioning her to be brought into the dock to be examined, which would prevent her dispatch from thence before August and as the Britannia could not arrive then so as to be dispatched before that time they came to a resolution to send us two laack of Bombay Rupees on the Danbury which turned out agreable to invoice excepting a deficiency of one rupee in chest No. 12.

14. The Governour and Council of Fort St. Davids wrote us under date the 8th May that it was reported that the Walpole had lost her passage and was at Point D'Galle but as we have not heard any further news since about that ship we presume this report to be groundless and that she has proceeded but the Britannia having lost her passage put into Fort St. David the 2nd of that month.

15. In the above mentioned letter they acquainted us that of the packing stuff sent them by the sloops some part was not only damaged but deficient in quantity, whereupon we sent for the masters of those sloops and on asking them how the damage happened they assured us it was owing to the bad weather they met with up and as to the deficiency Mr. Riccards who commanded the Bonetta said he knew of none and produced his bill of lading delivered him up there and Mr. Roberton, the master of the Grampus, told us that there was six hundred and thirty six (636) pieces of the gunneys and some jute rope which they refused to receive from him at Madrass on account of the damage and which he brought back with him to this place.

16. Capt. Cheyne on the 18th June requesting us to lade on board his ship twenty (20) tons more of iron kintladge and his

reasons for giving it the preference to a saltpetre ballast appearing to us well founded we ordered our Storekeeper to comply with his request and in case there was not sufficient in Your Honours' stores for this purpose, to purchase what old useless anchors he could in order to break up the same and Your Honours will receive here with Capt. Cheyne's letter on this occasion together with his request for one thousand (1000) Arcot Rupees to defray the expences of his house etc.

17. We wrote to the gentlemen at Dacca on the 21st June to inform us what quantity of fine goods they would be able to provide for the Lapwing's cargoe and to be particularly careful in dispatching them so as to be down here by the last of July, to which they replied that it would not be in their power to send us any fine cloth by that time, that they are generally six months in getting in the puttun and never in less time than four, that they should dispatch to us in a few days two hundred pieces of sundry chicon flowered cloth as also what we sent back to be rewashed.

18. Enclosed Your Honours will receive Capt. Cheyne's request for four hundred (400) bags of saltpetre which we have complied with.

19. Your Honours will observe entered after our Consultation of the 16th July our Master Attendant's report of the Bonetta sloop which we have directed him to repair.

20. As the gentlemen at Fort St. David wrote us last year to send four thousand five hundred (4500) bags of saltpetre and having no tonage of Your Honours to send up to the Coast we came to a resolution to freight the same and ordered publick notice to be given thereof for the owners of the countrey ships bound thither to give in their proposals for carrying it up.

21. On the 1st instant the owners of the Louisa ketch, ship Dragon and Bonetta ketch offering to take a thousand bags (1000) each at two Arcot Rupees twelve annaes (2.12"-) per bag and there being no other vessels bound thither and rice bearing a high price there as we were informed whereon as great a profit would arise to the owners, we accepted these proposals and ordered the Export Warehousekeeper to lade it on board.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe.*

22. The 19th March being the day appointed for the sale of Your Honours' copper we agreed to put on the established terms

at thirty eight (38) rupees per maund, being twenty (20) per cent advantage on the invoice price. The account sales thereof Your Honours will receive enclosed as likewise of the damaged woolen goods which were sold at the same time.

23. The Import Warehousekeeper informing us on the 9th April that there was about one thousand five hundred (1500) maunds of lead in the godown we agreed to sell it at outcry the 23rd following when the same was put at five rupees per maund on the established terms. The account sales we now transmit Your Honours together with the account sales of your damaged stores the 25th April, the same having been surveyed by us before they were sold.

24. The Warehousekeeper the 21st May laid before the Board an account of several pieces of broad cloth and perpets which then remained in the godowns and as we at that time expected the arrival of Your Honours' ships we ordered them to be sold at publick outcry when we agreed to put the same at the fol lowing prices viz.,

| | |
|---|---|
| Aurora | at 65 rupees per piece |
| Broad cloth ordinary | at 45 |
| Perpets fine | at 27 |
| Ditto ordinary | at 18 |
| Perpets ordinary broad | at 35 |
| Culjeed flannels | at 22 |
| Imbost cloth | at 80 |
| Scarlet flannels | at 40 |
| Soys | at 42 |
| Dresdenets | at 42 |

25. The account sales whereof comes enclosed in this packet by which Your Honours will observe that some of the sortments were disposed off at a less price but as they were put up to be cleared in two months with all faults and no discount allowed the buyer we thought it for Your Honours' interest that they should be sold and beg leave to remark that the soys and dresdenets would not sell for any price.

26. Under date the 6th May the Governor and Council of Fort St. David wrote us that they would forward the broad cloth designed us by the Augusta by the first vessel belonging to Your

Honours that they might dispatch from thence and that there were ten pieces of it much damaged which they delivered to Capt. Parker who paid for it as stipulated in charterparty and that they had replaced it by same out of their warehouse.

27. At the same time they advised us in regard to the difference between the rupees sent us by the Lapwing and the bullion she brought out for this Presidency, that the time limited for her stay would only admit of coining what she carried and that with the greatest difficulty but promised to send us the remainder shortly.

*Thirdly, concerning investment of goods for Europe.*

28. The Export Warehousekeeper laid before us the Calcutta list of goods to be provided this year on the 22nd of March when we asked our merchants on what terms they would undertake the provision of the goods ordered and whether they would contract for the Patna goods as likewise for those sortments which have not been provided for some years past on account of their being too dear, to which they promised us a reply the next Council day.

29. Accordingly on the 26th following they informed us that as Muxadavad was surrounded by the Morattoes they could not give us an answer then and requested us to advance them the laack of rupees set apart for this year's dadney on account of the ballance that was due to them and promised that they would provide fine goods therewith for the Lapwing's cargoe by the latter end of July, desiring at the same time to have interest allowed them on those goods from the 1st of April.

30. The 2nd of April we took the above mentioned proposals of the merchants into consideration and came to the following result. To pay them the laack of rupees agreable to their request and to allow them interest on the goods they might bring in for the Lapwing from the time they were prized, but not being able to bring them to agree to this proposall at that time we ordered them to attend the Board the next Council day.

31. Having met in Council the 9th following our merchants told us that unless we complied with their proposals of the 26th March that then they desired us to allow them interest on the goods from the time they were prized and give them a promise to pay for the same out of [the] first money that arrived.

32. This proposal of the merchants we then took into consideration and agreed to allow them interest on what goods were prized before the 1st of June from the day of prizing those goods and on what they might bring in afterwards from the 1st of June and promised to pay them what money we could spare out of the first supply, which they consenting to and promising to give in as many goods as they could, we ordered the Committee of Treasury to advance them a laack of rupees on account their old ballances.

33. In order to be at a certainty as to the quantity of fine goods we might expect from the merchants for this vessel we desired them to inform us to what amount they would bring in and they assured us on the 10th of April that they would deliver in sufficient for the Lapwing's lading by the latter end of July.

34. On the 23rd April the merchants requested us to advance them a part of the treasure set aside for Cossimbuzar factory, they being in great want of money to go on with their investment, which we then took into consideration and as the Morattoes who were at that time about the country rendered it quite uncertain when the ways would be clear for Mr. Eyles' return to Cossimbuzar and being in expectation of the remainder of the Lapwing's money from Fort St. David by Your Honours' sloops which we shortly expected we agreed to advance them 2 per cent on account of their ballances.

35. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having advised us in their letter dated the 7th of May that the Nabob was then expected at Cutway and the Morattoes being retired from Cossimbuzar we on the 14th of that month ordered our merchants to attend the Board when we asked them on what terms they would undertake the investment this season. They replied that they had received advice that the Nabob was at Bissenpore and therefore they could not give us any answer for ten or twelve days by which time they hoped the country would be settled.

36. The 28th following we ordered the Export Warehousekeeper to learn from the merchants on what terms they would provide the goods ordered and to what amount and to lay the same before us which he complied with the 11th of June following and Your Honours will find entered after that day's Consultation.

37. We took the merchants' proposals into consideration the 13th June and came to the following resolution viz., to propose to them the lowering of the prices of the underwritten goods.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Checquered dooreas | of | 40 | and | 2 | at | 1″—rupee per piece |
| Ballasore mulmulls | of | 40 | and | 2 | at | 1″— |
| Terrendams | of | 40 | and | 2 | at | 1″— |
| Mulmulls Santipore | of | 40 | and | 3 | at | ″12 annas. |
| Ditto ditto | of | 40 | and | 2¼ | at | ″12 |
| Bushon cossaes | of | 40 | and | 2 | at | 2″— |

and a proportionable abatement to be made on the cossaes of 40 and 3 and to offer them an advance of twelve annas on the chowtars[1] provided they were made three covids longer than usual, likewise that they would enter into contracts to provide seventy thousand (70,000) pieces of gurrahs under a penalty of 15 per % and for all other goods mentioned in the investment and which they say they can provide, to be on the same terms and prices as last year viz., to have interest allowed them on the 50 per % dadney from the 15th June and on the remaining 35 per % from the 1st October, that we would then advance them a laack of Bombay Rupees and on the arrival of the two first ships from Europe one third of the treasure they might bring and the remainder of the 50 per % dadney on the arrival of the latter ships.

38. To this proposal they replied the next day and assured us that they could not reduce the prices of the goods therein mentioned nor could they enter into contracts for more than forty thousand (40,000) pieces of gurrahs under a penalty not exceeding 10 per % upon what ready money they receive, that they were satisfied to take the laack of rupees and receive two thirds of the money the two first Europe ships which arrived might bring and the remainder of the 50 per % on the arrival of the latter ships and at the same time to be paid the ballance due on the ready money goods last year but on our assuring them that we could by no means agree to these terms they told us if we would give them 50 % by the month of August that they would contract on the same terms and prices as last year.

39. As we found the merchants did absolutely refuse complying with our proposals of the 14th June and apprehending that a further delay would not bring them to those terms we on the 18th agreed to accept of their proposals for contracting on the same terms as last year and to propose advancing them 50 per cent dadney on the arrival of Your Honours' ships and they to enter into contracts for fifty thousand pieces of gurrahs under a penalty of 15 per % to which we brought them to agree on the 20th. When we asked them to contract for the goods that were

not provided for some years past they replied that they could not contract for them without a large advance but promised to bring in a few pieces of each sortment to be sent Your Honours as also a few pieces of those sortments which they say they are unable to provide.

40. Having thus far settled with the merchants we ordered the Warehousekeeper to draw out the list of goods at the A and medium prices which Your Honours will observe is entered after our Consultation of the 29th June together with the list of the amount of goods that each merchant proposed contracting for, by which observing that Omichund intended to provide to the amount of only one hundred thousand (100,000) rupees though last year he contracted for seven laack, we thereupon sent for him to know his reasons which are entered after our Consultation of the 2nd ultimo for Your Honours' notice.

41. The same day we sent for Omichund and told him that we would advance him two hundred thousand (200,000) Arcot Rupees on the arrival of the two first ships from Europe and promised to advance him on account his ballance in proportion to what we paid the merchants on account their dadney and as to his request for 50 per % we would pay him as far as we were able as the money came in and should not demand the penalty in his contract, provided we failed in advancing him the 50 per % on the goods as they were prized, to which he agreed.

42. The Export Warehousekeeper delivered in the division of the list of goods among the merchants on the 16th of July when being asked if they were satisfied therewith and they replying in the affirmative we ordered the warrants to the Committee of Treasury for advancing them 4 and ½ per % dadney to be drawn out.

43. The 30th following the Warehousekeeper delivered into Council the merchants' teeps drawn out and signed which were deposited as usual in the hands of the President.

44. On the 21st May Mr. Edward Eyles returned to his Chiefship at Cossimbuzar and by him we took the opportunity of sending the list of goods ordered at that factory and likewise copy of Your Honours' orders per Lapwing to which we enjoined a strict obedience and at the same time directed the gentlemen there to provide one hundred (100) pieces of blue and as many of good thick doosuttees for the use of Your Honours' island St.

Helena, to which they replied under date the 6th of June that as soon as they could bring their merchants to give them an answer relating to the investment they would advise us thereof and forward the musters of raw silk for our inspection and requested we would furnish them with as large a sum as possible out of the first money we received, being apprehensive that they should find it almost impracticable to make any new contracts for goods there untill the merchants were paid off great part of what Your Honours were endebted to them.

45. The 16th June we sent them ten chests of Bombay Rupees and then wrote them that we should send them a further supply as soon as Your Honours' ships arrived.

46. Under date the 3rd July they acknowledged the receipt of the abovementioned treasure and at the same time forwarded the musters of raw silk which they wrote us they had brought their merchants to agree for at the following prices viz.,

Novemberbund at DMRs.[2]..... 7 per seer the A
Guzzerat..... 7—9
Comercolly..... 6—13

that they endeavoured to raise the musters of silk to a greater fineness as likewise to reduce the prices but the merchants refused to allow of any alterations in either, alledging there was but little of the Novemberbund crop of putney remaining (which made it much dearer in proportion than the Marchbund) and of that [if] they were to contract on a finer muster they should not at that time of the season be able to wind off silk equal to it, that they expected shortly a muster of white Rungpore silk when they should write to us concerning that article

47. At the same time they acquainted us that Your Honours having complained much of the badness of gurrahs lately sent you and directed them to procure them of a better fabrick they had prevailed on their merchants to contract for fifty five thousand (55000) pieces on the same muster they did in 1744 at seventy eight DMRs per corge which was two rupees above the last year's price for ready money gurrahs and near five less than what (as they were informed) the Dutch had agreed for this season and that unless this contract was supported by a supply of money there could be no dependance on the merchants performing the same fully and if we could supply them largely they could venture to assure us of being able to contract for an additional quantity.

48. On the 7th July we inspected the musters of raw silk and having found them, on comparing them with those of last year, greatly superior in the lower letters we directed them to provide of the following sortments, viz.,

240 bales of Comercolly
240 ditto of Novemberbund
60 ditto of Guzzerat

but if they apprehended that the merchants would be unable to deliver in to this amount, then to contract for no more than they were sure they could furnish to be down here in time for the latter shipping, using at the same time their utmost endeavours to lower the prices and in regard to their contract for gurrahs as they were obliged to advance the price thereof we expected they could make the merchants keep up to their musters in goods.

49. Under date the 1st instant they informed us that from the receipt of our before mentioned orders they tryed as much as possible to reduce the prices of raw silk but on finding their merchants determined not to consent thereto, unless they would allow of the lowering the musters to the fineness of last year, they contracted for no more than the following quantities.

| | maunds |
|---|---|
| Of Novemberbund | 356 |
| Comercolly | 355 |
| Guzzerat | 90 |

that they endeavoured to contract for a large quantity but several of their merchants pleading their inabilities to undertake any without an immediate advance of money p[ut] it out of their power to encrease the abovementioned quantity.

50. At the same time they inform[ed] us they had contracted for the doosutties ordered for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena and promised to inform us hereafter concerning their contracts for silk piece goods which they had brought their merchants to agree for on the old musters at last year's prices, but there were only few of the merch[ants] who seemed inclined to provide any till th[at] we were certain what money could be advanced them when Your Honours' ships arrived.

51. In the accompanying address we advised Your Honours of our orders to Ensign Bishop who had the charge of the goods coming from Dacca when the Tavistocke was under dispatch to transport them to her on a sloop we sent down for that purpose for to prevent delay. The ensign returned the 1st of March and acquainted us that he had punctually complied therewith excepting ten bales which he brought up with him, they having received damage by the bad weather which he met with in the woods, upon which we ordered the Export Warehousekeeper to open them in order to return what appeared damaged to be redressed.

52. The 10th following as the treasure designed for Dacca factory was then under dispatch, we took that opportunity of returning the above mentioned cloth to be washed over again as likewise to forward one bale of Jugdea humhums for chinting.

53. The President at that time having received an answer from Jugutseat to his offer of a laack of rupees wherein he left it to our option to pay this money either to his agent at Hughly or Dacca, and as Your Honours were indebited to the amount of near six laack of rupees to his house at that factory and apprehending that paying him a part of this laack there would be the means to prevent his demanding any of the mony then under dispatch for providing this year's investment, he came to a resolution to send sixty thousand (60,000) Arcot Rupees to be paid him there immediately on its arrival account Your Honours' debt to him and sent them directions to set about their investment with the remainder of the money then forwarded agreable to the list which we enclosed to them in our letter under date the 13th following.

54. We advised Your Honours in our address per Tavistock that we should take notice to the gentlemen at Dacca that the seerbetties were very much frayed and very badly ruffagurred as likewise that the flowered Cossajura dooreas were worked with very bad thread, to which they replied under date the 16th March that the seerbetties was a kind of cloth that is always frayed but their being more so the last season than usual was owing to the shortness of time which did not allow the nurdeas[3] to do their part of the business as well as formerly who not receiving any money for this sortment of goods till after the 14th of November when their business was cleared it was with difficulty they were got ready at any rate, and in regard to the Cossajura dooreas they acknowledged they were worked with coarse

thread and that all possible care should be taken to remedy this complaint in future though it would be very difficult, the cosseda work being given by the ruffagurs to women into whose houses it is impossible to obtain admittance to inspect the same.

55. The gentlemen at Dacca wrote us under date the 28th of May that the French had settled a numerous factory at that place and were making a large investment of cloth which they apprehended might occasion an advance in the price of goods. They at that time forwarded the list of puttun they had contracted for and earnestly requested us to send them a sufficient supply of money to pay for the remainder of the puttun and to provide ready money goods as well as to pay off part of Your Honours' debts at interest at that factory, which request we promised to comply with under date the 16th June whenever Your Honours' ships arrived.

56. The 2nd ultimo they wrote us that the delolls and picars murmured greatly at their having received but half the amount of the puttun cloth and that a speedy and ample supply would be the only means to hasten the coming in of their investment and under date the 16th following they enclosed us the invoice of goods dispatched from thence a few days before on Your Honours' account amounting to seventeen thousand, one hundred and forty three Current Rupees eight annaes (17143. 8.) which arrived safe the 1st instant.

57. The gentlemen at Jugdea under date the 2nd of March advised us that the delolls' reasons for not paying the annual ten thousand rupees (10,000) for the two foregoing years were that the smallness of Your Honours' investment during that time afforded them scarce sufficient to defray the usual exactions of the Durbar and the bare maintenance of their numerous families. We took notice of these reasons the 13th following when we directed them to use their best endeavours to procure that sum due from them for those years and to be particularly careful in receiving the ten thousand rupees (10,000) for the present year and at the same time we forwarded the list of goods to be provided there.

58. The 24th March we received from Jugdea eighty (80) bundles and two tucktaes of cloth on Your Honours' account and under date the 27th of that month they acknowledged the receipt of the list of investment and promised to use their best endeavours to procure the payment of the arrears due from the delolls

though they were of opinion that it would be to no purpose and that the only way in which they could answer for the payment of the ten thousand (10000) rupees for the present year would be by receiving supplies to make at least a moderate investment and that they were apprehensive of an entire stop to business in a very short time if we did not send them a supply or give them an order to receive one from Dacca, in reply to which on the 10th April we wrote them that we should send them money out of the first supply that came to hand and in the interim permitted them to take up money at 9 per % interest for their investment.

59. Under date the 24th April they wrote us it would be impossible from the poverty of the people to take up money at interest in such a place asthat at so small a premium as per %, that they had wrote to the gentlemen at Dacca on that head and represented to them the pernicious consequences to Your Honours' affairs of suffering the weavers to leave the aurungs for want of employment and giving the French an opportunity to deprive Your Honours of the flower of the markets, so they were in hopes of receiving a supply from thence but in a letter of the 20th May following they advised us that the gentlemen there wrote them they could not procure them any money and requested our permission to take up some at the same premium with the other subordinates, in which case they had some hopes of borrowing which if effected would relieve their factory from the hardship it frequently suffers of having the business stopt and enable them greatly to encrease and better Your Honours' investment.

60. At the same time they transmitted us the invoice of one hundred and ninety nine (199) bales and one tucktae of cloth with a small bundle of musters of such cloth as the French provide there, and advised that they had received of the delolls four thousand (4000) rupees of their old debt which considering the smallness of their investment and the loss they suffered by collecting the puttun money and stoppage of business was as much or more than they had reason to expect.

61. In reply to the foregoing under date the 16th June we wrote them that as Your Honours paid no more than 9 per % at your other subordinates they had our permission to take up money at interest (if they could) at that rate and again promised them a supply when Your Honours' ships arrived.

62. They wrote us again under date the 4th ultimo that they would use their utmost care to secure the payment of this year's ten thousand (10,000) rupees from the delolls but for the six thousand (6000) rupees, the arrears of the last year, further means except violent ones would be to no purpose and those by ruining the credit of the delolls would in all probability set matters in a worse state than they were at that time, that they said when they entered into the contract Mr. Bellamy assured them the supplies sent thither would be always equal to what he received himself and on this footing the contract was made, however they were of opinion from a much less supply than Mr. Bellamy received they should secure the fulfilling of the contract, that they were informed by the delolls that the fine cloth indented for by the gentlemen at Dacca could not be provided as furnishing cloth above five rupees is against their contract and the Durbar watches all opportunities to oppress them.

63. We transmitted to Mr. Kelsall at Bulramgurry Your Honours' list of goods to be provided there under date the 13th of April and directed him strictly to adhere thereto which he promised to observe in a letter of the 1st of April if ready money goods were to be procured.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and therein any transactions with the country Government.*

64. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar in a letter dated the 4th March advised us that the Nabob was encamped at Midnapore and a body of several thousand Morattoes had passed him and plundered the country as far as Rajamaul from whence they returned and were then within 12 or 15 coss of that place and under date the 9th following they wrote us that Mecrabib with twelve thousand Morattoes was within two coss of Muxadavad and had a skirmish with Meer Jaffer's forces in which they obliged them to retreat nearer the city, that the two armies were then encamped near each other and the Morattoes were daily sending out parties to burn and plunder all around them.

65. We wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar the 16th April to send us down from time to time a particular account of the situation of the countrey, the receipt of these orders were acknowledged by them the 24th following when they informed us the Morattoes had continued very near the city till within four days when Meer Jaffer marched out with about ten thousand men and had a skirmish with them near Montcurra in which several were killed, that the main body of the Morattoes

were then beyond Cutway and Meer Jaffer with his army very near them and the Nabob continued at Midnapore.

66. The 7th of May following they wrote us that Meer Jaffer was returned to the city with his army and several small parties of the Morattoes had been plundering on the island but their vacqueel informed them that the Nabob was arrived at Budwan and expected to be at Cutway in a day or two, that as the Morattoes was retired to a considerable distance and the season was so far advanced it was to be hoped they would not return this year and this news they confirmed to us the 15th following.

67. The President laid before us on the 28th May translates of two letters which he received, the one from the Phousdar demanding Mohammed Deloll and his effects to be sent to him at Hughley and the other from the vacqueel to the same purpose, which Your Honours will find entered after that day's Consultation together with the answer that was sent thereto, as likewise another letter from Huditally Cawn[4] repeating his demand which is entered after our Consultation of the 30th of July.

68. In this packet Your Honours will receive an account sales of cotton that was sold at publick outcry the 13th October 1749 amounting to fifty two thousand eight hundred and nine rupees eleven annaes and three pice (CRs. 52809 ″ 11 ″ 3).

*Fifthly, concerning fortifications, buildings and revenues.*

69. On the 14th May we agreed in Council to expose Your Honours' arrack farm to publick sale that day month as the time limited in the license will expire the 5th September next, of which publick notice being given the same sold to Mr. Richard Williams for nine thousand two hundred and twelve (9212″ . ″ .) rupees per annum.

70. The Zemindar on the 23rd July acquainting us that several of the drains about the town was stopped up and encroachments made in the high road by building hutts and shops over those drains, we ordered them to redress those grievances.

*Sixthly, concerning factors, writers, officers and their accounts.*

71. In the 12th paragraph of our accompanying address we acquainted Your Honours that we should scrutinize into Mr. James Blachford's conduct during his residence at Jugdea upon his arrival here; accordingly on the 5th March we called upon him to explain the entry in his account dated the 30th November of Duss Massa Rupees (18,153 ″ 9 ″ .) eighteen thousand one hundred and fifty three, nine annaes for cloth at the aurungs and

in the godowns, as likewise the entry of ten thousand DMRs. (10,000) mentioned therein to be remaining in his hands, as likewise to give the reasons for not bringing to account the annual ten thousand rupees (10,000) which the delolls by contract had agreed to pay Your Honours, to which by our permission he replyed in writing the 12th following and is entered after that day's Consultation when we sent for Mr. Thomas Bellamy and asked him if he remembered that the sum of twenty five thousand (25000) rupees was advanced the delolls in the year 1748 by his consent, to which he replied it was so long since he did not recollect it.

72. We then asked Mr. Blachford if he had any thing further to offer but he replying in the negative we ordered him to withdraw to take his answer under our consideration and came to the following result: to demand of him the ballance of the ten thousand (10,000) rupees not then received as likewise to give security for the ballance of the eighteen thousand, one hundred and fifty three rupees and nine annaes DMRs. (18153″ 9″ .) in the delolls' hands that Your Honours might be no sufferers thereby, having forbid large sums to be advanced on dadney, with which resolution Mr. Blachford complied by immediately paying the ballance of the ten thousand (10,000) rupees into Your Honours' cash and by giving in a satisfactory security bond the day following when we admitted him to his seat at this Board and his answer to the questions put to him stands referred to Your Honours as does his letter entered after our Consultation of the 22nd of March.

73. The gentlemen at Jugdea in a letter dated the 20th May transmitted us their account current made up to the 30th April wherein observing that the eighteen thousand one hundred and fifty three Duss Massa Rupees nine annaes (18153 ″ 9 ″ . ) was brought to Your Honours' credit we delivered up Mr. Blachford's security bond.

74. As there were only four in Council at Dacca on the 10th March we appointed Mr. John Cooke of Council there and Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs to succeed him as Sub Secretary.

75. Mr. Robert Orme on the 12th of March sent in a letter to the Board to request our permission to resign the post of Sub Accomptant on account of his indisposition and Mr. Peter Amyatt sent in a letter requesting he might be appointed to succeed him, both which requests are entered after that day's Consultation.

76. Mr. James Irwin likewise applied to us to succeed Mr. Orme as Sub Accomptant to whose capacity and integrity Mr. Fytche the Accomptant said he had no objection but as Mr. Amyatt had carried on the business of the office with great diligence and care during Mr. Orme's indisposition, without which the books of last year would not have been ballanced, and thinking it would be a great hardship to set him aside, he therefore desired Mr. Amyatt might be appointed which we agreed to.

77. The 19th March we ordered Mr. William Watts to receive the charge of the stores from Mr. Samuel Rooper and to deliver over the military stores to Mr. William Macket.

78. Mr. Thomas Feake took his seat at the Board the 9th April but finding his health would not permit him to attend the cottah he on the 1st August requested us by letter to appoint some other person to take charge of the export warehouse till such time as he recovered, when the President proposed Mr. Roger Drake but Mr. William Fytche for reasons given by him in Council that day requested the President to take the opinion of the Board whether he or Mr. Drake should be appointed, when it being the opinion of the majority that Mr. Fytche should take charge thereof from Mr. Feake and to deliver him the care of the general books he was accordingly appointed Export Warehouse-keeper.

79. On the 12th April Lieutenant Thomas Sewell departed this life of an inflamation in his liver and the President conferred a lieutenant's commission on Ensign Francis Hamilton.

80. Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell sent in a letter to the Board on the 30th April requesting our permission to resign Your Honours' service as his private affairs obliged him to return to Europe which we agreed to.

81. At the same time Mr. Williams Fullerton sent in a letter to the Board requesting to succeed Mr. Holwell in consequence of Your Honours' recommendation anno 1744, when the President proposed Mr. John Knox who always attended on him in his illness, but the majority of this Board not approving of this proposal on account of Your Honours' recommendation, the vacancy was not filled up till the 16th instant when the President, looking upon himself to have a right in choice and appointment of a doctor as well as the chief of subordinate factories, thought proper to order Mr. Knox Surgeon of this settlement in Mr. Holwell's room, of which he hopes for Your Honours' approbation as this gentleman has served Your Honours both here and

at Cossimbuzar ever since the Compton was burnt of which ship he was surgeon, whereupon Messrs. Fytche, Cruttenden, Watts and Burrow have entered some minutes as will appear to Your Honours by that day's Consultation and Mr. Burrow's letter on this affair is entered after our Consultation of that day for Your Honours' notice.

82. On the 27th April Ensign Edward Creed departed this life of a fever as did Ensign William Matthews on the 30th following when the President ordered an ensign's commission to be drawn out for Mr. Thomas Fenwick Junior.

83. Mrs. Millecent Sewell, relict of Lieutenant Thomas Sewell, petitioned us on the 28th May to allow her subsistance money when we agreed to give her twenty five rupees per month.

84. On the 24th June Mr. Samuel Rooper requested our permission to resign his post of Jemindar on account of his indisposition which we permitted him and ordered Mr. William Watts to receive the charge thereof and to deliver over the stores to Mr. Thomas Burrow.

85. On the 13th Instant Mr. Samuel Rooper requested our permission to resign Your Honours' service in order to return to England. He accordingly takes his passage on this ship and the usual ninety six rupees will be received here of his attorneys.

86. Mr. Rooper's laying down the service occasioned a vacancy at this Board but as Your Honours wrote us that Mr. Charles Manningham had taken his passage on one of the daily expected ships we agreed to wait his arrival to fill up the same.

87. The same day Mr. Thos. Feake requested our leave to go to Chittagong for the recovery of his health to which we gave our consent and appointed Mr. Amyatt Accomptant during his absence.

*Seventhly, touching accompts.*

88. The Accomptant on the 22nd of March laid before us the merchants' accounts ballanced to the 30th April last when we called in the merchants and directed them to sign the same but Luckicund and Raddabubseat having delivered in a greater quantity of gurrahs than they had contracted for and Bindabund and Gopenaut Seats of the same family and house having delivered in short of their contracts, the two former desired that the overplus might be transferred to the accounts of the latter, which we agreeing to, they with the other merchants signed their accounts.

89. On the 30th ultimo the Accomptant laid before us the general books of this Presidency brought up to the last of January page 339th.

90. We come now to advise Your Honours what sums we have granted bills of exchange for, payable ninety days after sight as usual and first of those at two shillings and three pence, the persons to whom they were granted having been sworn that the amount is on the following accounts.

On the 30th July of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on account of Hum. Bellamy Esqr. rupees nine thousand six hundred and eleven, eleven annaes and six pice C. Rs. (9611-11-6) payable to Humphrey Bellamy Esqr. or order at two shillings and three pence is...£St. 1081 " 6 " 4

On 6th instant of Samuel Rooper Esqr. on his own account fifty four thousand eight hundred and ninety eight rupees, eleven annaes and three pice (54898-11-3) payable to Saml. Godolphin Rooper Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 6178" 2" 1

On the 6 instant of Mr. Robert Orme on his own account two hundred and sixty six rupees, ten annaes and nine pice payable to Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell or order at two and three pence is £St. 30 " . "

On the 6th do. of the Revd. Mr. Gervas Bellamy on his own account five hundred and thirty three rupees, five annaes and three pice payable to Mr. Thomas Pomfret or order at two and three pence is £St. 60 " . "

On the 13th do. of Mr. Peter Amyatt on his own account two hundred and twenty two Current Rupees, three annaes, and six pice (222-3-6) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Dowsing or order at two and three pence £St. 25 " . "

On do of Mr. Peter Amyatt on his own account eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. Geo. Sherwood or order at two and three pence is £St. 100" ." .

On do of Mr. Jonathan Ranson on his own account thirty three thousand three hundred and thirty three Current Rupees, ten annaes and three pice (33,333. 10. 3) payable to Wm. Davis and Thos. Hill Esqrs. or order at 2s. 3d. £St. 3750" ." 8

On the 13th of August of Messrs. Robert Orme and Peter Amyatt on account of Saml. Rooper Esqr. eight hundred and eighty eight Current Rupees, fourteen annaes and three pice (888. 14. 3) payable to Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell or order at two shillings and three pence £St. 100" ." .

On 16th August of Mr. Richard Court account of Mr. Wm. Wogan three hundred and fifty five rupees, eight annaes and nine pice (355"8"9) payable to Mr. William Wogan or order at two and three pence is £St. 40" ." .

On do. of Capt. George Minchin on his own account Current Rupees three hundred and ninety four, fourteen annaes and six pice (394. 14. 6) payable to Messrs. Arthur Colly and John Barton or order at 2s. 3d. £St. 33 " 8 " 6

On do. of Capt. Thomas Fenwick on his own account five hundred and thirty three Current Rupees, five annaes and three pice (533. 5. 3) payable to Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 60" ." .

On do. of Mr. Robert Orme on his own account Current Rupees two thousand six hundred and sixty nine, ten annas

and nine pice (2669. 10. 9) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two shilings and three pence is £St. 300″ ′ ″

On do. of Mr. Wm. Fytche Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees one thousand sixty six, ten annaes and six pice (1066. 10. 6) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2s. 3d. £St. 120″ . ″ ″

On 16th August of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. account Wm. Percival Esqr. Current Rupees two thousand one hundred and eighty (2180″—″) payable to Richard Wiatt and James Whitechurch Esqrs. or order at two shilings and three pence is £St. 245″4″ ″

On do of Mr. Wm. Macket on his own account Current Rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annaes (444″7″ .) payable to Chs. Brown Esqr. or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 50″ . ″ ″

On do. of Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell on his own account Current Rupees three thousand two hundred and sixty nine, one annae and six pice (3269″ 1 ″6) payable to Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell or order at two and three pence is £St. 367″15″5

On do. of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees twenty two thousand two hundred and twenty two, three annaes and six pice (22,222″3″6) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at two and three pence is £St. 2500″ . ″ .

On do. of Wm Watts Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees one thousand (1000″ . ″ .) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two and three pence is £St. 112 . 10 ″

On 19th do. of Mr. Wm. Fullerton on his own account Current Rupees four hundred and fifty payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two and three pence is £St. 50"12"4

On 20th do. of Mr. James Irwin on his own account Current Rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annaes (444"7"—) payable to Mr. Peter Taylor or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 50" . "

On the 20th instant of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees seven thousand one hundred and eleven, one annae and nine pice (7,111"1"9) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at two and three pence is £St. 800" . "

91. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence each rupee is one hundred and forty two thousand seven hundred and eighty five Current Rupees, seven annaes and six pice (142,785"7"6) or sixteen thousand and sixty four pounds, nineteen shillings and four pence (£St. 16,064"19"4).

92. We have likewise granted the following bills at two shillings and one penny each rupee to the following persons on account as follows viz.,

On 6th instant of Mrs. Johanna Pritchard two hundred and eighteen Current Rupees (218" . " .) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order at two and one penny £St. 22"14"2

On do. of Mr. Robert Orme four thousand seven hundred and eighty eight rupees, thirteen annaes and six pice payable to Mr. Archibald Sterling or order at 2s. 1d. is £St. 498" 16"9

On 13th do. of Mr. George Gray twelve hundred Current Rupees (1200"-"-) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or their order at 2s. 1d. is £St. 125" . "

On 16th instant of Messrs Fytche, Burrow and Orme account the estate of John Saunders deceased five thousand two hundred and eighty six Current Rupees, twelve annas and three pice (5286″12″3) payable to John Horne and Edmd. Godfrey Esqrs. at two and one penny is £St. 550″14″1

On 16th do. of Mr. Joshua Bodley four hundred and eighty Current Rupees (480″-″-) payable to Mr. Henry Jacques or Mrs. Susanna Bodley or order at 2s. 1d. is £St. 50″ . ″ .-

On do. of W. Fytche Esqr. five hundred and four Current Rupees, ten annas and three pice (504″ 10 ″3) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two and one penny is £St. 52″11″4

On do. of Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. Current Rupees one thousand four hundred and three, six annaes (1403″6″ -) payable to Capt. John Blake or order at 2s. 1d. is £St. 146″ 3 ″ 8.

On do. of Mr. Robert Orme Current Rupees twelve thousand and seventy one, eight annaes (12071″8″-) payable to Peter and Joseph Godfrey Esqrs. or order @ 2s. 1d. is £St. 1257″ 8″ 11

On do. of Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme account the estate of Capt. Wm. Jobson deceased Current Rupees two hundred and ninety four and six annaes (294″ 6″-) payable to Messrs. John Pelly and John Woodbridge or order at two and one penny is £St. 30″13″3

On do. of Mr. Robert Orme Current Rupees twelve thousand nine hundred and twenty eight, eight annaes (12,928″8″-) payable to Peter and Joseph Godfrey Esqrs. at 2s. 1d. is £St. 1346″14″4

On 16th instant of Roger Drake Esqr. and Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell account

the estate of Edwd. Frederick Reade and Mary Renn Current Rupees fifteen thousand one hundred and twenty nine, seven annas and six pice (15,129″7″6) payable to Capt. Jordan Renn or order at 2s. 1d. is £St. 1575″19″8

On 20th instant of Mr. James Ross Current Rupees five hundred and ten and two annaes payable to Alexr. Hume Esqr. or order at 2s. 1d. is £St. 53″2″9.

On do. of Mrs. Alice Forster Current Rupees ten thousand nine hundred and forty five and six pice payable to Mr. Hitche Young or order at 2s. 1d. is £St. 1140″1″8.

93. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and one penny is sixty five thousand seven hundred and thirty nine rupees, ten annaes (65,739″10-) or six thousand eight hundred and fifty pounds and seven pence (£St. 6,850″-″7).

94. We have granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sums, one of which being accomplished the other two to become void and the persons have been duly sworn that the money is on the following accounts viz.,

On 6th instant of Mr. James Ross on account of Captain Nathaniel Cush for CRs. 6000″-″-.

On 9th do. of Mr. George Gray on account of Capt. Henry Broadley for CRs. 115″8″9

On 16th do. of Mr. James Irwin account Captain Francis Cheyne CRs. 3918″14″6.

On do. of Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme account the estate of John Jackson Esqr. deceased for CRs. 23600″-″-

On do. of Mr. Robert Orme account Capt. Thomas Stevens for CRs. 207″6″-

On do. of Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme account Capt. Matthew Court for CRs. 3899″12″

On do. of Mr. Robert Orme account Capt. William Earl Benson for CRs. 163″4″

On do. of Capt. Geo. Minchin account the estate of Major James Mosman deceased for CRs. 2153"13"6.

95. The whole amount of sums for which we have granted certificates is forty thousand and fifty eight Current Rupees, ten annas and nine pice (40,058-10-9) and the persons to whom they are granted were sworn that the amount is on account of the above mentioned.

*Supplement.*

96. We come now to advise Your Honours that on the 29th ultimo Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs, whom we ordered down to Culpee to wait the arrival of your ships, being returned delivered us Your Honours' packet per Lynn and informed us that she run aground the day before about noon at Fulta, when we immediately sent down our Master Attendant with the sloops that were then up at town and Lieutenant Broadfoot with twenty men to her assistance.

97. The next day we ordered Mr. John Sisson to repair on board the Lynn to make a strict search for all the private trade that belonged to the captain and his officers and as Capt. Egerton brought his ship up higher than Rogues River without our leave and contrary to our orders, we drew up a protest against him and the other owners for all damages that Your Honours might sustain thereby and directed Mr. Sisson to deliver it to the captain in presence of witnesses, but the day following that gentleman returned and informed us that missing of the captain on his way down he went to his lodgings in town and delivered him the protest in presence of Mr. Verelst, copy whereof Your Honours will receive enclosed.

98. It is with the utmost concern that we are to advise Your Honours that the 31st ultimo the Master Attendant by letter informed us that the Lynn was infallibly lost but there was hopes of saving some of Your Honours' goods out of her by the assistance of boats and lascars, for the sloops could not lay alongside her.

99. Capt. Egerton being then arrived we asked him in what condition he left the ship and how this accident happened when he told us it was owing to a mistake in the man at the lead and the ships not waring clear of the shore, that when he came away her head was under water and her hold full and that one of his mates had since he left her informed him that she parted about two o'clock in the afternoon of the foregoing day, that some of

Your Honours' bales were saved and he was of opinion many more might, by the assistance of boats and men with whom he was ready to return to give all the assistance in his power.

100. Upon this we sent down Mr. James Irwin to use his utmost endeavours to save all Your Honours' goods he possibly could and to send us all advices he found necessary on his arrival, as well as by the boats from time to time on which he returned the goods saved which we directed him to dispatch to us without loss of time, and in order to give him all the assistance in our power we sent under his direction all the divers with sixty lascars and what boats were deemed necessary on this occasion exclusive of ten which the President dispatched the night before immediately on receipt of the Master Attendant's letter.

101. We likewise ordered Capt. Thomas Fenwicke with an ensign and twenty men to reinforce the party before sent in order to prevent plunder and give all the assistance in their power.

102. William Craigs the pilot who had the charge of the Lynn being arrived, we called on him on the 4th instant to inform us how this accident happened. He told us that the wind being W S W he bore away to round the point at Fulta but the man at the lead mistaking about four fathom water and the ship not waring she ran ashore on the sand, that she floated the next day and was certain he could have got her clear had his orders been obeyed but confusion of the seamen was the occasion of their disobedience.

103. We then asked him how he came to bring her up higher than Culpee, to which he replied he had no orders to the contrary and produced to the Board those which he received from the Master Attendant, copy whereof is enclosed as likewise of our letter to the commanders of Your Honours' ships on their arrival in Ballasore Road.

104. Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 6th instant two letters that we received from Mr. Irwin advising of what goods were saved at that time and setting forth that the divers would not work any more without a gratuity of two hundred rupees on account of one of the people who was lost in the wreck, when we sent him immediate orders to pay that sum and give them all necessary encouragement.

105. Capt. Egerton being then returned from the wreck delivered in his reasons for bringing the Lynn up above Culpee which are likewise entered after that day's Consultation for

Your Honours' notice. He at the same time informed us that when he left the wreck she filled very fast with sand, and that he was of opinion that nothing further could be done till after the springs when he intended to return.

106. On the 9th instant we received another letter from Mr. Irwin wherein acquainting us that the wreck was sunk so deep in the sand that the river at low water was very near on a level with her main deck, we sent for our Master Attendant and asked him his opinion what could be done with her, to which he replied that nothing could be done at that time but thought there ought to be a boat with a few people left there to observe what further measures might be taken the next neeps, and the captain being of opinion that nothing further could be done, we agreed to recall Mr. Irwin as likewise the military excepting an ensign, sergeant, corporal and ten men and directed Mr. Irwin to leave Mr. Alexander Burrell there with a proper number of divers, lascars and boats to advise us from time to time of the situation of the wreck.

107. The Master Attendant on the 13th instant sent in his report of the wreck which Your Honours will find is entered after that day's Consultation, as likewise a letter which we received from Mr. Burrell dated the 11th advising that the wreck was sunk six or seven feet more than the preceeding day.

108. The 16th instant we received another letter from Mr. Burrell whereby finding no likelihood of saving any more goods from ye wreck, we agreed to recall Mr. Burrell with the ensign and divers and directed a sergeant and four men to remain there to prevent plunder till the freshes were over, when we assure Your Honours our best endeavours shall not be wanting to see if any more goods can be saved.

109. Having given Your Honours a full account of this unfortunate accident we come now to acknowledge the receipt of your orders of the 12th January 1749 and to reply thereto.

110. On the 29th ultimo we admitted Capt. John Holland to his seat at this Board and the day following his commission for a major was ordered to be drawn out in obedience to your orders, when the President thought proper to order a captain lieutenant's commission to be drawn out for Lieutenant Robert Saunderson on the recommendation of the Major who desires leave to return Your Honours thanks for this mark of your favour, as likewise to assure you that he will always endeavour to support the character which Your Honours have received of him and which we think he very justly merits.

111. Major Holland, on perusal of Your Honours' commands of the 27th January 1748 wherein you particularly mention the several appointments of your Council here, being of opinion that they answer the question started by Major Mosman the 3rd of March 1748/9 viz., whether he should sit at this Board as second or not during the absence of Mr. Eyles, the Chief of Cossimbuzar (at which time the Board was of opinion the Major should sit as third), but on Major Holland's request the President asked our several opinions hereon, which are entered at large in our Consultation of the 30th July for Your Honours' notice, when the majority being of opinion that he should take his seat as third till Your Honours clear up this point he took it accordingly.

112. Such paragraphs of your above mentioned orders as related to the several subordinates have been copied out and sent thither with the lists of goods to be provided at each factory to which we have enjoined your servants there to pay a due obedience.

113. Your Honours having directed us to provide twenty thousand (20,000) bags of saltpetre for the ensuing year and in case we could get it cheap thirty thousand (30,000) bags, as well to enable us to dispatch Your Honours' ships from hence as to assist your servants on the Choromandel and Malabar coasts to do the like, we directed our merchants to give in the proposals for contracting for that quantity and as the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids had last year indented for four thousand five hundred (4,500) bags of that article more than we sent them we gave publick notice to the owners of the country ships which were bound thither to give in their proposals for freighting the same as we had no tonnage of Your Honours to send to the Coast.

114. The 1st instant our merchants attended the Board when Omichund laid before us different musters of Preanea petre doubly refined as well as treble; for the former sortment he asked five rupees four annaes per maund, for the latter six rupees eight annas and promised to bring in a muster of Patna petre. We then asked the other merchants why they did not bring in musters to which they replied they had not any by them and we have deferred contracting with Omichund till we learn whether any can be purchased at Hughly or elsewhere.

115. The owners of the Dragon, the Louisa and Boneta ketch delivered in their proposals for freighting each one thousand (1,000) bags of saltpetre at two Arcot Rupees twelve annaes per bagg which we accepted of, as there [were] no other vessels

bound to the Coast that would carry it up and as we were informed that rice bore so high a price as to yield the owners an equal if not greater profit.

116. On the 1st instant the Warehousekeeper reported to the Board that the treasure per Lynn was landed and that there was a deficiency of forty five rupees, which being demanded of Capt. Egerton he paid twenty five rupees thereof into Your Honours' treasury, which he told us fell out of one of the chests as they were putting it into the long boat, and as the chests were extreamly bad he desired that the difference twenty rupees might be referred home to be settled by Your Honours and his owners which we agreed to.

117. We then took the disposal of this supply into consideration and agreed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| To advance our merchants | 208,000 |
| Omichund | 100,000 |
| To send to Dacca | 64,000 |
| To send to Cossimbuzar | 56,000 |
| To send to Jugdea | 40,000 |
| To pay Futtichund Your Honours' debt to him at Hughly being upwards of | 90,000 |

and to supply the cash with the balance.

118. Mr. Drake the Import Warehousekeeper informing us that all the bales which came up from the wreck were soaked through with water, we directed him to open them as likewise all others that appeared damaged, immediately on their arrival and dry the same. With this we acquainted Capt. Egerton on the 9th instant as likewise of our intentions to sell them at public outcry and transmit the account sales to Your Honours to adjust with his owners, to which he replied we might dispose of them as we thought proper, upon which we agreed to sell them on Monday the 3rd September, the Warehousekeeper judging he will be able to dry them by that time, whereof public notice has been given, and a particular account of the woolen goods etc. saved from the Lynn Your Honours will receive in this packet distinguishing those sortments damaged from what has not received any hurt.

119. Mr. Peter Amyatt is directed by us to translate all the phirmaunds and grants relating to Your Honours' rights and priviledges which will be forwarded agreable to your directions when translated and fairly copied.

120. Mr. Benjamin Robins whom Your Honours have been pleased to appoint Engineer General of all your settlements in India is not yet arrived; when he does we shall duely regard Your Honours' directions in the seperate letter of the 8th December 1749, as likewise to consider of and point out some method for reimbursing Your Honours part of the expence of the works intended to be thrown up.

121. In obedience to the 53rd paragraph of Your Honours' orders for appointing a capable person, in the room of our Secretary, Register of the Dusticks and esteeming Mr. George Pattle such, we appointed him and as our Secretary was hereby deprived of the most beneficial persiquite (*sic*) of his post which requires a constant attendance and great application and Mr. McGwire having always behaved in his office to our satisfaction, we augmented his gratuity from five hundred rupees per annum to one thousand and beg leave to recommend to Your Honours' consideration to grant the Secretary an allowance equivalent to the trouble of his post, as therein he cannot apply himself to his own private affairs without neglecting Your Honours' business.

122. We then directed our merchants when they were in want of dusticks to apply to the Board in writing and on a further explanation of Your Honours' orders about them, at their request we ordered a translate thereof to be delivered them, as likewise the Secretary to acquaint all Your Honours' covenanted servants with your orders on this head.

123. We have transmitted such paragraphs of Your Honours' orders to the Mayor's Court as related to them, as likewise copy of Mr. Browne's letter mentioned in the 65th paragraph of your abovementioned orders.

124. On the 6th instant our Export Warehousekeeper delivered in the list of goods ordered to be provided here, which being compared with the old list we found there were several new sortments of goods as likewise an overplus of goods ordered, wherewith we acquainted our merchants and asked them to provide the same, to which they replied that it was too late in the season but they would bring in a few pieces of each sortment of those ordered on new musters.

125. We then acquainted our merchants with Your Honours' orders for dispatching two of your ships with fine goods in time for them to arrive in England in the month of June and directed them to hasten their goods in with the utmost expedition, in compliance with which they promised to use their utmost endeavours.

126. We have directed our Secretary to endeavour to find out the person to whom the stitched counterpane which was sent home in the packet per Bombay Castle belonged in order to reprimand him as likewise to take all the care in his power to prevent the like practices in future.

127. Mr. William Fytche Export Warehousekeeper on the 13th acquainting the Board that a parcel of seerhand connaes was offered to be prized in the cottah for the Lapwing at so considerable a cheaper rate than those sent Your Honours last year that he recommended them to be accepted of, as Your Honours had particularly ordered us to send you the fine sortments of goods and it was likely we should fall short in the Lapwing's tonage as some of the goods to be prized, especially the dooreas, were extremely bad, we accordingly ordered them to be opened for our inspection and having prized them we send Your Honours three bales thereof on this ship as likewise a bale of the best superfine humhums containing thirty six pieces.

128. Capt. Laurence Withrington having discharged his bond to Your Honours for £St. 50, the same was delivered him up in Council the 16th instant and account current London has credit for the amount.

129. The President informed us on the 20th instant that Mr. Edward Eyles wrote him that Hookumbeg expected Bully Cotmah should appear at Muxadavad to answer to a complaint against him and as he was a wealthy man no small sum would satisfie the Nabob and as Mr. Eyles was of opinion that this affair might prove very troublesome and might occasion a stoppage to Your Honours' business, we sent for Bully Cotmah and acquainted him therewith and asked him how he proposed to clear up this affair and whether he intended to send up a vacqueel to Muxadavad, to which he replied that he could not send up a vacqueel and hoped that we would accommodate this affair, it being a trivial complaint.

130. On 19th instant Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs departed this life of a fever and Mr. John Negus who writes a good hand and is very industrious is appointed Sub Secretary in his room.

131. In the box of books Your Honours will receive a general return of the military here and at the subordinates mentioning all casualties that have happened since the 15th of January last to the 1st instant with an abstract of their pay annexed thereto, as likewise the separate rolls of each company containing the

men's age, size, religion, countrey, when entertained and time contracted for to serve Your Honours.

132. In obedience to the 17th paragraph of Your Honours' orders per Lapwing we herewith transmit a list of your covenanted servants from the Governour to the writer distinguishing the annual salary, allowance for diet, palankeen, servants etc., as likewise all allowances annexed by way of gratuity to each particular post.

133. Enclosed in this packet we transmit Your Honours our running cash and treasury accounts for this month as likewise the open account current of this Presidency drawn out agreable to your orders in the 21st paragraph of Your Honours' commands per Lapwing.

134. Since writing thus far we have granted Capt. William Egerton three certificates of one tenour and date for thirteen thousand one hundred and fourteen Current Rupees eight annaes (13,114"8"-) that amount being accounted for here by him. Capt. Egerton returns to Europe on this ship.

135. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize amounting as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to six hundred and fourteen thousand Current Rupees (614000), which goes consigned to Your Honours.

136. Mr. James Irwin who dispatches this ship will send Your Honours an account of her draught of water and what other advices he finds necessary from below.

137. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours, and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithful and most
obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Jno. Hollond/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/James Blachford/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow.

Fort William,
August 23rd, 1750.

P. S. Since closing the above we received a letter from Capt. Cheyne advising that the Storekeeper has not given credit in the ship's account for two anchors of 15 cwt. each which he left behind him, as likewise that she is charged for three anchors one

whereof he intends to return if he does not meet with loss of anchors in this river. He also advises therein that he will not be able to take all the bales sent him by nine or ten, upon which we called upon Mr. Burrow the Storekeeper who informs us that he has received those two anchors of 15 cwt. and given the ship credit for them in account and we have directed Mr. Irwin to give Capt. Cheyne a discharge for the other anchor in case he should return it, as likewise to endorse off his bills of lading what bales he cannot take on board.

Some of our merchants have delivered in a proposal for contracting for a certain quantity of woolen goods, copper and lead to be imported here for six years certain, copy whereof Your Honours will receive in this packet.

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Jno. Hollond/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/James Blachford/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow.

Fort William

August 24th 1750.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 16, 1749-51, pp. 92-144.)

(Paragraphs 59, 64, 116, 126 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records 1748-67*, pp. 23-24.

Paragraphs 70 and 120 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. I, pp. 229-30.)

## 15

## LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1750

*Safe arrival of ships—failure of supplies due to French competition and the Maratha inroads—supply of saltpetre to Fort St. George—bills of exchange drawn on the Company.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address to Your Honours under date the 23rd of August was forwarded by the Lapwing duplicate whereof is enclosed.

2. We have now the pleasure to acquaint Your Honours of the safe arrival of the following of your ships:

The Kent..... Capt. Robson on the 6th of October
The London.....Capt. Sedgwick on the 7th of do.
The Benjamin.... Capt. Meard on the same day and
The Norfolk..... Capt. Hancock on the 25th of November.

3. On the 17th of September the Walpole returned to this place from Bombay having lost her passage to Judda and the Severn, Capt Dorill, on the 24th of that month.

4. By advices from the Governour and Council at Bombay we are informed that they intend sending the Warren to this place with a cargoe of cotton and that they will return the Britannia to us with a like cargoe as soon as she arrived from Surat at which place she imported the 7th of September.

5. As the tonage when those ships arrive will be much more than we shall be able to fill up, our merchants having informed us they will fall greatly short of their contracts this season and be unable to deliver in, with the goods already prized, above three thousand (3000) bales but assured us they would not bring in less than two thousand five hundred (2,500), this deficiency in their contract is owing as they alledge to the Morattoes entering the province before we had it in our power to advance them any money and to the French who having received early supplies gave out money to their merchants which has been greatly detrimental to them at the aurungs where the goods are provided and as the gentlemen at Fort St. David advised us they will have about two thousand (2000) bales ready in January, we have come to the following resolution in stationing Your Honours' ships.

6. The Walpole directly from hence to Europe, and the Britannia in case of her arrival in time, the Severn and Norfolk to fill up at Fort St. Davids, the London we have let out on freight for Judda and have given publick notice of our intention to send the Kent to Surat by the middle of January with a gruff cargoe on Your Honours' account and that we shall not receive any freight after the expiration of that time and have advised

Mr. Wake and his Council at Bombay that we are apprehensive from the foregoing reasons we shall be necessitated to return the Warren to their Presidency, but if neither the Britannia or Warren arrive in time to be dispatched home to Your Honours, in that case we shall return the Benjamin, otherwise we propose dispatching her to Fort St. Davids with rice.

7. As we propose fully answering Your Honours' commands received this season under the established heads by the ships that will be dispatched directly from hence and therein transmitting Your Honours the necessary advices of your affairs under our management, we shall in this address only acquaint Your Honours with what relates to the ships Severn and Norfolk now under dispatch to fill up at Fort St. David.

8. Your Honours will receive herewith Capt. Dorill's bond for three thousand (3000) Bombay Rupees which sum was advanced him at that Presidency for the use and expences of the Severn, as likewise all other necessary papers relating to that ship agreable to the list of the packet.

9. On Capt. Dorrill's arrival here we demanded the amount of the short delivery of rice at Bombay as advised of by the President and Council there which he paid, being three hundred and fifty nine (359) Bombay Rupees.

10. The gentlemen at Fort St. David having indented for five thousand (5000) bags of saltpetre whereof three thousand only were sent by the August ships, we have laden on board the Severn two thousand (2000) bags to compleat their indent.

11. By the Norfolk the gentlemen at Madeira consigned to us one hundred and fifty (150) pipes of wine the report whereof with the account sales and account current Your Honours will receive in the packet by her with all other papers necessary to be transmitted by her.

12. We are now to advise Your Honours what sums we have granted bills of exchange for, payable ninety days after sight as usual and first of those at two shillings and three pence, the persons to whom they were granted having been sworn the amount is on the following accounts.

On 20th December of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow on account of the Hon'ble Wm. Wake Esqr. eighty eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight

rupees, fourteen annaes and three pice (88,888″14″3) payable to Joseph Godfrey Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 10,000″-″-

On 20th of December of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Mr. Nicholas Clerimbault two thousand rupees (2000) payable to Mr. Anthony Clerimbault or order at two and three pence is £St. 225″-″-

On the 20th do. of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow on their own account for coral nine thousand seven hundred and fifty one rupees, seven annas (9751 ″ 7 ″ —) payable to Christopher Burrow Esqr. and Joseph Solomons or order at two and three pence is £St. 1097 ″ - 8

On do. of Mr. Wm. Nixon account Mr. Matthew Collett one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven rupees, twelve annaes and six pice (1777 ″ 12 ″ 6) payable to Mr. John Collett or order at two and three pence is £St. 200 ″ ″

On do. of Mr. Wm. Nixon account Mr. John Jenks one thousand and seventy two rupees (1072 ″ ″) payable to Mr. David Jenks or order at two and three pence is £St. 120″ 12″-

On do. of Mr. Robert Orme in full returns of a chest of beads L. S. No. 20 seven thousand seven hundred and twenty nine rupees, four annaes (7729 ″ 4 ″ -) payable to Mr. Natab Levi Sonsino or order at two and three pence is £St. 869″-10″-10

On 24th of Decr. of Messrs. Orme and Amyatt account Samuel Rooper Esqr. seven thousand and eleven rupees, ten annaes and six pice

(7011 . 10 . 6) payable to Samuel Rooper Esq. or order at two and three pence is £St. 788 " 16 " 3

On do. of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior account Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes two hundred and sixty six rupees, ten annaes and nine pice (266 " 10 " 9) payable to Mr. Percival Bentley or order at two and three pence £St. 30 " "

On do. of Charles Manningham Esqr. account of Stringer Lawrence Esqr. nine thousand five hundred and ninety four rupees, one annae (9594 " 1 " -) payable to Mr. John Twyne or order at two and three pence is £St. 1079 " 6 " 7

On do. of Charles Manningham Esqr. on his own account eighteen thousand seven hundred and ninety three rupees, eight annaes (18,793 " 8 " -) payable to Richard Barwell Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 2114 " 5 " 4

On do. of Wm. Fytche Esqr. account Richard Prince Esqr. sixty four thousand seven hundred and thirty three rupees, five annaes (64,733 " 5 " -) payable to Richard Benyon Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 7282 " 9 " 11

On the 24th of Decr. of Mr. Wm. Macket on his own account four hundred and forty four rupees, seven annaes (444 " 7 " -) payable to Mr. Charles Brown or order at two and three pence is £St. 50 " "

On 27th do. of Mr. William Fullerton on his own account one thousand two hundred rupees (1200 " - ") payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two and three pence is £St. 135 " "

On 20th do. of Mr. Peter Amyatt on his own account three hundred and eighty five rupees, eleven annaes and six pice (385 " 11 " 6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 43 7 10

On do. of Mr. Peter Amyatt account Mr. John Brown three hundred and eighty five rupees, eleven annaes and six pice (385 " 11 " 6) payable to Wm. Barwell Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 43 7 10

On 27th do. of Mr. Robert Orme on his own account five thousand three hundred and forty seven rupees, three annaes and six pice (5347 " 3 " 6) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two and three pence is £St. 601 " 11 " 2

On do. of Major John Hollond on account of Mr. Joseph Fowke twenty two thousand eight hundred and fifty eight rupees, two annaes (22,858"2"-) payable to Mr. Edward Fowke or order at two and three pence is £St. 2571 " 10 " 9

On 27th Decr. of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. two thousand six hundred and sixty six rupees, ten annaes and six pice (2666 " 10 " 6) on his own account payable to Wm. Davis Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 300 " "

On do. of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on his own account eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes and three pice (888 " 14 " 3) payable to Mr. James Barton or order at two and three pence is £St. 100 " "

On 28th do. of Mr. James Barton account Mr. Thomas Lane two thousand three hundred and sixty rupees (2360 "-"-) payable to the Hon'ble Mrs. Howard or order at two and three pence is £St 265 10 "

On do. of Capt. Thomas Fenwick on his own account eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes and three pice (888" 14" 3) payable to Chs. Raymond Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 100 " "

On 20th Decr. of William Watts Esqr. on his own account seven hundred and seventy one rupees, seven annaes (771 " 7 " -) payable to William Barwell Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 86 15 8

13. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence is two hundred and forty nine thousand eight hundred and fifteen rupees, ten annaes and six pice (249815"10"6) or twenty eight thousand one hundred and four pounds, four shillings and ten pence (28,104"4 "10).

14. We have likewise granted the following bills at two shillings and one penny to the undermentioned persons:

On the 24th of December of Mrs. Ann Peirce four hundred and eighty rupees (480" ") payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two and one penny is £St. 50" - "-

On do. of Mr. William Nixon account the estate of Mr. Samuel Manship deceased three hundred and ten rupees, fifteen annaes (310 " 15 -) payable to Mr. John Manship or order at two and one penny is £St. 32 7 9

On do. of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior account Mr. Daniel Lascelles two thousand eight hundred and eighty

rupees (2880. - .) payable to Mr. Henry Lascelles or order at two and one penny is £St. 300 " "

On 21st of December of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior account Mr. Thomas Smith one thousand two hundred and fifty rupees, eight annaes (1250. 8. -) payable to Roger Drake Esqr. Senior or order at two and one penny is £St. 130 5 3.

On do. of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior one thousand five hundred rupees (1500. - .) payable to Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted or order at two and one penny is £St. 156 5 "

On do. of Mr. Hollond Goddard one thousand five hundred and thirty rupees, eight annaes and six pice (1530. 8. 6) payable to Mrs. Anne Barlow or order at two and one penny is £St. 159 8 8

On do. of Mr. Hollond Goddard three thousand nine hundred and sixty nine rupees, ten annaes (3969" 10" -) payable to Richard Benyon Esqr. or order at two and one penny is £St. 413 10 "

On do. of Chs. Manningham Esqr. twenty one thousand one hundred and twenty rupees (21,120-0-0) payable to Mr. Austin Goodwin of Bristol or order at two and one penny is £St. 2,200 " "

On do. of Mr. Thos. Holmes six hundred and seventy two rupees (672"-"-) payable to the Hon'ble Colonel Charles Russell or order at two and one penny is £St. 70 " "

On 24th of December of Capt. David Graham account the estate of Mr. Robert Abercromby three thousand four hundred and sixty rupees, eleven annaes (3460" 11" -) payable to Messrs. Henry Allen and James Barton or order at two and one penny is £St. 360 9 9

On 27th of do. of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. two thousand four hundred rupees (2400.—.) payable to Mr. Thoms Cooke or order at two and one penny is £St. 250 " "

On 28th do. of Mr. James Barton eight hundred and eighteen rupees, four annaes (818.4.-) payable to Mr. Henry Crabb Boulton or order at two and one penny is £St. 85 4 8

On 30th do. of Mr. Wm. McGwire account Mr. William McAdam five hundred and seventy six rupees (576.-.-) payable to Mr. Wm. Ferguson or order at two and one penny is £St. 60 " "

15. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and one penny is forty thousand nine hundred and sixty eight rupees, eight annaes and six pice (40,968"8"6) or four thousand two hundred and sixty seven pounds, eleven shillings and one penny (4,267" 11" 1).

16. We have granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sums, one whereof being accomplished the other two to become void and the persons were first sworn that the money is on the following accounts:

On 20th Decr. of Thomas Burrow Esqr. account the estate of Mr. George Lethieullier, third mate of the London, deceased CRs. 2036. 10. 6.

On 27th December of Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme account the estate of John Jackson Esqr., deceased CRs. 6105. 5. 9.

On 27th December of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account the estate of Mr. Charles Dennett, deceased CRs. 5513. 4. 6

On 30th December of Capt. Richard Dorrill account himself CRs. 45323. 3. 3.

17. The whole amount of certificates granted is fifty eight thousand nine hundred and seventy eight rupees and eight annaes (58,978" 8" -).

18. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize amounting as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to three hundred and seventy five thousand eight hundred and thirty five rupees (375,835"-"-) and the abstract thereof will be forwarded to Your Honours from Fort St. Davids.

19. We have likewise laden on board her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena as per copy of the invoice enclosed.

20. In this ship's packet we transmit Your Honours patterns of five hundred and twenty five pieces of plain taffaties laden on board her.

21. This being all the needfull we have to advise Your Honours by these ships to whom we wish a prosperous voyage and speedy arrival in England and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and obedient
humble servants.

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Jno. Hollond/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/, Chas. Manningham.

Fort William,

December 30th, 1750.

(Ref:—Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, 1749-51, Vol: 16, pp. 145-55).

## 16
## LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1750/51

*James Blachford to account for short delivery of the goods—enquiry into the conduct of Captain David Clayton—bills of exchange drawn on the Company.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Enclosed you will receive duplicate of our address under date the 30th of December per Severn which ship was dispatched

for the coast of Cormandell from Ingellie the 2nd instant at which time she drew 19 feet water on an even keel.

2. This waits on Your Honours per Norfolk, Captain Hancock, and serves to advise that there was a deficiency in the treasure he brought down from Fort St. Davids of fifty three Arcot Rupees which at his request is referred to the Governour and Council there to whom we have forwarded his bill of lading.

3. Mr. William Roberts, purser of the Lynn, who takes his passage to Europe on this ship requested us to deliver up the bills of lading of the ship Lynn which we refused complying with and now enclose the same to Your Honours together with the account of goods saved from that ship and account sales thereof.

4. The Storekeeper acquainting us that there was a short delivery of thirty deals and six euffirs by this ship which Capt. Hancock informed him were on board and that he would either deliver them to the gentleman who dispatches her or pay him the value thereof, being thirty eight Current Rupees twelve annaes and six pice (38. 12. 6), for this purpose we have delivered the bill of lading to Mr. Blachford to return the captain when this short delivery is accounted for by him.

5. Agreable to the military regulations transmitted us by Your Honours we held a Council the 26th ultimo on the proceedings of a court of enquiry into the conduct of Capt. David Clayton on the accusation of Lieutenant Hamilton and others for not making proper delivery of arrack, candles etc., to the detachment under his command from hence to Cossimbuzar the 11th of October last which Consultation and proceedings goes in this packet.

6. We are now to advise Your Honours of what sums we have granted bills of exchange for, payable ninety days after sight as usual and first of those at two shillings and three pence, the persons to whom they were granted having been sworn that the amount is on the following accounts:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| On 3rd January of Mr. Richard Court account Mr. Wm. Wogan five hundred and thirty three rupees, five annaes and three pice (533" 5 3) payable to Mr. Wm. Wogan or order at two and three pence is | £St. | 60 | " " |

On 7th do. of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior on his own account nine hundred and ninety rupees, twelve annaes and six pice (990.12.6) payable to Wm. Barwell Esqr. or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 111 " 9 "3

On do. of Mr. Richard Court account Mr. Dawsonne Drake four hundred and forty four rupees, seven annaes and three pice (444" 7" 3) payable to Mr. Samuel Court or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 50 " "

On 7th January of Mr. James Irwin on his own account three thousand five hundred and fifty five rupees, nine annaes (3555 " 9 "-) payable to Messrs. John Johnstone and Thomas Fatheringham or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 400 " "

On do. of Charles Manningham Esqr. on his own account one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven rupees, twelve annaes and six pice (1777 " 12 " 6) payable to Wm. Davis Esqr. or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 200 " "

On do. of Charles Manningham Esqr. account coral per Kent one thousand four hundred and forty six rupees, eight annaes and three pice (1446 " 8 " 3) payable to Richd. Barwell Esqr. or order at two shillings and three pence £St. 162 " 14 " 7

On 7th Jany. of Wm. Watts Esqr. on his own account one thousand rupees (1000) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 112 " 10 " -

On 10th do. of Messrs. Orme and Amyatt account of Samuel Rooper Esqr. twelve thousand and five hundred and

seventy nine rupees, ten annaes and six pice (12,579.10.6) payable to Messrs. Samuel and Godolphin Rooper or order at two and three pence is £St. 1415 " 4 " 3

On do. of Major John Hollond on his own account one thousand five hundred and thirty six rupees, ten annaes (1536 " 10 " -) payable to Mr. Edward Fowke or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 172 " 17 " 5

On do. of Wm. Ffytche Esqr. on his own account nine hundred and sixty four rupees, one annae and three pice payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 108 " 9 " 2

On do. of Mr. Charles Hampton on his own account one hundred and seventy three rupees, five annas and three pice (173 " 5 " 3) payable to Wm. Davis Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 19 " 10 " -

On 10th Jany. of Mr. Hollond Goddard account coral two thousand six hundred and ten rupees, two annaes and nine pice (2,610 " 2 " 9) payable to Mr. Joseph Salvadore or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 293 " 12 " 10

7. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence is twenty seven thousand six hundred and twelve rupees, four annaes and six pice (27,612 " 4 " 6) or three thousand one hundred and six pounds, seven shillings and six pence (3,106 " 7 " 6).

8. We have likewise granted the following bills at two shillings and one penny to the undermentioned persons:

On 10th Jany. of Mr. Robert Orme four thousand eight hundred rupees (4,800 " - " -) payable to Mrs. Margaret Adams or order at two shillings and one penny is £St. 500 " "

On do. of Mr. Robert Orme two thousand eight hundred and forty five rupees, eight annaes and nine pice (2845.8.9) payable to Messrs. Peter and Joseph Godfrey or order at two shillings and one penny is £St. 296 " 8 " 2

On 10th Jany. of Mr. Hollond Goddard three thousand three hundred and sixty rupees (3,360.-.-) payable to Mr. John Goddard or order at two shillings and one penny is £St. 350 " "

9. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and one penny is eleven thousand and five rupees, eight annaes and nine pice (11,005 " 8 "9) or one thousand one hundred and forty six pounds, eight shillings and two pence (1,146 " 8 " 2).

10. We have granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sums, one whereof being accomplished the other two to become void and the persons were first sworn that the money is on the following accounts:

On 10th Jany. of Messrs. Cruttenden and Wm. Roberts account Thomas Beckford Esqr. etc. owners of ship Lynn for CRs. 2898" 11 "9

On 10th ditto of Messrs. Cruttenden and Wm. Roberts account Capt. Wm. Egerton for CRs. 5512" -" 3

On 11th Jany. of Capt. Nathaniel Hancock on his own account for CRs. 23569 " 9 " 6

11. The whole amount of certificates granted is thirty one thousand nine hundred and eighty rupees, five annas and six pice (31,980 " 5 " 6).

12. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize amounting as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to four hundred and sixty three thousand rupees (463,000) and the abstract thereof will be forwarded to Your Honours from Fort St. David.

13. We likewise transmit Your Honours copy of invoice of sundry stores laden on board this ship for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena together with a separate bill of lading for ten tons of turmerick laden on board her at ½ freight to be shot loose in the hold.

14. We shall omit adding any further at present than to assure Your Honours of our constant fidelity and that wishing this ship a prosperous and speedy voyage we are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Wm. Ffytche/Jno. Hollond/Roger Drake Junior/E. H. Cruttenden/James Blachford/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/Chas. Manningham.

Fort William,
January 12th, 1750-51.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office. Letter to Court 1749/51, Vol: 16, pp. 156-162.)

## 17

## LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1750/1

*Shipping details—cases of pilots George Portman and William Craigs and their dismissal—measures adopted for checking private trade—liquidation of a part of the debt due to Jagat Seth—Maratha incursions the cause of inferior quality of silk goods provided.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. By your own ship Lapwing we addressed Your Honours under date the 23rd of August as per triplicate thereof enclosed, also triplicate of our address per Severn under date the 30th of December and duplicate of our advices per Norfolk bearing date the 12th ultimo.

2. We shall now proceed in the usual form and under the established heads to give Your Honours a further and distinct

account of your affairs under our direction and answer to your several commands received this year under date the 12th January and 22nd March 1749, and

*First, concerning shipping.*

3. Mr. Stanlake Batson reported to us that he dispatched the Severn from Ingellee on the 2nd ultimo at which time she drew 19 feet water on an even keel, as did Mr. James Blachford the dispatch of the Norfolk from thence the 20th do when her draught of water was 19 feet on an even keel.

4. As we dispatched these ships to Your Honours via, Fort St. David, we gave the commanders orders to call in at Fort St. George to take in what goods they might have in readiness there, advising Mr. Prince and his Council to detain them as short a time as possible.

5. On 27th August we transmitted the Governour and Council at Bombay Your Honours' orders to us for supplying them with saltpetre to enable them to dispatch home as many ships as possible and desired them to inform us what quantity they might have occasion for, to which we have not as yet received an answer.

6. Capt. Thomas Fea desired our permission on the 17th September to bring the Walpole up to town to take off her sheathing, which we complyed with and in this packet transmit Your Honours his request.

7. The 16th July our Master Attendant sent in his proposals for contracting for marine stores for the service of Your Honours' sloops, a copy whereof we delivered Mr. Thomas Burrow, Storekeeper, whose remarks thereon together with the Master Attendant's letter and the contract we entered into, Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 5th of September by which Your Honours will please to observe we took the best method we could think of to inform ourselves of the current prices of marine stores and that we used our utmost care and attention in lowering the Master Attendant's prices, which he assured us were the lowest he could provide them for, as there are many articles therein by which he is oftentimes a loser.

8. The Master Attendant sent in a report of Your Honours' sloop the Mermaid wherein he set forth the necessity of sheathing her as the worm had taken hold of her bottom, and in order to streng[t]hen her upper works he thought it necessary to have more hanging knees put into her, which we on the 17th Sept. ordered him to comply with.

9. The same day he delivered in his report of two of Your Honours' pilots George Portman and Wm. Craigs, wherein giving it as his opinion that the former could be of no service to Your Honours in the capacity of a pilot, we immediately ordered him to be dismissed and that the latter, being as he actually thought in fault in losing the Lynn, was thereby incapacitated from serving Your Honours any longer in that station. Yet as Capt. Egerton in his report of the loss of that ship did not blame Craigs, we referred this report to Captains Pinson, Goring, Louis and the head pilot whom we deemed competent judges thereof and directed them to give us their opinion as soon as possible after proper enquiry was made whether and how far they thought Craigs culpable.

10. On the 24th following they delivered in their opinion with the depositions of four seamen annexed thereto, whereby Craigs being acquitted of the charge against him, we directed the Master Attendant with Mr. Hutchinson and the other officers and seamen of the Lynn who were then in town to be summoned to attend us.

11. The 1st October the officers of the Lynn delivered us an address wherein they charged the evidences for Craigs with being guilty of wilful and direct perjury of which they were ready to make proof. We directed them to attend us the next day as a Bench of Justices and then bring their proofs, and Your Honours will receive herewith the several depositions taken before us with all the papers relating to the conduct of Craigs, but as Your Honours in your commands of the 14th October 1743 empower the Master Attendant to dismiss the pylots, masters and all other persons employed in your marine, if he found any of them negligent, incapable or unfaithful in their duty, giving into us his reasons for so doing, we called him before us and asked him if he esteemed this man as a person qualified for Your Honours' service. He told us he thought him unfit for the reasons given in his report. We therefore ordered Craigs to be dismissed accordingly.

12. The gentlemen at Fort Marlborough in a letter received from them the 23rd of September representing to us that they are often put to great inconvenience for want of a sufficient number of gunny bags to transport their pepper to the ships, and requesting good supplies by every conveyance, we have complied therewith by sending them this season six thousand bags.

13. The Governor and Council at Fort St. Davids wrote us under date the 7th September per ship London that they had ordered her to call in at Madrass for some red wood and had transmitted directions to the gentlemen there to detain her as short a time as possible, as she had some treasure on board to land at Vizagapatam, the want of which would put an entire stop to their investment.

14. Your Honours' servants who took their passage on the Kent and London on their arrival here being asked how they were treated by the commanders of those ships replied extreamly well.

15. Capt. Sedgwick of the London was called before us on the 11th of October for his reasons why he did not touch at Vizagapatam agreeable to his orders from the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids. He told us that he attempted it for three or four days but meeting with contrary winds and currents, and being informed by the master of the Success that he would certainly lose his passage to the Bay if he persisted in his attempts any longer, he thought it most for Your Honours' interest to proceed directly for this place as his ship was extreamly rich and he had but a triffling sum on board for that factory. Upon this we ordered the Hawke sloop to be immediately got ready and dispatched her the 15th of that month to Vizagapatam with the treasure designed thither as we apprehended Your Honours' investment would suffer greatly if not be entirely at a stand for want thereof.

16. Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 15th October the Master Attendant's report of the offices in the dock yard and Mr. Charles Hampton the Surveyor's estimate of the expences thereof entered after the Consultation of the 22nd following, the consideration of which is deferred till the arrival of Mr. Benjamin Robbins.

17. The Warehousekeeper on the 22nd of October delivered in his report of the treasure imported here by Your Honours'

ships the Kent, London and Benjamin as likewise per Don Carlos, one of our countrey ships, whereby there appeared the following deficiency:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Per Kent | 41 | Arcot rupees |
| London | 63 | |
| Benjamin | 82 | |
| Don Carlos | 20 | |

which being demanded of Captains Robson, Sedgwick and Meard, they seperately informed us that when they received the treasure on board at Fort St. Davids the chests were extreamly bad, most of them being broke and the rupees tumbling out, which necessitated them to open some of them to make new bags and get the chests repaired, but at last consenting to make good the deficiency we delivered them up their bills of lading. But on demanding the deficiency of twenty Rs. per Don Carlos from David Robertson, the master, he refused making good the same, alledging he received no freight, of which we advised the gentlemen at Fort St. David and debited their Presidency for the amount.

18. The freighters of the Walpole on the 22nd October made good the freight of that ship being twenty four thousand (24000"-"-) Current Rupees by transfer and at the same time Mr. Thos. Holme, who was one of them, by letter requested us to furnish him with one of Your Honours' ships to proceed with the Walpole's cargoe then laying at Bombay to Judda, which letter is entered after our Consultation of that day upon which and in consideration of the great loss the freighters sustained by the Walpole loosing her passage and our being obliged to send her home, we offered him the London for twenty thousand (20,000) rupees which he accepted of and the contracts have been accordingly drawn out.

19. Captain Fea on the 25th of October acquainted us by letter that the Walpole was in want of dead weight in her bottom and requested us to lade on board her charterparty redwood which we complied with and herewith transmit Your Honours his letter.

20. We ordered the river to be surveyed a second time this year as usual, which Your Honours will perceive by the Master Attendant's report entered after our Consultation of the 26th of November.

21. The Export Warehousekeeper reported to the Board that he had weighed off the redwood per Don Carlos and that there was a deficiency of fifty six maunds, twenty three seers (56"-23"-) payment of which we demanded of the master but he refused to comply, alledging he had received no freight nor did he see it weighed off.

22. The Master Attendant on the 26th of November reporting to us that the worm had taken hold of the bottom of the Grampus sloop in many places on which account he proposed her being sheathed, which we ordered him to see done and to be as frugal as possible in the expence.

23. The gentlemen at Fort St. George in their letter to us of the 11th September per London having desired us to settle with Capt. Sedgwick for the passage money of twelve deserters whom they sent on her to enlist here and Capt. Sedgwick demanding twelve pence per diem for each man for thirty two days amounting to one hundred and fifty four (154) Madras Rupees, we paid the same out of Your Honours' cash.

24. On the 29th of November as the freshes were then over and the weather fair and moderate, we ordered Capt. Fea, Mr. Irwin and the Master Attendant with twelve divers to their assistance to examine the wreck of the Lynn and report her condition to us in writing incerting therein their opinion whether anything further could be saved from thence. Their report Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 10th Decr. from whence there appearing no probability of getting any of the Hon'ble Company's goods out of her, we ordered the sergeant and four men whom we sent thither to prevent plunder to be withdrawn.

25. The Storekeeper on the 3rd of Decr. reported that there was a short delivery of the following stores per London:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sea coal | 26 | bushells |
| Deals | 30 | pieces |
| Euffirs | 5 | do |
| Pitch | 4 | barells |
| Tarr | 1 | do |

to make good which we called upon Captain Sedgwick who acquainted us that he did not receive the deals and euffirs on board and proved it by his exceptions in his bill of lading but agreeing to pay for the deficiency of sea coal, pitch and tarr, his bill of lading was then delivered him.

26. The Storekeeper having informed us that he has accounted with Capt. Robson for the short delivery of stores per Kent as specified in the foregoing report, we delivered the captain his bill of lading endorsed.

27. The Lancaster, one of our countrey ships, imported here the 18th Decr. and brought us two hundred and forty candies and one hundred and sixty four pounds of redwood from Fort St. George, the freight for which at the desire of the gentlemen there we paid the owners.

28. At the same time we received a letter from Commodore Lisle under date the 30th Septr. requesting us to dispose of some pease which he empowered Mr. Holland Goddard to procure for the use of the squadron under his command and that the Victualling Board would answer any deficiency that might arise thereon, on which we ordered the Buxy to receive the pease from Mr. Goddard and pay him this demand, being nine hundred and seventy three rupees, eight annas, and sell them at outcry. The account sales thereof with Mr. Goddard's receipt and Mr. Lisle's letter Your Honours will receive in this packet.

29. On 24th Decr. Capt. Robson sent in a letter to the Board advising that the Kent's demorage commenced from the 1st ultimo.

30. The same day we ordered our Secretary to repair on board the Walpole and confirm Mr. Thos Fea in the command thereof, having no objection to the character and behaviour of that gentleman.

31. Having received offers of about sixty maunds of turmerick at three rupees, fourteen annaes per maund which we judged to be good and as there was no more in the place, we agreed to purchase it and have laden ten tons thereof on this ship at half freight to be shot loose in the hold for which Your Honours will receive a seperate bill of lading.

32. On 3rd January imagining that the Britannia when she arrived might be in want of provisions and that the season might be too far advanced to provide them in time for her departure, we sent for the Cooper and directed him to salt up twenty five casks of pork at the same price as the commander of the Walpole allowed him.

33. The Lisle, one of our countrey ships, imported here the 7th instant in company with Your Honours' sloop the Hawk from Visagapatam and brought us a supply of twenty chests of Arcot Rupees shipped on board her by the Governor and Council at Fort St. Davids, as did the Success, another countrey ship, the 17th following with the like supply, both which turned out agreable to invoice.

34. Capt. George Meard on the 7th July advised us that the demorage of the Benjamin commenced the 4th of that month.

35. The 17th Your Honours' ship the Kent was dispatched from hence for Surat with a gruff cargoe to the amount of CRs. 14,231.12.9 exclusive of freight and on her we consigned 1875 bags of saltpetre for making gunpowder to the gentlemen at Bombay, which we desired the gentlemen at Surat to forward thither and to return the Kent to us with a cargoe of the best broached cotton procurable, taking particular care to provide it as free from seeds as possible.

36. By a pattamar overland from Bombay which arrived the 20th ultimo we received advices from the Governor and Council there that they had dispatched the Warren to us on the 22nd Sept. with a lading of cotton and fifty chests of foreign silver amounting with charges thereon to four hundred and fifteen thousand seven hundred and sixty rupees, eighty four reas (415,760"-"84), but her crew proving mutinous after the captain received his sailing orders, she remained there three days and as they then daily expected the Britannia from Surat, they thought it most adviseable and for the greater security of Your Honours' effects on board to detain her to proceed in company with the Britannia as the season was advanced and Angria might be expected to be out. They accordingly dispatched them together the 8th October and have laden six hundred (600) bales and fifty chests of bullion on the Britannia, and as they had an opportunity of coining one hundred thousand (100,000) rupees after the detention of the Warren, they have divided the same on those two ships.

37. In the 10th paragraph of our address per Prince William under date the 13th Jany 1749/50 we acquainted Your Honours that we had delivered Capt. Lowe a protest for not having his ship in readiness to sail on our communicating to him Your Honours' orders per Severn, copy of which protest is herewith sent.

38. We come now to advise Your Honours of the several sums we have received this season from Bombay and the Cormandell coast which are as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Per Danbury | 20 chests | Bombay | Rs. 199,999 "-" |
| Per Walpole | 20 do | ,, | 200,000 "-" |
| Per Warren | 5 do | ,, | 50,000 "-" |
| | | B. | Rs. 449,999 "-" |
| Per Lynn | 78 chests | Arcot Rupees | 623,980 "-" |
| Per Severn | 28 do | do | 224,000 "-" |
| Per Don Carlos | 20 do | do | 159,980 "-" |
| Per Kent | 40 do | do | 319,959 "-" |
| Per Benjamin | 35 do | do | 279,918 "-" |
| Per London | 66 do | do | 529,902 "-" |
| Per Norfolk | 78 do | do | 623,947 "-" |
| Per Success | 20 do | do | 120,000 "-" |
| Per Lisle | 20 do | do | 120,000 "-" |

also 66 chests of bullion per London and 50 do per Warren

39. On the 29th of January 1749/50 we advanced Capt. Benjamin Lowe for the use and expence of the Walpole three thousand (3000) Current Rupees on charterparty terms and one of the bonds which he executed for that sum, with his request, is enclosed.

40. In obedience to Your Honours' orders about advancing the commanders of your ships large sums, we called Capt. Fea before us on his requesting fifteen thousand (15,000"-"-) Current Rupees for the Walpole's expences but he assured us he was at a great charge for victualling, purchasing of stores and carpenter's work and that a less sum would not serve his purposes. We therefore complied with his request which, with one of the bonds he entered into for that amount, Your Honours will receive herewith.

41. Your Honours' ships as they arrived were strictly searched for private trade by one of your covenanted servants and the reports of what goods were found on board with the marks and persons' names to whom they belonged are forwarded in each ship's respective packet.

42. Before we proceeded to lade any goods on board your ships for Europe they were duely surveyed by our Master Attendant whose reports, with the captains' requests, Your Honours will receive by each ship.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe.*

43. In our address of the 23rd August we gave Your Honours an account of the several particulars under this branch of our duty which then occurred to our notice and shall now proceed to relate our transactions therein since that time and to reply to your commands on the same.

44. The 3rd September being the day appointed for the sale of the damaged woolen goods saved from the wreck of the Lynn, we agreed to put them up at two months' trust and to allow the buyer three per cent discount if cleared out within one month after the sale, as we apprehended those goods would receive more damage by laying in the warehouse though we took all the precaution we could think of to get them well dried, and the account sales thereof as likewise of the damaged stores by that ship Your Honours will receive enclosed.

45. The Storekeeper laid before us an account of Your Honours' damaged and worn out stores the 3rd Sept. which being surveyed by the whole Board were sold at publick outcry the 12th following as per account thereof herewith transmitted Your Honours.

46. On the Don Carlos which imported here the 4th Octr. we received a part of the Augusta's broad cloth which the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids wrote us was more than the London could take on board, which we agreed to sell at publick outcry the 1st of November, and on the 8th October we agreed to sell the woolen goods, lead and copper imported by the London, Kent and Benjamin at outcry on the 5th November and to continue the sale till the whole was compleated, and publick notice hereof was affixed at our fort gates as usual.

47. On the 1st of November we met in Council in order to agree upon what prices we should put the woolen goods per Don Carlos up at and then came to the following resolution:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To put up the Aurora | . . . . | @ | 65 | Rs. | per | piece |
| Broad cloth Popinjay | . . . . | @ | 45 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. do. Red. | . . . . | @ | 45 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Perpets fine Scarlet | . . . . | @ | 27 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. ordinary French Yellow | . . . | @ | 18 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. do. Red | . . . | @ | 16 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. do. Popinjay | . . . | @ | 17 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. do. Yellow | . . | @ | 17 | ,, | ,, | ,, |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perpets | ordinary | Emerald Green | @ | 17 | Rs. | per piece. |
| Do. | do. | Crimson | @ | 18 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. | do. | Orange | @ | 17 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. | do. | Rose Colour | @ | 18 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. | do. | Flesh Colour | @ | 18 | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Do. | do. | White | @ | 18 | ,, | ,, | ,, |

48. The 5th following being the day appointed for the sale of Your Honours' woolen goods per London, Kent and Benjamin, we agreed to put them up at the abovementioned prices excepting the following sortments of perpets for which no bidders offered, which were put up at 18 rupees viz.,

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perpets ordinary | French Yellow | @ | 15 | Rs. | per piece. |
| Do. | do. | Rose Colour | @ | 16 | ,, | do. |

and to put up the lead at 5 rupees per maund, the copper for battery at 40 rupees per maund and the copper for brass at 42, the account sales whereof Your Honours will receive in this packet.

49. The Import Warehousekeeper on the 8th of November delivered the reports survey of the woolen goods received per ships Kent, London and Don Carlos which are entered after that day's Consultation.

50. Capt. Sedgwick, being called upon to pay for the damaged cloth with the 30 per cent advance, agreed to pay for the broad cloth he brought out of England, being one thousand nine hundred and twenty rupees, one annæ and three pice (1920.1.3) but refused paying for the damaged woolen goods he brought from Fort St. Davids, being one thousand one hundred and eighty seven rupees, four annæs and six pice (1187-4-6), alledging that the damage did not happen on board his ship, for when he delivered the bales they were quite dry, and Messrs. Drake and Cruttenden informing us that the damage appeared to them of an old standing, we agreed to sell them at publick outcry that day month and to refer the same to be settled with Your Honours and his owners.

51. Capt. Robson, commander of the Kent, and Capt. Robertson, commander of the Don Carlos, agreeing to pay for the damaged woolen goods by their ships, we ordered the Warehousekeeper to deliver up their bills of lading when they had complied therewith.

52. The Import Warehousekeeper reported to the Board that there was a short delivery of the copper per London of four maunds, twelve seer and eight chetack (4-12-8), which the captain has paid for.

53. Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 8th Decr. a petition of the writers in Your Honours' service for an allowance of a certain quantity of Madeira wine at 25 per cent on invoice, when we agreed to allow them a pipe between three at that rate, as also the same allowance to the officers on the request of Major Hollond, which esteeming reasonable we hope Your Honours will approve thereof.

54. The Import Warehousekeeper on the 10th December delivered in the account sales of damaged woolen goods received from Fort St. Davids per ship London, the amount whereof Your Honours will observe exceeds your demand on the owners of that ship.

55. The Warehousekeeper on the 18th of that month acquainting us that, not knowing of the Minute made in Council for allowing the military officers Madeira wine at 25 per cent on invoice, he sold one hundred and eight pipes at outcry, upon which we ordered him to purchase seven pipes, if procurable, at the medium price, which he accordingly did and Your Honours will receive herewith the account sales and account current with the Cooper's report thereof.

56. The 3rd Jany the Warehousekeeper delivered in the account sales of Your Honours' lead at outcry which is forwarded in this packet.

57. On the 21st following he delivered in the account remains of goods imported with the last year's indent and price current of Europe commodities in Bengal in order to form an indent thereby for the ensueing season, and we are to assure Your Honours that no care and pains has been wanting to form it in such a manner as best suits the consumption of the country and the advantage which may accrue to Your Honours thereby.

58. The same day the account remains and issue of stores were laid before us with the price current and all other papers necessary for framing an indent, to which having given due attention we concluded the same in Council the 30th ultimo and Your Honours will receive them herewith.

*Thirdly, concerning investments of goods proper for Europe.*

59. We are next in order to acquaint Your Honours with our proceedings on this material branch of your affairs, the investment, since the dispatch of your own ship the Lapwing.

60. On 20th September we entered into contract with Omichund for seven thousand maunds of dobarra petre at five Arcot Rupees, six annæs per maund and then advanced him twenty thousand Bombay Rupees (20,000-0-0) on this contract. At the same time we purchased three thousand four hundred (3400) maunds of treble refined saltpetre at six rupees, eight annæs per maund for ready money, the musters whereof were laid before us by the Export Warehousekeeper.

61. The merchants delivered into Council a letter about Your Honours' orders concerning the dusticks which is entered after our Consultation of the 17th September. We have rejected the same excepting that part relating to the signing of them in Council which, as they are daily wanted, we agreed that the President should sign them as usual, and ordered the Register to lay them before us every Monday morning.

62. On the arrival of the money per Your Honours' ships we agreed to advance the merchants nine hundred and thirty five thousand nine hundred and fifty rupees, six annæs (935,950-6-0) at which time they delivered in a letter to the Board as entered after our Consultation of the 11th of October, upon which we sent for them and told them that as we had complied with our part of their contracts we expected they would strictly comply with their part, and as we were of opinion that the paragraph of their letter relating to the dusticks indicated that they wanted to trade as licentiously as they pleased, whereby they would be enabled to engage largely in private trade and thereby rendered less capable of complying with their contracts with Your Honours, and having received information that some blacks residing in this town were dealing with the French for goods proper for the Europe market, we told them, if we found any proofs against any residing under Your Honours' protection, that such should suffer our utmost displeasure. On the other hand that any indulgence for facilitating Your Honours' business has and shall always be allowed them.

63. On the 15th of that month we asked our merchants what number of bales they would have ready by the 10th December,

to which they replied that they had wrote to their gomastahs at the aurangs and expected an answer in a few days when they would inform us.

64. Ramkissenseat on the 16th of October brought in a muster of four thousand (4000) maunds of saltpetre to be delivered in a month, which we agreed to purchase at five Arcot Rupees, eight annas (5-8) per maund.

65. On the 8th of Novr. we contracted with Radabullubseat for six thousand (6000) maunds of Patna saltpetre on the same muster and price, to be delivered in twenty days, and allowed interest from the time it was weighed off and paid for out of the first money that arrived.

66. We likewise entered into contract with Ramkissenseat for six thousand (6000) maunds of Patna saltpetre the 3rd of December at six Current Rupees, four annæs per maund to be delivered in fifteen days and paid for when weighed off, and at the same time accepted of Bridjoo's[1] offer of about five hundred maunds of Preanea petre at six Current Rupees per maund which we judged to be very good.

67. Omichund on the 17th ultimo requested us to advance him two hundred thousand Arcot Rupees (200,000-0-0) in part of the 50 per cent agreable to his contract with us, of which we then advanced him one laack.

68. Our merchants brought into the cottah a greater quantity of Ballasore mulmulls and superfine Santipore mulmulls than they had contracted for, which we agreed to accept of, as we found we should not have so many fine Dacca goods as we expected.

69. In our address of the 23rd of August we acquainted Your Honours how far your servants at Cossimbuzar had proceeded at that time in the investment and that there were only few of their merchants who seemed inclined to provide any silk piece goods till they were ascertained of what money would be advanced them on the arrival of Your Honours' ships.

70. On the 4th August we forwarded seven chests of Arcot Rupees thither out of the money that arrived on the Lynn and under date the 9th following sent them the invoice thereof with Your Honours' list of goods to be provided there, with which we directed them to comply as near as possible; at the same

time we promised a further supply out of the first money that arrived and in the mean time to endeavour to borrow money of Futtichand, as we had paid off Your Honours' debt to him at Hughley.

71. Mr. Eyles and his Council the 22nd following advised us that, notwithstanding they had used their utmost endeavours to contract for a larger quantity of silk, they have been unable to prevail on their merchants to undertake any more and that they had not the least hopes thereof left untill we could send them a further supply, the abovementioned sum being chiefly advanced on account of their gurrah contracts and to the discharging of part of their last year's ballance for silk piecegoods without which they were not inclined to contract for any this season, that they brought them at last to agree for the following quantities at the undermentioned prices viz.,

| | Pieces | DMRs |
|---|---|---|
| Taffaties | 3025 | @ 9 ″ – ″ – per piece |
| Do. red | 625 | @ 9 ″ 6 ″ – ,, ,, |
| Do. striped | 975 | @ 9 ″ 4 ″ – ,, ,, |
| Silk lungee romals | 1425 | @ 8 ″ 1 ″ 6 ,, ,, |
| New romals | 2050 | @ 7 ″ 14 ″ – ,, ,, |
| Bundannoes | 9525 | @ 4 ″ 2 ″ – ,, ,, |
| Do. fine | 3800 | @ 4 ″ 11 ″ – ,, ,, |
| Choppa sarries | 5250 | @ 4 ″ 12 ″ – ,, ,, |
| Chanderbannies | 500 | @ 3 ″ 8 ″ – ,, ,, |

that the weavers who used to work the jammawars were gone from thence on which account their merchants would not contract for them.

72. At the same time they informed us that they had used their utmost endeavours to borrow money of the Seats but to no purpose and it was with the utmost difficulty that they could obtain their consent to apply any part of what was lately sent to their investments.

73. The 8th October the President wrote a letter to Jugutseat tendering him forty chests of bullion in part of Your Honours' debt due to him at your subordinates of Cossimbuzar and Dacca, which we enclosed to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to deliver him and directed them, in case he accepted of this offer, to endeavour to raise the price of bullion, to which they replied the 17th following that they had met with much difficulty to satisfie him in regard to this offer, as he alledged the amount

thereof would not be half what was owing to him at Dacca and that factory, but at last they brought him to accept thereof at the Cossimbuzar prices, deducting half per cent in consideration of the risque and charges up, and desired us to deliver the same to his gomastah here and transmit them his receipt for the same, which we accordingly complied with.

74. Under date the 15th of October we forwarded to Cossimbuzar twenty chests of bullion and twenty five chests of Arcot Rupees for their investment and directed them to inform us as soon as was possible what quantity of goods they could provide to be down here by the 10th December.

75. Under date the 30th October the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar acknowledged the receipt of the abovementioned treasure and advised us that their merchants gave them hopes of delivering in the [ ] of December, provided no disturbances intervened.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Raw silk . . . . | 25 | bales |
| Do. white Rungpore . . | 15 | do. |
| Gurrahs . . . . | 200 | do. |
| Silk piece goods . . . | 25 | chests. |
| | 265 | bales and chests |

and finding some parcells of the Novemberbund much inferiour to the musters they forwarded the samples thereof to us and desired our orders about it, for on demanding their merchants' reasons for the backwardness of the investment and badness of the silk they told them that, having received little or no dadney, they were unable to procure credit to compleat their contracts but would endeavour to perform the same by the 10th February, that the badness of the silk they attributed to its being wound off in the rains and from the putney of the last season but promised in case we would take the two bales on reasonable terms they would endeavour to deliver in the remainder of their contracts agreable to the muster, whereupon we inspected the musters of raw silk, which having found greatly inferiour to the muster, we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and permitted them to take those bales, taking particular care to cut the merchants proportionably in their prices.

76. On 21st December we received from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar eighty five bales of raw silk, twenty six chests of silk piecegoods and one hundred and sixty one bales of gurrahs and doosutties to the amount of one hundred and sixty seven

thousand six hundred and nineteen rupees, twelve annæs, nine pice (167,619-12-9), who expressed their concern to find that on prizing those goods the merchants had performed their contracts so ill with respect to their quality and would have cut their merchants much more than they really did, but as it raised great clamours amongst them and apprehending it would have occasioned great impediments in carrying on their investment, they thought it most for Your Honours' interest to shew them as much favour as the circumstances of the case would well admit of, and gave us for reason why their investment was not equal to those of former years that it was owing to ye frequent troubles in ye countrey which happened at the proper season for making their contracts, the violent oppressions of the government to raise money and to their being unable to advance their merchants money to carry on the business after they had contracted, which, with the circumstances they have for a long time lain under, will ever produce bad investments.

77. On the 17th ultimo we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to send us down what goods they had ready with the utmost expedition, as we were in want of goods for the dispatch of this ship to Your Honours, to which they replied on the 24th, that it was not in their power to send us any more goods before the 10th or 12th of this month, when by the assurances of their merchants they are in hopes to dispatch to us as follows.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Raw silk . . . . . | 100 | bales |
| Gurrahs . . . . . | 100 | do. |
| Silk piece goods . . . . . | 25 | chests |
| | 225 | bales and chests |

and advised us that their merchants were unable to deliver in their last parcells of raw silk till a few days before, which would take up some time to sort, that they were obliged by reason of the near approach of the Morattoes to the gurrah aurungs to order their gomastahs to send away a good many of their gurrahs undresst, which laid them under a great difficulty to get them washed and makes them fear a deficiency in the quantity they gave us hopes of, as it will be impossible to get them washed in time from the scarcity of washermen, that their merchants have represented to them another disappointment which they met with in regard to the silk piecegoods proceeding from the want of dye for colouring the cloth which

will prevent their bringing in the quantity they otherwise would have done.

78. Under date the 9th of August we wrote to the gentlemen at Dacca and forwarded the list of goods to be provided there with such paragraphs of Your Honours' commands per ship Lynn as related to them and enjoined them to comply strictly therewith; at the same time we sent them eight chests of Arcot Rupees with ten bales of doorea Cossajura and two bales of mulmulls Cossajura to be flowered, and as we intended to send them a further supply when Your Honours' ships arrived, we hope that Futtichund's House would not insist on any part of this money as we had paid off our Hughley debt.

79. They replied to the foregoing the 30th of August when they assured us that this small supply would in no measure answer their wants viz., to pay for the remainder of the puttun they had contracted for, to purchase tanjeebs, terrindams and ready money goods, to discharge part of Your Honours' debt and to defray their current charges. They therefore requested us to send them an ample supply to answer those purposes out of the first money that arrived, as the Seat's gomastah intimated to them he had received news of some treasure going up there and insisted, on its arrival, it should be all paid to him.

80. Under date the 26th September we wrote to them that we should send them a laack and twenty thousand rupees to forward their investment and directed them to use their endeavours to send us a large quantity of goods, to be down here by the beginning of December, as Your Honours had recommended to us an early dispatch of one or two of your ships, and the 28th following we sent thither the abovementioned sum.

81. They again wrote us under date the 2nd of October to obtain an order from the Seat's House at Hughley to their gomastah at Dacca not to insist on any part of the money we intended to send thither.

82. In Council the 11th October we agreed to send to Dacca a further supply of forty chests of Arcot Rupees which were dispatched thither the 15th following with directions to appropriate them solely to the provision of goods, as we had at that time made Futtichund an offer of forty chests of bullion in part of the debt due to him at that and Cossimbuzar factories.

83. Under date the 17th of that month they advised us that the Seats' gomastah sent them word that he had his masters' orders to insist on the payment of the total of the abovementioned supply as soon as it arrived and that on the arrival of the ships he expected the whole of the debt to be immediately paid him, and therefore they again requested us to prevail on Seat Mautobray not to insist on the payment of any of the money we may send thither, as it would stop their business and render it impracticable for them to purchase any ready money goods on Your Honours' account.

84. Upon the receipt of this letter we wrote accordingly to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to prevail on the Seats to send an order to their gomastah at Dacca to give the gentlemen there no further trouble on this head, of which we advised the gentlemen at Dacca and directed them to appropriate the money lately sent thither entirely to the provision of Your Honours' investment, to which they replied the 27th of that month that they would obey our orders as near as they possibly could but were apprehensive that their small creditors would expect some part thereof for the payment of part of the debts due to them from Your Honours, that they were in daily expectation of some fine cloth which they were in hopes to get ready to be down here by the 10th of December.

85. On the 9th November we received a letter for (*sic*) Mr. Clerimbault and his Council at Dacca accompanying twenty seven bales of cloth and a bundle of musters which they forwarded on Your Honours' account, and under date the 21st of November they wrote us that they were obliged to pay their shroffs sixty three thousand and fifty rupees principal besides interest, that there were upwards of four thousand pieces of cloth then dressing, but as there were several small parcells of different sorts they apprehended they would be unable to make above twenty compleat bales by the beginning of December.

86. On the 10th Decr. we sent them a further supply of two hundred thousand (200,000) Arcot Rupees with directions to pay Futtichund one laack thereof and to reserve the remainder for the provisions of goods the ensuing season.

87. The 16th Decr. we received a letter from them accompanying 23 bales of cloth and a bundle of musters on Your

Honours' account and another letter under date the 9th Jany advising of the having dispatched to us forty three bales and a bundle of musters the day before and remarking that six pieces of silk flowered terrindams mentioned in the invoice, having been for several years in the workmen's hands, are much damaged; at the same time they wrote us that they had paid Futtichund's gomastah one laack of rupees agreable to our orders. Those goods arrived safe here on the 21st ultimo.

88. In our address of the 23rd August we advised Your Honours of the inability of the delolls at Jugdea to discharge their last year's ballance without using violent means which the gentlemen there wrote us would be ruining their credit, to which under date the 9th August we repeated our former orders to Messrs. Baillie and Playdell to use their best endeavours to recover all they possibly could and at the same time we forwarded the list of goods received per Lynn with such paragraphs of Your Honours' orders by that ship as related to them and directed them strictly to comply therewith and let us know what further sums they could invest for this year's shipping and directed them to provide a few bales of cloth on the French musters to be forwarded to Your Honours.

89. They replied under date the 25th of August that their delolls informed them they could with ease invest one laack and twenty thousand rupees for this year's shipping, and observing that their fine baftaes are in great demand and, in keeping their weavers in constant employ, tends to the goodness of their cloth, they again requested a suitable supply and desired our orders concerning the increase of lengths of their baftaes, which we directed them the 28th following to make fourteen yards in length, if possible to be done this season, and to be particularly careful in making them the full lengths the next, which they promised to comply with under date the 7th October.

90. On the 26th of September we forwarded thither eighty thousand (80,000) Arcot Rupees and directed them to send us all the goods down they possibly could by the beginning of December.

91. On the 6th Octr. we received from thence on Your Honours' account ninety eight bundles of cloth.

92. Under date the 27th of October they advised us that the delolls had informed them that the large gurrahs could not be made there but that the small sort should be made agreable to Your Honours' orders in the list of investment and the next day they informed us of Ruttonmullick's proposal (provided we allowed him to do Your Honours' business alone) to take the old debt on himself and to discharge it in three years' time from the 30th April the rate of 10 per cent advance on the investment, that your business shall go on as fast and as well if not better than before and he would entirely leave the French business for which he was ready to give proper security, but as we were of opinion that permitting this man to act seperately would infallibly end in the ruin of that family and as we esteemed them jointly much better security to Your Honours than any one of them we directed Messrs. Baillie and Playdell to proceed in the management of your affairs as usual.

93. The 18th November they wrote us that Agabakkur's[2] son who farmed the countrey had, by his violent oppressions, obliged many of their weavers and washermen to run away.

94. The 8th December we received from thence 217 bundles and three tucktaes of cloth on Your Honours' account and on the 24th following two hundred and twelve bundles and five tucktaes from thence and under date the 7th of that month they wrote us that the reason of the goods falling so short of what they expected was owing to their weavers and washermen running away but that they were then returned and their business went on as usual.

95. The 6th ultimo they forwarded to us two hundred and seven bales and five tucktaes of cloth on Your Honours' account and under date the 7th do. wrote us that the extraordinary price of cotton there this season made it difficult for them to keep their cloth up to muster, so that they have been obliged to make ferret sometimes of a whole prizing, that they found great inconvenience in beginning their investment so late as they did for this season through the want of due time to pick the cloth, so hoped we would send them a remittance for the ensueing year in its proper and usual time and provided their business was begun in March or April and carried on by a supply of a laack or a laack and a half of rupees that they should be able to better the investment of the factory superiour to its muster so as very near to defray its charges.

96. Mr. Henry Kelsall, Resident at Bulramgurry, informed us that the disturbances of the countrey occasioned by the return of the Morattoes this season has prevented him from being able to purchase any ready money goods as the weavers or greatest part of them have been obliged to abscond and he gives us hopes of not only being able to provide some goods the next season but also of recovering the merchants' old ballances, whereof he has this year recovered and sent us one bale.

*Fourthly, concerning the trade of India and therein any transactions with the countrey Government.*

97. It affords us infinite satisfaction to acquaint Your Honours under this branch of your affairs that we have had a tolerable good harmony with the countrey Government this year past and that the Nabob has given us no other trouble than by making a demand on Bully Cotmah, one of the dadney merchants, under a pretext of a complaint lodged against him at Muxadavad and that, in case matters were not accommodated, he would put a stop to Your Honours' business, which affair happening at the time when your own ship Lapwing was under dispatch, we deferred the consideration thereof till her departure from hence.

98. For our conduct in the difficulties we laboured under account ye Cotmahs, we beg leave (for brevity sake) to referr Your Honours to our Consultations of the 20th and 25th of August, 8th, 9th and 26th of Sept., 1st, 8th and 20th of Octr., 2nd and 5th of November, in which last you will be pleased to observe they discharged the sum paid by Mr. Eyles to accommodate this affair, being fifty eight thousand and nine rupees, fourteen annas (58009-14).

99. The cotton which was imported here per Severn we sold at publick outcry on the 25th of October excepting fifty bales which we reserved for packing stuff in the export warehouse, the account sales whereof Your Honours will receive herewith.

*Fifthly, concerning fortifications and revenues.*

100. In our address of the 23rd August we advised Your Honours of our having sold your arrack farm at publick outcry to Mr. Richard Williams and on the 5th of September we called upon him to sign his contract, when he promised to pay six months' rent into Your Honours' cash but the 8th do informing us that he could not raise the money to pay for this licence

and as we did not look upon him as a responsible man, we agreed to put it up at outcry the 10th following when it sold to Mr. John Knox, who was the incumbent on the decease of Mr. Wm. Young, for nine thousand two hundred and six rupees (9206-0-0) per annum, who on the 17th of that month signed his contract which was deposited in the hands of the President.

101. As Your Honours' barracks and cottah were in want of new beams and being offered some teak timbers we ordered the Carpenter to survey them and report their condition with the valuation thereof to us, which he complied with on the 29th of October when we agreed to purchase them at the prices specified in his report entered after that day's Consultation.

102. The Jemindar acquainted us on the 1st November, the time for renewing the farms of the bazar, that the farmer of the rice gunge told him that he lost last year between five and six thousand rupees by giving for it fourteen thousand (14000-0-0) rupees, on which account he could not afford to give more than eight thousand (8000-0-0) the ensueing year.

103. On enquiring into the reason of the decrease of Your Honours' revenues on this article and finding it was owing to the great cheapness of rice this year, we agreed to put up the same at publick outcry when it sold to Mr. Roger Drake for ten thousand one hundred rupees (10,100-0-0).

*Sixthly, concerning factors, writers, officers and their accounts.*

104. Mr. Alexander Burrell, one of Your Honours' covenanted servants, departed this life of a flux on the 25th August.

105. The President has thought proper to grant the following commissions, the persons to whom they were granted being recommended to him by the Major.

On 3rd September an ensign's commission to Mr. James Markham.

On 23rd December an ensign's commission to Mr. Granger Muir.

On the 24th do. an ensign's commission to Mr. Francis Hayes and lieutenants' commissions to Ensigns Harding and Kir.

106. Your Honours will be pleased to observe at the foot of our proceedings in Council the 28th December about the conduct of Capt. David Clayton, copy whereof was transmitted per Norfolk, that as Capt. Charles Butterwicke and Lieutenant James Dunkley through age and long indisposition were rendered incapable of their duty, and Major Hollond proposing that they should be put on the invalid list at half pay till Your Honours' pleasure hereon was known, which we agreed to

107. And as Major Hollond at that time recommended Captain Lieutenant Robert Saunderson to succeed Capt. Butterwicke in the command of his company and Lieutenant Wm. Pearson to succeed him as Captain Lieutenant and to the command of the next vacant company, commissions were ordered accordingly.

108. On 5th September we agreed that the invalids, as they were more properly under the inspection of the Major or Commander in Chief of this garrison, should be mustered with the military and paid by the Major.

109. Mr. Charles Manningham on the 6th October took the usual oath of fidelity to Your Honours and was then admitted to his seat at this Board and on the 11th following received charge of the consullage from Mr. Burrow.

110. Such of Your Honours' servants as took their passage on the Kent and London on their arrival here were stationed in your several offices as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Messrs. | Thomas Bury<br>John Cartier<br>John Carse | Secretary's office |
| Messrs. | Warren Hastings<br>Francis Woolaston<br>William Tooke | Accomptant's office |

Mr. John Jebb in the export warehouse and
Mr. Wm. Rider in the import warehouse.

111. On the 15th October we received an account from the gentlemen at Dacca of the demise there of Mr. Thomas Feake, which occasioning an exchange of offices at this Board, we beg leave to refer Your Honours to the several appointments as set forth in our Consultation of that day.

112. And as by the demise of Mr. Thomas Feake Mr. Richard Beecher who was next in succession became a member of this Board, we wrote to him at Cossimbuzar and directed him to return to Calcutta as soon as he conveniently could in order to take his seat in Council here and at the same time appointed Messrs. John Jenks and Roger Revely of Council at Cossimbuzar as they were assistants there for many years.

113. Major Hollond representing to us on the 8th November that there was a steward wanting in the hospital, we employed Mr. John Bristow in that station with an allowance of thirty rupees per month.

*Seventhly, touching accompts.*

114. The Accomptant on the 1st October applied to us to know how the goods received per ship Lynn should be entered in the general books, when we ordered him to credit accounts current London for the amount and enter each specie or goods under seperate heads.

115. Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 24th Decr. an account in the name of Benautbeharry-seat, which the Accomptant laid before us for the rest of their accounts to be settled by, and agreable thereto we have directed him to make up their accounts notwithstanding they say they will not sign them.

116. On the 7th ultimo he laid before us the accounts earnings and expences of Your Honours' sloops which being adjusted and closed on the 10th do. in the presence of the Master Attendant whom we consulted in regard to the present value thereof, Your Honours will see are entered after the Consultation of that day.

117. On the 24th following he laid before us the general books of this Presidency ballanced to the 30th April last, one copy whereof we transmit Your Honours by this conveyance.

118. We are now to advise Your Honours what sums we have granted bills of exchange for, payable ninety days after sight as usual, and first of those at two shillings and three pence, the persons to whom they were granted having been sworn that the amount is on the following accounts:

On 24th January of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior on his own account eight hundred and eighty eight rupees,

fourteen annaes and three pice (888″ 14″ 3) payable to Roger Drake Esqr. Senior or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 100″-″-

On 24th Jany. of Roger Drake Esqr. Junior account Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes five hundred and forty five Current Rupees (545″-″-) payable to Mr. Percival Bentley or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 61″ 6″ 3

On 28th do. of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow on their own account two thousand six hundred and sixty rupees, five annaes (2660″ 5″ -) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two and three pence is £St. 299″ 5″ 8

On 29th do. of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on his own account three thousand eight hundred and fifty two rupees, eleven annaes and three pice (3852″ 11″ 3) payable to Humphrey Bellamy Esqr. or order to two and three pence is £St. 433″ 8″ 7

On 31st do. of James Blachford Esqr. on his own account eight hundred and eighteen rupees (818″-″-) payable to Gislingham Cooper Esqr. at two and three pence is £St. 92″ -″ 6

On 31st do. of Mr. Hollond Goddard account Richard Prince Esqr. six thousand five hundred (6500″-″-) rupees payable to Richard Benyon Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 731″ 5″ -

On 2nd February of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. on his own account four thousand three hundred and four rupees, twelve annaes (4304″12″-) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at two and three pence is £St. 484″ 5″ 8

On 2nd February of James Blachford Esqr. on his own account seventy rupees, fourteen annaes and three pice (70″ 14″ 3) payable to Gislingham Cowper Esqr. or order at two and three pence is £St. 7″ 19 ″6.

119. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence is nineteen thousand six hundred and forty rupees, eight annaes and nine pice (19,640″ 8″ 9) or two thousand two hundred and nine pounds, eleven shillings and two pence (2,209″ 11″ 2).

120. We have likewise granted the following bills at two shillings and one penny to the under mentioned persons:

On 24th January of Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. three hundred and twenty one rupees, eleven annaes (321″ 11 ″-) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Fransham or order at two and one penny is £St. 33″ 10″ 2.

On 28th of do. of Mr. John Knox nine hundred and sixty rupees (960″-″-) payable to Mr. George Male or order at two and one penny is £St. 100″ -″ -

On do. of Mr. Wm. Kempe six hundred and fifty rupees (650″-″-) payable to Mr. George Heath or order at two and one penny is £St. 67″ 14″ 2

On 29th do. of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. eight hundred and forty two rupees, eight annaes and six pice (842″ 8″ 6) payable to Capt. Nathaniel Jacobs or order at two and one penny is £St. 87″ 15″ 3

On 31st do. of Mr. John Coales nine hundred and sixty rupees (960″ - ″ -) payable to Messrs. Thomas . and Nicholas Crispe or order at two and one penny is £St. 100″ -″ -

On 31st Jany. of Mr. John Coales eight hundred and twenty eight rupees (828"-"-) payable to Capt. John Walsh and Mrs. Mary Williams or order at two and one penny is £St. 86" 5"

On do. of Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. four hundred and eighty rupees (480"-"-) payable to Humphrey Coates Esqr. or order at two and one penny is £St. 50"-"-

On do. of Mr. Wm. Fullerton nine hundred and forty six rupees, thirteen annaes and nine pice (946" 13" 9) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two and one penny is £St. 98" 12" 7

On 2nd Feby. of Mr. Thomas Cooke three hundred and forty five rupees, nine annaes and six pice (345" 9" 6) payable to Capt. Richard Thelwall or order at two and one penny is £St. 36" "

On do. of Mr. Francis Reade two hundred and eighteen rupees (218"-"-) payable to Mr. John Stroud or order at two and one penny is £St. 24" 10" 6

121. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and one penny is six thousand five hundred and fifty two rupees, ten annaes and nine pice (6552" 10" 9) or six hundred and eighty four pounds, seven shillings and eight pence (684" 7" 8).

122. We have granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sums, one whereof being accomplished the other two to become void, and the persons were first sworn that the money is on the following accounts:

On Jany. 24th of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. account John Hope Esqr. and the estate of Joseph Hope Esqr. deceased for CRs. 1521" 11 "6

On 31st Jany. of Mr. James Ross account Capt. Carteret Le Geyt for CRs. 575"-"-

On 2nd Feby. of Mrs. Alice Forster account the estate of John Forster Esqr. deceased for CRs. 80426" 4"-

123. The whole amount of certificates granted is eighty two thousand five hundred and twenty two rupees, fifteen annaes and six pice (82,522" 15" 6).

*Supplement.*

124. We have now the satisfaction to acquaint Your Honours of the arrival here of the Warren, Capt. Glover, on the 27th ultimo. He parted company with the Britannia in the latitude of five degrees north and Your Honours will observe Capt. Glover's reasons for leaving her entered in our Consultation of the 28th December, at which time apprehending that the Britannia would not arrive in time to be dispatched home this season we directed Capt. Glover to get the Warren ready to return to Europe, to which he replied that her upper works in general wanted caulking, that she must have a new mizen mast and he was apprehensive he should want a new boltsprit but promised that he would use his utmost endeavours to get her in readiness to proceed to Europe this season, upon which we assured him he should have all the assistance in our power, in consequence whereof we have sent down Your Honours' Carpenter with twenty lascars and as many caulkers.

125. The next day as Your Honours had a large tonage in India and as our merchants promised to bring in one thousand bales more which, with those we had in our godowns and those we expected from our subordinate factories, we computed would be about one thousand seven hundred (1,700), and as it grew late in the season, we thought it most for Your Honours' interest to divide your risque and therefore came to a resolution to return the Benjamin as well as the Warren to Your Honours, which ships we hope to dispatch within the month.

126. On the 31st ultimo Ingutseat's gomastah proposed to us to take off forty chests of bullion to be delivered him here at the Cossimbuzar price allowing him half per cent in lieu of the charges up, one laack thereof is to be carried to Your Honours' credit at Cossimbuzar factory and to give us a bill of exchange in favour of Mr. Eyles and his Council for the ballance.

127. Judging this proposal for Your Honours' interest as the risque in carrying it up was thereby saved, we accepted thereof

and ordered the forty chests of bullion to be delivered him accordingly.

128. At the same time we ordered the Committee of Treasury to pay Omichund ten chests of bullion in further part of his contract with us.

129. On the 28th ultimo Captain Thomas Fea delivered us a protest in case the Walpole was not dispatched by the 31st do, on which we told him that he should have given us notice thereof a month before, agreable to his charterparty instructions.

130. We have laden on board this ship sundry goods and merchandize amounting as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to Current Rupees eight laack forty five thousand two hundred (CRs. 8,45,200″ - ″ -).

131. Mr. Thomas Burrow who dispatches this ship from Ingellie will advise Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from thence.

132. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient
humble servants,

A. Dawson/Wm. Fytche/Jno. Hollond/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/James Blachford/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/Chas. Manningham.

Fort William
February the 4th, 1750/1.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, 1749—51, Vol. 16, pp. 163—205.

1. Para. 101 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William in Bengal*, Vol. I, p. 231.

2. Extracts from paras. 62 and 96 published in Long's *Selections*, pp. 24, 28.)

# 18

# LETTER DATED 18 FEBRUARY 1750/51

**TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.**

May it please Your Honours

1. By the Norfolk we addressed Your Honours under date the 12th of January and at large under the usual established heads per Walpole under date the 4th instant as per triplicate of the former and duplicate of the latter enclosed.

2. The Walpole was dispatched from Ingellee by Mr. Thomas Burrow the 10th instant when her draught of water was 18 ft. 5 in on an even keel.

3. This waits on Your Honours per ship Benjamin and encloses all the papers relating to her as per list of packet.

4. Capt. Thomas Fea, commander of the Walpole, delivered into Council the day we dispatched him from hence a request for twenty tons of surplus goods at half freight, when we informed him we could not comply therewith as we had not more than sufficient for the loading of this ship and the Warren.

5. We have the pleasure to advise Your Honours that the Britannia is arrived at Ingellee but Capt. Somner is not yet come up.

6. We are now to advise your Honours what sums we have granted bills of exchange for, payable ninety days after sight as usual, and first of those at two shillings and three pence, the persons to whom they were granted having been sworn that the amount is on the following accounts:

| | |
|---|---|
| On 14th February of Wm. Watts Esq. account Mr. Robert Erskin five hundred and thirty three rupees, five annaes and three pice (533-5-3) payable to Mr. Archibald Sterling or order at two and three pence is | £St. 60"-"- |
| On do of Mr. Wm. Wogan on his own account eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes and three pice (888" 14" 3) payable to Mr. Wm. Wogan or order at two and three pence is | £St. 100"-"- |

On do of Mr. James Valicourt account Mr. Luke Scrafton three hundred and fifty five rupees, eight annaes and nine pice (355" 8" 9) payable to Mr. Richard Scrafton or order at two and three pence is £St. 40" -" -

On 15th do of Mr. James Ross on his own account four thousand eight hundred and seventy five rupees, five annaes and three pice (4875" 5" 3) payable to Mr. Wm. Belches or order at two and three pence is £St. 548" 9" 5

On 18th do of Mr. Peter Amyatt account Samuel Rooper Esq. twelve thousand two hundred and fifty nine rupees, one annae and six pice (12,259" 1" 6) payable to Samuel Rooper Esq. or order at two and three pence is £St. 1379" 2" 11

7. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence is eighteen thousand nine hundred and twelve rupees, three annaes (18,912" 3" -) or two thousand one hundred and twenty seven pounds, twelve shillings and four pence (2,127" 12" 4).

8. We have likewise granted the following bills at two shillings and one penny to the undermentioned persons:

On 14th Feby. of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. two thousand and sixty three rupees, three annaes and six pice (2063" 3" 6) payable to the Hon'ble John Kerseboom or order at two and one penny is £St. 214" 18" 4

On 16th do of Mr. Archibald Crichton account Mr. John Gibson two hundred and four rupees, seven annaes (204" 7" -) payable to Capt. David Crichton or order at two and one penny is £St. 21" 5" 11

On 18th do of Mr. John Hall nine hundred and sixty rupees (960" -" -) payable to Wm. Davis Esq. or order at two and one penny is £St. 100" -" -

On do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. and Mr. Wm. Frankland two thousand three hundred and ninety six rupees, nine annaes and six pice payable to Dr. Thomas Adams and Mrs. Mariana Stevenson or order at two and one penny is £St. 249" 12" 11

9. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and one penny is five thousand six hundred and twenty four rupees, four annaes (5,624" 4" -) or five hundred and eighty five pounds, seventeen shillings and two pence (585" 17" 2).

10. We have granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sum, one whereof being accomplished the other two to become void, viz.,

To James Blachford Esqr. account the owners of ship Norfolk for CRs. 101" -" -

11. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to six hundred and seventy thousand Current Rupees (670,000" -" -).

12. We have also laden on her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to eight hundred and fifty nine rupees. 13 as. 3 pice as per copy of her invoice enclosed.

13. The Warren is near laden, having on board all her saltpetre and some bales; by her we shall transmit Your Honours a summary view of your affairs since our last address under the established heads and are till then with the utmost respect,

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Wm. Ffytche/Jno. Hollond/Roger Drake Junr/E. H. Cruttenden/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/ Chas. Manningham.

Fort William
February the 18th, 1750/1

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office. Letter to Court, 1749/51, Vol. 16, pp. 206—210.)

# 19

# LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1750/51

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

This morning Capt. John Somner, commander of the Britannia, arrived in town and as we came to a resolution to dismiss the Britannia Your Honours' service and protest against Capt. Somner, we now transmit you a copy of our Consultation thereon and are with the utmost respect

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

A. Dawson/Wm. Ffytche/Jno. Hollond/Roger Drake Junr/E. H. Cruttenden/Thos. Burrow/Chas. Manningham.

Fort William
February 19th, 1750/1.

*Enclosure* 1

Fort William the 19th February 1750/1

Tuesday

At a Consultation present
the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. President

Messrs. William Ffytche
John Hollond
Roger Drake
Edward Holden Cruttenden
Thomas Burrow
Charles Manningham

Mr. James Blachford indisposed
Mr. William Wats, down the river

Dacca letter No: 1.

This morning we received a letter from Mr. Nicho. Clerembault Chief and Council at Dacca under date the 7th instant and accompanying 70 bales of cloth and one bundle of musters.

Britannia to be unladen, Capt. Sumner to follow ye Ware House Keeper's orders. Capt. Sumner produces his orders for delivering 20 chests of bullion.

Ordered the Warehousekeeper to unlade the Britannia and ordered Capt. Sumner to follow the Warehousekeeper's orders for the unlading and lading his ship. Captain Sumner being arrived in town acquaints us that he landed 20 chests of the bullion he had on board for this Presidency at Madras by order of the President and Council at Fort St. Davids, which order he now produced with the Warehousekeeper's receipt.

Capt. Sumner's reasons for touching at Madras.

Ordered that they be entered after this Consultation. We now called upon him for his reasons for going to Madrass, and not coming down to the Bay agreable to his orders from the President and Council at Bombay. Replyed that many of his men being down in the scurvey whereby they were rendered incapable of duty, and the rest of the ship's company being weakened by the fatigue of daily pumping as his ship was extreamly leaky, he thought it adviseable to proceed to the first port for the security of the Company's effects and safety of the people.

Britannia dismissed ye service.

We then asked Captain Sumner if he could get his ship ready to proceed to Europe in the time limited by charterparty, to which replying in the negative.

Protest delivered Capt. Sumner.

Agreed that we dismiss the Britannia the service and that we deliver Captain Sumner a protest in form and

ordered copy of the protest to be entered after this Consultation.

A Dawson/Wm. Ffytche/Jno. Hollond/Roger Drake Junr/E. H. Cruttenden/Thos. Burrow/Chas. Manningham.

*Enclosure* 2

To Capt. John Sumner
of ship Britannia,

Sir,

Having information of your arrival at Fort St. George and that you have a large consignment of treasure on board for Bengal, as we are in want of twenty chests for our Hon'ble masters' service here, you are hereby ordered to deliver them to the Deputy Governor and Council of Fort St. George, whose receipts for the same will be a sufficient indemnification for your compliance herewith, dated in Fort St. Davids this 21st day of December 1750.

Thos. Saunders/Richd. Starke/Henry Powney/George Pigot/Foss Westcort/A. Wynch.

*Enclosure* 3

To Capt. John Sumner

Commander of the Brittania

Sir,

The Hon'ble the President and Council of Fort St. David having wrote to us to receive of you twenty chests of treasure, you are hereby ordered to deliver the same taking our Import Warehouse Keeper's receipt for them dated in Fort St. George the 2nd Jany 1750/51.

Richd. Prince/Thos. Cooke/Wm. Smyth King/John Walsh.

*Enclosure* 4

Received from on board this ship Brittania, Captain John Sumner, twenty chests of the Hon'ble Company's treasure dated in Fort St. George this 3rd day of January 1750/51.

Thos. Cooke

Import Warehouse Keeper

We the President and Council of Fort William in the service of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies do on their part and behalf protest against you, Captain John Sumner, commander of the Brittania, and others the part owners of said ship for all damages that the said Hon'ble Company may sustain by your bearing away for Madrass and not coming down to the Bay in obedience to your orders from the President and Council of Bombay and not having your ship in readiness to proceed to Europe in the time limited by charterparty, wherefore and for which reasons we hereby dismiss your ship Brittania the Hon'ble Company's service dated in Calcutta this 19th day of Feby. 1750/51.

Adam Dawson etc. Council.

Delivered in the presence of us

W. McGwire/John Negus.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letter to Court, 1749/51, Vol. 16, pp. 211-215).

## 20

## LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1750/1

*Deficiency in the bullion received from Bombay—purchase of additional quantity of fine cloth—adverse effects of the depredations of the* Maghs *and the Marathas on investment.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address bore date the 18th instant and was forwarded to Your Honours per ship Benjamin, duplicate whereof is enclosed as likewise triplicate of our address under date the 4th instant per ship Walpole.

2. We are now to give Your Honours an account of our proceedings since the dispatch of the Walpole.

3. As we esteemed it necessary to have the merchants' goods that were laying at Jellingee down by the 20th, we transmitted orders to Ensign Bishop to leave that place the 10th.

4. Your Honours will observe by the Warehousekeeper's report of the bullion received from Bombay per ship Warren entered after our Consultation of the 5th instant that there was a deficiency of two ounces in each chest which, Capt. Glover absolutely refusing to make good as the seals and chests were entire, stands referred to Your Honours.

5. Enclosed in this packet we transmit Your Honours Capt. Glover's request for a survey within board as likewise the Master Attendant's report thereof delivered into Council the 14th instant, when we ordered the Warehousekeeper to proceed in lading bales on board.

6. Capt. Glover having executed by mistake three setts of respondentia bonds at Bombay for the money advanced him there viz., one sett under date the 12th August for twelve thousand Bombay Rupees (12,000-"0-"0), another sett under date the 12th September for twelve thousand Bombay Rupees (12,000-"0-"0) and the third sett dated the 22nd of September for three thousand Bombay Rupees (3,000-"0-"0), whereas he should have entered into respondentia bonds only for four thousand and twenty six Bombay Rupees, one quarter and twenty five reas (4026-1-25), and bonds for the balance twenty two thousand nine hundred and seventy three rupees, two quarters and twenty five reas (22,973-2-25) with such an advance and at such rate of exchange as Your Honours shall think proper to demand, which he has rectified here. One of each sett we have forwarded to the Governour and Council at Bombay and the duplicates thereof are enclosed in this packet, the triplicate bonds being deposited in the hands of the President.

7. We have advanced Capt. Glover for the use and expences of the Warren nineteen thousand six hundred and twenty Current Rupees (19,620-0-0) on charterparty terms, his request for which with one of the bonds he entered into for that amount is enclosed.

8. We have already advised Your Honours of the arrival here of the Britannia and transmitted you per Benjamin copy of our Consultation held the day after the dispatch of that ship on the arrival of Capt. Somner in town, whereby Your Honours will observe we have turned the Britannia out of your service and delivered Capt. Somner a protest as also our reasons therein particularized for this proceeding, which we hope Your Honours will approve of.

9. You will be pleased to observe by that Consultation that the Hon'ble the President and Council at Fort St. Davids have stopped twenty chests of the bullion designed us by that ship, notwithstanding the orders Your Honours acquainted us you had transmitted them for supplying us with all money they could possibly spare from their own occasions, since which time they have wrote us under date the 29th December that they will remit us that sum out of the first money that they receive and that they had thoughts of directing Capt. Somner to go there to exchange the bullion into rupees, but as he lay under a protest and there being a ship that arrived here time enough to be dispatched home anno. 1745 (*sic*) which sailed so late from thence as the 3rd of January, they did not care to detain him.

10. Under date the 28th ultimo they wrote us that the Governour and Council of Bombay had desired them, in case the Warren lost her passage to the Bay and had called either there or at Madrass, to land her cargo and return her to Tellecherry where proper orders were lodged for her further proceeding, but imagining her late arrival with us might endanger the gaining of her passage thither and that the Britannia might answer the same purpose, they directed the gentlemen at Fort St. George to unlade her and dispatch her thither. The Britannia having sailed from thence before those orders arrived there, we called upon Capt. Somner to know if he could get ready to proceed to Tillecherry, to which he replied it was impossible.

11. Our merchants having brought in an overplus of the following sortments of fine cloth contracted for, we agreed to take them imagining that we should fall greatly short of the Dacca investment.

| | | Pieces |
|---|---|---|
| Mulmulls Cossajura | ... | 4000 |
| Mulmulls Santipore | ... | 2000 |
| Cossæs Malda fine | ... | 500 |
| Dooreas Cossajura | ... | 3000 |
| Superfine humhums | ... | 500 |

12. We have likewise thought proper to forward to Your Honours this season musters of the following sortments of cloth which has not been contracted for these many years past on account of the prices thereof.

| | Pieces | | Rs. | As. | P. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cuttances plain..... | 5 | .....@ | 11 | — | | per pice |
| Do. flowered..... | 5 | .....@ | 13 | — | | do. |
| Atchebannies..... | 3 | .....@ | 3 | 6 | | do. |
| Herba lungees..... | 3 | .....@ | 3 | 8 | | do. |
| Cossæs serra..... | 5 | .....@ | 78 | — | | per corge |
| Herba taffaties..... | 3 | .....@ | 3 | 8 | | per peice |

13. Our merchants would not contract for any of the above sortments without a great advance on the price of the old musters but are ready and willing to provide them at the foregoing prices annexed to each particular sortment, about which we shall wait Your Honours' future orders.

14. On the Benjamin and this ship we have laden the following new sortments of cloth for a muster:

Nainsookhs Gopaulpore.....40 and 2¼
Cossæs Maulda fine gold heads.....40 and 4
Do. Raudgegunge.....40 and 2
Cossæs Cogmaria superfine.....40 and 2¼
Chowtars superfine.....20 and 2
Neckcloths Gopaulpore.....35 and 1⅛
Dooreas charconna Cossajura.....40 and 2
Yds. and N.
Jelmills.....25 and 12
Serra sauff.....14 and 1

15. The gentlemen at Jugdea, agreable to Your Honours' orders for sending you musters of the sortments of cloth provided there by the French, have transmitted us a few peices of

Chabissa.....of.....26 and 2 and
Chitta bully.....of.....24 and 2.

which Your Honours will receive by this ship.

16. In our Consultation of the 7th inst. Your Honours will observe in the Dacca letter extracted therein the reasons given by the gentlemen there for the deficiency in their investment as likewise that Mr. Clerimbault accompanyed by Messrs Pearkes and Eyre paid the Nabob a visit who received them very civilly and gave them great assurances of his protection in Your Honours' affairs.

17. On the 11th instant we transmitted the gentlemen at Dacca twelve chests of Arcot Rupees and six chests to the gentlemen at Jugdea and have ordered the lists of investment

for the several subordinates to be drawn out, which we shall forward thither when ready.

18. Under date the 5th instant the gentlemen at Jugdea wrote us that a large party of Muggs having passed to the westward retarded the dispatch of their cloth, and as this will occasion its arrival here for the ships much later than they expected, they thought proper to advise us in case we should give orders to have the cloth shipped from Rangafulla.

19. Mr. Eyles and his Council at Cossimbuzar in a letter dated the 19th instant extracted in our Consultation of the 22nd gave their reasons for the badness of their investment the last season, to which we beg leave to referr.

20. The 14 instant the Accomptant laid before us the merchants' accounts ballanced to the 30th April and drawn by our order, agreable to the statement of Benautbeharryseat's account entered after our Consultation of the 24th Decr, which the merchants being directed to sign desired to examine them first.

21. Being again called upon in Council the 18th instant for that purpose, they refused to sign them and have begged our permission to deliver in their reasons in writing, translate whereof is forwarded in this packet for Your Honours' notice, and you may rest assured that our utmost endeavours in the interim to make them sign them shall not be wanting.

22. We are now to acquaint Your Honours that we have granted the two following bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence, the amount thereof being paid into Your Honours' cash.

On 21st of February of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esq. account Mr. Edward Eyre four hundred and forty four rupees, seven annæs (444-7-0) payable to Mr. John Tuledge or order at two and three pence is £St 50-0-0

On 21st February of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. on his own account five thousand four hundred and forty rupees (5,440-0-0) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at two shillings and three pence is £St 612-0-0

23. The whole amount of the above bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence is five thousand eight hundred and eighty four rupees, seven annæs (5,884-7-0) or six hundred and sixty two pounds (£662-0-0).

24. We have likewise granted the two following certificates to Captain Glover, he being first sworn that the money is on the following accounts:

On 24th February, on account of Capt. William Bookey for CRs. 1894-6-3

On 24th February, on account of the estate of Mr. Charles Powney deceased for CRs. 560-7-6

25. The whole amount of the above certificates is two thousand four hundred and fifty four Current Rupees, thirteen annæs and nine pice (2,454-13-9).

26. Your Honours will be pleased to observe by our Consultation of this date that our merchants have brought into the cottah about five hundred bales more than they expected they should be able on account of the depredations and plundering of the Morattoes at the several aurungs, which the shortness of the time would not allow us to send in a proper manner for this dispatch, but as they applied their own money to the provision of those goods, we agreed to prize them as part of their last year's contracts, they acquiescing, in case of any damage arising during the time of their laying in Your Honours' cottah, to take such back and the loss to be on their accounts.

27. In the box of books Your Honours will receive the patterns of the plain taffaties sent on this ship, as likewise our Consultations from the 5th instant to this day inclusive to compleat the sett forwarded on the Lapwing.

28. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize amounting, as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed, to nine hundred and fourteen thousand Current Rupees (914,000-0-0).

29. We have likewise laden on her three bales of doosutties and sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena, as per copy of the invoice enclosed, amounting to two thousand one hundred and ninety six rupees, thirteen annæs and nine pice (2196-13-9).

30. Mr. Richard Beecher who has our orders to dispatch this ship will advise Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from below.

31. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithful and most obedient

humble servants.

A. Dawson/Wm. Ffytche/Roger Drake Junr,/
E. H. Cruttenden/Chas. Manningham.

Fort William,

February the 24th, 1750/1.

(Ref:—Copies of records obtained from India Office. Letter to Court 1749/51, Vol. 16, pp. 216—224.)

## 21

## LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1751

*Shipping matters—very satisfactory condition of investment—precautionary measures adopted to drive out the two ships coming from Embden—Maratha inroads and the Nawab's movements towards Birbhum—case regarding the property of the deceased Haji Saulis—arrival of Benjamin Robins—the Armenians to pay consulage.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Under date the 24th February we addressed Your Honours per ship Warren which ship was dispatched from Ingellee the 1st March by Mr. Richard Becher when her draught of water was 17 feet 8 inch forward and 18 feet 2 inch abaft. Duplicate of our said address comes inclosed.

2. The Benjamin was dispatched from Ingellee by Mr. William Watts the 23rd February when she drew 16 feet water on an even keel, both which ships with the others dispatched last season we are in hopes arrived safe and in proper time.

3. We shall now proceed to give Your Honours a particular and distinct account of your affairs under our management since that time under the usual established heads and

*First, concerning shipping.*

4. In the 8th paragraph of the accompanying address we advised Your Honours of our having turned the Britannia out of your service and that we had protested against Capt. Somner as per copy thereof inclosed.

5. Under date the 4th March we acquainted the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids of our intentions to send the Britannia to their Presidency in August with 800 bales which we judged we should have ready by that time, provided they should have it in their power to compleat her lading, whereof we desired them to advise us, but if Your Honours' snow the Swallow should arrive with us in the intermediate time, as we had your orders to return her to Europe without loss of time, that then we should fall short of that quantity.

6. The 8th of that month the Swallow imported here and in consequence of Capt. Bell's request we permitted him to bring her up to town as she wanted cleaning and some other necessaries, for which purpose we put her under the Master Attendant's care, and at the request of the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids who wrote us that they should dispatch her to Your Honours in May, we returned her to them the 22nd following with a cargoe of rice on Your Honours' account, which they wrote us bore a high price there, as it was then too late in the season to dispatch her from hence, and enclosed the account disbursements on her here, copy of which Your Honours will likewise receive in the packet.

7. Enclosed we transmit Your Honours Capt. Somner's letter of the 6th May advising of the Britannia's being refitted and tendering her to be taken into the service, but Your Honours will be pleased to observe that we did not take her up till the 4th ultimo when, by the Master Attendant's report survey, finding her to be in all respects fitting to receive Your Honours' goods, we ordered the Warehousekeeper to lade her charterparty redwood on board her.

8. We directed the Master Attendant to sheathe the Hawke sloop which we judged to be absolutely necessary from his report of her which Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 18th March.

9. Patrick Cromey being recommended to us by Capt. Ranson and the head pilot as a person duely qualified in all respects to be made a pilot, we gave him the usual letter to the commanders of Your Honours' ships on ye 1st of April last.

10. The Storekeeper on the 15th April layed before us an account of the damaged and worn out stores which were sold at publick outcry by our orders, after having duely surveyed them, as per account sales thereof enclosed.

11. The river has been surveyed this year as usual which Your Honours will observe by the Master Attendant's report thereof, entered after Consultation of the 9th May, to which is annexed his report of the Fort St. George sloop which was drove ashore on the sand banks about 3 miles below Ingellee, at which time he was doubtful whether she would answer a large expence in getting her off but as that has been attended with less cost than he first imagined and on his reporting to us the 20th June last it would be worth the expence to Your Honours of repairing her, as it would be in his power to mend some of her bad qualities, he had our directions to repair her accordingly.

12. By two of our country ships ye St. Nicholas and Mary we received from Fort St. George 1176 candies 17 mds. 3 lb. of redwood; by the former there was a short delivery to the amount of Current Rs. 40″-14″- which we deducted out of the freight, and the supply by the latter turned out agreable to invoice.

13. The Master Attendant on the 17th June delivered in his proposals for contracting for the stores wanted for Your Honours' marine anno 1751, which we directed our Storekeeper to compare with the contract entered into last year and to deliver in his remarks on the prices annexed therein to the several articles, which he layed before us the 8th July and are entered after that day's Consultation, a copy whereof we then transmitted to the Master Attendant for his consideration.

14. On the 15th following he replied thereto, at which time we called him before us and after having scrutinized into each

particular with the greatest exactness, we prevailed on him to lower the following articles.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Coir cables | from 11″8 per maund | to 11″–″– |
| Do. cordage | from 12″8 ,, ,, | to 12″–″– |
| Canvas banksaul | from 11″8 per bolt | to 11″–″– |
| Spun yarn | from 8″ ″– per bolt | to 7″8″– |

which being the most material, we agreed to contract with him for all other articles on his assuring us he could not afford to provide them cheaper, as per his contract therein entered.

15. We are now to acknowledge the receipt of Your Honours' commands under date the 28th November per Dragon and 23rd January per Hardwicke and to congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival of those ships here, the former on the 21st June and the latter the 17th July.

16. By the Dragon the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids advised us that they depended on our sending the Britannia to them as early as possible to be laden from thence in September for Europe and desired us to put on board her charterparty tonage of redwood and saltpetre as it would contribute greatly to her early dispatch from thence. They at the same time informed us that the gentlemen at Tellicherry acquainted them of their having received orders from their superiors at Bombay to buy no pepper except to be procured under 900 rupees per candy which was impracticable.

17. In the Dragon's packet we transmit Your Honours Capt. Kent's request to bring her up to town which we complied with and ordered Mr. John Sisson to make a strict search for the private trade belonging to the captain and officers, whose report thereof with the manifest of goods landed is enclosed in her packet together with the captain's requests for 25 tons of redwood and 1600 maunds of saltpetre which we have laden on board her.

18. The treasure forwarded to us per Dragon, on weighing off, turned out 5 Arcot Rupees short which Capt. Kent has made good.

19. The President received a letter from Mr. Robbins which he laid before the Board the 8th ultimo, wherein he requested a sloop to be sent for him as soon as the season would permit, which we complied with the 24th following by sending the

Hawke to Madrass with our orders to Alexander Scott, a pilot, to whom we gave the command of her, to obey Mr. Robbins's directions for his further proceedings.

20. By this sloop we embraced the opportunity of replying to a letter we received from the gentlemen at Fort St. David per Hardwicke acquainting us of their having landed the wine, money and stores designed us per Warwicke to be forwarded by after conveyances and of their having freighted her to China on a private voyage, as also their having taken up the Hardwick to be employed on private account between our two settlements till September, twelve month after the delivery of her cargoe here, and acquainted them that we resolved to detain her, as Your Honours had directed, in case we were under a necessity of keeping a ship in India, it should be the Wager to be employed on freight or otherwise as will be most for your interest, and as we judged it highly necessary before any ship was taken up to secure a proper tonage for Your Honours' investment.

21. At the same time we expressed our concern to observe that they had landed the Warwick's cargoe to be transmitted us by after conveyances, esteeming such detention at this time highly prejudicial to Your Honours' affairs, as neither money nor goods would turn out to so great advantage later in the season and we desired them to reimburse us the 20 chests of bullion they took out of the Britannia at Madrass and send us what money they could spare from the supplies Your Honours forwarded to them on the China ships.

22. The Dragon was surveyed by the Master Attendant before we proceeded in lading any goods on board as by his report forwarded in her packet.

23. We have acquainted the gentlemen at Bombay that Your Honours have directed us to forward thither a quantity of saltpetre not exceeding 500 tons to enable them to return home what ships they have on hand, which orders we shall comply with by such ships as will proceed thither this season, and desired them to inform us what quantity of pepper we might expect from thence and to send us by safe conveyances all their surplus cash.

24. We shall pay the strictest regard to Your Honours' orders concerning the dispatching your ships and are in hopes of returning home the greatest part, if not all the ships that may arrive with us this season.

25. Should any of the commanders of your ships refuse to comply with Your Honours' orders for registering the private trade laden on board, we shall not fail of advising who they are.

26. We acknowledge our omission in not sending Your Honours the account of the profits made on the Prince William's country voyage and shall be particularly careful not to commit the like neglect in future. We now inclose for Your Honours' observance the account of the profits made not only on her voyage but since on the Severn and Britannia, excepting on their cargoes laden from hence of which we have not received advice from Bombay, and shall agreable to your directions forward their duplicates by other conveyances.

27. With respect to Your Honours' advices of the ships fitting out from Embden in Germany as well as those expected abroad under the command of Captain Acton in the Emperor's service, we assure Your Honours we shall not fail in using our utmost endeavours to distress them and render their projects abortive. The measures we have hitherto taken are as follows: We directed the Master Attendant to give the strictest orders to all pilots, masters and others employed in Your Honours' sloops not to pilot in or give any other assistance whatever to any of the abovementioned ships, in case of their arrival in Ballasore Road, under pain of being immediately dismissed the service and sent home by the first conveyance that offers, of which we acquainted the French and Dutch who have promised us they will take the like measures to distress them.

28. We likewise wrote to Mr. Kelsall at Bulramgurry to acquaint the government thereof that they may give them all the assistance in their power to annoy them and the President has informed the Nabob hereof but has not hitherto received his answer.

29. We have laden on board the Britannia, over and above her charterparty petre, 1000 bags which we have consigned to the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids.

30. Enclosed in the Britannia's packet we send Your Honours one of each of the two bonds which Captain Somner has executed for the following sums advanced him at different times for the use and expences of that ship, and your Honours will be pleased to take notice that the sums so advanced him,

since the arrival of your orders of the 12th January 1749, were such as he assured us he could not do without.

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 22nd January 1749/50 | CRs. 4360 |
| On the 1st February 1749/50 | 4000 |
| On the 22nd February 1750/51 | 13080 |
| On the 17 July 1751 | 16000 |

31. Your Honours will receive in ye packet per Dragon Capt. Kent's request and receipt for Current Rupees 1090"-"- advanced him for the use and expences of that ship.

32. On the 8th instant the Scarborough, Captain Philip D'Auvergne, imported here from the Coast; by her we received a letter from the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids enclosing Your Honours' commands per Essex, which we found to be the same as that received per Dragon, and advising of their intentions to let the Scarborough out to freight from hence to the Coast and Mocha, provided we were of opinion the ships remaining of last year and the Wager and Duke of Dorset expected should be sufficient for our tonage, and as they expect the Warwick will return to them in December they will dispatch her to Europe in January, wherefore we must not reckon on the bales they shall have ready by that time; they likewise desired us to order the Britannia to touch at Madrass and land her rice there, but we have come to a resolution to detain her for the same reasons we have given Your Honours in the 20th paragraph of this address for keeping the Hardwick.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe or from one part of India to be disposed of in another.*

33. Under this head of Your Honours' affairs you are pleased to notify to us that you have complied with our several indents, particularly for woollen goods, a large vend whereof you have much at heart and we beg leave to assure Your Honours that we shall not be wanting to encourage the sales to the utmost of our power and shall be particularly careful in obeying your orders about selling the Russia iron separately which you have consigned us for a trial.

34. We observe Your Honours have proceeded this year in supplying us with stationery upon a former indent and insist on knowing the reasons why we indented so largely for that article. It was owing to the great consumption of stationery during the indisposition of our late Sub-Accomptant to whose

care it is committed; he being thereby prevented from attending at the delivery of it to the several offices as it was wanted, the usual oeconomy was neglected insomuch that we were greatly distressed for stationery of all sorts. And as all the stationery ware designed us last year per Lynn was lost or damaged so much as to be unfit for service, we were under a necessity of framing our indent upon the same plan that we may not be disappointed in case of future accidents.

35. We have directed our Accomptant to rectifie the error in the Walpole's invoice in relation to the perpets, agreable to the account Your Honours transmitted us, and the three bales of flannells which we received by that ship and were not invoiced being designed for Fort St. Davids we have sold here.

36. Enclosed Your Honours will receive the account sales of damaged goods and remnants at publick outcry the 1st April amounting to CRs. 9440"7"-, as likewise the account sales of woollen goods on ballance the 10th June which were disposed of at publick outcry amounting to CRs. 34673"4"-.

37. As soon as the woollen goods consigned us per Dragon were landed, they were surveyed by the Warehouse-keepers in the presence of the captain and the report of what were damaged is forwarded in her packet, the amount CRs. 699"3"9 being demanded of Captain Kent he has paid.

38. After having given a month's publick notice of our intentions to sell the woollen goods per Dragon on the established terms, on the 25th July we put them up at publick outcry at the following prices, being 20 per cent on the invoice:

| | |
|---|---|
| Broad cloth aurora | @ 65 Rs. per piece. |
| Do.....do.....ordinary popinjay | 48 |
| Do.....do.....do.....blue | 48 |
| Do.....do.....do.....yellow | 48 |
| French yellow | 55 |
| Red | 48 |
| Perpets fine scarlet | 27 |
| Do....ordinary popinjay | 18 |
| Do.....do.....rose | 19 |
| Imbost cloth | 80 |

The account sales thereof is transmitted to Your Honours in this packet amounting to CRs. 80,459"-"-.

39. We purpose selling the woollen goods, copper, lead and iron received by the Hardwicke and Scarborough at publick

outcry the 6th day of September on the established terms, of which we have given notice in all the languages as usual, when we shall pay due regard to Your Honours' orders relative to the imbost long ells per Hardwick.

40. Your Honours will please to take notice in the account sales that the French yellow and the perpets ordinary popinjay would not sell at the prices put up at, so that we agreed to defer them till our next outcry when we shall try them at a lower price.

*Thirdly, concerning investment of goods for Europe.*

41. We shall now proceed to give Your Honours an account of this important branch of your affairs committed to our care in the fullest and most explicit manner.

42. On the 18th March, we paid Omichund ten chests of bullion and 20000 Bombay Rupees on account his last year's contract for ready money goods and then directed the merchants to attend the Board to begin our investment for the current year.

43. The 26th following they acquainted us that they had about 200 bales of Cossajura and Santipore cloth, besides what were prized of the 500 bales mentioned in the 25th paragraph of our address per Warren, and offering us those goods to be credited for the amount from the 30th April following. We accepted thereof and prized them to be in readiness for the dispatching of a ship in August.

44. We then asked them on what terms they would contract for this year's investment, to which they replied they could not think of entering into new contracts untill the accounts were adjusted, and they gave us the same answer the 1st, 15th, 18th, and 22nd April, and in this obstinate refusal they continued till the 27th May when with the utmost difficulty we prevailed on them to sign their accounts, and for their objections with other measures and proceeding thereon we beg leave to be referred to the seventh head of this address where the particulars will be set forth for Your Honours' notice.

45. The 27th May we directed the Export Warehousekeeper to learn from the merchants the terms on which they proposed providing the goods ordered, which Your Honours will observe are entered after our Consultation of the 10th of June, and that

upon taking the same under consideration we resolved on no account whatever to alter the old musters, to insist on their contracting for the goods they say they cannot provide, as also for the full quantity of soot romalls ordered on the same terms as last year and to propose to them the lowering the prices on the following goods:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mulmulls Cossajara superfine of | 40 and 2 to 27 Rs. | per piece | |
| Do do fine..... | 40 and 2 to 22 | do | do |
| Doorea do..... | 40 and 2 to 21″8 | do | do |
| Santipore mulmulls ..... | 40 and 2½ to 27 | do | do |
| Chequered Dooreas..... | 40 and 2 to 17 | do | do |
| Ballasore mulmulls 20 yd and 1 yd | .....to 13″4 | do | do |
| Soosies 50 copies and $1\frac{10}{10}$ covids | .....to 11″4 | do | do |
| Bushon Cossaes..... | 40 and 2 to 19 | do | do |
| Chaunpoor Comercolly cossaes | 40 and 2 to 6″8 | do | do |

and to contract for 40000 peices of gurrahs under a penalty of 15 per cent, in which case we should advance them 50 per cent on the arrival of Your Honours' ships, wherewith the merchants being acquainted would not then agree to.

46. The 17th following they refused to contract on the old musters and it was with great difficulty on the 20th that we prevailed with them to give up this point, in consideration whereof they proposed to have an advance price on the undermentioned goods viz.,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| On the addaties fine gold heads ..... | | 2 Rs. per piece |
| Carradarries ordinary ..... | | ″12″ |
| Chillaes ..... | | ″12″ |
| Doreas Coincola | 40 and 2½.. | 2″—″ |
| Do. do. ..... | 40 and 2.... | 2″—″ |
| Cossaes Cogmaria..... | 40 and 2½... | 1″12″ |
| Mulmulls Santipore..... | 40 and 2.... | 1″—″ |
| Do. Cossajura..... | 40 and 2..... | 1″12″ |
| Do. do..... fine..... | 40 and 3..... | 3″12″ |
| Chowtars from the aurungs where the real chowtars are provided | | 1″8″ |

That they could not then contract for any omorra goods as the weavers who were at those aurungs were dispersed, but if the troubles should cease within two months that then they would provide some and acquaint us of the quantity, that if we should agree to those terms they would lower the prices of the mulmulls Santipore superfine and Cossajura mulmulls superfine one rupee per peice less than last year's contract but could not

agree to any deduction from the other goods as the French and Dutch, by having made large contracts for them, have enhanced their prices, that they could not provide the following goods though we should advance on the muster price viz.,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mulmull handkerchiefs | 17½ | and | 7/8 |
| Dooreas chequered midling | 40 | and | 2 |
| Mulmulls Santipore do. | 40 | and | 3 |

And as the cotton, of which the gurrahs are made, was mostly destroyed by the heavy rains in the beginning of the year, they could not contract for a greater quantity of gurrahs and soot romalls than set forth in the Warehousekeeper's letter, that if we would promise to pay them 50 per cent on the arrival of Your Honours' ships and 35 per cent in October that then they would agree to pay the penalty on the deficiency on the hundred but if the 35 per cent was not paid them in October that then they would only agree to pay the penalty in the deficiency on 85 per cent.

47. The 24th June we took the foregoing proposals under consideration, and as cotton bore a very high price and most of the cotton produced in this country being destroyed by ye heavy rains and high winds which happened at the time the crop was gathering in and as our merchants for some years past have been unable to comply with their contracts for the following sortments at the former prices, we agreed to allow them the under written advance thereon viz..

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Addaties | ... ... ... | 8 | annas |
| Carradarries | ... .. ... | 3 | |
| Chillaes | .. ... ... | 3 | |
| Dooreas Coincola | ... ... .. | 8 | |
| Do. do. 40 and 2 | ... .. .. | 8 | |
| Do. Cossajura | ... ... ... | 8 | |
| Mulmulls Santipore | ... ... ... | 4 | |
| Do. Cossajura | ... ... ... | 7 | |
| Do. do. 40 and 3 | ... ... ... | 15 | |
| Cossaes Cogmaria | ... ... ... | 7 | |
| Chowtars | ... ... ... | 6 | |

and to insist on their lowering the prices of fine goods mentioned in the 45 paragraph of this address and to enter into contracts on the same terms as last year for all other goods and under the same penalties, to which the merchants would not then agree.

48. The day following we repeated our instances to them for contracting on the same terms as last year and for reducing the prices of those sortments as mentioned in our Consultation of the 10th June but they replied that they could not possibly comply therewith and it was not in their power to provide any more of the following goods (being about half the quantity ordered in the list of investment) than

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Addaties fine | | | 2000 pieces |
| Dooreas Coincola | | | 2500 |
| Do. do. | 40 and 2 | | 3000 |
| Do. Cossajura | | | 3000 |
| Mulmulls Santipore | | | 1500 |
| Mulmulls Cossajura | | | 4000 |
| Do. do. | 40 and 3 superfine | | 500 |
| Cossaes Cogmaria | | | 1000 |

49. The 27th June they proposed to us contracting on the same terms as last year viz., one third ready money and two thirds dadney, to be allowed interest on the former from the 1st of July and interest on the 50 per cent dadney to commence from the 15th June, and on the remaining 35 per cent from the 1st of October, to which we told them if it should so happen that we could not advance them the 35 per cent in October that we should give them notes at interest for the amount, but they would not agree to pay the deficiency on the hundred unless we advanced them this percentage in ready money.

50. Having taken the foregoing proposal under our consideration we informed them that on condition they would give us 40,000 peices of gurrahs and the whole quantity of soot romalls ordered and reduce the

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mulmuls Cossajura fine of | 40 and 2 | from 23″8 to | 22″8 |
| Do do. superfine.... | 40 and 2..... | 30″ to | 27″8 |
| Dooreas Cossajura ..... | 40 and 2..... | 22″ to | 21″8″ |
| Mulmuls Santipore..... | 40 and 2¼..... | 29″ to | 27″8″ |
| | Yds Yd | | |
| Do. Ballasore..... | 20 and 1..... | 14″ to | 13″8″ |
| Cossaes Busna..... | 40 and 2..... | 20″8 to | 19″4″ |

that then, in case of our failure to pay them the 35 per cent in October, we would only take the penalty on the deficiency on the 85 per cent and contract with them for the other dadney and ready money goods on the same terms as last year, to which merchants agreeing, we directed them to deliver in the amount of what each of them would contract for, which the Export Warehousekeeper laid before us the 4th July with the

list of their names in setts as they proposed becoming security for each other, wherewith we being unanimously satisfied we directed the division of the goods to be drawn out among the merchants, which is entered after our Consultation of the 15th July when we advanced them 17 rupees 3 annas per cent on their contracts.

51. The merchants refused contracting for the Patna goods ordered, as they were apprehensive, if they should provide any, that the Durbar would demand the same charges as when Your Honours' factory was there.

52. We advanced our merchants Rs. 18.3 annas per cent in further part of their contracts the 22nd July and their teeps being signed the 29th of that month were deposited in the hands of the President as usual.

53. On the 1st instant we acquainted the merchants with the differences ordered in Your Honours' list of investment per Hardwick, when they informed us they could not encrease the quantity of the following goods:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Addaties fine | | |
| Chowtars | | |
| Seersuckers fine | | |
| Dooreas | Coincola | 40 and 2¼ |
| Do. | do. | 40 and 2 |
| Do. | Cossajura | 40 and 2 |
| Mulmulls | do. | 40 and 2 |
| Do. | do. | 40 and 3 |
| Cossaes | Comercolly | 40 and 2 |
| Mulmuls | Santipore | 40 and 2 |

and in regard to the soosies ordered they are willing to provide them but cannot lower the prices of last year.

54. The 12th instant we called on them to inform us whether they would provide the Omorra goods but they told us that, as the Rajah of that place was dead, his two brothers quarrelling about the succession and their mother endeavouring to put the government into the hands of a third person, they could not think of venturing to send their money thither to provide goods, being afraid during those troubles their gomastahs would be plundered.

55. Your Honours' directions for regulating the cottah will exact our consideration, before the season for prizing Your Honours' goods commences when the same shall be carried into execution as far as we possibly can.

56. The several remarks mentioned in the list of investment shall have due regard paid to them as our merchants bring in the goods contracted for this year.

57. Omichund on the 7th March, the other merchants refusing, offered to contract with us for saltpetre at 6″4 Arcot Rupees per factory maund to be delivered here clear of all charges to Your Honours, which proposal we at that time waved in order to look out for other merchants but none offering between that time and the 30th May, we again called Omichund before us to know what quantity he would engage to provide and on what terms, to which he replied that since the above proposal he found he could lower the price to 5″14 Arcot Rupees per factory maund and at that rate would contract for 68,000 maunds under a penalty of ten per cent, to deliver 40,000 mds. into Your Honours' warehouse before the expiration of the month of September and the ballance by the last of December, provided we allowed him interest on the whole from the first day of June.

58. Ramkissenseat was then asked if he would contract and on what terms, to which he promised us an answer the next Council day when he informed us he could not engage at that time, and on the 25th June informed us he could not contract at all, upon which we proposed to Omichund to lower the price of his petre from 5″14 Arcot Rupees to 5″4 Arcot to be paid for as delivered in, but he absolutely refused contracting at a less price.

59. Benanderambauboo, a Hughley merchant, offering to deliver us 6,000 maunds of Patna dobarra saltpetre at 5″8″ Arcot per factory maund to be paid for when delivered, we accepted of his proposal on the 1st July and offered Omichund the same price for his petre on the 8th when he acquainted us that the petre belonged to Coja Wazeed and that he only desired two anaes per maund profit on account his risque, which if we did not approve of, he referred us to Coja Wazeed's gomastah to agree with him, who being sent for informed us that his master would not sell a part but the whole quantity that might arrive, which he judged would be about 86,000 maunds, to be delivered at Hughley and that he would not settle the price till he received the petre.

60. On the 22nd July the gomastah of Benanderambauboo arrived from Hughley and acquainted us that the petre his

master had agreed with us for was stopped by the government and unless we could procure a clearance for it he should be unable to fulfill his contract, upon which the President wrote to Coja Wazeed who has since cleared it.

61. As we found it impracticable to procure a sufficient quantity of saltpetre for this year's shipping and being apprehensive the French or Dutch would purchase Wazeed's petre, if we should delay contracting for it, whereby we should be entirely at a loss, or be obliged (if they would sell) to purchase it at a high rate, and as it did not appear eligible to us to have any transactions with Coja Wazeed on account of Deepchund's deposit in the Mayor's Court, we proposed to Omichand to contract for 40,000 maunds at 5″14 ARs. per factory maund to be delivered in Calcutta at his risque, one half in the month of September and the other in the month of December, under a penalty of ten per cent in case of his failure, in which case we would advance him one laack of Arcot Rupees, but he acquainted us he could not acceed thereto as Coja Wazeed would not sell a part but the whole.

62. On the 24th he proposed to us to contract for 86,000 maunds at 5″14 ARs. per factory maund, to deliver 50,000 maunds thereof into Your Honours' warehouse in the month of September and the ballance in December without any further charge or expence whatever, under a penalty of ten per cent in case of failure, provided we would pay him in hand 100,000 Arcot Rupees, 200,000 more on the arrival of Your Honours' ships and allow him interest on the ballance that will appear due to him after the abovementioned delivery from that day, which proposal we accepted of for the reasons given in the foregoing paragraph.

63. Having thus given Your Honours a particular account of our investment we shall now proceed to inform you of the proceedings of the servants at the several subordinates and what progress they have made in their respective investments.

64. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar advised us under date the 22nd February that, after much trouble and using many arguments with their merchants, they were not able to reduce their raw silk below the following prices.

For the November bund DMRs 8″ per seer the A.
Guzzarat—8″9
Commercolly—7″13

That their merchants' reasons for demanding these extravagant prices were the fineness of the musters fixed on, which were wound off from the finest Novemberbund putney of which there was but a small quantity produced this year through the want of rain, late troubles in the country and other misfortunes and that the French, Dutch and Guzzerattees were buying it up at a very high price which would probably make it dearer in a few days.

65. As they were unwilling therefore to lose any time in making their contracts that the silk might be wound off before the merchants had an opportunity of mixing it with the Marchbund, they then forwarded the musters for our inspection.

66. On the 4th March we forwarded the list of investment and directed them to provide 400 bales of the several sortments in proportion to what ordered therein, agreable to those musters which we approved of as to their quality, but as we esteemed the price extreamly high we recommended it to them to use their utmost endeavours to lower them.

67. They acknowledged the receipt of our orders under date the 18th March at which time they acquainted us they had contracted for the following quantities of silk to be delivered into their cottah by the 15th of May, viz.,

November bund.....770 maunds
Guzzeratt.....260
Commercolly.....770

and as we did not order so large a quantity of silk as the merchants expected, they with some difficulty brought them to take two annas per seer less than the prices advised of in the 64th paragraph.

68. Under date the 31st March they informed us that they had contracted for the following quantities of silk piece goods upon the same musters as last year at the undermentioned prices, one half to be delivered into the cottah by the 30th June, and the other by the last of October.

| | | Pieces | Per piece |
|---|---|---|---|
| Taffaties | 21 and 2¼ | 5 75 at DMRs | 9"9 |
| Do red | 21 and 2¼ | 1025 at | 9"15 |
| Do striped | 21 and 2¼ | 1045 at | 9"13 |
| Silk lunge romals | 14 and 14 | 2000 at | 8"5 |

| | | Pieces | Per piece |
|---|---|---|---|
| New romalls | 13⅛ and 14 | 2980 at | 8″6 |
| Fine choppa sarries | 7 and 1 | 6130 at | 5″— |
| Finer bandannoes | 7 and 1 | 4070 at | 4″15 |
| Bandannoes | 7 and 1 | 7386 at | 4″6 |
| Choppa bandannoes | 7 and 1 | 7389 at | 4″6 |
| Chanderbannies | 7 and | 500 at | 3″11 |

That silk being so much dearer this season than the last, they were obliged to advance the prices of the piece goods to make it worth the merchants' while to undertake and deliver them in according to muster.

69. In a letter dated the 10th April, they informed us they had contracted for 200 maunds of white Rungpore silk 7″10 DMRs. per seer the A and used their endeavours to contract for the A and B only of this silk, but the merchants refused, alledging there is always a large proportion of the C produced from this putney which would sell for very little without the head letters, but before they contracted they brought the merchants to raise the muster to a greater fineness, particularly the C, and to deliver in a large proportion of the A and B than what they have done for some seasons past, and as their merchants would not agree for the other sort of Rungpore silk ordered in the list of investment of the C, of which there is always a large proportion generally turning out very coarse, that they should decline contracting for any of that sortment untill they received our orders thereon.

70. At the same time they forwarded us the musters of the jammawars and chints of which with the prices hereafter mentioned, if we should approve, the merchants would agree for the following quantities.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jammawars | 30 and 1¼.....100 at DMRs 30 | per piece |
| Do. or flowered striped Taffaties | 21 and 2¼.....300 at.....26 | |
| Conchees for chinting 8½ yds and 10 N without any allowance for dustore or brokerage | .....10000 at.....27″8<br>Chas. chinting.....10″— | |

37″8 per corge

That their merchants' reasons for demanding those high prices were as follow: in regard to the jammawars there was not above one or two men who knew how to make them and they would not undertake them without suitable encouragement to make amends for the bad debts they commonly incurred by advancing money to the weavers to engage them to stay with them, which was not so much the case with respect to the other sorts of silk peice goods, and that the price of the conchees for chinting was only in proportion to what cotton peice goods bore anno 1732 when the last chints were provided and this year.

71. They likewise informed us that none of their merchants would undertake the jammawars with running flowers, the people who used to make them being dead or run away.

72. On inspecting those musters and finding them excessive dear we directed them to provide only 40 peices of the flowered stript taffaties, 20 peices of the jammawars and two bales of chints, and to provide the Rungpore silk agreable to our former orders in proportion to the quantity directed in the list of investment, endeavouring to raise the fineness of ye letter C, and send us the musters for our approbation.

73. Under date the 24th April they wrote us that they had, on contracting for the taffaties and chints, reduced the former half a rupee per peice and the latter a rupee and an half per corge, and forwarded a muster of Rungpore silk which, if we should approve of, they could contract for 40 maunds according to the following proportions and prices, being as much as the fine Novemberbund putney produced near Rungpore would yield of the 3 letters only:

A.....6 maunds at 7″ DMRs.
B.....17.....6″12.....
C.....17.....6″8.....
40 maunds

and acquainted us that their merchants being at first unwilling to provide any of this silk, they encreased the quantity of white Rungpore, thinking it would be acceptable to Your Honours but if we should disapprove thereof they could easily forbid 100 maunds. and that the reason for so much difference in the prices of those two sortments was owing to the white Rungpore being finer and in much greater demand.

74. In reply thereto we directed them to provide the 40 maunds they mentioned, besides the 100 maunds of white Rungpore silk they had contracted for.

75. They likewise assured us that after using their utmost endeavours to reduce the prices of gurrahs and doosutties they were only able to lower the gurrahs of 36 covids one rupee per corge and the other sorts in proportion, at which prices they contracted for the following quantities viz.,

| | | Pieces |
|---|---|---|
| Gurrahs— | 75 and 2¼ | 2500 |
| | 72 and 2¼ | 20000 |
| | 37½ and 2¼ | 5000 |
| | 36 and 2¼ | 30000 |
| | 30 and 2¼ | 15000 |
| | | 72500 |
| Doosutties fine | 30 yds. and 1½ yd | 500 |
| Do ordinary | 15 and 1⅛ | 1000 |
| | | 1500 |

and their merchants' reasons for not lowering those sortments of goods more were owing to the small crop of cotton likely to be produced, the scarcity of spinners at the gurrahs aurungs and the extraordinary charges they may be put to in getting them washed, should the Morattoes return and force them to bring their cloth undrest from the aurungs; and as they had made very considerable contracts there this season, they hoped we would supply them with as much money as we could spare.

76. Under date the 11th May, they acquainted us of their having contracted for the 40 maunds of Rungpore silk for 2 annaes per seer less than before advised of, and 4000 pieces of gurrahs, a muster whereof they sent us, at 87 DMRs. per corge the A, being the same sort though not quite so good as the muster agreed on in 1732 at DMRs. 82″-, which they take for the better sort of gurrahs ordered by Your Honours in the last list.

77. On the arrival of Your Honours' ship the Dragon we sent them 10 chests of Arcot Rupees and 10 chests of bullion for to forward their investment and directed them to acquaint

Futtichund, in case he should demand any of this money, that we proposed paying off part of his debt out of the next money that arrived, but if he insisted on any part thereof to satisfie him out of the bullion.

78. Under date the 7th July they dispatched 72 bales of gurrahs and doosutties and remarked that the 2 bales of fine doosutties of 15 covids and 1 1/8 covid were part of what we ordered last season for St. Helena and in consequence of our orders of the 18th ultimo they sent us down 56 bales of raw silk.

79. The 24th following we forwarded thither 15 chests of Arcot Rupees with directions to pay one lack thereof in part of their bills of debt on account their contracts for gurrahs, but Kissendub[1], from whom they borrowed a sum of money in the beginning of the year, insisting on being paid in part thereof, they were obliged to deliver him four chests, as likewise five to the Seats, they being disappointed of the like number promised them at Dacca, that they had distributed the remainder account their gurrahs contracts, at the same time informing us, it being so late in the season, they feared they should fall greatly short in that article.

80. On the 7th instant we received 56 bales of raw silk from thence which on opening and inspecting we found in general to be unequal to the musters, particularly the Guzzerat which was harsh and the E of the Commercolly very gouty and full of sifta and fulky, but on inspecting the invoice we observed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar had cut the merchants very largely on this account.

81. The 18th April, Mr. Clerembault being ready to return to his Chiefship at Dacca we forwarded by him the list of investment with 10 bales of dooreas Cossajurah, 2 bales of mulmulls and 1 bale of fine Jugdea hummums for flowering.

82. Under date the 22nd of that month they forwarded to us the list of puttun cloth they had given out money for, on the list of investment for last year, and informed us that had they waited any longer it would be impossible to comply therewith this season, which added to the French business being upon the point of clearance, would, had they deferred contracting then, have greatly enhanced the price of cloth and made it difficult, if not impossible, to procure what they wanted.

83. On Mr. Clerembault's arrival there they again wrote us that the list of investment being the same as they received per

Lynn, was at that time complied with as far as their money would permit and for a further and strict compliance they request us to send them what money we can spare, not having any to give out for flowering the abovementioned 13 bales.

84. On the arrival of the Dragon we sent them 10 chests of Arcot Rupees and five chests of bullion for forwarding their investment and directed them to send us down what goods they had at that time provided and inform us what quantity of fine goods they would be able to send down by the middle of this month, as Your Honours had directed us to lade such on board the Dragon. At the same time we gave them positive directions not to provide any jungull cloth in private trade and particularly recommended it to them to provide as many baftaes as possible, wherewith they have promised a due compliance, and under date the 6th July wrote us that they expected to forward, to be down here by the middle of August, the following fine goods on Your Honours' account.

1200 peices of jungull cloth.
3400peices of cossida work.
500 peices of allaballies.
130 peices of chicor dooreas, besides 50 or 60 bales of ready money cloth.

85. On the 22nd July we sent them 15 chests of Arcot rupees for forwarding their investment, being part of the treasure we received per Hardwick.

86. The 11th of March we received 174 bundles and 6 tucktaes of cloth from Jugdea, whereof we sent 180 peices of baftaes to the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids per Swallow snow to be printed.

87. The gentlemen at Jugdea under date the 22nd April requested us to send them a supply of money as soon as possible, as they should have all theirs invested by the latter end of May, and forwarded to us the 30th April a bundle and [.....] tucktaes of cloth on Your Honours' account.

88. On the arrival of the Dragon we sent them 6 chests of Arcot Rupees for forwarding their investment and then recommended as large a provision of baftaes as possible.

89. Under date the 25th June they enclosed an invoice of goods then dispatched to us on Your Honours' account, amounting to DMRs. 20,036″6″6 and advised us that the violence of the

Weather there this season had so damaged the cotton harvest that it rose from 7 and 8 annaes to 12 and 13 annaes per seer so that in their baftaes which weigh near 1¾ seer there arises a difference of ½ rupee per piece, which extraordinary rise hindered them from making that improvement in their cloth which they wrote us in January last they expected; however from the advantage of our early remittances they had kept their cloth up to muster.

90. The 30th following they informed us that the boat which they dispatched to us as mentioned in the foregoing paragraph was split on a sand near Rammutcally and that all the cloth was sunk, on which Mr. Baillie sent Mr. Playdell thither immediately, who informed him that the people had recovered about 50 bundles on Your Honours' and private accounts and that he was in hopes, when the macraes were over, they would be able to recover the greatest part if not the whole, but under date the 26th July they wrote us that they had no prospects to recover any more than ye above quantity.

91. We forwarded thither the 24th ultimo the list of investment for this year, drawn out agreable to Your Honours' list per Hardwick, with such paragraphs of your commands by that ship as related to them, to which we enjoyned a strict obedience.

92. Mr. Henry Kelsall, Resident at Bulramgurry, acknowledged the receipt of Your Honours' list of investment under date the 26 April and promised to use his utmost endeavours with the weavers to make them bring in the quantity demanded and the 22nd July last we forwarded the list of goods to be provided there, drawn out agreable to Your Honours' orders per Hardwick.

93. The account sales of the damaged goods in the cottah which were put up at outcry the 29th April amounting to CRs. 4430″8″3 is herewith sent.

94. We have now made good our promise to Your Honours in the 41st paragraph and hoping it will meet with your approbation shall proceed to the fourth established head.

*Concerning the trade of India and therein any transactions with the country Government.*

95. When the Warren was under dispatch the President received a letter from Coja Wazeed demanding the money which

was deposited in Your Honours' treasury on account of Patna Deepchund, which with the President's answer was forwarded by that ship. Your Honours will see the same entered after our Consultation of the 26th February for Your Honours' notice of which we have not heard any thing further since.•

96. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote us the 22nd February last that they heard from the Durbar a party of Morattoes had plundered and burnt Bogglepore and that a large body of them was following through the Berboon country, that the Nabob was encamped at Amaungunge, a little without Muxadavad, with intentions, as it was said, to proceed towards Berboon.

97. We acquainted Your Honours anno 174 [ ] that we had received into the treasury the estate of Hajee Saluis, a Turk, who departed this life intestate, which the Nabob has since claimed as he died in this country and none of his relations ever appeared or sent to demand it, and the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar giving us to understand that unless we complied therewith the Nabob would order forces on their factory, which would have been attended with further expense to Your Honours, we empowered them to pay him, which sum being ARs. 5092″1″9 they discharged as advised of the 8th ultimo when the Nabob demanding interest thereon, they represented that the money was always ready and might have been received sooner if applied for and compounded at last for Arcot Rs. 480″4″3, a much less sum than the interest for so many years had he insisted on receiving it. Agreable to our orders thereon they got a receipt from the Nabob and transmitted a copy thereof to us.

98. Under date the 11th May, the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote us that the Nabob had surrounded the French factory with his forces for some time and stopped their business at all their settlements on account of a dispute with the Durbar which, as they were informed, was accommodated for 50,000 Sicca Rupees.

99. The President on the 30th May layed before us a letter from the Nabob demanding Ramkissenseat[2] to be sent him for having brought down goods without paying the Muxadavad syre chokey duties, which Ramkissenseat assuring us was false and declaring that he never had any goods without Your Honours' dustick, the President wrote him in answer that as he was a great debitor of Your Honours and his enemies told this falsity of him in order to ruin him and detriment Your Honours' affairs,

he hoped and desired he would favour him so far as to desist from this demand, that your investment might not be impeded and that we through his kindness might continue in Your Honours' favour, since which time having heard nothing further on this head we are in great hopes he has desisted from his demand.

100. The gentlemen at Dacca in a letter dated the 27 June, having informed us that their Nabob on a frivolous pretence had stopped their business, we transmitted a copy of their letter to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to apply to Nowarris Mahmud Cawn to send an order to his naib to clear it, but their Nabob of his own accord, without any present or composition money, returned the mutchulcas and cleared Your Honours' business there.

101. Under date the 30th ultimo the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar informed us that Hookumbeg acquainted them that our phirmaund being granted by a former king was of no validity and must be renewed, otherwise Your Honours must pay the duties as other nations do, and they imagine the Nabob did not know of this demand but were afraid, if Hookumbeg should put him in mind thereof, they might by his instigation make it a pretence to exact a large sum of money from Your Honours, and as they were apprehensive the business would be stopped unless Hookumbeg was satisfied, we directed them to exert themselves in finding out what Hookumbeg's views were in making this demand and inform us as soon as possible in what manner he was to be satisfied.

*Fifthly, concerning fortifications, buildings and revenues.*

102. Under this head we are to acquaint Your Honours of Mr. Robbins's arrival here on the 11th March in the Swallow snow and on the 21st following he delivered us a letter concerning the materials he should want for beginning the works Your Honours entrusted to his management, which you will find entered after that day's Consultation.

103. The next day we took Mr. Robbins' letter under our consideration and he being present, we sent for Govindram Metre, the black Zemindar, and asked him to contract for the sundries wanted and at the prices affixed thereto, when he assured us he could not possibly enter into engagements for the bricks and timbers but would contract for the whole quantity

of chunam at the following prices.

Maunds of oyster shell at 27"-per 100 mds.
Do.....of snail shell at 33"-per 100 mds.

on the following conditions viz., to be advanced 5000 Arcot Rupees in hand and the ballance in the month of June, to deliver in the chunam by a measure and the expence thereof to be defrayed by Your Honours, and that publick orders should be affixed at our fort gates forbidding all persons residing under Your Honours' protection to purchase chunam of any one except the Board, which proposal we accepted of, and the contract agreable thereto being signed by him, we advanced him on the 5th April 5000 Arcot Rupees and the ballance 13,600"-"- Arcot Rs. on the 27th day of June.

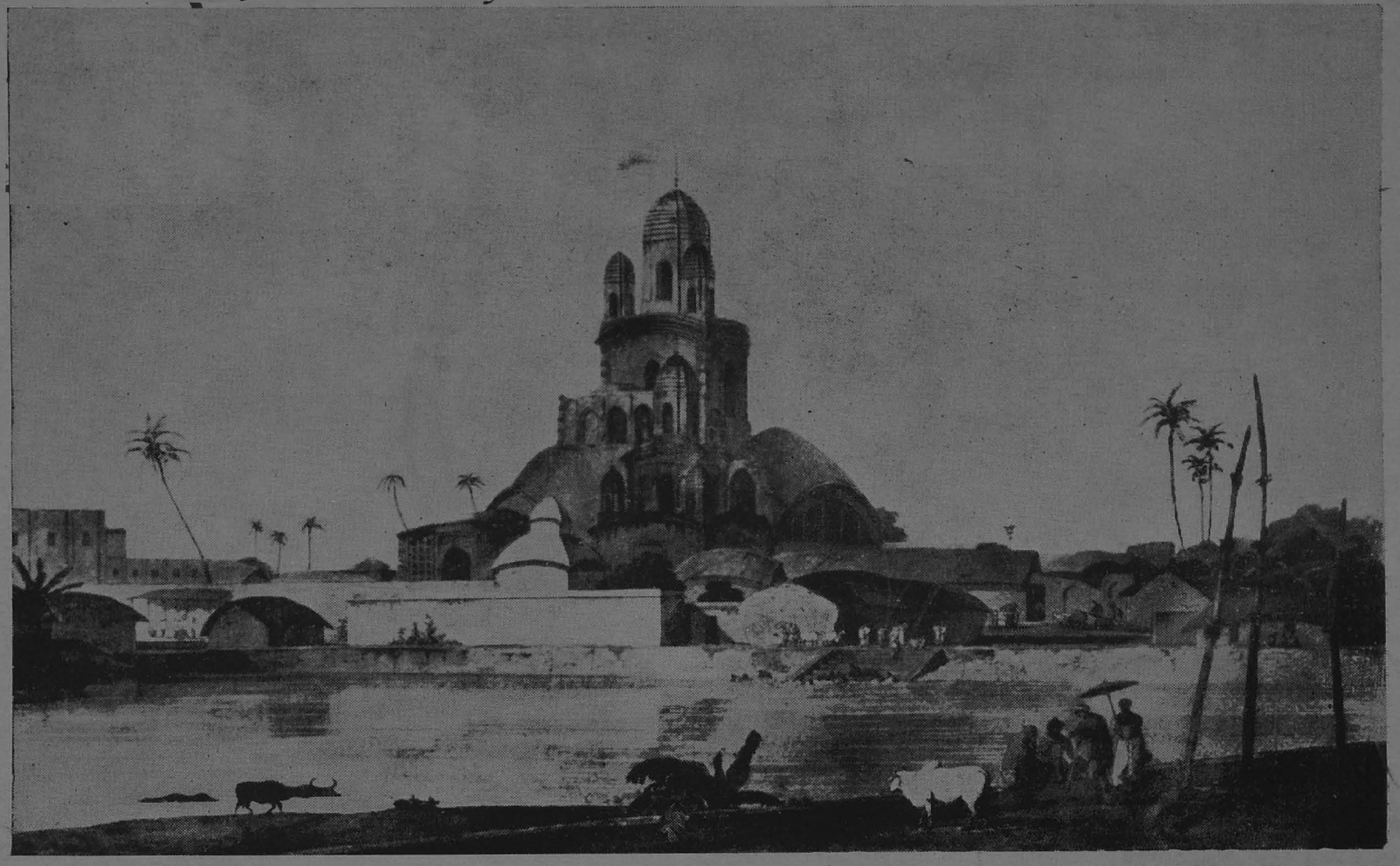
104. Mr. Robbins returned to Fort St. David the 22nd March on Your Honours' snow the Swallow.

105. We wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar the 8th April, to know if they could provide any sal timbers there, but they informing us, after having made the best enquiry they could, that they could contract for 1000 peices from 11 covids to 13 covids in length and from 10 inch to 12 inch in breadth at 22 Sicca Rupees per peice, 500 to be delivered in Calcutta free of all charges in the month of September and 500 in October, and gave for reason of their dearness the great distance from whence they were brought, large duty paid the government and heavy charges attending their being sent down, on which account we forbid them to purchase any.

106. We also directed the gentlemen at Dacca to inform us if they could provide any chunam there and the like orders we transmitted to Mr. Kelsall at Bulramgurry; the former acquainted us, on enquiry they found chunam very scarce and but a small quantity to be procured even at so high a price as from 40 to 45 rupees per 100 maunds and the latter that it was late in the season, he could not provide above 1000 mds. of stone chunam at about 20 Arcot Rupees per 100 and 50 maunds of shell from 22 to 23 per 100 maunds.

107. We have directed the Jemindar to cut down all the old trees and underwood in and about the town and reserve them till Mr. Robbins's arrival, as we judged this would be a great saving to Your Honours in the article of firewood for burning bricks.

108. We have purchased some timbers and plank, which we found answered to Mr. Robbins's indent, at the prices set down



Gobindaram Mitra's Pagoda, Calcutta

in Your Honours' Carpenter's report of them, entered after our Consultation of the 8th instant.

109. In obedience to your orders in the 43rd paragraph of Your Honours' commands per Hardwick we acquainted the Armenians that they must pay consulage on their exports equally with the covenanted servants and affixed publick orders at our fort gates forbidding all persons within Your Honours' limits to export any goods from Calcutta without a permit from the Consulage Collector, under pain of having such goods confiscated.

*Sixthly, concerning factors, officers, writers and their accompts.*

110. Your Honours' surgeons representing to us on the 4th of March that they were in want of medicines as those that were saved from the Lynn were rendered useless by being under water, we permitted them to purchase such as they wanted for their immediate occasions.

111. On the 7th March we appointed Mr. Culling Smith assistant at Cossimbuzar factory.

112. The President at the request and on the recommendation of Mr. Robbins gave him a commission for Mr. Godwin to be second lieutenant fireworker here, that gentleman being upon the Coast. and on the recommendation of Major John Hollond he granted an ensign's commission to Mr. Robert Talbot.

113. On the 8th May Mr. Hamlet Leigh, an ensign in Your Honours' service, departed this life of a fever, as did Mr. Francis Wollaston one of Your Honours' covenanted servants on the 6th June.

114. The gentlemen at Fort St. Davids wrote us per Dragon that they were induced (it being so apparently for Your Honours' interest) to detain the 22 recruits designed us by that ship, as they should all the others when they arrived there, which they were the readier induced to, as they shall have so many opportunities of sending them to us as soon as they could spare them.

115. Mr. William Fullerton, on receipt of Your Honours' orders per Dragon to succeed Messrs. Gray or Holwell as one of your surgeons here, was in obedience thereto immediately appointed, and Mr. John Bristow who was surgeon's mate of

the Princess Amelia, when she was taken by the French in Madrass Road, on his petition to succeed Mr. Fullerton as mate in the ship was accordingly appointed as we had no objection to his capacity or character.

116. Mr. Walter Stainforth whom Your Honours entertained as a writer in your service arrived here from Fort St. Davids the 15th July, when we stationed him in the cottah, and Messrs. Johnstone and Sykes, who took their passage on the Scarborough, on their arrival were asked how Capt. D'Auvergne treated them in the passage, to which they replied extreamly well. The former we have stationed in the Accomptant's office and the latter in the Secretary's.

117. Edward Eyles Esqr. having had our permission to come to Calcutta for a few days to transact some business, on the 17th ultimo requested our leave to relinquish his Chiefship at Cossimbuzar and to be admitted to his seat at our Board, which we complied with and ordered him to take charge of the general books, and Mr. William Fytche being next in succession was appointed Chief of that factory in his room.

118. On the 29th ultimo Mr. Fytche set out for Cossimbuzar, at which time we directed Mr. Matthew Collett, with whom Mr. Eyles had entrusted the care of that factory, to deliver the same over to him immediately on his arrival with the ballance of cash, books of accounts and all other papers belonging to Your Honours.

119. Your Honours will observe a letter entered after our Consultation of the 22nd July from Messrs. Baldrick and Goddard who were members of the Mayor's Court, at the time the 2000 Arcot Rupees were paid for granting the administration of Captain Lloyd's estate, as also the enquiry we made concerning that Tribe, entered on the face of our Consultation held the same day, but as Mr. Orme was at Fort St. David to which place we permitted him to go for the recovery of his health, we transmitted the Governor and Council there a copy of the 73rd paragraph of your commands per Hardwick to make the enquiry therein directed and transmit us the result.

120. Mr. John Bellamy the son of the Revd. Mr. Gervas Bellamy, one of Your Honours' chaplains, being in the sixteenth year of his age as will appear by the Register Book and being qualified in all other respects for your service, we again take the liberty to recommend him to be entertained as a writer at any of your settlements.

121. We shall comply with Your Honours' orders for reading the commission which you design for Major Hollond at the head of the military, when it comes to hand. He desires to return Your Honours thanks for this mark of your favour and to assure you he will make it his study to keep up to your orders relating to the regulation in the military. He begs leave at the same time to remark that Your Honours' paragraph concerning the falling off from order in your troops on the demise of Major Mosman must have been occasioned by some malicious report, as we assure Your Honours, on his succeeding Capt. Hamilton, that he exerted himself all in his power towards disciplining the garrison and following the plan Major Mosman designed and we are well convinced, till barracks are built, they cannot in any respect be kept in better order.

*Seventhly, touching accompts.*

122. In our address per Warren we acquainted Your Honours that our merchants refused to sign their accounts and transmitted you a copy of their reasons why they would not. We at the same time assured you that our utmost endeavours in the interim were not wanting.

123. In consequence thereof we called them before us on the 22nd April and proposed settling their accounts agreable to the statement entered after that day's Consultation, to which they replied they would willingly pay the penalty on the deficiency of the 85 per cent, in case they had been advanced ready money or bonds in lieu thereof, and on account of the troubles occasioned by the Morattoes at the aurungs to which they send their own money their goods frequently come in very short, for which reason they looked upon themselves as cleared from any penalty on delivering 85 per cent on their contracts, and in case they delivered in less than the 85 per cent then not to be allowed interest on the 85 per cent but on what they deliver in. We then informed them that we should insist on their adjusting their accounts agreable to the abovementioned statement and directed the Accomptant to draw them out accordingly.

124. On the 29th April assuring us that they could not sign them thus made out, we shewed them how their accounts were settled anno 1740 and insisted on their complying with the same adjustment excepting in regard to the gurrahs, which account must be settled the same as last year, but they refused to comply therewith and on the 9th May persisting in their

refusal, we ordered the Accomptant to prepare the accounts of four or five merchants and lay the same before us.

125. The 16th May he brought in the accounts of Raddachurn Metre and Tillickchund, who being called before us seperately, we prevailed on them to sign, and directed him to draw out the others accordingly.

126. The next day he laid before us the accounts of Anunchund, Nianchund and Sooberambysaack, who being called in seperately, the two former signed their accounts, but Sooberambysaack, persisting in an obstinate refusal and it appearing to us most probable from this and some other circumstances that he had been greatly instrumental in working up several of the other merchants to the same refusal, we agreed and accordingly acquainted him that we should allow him 3 days to consider of it and if then he would not sign his accounts we should dismiss him from Your Honours' business.

127. Being accordingly called before us the 20th to sign his account drawn out agreable to his contract he told us that he esteemed his contract of no validity and payed no regard to it and therefore would not sign. Upon which we directly dismissed him from the dadney and forbad him coming to the factory.

128. The Cotmahs on the 23rd May desiring a few days to write to their brethren about signing their accounts, we acquiesced thereto, but Ramkissenseat being required to sign his account and absolutely refusing to comply, we forbad him the factory and dismissed him the dadney.

129. We then called upon Omichund who objected to the signing his account as he was debited for the ballance of his saltpetre contract Current Rupees 30,167"7"- but told us, if we would pay him his ballance or give him an interest note to be paid him on the arrival of the first ship, he would sign it, and in case Your Honours should order the saltpetre ballance to be returned him that he should have credit for it, to which we would not agree and allowed him till the following Council day to give his answer whether he would sign or not.

130. On the 27th following Luckicondseat requesting us to admit his uncle Ramkissenseat to ask pardon for his obstinacy and promising to sign his accounts and go on with Your Honours' investment, he was accordingly admitted and signed

them, as did Sooherambysaac after having made proper submission. The other merchants were then called before us and signed their respective accounts.

131. From the abovementioned obstinacy of the merchants Your Honours will see the reasons for not beginning the investment sooner and we are in hopes Your Honours will favour us with your approbation of the measures we took to bring the merchants to pay due obedience to your orders.

132. The gentlemen at Jugdea enclosed to us under date the 14th June their account current made up to the 30th April, wherein it appeared that the delolls had not paid any of the annual 10,000 rupees, but as they threatened them with violent measures in case they did not comply with their agreement, they were in hopes of recovering a part, though no more than they did last year, and the excuse they gave for not paying was the hardships they suffered by Mr. Blachford's puttun money, not scrupling to say it was so much entire loss to them, and if we chose that any severe methods should be taken with them they would immediately comply with our orders.

133. Mr. Blachford being called up to explain this affair, referred us to the Jugdea letter of the 2nd March 1750 and to their general account current dated the 30th April following and further appealed to Messieurs Baillie and Playdell whether he did not, when he delivered over the charge of the factory, deposit in their hands the delolls' receipt for the amount of Rs. 18,153"9"- and whether the delolls at that time made any objection thereto. We thereupon wrote to the gentlemen at Jugdea to inform us of the reasons why the delolls call in question an account which was passed above a twelvemonth, as we imagined it to be only a frivolous excuse for not paying; at the same time we enjoyned them to use their utmost endeavours to recover the proportion of the debt from the dellols for last year as also to procure the annual 10,000 rupees for this but did not appro[ve] of their using any violent measures to force them to a compliance.

134. We observe Your Honours' complaints concerning the mistakes and omissions in the bills of exchange sent home last year and have given proper directions that the like may be avoided in future and agreable to your orders those now granted are drawn out on half a sheet of paper.

135. The two bills of exchange granted anno 1748 were accounted for as follows: the one to Mr. George Gray for Current Rs. 3680″15″- payable to Mr. Robert Coult or order at 2/2 per rupee is £St. 398″15″, being the ballance due on an interest note dated the 21st day of December 1747, in the names of Messrs. Jackson and Gray for Current Rs. 16,505″9″9, which note being lost or mislaid, Mr. Gray entered into a bond to indemnify Your Honours off and from all payments that might be made hereafter on the said interest note's being found, which bond of indemnity is deposited in the hands of ye President.

The other to Mr. Cruttenden for CRs. 1714″4″6 payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at 2/4 per rupee is £St. 200″-″- was endorsed off an interest note in the name of Mr. George Williamson dated the 5th December 1748 for rupees 3000″-″-, which omission at that time Your Honours will see is rectified in our books ballanced April 1750.

136. We now proceed to give Your Honours an account of what sums of money we have granted bills of exchange for, and first of those at two shillings and three pence (2/3) per rupee:

On the 9th August to the reverend Mr. Gervas Bellamy on his own account Current Rupees seven hundred and eleven, one annae and nine pie (711″1″9) payable to Mr. Thomas Pomfret or order at (2/3) per rupee is £St. 80″-″-

On the 15th August to Messrs. Fytche and Burrow on their own account Current Rupees twelve thousand five hundred and nine, ten annaes and three pie (12,509″10″3) payable to Joseph Godfrey Esqr. or William Wake Esqr. or their order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 1407″6″8

On the 15th do to Mr. Jonathan Ranson on his own account Current Rupees seven thousand (7000) payable to William Davis Esqr. and Capt. Thomas Hill or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 787″10″-

On the 15th do to Richard Court account William Wogan Junior Current Rupees four hundred and forty four and seven annaes (444″7″-) payable to Mr. William Wogan Senior or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 50″-″-

On the 15th do to Major John Hollond account Mr. Joseph Fowke Current Rupees sixty five thousand five hundred and forty and three pie (65540″-″3) payable to Messrs. Edward Fowke and Joseph Fowke or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 7373″5″-

On the 19th do to Mr. James Ross on account of Mr. James Wilson Current Rupees four hundred and thirty six (436″-″-) payable to Mr. John Willis or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 49″1″-

On the 19th do to Edward Eyles Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees one hundred and fifty three thousand (1,53,000″-″-) payable to Sir Francis Haskins Eyles Stiles Bart. or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 17212″10″-

On the 19th do to the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees four thousand one hundred and fifty one (4151″-″-) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 466″19″9

On the 19th do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland on account William Smyth King Esqr. Current Rupees fourteen thousand four hundred and ninety four, nine annæs and nine pice payable to Mr. Wm. Smyth King or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 1630″12″10

The whole amount of bills drawn at two shillings and three pence (2/3) per rupee is Current Rupees two hundred and fifty

eight thousand two hundred and eighty six, thirteen annæs or pounds sterling twenty nine thousand and fifty seven, five shillings and three pence (£St. 29057"5"3).

137. We come next to advise Your Honours of what sums we have granted bills of exchange for at two shillings and one penny (2/1) per rupee.

On the 15th August to the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees eight thousand five hundred and thirty six, seven annæs and six pice (CRs. 8536"7"6) payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 889"4"3

On the 19th do to Mr. Joshua Bodley on his own account Current Rupees four hundred and eighty (480) payable to Mr. Henry Jacques or Mrs. Susannah Bodley or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 50"-"-

On the 19th do to Mr. Antonio Da Couti on his own account Current Rupees one thousand five hundred and twenty, ten annaes (1520"10"-) payable to Mrs. Ann Barton and Mrs. Elizabeth Barwell at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 159"16"4

The whole amount of bills drawn at two shillings and one penny per rupee is Current Rupees ten thousand five hundred and thirty seven, one annae and six pice (CRs. 10537"1"6) or pounds sterling one thousand and ninety nine and seven pence (£St. 1099"-"7).

138. We have likewise granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sums:

On the 15th August to Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account Capt. Matthew Court Current Rupees two thousand four hundred and twenty one, twelve annaes and nine pice (2421"12"9)

On the 15th August to Captain John Somner on his own account Current

Rupees eighteen thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, six annaes and three pice CRs. 18779"6"3

The whole amount of certificates granted is twenty one thousand two hundred and one Current Rupees, three annæs (CRs. 21201"3"-).

*Supplement.*

139. Mr. James Meredith, our attorney in the law suit against Mr. Wadham Brooke, acquainted us on the 17 July that he was served with an order for producing our books of Consultations and as we were of opinion the Mayor's Court had no right to demand them, he had our directions to refuse them, and on the 14th instant informing us that a decree was confirmed in favour of Mr. Brooke, we directed him to appeal from thence.

140. We acquainted Mr. Bellamy with the intimations given Your Honours concerning the organ which was made a present of to the church by Mr. Richard Eyre, and he declared that when Mr. Frankland applied to him for it, he told him it was not in his power to give it but wished it was removed from thence as Mr. Pearson informed him it was wholely useless, being eat up by the white ants, and the church might be endangered thereby, for in the gallery where it stood the marks of the white ants are to be seen now, the truth whereof Messrs. Frankland and Pearson avouched and their report of the condition of the organ Your Honours will find entered in our Consultation of the 12th instant. The inhabitants have since made a present to the church of a very fine organ which they purchased by subscription.

141. In obedience to Your Honours' orders we now transmit you Lieutenant Witherington's calculate of the expence of a barrell of gunpowder containing 1½ maund with his reasons why he cannot contract to provide it on cheaper terms.

142. The circumstances required by Your Honours in relation to the widows who receive pensions are as follow:

Mrs. Hunt widow of Major Hunt who departed this life anno 1731, after serving Your Honours upwards of 30 years, has since his death received the monthly pension of 35 rupees. Her age is 57.

Mrs. Johnson widow of Mr. Ralph Johnson one of Your Honours' covenanted servants, who departed this life about 9 or 10 years ago, since which time she has received a monthly pension of 35 rupees. Her age 50.

Mrs. Hamilton, widow of Capt. Robert Hamilton who departed this life anno 1749 after having served Your Honours 31 years, has received 35 rupees per month since her husband's demise. Her age 31.

Mrs. Newman, widow of John Newman, pilot in Your Honours' service for several years. He departed this life anno 1738 since which time she has received a pension of 20 rupees per month. Aged 45.

Mrs. Sinsnick was relict of Gilbert Sinsnick, one of Your Honours' pilots. She received a pension of 20 rupees from the time of her husband's demise till her death in 1749 and we shall observe your directions not to make such allowances for the future without Your Honours' permission.

143. As the invalids who receive allowances from Your Honours came more properly under the cognizance of the Major than the Buxey, we directed the former to pay them and they are mustered at the same time with the military. The list of them with the particular account of each, drawn out agreable to Your Honours' orders, is enclosed in the box of books per Dragon with the general muster roll of this garrison and a particular roll of each company.

144. Mr. Charles Beauvoir, one of Your Honours' covenanted servants, departed this life the 9th instant, as did Captain Philip D'Auvergne of the Scarborough on the same day and likewise Mr. John Sisson another of Your Honours' covenanted servants on the 13th, of fevers.

145. As we had no objections to the capacity and character of Mr. Pinson Bonham, chief mate of the Scarborough, and as he bore an exceeding good character, we appointed him to succeed Captain D'Auvergne in the command of that ship, and on Captain Bonham's representation to us that the other officers were unacquainted with the stowage of Your Honours' goods and thinking it absolutely necessary to appoint a chief mate, we swore Mr. Richard Morry into that office, who came out second officer of the Dragon, as Captain Kent acquainted

us that he could spare him having four mates on board besides and recommended him as a person qualified in every respect for that station.

146. On the arrival of the treasure per Scarborough we agreed to dispose of it as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| To advance our merchants to make up 50 per cent dadney on this year's contract . . . . . | 181000"-"- |
| To send to Dacca, one half to be paid Futtichund and the other half for the forwarding their investment | 160,000"-"- |
| To send to Cossimbuzar | 80,000"-"- |
| To send to Jugdea | 40,000"-"- |
| To advance Omichund account last year's ballance | 40,000" "- |
| To advance do account his saltpetre contract and to keep the ballance for the expences of this factory | 70,000"-"- |

147. The President received an answer from the Nabob to his letter advising him of the expected ships under the Emperor's colours, translate whereof with the President's reply thereto Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 17th instant, to which we beg leave to stand referred.

148. Edward Eyles Esqr. sent us a letter of yesterday's date requesting our permission to resign Your Honours' service and to return on the Britannia to Europe, which we complied with as he does not appear to be in any shape indebted to Your Honours and the usual 96 rupees we shall receive of his attorneys here.

149. Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes being next in succession we have taken him into Council and shall write to him at Dacca to repair to his seat at this Board, and we have appointed Mr. Luke Scrafton who has been for some time past assistant at that factory to fill up the vacancy in Council there.

150. Major Hollond observing to us that by Your Honours' orders in the 78th paragraph of your commands per Hardwicke the seat of third in Council should be filled up by your military officer and understanding that Your Honours mean thereby third of Fort William, and as Mr. Fytche is Chief of Cossimbuzar, he of course thinks it is his right to sit as second of this Board during his absence, but the majority of the members being of opinion that he should remain as third, he took his seat accordingly and for our different opinions hereon we beg leave to refer Your Honours to our Consultation of this date wherein you will likewise be pleased to observe how the posts at this Board are settled.

151. Enclosed we transmit Your Honours our running cash and treasury accounts for this month as also the open account current of this Presidency.

152. We have laden on the Britannia 1200 bags of saltpetre and 900 mds. of redwood which we have consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to CRs. 17735.

153. Mr. William McGwire who dispatches the Britannia to Fort St. Davids will advise Your Honours of the time he dispatches her from below, of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from thence.

154. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Roger Drake Junr/Jno. Hollond/E. H. Cruttenden/James Blachford/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher.

Fort William,
August 20th 1751.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letter to Court, 1749/51, Vol: 16, pp. 225—279.

Home Public Letters to Court, Vol. 2, 1751-52, pp. 1—53.

1. Paras 97-98, 107, 109, 116, published in Long's *Selections*, pp. 28-29.

2. Paras 102, 103, 107, 108 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. I, pp. 235-36.)

## 22

## LETTER DATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1751

*Death of Major John Hollond and appointment of Capt. George Minchin as Commandant—treasure received from Bombay—Hakim Beg's demand for the renewal of the firmar of* 1717.

O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Since closing our address of the 20th ultimo nothing remarkable has happened excepting the sudden demise of Major John Hollond who expired the 25th following. In his room we have appointed Capt. George Minchin Commandant of your forces here and beg leave to recommend this gentleman to Your Honours' favour, he being an experienced soldier, having acquitted himself of his duty much to our satisfaction and being qualified in all other respects to be entitled thereto.

2. The command of the vacant company has devolved to Capt. Lieut. William Pearson.

3. Governor Bourchier and his Council at Bombay have transmitted us 200.000 Bombay Rupees and promise us to send all their surplus cash. The Prince George arrived there the 28th July last.

4 We have stationed Messieurs Frankland, Irwin, Court, Stainforth, Bury, Law, Smyth, Ellis and Lowe when he arrives, in Your Honours' cottah. Mr. Roger Drake, Export Warehouse-keeper, having requested those to be his assistants in order to carry on your business as nigh as possible to the new regulations and for the preventing of any abuse being committed by the sorters or others in the transactions of that office.

5. Mr. William McGwire, whom we ordered to dispatch the Britannia, reported his compliance with our orders on the 25th ultimo from Kedgeree, when she drew 17 feet water on an even keel, but as she had only four hundred and eighty two bags of rice on board when he dispatched her, we called upon Mr. Blachford to know the reasons why her cargoe was not down in proper time. He imputed it to the badness of the weather in the way down, as the last of it was sent off this place on 22nd August and would have been dispatched much sooner but for the heavy rains which fell and prevented its being weighed off.

6. In the 150th paragraph of the supplement to our address under date the 20th ultimo we begged leave to refer Your Honours to the Nabob's letter concerning the ships expected in India under the Emperour's colours, with the President's reply thereto, entered after our Consultation of the 19th August and

shall beg leave to stand referred to two other letters on this subject which are translated and entered after this day's Minutes.

7. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 27th August wrote us that the Nabob passed by their factory, as they are informed, in his way to Cutwah.

8. They advised us at the same time that, having in their godowns as much Comercolley silk as would compleat Your Honours' orders in this year's investment and the merchants not having brought in the whole quantity in time agreable to their contracts, they have forbid them bringing in any more and this they were the rather induced to, as the merchants refused to give them the three head letters, alledging that they had contracted for the five, and as their merchants likewise refused to let them have the two first letters of the white Rungpore, having entered into contract for the A. B. and C. and as Your Honours had forbid this article unless they could procure the A. and B. only and the merchants not having brought in any of this sortment, though their contract time was elapsed, they told them they should not take it, but as this resolution would be a very great hardship should they abide thereby, they requested our orders thereon, to which we shall reply and direct them to comply with their contracts for the Rungpore silk and to be cautious how they refuse the Comercolley, should their merchants insist on their having provided it in consequence of their teeps, least Your Honours might incur bad debts thereby.

9. Your Honours in the 73rd paragraph of your orders per Hardwick directed us to send Mr. George Alexander, surgeon, to Europe but as we are well assured that Your Honours have been misinformed in respect of his leaving the Edgbaston without permission, from his address to us and copy of the letter which Capt. Tidderman wrote to the President on this occasion, which he produced to the Board believing it to be a true one, to which we beg leave to stand referred, the former being entered after our Consultation of the 26th ultimo and the latter being enclosed in this packet and further to Mr. Clerimbault's and his Council's recommendation of him in their letter dated the 19th August.

10. We are now to advise Your Honours what further sums we have granted bills of exchange for, at two shillings and

three pence each rupee, the persons to whom they were granted being first sworn that it is on their own accounts:

On 2nd Sept. of Mr. Peter Amyatt account of Mr. John Brown four hundred and forty four rupees, seven annæs (CRs. 444″7.-) payable to Mr. Ynyr Burges or order at 2s. 3d. each rupee is £St. 50″-″-

On do of Mr. Wm. Fullerton on his Account six hundred and twenty two rupees, three annæs and six pice (622″3″6) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at two shillings and three pence each rupee is £St. 70 ″ - ″

On 2nd instant of William Watts Esqr. on his own account five hundred Current Rupees (Rs. 500″-″-) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2s. 3d. each is £St. 56″-5″-

On do of Roger Drake Esqr. account Mr. Thomas Boddam eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annæs and three pice (8,888″14″3) payable to Capt. Charles Boddam or order at two and three pence is £St. 1000 ″ - ″-

11. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence is ten thousand four hundred and fifty five rupees, eight annæs and nine pice (CRs. 10,455″8″9) or one thousand one hundred and seventy six pounds sterling, five shillings (£St. 1176″5″-).

12. We have likewise granted a bill of exchange at two shillings and one penny to Mr. William Macket, the 29th Ultimo for four hundred and sixty nine Current Rupees, seven annæs and eleven pice (469″7″11) payable to Mr. Solomon Margas of Weymouth or order is £St. 4506″3″9. [*sic*].

13. We have granted three certificates of one tenour and date for the following sums, one of which being accomplished, the other two to become void viz.,

On 29th Ultimo to Capt. Geo Minchin account the estate of Major Mosman for CRs. 2470"-"-

On 2nd instant of Capt. Henry Kent on his own account for CRs. 11,990"-"-

On do. of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account the estate of William Wake Esqr. deceased for CRs. 53,333"5"6

14. The whole amount of certificates granted is Current Rupees sixty seven thousand seven hundred and ninety three, five annæs and six pice (CRs. 67,793"5"6).

15. Captain Kent on the 29th ultimo requested six hundred Arcot Rupees and on the 2nd instant thirteen hundred Arcot Rupees more for the further expences of the Dragon, which we have complied with and enclosed in this packet Your Honours will find his requests and receipts for those sums.

16. Capt. Kent having acquainted us that he lost four anchors in the river we have directed the Master Attendant to fix buoys on them that they may be taken up when the freshes are over.

17. We acquainted Your Honours in the 101st paragraph of our address under date the 20th ultimo of the demand made by Hookumbeg for the renewing Your Honours' phirmaund and for what has passed since on this affair we must beg leave to referr Your Honours to our private Consultation enclosed in this packet.

18. We have laden on board this ship sundry goods and merchandize which goes consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rupees 722,400"-"-.

19. We have also laden on her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena as per copy of the invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rupees 1,375"13"3.

20. The captain having signed his bills of lading here we send them enclosed in the packet and have given him directions to call at Fort St. Davids to receive such advices as the President and Council there may think proper to transmit by her.

We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect

May it please Your Honours

Your faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Roger Drake Junr/E. H. Cruttenden/James Blachford/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher.

Fort William,

The 2nd September 1751.

(Ref: copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, 1749/51, Vol. 16, pp. 280—286.

Home Public Letters to Court, Vol. 2, 1751-52, pp. 54—60.)

## 23

## LETTER DATED 2 JANUARY 1751/2

*Account of investment at different factories—adverse effects of the Maratha incursions and competition of European Companies on prices—Hakim Beg silenced by payment of money—*arzdast *of Fort St. George Council forwarded to the Delhi Court—the Armenians' address against the levy of consulage referred to home authorities.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. We have already given Your Honours an account of the material occurrences of your affairs here under the following dates viz., the 20th August per Britannia and 2nd September per Dragon as by triplicate of the former and duplicate of the latter enclosed.

2. We shall now proceed under the established heads to give Your Honours a further account of our management therein since that time and to reply more at large to your several commands received this season.

*First, concerning shipping.*

3. The Duke of Dorset imported here the 11th September as did the Wager on the 26th following. By those ships we were favoured with your commands under date the 6th February and 15th March 1750/1 with all the papers specified in their lists of packet.

4. On the arrival of each of Your Honours' ships this year they were regularly searched for private trade by one of Your Honours' covenanted servants, the reports of which with the manifest of goods landed from them here will be forwarded as usual on the respective ships.

5. The Master Attendant reporting to us on the 16th September that an offer was made him of a Bombay sloop, tolerably well stored, that sailed well and wanted only sheathing for CRs. 4468, we purchased her for the service of this river and at the same time appointed David Moor and Peter Connor pilots, they having served as master[s] and being recommended to us as duly qualified by the Master Attendant.

6. Your Honours' ships, the Kent and London, imported here from Bombay on the 2nd October, by which conveyances the Governour and Council then advised us of their having laden 727 barrells of gunpowder on board the Kent for Fort St. Davids Presidency and of their intentions to send us some powder by the London but the Supracargoes of that ship acquainted them that having a great charge of freight and treasure on board they could not answer to their employers and freighters receiving it on board, as thereby their property would run a risque of being destroyed.

7. Mr. Richard Allwright, chief mate of the London, having wrote to us for permission to bring her up to town as she was in a leaky condition, we acquiesced thereto and on the 10th of October she arrived before the fort when we ordered the Secretary to repair on board and confirm Mr. Allwright in the command thereof in the room of Captain William Sedgwick (who departed this life the 4th of June at Juddah) as we had no objection to his capacity and he bore a very good character.

8. The Governour and Council at Fort St. Davids advised us under the 17th September of the arrival of Your Honours' sloop the Hawke at Madrass and of their orders to the gentlemen there to return her to us with the greatest dispatch as

Mr. Robbins was dead from whence she imported the 9th ultimo.

9. The 7th October we permitted Captains Robson and Hindman to bring their ships up to Calcoola in consequence of their requests for that purpose and as Captain Robson was indisposed we directed our Secretary to write to him for his reasons for not calling at Fort St. Davids, which we transmit in the packet for Your Honours' notice.

10. We directed Captains Robson and Allwright on the 21st October to get their ships in readiness to proceed to Europe and at the same time came to a resolution of sending the Wager to Bombay with 300 tons of saltpetre and what freight might offer for that port, of which we advised the gentlemen there and desired them to provide a cargoe of the best broached cotton, in case they should think proper to return her; and as we had not sufficient tonage of Your Honours to comply with your orders for sending 500 tons of saltpetre thither, we agreed to freight the remaining 200 tons on the Prince George, the owners consenting to carry it @ 2-12 ARs per bag.

11. Captain William Robson having requested three thousand Current Rupees for the use and expences of the Kent, we on the 4th November complied therewith and Your Honours will receive one of the bonds he entered into for that sum together with his obligation for 9,600 rupees, being for ARs 8000 advanced him at Bombay on charterparty terms, which the gentlemen there desired us to forward to Your Honours.

12. On the 4th November we directed Captain Hindman to receive on board the Wager and carry to Bombay John Northbury, one of Your Honours' soldiers, who deserted from thence and whom Captain Robson informed us came on board the Kent without his knowledge.

13. The gentlemen at Fort St. Davids having wrote to us to send them the gunpowder the Kent imported here as soon as possible, we have directed our Master Attendant to get one of Your Honours' sloops ready for that purpose.

14. The river has been surveyed a second time this year as by Mr. Ransom's report entered after Consultation the 19th instant.

15. Before we proceeded to lade any goods on board Your Honours' ships they were regularly surveyed by the Master Attendant and Carpenter as by the reports thereof which Your Honours will receive in each ship's packet.

16. We have laden on the Kent 1800 bags surplus saltpetre and 12½ tons of turmerick which will be included in her tonage and the like quantity we have laden on board the London which ship we are now loading with bales and hope to get her dispatched early in the next month.

17. We have likewise stationed the Hardwick and Scarborough for Europe but have not been hitherto able to come to any determination in relation to the Duke of Dorset as we still entertain the hopes of being able to return her home this season, for which end we beg leave to assure Your Honours our utmost endeavours shall not be wanting.

18. The gentlemen at Fort St. Davids under date the 17th September wrote us that as they had Your Honours' orders, in case any ship should remain in India, to freight them out to substantial merchants and co-operate with us, and they considering that no less than 7 ships would be left to be provided for by us, a number which they never knew dispatched home in one season, they let the Hardwick out to freight to go between our two settlements till September next with this restriction in case she was wanted she was to be dispatched home. And they lett out the Scarborough for Mocha and for each of those ships they should have received about 40,000 ARs. which they esteemed a good bargain; and as the Warwick will be sufficient for their tonage and they having no expectation of assistance from the West Coast as the gentlemen there wrote them they had laden on board the Suffolk all their surplus pepper, they imagined some tonage would remain on our hands in which case the freighters were willing to stand to their contracts in regard to the Hardwick deducting for the September trip. But the reasons we gave Your Honours in our address of the 20th August subsisting we judged it more for your interest to abide by our resolutions then advised of.

19. The 28th ultimo His Majesty's sloop, the Swallow, Henry Spoke Esq. commander, imported here.

20. Captain Robson sent in a letter the 16th instant requesting us to supply him with men as he was short in his complement occasioned by the length of time he was out of Europe.

We replied we should give him all the assistance in our power to get him lascars.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe.*

21. The 6th September being the day appointed for the sale of Your Honours' woollen goods imported here per ships Hardwicke and Scarborough, we agreed to put them up at the following prices:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aurora | | | 65 Rs. per piece |
| Broad cloth | ordinary | Popinjay | 45 |
| Do | do | do Red | 45 |
| Do | do | do Blue | 45 |
| Perpets fine | | Scarlet | 27 |
| Do..... | | French Yellow | 18 |
| Do | ordinary | Red | 17 |
| Do | do | Popinjay | 15 |
| Do..... | | White | 17 |
| Do..... | | Emerald Green | 16 |
| Do..... | | Orange | 18 |
| Do..... | | Yellow | 17 |
| Do..... | | Crimson | 18 |
| Do..... | | Rose Colour | 18 |
| Do..... | | Purple | 17 |
| Do | broad fine | Scarlet | 50 |
| Do | ordinary | Crimson | 30 |
| Do | do..... | Red | 30 |
| Do | do..... | Yellow | 30 |
| Caljied flannells..... | | | 22 |
| Imbott cloth..... | | | |

and to put up the copper at 40 rupees per maund and the lead at 7 rupees per maund.

22. At the same time we agreed to put up the French yellow broad cloth and perpets ordinary popinjay which, we advised Your Honours in the 30th paragraph of our address per Britannia, would not sell at that time, the former at 45 rupees per piece and the latter at 15.

23. On the 9th following as no bidders offered for the following goods when put up at the prices abovementioned, we agreed to put them up at the invoice prices viz.,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Perpets | ordinary | French Yellow | 16 rupees |
| Do | do | White | 15 ,, |
| Do | do | Purple | 15 ,, |

24. The woollen goods imported here per ships Duke of Dorset and Wager were put up at outcry at the foregoing prices on the 30th September and Your Honours will receive in this packet the separate account sales of each ship's imports drawn out conformable to Your Honours' orders.

25. The Import Warehousekeeper acquainted us that Captains Bonham and Samson refused paying the amount of their damaged cloth with the usual 30 per cent advance on the invoice price. On our demanding their reasons they informed us that it is stipulated in their charterparty that they shall only pay the difference in value between the damaged and such as were delivered in good order, which being conformable to Your Honours' orders in the 14th paragraph of your commands dated the 12th January 1749, we ordered the Warehousekeeper to calculate the medium price of the account sales by those ships and to debit them accordingly, which they have since complied with; the reports of those goods will be transmitted Your Honours in such ships' packets as they were damaged on board of.

26. The iron imported here this season was sold at publick outcry the 14th October as per account sales herewith sent amounting to CRs. 12781-4-, whereby Your Honours will observe the Russia iron was sold separate in obedience to your commands and for near 6 annæs maund more than the other sortments.

27. By the Duke of Dorset we received 50 pipes of Madeira wine from Madrass, by the Wager 20 pipes, Captain Hindman being unable to take more on board as he had not disembarked any of his Europe cargoe at the Coast, and by the Hawke sloop we received 20 pipes, which does not turn out so good as the wine of former years, being very thin. The account sales and account current thereof we send enclosed.

28. Your Honours will likewise receive the account sales of damaged and worn out stores at publick outcry the 16 November, which were surveyed by the Board before they were put up, amounting to Rs. 262-12.

29. The Import Warehousekeeper on the 21st October acquainted us that a boat coming from the Duke of Dorset with 140 bars of iron and 40 pigs of lead and three casks was lost in the late bad weather and that on the peon's who was

in the boat informing him that he beleived there was possibility of saving the goods he sent down divers in hopes of recovering the same, who on their return to town were called before us and being examined declared that the bank where the boat was lost was 9 fathoms high and on diving they could find nothing except a few lanthorns which they took up in a whirlpool. Sometime after the manjee of the boat returning to this place he was seized and the reason for absenting himself being demanded he informed us that he got a violent fever, by being a long time in the water and having swallowed a great deal thereof, which prevented his coming up sooner to make his appearance before us and as to other particulars he declared the same as the divers, upon which as we attributed the loss of the boat to the badness of the weather which happened about that time we dismissed him.

30. The Warehousekeeper acquainted ye board the 18th ultimo that there was a deficiency of copper per Wager which Capt. Hindman refused to pay for, alledging that it came out in the chests, that it was delivered from his ship in the same manner as he received it on board and that it must be owing to the people who were in the boats and sloops that brought it up from the ship but on our insisting he should make good the same as being agreable to Your Honours' orders he consented thereto.

31. The Warehousekeeper likewise laid before us an account of woollen goods that were bought at the sales the 5 November 1750 and not cleared out by the purchasers, and that ever since the expiration of the limited time he has been endeavouring to prevail on the buyers to clear the same but without effect, on which we have directed him to sell them at publick outcry and debit them for the difference which may arise thereon.

32. Your Honours will observe by the account sales of woollen goods in this packet that we put up the imbost long ells in separate pieces, from whence you will be able to judge which sortments were best liked.

*Thirdly, concerning investment of goods for Europe.*

33. Under this branch of your affairs we shall first acknowledge the receipts of the several sums this season for the provision of goods and then proceed to inform Your

Honours how we disposed of the same as we imagine it will prove satisfactory to you to have the same at one view.

| | | | Current Rupees |
|---|---|---|---|
| Received per | Dragon from | Fort St. Davids | 581,137 |
| per | Hardwick from | do | 678,438 |
| per | Scarborough from | do | 676,730 |
| per | Duke of Dorset from | do | 678,162 |
| per | Wager from | do | 677,861 |
| per | Duddaley from | Bombay | 111,000 |
| per | Juddah Merchant | do | 110,998 |
| | | Current Rupees | 3,514,326 |

34. Out of the above money we have advanced our merchants account their contracts at different times viz.,

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| On their dadney contracts | ... | ... | ... | 1053756 |
| Account ready money goods | ... | ... | ... | 352054 |
| Account saltpetre | ... | ... | ... | 265670 |

and have supplied our subordinate factories as follows:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cossimbuzar with | ... | ... | ... | 568400 |
| Dacca with | ... | ... | ... | 840390 |
| Jugdea with | ... | ... | ... | 252880 |
| Bulramgurry with | ... | ... | ... | 32900 |
| | | | | 3366050 |

35. On the 20 September we purchased 1200 maunds of turmerick of Omichund at CRs. 3-10 per maund as we judged we should be in want thereof for Your Honours' ships.

36. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having acquainted us that the batta on the Arcot Rupees was settled at the mint at 10½ per cent for new four soar Siccas and that the Seats expected their accounts to be adjusted agreable thereto and our merchants having complained to us of their great loss in receiving Arcot Rupees and being obliged therewith to purchase Siccas to send to the aurungs, we have wrote to the gentlemen at Fort St. Davids to send the supplies designed for this settlement one quarter in bullion, one quarter in Arcot Rupees and the half in Madrass Rupees and desired them to give directions for a particular star or mark being put on the Arcot Rupees they send us in future for to distinguish them from the Patan Rupees which have been imported here under the denomination of good Arcot, which we judge to be the reason that has depreciated the latter in value.

37. The Export Warehousekeeper informing us that out of 7422 peices of gurrahs opened to be sorted for prizing the 7 instant he was unable to take more than 1821 peices and these sorted as follows:

| | Pieces |
|---|---|
| A | 26 |
| B | 393 |
| C | 1402 |
| | 1821 |

which he judged inferior to the letter C and therefore desired our opinion whether it would be most conducive to Your Honours' interest to make a fourth and fifth letter of the remainder as they might be used for the packing stuff, he likewise acquainting us that out of 1119 patch of soot romalls opened for that prizing he could only take 600 patch sorted as follows, the rest being of too inferior a quality viz.,

| | |
|---|---|
| A | 5½ |
| B | 63½ |
| C | 255½ |
| D | 275½ |
| | 600 |

agreable to which we directed him to sort them.

38. On demanding of our merchants their reasons for bringing in their goods so slow, on the 15 November they gave them in writing as entered after that day's Consultation, when we told them we could not comply with their proposals of putting what was better than the B into the A and better than the C into the B and the same with the other letters, it being contrary to Your Honours' directions for sorting their cloth, but in case a large quantity of their goods should be thrown out we should take them at a lower letter.

39. On examining the cloth (of the strictness in sorting which our merchants complained) we found it sorted agreable to last year's prize pieces, whereupon we sent for our merchants and acquainted them therewith when they declared that by the prizing of the 14th ultimo they suffered a loss of 14 per cent on the prime cost and that if there was such strictness used in sorting they should be unable to comply with their contracts. They further added that in every letter their was a best, middle and worse piece and that it was always customary to prize upon

the middle piece but now the sorters distinguish those three pieces as three different letters which occasions the loss; they therefore requested us to order every letter to be sorted in three different parcells and at the end to put them together for one prizing which would prevent the lower letters being run into the higher and distinguish those who brought in the best goods, wherewith we complied.

40. The 9th instant being offered some Patna goods at the following prices:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mulmulls about | 2400 | @ | 86–0 | ARs per corge |
| Callicoes | 900 | @ | 121–8 | |
| Mamodies | 500 | @ | 78–0 | |

and having had a few peices of each sorted we agreed to purchase them judging they would answer for the Europe market.

41. On the 5th instant we again called upon our merchants to know the reasons why they brought in their cloth so slow since we advanced them their money early in the season and have not heard of any disturbances in the country to prevent their bringing in their goods, to which they replied they had wrote to their gomastah and should give us their answer on the 9th when they acquainted us that on account of the strictness in sorting of the gurrahs and soot romalls they should lose from 20 to 25 per cent for which reason they wrote to the delolls to whom they advance dadney to deduct the like amount out of the cloth and have received for answer they will not send them any more of those kind of goods on those terms.

42. In regard to all other sortments they answered that the French and Dutch merchants, being well supplied with money early in the season, had raised the price of cloth at the aurungs, on which accounts they forbad their gomastahs buying in hopes that the cloth would be cheaper but after some time was elapsed they received advice that the cloth at the aurungs was grown dearer owing to the high price of rice and cotton and it being late in the season they then ordered the cloth to be provided which occasions its coming in so slowly but they told us the cloth will all come in agreable to their contracts except the gurrahs, soot romall, photæs and Burrow cossæs, and how far short they may fall in their contracts for those goods they could not at that time inform us.

43. As we imagined those delays of the merchants in bringing in their cloth proceeded from their designs to deprive us of having sufficient time for the sorting it, agreable to Your Honours' orders, we acquainted them that all cloth brought in after the 21st of January should be cut in the prizing, that we should give suitable encouragement to those who brought in their cloth before that time and shew a proper resentment to those who did not.

44. We have contracted with the merchants to deliver in 6000 pieces of Omorrah goods viz.,

| | |
|---|---|
| Nillæs fine | 2500 |
| Nillæs midling | 2500 |
| Ginghams | 1000 |

on promising them an advance of 13½ per cent on last year's prices but they refused to enter into a penalty in case of non-compliance.

45. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote us under date the 14th October that they should have about 250 bales of silk and silk piecegoods ready to be dispatched on Your Honours' account about the latter end of that month, which being the season of the year that the Morattoes are generally expected to return, they desired us to send such a party to convoy them down as we might esteem necessary and we accordingly sent a lieutenant ensign and 30 men.

46. Under date the 30th October the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar transmitted us their merchants' reasons for having brought only 13000 pieces of gurrahs into their cottah instead of 39,000, which were that not being advanced the full amount of the gurrah contracts in ready money has disabled them from providing the whole quantity and that they could not bring in any more than to the amount of what ready money they received in part, of which they promised to deliver in 20,000 pieces by the last of November and the remainder by the 10th of January.

47. On the 18 ultimo we received from thence 287 bales and chests of silk and silk piecegoods on Your Honours' account which having inspected we found the raw silk in general very indifferent, particularly the Guzzerat, it being inferior in goodness to the musters of Novemberbund and though we observed they had cut the several sortments greatly in the prizing, yet

we wrote to the gentlemen there and recommended it to them to keep up to the musters as being most advantageous to your interest.

48. Under date the 2nd instant they wrote us that their merchants had only brought into their cottah 19,000 pieces of gurrahs and gave them hopes but of about 15 or 16 thousand pieces more which will not amount to half the quantity contracted for, that they have used their ulmost endeavours to get them to encrease the quantity as much as possible but without success, that the remaining silk and silk piecegoods come in but slowly, of which their merchants promise to deliver in about 570 bales and chests to compleat this year's investment.

49. In obedience to Your Honours' orders for transmitting you the reasons of the high price of raw silk for some years past we directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to make strict enquiry into the reason thereof, who informed us it was owing to the Morattoes constantly entering Bengal plundering and burning the people's houses and destroying the chief aurungs from whence the workmen have fled to distant parts and not to any malpractice in the gentlemen there.

50. The gentlemen at Dacca under date the 19th October wrote us that their business was stopped without any reason being assigned for it and a demand made by the Nabob there of 3000 rupees on their application to him for clearing it, on which account they requested us to obtain strict orders from Muxadavad to prevent those frequent unjust and vexatious interruptions to Your Honours' affairs at that factory, upon which we directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to represent those grievances to Hossein Cooley Cawn[1] the Dacca Nabob and procure his perwanna to the residing Nabob there not only for its immediate clearance but strict orders from him to prevent the like in future, which orders have been since obtained and their business cleared as per advice from Dacca under date the 4th November at which time the gentlemen there promised, by using all possible diligence, to make up for the time lost by the frequent stoppages within the last six months.

51. The gentlemen at Jugdea wrote us under date the 12th September that, observing by Your Honours' orders you were desirous of having as much of their cloth procured as possible, they used their endeavours to encourage the out weavers to come near them and had the satisfaction to acquaint us they

had got a new aurung established, by which means their business was a good deal expedited and they had encreased the investment 30,000 rupees more than it has ever been there, having in that time invested about two laack of rupees.

52. On inspecting the Jugdea goods we found the baftæs of 13 yards and 1 yard and the chitty bully and cossæs fine of 40 and 2 much inferior to the cloth last year, concerning which we have wrote to the gentlemen at Jugdea to know their reasons which we shall transmit Your Honours when we receive their answer.

53. We forwarded a list of the Omorrah goods ordered by Your Honours this year to Mr. Kelsall at Bulramgurry who informed us under date the 13th September they were not to be provided as long as the Morattoes infested the country and their whole army was then expected there but in a letter dated the 2nd instant he wrote us he had great hopes of providing the Omorra and Mucktapore goods the next season and requested us to send him musters of the different sortments with the prices that he might compare them with those he sent for from the abovementioned places.

*Fourthly, concerning the trade of India and therein any transactions with the country Government.*

54. By the Dragon we transmitted Your Honours our Consultation on what had passed concerning the renewing your phirmaund, since which time the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar informed us of their having finished that affair with Hookumbeg for 20,000 rupees, there being no probability of reducing that sum or preventing Your Honours' business being stopped had they refused complying with his demand, and they sent us a copy of Hookumbeg's letter to the Chief assuring him that no further trouble should be given Your Honours on that account.

55. The Governour and Council at Fort St. Davids having transmitted us two letters addressed to the Mogul concerning the troubles on the Cormandell coast to be forwarded to Delhi by different conveyances, we enclosed the same to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar with orders accordingly.

56. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having in obedience to Your Honours' orders considered of a proper person to be employed at the Durbar are of opinion they cannot employ a person more proper for that purpose than Kissendeb who has

now the management of Your Honours' affairs there, he being a man of great interest and authority in ye government and can be of great service or prejudice to Your Honours' affairs, wherefore they esteemed it for your interest not to disoblige him by shewing any distrust of his fidelity though they promise not to neglect procuring from time to time what other intelligence they possibly can of the designs of the Durbar.

57. The President having received a letter from the Nabob to procure him a fine horse and being offered a Persian horse for ARs 1000, we purchased him for that purpose.

58. Enclosed we transmit Your Honours the account sales of cotton per ship Severn amounting to CRs. 54825-13-6.

59. The gentlemen at Bombay wrote us that no cotton was procurable this last season at Surat on account of the troubles there.

60. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar have been unable to get any information whether the Armenians residing under Your Honours' protection were concerned or not in the complaint lodged at the Durbar account the capture of the Armenian ships.

*Fifthly, concerning fortifications, buildings and revenues.*

61. The Jemindar informing us on the 20th September that the poor were greatly oppressed by the dearness of rice, we directed him to give publick notice in all the market places that no person should exact higher prices than hereafter specified under a severe penalty:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| For good Novemberbund rice | 35 seer | per A. Rupee |
| Ordinary rice | 1 maund 10 | per A. Rupee |

62. The lease of Your Honours' rice farm expiring the 4th November the same was then put up at publick outcry when it was bought for the ensuing year by Mr. Cruttenden for CRs. 12,010.

63. On the 9th November as the poor inhabitants of this town were daily crying out to us concerning the great distress and want they laboured under and our merchants representing to us it was owing to the dearness of rice and oil, we agreed to remit them the annual duty levied on those two articles amounting to near 500 rupees for the present year and on the 15th following

we raised the cooleys' wages to 2 pun 12 gundies of cowries per day on account of the scarcity and dearness of rice and other provisions.

64. The Armenians delivered us a letter on the 21st November setting forth that they presume Your Honours are unacquainted that their imports are by virtue of a phirmaund granted to them by the Great Mogul for which they annually pay 7 per cent, and as they do not import any goods with Your Honours' dustick they requested us to defer demanding consulage thereon till your further orders concerning their paying this duty arrives. We promised them to refer this affair to Your Honours but told them we should insist on their paying the consulage in the mean time.

65. The President on the 2nd instant received a letter from Meer Abseil at Patna informing him that Your Honours' factory and other outhouses there are in want of repairs and has since wrote to him for to send down an estimate of the expences that may arise thereon.

66. In the 108th paragraph of our address of the 20 August we acquainted Your Honours that we had agreed to purchase some timber and plank which were indented for by Mr. Robbins, but apprehending, as that gentleman was dead, they would rot before any use could be made thereof, and the persons with whom we bargained for them applying to us for payment or to return them, we agreed to deliver them back.

*Sixthly, concerning factors, writers, officers and their accounts.*

67. Since our last advices under this head the following of Your Honours' servants have departed this life

On the 13th September Mr. Thomas Bury
On the 21st do Captain William Pearson
On the 16th October Lieut. Matthew DePen
On the 29th do. Mr. William Hume
} of fevers.

On the 16th November Mr. George Pattle, suddenly, and by advices from the Coast we are informed that Mr. Scroope Jos. Fleming whom we permitted to go to sea for the recovery of his health died on board the Lisle soon after he left pilot's water.

68. On the demise of Capt. Pearson, Lieutenant Laurence Witherington delivered into the Board a memorial, about succeeding to the command of the vacant company, which is

entered after our Consultation of the 23rd September but as we were of opinion that Lieutenant James Chase had the right to succeed and Capt. Commandant Minchin having recommended him to us as capable and desiring thereof, we ordered a captain's commission to be drawn out for Lieutenant Chase.

69. The writers who took their passage on the Wager on their arrival here acquainted us that Captain Hindman treated them extreamly well.

70. Enclosed we send copy of Jane Roberton's petition for an allowance to support herself and 4 small children. Her husband was a pilot in Your Honours' service and we beg leave to recommend her petition to Your Honours' consideration.

71. The 9th November Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes arrived from Dacca and took his seat at the Board and as he had no post we on the 18th following appointed him Register of the Dusticks in the room of Mr. George Pattle deceased.

72. We have appointed Mr. Thomas Hindman assistant at Dacca in the room of Mr. Scrafton who was admitted into Council at Dacca on the removal of Mr. Pearkes.

73. The gentlemen at Fort St. Davids having transmitted us a copy of Mr. Robert Orme's answer to the 73rd paragraph of your commands per Hardwick, we now forward the same in this packet.

74. Mr. John Bristow one of the surgeon's mates having petitioned us to resign Your Honours' service and to return to Europe in the Kent, we have complied with his request and have appointed Mr. Nathaniel Wilson in his room.

*Seventhly, touching accounts.*

75. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having advised us that there was a ballance due to Your Honours from Harrybullubdass since April 1745 of DMRs 2513-13-9, we have recovered the same from him here with the interest run thereon.

76. As there was a ballance of DMRs 5382-10-3 standing on the Cossimbuzar books under the head of grain and provisions, which arose from stores laid up for some years past on account of the Morattoes, and the gentlemen there having sold the remainder of the grain for DMRs 561, we have directed them to write off the loss arising thereon to profit and loss.

77. In regard to the ballance of rupees 179211-9-6 due to Your Honours at Cossimbuzar factory from the year 1741 to 1747 there has been only rupees 25657-2-9 recovered and that on account the gurrah contract anno 1745, and the gentlemen there have observed to us that there are some of the merchants who are willing to pay such part of their debts as they are able but on doing that desire a clearance of their whole debt, alledging such indulgence would encourage them to exert themselves to discharge as much of their ballances as possible which otherwise they will not do even in part, and as severe methods have been taken by the former Chiefs to very little purpose, they offered it as their opinion if such indulgence was allowed them that it would be the means of recovering some part of this large debt which they fear can never be done any otherwise, the merchants being too much out of their power as well as out of Your Honours' employ, to which we replied that we could by no means acquiesce but have directed them to send us an account of what sums each merchant is indebted and what part thereof each proposes to pay that we may forward the same to Your Honours for your orders thereon and in the meantime we have recommended it to them to use their endeavours in recovering as much as they possibly can.

78. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums we have granted bills of exchange for at two shillings and three pence (2/3) each rupee, the persons to whom they were granted having been duly sworn that the same were on the accounts as hereafter specified.

On the 15th December of Mr. Thomas Coales on his own account Current Rupees one hundred and seventy seven, twelve annæs and six pice (177-12-6) payable to Capt. Theophilus Wight at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 20

On the 15th do of Mr. Hollond Goddard in part return for one chest coral marked AFI No. 5 Current Rupees five thousand one hundred and twenty five, eight annæs and nine pice (5125-8-9) payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 576-12-6

On the 15th do of Mr. Hollond Goddard account 1 chest coral marked F Current Rupees five thousand eight hundred and forty six, fourteen annæs and nine pice (5846-14-9) payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St 657-15-7

On the 15th do of Mr. William Watts Esqr. account Edward Croke Esqr. Current Rupees one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annæs and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Mr. William Watts or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 200

On the 15th do of William Watts Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annæs and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Messrs. David Findlay and William Watts at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 100

On the 20th do of Messrs. Charles Manningham and David Findlay account Thomas Lane at Bombay Current Rupees two thousand six hundred and fifty two, four annæs (2652-4-) payable to Mr. John Fisher or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 298-7-6

On the 20th do of Messrs. Manningham and Findlay account Edward Eyles Esqr. Current Rupees one hundred and nine thousand eight hundred and fifty two, thirteen annæs and three pice (109852-13-3) payable to Edward Eyles Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St 12358-8-3

On the 20th do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Richard Prince Esqr. Current Rupees sixty eight

thousand one hundred and twenty three, four annæs and three pice (68123-4-3) payable to Richard Benyon Esqr. or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St 7663-17-4

On the 20th do of Charles Manningham Esqr. account the produce of coral per Scarborough and Wager Current Rupees twenty five thousand seven hundred and ninety eight, eight annæs and six pice (25798-8-6) payable to Richard Barwell Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St 2902-6-8

On the 20th do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Mr. William Smyth King Current Rupees eleven thousand eight hundred and eighty four, eight annæs (11884-8-0) payable to Mr. William Smyth King or order @ 2/3 is £St 1337-0-1

On the 20th do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Joseph Fowke Esq. Current Rupees seven thousand six hundred and twenty six, eleven annæs and nine pice (7626-11-9) payable to Joseph Fowke Esqr. or his assigns @ 2/3 per rupee is £St 858-0-2

On the 20th do of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees two thousand and twenty four, fourteen annæs (2024-14-0) payable to Mr. Robert Clif or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St 227-16-0

On the 20th do of William Watts Esqr. account Mr. Robert Erskine at Bombay Current Rupees two hundred and twenty two, three annæs and six pice (222-3-6) payable to Mr. Archibald Sterling or order @ 2/3 is £St 25-0-0

On the 20th do of Thomas Burrow Esqr. account Mr. Nicholas Clerembault Current Rupees three thousand (3000) payable to Mr. Anthony Clerembault or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St 337-10-0

The whole amount of bills of exchange drawn @ 2/3 is Current Rupees 2,45,002-2-0 or £St. 27.562-14-8.

79. We have likewise granted the following bills of exchange @ 2/1 per rupee.

On the 16th December of Captain Thomas Ayre on his own account Current Rupees four hundred and eighty (480) payable to Mrs. Sarah Ayre in Lynn Regis, Norfolk @ 2/1 per rupee is £St 50-0-0

On the 16th do of Captain Michæl Collings on his own account Current Rupees one thousand four hundred and forty (1440) payable to Charles Floyer Esqr. or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St 150-0-0

On the 16th do of William Watts Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees nine thousand one hundred and forty eight, seven annæs (9148-7-0) payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order @ 2/1 is £St 952-19-2

On the 20th do of Charles Manningham Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees one thousand and eighty (1080) payable to Richard Eyre Esqr. or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St 112-10-0

On the 20th do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees two thousand seven hundred and fifty six, fifteen annæs and six pice (2756-15-6) payable to Humphry Bellamy Esqr. or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St 287-3-8

On the 20th do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees fourteen thousand nine hundred and sixty (14960) payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 1558-6-8

On the 20th do of Mr. Thomas Holme on his own account Current Rupees three thousand and seventy two (3072) payable to Collonel Charles Russell or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 320-0-0

On the 20th do of Messrs. Watts and Manningham on their own accounts Current Rupees fourteen thousand two hundred and twenty eight. eleven annæs (14228-11-0) payable to Mr. Archibald Sterling or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 1482-3-1

The whole amount of bills of exchange drawn @ 2/1 per rupee is Current Rupees 47166-1-6 or £St 4913-2-7.

80. We have likewise granted three certificates of one tenor and date to the following persons, they being duly sworn that the same is on the accounts as hereafter specified.

On the 19th December of Captain Pinson Bonham account the estate of Captain Philip D'Auvergne Current Rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty nine (CRs. 8889).

On the 19th do of Captain Pinson Bonham account the estate of Mr. William Foreman Current Rupees one thousand one hundred and eleven (CRs. 1111).

On the 23rd do of Messrs. Fytche and Burrow account the estate of William Wake Esqr. deceased Current Rupees three thousand eight hundred and three, fourteen annæs and nine pice (CRs. 3803-14-9).

The whole amount of certificates granted is Current Rupees 13803-14-9.

*Supplement.*

81. In our address of the 20th August we acquainted Your Honours of our having appealed from the decree of the Mayor's Court in favour of Mr. Wadham Brooke, and the same having passed through our court, agreable to the instructions laid down by Your Honours' Council on law points transmitted us under date the 9th March 1747, a decree was formed in Your Honours' favour from whence Mr. Brooke having appealed to His Majesty in Council, we now transmit the several proceedings of the two courts on this affair.

82. Duloll Sircar, an under writer of Mr. Jonathan Ranson's banian, informed the Board the 21st ultimo that Ramsantose had cheated Your Honours by overcharging in the dock head accounts no less a sum than 50,000 rupees which Mr. Ranson knew nothing of and as he acquaints us he could make good this allegation by comparing Ramsantose's books with those of Your Honours, and Ramsantose having told us we might inspect the books relating to the dock head we directed Messrs. Smyth and Hastings to repair to his house and secure them.

83. The 30th following the Court of Justices laid before us their proceedings on an information of Mr. Ranson's against Messrs. Smyth and Hastings, copy whereof is inclosed for Your Honours' observance.

84. Upon sending for Mr. Ranson before us and telling him if there were any books or papers belonging to him and not relative to Your Honours among those that were secured by the foregoing gentlemen that they should be delivered up to him, he replied he did not choose to take them away at that time but should act as the law directed him, which behaviour appearing to us highly insolent and his prosecution of the young gentlemen for felony who were acting by our orders being extreamly malicious and his warm espousal of his banian giving us great room to suspect at least some collusion, we suspended him your service till Your Honours' pleasure thereon is known and have appointed Captain John Pinson to succeed him.

85. Mr. Ranson has since, by letter which is entered after our Consultation of the 9th instant, offered himself as security for his banian's appearance, and consenting to enter into a

bond to the amount of 50,000 rupees we directed our lawyer to draw out one accordingly which Mr. Ranson refusing to sign we transmit the same for Your Honours' observance and have ordered the Jemindar to continue to keep peons on Ramsantose till the proper scrutiny and examination is made into his books and papers by Messrs. Becher and Pearkes whom we have appointed for that service.

86. We have wrote to the King of Queda[2] conformable to Your Honours' orders transmitted us under date the 6 February last.

87. Our President begs leave to express his concern at the resentment shown by Your Honours under date the 15th March 1750/1 on his appointment of a surgeon and was in hopes that his reasons offered per Lapwing for taking that appointment on himself would have been deemed satisfactory; however as a proof it was not out of any contempt to Your Honours' express commands, immediately on the arrival of those under date the 28th November 1750 Mr. William Fullerton was appointed surgeon of this factory.

88. Since writing thus far we have granted the following bills at two shillings and three pence (2/3) per rupee:

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 2nd January of Mr. Hollond Goddard account coral Current Rupees nine hundred and sixteen, one annæ and nine pice (916-1-9) payable to Mr. Joseph Salvadore or order @ 2/3 per rupee is | £St 103-1-3 |
| On the 2nd do of Mr. William Nixon account Mr. John Jenks Current Rupees eight hundred and ninety eight, ten annæs and six pice (898-10-6) payable to Mr. David Jenks or order @ 2/3 per rupee is | £St 101-2-0 |

The whole amount of bills granted at 2/3 per rupee is Current Rupees 1814-12-3 or £St 204-3-3.

89. We have likewise granted the following bills @ two shillings and one penny (2/1) per rupee.

On the 26th December of Mr. William Kempe on his own account Current Rupees six hundred and twenty four (624) payable to George Heath Esqr. or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 65-0-0

On the 2nd January of Captain David Rannie account Mr. Bernard Forrester Current Rupees nine hundred and nine (909) payable to Mr. Bernard Forrester or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St 94-13-9

On the 2nd do of Mr. Hollond Goddard account Mr. Solomon Franco Current Rupees nine thousand (9000) payable to Mr. Daniel Booth or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St 937-10-0

The whole amount of bills granted @ 2/1 per rupee is Current Rupees 10533 or £St 1097-3-9.

90. We have likewise granted three certificates of one tenor and date to the following persons, they having been first duely sworn that the same is on the accounts as hereafter specified.

On the 24th December of Captain John Samson on his own account Current Rupees ten thousand nine hundred (10900).

On the 2nd January of Thomas Burrow Esqr. by order of Mr. Nicholas Clerembault account Doctor Stephen Lightfoot deceased CRs. eight thousand eight hundred and fifty six, eight annaes and six pice CRs. 8856-8-6.

The whole amount of certificates granted is Current Rupees nineteen thousand seven hundred and fifty six, eight annæs and six pice (CRs 19756-8-6).

91. The Export Warehousekeeper on the 30th ultimo informing us that the lower sorts of mulmulls Cossajura fine of 40 and 2 and of the superfine mulmulls Santipore of 40 and 2¼ were fallen in their qualities, we prized only the three head letters

and had the C and D sorted into an inferior quality, and as the merchants brought in a larger proportion of those goods than we contracted for, in order to prevent as much as lies in our power such practices in future we returned the surplus and prized only the due quantity much below the contract price, which we hope will be the means of making them keep up closer to their contracts in general and particularly to their engagements in ordinary goods.

92. And as we were offered upwards of 300 peices of cossæs Cogmaria fine of 40 and 2¼ though not contracted for, we prized them as such goods were ordered in Your Honours' list of investment.

93. The gentlemen at Dacca having requested us to send them three laack of rupees to begin their investment for the ensuing year we have this day ordered a laack and an half of Arcot Rupees to be chested up and sent thither which, with 30,000 rupees we have permitted them to draw on us for and the 15 chests we forwarded to them the 2nd ultimo, will make up that sum.

94. Messrs. Becher and Pearkes have not as yet finished their examination into Ramsantose's books; their report thereof we shall forward to Your Honours per London.

95. We have laden on board the Kent sundry goods and merchandize which goes consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed [amounting] to CRs 675200.

96. We have likewise laden on board her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to Current Rupees one thousand three hundred and thirty seven, four annæs and three pice (CRs 1337-4-3).

97. The rainy bad weather has prevented us from dispatching this ship ten days sooner to Your Honours.

98. Mr. William Watts who dispatches this ship from Ingellee will advise Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from thence.

99. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Roger Drake Junr/E. H. Cruttenden/Jas. Blachford/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/C. Manningham/, Richd. Becher/Paul Richd. Pearkes.

Fort William,
January 2nd 1751/2

(Ref: Home Public Letters to Court, Vol. 2, 1751-52, pp. 61-95.

Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 17, 1752-53, pp. 1—36.

Para. 66, published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* Vol. I, pp. 237-38.

Paras. 49, 61 and 63 published in Long's *Selections,* pp. 29-30.)

## 24

## LETTER DATED 16 JANUARY 1751/2

*The merchants promise to complete their contracts in time—military help sent to Fort St. David—'bounty' money paid to each soldier sent on duty to the Coromandel coast—bills of exchange drawn on the Company.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. His Majesty's sloop the Swallow, Henry Speke Esqr. commander, being on her departure for Europe via, Fort St. David and Your Honours' ship the London being likewise under dispatch furnish us with the opportunity of conveying duplicate copies of our advices under date the 2nd instant and of acquainting Your Honours of the dispatch of the Wager to Bombay from Ingellee the 25th ultimo when her draught of water was 17 ft. 10 inch on an even keel.

2. The Kent, Captain Robson, was dispatched to Your Honours from Ingellee the 6th instant at which time she drew 18 feet water forward and 18 feet 6 inches abaft, her cargoe amounting as per abstract of her invoice and second bill of lading enclosed in the London's packet to Current Rupees 675200.

3. We have already acquainted Your Honours that the Hardwick and Scarborough are taking in bales and we shall be as expeditious as possible in expediting the dispatch of those two ships.

4. Our merchants informing us on the 11th instant that they should be able to compleat this year's contracts in due time, we have come to a resolution to return the Duke of Dorset to Europe for which purpose she is taking in saltpetre and redwood.

5. Since our last advices to Your Honours the Governour and Council at Fort St. David requested us to send them 200 of our military with what fire-arms we could spare as such a supply would conduce greatly to the success of Your Honours' affairs upon the Cormandell coast and as this part of the country is quite settled at present and there being no appearance of any immediate troubles, we have complied with their request for men by sending 143 soldiers on the Fort St. David and 58 soldiers on the Swallow sloop under the command of Captain Robert Sanderson and James Chase. The passage money for the former we have referred to the gentlemen at the Coast to settle and account with the owners of that ship for and for the latter Your Honours will be pleased to account when the Swallow arrives in England.

6. It was entirely out of our power to send them any fire arms as we have not more in our military stores than 200 firelocks fit for service exclusive of the arms of this detachment.

7. We have requested the gentlemen at Fort St. David to return not only this command but all the recruits which Your Honours designed for this Presidency and they detained there, as soon as Your Honours' affairs would admit thereof.

8. After this detachment was draughted and before the soldiers were embarqued they threw down their arms and insisted on having a bounty money of 20 rupees a man as was paid to the parties sent sometime ago to Bombay and since to the

Coast, which we have been obliged to comply with, for want of barracks to keep them under better regulations and to prevent their deserting.

9. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums we have granted bills of exchange for and first of those at 2/3 per rupee:

On the 13th January of Roger Drake Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees nine hundred and ninety, twelve annæs and six pice (990-12-6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. or order @ 2/3 is £St. 111-9-3

On the 13th do of Mr. Peter Amyatt on his own account Current Rupees three hundred and eighty five, eleven annæs, six pice (385-11-6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 43-7-10

On the 13th do of Mr. Peter Amyatt account John Brown Current Rupees three hundred and eighty five, eleven annæs and six pice (385-11-6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 43-7-10

On the 13th do of Mr. Peter Amyatt on his own account Current Rupees eight hundred and eighty eight fourteen annæs and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. George Sherwood or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 100-0-0

On the 13th do of Mr. James Irwin on his own account Current Rupees one thousand three hundred and thirty three five annæs and three pice (1333-5-3) payable to Mr. Peter Taylor or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 150-0-0

On the 13th do of John Hipwood on his own account Current Rupees nine hundred and seventy five and six pice (975-0-6) payable to John Hipwood or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 109-13-10

On the 13th do of William Watts on his own account Current Rupees nine thousand eight hundred and twenty seven, fourteen annæs and six pice (9827-14-6) payable to Messrs. David Findlay and William Watts or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 1105-12-9

On the 13th do of Mr. Charles Hampton on his own account Current Rupees one hundred and nine (109) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 12-5-3

On the 13th do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account William Fytche Esqr. Current Rupees one thousand nine hundred and thirty four, eight annæs and three pice (1934-8-3) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 217-13-8

On the 13th do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Joseph Fowke Esqr. Current Rupees four hundred and seventy four, fifteen annæs and nine pice (474-15-9) payable to Mr. Joseph Fowke or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 53-8-3

On the 13th do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Edward Eyles Esqr. Current Rupees one thousand three hundred and eighteen, five annæs (1318-5-0) payable to Edward Eyles Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 148-6-2

On the 13th do of Mr. William Frankland on his own account Current Rupees eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annæs and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Thomas Frankland Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 100-0-0

On the 13th do of Mr. James Valicourt on his own account Current Rupees five hundred and sixty (560) payable to William Barwell Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 63-0-0

On the 9th of Mr. Robert Goodere on his own account Current Rupees thirty thousand (30,000) payable to Mr. Robert Goodere or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 3375-0-0

On the 9th do of Mr. Richard Court account Mr. William Wogan Current Rupees one thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annæs and three pice (1333-5-3) payable to Mr. William Wogan or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 150-0-0

On the 9th do of Captain Thomas Fenwick on his own account Current Rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annæs (444-7-0) payable to Charles Raymond Esq. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 50-0-0

On the 13 do of Mr. Richard Court account Mr. Samuel Court of Bombay Current Rupees one thousand nine hundred and sixty two (1962) payable to Messrs. Verelst and Fraser or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 228-18-0

On the 14th do of Thomas Burrow Esqr. account Messrs. Fytche, Burrow and Orme Current Rupees sixteen thousand four hundred and fifty six, five annæs and nine pice (16456-5-9) payable to Thomas Burrow Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 1851-6-9

On the 15th do of Doctor William Fullerton on his own account Current Rupees one thousand five hundred (1500-0-0) payable to Messrs. Gosling

and Bennet or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 168-15-0

On the 15th do of Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees five hundred and seventy seven, twelve annæs and six pice (577-12-6) payable to Mr. Percival Bentley or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 65-0-0

The whole amount of bills granted at 2/3 per rupee is Current Rupees 72346-15-9 or £St. 8147-4-0.

10. We have likewise granted the following bills at two shillings and one penny (2/1) per rupee:

On the 13th January of Roger Drake Esqr. account Daniel Lascelles Esqr. Current Rupees three thousand eight hundred and forty (3840) payable to Mr. Henry Lascelles or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 400-0-0

On the 13th do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. Current Rupees five hundred and eighty, thirteen annæs (580-13-0) payable to Mr. David Findlay or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 60-10-0

On the 13th do of Mr. Peter Amyatt Current Rupees sixteen thousand five hundred and ten, eleven annæs and three pice (16510-11-3) payable to Samuel Rooper Esqr. or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 1719-17-3

On the 13th do of Mr. William Frankland Current Rupees four thousand five hundred and three, three annæs and six pice (4503-3-6) payable to the Reverend Mr. Charles Webber or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 469-1-8

The whole amount of bills granted at 2/1 per rupee is CRs 25434-11-9 or £St. 2648-18-11.

11. We have likewise granted three certificates of one tenor and date to the following persons they being duly sworn that the same is on the accounts as hereafter specified:

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 13th January of Captain Thomas Frognall on his own account Current Rupees nineteen thousand six hundred and twenty, fourteen annæs | CRs. 19620-14-0 |
| On the 13th do of Messrs. Allwright and Isherwood account Captain William Sedgwick deceased Current Rupees forty five thousand eight hundred and forty seven, four annæs and six pice | CRs. 45847-4-6 |
| On the 13th do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Charles Floyer Esqr. Current Rupees four thousand seven hundred and fifty eight, ten annæs | 4758-10-0 |
| On the 13th do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Captain Richard Dorill Current Rupees seven thousand three hundred eighty seven, three annæs and three pice | CRs. 7387-3-3 |

The whole amount of certificates granted is Current Rupees 77613-15-6.

12. In the London's packet Your Honours will receive copy of Messrs. Becher and Pearkes' letter accompanying the minutes of their proceedings on the accounts of Ramsantose which we transmit for Your Honours' notice, concerning which we shall be more particular in our advices by the latter ships

13. On finding the dooreas Cossajura fine of 40 and 2 to be inferior in quality and more particularly the 3 lower sortments to differ greatly in the several folds which made it impracticable to sort them in a proper manner, we prized the A and B as the fine sort and packed the C, D and E into a lower sortment calling them A, B and C and reduced them in the prices.

14. We have laden on the London sundry goods and merchandize which are consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to CRs. 6,31,000

15. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to CRs. 1354-9-6

16. Mr. Robert Goodere (who came from the Coast last August for the recovery of his health) and Mr. David Findlay having petitioned us for leave to return to Europe on the London, we complied with their requests on their paying the usual 96 rupees into Your Honours' treasury.

17. Mr. William Watts who dispatches this ship from Ingellee will advise Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from thence.

18. We wish these ships prosperous and speedy passages to Europe and are

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher/ Paul Richd. Pearkes.

Fort William,

January 16th 1751/2.

(Ref: Home Public Letters to Court Vol. 2, 1751-52, pp. 96—104.

Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 17, 1752-53, pp. 37—45.

Para. 6 published in Long's *Selections*, p. 30.)

## 25

## LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1751/2

*Purchase of additional quantity of fine muslin—Woolhead ordered to return to Europe for his insolent behaviour—case of Ramsantosh.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address bore date the 16 instant and was forwarded to Your Honours per London and His Majesty's sloop the Swallow, copy whereof is enclosed as also copies of our advices under dates the 2nd September per Dragon and 2nd January per Kent.

2. The London was dispatched from Ingellee the 21st instant by Mr. William Watts at which time her draught of water was 17 feet 6 inches forward and 17-9 abaft.

3. This waits on Your Honours per ship Hardwick and serves to enclose the several papers relating to her as specified in the list of packet.

4. Mr. Drake, Export Warehouse-keeper, having acquainted us that the greatest part of the Burron and Commercolly cossaes was very inferior to muster and deficient in their lengths and breadths, we reduced the inferior parcells to a lower letter and took the whole as Your Honours had ordered so large a quantity thereof.

5. We have likewise prized about 400 peices of cossaes Malda fine gold heads of 40 and 2, though not contracted for, as the cloth was of a good sortment.

6. In regard to the fine Santipore mullmulls there was about 1700 peices over and above the quantity agreed for, which arising from our orders to the Warehousekeeper to sort the inferior letters of the superfine into this sortment, we agreed to prize them reducing what letters of this quality fell under the price of 14 rupees to the head letters of the ordinary mulmulls Santipore.

7. There being a larger quantity of mulmulls Cossajura fine of 40 and 2 sorted with what the other merchants were to bring in on their contracts than we had agreed for, as also a larger quantity of hummums superfine of 24 and 3 than ordered, and being apprehensive the merchants will not bring in their full contracts for the lower sortments of those goods, we agreed to take them, packing those of the former sort which came to the price of 16 rupees as the head letters of the mulmulls Cossajura ordinary and those letters of the latter which came under the price of 14 rupees as the head letters of the hummums fine.

8. We likewise prized about 1200 peices of Barnagul handkercheifs more than contracted for and reduced the adaties (they being of a very bad sortment) to a lower letter.

9. We have granted the following bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence per rupee (2/3):

On the 24th January of Richard Becher Esqr. account of Doctor Wm. Forth Current Rupees one thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annæs and three pice (1333-5-3) payable to Mr. Wm. Ferguson or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 150-0-0

On 24th do of Mr. Richard Court account Mr. Dawsonne Drake Current Rupees six hundred and five, twelve annæs and three pice (605-12-3) payable to Messrs. Wm. Verelst and Wm. Fraser or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 68-3-0

On the 21 do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. account Mr. William Baillie Current Rupees one thousand (1000) payable to Mr. Robert Baillie or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 112-10-0

On the 21 do of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four, seven annæs (4444-7-0) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 500-0-0

On the 29 January of Mr. John Pinson on his own account Current Rupees one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annæs and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Mr. Edward Payne or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 200-0-0

On the 21 do of Mr. Hollond Goddard account coral Current Rupees one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine, ten annæs (1859-10-0) payable

to Mr. Joseph Salvadore or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 107-6-7

The whole amount of bills of exchange granted at 2/3 per rupee is CRs. 11020-14-0 or £St. 1137-19-7.

10. We have likewise granted the following at 2/1 per rupee:

On the 24 January of Mr. James McPherson Current Rupees four hundred (400) payable to Mr. Thomas Parratt @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 41-13-4

On the 24 do of Mr. John Knox Senior Current Rupees one thousand nine hundred and twenty (1920) payable to Mr. George Male or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 200-0-0

On the 24 do or Mr. Wm. Nixon Current Rupees one thousand and thirty, six annæs (1030-6-0) payable to Messrs. Crommelin Pigou and John Goddard or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 107-6-7

On the 24th do of Mr. Richard Court Current Rupees one hundred and sixteen, five annæs (116-5-0) payable to Mr. Joseph Styles or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 12-2-3.

On the 24th do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. Current Rupees four thousand nine hundred and forty four, nine annæs and nine pice (4944-9-9) payable to Mr. James Barton or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 515-1-3

On the 29th do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. and Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. account Mr. Wm. Holcomb Current Rupees three hundred and five, four annæs (305-4-0) payable to Wm. Davis Esqr. or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 31-15-11

The whole amount of bills granted at 2/1 is Current Rupees 8716-8-9 or £St. 907-19-4.

11. We have likewise granted three certificates of one tenor and date to the following persons:

On the 29th January of Captain David Rannie account Captain Charles Fowles Current Rupees five thousand six hundred and thirty, eleven annæs, and nine pice (5630-11-9).

On the 29th do of Captain David Rannie account Captain Robert Robinson Current Rupees seven thousand five hundred and eight, fifteen annæs and six pice (CRs. 7508-15-6).

On the 29th do of Captain David Rannie account Captain John Ramsay Current Rupees eleven thousand three hundred and eighty two, seven annæs and six pice (CRs. 11382-7-6).

On the 29th do of Captain John Samson on his own account Current Rupees ten thousand (10,000).

The whole amount of certificates granted is Current Rupees 34522-2-9.

12. Mr. William Woolhead on the 6th instant delivered us a letter from Mr. Jonathan Ranson which is entered after our Consultation of that day when we agreed to receive no more letters from him than what related immediately to Your Honours' affairs.

13. Your Honours will likewise observe from the insolent behaviour of Mr. Woolhead at the Board as incerted in that day's Consultation the necessity we lay under of shewing a proper resentment thereto by ordering him to prepare to return to Europe on one of the ships bound thither this season, to which Mr. James Blachford has entered his dissent.

14. The 29th instant Mr. Frankland the Clerk of the Peace layed before us two notes, the one signed by Ramsantose desiring him to sub-poena sundry witnesses to appear at the quarter

sessions for to give evidence against Mr. Burrow for falsely and illegally imprisoning him, the other signed by Mr. Ranson to sub poena sundry persons as evidences against Messrs. Smyth and Hastings for feloniously breaking open the house of Ramsantose and taking from thence sundry books and papers value unknown, upon which for our reasons set forth in our Consultation of that day we ordered Ramsantose to be publickly whipped, and Mr. Woolhead, from his being instrumental in those violent proceedings of Ramsantose and Mr. Ranson and from his continually creating disturbances whereby he has rendered himself obnoxious to the settlement and consequently acting prejudicial to Your Honours' interest, to repair on board the Scarborough which ship we hope to dispatch by the middle of next month.

15. In the box of books we transmit Your Honours a copy of Messrs. Becher and Pearkes' proceedings on their enquiry into Ramsantose's books and papers as far as they have hitherto gone.

16. Mr. Wadham Brooke petitioned us on the 23rd December for an order to Captain Robson to receive him on board the Kent and accommodate him with a passage to Europe, upon which we sent Mr. Meredith our attorney to him for to give security to stand to the award of His Majesty's Council on his appeal to Europe, with which as he did not comply, we directed our lawyer to petition the Mayor's Court to oblige him thereto but they, on Mr. Brooke's offering his own bond and our rejecting it, deferred the consideration thereof till the holidays were over when they thought proper to accept his own bond, an attested copy whereof is herewith sent.

17. Mr. Brooke on the 29th instant requesting an order to Captain Samson to receive him on board the Hardwick when we complied therewith, being of opinion we had no right to detain him as he had given the security the Mayors' Court directed, though unprecedented in cases of the like nature and he accordingly takes his passage on the Hardwick.

18. Mr. Thomas Burrow requesting our permission to return to Europe on account of his indifferent state of health we granted his request as he does not appear any ways indebted to Your Honours and having paid the usual 96 rupees into your cash.

19. We have delivered up Captain Samson his bills of lading, he having accounted for the amount of the damaged goods and short delivery per Hardwick.

20. In the box of books we transmit Your Honours a copy of the general books of this Presidency ballanced to the 30th April last, as likewise one sett of our Consultations from the 26th of February 1750/1 to this day inclusive, with all other necessary papers for the year 1751 as specified in the list.

21. We have laden on the Hardwick sundry goods and merchandize which are consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rupees.....

22. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to Current Rupees 1231-9-9.

23. Mr. Richard Becher who dispatches this ship will advise Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from Ingellee.

24. Wishing her a safe and speedy passage to Europe we remain.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Roger Drake Junr/E. H. Cruttenden/Wm. Watts/Thos. Burrow/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher/ aul Richard Pearkes.

Fort William,

January 31st, 1751/2.

P.S. Since closing the above Your Honours will be pleased to observe by an additional Minute to this day's Consultation that we called Mr. Simon Loake before us to acquaint him with your orders concerning him and for the particulars of our proceedings we beg leave to refer Your Honours to this day's Consultation but Mr. Loake being ordered to wait in an outward room till the sentiments of the Board were taken thereon and having withdrawn himself without our knowledge we were of opinion that he is unworthy of the indulgence we had granted him and have ordered a guard to be sent after him to bring him up and carry him on board the Hardwicke.

A. Dawson/Wm. Watts/Roger Drake Junr/Thos. Burrow/E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes.

(Ref: Home Public Letters to Court Vol. 2, 1751-52, pp. 105—113.

Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 17, 1752-53, pp. 46—54.)

## 26
## LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1751/2

*The Nawab's order regarding recoinage of all bullion and currency—representation of the European Companies—William Frankland admitted to a seat in the Council—account of Patna goods purchased from Omichand.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address under the established heads bore date the 2nd January and was forwarded to Your Honours per Kent since which dispatch we have transmitted Your Honours the necessary advices under date the 16 January per London and 31 do per Hardwick as per copies thereof enclosed.

2. We are now to inform Your Honours of an order issued out from the Durbar to send all money whether bullion or rupees to the mint at Muxadavad to be coined there into Siccas or disposed of to Jugutseat and forbidding the Europeans to pay away any money to their merchants but in new Siccas

3. As we looked upon this step of the government, provided it should take place, to be of the utmost ill consequence to Your Honours we joined with the French and Dutch gentlemen in directing our respective Cheifs and their Council at Cossimbuzar to act in concert and represent to the Nabob the great hardships that will attend this order and to request him to permit bullion and different coins to have their usual currency which we are in hopes will have the desired effect.

4. As Mr. Burrow's return to Europe occasioned a vacancy at our Board we admitted Mr. William Frankland who was next in succession to fill up the same.

5. In obedience to Your Honours' orders for sending you some Patna goods we purchased of Omichund

| | | Yds. | | Ns | Peices | | ARs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Emmerties | of | 14 | and | 14 | 5600 | @ | 85 | Per corgé |
| Baftaes | of | 18 | and | 12 | 3500 | @ | 98 | do. |
| Callicoes | of | 12½ | and | 1 | 800 | @ | 84 | do. |

and have invoiced the callicoes under the head of Patna cossaes.

6. We have likewise prized 2700 peices of mulmulls Santipore of 40 and 2¼ more than ordered in the list of investment as this overplus arose from the Export Warehousekeeper's throwing in some of the fine mulmulls to be sorted therewith and as those goods are better than for some years past.

7. In our last address we acquainted Your Honours we had sent a guard after Simon Loake with an intention to send him home on the Hardwick but the serjeant reported to us that he escaped our bounds and was at Barnagur where he has taken the protection of the Dutch flag and should he return we shall certainly put Your Honours' orders in execution.

9. Mr. William Woolhead whom we ordered to return to Europe on one of the ships bound home this season has withdrawn to Hughley.

9. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums we have granted bills of exchange for and first at 2/3 per rupee viz.,

On the 6 February of Captain George Minchin account the estate of Major James Mosman Current Rupees one thousand two hundred and eighty, six annæs and six pice (CRs. 1280-6-6) payable to the legal representative of Major James Mosman or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 144-0-10

On the 12th do of Charles Manningham Esqr. account Edward Eyles Esqr. Current Rupees nine hundred and twenty one, eleven annæs and three pice (CRs. 921-11-3) payable to Edward Eyles Esqr. or order at 2/3 is £St. 103-13-10

On the 13 February of Mr. James Irwin account Mr. John Cooke Current Rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annæs (444-7-0) payable to Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 50-0-0

On the 13 do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. account Mr. Joseph Hurlock Current Rupees twelve thousand (12000) payable to Mr. John Sedgwick or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 1350-0-0

On the 13 do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Wm. Fytche Esqr. Current Rupees nine hundred and ten, twelve annæs (910-12-0) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2/3 is £St. 102-8-6.

On the 15 do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees one thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annæs, six pice (1333-5-6) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order at 2/3 is £St. 150-0-0

On the 15th do of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annæs and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 200-0-0

The whole amount of bills granted at 2/3 per rupee is CRs. 18668-6-9 or £St. 2100-3-2.

10. We have likewise granted the following bills at 2/1 per rupee viz.,

On the 10 February of Edward Horden Cruttenden Esqr. Current Rupees sixteen thousand six hundred ninety two, four annæs and three pice (16692 4-3) payable to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 1738-15-6.

On the 10th do of Mr. Thomas Cooke Current Rupees four hundred and eighty (480) payable to Mr. Miles Barnes or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 50-0-0

On the 10th do of Mr. Thomas Cooke Current Rupees three hundred and thirty six (336) payable to Captain Richard Thelwall or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 35-0-0

On the 11th do of Captain John Coales Current Rupees four hundred and eighty (480) payable to Messrs. Thomas and Nicholas Crisp or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 50-0-0

On the 11th do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. account Mr. Joseph Hope Current Rupees one thousand five hundred and twenty one, eleven annæs and six pice (1521-11-6) payable to Mr. John Hope or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 158-10-3

On the 12th do of Mrs. Sophia Hollond Current Rupees seven thousand six hundred and thirty (7630) payable to Messrs. Edward Eyles and Joseph Fowke or order @ 2/1 per rupee is £St. 794-15-10

On the 13th do of Mr. John Boujannier Current Rupees twenty six thousand two hundred forty nine, seven annæs, nine pice (26249-7-9) payable to Mr. John Boujannier or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 2734-6-3

On the 13th do of Captain David Rannie Current Rupees nine hundred ninety six (996) payable to Messrs. James and Mungo Rannie or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 103-15-0

On the 13th do of Mr. Moses Solomons Current Rupees thirty eight thousand

four hundred (38400) payable to Mr. Moses Solomons or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 4000-0-0

On the 13th do of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. Current Rupees seven hundred and seventy six, nine annæs and six pice (776-9-6) payable to Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 80-17-10

On the 15th do of Mr. Peter Amyatt Current Rupees six thousand seven hundred and thirty eight, one annæ (6738-1-0) payable to Samuel Rooper Esqr. or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 701-17-7

On the 15 do of Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees nine thousand six hundred (9600) payable to Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 1000-0-0

The whole amount of bills granted at 2/1 per rupee is CRs. 109,900-2-0 or £St. 11447-18-3.

11. We have likewise granted the following certificates of one tenor and date to the following persons viz.,

On the 13th February of Captain Pinson Bonham account Mr. William Foreman Current Rupees three thousand seven hundred twenty nine, three annæs and three pice (CRs. 3729-3-3).

On the 13th do of Richard Becher Esqr. account Captain John Samson Current Rupees two thousand (CRs. 2000).

On the 14 do of Captain Pinson Bonham account Captain Philip D'Auvergne Current Rupees seven thousand two hundred and sixty eight (CRs. 7268).

The whole amount of certificates granted is Current Rupees 12997-3-3.

12. Mr. John Knox who purchased Your Honours' arrack farm having petitioned us to request Your Honours will send him two stills of 400 gallons each with three worms of a size

proportionable thereto and being willing to pay 25 per cent on the prime cost thereof, we enclosed send Your Honours his petition as we think his request reasonable.

13. We have laden on the Scarborough sundry goods and merchandize which are consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rupees 7,68,800.

14. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to Current Rupees 1234-14-9.

15. Mr. William Watts who dispatches this ship will advise Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from Ingellee.

16. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Europe and are

May it please Your Honours

Your faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/Wm. Watts/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher.

Fort William,

February 17th 1751/2.

(Ref: Home Public Letter to Court Vol. 2, 1751-52, pp. 114—120.

Copies of records obtained from India Office Vol. 17, 1752-53, pp. 55—61.

Para 12 published in Long's *Selections* p. 31.)

## 27

## LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1751/2

*List of Kasimbazar merchants indebted to the Company review of the success of investment at different factories—report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the case of Ramsantosh.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address bearing date the 17th instant was forwarded to Your Honours per Scarborough which ship was dispatched from Ingellee the 21st instant by Mr. William Watts when her draught of water was 18 feet on an even keel and enclosed we transmit Your Honours copy of said address as likewise a copy of our address under date the 31st January per Hardwick.

2. This waits on Your Honours per ship Duke of Dorset and in the packet you will receive the necessary papers relating to this ship as incerted in the list.

3. In our last we advised Your Honours of our having purchased some Patna goods by sorting of which we found the glazing much broke and that they could not be refolded so close together, on which account we directed the Warehousekeeper to pack up the whole quantity without distinction of letters, that having been the custom at Patna.

4. We have not sent Your Honours any Cossajura dooreas middling this season judging those brought into your cottah to be of too bad a quality to prize.

5. In consequence of our promise in the 77th paragraph of our address dated the 2nd ultimo we now transmit you the list of the Cossimbuzar merchants who are indebted to Your Honours at that factory from the year 1741 to 1747 with the amount of their debts annexed to their respective names, as likewise the account of what such as could be found propose to pay in part of those debts, from which Your Honours being let into the condition of your several debitors will be better able to send us your orders concerning them.

6. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar finding their merchants fell short in the proportion of the A of the yellow Rungpore silk have taken the overplus of the B and C at 6 annæs less than what they prized those letters at to make the quantity up 40 maunds.

7. The Cossimbuzar merchants having fallen short in several articles of the investment particularly gurrahs, plain taffaties, ordinary bandannoes and choppas assured the gentlemen there that it was impossible for them to comply with their contracts for gurrahs as that article rose considerably after they

had contracted with them by reason the country cotton was almost destroyed by the heavy rains which fell in April and the want of money through not advancing them according to agreement by which they have been great sufferers and disabled likewise from bringing in the full quantity of silk peice goods, and the remaining ordinary bandannoes and choppas being very bad they did not bring them in as being unfit to be prized.

3. Mr. Fytche and his Council have communicated the contents of our orders to them about the bullion and rupees to the French and Dutch gentlemen and as soon as the Hooley is over they hope to be able to send us a satisfactory account of their proceedings on this affair.

9. In the packet we transmit Your Honours patterns of such sort of goods as are provided by the French and Dutch at Cossimbuzar factory as likewise patterns of plain taffaties sent on this ship.

10. The gentlemen at Dacca under date the 10th instant wrote us that they had dispatched 76 bales of cloth and a bundle of musters amounting to rupees 84948-10-6 on Your Honours' account and we being apprehensive from the late strong southerly winds that they would not arrive here in time to be transmitted home per Duke of Dorset we sent down a serjeant in a sloop to wait their arrival at Rangafoula and from thence transport them on board that ship; he has since returned and has reported to us that he met them near Fulta from whence he complied with our orders.

11. The Omorra goods which Mr. Kelsall at Bulramgurry wrote us under date the 19th ultimo he was in hopes to have ready are not yet arrived; when they do if we find them good and reasonable in case our merchants will not contract for them we shall direct him to comply with Your Honours' orders as to that article provided he can procure them without advancing money on dadney in consequence of Your Honour's orders.

12. We have received into your cash the 2000 annual rupees on account of Ramnautbose's deficiencies.

13. We are now to advise Your Honors for what sums we have granted bills of exchange and first of those at 2/3 per rupee viz.,

On the 22nd February of Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees six hundred fifty four (654) payable to Mr. Percival Bentley or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 73-11-6

On the 22nd do of Captain Laurence Witherington on his own account Current Rupees four hundred and fourty four, seven annæs (444-7-0) payable to Charles Frederick Esqr. or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 50-0-0

On the 23rd February of Mr. William Kempe account Mr. Edward Eyre Current Rupees three hundred and fifty five, eight annæs and nine pice (355-8-9) payable to Mrs. Kenton or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 40-0-0

The whole amount of bills drawn at 2/3 per rupee is CRs. 1453-15-9 or £St. 163-11-6.

14. We have likewise granted the following bill at 2/1 per rupee.

On the 23rd February of the Hon'ble Adam Dawson Esqr. Current Rupees six thousand four hundred (6400) payable to Messrs. Abraham and Jacob Franco or order at 2/1 per rupee is £St. 666-13-4

15. We have likewise granted three certificates of one tenor and date.

On the 22nd February of Captain Thomas Frognall on his own account Current Rupees twenty thousand six hundred and sixty five, four annæs (CRs. 20665-4-0).

16. Mr. Drake Export Warehousekeeper has delivered us a letter this day containing his remarks on the investment anno 1751 to which he has annexed the account of sundry goods contracted for, prized and short delivered which is entered after

our Consultation and we have agreed to take the same under consideration next Council day for which purpose we have ordered the merchants to attend us.

17. In the box of books we transmit Your Honours the translate of Furruckseer's phirmaunds by Mr. Peter Amyatt with the Persian copies and shall send you by the next opportunity translate of all grants to Your Honours from the Mogull.

18. By this conveyance we transmit Your Honours the report of the committee appointed to enquire into Ramsantose's books with a copy of their proceedings whereby you will be pleased to observe they cannot proceed any farther for want of his day book for the year 1745. He is at present indisposed but as soon as he is recovered we shall demand it of him.

19. We have laden on the Duke of Dorset sundry goods and merchandize which are consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to CRs. 814000.

20. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to CRs. 1234-2-3.

21. Mr. William Frankland who dispatches this ship will advise Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from Ingellee.

22. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Europe and are

May it please Your Honours

Yours faithful and most obedient humble servants

A. Dawson/Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/Wm. Watts/ Rich. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/Wm. Frankland.

Fort William,

February 23rd 1751/2.

(Ref: Home Public Letters to Court, Vol. 2, 1751-52, pp. 121—126.

Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 17, 1752-53, pp. 62—67.

Para 7 published in Long's *Selections*, p. 31.)

# 28

# LETTER DATED 18 SEPTEMBER 1752

*Shipping details—survey made of the river—satisfactory condition of investment—the Nawab's order regarding recoinage of all bullion and representation of the European Companies—dismissal of Govindaram Mitra from the Company's service and Holwell's charges against him—Members of Council to visit the hospital in rotation—the President's visit to Siraj-ud-daulah with suitable presents.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Under date the 23rd February we addressed Your Honours per Duke of Dorset which ship was dispatched from Ingellee the 1st March by Mr. Wm. Frankland when her draught of water was 17 feet 7 inches on an even keil. The reason for not dispatching her in the time limited by charterparty was owing to the delay of six sloops which did not arrive in time to be unladen before the day Mr. Frankland dispatched her, for which neglect we stopped the syrangs' pay as they did not give us a satisfactory answer.

2. Duplicate of our above mentioned address Your Honours will receive in this packet.

3. We shall now proceed to give Your Honours a particular and distinct account of your affairs under our management since that time under the usual established heads and to reply to your several commands received this season viz., under dates the 21st August per Durrington and the 8th and 16th January per Godolphin and Admiral Vernon.

*First, concerning shipping.*

4. As Your Honours' sloop, the Boneta, was not returned from the Cormondell coast and judging the gentlemen there would be in want of the remainder of the gunpowder imported

here from Bombay per Kent, we on the 16th March dispatched the Mermaid therewith and what packing stuff they indented for.

5. We directed the Master Attendant to repair Your Honours' sloop, the Calcutta, in consequence of his report of her entered after our Consultation of the 16th March.

6. By the Boneta which returned from the Coast the 13th April the Governour and Council at Fort St. David wrote to us (as they were unacquainted with what was customary to be paid for military and stores sent from place to place) to settle it and pay the owners of the Fort St. David for the reinforcement we sent them which proved very beneficial to Your Honours' affairs which were much altered for the better. They also acquainted us with the arrival of the Durrington and that Your Honours had re-established Fort St. George the Presidency on the Cormondell coast.

7. By the foregoing conveyance we received a letter from Thos. Dorrill Esqr. Chief and factors at Tellecherry importing the proceedings of Mr. Joshua Bodley, Super Cargoe of the Mary, and enclosing copies of several letters which passed between them and padre Lynham as also the deposition of William Craggs, commander of that ship, which are entered after our Consultation of the 13th April to which we beg leave to refer Your Honours as well as to the depositions of Mr. James Irwin to whom we granted a pass for the Mary, of all which we shall take proper notice on the arrival of Mr. Bodley who is at present on the Cormondell coast and daily expected here.

8. The river has been duely surveyed this year as by the report thereof entered after our Consultation of the 27th April.

9. By the Durrington which arrived here the 27th April the Governour and Council at Fort St. George sent us the amount of her bullion with what redwood she was able to take on board and desired us to inform them of the deposition of our tonage as they should be able to dispatch a ship in September to Your Honours with a full loading.

10. At the same time we received a letter from the gentlemen at Bombay advising of the arrival there of the Wager and the Stretham and that they should order two sloops to be built for this river agreable to the directions we transmitted them.

11. On the receipt of Your Honours' orders per Durrington we sent for Capt. Pinson, the Master Attendant, and directed him to issue out fresh orders to the pylots not to bring up any of Your Honours' ships higher than Rogues River (which always has been our instructions) without a particular order from us, which he promised to observe and informed us they corresponded with those he issued out on his entering into the post.

12. Such of Your Honours' ships as have already imported here this season have been searched for private trade by one of your covenanted servants agreable to your orders transmitted us per Durrington and we shall pay the like regard to them with respect of the ships which may in future import here.

13. In obedience to Your Honours' orders for sending to Bombay what saltpetre they may want for kintlaging their ships and making up their charterparty tonage, we desired them under date the 30th April to inform us of the quantity.

14. We also wrote at the same time to the gentlemen at Fort St. David upon that subject and requested them to transmit us the amount of the gold mentioned in the 7th paragraph of your commands of the 21st August by the first good sea conveyance, which they informed us under date the 10th May was not in their power to replace.

15. The owners of the Fort St. David applying to us for the payment of the military stores transported to the Coast on that ship, we agreed to pay them at the rate of 20 rupees per head which was complied with under date the 7 May.

16. Your Honours' sloop, the Mermaid, imported from the Coast the 8 June with 27 pipes of Madeira wine and 22 candies 4 maunds of redwood. We received at the same time 224 candies of redwood per ship Brill.

17. The Master Attendant setting forth to us under date the 22nd June the great difficulty he found to get syrangs and lascars for Your Honours' sloops service and recommending us in order to remove this inconvenience the encrease of their wages, as those employed in the country ships received much better pay and their provisions, we agreed to encrease a syrang's wages from 8 to 10 rupees per mensem, a tindall's from 5 to 7 and a lascar's from 4 to 6 rupees to enable him to keep your sloops supplied with good lascars.

18. Your Honours will observe the prices we contracted with our Master Attendant for marine stores for the year 1752 entered after Consultation the 29th June on our Storekeeper's acquainting us that he compared the prices proposed by the Master Attendant with the market prices and found them to be reasonable and on Captain Pinson's assuring us he could not afford them any cheaper.

19. By the Godolphin which ship imported here the 6th July we received a letter from the Governour and Council at Fort St. George advising us of their having landed the military designed us by the ship with 18 chests of arms, and from the favourable turn which the Nabob's affairs had then taken they hoped soon to be able to return them to us as well as the detachment from hence.

20. Your Honours will observe two letters from Capt. Hutchinson, commander of the Godolphin, advising of his ship being aground, entered after Consultation of the 6th July as also that we called upon Viccary, the pylot. Captain Hutchinson imputing the fault to him, whose defence is entered upon the Consultation of that day, but our Master Attendant being present at the examination and giving it as his opinion that the pylot was wrong in not observing that the quarter master had executed his orders in keeping the ship to the course directed to be steered, which was the proper course, and that the ship's running ashore was entirely owing to a mistake in the man at the helm and not to the want of capacity in the pylot, we gave Viccary a severe reprimand and directed the Master Attendant to fine him a month's pay.

21. In obedience to the 24th paragraph of your orders per Godolphin the sloops which have been sent down to unload your ships were first surveyed by the Master Attendant and their condition reported to the Board and the like care shall be observed in future.

22. Your Honours will observe by Capt. Hutchinson's letters, entered after Consultation the 20th July, that the Godolphin run aground about a league off Fulta as she was coming up to town to heave down and that the President upon the receipts thereof sent him the assistance he requested.

23. Capt. Drake acquainted us by letter the 21st July that the Durrington's demorage commenced the 14th of that month.

24. By the Colchester which imported here from the Coast the 25 July the Governour and Council at Fort St. George wrote us that they believed it would be necessary to examine her bottom as she had struck upon the sea reef, that they were obliged to take two sticks out of the Colchester and Godolphin as the Protector's boltsprit was disabled, and as the Swiss daily deserting they reshipped those designed us by the Colchester except a private man who deserted and a serjeant under sentence of death, that they believed they should be able to lade a ship home in September and another in January and as we proposed sending them one for that purpose they desired us to put her charterparty redwood and saltpetre on board which will much facillitate her dispatch to Europe and requested us to send them by her one thousand bags of saltpetre and fill her up with rice.

25. By the Colchester we also received a letter from Capt. Edmund Cooke, commander of the Admiral Vernan at Madrass, desiring our permission to bring his ship up directly to town as her being ashore near the island Mayotta[1] eleven hours damaged her false keil so much as to oblige him to heave her down, but judging the risque too great for Your Honours to run we directed the Master Attendant to order the pylots not to bring her higher than Rogues River until she was lightened.

26. The gentlemen at Fort St. George sent us the Brilliant, a small vessell belonging to Your Honours, to be repaired and returned to them in September which has been complied with.

27. We have paid Mr. Robert Harris, surgeon of the Colchester, the usual allowance of head money for his care of the military, the officers having assured us that they were taken due care of by him.

28. In consequence of the request of the Governour and Council at Fort St. George for sending them a ship we called upon Captains Drake, Hutchinson, and Mainwaring to know which of them could get their ships ready in time to proceed to the Coast by the latter end of August, when Capt. Drake acquainted us that the Durrington was on her fourth and last voyage, that she had been 13 months off the ground and he thought it unsafe for her to return to Europe without seeing her bottom. Capt. Hutchinson informed us there was a deal of work

to be done to his ship the Godolphin for he imagined her false keil was knocked athwart from the cables sweeping the ship's bottom forward so that he could not heave his anchors up and he apprehended some of her floor timbers were broke from the violence of her thumping on Ingellee sand, and Capt. Mainwaring informed us that the Colchester was tight, made no water and he did not imagine she was damaged but as she had been ashore it was our Master Attendant's opinion that she ought not to be dispatched for Europe untill her bottom was examined, for which end we permitted Capt. Mainwaring to bring his ship up to town in consequence of his request as the freshes were to violent below to make the proper enquiry there; but as Captains Hutchinson and Mainwaring were both of opinion it would be impracticable to get their ships ready in proper time notwithstanding they both promised to exert themselves and use their utmost endeavours to get them fit for the sea and we had offered them the assistance of our Master Attendant and what else in our power, we advised the gentlemen at Fort St. George to detain either the Chesterfield, Oxford or Bombay Castle to be returned to Your Honours in September, in case any of those ships should arrive in time to be dispatched home, but on the Colchester's arriving at town the Master Attendant with Your Honours' Carpenter found with the assistance of divers there was no necessity to heave her down and that she could be got ready to proceed, whereof we sent advice to the Governour and Council at Fort St. George per Marmoodie, a country ship.

29. By the Admiral Vernon which imported from the Coast the 24th ultimo the gentlemen at Fort St. George requested us to send them two ships half laden to be filled up and dispatched from thence to Your Honours in January which we propose to comply with.

30. Your Honours are pleased to observe to us that you do not get the full value of such of your ships as are sent on countrey voyages. The method we have always observed in letting them out was by calculating the amount of their demorage for eight months, the usual time they were employed by the freighters, and when that sum was offered we readily accepted thereof and we are of opinion it corresponds with Your Honours' directions in the 15th paragraph of your commands per Durrington.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe.*

31. Under this head we are to acquaint Your Honours that we have sold as usual at publick outcry the damaged woollen goods and remnants, also damaged stores as well naval as military, they having been first surveyed and condemned by the Board. The account sales we transmit Your Honours in this ship's packet.

32. We observe how much Your Honours have at heart the consumption of Europe commodities and particularly the woollen manufactures and beg leave to assure you that we shall embrace every proper opportunity for vending them at publick outcry agreable to Your Honours' directions.

33. We have already sold part of the Durrington's and Godolphin's cargoes as per account sales thereof enclosed but as there were many articles for which there were no bidders and finding upon enquiry it was owing to the aurungs (where those sortments are consumed) being overstocked therewith, we have deferred the sale thereof with the whole of the Colchester's cargoe till the month of October, unless we find an opportunity for vending them in the intermediate time and we propose deferring the sale of what the other ships may import till the months of January and February.

34. We likewise transmit Your Honours in this packet the account sales of Madeira wine as it has been imported here from the Coast and impute the reason of its not selling at so high a price as at the first sales to the purchasers having found it to be a wine of to small a body to keep any time.

35. In answer to the 25th paragraph of Your Honour's commands of the 21st August to keep you advised of the price of gold as well in coin as bullion, we are to inform you that the prices of gold in coin vary here 8 or 10 per cent and perhaps more than in any other countrey, as every tumult or suspicion thereof rising upon the death of a Nabob or any great minister near the King's person frightens the subjects and puts them on purchasing gold in coin, for the more easy conveying or secreting their wealth, so that we can only say at this juncture a gold mohur is found to be worth about 14 Arcot Rupees and a Venetian 4½ Arcot Rupees and all other gold coins in proportion.

36. In regard to gold in bullion there is no equation or standard degree of fineness whereby to regulate the price and the people of this countrey are either ignorant of or will not confess the degrees of fineness or touch and therefore gold in bullion has but one buyer viz., the Mint Master who, paying to the government large sums for farming his post, may be supposed to be very arbitrary in the price he puts on the gold offered for sale and it has been often found that there is a profit arising of 8 or 10 per cent by exporting gold both in bullion and coin (mohurs excepted) from this place to the Cormondell coast, wherefore we beg leave to offer it as our opinion, in case Your Honours should have any views of sending gold to India, Madrass is the proper market, it being the only place for ascertaining the real value of gold as the Governour and Council there can be frequently advised the price that mohurs may from time to time bear in this place and thereby make their calculations accordingly.

37. We shall transmit a copy of Your Honours' paragraph on this subject to the gentlemen at Fort St. George that they may reply thereto more to Your Honours' satisfaction than is possible for us for the foregoing reasons to comply with.

38. Your Honours are pleased to express your satisfaction on our raising the batta of Bombay Rupees to eleven per cent and we hope that you will not be displeased on our reducing the batta on them and Arcot Rupees one per cent, as it was in consideration of the loss our merchants suffer by receiving them at so high a batta and in being obliged to dispose of them at a lower in order to purchase Siccas to forward to the aurungs for the provision of Your Honours' investment.

39. We shall not fail in acquainting Your Honours which are best liked of the velvets and brocades mentioned in your 34 and 35 paragraphs when the Chesterfield arrives, as likewise how the plate copper per Colchester is approved of and what quantity we shall have hopes of vending here.

40. Your Honours' orders relative to your sales of goods imported shall be adhered to so far as is practicable but we are of Mr. Cruttenden's opinion entered upon Consultation of the 21 July that your warehouses are to small to carry them all into execution.

*Thirdly. concerning investments of goods proper for Europe.*

41. We are now to give Your Honours a distinct account of our management in the important branch of your affairs since our last advices.

42. In consequence of our promise by the Duke of Dorset we called our merchants before us and acquainted them with the purport of Mr. Drake the then Export Warehouse Keeper's letter, a copy whereof was transmitted Your Honours by that ship, upon which they desired us to consider that although they had received upwards of ten laacks of rupees they were unable to bring in goods to the amount of above 15, whereas in former years when they were only advanced two laacks they brought in to the amount of above thirty, owing to our cutting them in the prices, the dearness of cloth at the aurungs and our sorting their goods by old musters whereby they suffered a considerable loss, and as several of them have delivered in less than to the amount of the dadney advanced them, in case we should reject those goods, they would be very great sufferers by being security in setts for each other.

43. Having seriously considered of the foregoing reply and finding by a rough calculate that the amount thereof would be near five lacks of rupees and that Your Honours would save upwards of 25000 rupees interest thereon, in case we took the goods and credited the merchants for the amount the last of April, and imagining such deduction of interest was a severe penalty and sufficient to deter them in future from any delays in the beginning of the season without taking the penalty on the amount of the remaining goods, we proposed to the merchants to prize them and allow interest thereon from the last of April, which after setting forth the hardship they had already suffered and the loss of interest which they should sustain by delivering those goods on the above terms they agreed as a penalty would ensue if they did not deliver them in.

44. On prizeing the abovementioned goods the merchants brought into the cottah about 50 pieces of dooreas Coincolla of 40 and 1⅛ and offered us the A for Rs. 12.8 as. per piece which we purchased as we imagine it will be for Your Honours' interest to order a contract for those goods.

45. We then proposed to them to contract for gurrahs, soot romals and photaes and offered to advance them dadney but they would not consent thereto, as the new cotton was not

come in and as rice which used to sell at the gurrah aurungs at 2 maunds for a rupee being then at 17 seer, rendered it impossible for them to judge at what price the gurrahs would be, but promised us an answer by the 20th of April by which time they hoped to be able to form a judgment how this year's cotton would turn out when they should settle the prices.

46. Accordingly on the 23rd April on our proposing to contract for those goods on the original musters they acquainted us they would provide them in the following proportions:

3000 pieces of photaes fine of 28 and 2¼ @ Rs. 6. 12 as. per piece.
5000 patch of soot romals fine of 45 and 1½ @ Rs. 7. 12 as. per patch.
25000 patch of do. ordinary of 45 and 1½ @ Rs. 6-4 per patch.

and if we should agree to those prices they would provide 40,000 pieces of gurrahs on condition of their being advanced fifty per cent in the month of May and the remaining 35 per cent in the month of August, and the terms on which they propose to contract for the other sortments of goods are entered after our Consultation of the 25th April.

47. On our demanding their reasons for asking such extravagant prices for their goods and their proposing to contract for so few, they replyed on account of the dearness of cotton, rice, oil and everything in general at the aurungs and most of the weavers being obliged to fly from their places of residence through the oppressions of the government and troubles in the countrey. They also represented to us on account of the great losses they sustained by our sorting their goods last year by the original muster that they have been obliged to set down an advanced price, for though they always contracted on those musters yet most of the sortments were found inferiour in goodness thereto and though notwithstanding we used such strictness last year in sorting their cloth yet they did not come up to those original musters on which account they were cut in prizing.

48. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having acquainted us that they had settled their contracts for gurrahs at a rupee less than last year, we acquainted our merchants therewith, on which account we told them that we expected they would lower the price of that article and encrease the quantity, they being provided at the same aurungs, and as the prices they demanded for the other sortments of goods were so exorbitantly high we expected they would lower them proportionally as also raise

the quantity, in which case we should advance them dadney but on the 30th April being called on for their answer they continued inflexible to our endeavours for entering into an early contract which we esteemed would be a very great advantage by putting it in their power to supply the aurungs soon, insisting if we contracted on the old musters they must be allowed the prices they set down to each of the articles but if we would sort their cloth agreable to the muster of last year they would calculate the loss they sustained and give us their answer the subsequent Council.

49. They accordingly on the 3rd of May acquainted us that they had examined the last year's prized musters and should consent to have their goods sorted according to the first letter allowing that to be the middle price of the A, that is that a superior and an inferior price be taken in that letter, and that the remainder be sorted agreable thereto, insisting that the lower letters last year were of a superior fineness than they can in future allow of and on those terms they will contract at the following prices viz.,

Barnagur romals, nillaes fine and ordinary and ginghams on last year's prices but cannot provide the mulmulls Santipore of 2¼ fine nor the superfine Cossajura mulmulls of 40 and 2 and on the remainder of the investment to be allowed an advance on last year's prices of 15 per cent and to have 89 rupees per corge for gurrahs on account the loss they sustain in receiving Arcot Rupees wherewith they are obliged to purchase Siccas to send to the aurungs, that the dadney merchants will not agree to provide any ready money goods with their dadney but if any of them should afterwards contract for ready money goods they can only allow the penalty on the sum they receive interest for, that they would on those terms contract for the quantity mentioned in the list which we took the liberty to referr Your Honours to in the 46 paragraph of this address.

50. We then sent for Omichund and asked him if he would contract for ready money goods and on what terms, to which he replyed he was going out of the countrey and could not do any business.

51. The next offer we made our merchants was on the 25th of May when we proposed to them to provide all the sortments of goods ordered on the same terms as last year, excepting the Omorra goods and gurrahs, the former to be on the terms of

the year before last and to lower the latter one rupee per corge and that on the arrival of Your Honours' ships we should advance them dadney, to which proposal they would not agree and they assured us that on those terms they were unable to provide more than a tenth part of the goods ordered.

52. We then called them in separately and asked each man his terms for undertaking the investment, and for their several answers we beg leave to stand referred to our Consultations of the 27th and 29th May.

53. The merchants on the 9th June delivered us a paper containing an account of what they expected to be advanced on each of the sortments of goods, which with a list of the amount that each would undertake to provide for this year's investment is entered after that day's Consultation, and they then informed us if we would agree to the advance they wanted that they would give us their final answers.

54. Having taken this proposal of the merchants under consideration and finding it from thence impracticable to bring them to our terms on account of some of the goods at the aurungs being dearer than usual and the loss they suffer in being obliged to send Sicca Rupees to the aurungs as well as by the strictness used in sorting their cloth to what done in former days, we proposed the following advance on the underwritten goods, provided they would contract on last year's terms and agree to deliver in 80000 pieces of gurrahs at 81 rupees per corge, the chequered dooreas at 1 rupee per piece less and to provide the Omorra goods on the terms of the year before last viz.,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Addaties fine gold heads | | 6 per piece |
| Mulmulls Ballisore | | 8 do. |
| Mulmulls handkerchiefs | | 8 do. |
| Carradaries ordinary | | 3 do. |
| Cossæs Orua of 40 and 2¼ | | 6 do. |
| Do. Malda fine gold head | | 8 do. |
| Cossæs Cogmaria | 40 and 2¼ | 6 do. |
| Do. Burron | 40 and 2 | 6 do. |
| Dooraes Coincola | 40 and 2¼ | 6 do. |
| Do. do. | 40 and 2 | 6 do. |
| Dooraes Cossajura | 40 and 2 | 6 do. |
| Mulmulls Santipore | 40 and 3 | 1 do. |
| Do. do. | 40 and 2 | 8 do. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| mulmulls | Cossajura | 40 and 2 | 8 | per piece |
| Do. | do. superfine | 40 and 2¼ | 1—8 | do. |
| Do. | do. do. | 40 and 3 | 1—9 | do. |
| Sootromals | | | 3 | do. |
| Seerbunds | Cossajura | | 8 | do |

and that we should advance their dadney to the amount of ¾ of the money the two first ships which arrive may bring and the remainder on the arrival of the latter ships, but after having considered thereof they told us the above advance was to small to accept of but offered to provide 60000 pieces of gurrahs on our terms on paying them Sicca Rupees @ 15-8 per cent batta which proposal we accepted of.

55. We acquainted our merchants on the 24 June that we should pay them the money account the gurrahs and deduct the amount out of the ¾ of the money the two first ships should bring but we expected them to comply with our proposal in Council the 11th instant without any further delay, to which they agreeing we ordered them to attend the Warehousekeeper to set down the amount each merchant would undertake to contract for, including the gurrahs.

56. On the 17 July we took the completion on this year's investment under consideration when the members concerned in making the contracts set forth in the two preceeding paragraphs which were settled with the merchants before the arrival of Your Honours' orders per Godolphin observed that they looked upon them as valid on Your Honours' part but if any of the then sitting members were of opinion better terms could be brought about they would very readily promote a compliance of the merchants with the orders strictly relating to the advance of dadney but they imagined a forfeiture of a prior contract would prove detrimental, when Wm. Fytche Esqr. at that time President acquainted us that he had used his endeavours to get the merchants to comply with Your Honours' orders per Godolphin but was unable to prevail on them and found much difficulty in getting them to abide by those terms and subscribe to a larger proportion than they before wrote down, having struck several merchants' names out of the dadney list agreable to Your Honours' orders abovementioned.

57. On pointing out to the merchants the difference of goods ordered per Godolphin and the list transmitted us last year per Hardwick upon which we proceeded in obedience to the 27th paragraph of your orders the 21st August 1751, they delivered

us an account of what goods they had already provided in consequence of those directions, which is entered after the Consultation of the 17 July and they representing to us the great hardships and loss they should sustain by returning those goods upon their hands, which esteeming [a] remonstrance equitable and reasonable, we told them we should take those goods which they had already provided but directed them to send immediate orders to the aurungs to put a stop to the provision of any more of those sortments.

58. Having thus settled with the merchants for Your Honours' investment this season we advanced them at that time Rs. 42-4 as. per cent dadney and since Rs. 9-8 as. being the amount of ten chests of bullion with which we purchased Sicca Rupees at Cossimbuzar in consequence of our agreement advised of in the 54 paragraph of this address.

59. In compliance with Your Honours' express orders for sending you home those sortments of cloth whereof musters were transmitted per ship Warren, we have contracted with the merchants for a bale of each kind at the muster prices but could not prevail on them to encrease the quantity, for as this kind of cloth has not been provided for these 12 years past it was impossible for them to ascertain how much thereof they could provide or even the prices thereof as the weavers would be obliged to make new looms.

60. As to Your Honours' orders for encreasing the quantity of coarse goods they assured us they could not engage to provide any more as they should be great sufferers thereby. We then acquainted them with Your Honours' complaint relative to the striped goods but they informed us that on account of the Morattoes they were obliged to buy up their cloth where procurable, for which reason the stripes have not been agreable to Your Honours' directions, that this season they had provided them as before—on account of the dearness of rice they have been afraid to trust the weavers and poor workmen with their money—and promise to adhere to your orders next year, but as we look upon this excuse to be trifling we shall take proper notice thereof in the prizing of those goods.

61. Your Honours' remarks on the assorting of the Walpole's cargoe have had due attention paid them and we shall be particularly careful in our endeavours to avoid giving you the like cause of complaint in future.

62. In Your Honours' observations transmitted us in the list of investment you are pleased to express your suspicions as if we had acted in an indirect manner by sending your goods without your directions, deeming to be such as we could not find a vend for elsewhere. Those observations have given us re[al] concern and uneasiness and had Your Honours turned back to your orders of the 20th August 1749 you would certainly have observed in the 14th paragraph that our sending home those goods you complain of was in consequence of your recommending to us to use our utmost dilligence in procuring as large a quantity of goods as possible, particularly fine muslins of all sorts, as since the prohibition of cambricks there was a very great demand for them. Besides, if Your Honours will be pleased to refer yourselves to our Consultation of that year, you will find the great difficulty we had to prevail on the merchants to agree for those goods as at that season of the year they neither had money nor gomastahs at the aurungs and it was to convince Your Honours of their readiness to obey your orders so streniously recommended to them by us that they exerted themselves in providing them when neither the French or Dutch were able to procure at that time any quantity of those fine sort of muslins, and though from the hurry they were provided in and the unusual season of the year they were unequal to what we could have wished, yet Your Honours might have observed by the prizings they were cut proportionally, notwithstanding the merchants assured us they gave an advanced price for them, and we are extremely concerned that after using our utmost endeavours to comply with Your Honours' orders that we should labour under the weight of your displeasure.

63. The Export Warehousekeeper delivered us on the 13th ultimo the teeps signed by the merchants which as usual were deposited in the President's hands and a translate of one of them is entered after our Consultation of that day agreable to Your Honours' directions.

64. We inspected some musters of raw silk transmitted us by the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar on which they wrote us that their merchants were willing to contract for the following sortments and pieces viz..

| | | Rs. | As. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Novemberbund | @ | 7 | 14 | per seer the A |
| Guzzerat | @ | 8 | 7 | do. |

and that their reasons for not lowering the prices were the dearness of rice, the government's exactions on the winders, together with their not providing any Comercolly silk whereby they gain little and therefore could not afford the other sortments, which yield them no profit, at a less price but as the musters met with our approbation we recommended it to the gentlemen under date the 16 March to be particularly careful in making the merchants wind the silk off as fine as the musters and endeavour if possible to reduce the prices, they being extremely high. We also directed them to comply strictly with Your Honours' directions about the Comercolly and Rungpore but in case the merchants could not be prevailed on to comply with those orders that then we would have them contract only for the 400 bales of the Novemberbund and Guzzerat agreable to the proportions of those sortments ordered in the list of investment.

65. On their advising of their having agreed with their merchants to provide the Novemberbund and Guzzerat at 2 annaes per seer less than abovementioned we again enjoined them to comply with our orders as to those sortments in regard to the quantity and proportions, and having inspected the musters of Commercolly and Rungpore for the former of which they had prevailed with their merchants to agree for the three head letters @ Rs. 8.14 as. per seer the A on their assuring them they could not undertake to provide it at a less price as they must purchase a third more of the tundana to make the quantity of the 3 letters equal to the muster and by having the lower letters remain upon their hands, and for the latter to provide the white at Rs. 9.4 as. per seer the A and the yellow @ Rs. 8.8 as. we found them inferior to those of last year's, wherefore we directed them, after raising them to the fineness of last year's musters and reducing the prices as low as possible, to provide a bale of each letter of those sortments, rejecting the white Rungpore as Your Honours forbid us to send you any unless procured much cheaper than that sent you last year.

66. They also wrote us that they had contracted for the silk piece goods upon the old muster Rs. 9.6 as. per piece, for the plain taffaties and the other sorts in proportion, which were the lowest prices their merchants could afford to provide them at, without failing in the quality of the goods and that being a reduction of 3 annas per piece from last year's contract.

67. In compliance with our orders they informed us that they had contracted with their merchants to deliver into the cottah by the 20 June one thousand maunds of Novemberbund and eight hundred of Guzzerat and that they had prevailed with one of their merchants to contract for a bale of each letter A. B. and C of the Commercolly and for the two letters of the yellow Rungpore upon last year's muster at the following prices viz., the Commercolly @ Rs. 8.4 as. per seer and the Rungpore @ Rs. 8.2 as. per seer, that they had contracted for the silk piecegoods half whereof to be delivered into their godowns by the 30th June and the other half by the 30th of next October at the price mentioned in the preceeding paragraph, that they had contracted for 83000 pieces of gurrahs and doosutties at one rupee per corge less than last year.

68. They also informed us that the very fine doosutties which Your Honours ordered of one yard and 3/16 wide could not be made in those parts and requested our orders about the jamawarr for which the merchants demand the same prices as last year when only 60 pieces were provided on account of their dearness, as likewise about the chints which they have reduced one rupee per corge, and as their contracts were to a considerable amount and a large ballance being due to their merchants for last year's investment they desired us to supply them with a further sum of money sufficient to enable them to perform their contracts, particularly for gurrahs in which they would be very difficient if not timely and largely advanced on that account for which end they endeavoured to borrow a laack of the Seats who refused lending them any till Your Honours' debt to them at Dacca was discharged. Accordingly under date the 6th May we sent them 12 chests of bullion and 20 chests of Madrass Rupees with orders to acquaint the Seats that we intended to discharge your debt at Dacca this season and we forbid the provision of chints and jamawarrs untill we receive further directions from Your Honours concerning them.

69. Under date the 1st June they wrote us that after having endeavoured to raise the price of the bullion they were obliged to sell it to the Seats at 201 Sicca Rupees for 240 Sicca weight and that they paid their merchants the Madrass Rupees @ 106 per 100 Siccas which was the lowest batta they could take them at and at that rate there was a less loss arising to Your Honours than in any other sort, that their merchants were desirous of knowing, if in case they should deliver in more gurrahs than

what they already contracted for, whether we would take them and allow interest on what prized over and above their contracts from the date thereof, which proposals we directed them to accept of.

70. They acknowledged the receipt of Your Honours' list of goods to be provided at that factory, which was received per Godolphin under date the 29th July, wherewith they promised strictly to comply as well as to encrease the quantity of gurrahs, though that depended much on our supplying them and at the same time they wrote us that the Seats were much incensed at not receiving any money account the debt due to them at Dacca, upon which we directed them to acquaint the Seats that we had sent 20 chests of treasure to Dacca with orders to the gentlemen there to pay their gomastah as much as they could spare from their investment, with which they were satisfied as they advised us the 15th ultimo.

71. The gentlemen at Dacca on the 12 February forwarded to us 31 bales of sundry damaged cloths most whereof received the damage during the stoppage of business in Suffrage Cawne's time which, with other damaged goods in the cottah, were sold at publick outcry as per account sales thereof enclosed in this packet.

72. We forwarded to Dacca the list of investment under date the 30th March with orders to comply therewith as near as possible, and as we found our merchants would not undertake the provision of the terrindams we directed the gentlemen at that factory to provide an additional number of 2000 pieces and to contract on a piece of 15 or 16 rupees in value and take none below the third sort.

73. The supplies we have forwarded to Dacca since our last dispatch to Your Honours have amounted to Current Rupees 288788-0-0.

74. With regard to the deloll's debts at Jugdea the gentlemen there informed us they were unable to recover more than their delollage since the month of November at which time, when they found no other prospect of gaining it any other how, they commenced a stoppage but the delolls instead of shewing an inclination to discharge the old debt endeavoured to contract an additional one, for they found the cloth purloined at the washerman's to the amount of several thousand rupees and

a deficiency of near 12000 rupees in their hands. They therefore recommended it to us, as the only means left to get justice done Your Honours, to threaten them with the loss of your service and, to direct the gentlemen at Dacca to send them a deloll of ability and credit into whose hands they might put Your Honours' business, which step they were of opinion would make them, through the fear of losing the service, immediately pay off their debt if in a condition to discharge them, and if not, the continuing them in your service would be hazardous and a delay to Your Honours' investment, they being so much in debt at all the aurungs that not a weaver in three chooses to deal with them, and although there are but three delolls there who appear to act publickly there are in all seven, so whatever the proffits may be they cannot afford to give up a point to Your Honours, which might be expected from only having one or two delolls, and they assured us, if a regulation was not permitted, an entire stop to business would commence in a very little time, upon which we directed the gentlemen at Dacca to send them such a man in case they should apply to them, wherewith they promised to comply in case of such an application from Messrs. Bailie and Playdell but apprehended it would be fruitless, being informed that the delolls at Jugdea had an exclusive priviledge for that district.

75. The gentlemen at Jugdea advised us in July last that the brown cloth Your Honours directed to be procured for chinting was not procurable for a long time but they should use their endeavours to provide and forward it without loss of time; they at the same time acquainted us that as cotton continued at its old price and rice being 50 per cent dearer than usual they were unable to make any amendment in their cloth.

76. On the arrival of the Godolphin we transmitted Your Honours' orders for providing goods at Jugdea to the gentlemen there and directed them to provide as many coarse gurrahs as were procurable there and inform us what further sums they should want for this year's investment, having supplied them hitherto with Current Rupees 95760-".-".

77. The 22nd ultimo we received a letter from Mr. Bailie who was then at Dacca whither he went to consult with the gentlemen there for a proper man to carry on Your Honours' business when they recommended to him one Permamed[2] for that purpose, who, on account of the bad government and other

inconveniences at Jugdea proposes to remove the factory to Mullub Gunge under the jurisdiction of Hojee Hossein and situated between Colinda and Chaundpore, where he can provide the Jugdea cloth with all other sorts ordered by Your Honours so as to encrease the investment to about four laacks of rupees, and as the charges upon this would not in all probabillity exceed 3 per cent so this proposal appear[s] to him conducive to Your Honours' interest. Besides, this place stands by the river side and free from the macraes which makes the Jugdea river so very hazardous, and as the charges for building a house there which would serve well enough for their occasions will amount to 3000 rupees, so their removal will be attended with a triffling expence, concerning which he requested our sentiments as soon as possible and in the meantime he should proceed to Jugdea to carry on Your Honours' business on the old footing though the ruined circumstances of the old delolls make a step of the foregoing nature absolutely necessary for the bringing the Company's affairs under a due regulation, to which we propose to reply after this ship is dispatched and permit them to remove their factory if to be done for the sum they mention but shall direct them to act in conjunction and with the advice of the gentlemen at Dacca least it should be attended with any further expence to Your Honours by the exactions of the government.

78. The begining of last March Mr. Henry Kelsall Resident at Bulramgurry sent up eight bales of sanoes and musters of the fine Olmorra goods ordered by Your Honours but as we found them too dear we forbid him to provide them.

*Fourthly, concerning the trade of India and therein any transactions with the countrey Government.*

79. In our last address we informed Your Honours of Rayeritchund[3] the Nabob's Duan having sent an order to the three European nations to send all money to the mint whether bullion or rupees to be coined into Siccas or disposed of to Jugutseat, as likewise of the directions we sent to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to act in concert with the French and Dutch, where it was agreed that the three Chiefs should each present an arsdatt to the Nabob setting forth the hardships our respective Companies would suffer and requesting that bullion and rupees might pass current as usual, which we have the satisfaction to acquaint Your Honours has had the desired effect.

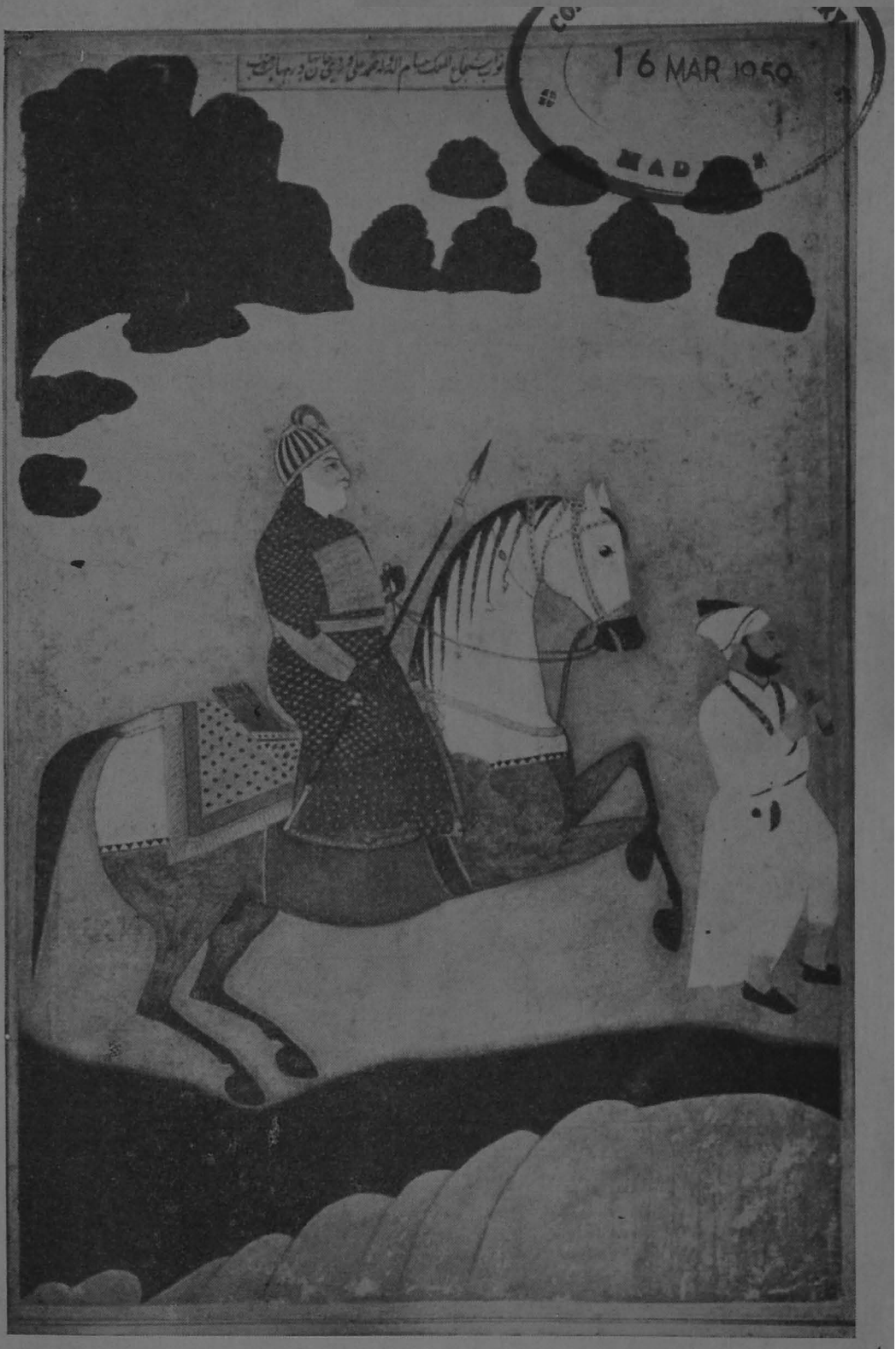
80. Agabaker, the Naib at Jugdea, stoped Your Honours' business at that factory in the month of April last and insisted upon a present of 3000 rupees under pretence of not having received any thing from thence for six years but by the letters the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar procured at the proper Durbar at Muxadavad and which we forwarded to Jugdea, Messrs. Bailie and Playdell wrote us that the Nabob occasioned no further impediment to their business than the dread of his extortions which made several of their weavers and washermen run away.

81. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote us under date the 6 May that the Nabob had declared his adopted son Mirza Mahomed Subah of Bengal in the publick Durbar and at the same time they informed us that Coja Wazeed who was then at Muxadavad sent them a message relating to Deepchund's deposit in the Mayor's Court threatning to complain to the Nabob and procure an entire stoppage to Your Honours' business 'till he received satisfaction therein, upon which we immediately sent for his gomastah and desired him to write to his master to prevent his complaining at the Durbar and the President wrote to him on the same account, since which time he has not made any further demand.

82. Your Honours being at a loss to give directions concerning the abovementioned deposit for want of being informed what process has been carried on about it in the Mayor's Court, we are to inform you that on the demise of Mr. Cole, as no representatives appeared in a legal way though it was known he made a will, we petitioned the Mayor's Court to cite Messrs. Hollond Goddard and William Nixon said to be executors in the said will to produce the same and take probat thereof or renounce their trust which last they have done. Thus this affair rests at present and must some short time in hopes of some one administrating or being by the court appointed to administer to Mr. Cole.

*Fifthly, concerning fortifications, buildings and revenues.*

83. The Master Attendant sent in his report of the condition of the offices and godowns in the dockhead, and representing to us the necessity of building a slip, we had them surveyed but as we found the expence attending the filling up the dockhead would be very great and all communication with the river would thereby be cut off except by the cradle, and judging the




Alivardi Khan

slip would be a very great saving to Your Honours in the article of cooley hire, we ordered one to be built and the smithshop and offices to be repaired.

84. Messieurs Coales and Ellis whom we directed to weigh off and receive the chunam, which Metre contracted with us for, representing to us it was extremely bad and that which he delivered as fine snail was so mixed with oyster shells that it was no better than the common sort and the custura or oyster shell was so black and dirty that it rendered it unfit for service, we thereupon directed them to weigh off none but what was good, and as we should have about 20000 maunds of oyster shell chunam when the whole was delivered and no immediate occasion for it for Your Honours' service and it being a sortment that will not keep any time, we came to a resolution of selling it to the inhabitants who might want it at 40 Arcot Rupees per 100 buzar maunds.

85. On receipt of your commands under date the 16 January Govindram Metre was immediately dismissed Your Honours' service in obedience thereto and on the 20 July Mr. Holwell informing us that he had discovered traces of heavy frauds committed by Govindram Metre in his management of Your Honours' revenues and moving that he be obliged to give good security for his appearance agreable to Your Honours' orders, Govindram Metre proposed Omichund, who agreing thereto for six months as personal security, the same was accepted of.

86. Mr. Holwell on the 13th of August delivers in a letter to the Board containing part of his charge against Metre and requesting his immediate imprisonment; on the 17th following be delivered us another letter with a further charge and therein repeated his request for the committing Metre to close confinement. For our proceedings thereon we beg leave to stand referred to the Minutes of Council those two days and to Mr. Manningham's letter inclosed with Mr. Holwell's letters and Metre's replies which are forwarded in this packet with the proceedings of the committee who beg leave to assure Your Honours that they will lose no time in hearing Mr. Holwell's proofs and hope they will be able to finish their enquiry before our next dispatch which will be by the latter end of November.

87. In obedience to Your Honours' orders for forming a body of militia Captain Commandant George Minchin proposes, as soon as the weather sets in a little more temperate, to fix and

appoint proper serjeants and corporals out of the military for instructing such of the inhabitants as are unacquainted with the manual exercise when we shall appoint officers to command them.

88. Enclosed we send Your Honours a copy of Mr. Drake's remarks on Mr. Plaistead's letter to Mr. Secretary James as also Mr. Plaistead's reply, which although we think is far from being wrote with that decency that is incumbent on him, yet being of opinion he has fully cleared himself of having thrown general censures on any Buxes (Messrs Bellamy and Kempe excepted), we sent for Mr. Plaistead and offered him his former posts of Engineer and Surveyor.

*Sixthly, concerning factors, writers, officers and their accompts.*

89. Under this head we shall first proceed to give Your Honours an account of several alterations amongst your servants, military as well as those under covenants, whether by promotions or deaths.

90. The President through the recommendation of Captain Commandant George Minchin has conferred the following commissions on the persons hereafter named:

On the 27th Feby an ensign's commission on Mr. Collin Simson and on the 3rd May Ensign Wm. McKeion was promoted to a lieutenancy, John Smith to be adjutant and Wm. Cudmore to be an ensign.

91. The alterations by death have been as follow:

On the 6th May Mr. Archibald Chrichton departed this life of a fever.

On the 22nd June Mr. James Irwin died suddenly.

On the 10th August Wm. Fytche Esqr. departed this life of a dissentary.

On the 20 do Mr. John Negus departed this life of a fever and by advices from Cossimbuzar Mr. John Brown was unfortunately drowned a little below Culna.

92. On the arrival of Your Honours' orders per Godolphin wherein you thought proper to dismiss Adam Dawson Esqr.

from your service, the Presidency devolved to Wm. Fytche and the vacancies at the Board, which were occasioned by the dismission of Mr. Dawson, suspension of Mr. Blachford and removal of Mr. Pearkes from Council were filled up by Messrs. Mathew Collet, William Macket and Edwd. Eyre. Mr. Collet is to continue at Cossimbuzar till the investment for this year is all come in, Mr. Macket being on the spot was then admitted to his seat in Council and Mr. Eyre will quit Dacca as soon as he possibly can in order to take his seat at this Board.

93. On Messrs. Drake and Cruttenden declining to go to Cossimbuzar Mr. Wm. Watts who was next in standing was appointed Chief.

Mr. Drake Accomptant.

Mr. Cruttenden Import Warehouse Keeper.

Mr. Manningham Export Warehouse Keeper.

Mr. Becher Buxey.

Mr. Frankland Sub Export Warehouse Keeper.

Mr. Collet Store Keeper on his arrival.

Mr. Macket Register of the Dusticks by whom Your Honours' orders relative to them are put in execution, he being a member of the Board.

Mr. Eyre Collector of the Consulage and

Mr. Holwell Zemindar.

94. We permitted Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes to return to his station at Dacca as he had served Your Honours many years at that factory as Export Warehouse Keeper in which he behaved to the satisfaction of the Board.

95. Mr. Holwell requesting assistants to be appointed under him agreable to Your Honours' directions we stationed Mr. Richard Court as Sub-Zemindar and Mr. Thos. Coales as second assistant and Messrs. Wm. Ellis and Wm. Tooke as writers.

96. To comply with Your Honours' directions for transmitting you a copy of your standing orders we stationed Mr. James Vallicourt under the Secretary for that purpose.

97. Your Honours having thought proper to direct us to enquire into the conduct of Mr. James Blachford during his Chiefship at Jugdea we summoned him to attend the Board on the 17th July when his indisposition confined him to his room proceeding from a distempered brain. We therefore beg leave to recommend him to Your Honours for a pension as he is in very bad circumstances.

98. By the demise of Wm. Fytche Esqr. the Presidency devolved to the Hon'ble Roger Drake who promises to exert himself in the management of Your Honours' affairs and hopes therein to act to Your Honours' satisfaction and Mr. Nicholas Clerembault became of Council here whereof we advised him.

99. On the 10 August Messrs. Wm. Lyndsay and Wm. Hay, two writers in Your Honours' service, arrived here from the Coast; the former we have stationed in the list agreable to Your Honours' directions and as assistant to the President; the latter, though not mentioned by Your Honours in the general letter, yet producing the counterpart of his covenants, we have entertained him as a writer and stationed him in the Secretary's office.

100. Messrs. Gray and Fullerton have desired leave to reply to Your Honours' paragraph concerning the hospital, which Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 10 August and in obedience to Your Honours' directions the members of this Board will take it by turns to visit the hospital.

101. We have permitted Mr. Robert Orme to resign Your Honours' service and return to Europe for the recovery of his health on this ship; the doctors have certifyed to us that it is the only remedy he has left to recover his constitution which has been much impaired by a long series of illness. The usual 96 rupees we shall receive from his attorneys.

102. On the demise of Mr. John Negus we appointed Mr. Wm. Jas. Harod Sub Secretary on the recommendation of Mr. Wm. McGwire as a person well qualified for that post from his great dilligence and application.

103. Enclosed we transit Your Honours the petitions of the relicts of Lieutenants Dupen and Hamilton whom we beg leave to recommend to Your Honours as proper objects of charity particularly the former, she having five small children.

104. Mr. Richard Becher on his being taken into Council wrote to his friends in England to give the usual security and the other gentlemen who have been since admitted have our directions to do the same.

*Seventhly, touching accompts.*

105. The attorneys of Mr. Wm. Bailie having paid into Your Honours' treasury the 21st of January last Current Rupees 1030-6- instead of 1000 rupees, for which sum we granted bills of exchange on Your Honours, we have paid back the difference, being Current Rupees 30-6-.

106. We also granted a sett of bills of exchange on the 22nd February last to Mr. Dawson in favour of Messrs. Abraham and Jacob Franco for pounds sterling 668-13-4 instead of pounds sterling 667-13-4, the difference whereof @ 2/1 being Current Rupees 9-6-6 we have since received.

107. We are now to acquaint Your Honours of the bills of exchange we have granted, all which, agreable to Your Honours' directions, are at the exchange of 2/3 each rupee, the amount of each being accounted for before the bills were drawn out.

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 17 August to Capt. Robt. Clive for Current Rupees 6987-6-3 payable to himself or order at 2/3 per rupee is | £St. 786-1-7 |
| On the 17 August to Robert Orme for Current Rupees 12989-9- payable to himself or order at 2/3 per rupee is | £St. 1459-19-10 |
| On do. do. to Robert Orme for Current Rupees 5000 payable to himself or order at 2/3 per rupee is | £St. 562-10- |
| On the 24 to Robert Orme for Current Rupees 12977-11-0 payable to Messrs. Abraham and Jacob Franco or order at 2/3 per rupee is | £St. 1459-19-9 |
| On the 25 to Capt. Jonathan Ranson for Current Rupees 948-13-6 payable to Daniel Lascelles at 2/3 per rupee is | £St. 106-14-10 |
| On do. to Roger Drake Junr. account Wm. Wogan Junr. for Current Rupees 888-14-3 payable to Wm. Wogan at 2/3 per rupee is | £St. 100-0-0 |

On do. to the Revd. Gervas Bellamy for Current Rupees 533-5-3 payable to Thos. Pomfret or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 60-0-0

On the 27 do. to Hollond Goddard account coral for Current Rupees 3679-4-3 payable to Joseph Salvadore at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 413-18-4

On do. to Hollond Goddard account coral for Current Rupees 9338-11-3 payable to Solomon Franco or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 1050-12-1

On do. to Hollond Goddard account coral for Current Rupees 7786-5- payable to David D'Castro or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 875-19-2

On do. to Robert Orme for Current Rupees 2808 payable to himself or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 315-18-

On 27 do. to Robert Orme for Current Rupees 2640-9-3 payable to Robert Clive at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 297-1-3

On 30 to Adam Dawson Esqr. for Current Rupees 154872-9-6 payable to Thos. Saunders Esqr. or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 17423-3-4

On the 30th August to Adam Dawson Esqr. for Current Rupees 32695-12-6, payable to Edward Stephenson Esqr. at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 3678-5-6

On do. to Adam Dawson Esqr. for Current Rupees 20000 payable to Robert Goodere at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 2250- -

On 31 August to Adam Dawson Esqr. for Current Rupees 32400 payable to Thos. Saunders Esqr. at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 3645

On do. do. to Mr. Parker for Current rupees 222-3-6 payable to Humphrey Cotes at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 25

On do. do. to Roger Drake Junr. for two chests coral marked W. B. No. 1.2 and 2 chests amber beads R.B. No. 1-2 per Dorrington for Current Rupees 22124- payable to Richard Barwell at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 2488-19-

On do. do. to Roger Drake Junr. for Current Rupees 444-7- payable to Roger Drake Esqr. at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 50- -

On do. do to Roger Drake Junr. for Current Rupees 4000 payable to Daniel Lascelles at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 450

On do. do. to Robert Orme for a chest of coral marked S.S. N 4 per Colchester for Current Rupees 1465-6-9 payable to Jacob De Natal Levi Sansino at 2/3 per rupee is £St. [ ].

On do. do. to Robert Orme for Current Rupees 300 payable to Margaret Adams or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 33-15-

On do. do. to Richd. Becher Esqr. for Current Rupees 888-14-3 payable to Wm. Powney at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 100

On do. do. to Messrs Manningham and Frankland for Current Rupees 20398-"-6 payable to Thos. Burrow or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 2969-15-3

On 31 August to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for Current Rupees 5496-2 payable to Chas. Raymond Esqr. at 2/3 per rupee is £St. [ ].

On do. do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for Current Rupees 5628-15-6 payable to Abraham and Jacob Franco at 2/3 per rupee is £St. [ ].

On do. do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for Current Rupees 1786-14- payable to Messrs Franco and Co. at 2/3 per rupee is £St. [ ].

On do. do. to Messrs. Amyatt and Fullerton account Wm. Watts Esqr. for Current Rupees 4131-13- payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order at 2/3 per rupee is £St. 464-14-11

*Supplement*

108. The whole amount of bills drawn is Current Rupees [ ].

109. In a former address we acquainted Your Honours of our having appointed a committee to examine into the charges against Santose the banian employed by Mr. Ranson when Master Attendant, and transmitted you a copy of their proceedings per ship Duke of Dorset, since which time they have not been able to make any further scrutiny for want of Santose ['s] accounts.

110. On the 7th May a summons from the court was served on us to put in answer to a bill of complaint filed by Mr. Ranson for the ballance of the marine accounts due to him for the months of October and November, upon which we retained Mr. Wm. Dumbleton as our attorney and ordered him to appear for us, but on his examining the accounts and papers delivered him and finding from thence he was unable to support the suit he gave it as his ultimate opinion that Mr. Ranson's demand ought to be paid and redress for the matter laid in the information against Santose sought in a legal way, when such information is properly made out, ascertained and perfected, upon which we paid Mr. Ranson his ballance with interest and costs and ordered Mr. Dumbleton to affile a bill of complaint against him to oblige him to produce vouchers for the several disbursements in his accounts during the time he was Master Attendant.

111. The Nabob Sarajee Doula whom Alliverde Cawn appointed to be his successor being arrived at Hughley where he was visited by the French and Dutch Governours with a present equivalent to his dignity and the President having received letters from the Phousdar and Coja Wazeed, the purport whereof is entered upon our Consultation of the 31st August, from whence we judged it highly necessary to pay the Nabob the compliment required and therefore agreed that the President should prepare himself accompanied by Messrs Cruttenden, Becher and the Commandant and that a present should be made the Nabob that might prove satisfactory.

112. This morning the President returned from the visit where he was received with the utmost politeness and distinction far superior than was paid the French or Dutch, and if those people's words are ever to be confided in, we flatter ourselves that the expence we have been at on this occasion has procured you great favour and will be the means of Your Honours' business being conducted without any interruption from the Government for some time to come, and we beg leave to offer our sentiments that a greater intimacy well timed with the heads of the Government (not before practiced) when opportunity offers, either here or at the head subordinates, may be greatly conducive to Your Honours' interest at a small expence, for it is chiefly those about the Nabob who are in power that urge circumstances to our disadvantage and stir up his resentment and when any large sum is paid they receive the greatest share.

113. By the chokey boat which arrived this morning we received advices of the arrival of Your Honours' ships the Oxford from the Cormondell coast and the Wager from Bombay as also the news of the Bombay Castle and Chesterfield being at Madrass.

114. Captain Mainwaring having paid for the deficiencies and damaged goods per Colchester we have delivered him up his bill of lading.

115. The Governour and Council at Madras desired us to lade on this ship her charterparty saltpetre and redwood and to comply with their indent for 1,000 bags of petre and fill her up with rice, but as we have been obliged to prohibit the exportation of grain on account of its great scarcity and there being only 15 seer for a rupee we thought it most adviseable to compleat her tonage with saltpetre and have consigned her to the gentlemen at Fort St. George.

116. Captain Mainwaring having requested three thousand Current Rupees to be advanced him on charterparty terms we complied therewith as by his request and one of the bonds he entered into for that sum enclosed.

117. We have directed Mr. Wm. McGwire to repair on board the Colchester to get the bills of lading signed and give Capt. Mainwaring his dispatches and he will advise Your Honours of the time he dispatches this ship, her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from below.

118. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the utmost respect

*May it please to Your Honours*

Your faithfull and most obedient humble servants.

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/W. Mackett/*Jno.* Zeph Holwell.

Fort William,
The 18 September 1752 N. S.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office 1752/53, Vol. 17, pp. 68—115.

Paragraphs 11, 35, 80, 87, 111, 112 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records 1748—67*, pp. 32—33.

Paragraphs 83 and 88 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. I, p. 243.)

## 29

## LETTER DATED 1 JANUARY 1753

*Little sale of woollen goods*—dadney *advanced to merchants for provision of goods— formation of a militia— Henry Kelsall permitted to return to Europe—bills of exchange drawn on the Company.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address bearing date the 18th September was forwarded to Your Honours per Colchester which ship was dispatched by Mr. Wm. McGwire to the Presidency of Fort St. George from Ingellee the 22nd of that month when she drew 17 feet water on an even keel.

2. Having in said address, duplicate whereof is enclosed, given Your Honours a particular and distinct account of our transactions under the established heads till that time, we shall now proceed to lay before you a summary view of your affairs under our management since, hoping for Your Honours' approbation.

3. The several ships designed for this Presidency have safely imported here under the following dates:

The Durrington, Captain Drake the 23rd of April.
The Godolphin, Captain Hutchinson the 5th of July.
The Colchester, Captain Mainwaring the 24th July.
The Oxford, Captain Stevens the 23rd of September.
The Chesterfield, Captain Carter the 14th of October.
The Bombay Castle, Captain Brown the 28th ditto.
And the Hector and Wager from Bombay the 23rd September.

The Hector we have since returned to Bombay with a loading of saltpetre and gunnies, and the Wager having on board a cargo which goes consigned to Your Honours amounting, as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed, to Current Rupees 848000-0-0 affords us a conveyance for this address.

4. The several papers and captains' requests relating to each of the ships shall be forwarded in their respective packets and we are to assure Your Honours that your commands concerning the private trade, as likewise the surveying your ships before any goods were laden on them, have been duely carried into execution.

5. We have come to the following determination with regard to the disposal of the tonage on hand and shall, God willing, return the Admiral Vernon and Chesterfield to Your Honours, half laden from hence, with orders to call at the Coast to compleat their loading. The Bombay Castle we shall dispatch *via* Fort St. George, the gentlemen there having requested us to send that ship, from whence they propose to send her to Fort Marlbro', which will answer Your Honours' intentions to favour Capt. Brown, as it was uncertain whether we should be under the necessity of detaining any other ship in the countrey besides the Durrington which we design for carrying the remainder of the saltpetre indented for at Bombay, in which case the injury to Captain Brown we conceive would be considerable, as his waiting for the prospect of a countrey voyage might occasion his late dispatch, the beginning of March. The Oxford we shall send home fully laden from hence. We shall dispatch the Godolphin to the Coast with rice on Your Honours' account.

6. In the 33rd paragraph of the accompanying address we informed Your Honours of our having deferred the sales of part of the Durrington's and Godolphin's cargoes with the whole of the Colchester's till the month of October and that we intended to sell the imports by the other ships in the months of January

and February, but on putting up your woollen goods at outcry on the 19th October Your Honours will observe, by the account sales thereof herewith transmitted you, that only a few of the sortments sold. However we are in hopes of vending them on the 28th instant together with the cargoes of the Admiral Vernon, Chesterfield, Bombay Castle, and Hector, as from the best intelligence we can get they will sell better during the cold season than in February.

7. On the 16th of October we paid our merchants the full of the 85 per cent dadney we contracted to advance them for the provision of goods this year.

8. After having used our utmost endeavours to procure the Patna goods ordered, Huzzeramull[1] offered to contract with us on the musters of the year 1733 alledging that there was a great difference at that time in the quality of the cloth to what there was anno 1746. That the cloth appeared cheap by our invoices as the charges of the factory were not included, which have been from 35 to 40 per cent on our investment deducting the profits made on the bullion and broad cloth sent from hence, that the charges to the merchants trading to and from Patna are not less on account of the exorbitancies of the chowkeys, the duty they pay and the extortions of the Durbar and that Ely Rupees[2] at this time are 12 per cent better than Current as Siccas are not obtained at present under 111½ Arcot Rupees and 109½ Madrass Rupees, and if we did not contract with him he should send the cloth to Delhi. But upon comparing his cloth with the old musters and finding the same prized very high and inferiour in quality, we came to a resolution not to give him any further answer until January next at which time we shall be better able to judge whether we shall have need of such goods to compleat the tonage of the ships now under dispatch.

9. Mr. Manningham Export Warehousekeeper on the 27th ultimo acquainted the Board of the tardiness of the merchants in bringing their goods into the cottah, and they being called before us to know the reason of this delay assured us that the aurung goods were not then arrived, they having been prevented from washing them on account of the heavy rains but they were in daily expectation of receiving them and with regard to the goods made in and about Calcutta they informed us the reason for not bringing in the usual quantity was owing to the desertion of numbers of the weavers occasioned by the dearness of provisions.

10. On our calling upon the securities of Annunchund Nianchund who has run away in Your Honours' debt to make good the same they assured us they would sell all their effects by the 30th of this month to make good any demands Your Honours may have on him, and have given us security for their personal appearance in the intermediate time and acquiesce, in case they do not sell their effects by that time, to have them put up at publick outcry the beginning of January. A sloop of theirs has been since sold at outcry by the Export Warehousekeeper for CRs. 3320-0-0 but Omichund having produced a mortgage bond on that sloop to a larger amount, we acquiesced to his receiving it.

11. The President has been presented with a seerpaw and an elephant by Alliverdy Cawn who has wrote to him to send our vacqueels to Munsoor All Mullick's[3] Durbar and under him to transact Your Honours' business.

12. In this packet we transmit Your Honours the state of your revenues as laid before us by Mr. Holwell, Jemindar, in obedience to your commands for sending it by the first ship, though our daily business has been too much to afford time for a regular enquiry of matters therein set forth; however we shall, when this ship is dispatched, take it under consideration and should we meet with any contradictions, shall advise Your Honours in our next address, at which time we propose forwarding the proceedings of the committee into the charge exhibited by Mr. Holwell against Govindram Metre, with our resolutions thereon, they being now before us for that purpose.

13. The account sales of your farms at publick outcry is enclosed in this packet as also Govindram Metre's reasons for the advance they sold at this year, to what they did in his time.

14. In obedience to Your Honours' commands we have formed a body of militia and have conferred a colonel's commission on Mr. Cruttenden to command the same.

15. In consequence of what we advised Your Honours in the 110th paragraph of the accompanying address we have affiled a bill in the Mayor's Court against Mr. Ranson either to oblige him to pay the 50,000 rupees he stands charged with or, in case he does not acquiesce thereto, to oblige him to prove his monthly accounts, and have refused Mr. Ranson leave to return to Europe, until he gives us security for the amount of the charge, and to stand to whatever may be awarded against him.

16. The President on the recommendation of Capt. Commandant George Minchin has thought proper to grant lieutenants' commissions to Messrs. Kempe and Keene and ensigns' commissions to Messrs. Talbot and Polier.

17. Mr. Edward Eyre arrived from Dacca the [ ] instant when he was admitted to his seat at this Board, at which time he took the usual oath of fidelity to Your Honours and received the charge of the dustucks from Mr. William Mackett.

18. Mr. Henry Kelsall having requested our permission to resign his Chiefship at Bulramgurry in order to return to Europe for the recovery of his health we appointed Mr. Wm. McGwire to succeed him, he being obliged to lay down the post of Secretary on account of an indisposition he has contracted by a close and constant application to the desk for these eight years past, which he apprehends will oblige him to return to Europe if he does not get the better thereof by change of air.

19. In the room of Mr. McGwire, we have appointed Mr. John Cooke who was Sub Secretary for some years, and Mr. Brightwell Sumner to succeed Mr. Cooke at Dacca factory and as Mr. Wm. James Harrod has behaved to our satisfaction in the Secretary's office, we have conferred on him the post of Millitary Paymaster.

20. We shall now advise Your Honours of the bills of exchange we have granted by this ship and to whom payable, the amount thereof having been made good, either by money paid into Your Honours' treasury or by transfer—

On 4th Decr. to Capt. Thomas Stevens for Current Rupees three hundred and eighty eight, twelve annas and nine pice (CRS. 388-12-9) payable to Humphrey Coates Esqr. at two shillings and three pence is £St. 43-14-9.

On 30th Nov. to Mr. Wm. Nixon account Messrs. Jenks and Reveley for Current Rupees six thousand nine hundred and three, three annaes and six pice (6903-3-6) payable to Samuel Jenks or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 776-12-3.

On 2nd Decr. to Capt. Jno. Pinson for Current Rs. two thousand six hundred and sixty six, ten annaes and nine pice (2666-10-9) payable to Edwd. Payne Esqr. or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 300-0-0

On 2nd December to Mrs. Jane Douglass for Current Rupees eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Hugh Watson Esqr. or order at two shillings and three pence is £St. 100-0-0.

On 4th Decr. of Capt. Thomas Stevens for Current Rupees one thousand two hundred and ninety three, seven annas and six pice (1293-7-6) payable to Mr. Nichs. Crisp or order at two and three pence is £St. 145-10-3

On do. to Mr. Charles Hampton for Current Rupees four thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (4888-14-3) payable to Wm. Davis Esqr. and Mr. Chs. Hampton or order at 2s.3d. £St. 550-0-0.

On 4th Decr. to Mr. Wm. Fullerton account of Mr. James Wilson Current Rupees one thousand and eighty (1080-0-0) payable to Mr. John Wallis or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 121-10-0.

On do to Richd. Becher Esqr. for Current Rupees four hundred and sixty five, six annas and nine pice (465-6-9) payable to Capt. John Samson or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 52-7-3.

On do. to Capt. Thomas Stevens for Current Rupees fourteen thousand one hundred (14,100-0-0). payable to Mrs. Jane Stevens and Mr. John Pye or order at 2s. 3d. £St. 1586-5-0.

On do. to Mr. Samuel Oliver for Current. Rs. two thousand six hundred and three, fourteen annaes (2603-14-0) payable to Capt. Roger Mainwaring or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 292-18-8.

On 4th Decr. to Mr. Gabriel Snodgrass for Current Rupees twenty one thousand three hundred and eighty

four and six pice, payable to Edward Eyles Esqr. and Mr. Gabriel Snodgrass or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 2405-14-1.

On do. to Mrs. Mary Valicourt for Current Rs. one hundred and thirty three, five annaes and three pice (133-5-3) payable to Mrs. Anne Burrow Junr. at 2s. 3d. is £St. 15-0-0.

On do to Mr. Wm. Weston for Current Rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four, seven annaes (4444-7-0) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order at 2s. 3d. £St. 500-0-0.

On do. to E. H. Cruttenden Esqr. for Current. Rs. one thousand seven hundred and forty eight, seven annaes and nine pice (1748-7-9) payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order at 2s. 3d. £St. 196-14-1.

On do. to Mr. Wm. Kempe for Current Rupees three hundred and fifty five, eight annaes and nine pice (355-8-9) payable to Mr. Geo. Heath or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 40-0-0.

On 5th Decr. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for Current Rs. eight thousand nine hundred and thirty three, twelve annaes and three pice (8933-12-3) payable to Samuel Harrison Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 1005-1-0.

On do. to do. do. account Mr. Robt. Clive Current Rupees eighty six thousand one hundred and eleven, ten annaes and three pice (86111-10-3) payable to Mr. Robert Clive or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 9687-11-2.

On 5th Decr. of Mr. Chs. Manningham account Mr. Archibald Sterling Current Rs. one thousand three hundred and sixty two, eleven annaes and three pice (1362-11-3) payable to Mr. Archibald Sterling or order at 2s. 3d. is £St. 153-6-1.

On 5th Decr. of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Mr. John Hipwood Current Rupees five hundred and fifty one, ten annaes and nine pice (551-10-9) payable to Thomas Burrow Esq. or order at 2s. 3d. £St. 62-1-3.

On do. of do. do. account Miss Eleanor Powney Current Rupees four hundred and eighty seven, four annaes and three pice (487-4-3) payable to Thos. Burrow Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 54-16-4.

On do of do. do account Mrs. Rebecca Cassmajor Current Rupees five hundred and sixty one, three annaes and three pice (561-3-3) payable to Thos. Burrow Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 63-2-8.

On do. of do. do account Thos. Burrow Esqr. Current Rupees fifty thousand seven hundred and fifty two, one annae and three pice (50752-1-3) payable to Thos. Burrow Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 5709-12-3.

On do. of do. Current Rs. six thousand and twenty eight, ten annaes and nine pice (6028-10-9) payable to Chs. Peers Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 678-4-5.

On do. to Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. and Chs. Manningham Esqr. account Moses Franco & Co. being for sale of remains of coral per Colchester marked [ ] Current Rupees one thousand nine hundred and twenty seven, thirteen annaes and nine pice, payable to Moses Franco & Co. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 216-17-8.

On 5th December of Mrs. Jane Douglass, and Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Mrs. Elizabeth Thorpe for Current Rupees one thousand

seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annaes and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Thorpe or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 200-0-0.

On do. of Chs. Manningham Esqr. account Mr. Richard Eyre Current Rupees one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annaes and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Mr. Richard Eyre or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 200-0-0.

On do. of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Mr. Robert Sloper Current Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annæs and three pice (888-14-3) payable to John Starke Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 100-0-0.

On do. of Chs. Manningham Esqr. account the estate of Thos. Braddyl Esqr. deceased Current Rupees one hundred and fifty three, nine annaes (153-9-0) payable to Jno. Braddyl Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 17-5-6.

On do. of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Capt. Thos. Leeke Current Rs. five thousand four hundred and twenty nine, three annaes (5429-3-0) payable to Stephen Law Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 610-15-8.

On 5th December of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland per order of Mr. Robt. Sloper Current Rs. twenty seven thousand one hundred and fifty, five annaes and six pice (27150-5-6) payable to Chs. Floyer Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 3054-8-3.

On do. of do. do. per order of Solomon Franco of Madrass Current Rs. ten thousand seven hundred and ninety six, twelve annaes and three pice (10796-12-3) payable to Mr. John Geekie or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 1214-12-8.

On do. of Capt. Thos. Stevens account Mrs. Ann Shirley Current Rupees seven hundred and fifty six (756-0-0) payable to Mrs. Ann Shirley or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 85-1-0.

On do. of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Capt. Wm. Robson Current Rs. eighty thousand six hundred and thirty six, twelve annaes and three pice (80,636-12-3) payable to William Davis, Thomas Burrow and Charles Brown Esqrs. at 2s. 3d is £St. 9071-12-9.

On 5th Decr. of Mr. Thomas Coales Current Rs. one thousand (1000) payable to Roger Drake Senr. Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 112-10-0.

On 5th Decr. of Charles Manningham Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annaes and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Thos. Manningham Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 200-0-0.

On do. of Adam Dawson Esqr. Current Rupees four thousand nine hundred and eighty eight, one annae and nine pice (4988-1-9) payable to Joseph Hurlock Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 561-3-3.

On do. of Mr. John Brown Current Rs. twelve thousand seven hundred and sixty three, fourteen annaes and three pice (12763-14-3) payable to Capt. Rodolphus d' Gingin or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 1435-18-9.

On do of Capt. Thomas Fenwick Current Rs. one hundred and twenty three, twelve annaes and three pice (123-12-3) payable to Chs. Raymond Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 14-3-0

On do. of Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. Current Rupees nine hundred and ninety, twelve annaes and six pice (990-12-6) payable to Wm. Barwell Esq. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 111-9-3.

On do. of do. Current Rs. seven hundred and eleven, one annae and nine pice (711-1-9) payable to Mr. David Findlay or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 80-0-0.

On do. of do. Current Rs. seven hundred and forty eight (748-0-0) payable to Robt. Gooden Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 84-3-0.

On do. of Mr. Thos. Holmes Current Rs. one thousand two hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes (1288-14-0) payable to Frederick Frankland Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 145-0-0.

On 5th Decr. of William Mackett Esqr. Current Rs. seven hundred and eleven, one annae and nine pice (711-1-9) payable to Mr. David Findlay or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 80-0-0

On do. of Wm. Frankland Esqr. Current Rupees one thousand and thirty eight, three annaes and six pice (1038-3-6) payable to Thos. Frankland Esqr. or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 116-16-0.

On do. of Messrs. Richard Becher and John Zephaniah Holwell Current Rupees six hundred and sixty (660-0-0) payable to Captain Nathaniel Jacobs or order at 2s. 3d is £St. 74-5-0.

21. The whole amount of Bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence each rupee is Current Rupees three hundred and seventy six thousand two hundred and thirty, ten annaes and three pice (CRs. 376,230-10-3) or pounds sterling forty two thousand three hundred and twenty six, three annaes and three pice (*sic*) (£St. 42,326-3-3).

22. Since writing thus far, we put up Your Honours' woollen goods at outcry on the 28th and the account sales of what were then disposed of comes enclosed, by which Your Honours will observe the advance on the 15 per cent was very inconsiderable, there were no bidders for the ordinary popinjay, french green, yellow and red broad cloth nor for the perpetuanoes of the following colours—poninjay, french green, french yellow, crimson, black, red and white and we can assign no other reason for their not selling than the great quantity imported into these parts by the French.

23. As Your Honours have frequently cautioned us against dispatching your ships with too rich cargoes and by computation of the value of the Wager's on the 28th ultimo, finding that it then amounted to near nine laack, and twenty three tons wanting to compleat her tonage and as our goods came in very slow and no bales remained in the cottah but very valuable ones, we esteemed it for Your Honours' interest to turn the turmerick, cowries and tincall into whole freight, which we hope Your Honours will approve of, as it will answer your intentions of having an early ship and will keep the amount of her invoice within moderate bounds, for by filling her tonage up with such bales as were then in the warehouse, her cargoe would have exceeded ten laacks.

24. We have permitted Messrs. Charles Hampton and William Weston to return to Europe on this ship they having paid the usual ninety six rupees into Your Honours' treasury, also Mr. Gabriel Snodgrass Your Honours' Carpenter on account of his bad state of health and have given him a certificate of his good behaviour as he behaved in his employ entirely to our satisfaction.

25. The relict of Lieut. Bradford who was shot in the field at Fort St. David having been left in very necessitous circumstances and having petitioned us for an allowance we beg leave to recommend her as an object of charity, for which end enclosed we send her petition.

26. On the 26th ultimo Capt. John Pinson Master Attendant departed this life of a dissentary and Mr. Cruttenden was appointed Super Intendant of the Marine by the majority of the Board till Your Honours' pleasure is known, and for our several opinions hereon we beg leave to stand referred to a copy of our Consultation of the 29th December which is enclosed for Your Honours' notice.

27. We have laden on this ship sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to Current Rupees one thousand two hundred and sixty six, fourteen annaes and six pice (CRs. 1266-14-6).

28. Mr. Edward Eyre who dispatches this ship will acquaint Your Honours of her draught of water and what else he may find necessary from below.

29. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours, and are with the greatest respect

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants.

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/W. Macktee Edward Eyre/ Jno. Zeph. Holwell.

Fort William,
the 1st January, 1753.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office 1752/53, Vol. 17, pp. 130—147.)

## 30

## LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1753

*Captain Paul Philip Palier permitted to return to Fort St. David—the right of a free merchant to have a pass to fit and send a ship referred to home authorities.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our last address to Your Honours under date the 31st of December was forwarded on the Wager, Capt. Josiah Hindman, duplicate of which we now enclose. This ship was dispatched from Ingellee by Mr. Edwd. Eyre when she drew 17ft. 11in. upon an even keel.

2. This waits on Your Honours by the Admiral Vernon, Capt. Edmund Cooke, whom we have consigned to the President and Council of Fort St. George to be filled up and dispatched to Europe from thence and shall in a few days send them up the Bombay Castle to take in the surplus pepper at

Fort Malbro' agreable to their request for that purpose.

3. Enclosed we send Your Honours copy of a protest delivered Captain Cooke on his refusing to take the cowries we intended putting on board the Admiral Vernon, in compliance to your orders for lading ten tons on each ship; his reasons for refusing them are entered after Consultation of the 11th instant to which we beg leave to refer Your Honours.

4. On the 11th of this month Captain Paul Philip Polier attended the Board and represented to us that his men were daily deserting from the place, having lost within this eight or ten days sixteen of his soldiers, some of which were of his own town, and men in whom he thought he could have placed the greatest confidence, that the French by indirect methods entice them away and send them to Pondicherry, that the open situation of the place makes it impossible for him to prevent their going off and he is apprehensive the rest may follow their example if not timely prevented, therefore (that Your Honours' intention of sending these soldiers out may not be entirely frustrated and the expence you have been at on that account rendered fruitless) he proposed to reconduct his officers and private men back to the Coast where the inconvenience he now complained of might be better guarded against and they be enabled to render Your Honours more service. Having taken Captain Polier's proposal into consideration, and esteeming it for Your Honours' interest to return them to Fort St. George in order to prevent the prejudice that may arise to your affairs on that Coast from their being sent to Pondicherry on deserting from us, we agreed to permit Capt. Polier to reconduct them to the Coast and ordered them to be shipped on board the Godolphin, Capt. Hutchinson, whom we shall consign to the gentlemen there in a few days with a cargo of grain on Your Honours' account.

5. This day Mr. John Wood delivered in a petition to us to request we would sign a pass for a vessel belonging to him, as he apprehended by his indentures as a free merchant he had a just right and title to a pass, Your Honours having permitted him in them to trade to any port or ports within the limits of the Hon'ble Company's charter, which priviledge he thinks will avail nothing if the right of fitting and sending a ship out were denied him, upon which the question was put whether a free merchant by the tenour of his indentures had a right to a pass. Our several opinions Your Honours will find entered at large in this day's Consultation, when the majority of the Board were

of opinion no free merchant by the tenour of their indentures had a right to a pass, but in consideration Mr. Wood might have been in an error, and (not believing any objections would have been made) have purchased this vessel and cargoe which would greatly prejudice his fortune if we refused him a pass, it was agreed to allow him one for this vessel but that in future no free merchants should have a pass granted them 'till Your Honours' pleasure is known thereon. We now beg leave to represent to Your Honours the great prejudice such a liberty would be to the place in general, for, if it be permitted, a free merchant, by lending his name without any capital of his own and by the assistance and concern of the natives, may always set voyages on foot to the utter destruction of the trade of this settlement in general and a certain injury to every gentleman in the service. We apprehend the indulgence they have by their indentures is very extraordinary and that restraining them from passes by no means excludes them from trading to any part or parts within the Hon'ble Company's charter. We therefore hope Your Honours will confirm our resolutions and permit that priviledge to remain to your covenanted servants as well as the dustucks.

6. The season growing late and apprehending the gentlemen at Bombay may be in want of the saltpetre we have laden on the Durrington for their use, we agreed to take in what freight might be offered for her 'till the 18th instant and then dispatch her to the Governour and Council of Bombay.

7. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence each rupee.

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|---|---|
| On 4th Jany. to Mr. Jonathan Ranson Current Rupees two thousand (2000-0-0) payable to Wm. Davis Esq. and Capt. Thomas Hill or order at 2s-3d. each rupee is | £St. 225-0-0. |
| On 9th do. to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esq. Current Rupees one thousand four hundred and forty (1440-0-0) to Daniel Lascelles Esqr. or order at 2s-3d. is | £St. 162-0-0. |
| On do. to do. Current Rupees thirty three thousand four hundred and eighty (33,480) payable to the Hon'ble Thos. Saunders Esq. or order at 2s-3d. is | £St. 3766-10-0. |

On do. to Hon'ble Roger Drake Esq. and Charles Manningham Esq. Current Rs. two thousand six hundred and sixty nine, eleven annaes and three pice (2669-11-3) payable to John Jones Esq. or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 300-6-9.

On do. to Mr. Richard Court Current Rs. four hundred and sixteen, five annaes and nine pice, payable to Wm. Verelst and Wm. Fraser or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 46-16-9.

On 9th January of Mr. Thomas Ayre Current Rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four, seven annaes and three pice (4444-7-3) payable to Mr. Thomas Ayre or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 500-0-0.

On do. of Richd. Becher Esq. Current Rupees two thousand two hundred and twenty two, three annaes and six pice (2222-3-6) payable to Robert Nettleton Esqr. or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 250-0-0.

On 11th January of Mr. Holland Goddard in full returns for 2 chests of coral marked B No. 11 and 13 imported per Admiral Vernon, Current Rupees four thousand nine hundred and sixty eight, nine annaes and three pice (4968-9-3) payable to Mr. Joseph Salvidore or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 558-19-3.

On do. of do. in full returns for 1 chest of coral marked B No. 9 per Godolphin Current Rupees six thousand one hundred and thirty eight, two annaes and six pice (6138-2-6) payable to Mr. Joseph Salvidore or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 690-10-10.

On do. of do. in full returns for 1. chest of coral marked ISS No. 6 per Godolphin Current Rupees six thou-

sand eight hundred and twenty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice payable to Judah Supino or order @ 2s-3d. is £St. 768-5-0.

On do. of do. in full returns for 1 chest of coral marked IOS No. 1 per Godolphin Current Rs. nine hundred and eighty one, thirteen annaes and nine pice (981-13-9) payable to Judah Supino or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 110-9-2.

On do. of Mrs. Sophia Hollond Current Rs. forty thousand seven hundred and ninety six, four annaes and six pice (40796-4-6) payable to Messrs. Edwd. and Joseph Fowke or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 4589-11-7.

On 11th January of Mr. Bartholemew Plaistead Current Rupees four hundred (400-0-0.) payable to Mr. Thomas Burnet or order @ 2s-3d. is £St. 45-0-0.

On do. of Mr. Peter Amyatt Current Rupees seven hundred and eleven, one annae and nine pice, payable to David Findlay Esq. or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 80-0-0

On 12th do. of the Hon'ble Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqr. account of Mr. Solomon Franco Current Rs. twelve thousand and twenty eight, eleven annaes and three pice, payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order at 2s-3d. is £St. 1353-4-7.

On do of Mr. Thomas Blany Current Rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annaes, payable to Wm. Alexander Esqr. or order @ 2s-3d. is £St. 50-0-0.

On 15th do. of Mr. Jas. Valicourt Current Rupees six thousand five hund-

ed and forty (CRs. 6540-0-0.) payable to Wm. Barwell Esq. or order @2s-3d is £St. 735-0-0.

On do. of Edward Eyre Esqr. Current Rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annaes (444-7-0.) payable to Richard Eyre Esq. or order at 2s-3d is £St. 50-0-0.

On do. of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland Current Rupees three thousand, payable to Mr. John Clerimbault or order at 2s-3d is £St. 337-10-0.

On do. of Chs. Manningham and J. Z. Holwell Esqrs. and Capt. Wm. Hutchinson account Mr. James Barton Current Rs. nine thousand nine hundred and ninety six, twelve annaes and three pice payable to Mr. James Barton or order at 2s-3d is £St.....

On do. of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland per order of Henry Powney Esq. Current Rupees three hundred and ninety, seven annaes and three pice payable to Henry Powney Esqr. or order at 2s-3d is £St.....

On 21st December of Edwd. Holden Cruttenden Esq. Current Rupees seven hundred and eleven, one annae and nine pice (711-1-9) payable to Mr. David Findlay or order at 2s-3d is £St. 80-0-0.

On 15th January of Mrs. Lucia Fytche account Wm. Fytche Esqr. deceased Current Rupees nine hundred and seventy seven, twelve annaes and three pice (977-12-3) payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esq. or order at 2s-3d is £St. 109-19-11.

8. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence each rupee is Current Rupees one hundred

and forty two thousand and thirty one, four annaes and six pice (CRs. 142031-4-6) or pounds sterling fifteen thousand, nine hundred and seventy seven, fifteen shillings. (£St. 15,977-15-0,)

9. The enclosed indent for stores is only for what is wanting for our own use agreable to Your Honours' directions; the masts, booms and spars would not have been indented for, had this countrey afforded any wood proper for the purpose.

10. Enclosed in this packet Your Honours will receive copy of a petition we delivered in to the Mayor's Court about Deepchund's deposit requesting it to be paid us, no one having recommenced the suit agreable to His Majesty's decree, on which as yet they have come to no determination nor do we see any probability of its being soon decided.

11. Mr. William Sumner who dispatches this ship from Ingellee will advise Your Honours of what is needfull from thence.

12. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect.

May it please to Your Honours

Your faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre/ Jno. Zeph Holwell.

Fort William
The 15th January, 1753.

(Copies of records obtained from India Office 1752/53. Vol. 17, pp. 149—157.

Paragraph 5 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records, 1748-67*, p. 46.)

## 31

## LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1753

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please to Your Honours

1. By the Admiral Vernon our address of the 15th instant was forwarded as per duplicate enclosed. That ship was dispatched to the Coast by Mr. William Sumner the 18th January, when she drew 16½ foot upon an even keel.

2. Since which time we received an express from the President and Council of Fort St. George dated the 15th November acquainting us of a severe storm that happened on that coast the 31st October. There were then laying in Madrass Road Your Honours' ships the Colchester, Delawar and Brilliant snow. The former had 1500 Bs. [bales?] on board, and the two latter were the next day to have proceeded to Fort Malbro' but were all drove from their anchors and only the Colchester had been since heard of, who put into Fort St. David quite dis-masted, her upper works very much damaged and her cargoe in the same condition. They requested therefore we would send them up one ship more than they had already wrote for, as they were apprehensive it would not be possible to get the Colchester in readiness to proceed to Europe even in January.

3. Upon the receipt of this letter we came to a resolution of dispatching the Bombay Castle to the Coast with what she already had on board (about 320 tons) instead of putting two thirds of her tonnage in, as we at first intended. Of this we immediately advised the President and Council of Fort St. George and acquainted them that the Chesterfield would soon follow her, which with the Colchester we apprehended would be tonage sufficient for their investment, but that the Godolphin would be consigned to them shortly with a cargo of grain on Your Honours' account and though we could not supply her with any saltpetre (none remaining in our godowns nor to be procured), yet the surplus quantity we sent them on the Colchester would enable them we hoped to comply with her charterparty if they found it necessary to dispatch her to Europe this season.

4. Having laden all the saltpetre, we had left, on the Durrington and her freight being all on the way down to her we ordered Mr. Thomas Bellamy on the 22nd instant to proceed to Ingellee, get her bills of lading signed, and deliver Captain Drake his dispatches.

5. Capt. Brown sent in a letter to the Board the 22nd requesting the damage of his woollen goods might be dispensed with by us or referred home to Your Honours on account of the bad weather he met with off the eastern sands, at which time he and his officers protested in form, copy of which protest he enclosed us, but as we did not esteem this protest of any validity (delivered us after his goods had been surveyed

and never mentioned before) we ordered the Secretary to inform him of our opinion and acquaint him that his bills of lading would not be given up 'till he had made good the damage and deficiencies of goods received from his ship. His letter is enclosed to Your Honours in this packet as well as all his other requests with the reports relative to his ship.

6. We have permitted Mr. William Rider to return to Europe on this ship in consequence of his request for that purpose transmitted in this packet and beg leave to recommend him to Your Honours as very deserving of your service, should his health put it in his power to return to India.

7. By the Chesterfield and Oxford we purpose giving Your Honours a full account of your affairs under our management since the dispatch of the Colchester and reply to those parts of your commands which have not yet been spoken too.

8. We are now to advise of the several sums of money for which we have granted bills of exchange on Your Honours at 2s-3d the rupee:

On 20th January of Dr. George Gray Current Rs. 1069-15-9 payable to Messrs. Johnson and Fotheringham or order at 2s-3d is £St. 120-7-6.

On 20th January of Dr. George Gray Current Rupees 8496-6-0 payable to Mr. Henry Allen or order at 2s-3d is £St. 955-16-10.

On do. of Capt. Samuel Lutton Current Rs. 328-0-0 payable to Capt. Thos. Best or order at 2s-3d is £St. 36-18-0.

On 21st do. of Messrs. Drake. Watts. Fullerton and Amyatt Current Rs. 30,813-8-9 payable to William Barwell Esqr. or order @ 2s-3d is £St. 3466-10-6.

On do. of Dr. Wm. Fullerton Current Rupees 3370-13-3 payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order @ 2s-3d is £St. 379-4-4.

On do. of the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. Junr. on account of Mr. Jacob De Natal Levi Sonsino Current Rupees 446-14-0 payable to Mr. Jacob De

Natal Levi Sonsino or order at 2s-3d is £St. 50-5-6.

On 21st January of Capt. Paul Polier Current Rs. 355-9-0 payable to Mr. James Twesier or order at 2s-3d is £St. 40-0-0.

On 23rd do. of Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. Junr. account a chest of coral marked R. B. No. 3 imported per Godolphin Current Rs. 14768-2-6 payable to Richard Barwell Esqr. or order £St. 1661-8-4.

On do. of Mr. Peter Amyatt Current Rupees 385-11-6 payable to Wm. Barwell Esqr. or order at 2s-3d is £St. 43-7-10.

On 21st January of the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account the estate of Mr. Martin Bennet deceased Current Rs. 538-13-0 payable to Mr. Saml. Bennet, surgeon in Alford Lincolnshire or order £St. 60-12-4.

On do. of Richard Becher Esq. Current Rs. 711-1-9 payable to Mr. David Findlay or order at 2s-3d is £St. 80-0-0.

On do. of Messrs. Wm. Sumner and John Knox Junr. Current Rupees 213-9-0 payable to Mr. David Findlay or order at 2s-3d is £St. 24-0-0.

On do. of Mr. Henry Kelsall Current Rupees 1141-9-0 payable to Mr. David Findlay or order at 2s-3d is £St. 128-8-0.

On 25th January of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Charles Floyer Esqr. Current Rs. 3596-12-3 payable to Charles Floyer Esqr. or order at 2s-3d is £St. 404-12-9.

On do. of do. do. account Mrs. Ann Burrow Current Rs. 2588-12-3 payable to Thomas Burrow Esq. or order at 2s-3d is £St. 291-4-9.

On do. of do. do. account the estate of William Fytche Esqr. deceased Current Rs. 720-0-0 payable to Mr. David Findlay or order at 2s-3d is £St. 81-0-0.

On 25th January of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Captain Robert Clive Current Rs. 9965-15-9 payable to Capt. Robert Clive or order at 2s-3d is £St. 1121-3-6.

On do. of do. do. account Capt. Stephen Kirwan Current Rupees 25,350-6-3 payable to Charles Raymond Esq. or order at 2s-3d is £St. 2851-18-4.

On do. of Mr. Thomas Cooke Current Rupees 800-0-0 payable to Mr. Miles Barne or order at 2s-3d is £St. 90-0-0.

On do. of do. Current Rupees 300-0-0 payable to Capt. Richard Thelwall or order at 2s-3d is £St. 33-15-0.

On 24th do. of Mr. Wm. Wogan Junr. Current Rupees 26666-10-9 payable to himself or order at 2s-3d is £St. 3000-0-0.

On 29th do. of Hon'ble Roger Drake Esq. Junr. account the produce of 2 chests coral marked T 14 G No. 2 & 3 Current Rupees 6955-5-0 payable to Thomas Godfrey Esq. or order @ 2s-3d is £St. 782-9-5.

9. The whole amount of bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence is Current Rupees one hundred and thirty nine thousand five hundred and eighty three, fifteen annaes and nine pice (CRs. 139583-15-9) or fifteen thousand seven hundred and three pounds sterling, two shillings and eleven pence (£St. 15703-2-11).

10. By the Colchester we drew on Your Honours a bill of exchange payable to Thomas Burrow Esqr. for £St. 2969-15-5 instead of £St. 2294-15-6, being an error in the calculation of it by the assistants in the Accomptant's office, which has been mentioned to Mr. Burrow's attorneys and he is wrote to about it.

11. By the same ship we drew on Your Honours a bill of exchange payable to Mr. Robert Orme for £St. 1459-15-9 for which we received CRs. 12989-9-0 instead of CRs. 12977-11-0, the overplus we have repaid Mr. Orme's attorneys here.

12. The Accomptant having acquainted us there is an error in the remarks transmitted by Your Honours in regard to the sums you have not been credited for in our books, we have ordered him to put it down in writing and enclose it in this packet to be rectified.

13. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per abstract of her invoice enclosed amounting to CRs. 494000-0-0 we have consigned to the President and Council of Fort St. George.

14. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre/Jno. Zeph. Holwell.

Fort William,

January 29th, 1753.

(Ref: L. to C., Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 17, pp. 168-174.)

## 32
## LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1753

*Improved method of 'assorting' goods—difficulties in carrying out the instructions of the Court regarding stoppage of* dadney—*steps taken to check the abuses of* dastak—*Mayor's Court not to try natives not living under the Company's protection—address of the free merchants to the Board.*

O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Under date the 29th ultimo we addressed Your Honours by the Bombay Castle as per duplicate enclosed. That ship was dispatched from Ingelie by Mr. Luke Scrafton the 7th instant when she drew [.....] upon an even keel.

2. We shall now proceed to give Your Honours a full account of your affairs under our management since the dispatch of the Colchester and reply to those parts of your commands which we have hitherto omitted, ranging the same under the usual established heads and

*First, concerning shipping.*

3. Upon the recommendation of our Master Attendant we entertained Henry Walter in the room of Alexander Scott as pylot in the river service on the 25th September.

4. On landing the treasure imported here by Your Honours' ships it was duly surveyed and the respective captains have made good their deficiencies except Capt. Hindman who refused to pay 13 Bombay Rupees received short by his ship, on which account his bill of lading was not delivered him but comes enclosed in this packet to be adjusted with the owners of the Wager by Your Honours.

5. Capt. Hutchinson on the 9th Octr. sent in a letter to advise of the Godolphin's demorage commencing the 22nd of that month. He likewise requested for a survey on her bottom the 16th October, which we ordered the Master Attendant with Your Honours' Carpenter to perform; his request and their report are duly entered after Consultation.

6. Captain Stevens of the Oxford requested on the 13th November a survey within board, a report of which the Master Attendant and Your Honours' Carpenter delivered in the 27th following.

7. We have advanced Capt. Hutchinson the following sums of money on charter party terms in consequence of his requests viz.,

On the 20th Novr. five thousand A. Rupees (ARs. 5,000). On the 24th January ten thousand Current Rs. (CRs. 10.000), for each of which sums he has signed two obligations of the same tenour and date.

8. On the 27th November we ordered the Master Attendant to survey the river and lay the buoys as usual, a report of which he delivered in the 28th December as entered after that day's Consultation.

9. By a letter from the gentlemen at Fort St. George we had the pleasure to hear of the safe arrival there of Your Honours' ship the Colchester.

10. Captain Stevens in a letter of the 14th December having acquainted us of a mutiny on board his ship at Culpee and that the offenders had made their escape, we ordered the Commandant to send the rounds in search of them and forbid our country commanders from entertaining any of them.

11. The 21st December Capt. Edwin Carter sent in a letter requesting a survey within board, which we ordered the Master Attendant in company with Your Honours' Carpenter to perform and their report is entered after Consultation of the 28th of that month.

12. Having resolved to transport the company of Swiss soldiers back to Fort St. George on the Godolphin, Capt. Hutchinson sent in an estimate of the provisions and liquors necessary for their passage amounting to Arcot Rupees 2,075-".-"., which seeming to us extremely reasonable and cheaper than Your Honours' Cooper could provide the same for, we agreed to his terms and ordered that sum to be paid him, but on shipping them on board, finding there were 20 men more than he had accounted for in his estimate, he requested a further sum of 529 ARs. on their account, which we complied with and ordered him the payment thereof.

13. The 29th ultimo we advised Your Honours of having dispatched the Bombay Castle to the gentlemen at Fort St. George to be filled up. We are now to acquaint Your Honours we dispatched the Godolphin to them on the same day with a cargoe of grain on your account amounting to CRs. [.....].

14. This waits on Your Honours by the Chesterfield whom we consign to the gentlemen at the Coast half laden agreable to their request. The several papers relative to this ship are enclosed in the accompanying packet under their respective numbers.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe.*

15. The several reports of woollen goods and metals landed from Your Honours' ships are duly entered after Consultation and the captains have regularly accounted for the amounts thereof before their bills of lading were delivered up. We have already advised Your Honours of the sales of your woollen goods, copper etc. and are only to acquaint you that on the 27th October the Storekeeper brought in the account sales of iron and steel amounting to CRs. 25512-8- and on the 16th November the account sales of damaged stores amounting to CRs. 379-4-".. which are entered after the Consultations of those days.

16. In the 34th paragraph of Your Honours' commands dated the 8th January you have mentioned one case of Dutch velvets sent out on the Chesterfield and desire we will inform you if they are liked better than the English, in reply to which we must acquaint Your Honours the English velvets in general this year have turned out bad and rotten and the Dutch are much stronger and better, the difference of the price bearing no proportion to the fabrick of the velvet.

17. Your Honours likewise desire to know which of the brocades are esteemed cheapest and are best liked—those imported by the Admiral Vernon or by the Chesterfield—which we must defer replying to at present as none of either sort have yet been sold.

18. The plate copper sent us by the Colchester was put up to sale and upon tryal found not to answer so well in proportion as the other copper. We have therefore omitted it in our indent.

19. Your Honours' orders relating to the sale of your goods have been hitherto and shall in future be strictly complied with by us.

*Thirdly, concerning investment of goods for Europe.*

20. Upon landing the treasure from the Hector, Wager, Bombay Castle and Chesterfield we resolved to dispose of it in the following manner: to send to Cossimbuzar 55 chests, to send to Dacca 80 chests, to send to Jugdea 10 chests, to pay Omichund 28 chests and advance the merchants the amount of their 85 per cent. We accordingly ordered the Buxey to provide sloops and boats to convey what we designed for the subordinates, which being prepared we dispatched 145 chests to them at several times agreable to our resolutions thereon.

21. The Export Warehousekeeper on the 16th November laid before the Board an abstract of the Dacca invoice of goods which were lost in coming down from thence at Barrotoola under the care of Serjeant Demy David, upon which we sent for that serjeant and asked him how the boat whereon those goods were laden was lost, who replyed it was occasioned by the meeting of two tides in the mouth of Rangafulla creek which run so extremely impetuous that it was impossible for him or any other boats in the fleet to give any assistance to the two soldiers who were both of them drowned.

22. Your Honours having frequently complained of the uneven assortment of your cloth and recommended it to us to fall into a better method in that particular, the Export Warehousekeeper and Sub Export Warehousekeeper delivered in a letter the 17th December relating to assorting the cloth in such a manner as might obviate those complaints in future, and a parcel re-sorted after this manner proposed by them laying ready for inspection, we examined the same, and it appearing to us that a greater equality might be preserved in the bales by this method, we approved of it and ordered that in future the different sortments of cloth be packed up in the manner set forth in their letter which is entered after that day's Consultation, and herein we hope to have Your Honours' approbation.

23. There being no saltpetre left in our warehouse and Captain Stevens having requested 600 bags at half freight for the stiffening his ship, the gentlemen of Fort St. George having likewise importuned us for a supply with gun powder, we agreed on the 22nd ultimo to purchase 1500 bags that were offered us, notwithstanding it was dear, the present necessity being very pressing.

24. The Export Warehousekeeper informed us on the 5th instant of the delay of the merchants in bringing in their goods. We called them before us and asked them the reason of their being so late before they brought in the amount of their contracts, to which they replied that their goods had left the aurungs a great while and would have arrived here in proper time, had it not been for the exorbitant exactions of the chokeys, which occasioned their delay, that what used to be ten days coming down were now twenty days before they arrived on this account, but that they were in hopes their goods would arrive in time to be laden on the Oxford.

25. The same day we took into consideration the setling of Omichund's saltpetre account and agreed it should be made up in the following manner. To give him credit for interest on the deficiency of the eighty six thousand maunds from the 15th December, instead of the 24th July the date of his contract, and as Omichund asserts to have lost greatly in weight and declares that the petre was impeded by different chokeys, for the clearance of which he had paid considerably, and that he likewise sustained a severe loss of 4000 maunds by boa[ts] being oversett in a hard gale of wind near Calcutta, we esteemed it but reasonable to remit the penalty on the deficiency of his contract as

we are of opinion he has suffered greatly by it and being convinced he really did employ the money advanced him on this chants had provided upon the former list.

26. We have complyed as nearly as possible to Your Honours' orders relative to our investment but could not avoid taking two thousand peices of Ballasore sannoes which ye merchants had provided upon the former list.

27. We are apprehensive Your Honours' injunctions against advancing dadney to our merchants cannot be fully put in execution as it will be impossible we fear to provide an investment without making them some advance, though we shall use our utmost efforts to lessen that advance as much as possible without prejudicing our provision of goods for the ensuing season.

28. On the 27th October we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar requesting a large supply of money, as their merchants are very pressing to have their last year's ballance paid off and the Seats have sent them several messages to have their ballance paid off there and at Dacca and promise, when their accounts are once cleared, to lend them what money they may have occasion for.

29. The 9th November we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar accompanying 223 bales of the Novemberbund silk and 62 bales of the gurrahs on Your Honours' account and on the 21st we received one from them desiring our permission to take 40 maunds of the Novemberbund silk which they have in their factory more than they contracted for, which they had our permission for, the same day.

30. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 14th instant acquainted us that their merchants' reasons for being so late in bringing in their peice goods were owing to the long and heavy rains, also the scarcity and dearness of provisions, but now the rains are over they promise to exert themselves in complying with their contracts though they shall suffer very considerably thereby from the rise of raw silk.

31. A letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 17th December we received on the 28th of that month accompanying 268 bales and chests on Your Honours' account and on the 8th January they advised us that they had taken the surplus Novemberbund silk agreable to our permission.

32. They likewise informed us under date the 21st January that they had an offer made them of five thousand peices of ready money gurrahs, and as they were apprehencive their

merchants would fall short of their contracts in that article, they requested our order if they should take them or not, which we directed them to do on the 24th of that month and send them down as soon as possible.

33. Mr. Clerembault, Chief and Council at Dacca in a letter dated the 14th September replyed to Your Honours' remarks on their investment of 1751 as per letter No. 77 entered in the letter book, to which we beg leave to be referred, as the particulars are too long to insert in this address. They acquainted us therein that on account of the emulation of the French lately settled there and the cotton continuing at an extravagant high price they have been obliged to be less severe in prizing the fine cloth of all sorts and have been necessitated to take more of the lower letters than they otherwise should have done to prevent Your Honours being disappointed in the quantity by you ordered, that in relation to the alliballies the deficiency of the fine and overplus of the superfine was occasioned by the delolls and picars being deficient in the former and in lieu bringing in an overplus of the latter which, had they not accepted of, must have left them considerably more indebted to the Company than they thought prudent.

34. On the 30th October we received a letter from the gentlemen at Dacca enclosing invoice of 112 bales and 1 bundle of cloth which arrived safe on the 16th November except one boat which we have already informed Your Honours was lost off Barratolla.

35. Having inspected the Dacca goods upon their arrival and found them very indifferent in the sortments and prized very high, we wrote to the gentlemen there transmitting them our remarks on their cloth for their observation and directed them to reply thereto which they did in a letter dated the 4th December article by article, having first premised that they could not any way conceive the musters of 1738 to be a fit standard for judging of the cloth sent us this year, as the caposs or country cotton has not been for these two years past at their aurungs under nine or ten rupees and the price of rice at the same time very dear, whereas in 1738 the caposs did not exceed two rupees or two rupees and eight annas and the rice very cheap, to which they repeated their former reasons of a French factory emulating Your Honours' trade and obliging them to be less severe in prizing their cloth. This reply of theirs is entered at large in the letter book to which we beg leave to refer Your Honours for the particulars.

36. The 17th December we received a letter from them enclosing invoice of 76 bales and 1 bundle of cloth forwarded on Your Honours' account the 11th of that month. The 11th January we received another letter enclosing invoice of 61 bales and 1 bundle dispatched to us the 7th of that month and the 1st February another letter enclosing invoice of 66 bales and 1 bundle of cloth forwarded the 27th ultimo from thence. All of those goods except the last parcel have safely arrived here, of which we advised the gentlemen at Dacca on the 1st instant.

37. The 23rd of October we received a letter from the gentlemen at Jugdea enclosing invoice of cloth dispatched to us the 2nd of that month.

38. Upon inspecting the goods received from Jugdea we found their investment very bad in general but particularly the baftaes which are greatly inferiour in quality even to those received from thence last year and finding a great difference in the sorting of them we resolved to send them some peices for their observation as likewise 925 peices which were damaged and much torn and on the 30th October we transmitted them our remarks on their goods and enjoined them in future to a strict observance in the sorting of their cloth.

39. The gentlemen at Jugdea under date the 28th October enclosed us invoice of five tucktaes of cloth sent us on Your Honours' account and accounted for the defect of their investment as follows: that the 15th June they informed us, from the very extraordinary rise of cotton there, that the value of their baftaes was encreased above 20 per cent beyound their usual price, since which cotton has had no fall and rice which was then at near 2 maunds for a rupee has rose to 25 seer, so that the manufacture of a peice of Jugdea cloth from 2 annas has rose to 5 annas, that those inconveniences occasion a rise on their baftaes in the whole of above 30 per cent and as they have their cloth still at its old stated price so the defect in quality would appear they hoped as little as might be expected.

40. In another letter of the 16th Novr. the gentlemen at Jugdea replyed to our remarks on their investment, not doubting but what they wrote us last on that point would be very satisfactory, as a rise so very material as 30 per cent in the cloth when at the same time they have suffered none in your price must occasion therein an apparent defect to us, though perhaps not so much as might in reason be expected, for in counting the threads they have seldom found a deficiency of above

100 to their factory musters and this is far from being equal to the late extraordinary rise of their cloth. As to the defect in sorting they observed that in their coarse cloth wherein the smallst inequality is visible many sorts might be made thereof, though the standing custom of their factory has ever been but two and as to the torn cloth (which the dellols are by contract obliged to take back) they should endeavour to get it changed, though as their delolls are by no means responsible, through their bad circumstances so the effecting of that would possibly be difficult.

41. The gentlemen at Jugdea by a letter dated the 3rd December requested our permission to admit of an advance of 10 or 15 per cent on the price of their baftaes as it will be impossible to keep them up to former musters at the old price, to which we replyed on the 1st February that as we apprehended the case would be altered on their removal from Jugdea we could not admit of any such advance till we found an absolute necessitv for it.

42. The several parcels of cloth forwarded from Jugdea this season on Your Honours' account have safely arrived here.

43. Mr. William McGwire, Resident at Bulramgurry, informed us under date 27th January that on his arrival there he had sent out for the Olmorra musters and as soon as he could procure them would forward them to us for inspection.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and therein any transactions with the country Government.*

44. Your Honours will observe by our Consultation of the 9th October we came to a resolution that every person taking out a pass should upon oath declare who the owners were and in what proportions. This regulation we were obliged to make to prevent in future the frequent abuses which have been made in this article, by which the natives have for some time past outvyed Your Honours' covenanted servants in the foreign trade, which is so material a branch that we thought it necessary to restrain them from engrosing it entirely by the above regulation.

45. The President on the 23rd October laid before the Board a list of the present to the Nabob and Durbar officers which is entered after that day's Consultation and the amount of what was not taken out of the import warehouse we paid out of the cash being CRs. 15560-3-3.

46. The President and Council of Bombay in a letter dated the 26th September acquainted us there was a ship belonging to the King of Persia setting out for Bengall and requested us not to purchase her or suffer any under our protection to purchase her as it might be of fatal consequences to Your Honours' affairs in Persia as the Persians would not fail to demand greatly more for her than she is worth, in case she is purchased by any under the English protection, besides engaging them in endless and costly disputes. As this vessell has not imported here and being informed she was upon the Cormandell coast we transmitted a copy of the Bombay letter to the gentlemen at Fort St. George and desired them to give proper weight to the contents.

47. In our address per Wager we mentioned to Your Honours what had passed between us and the gentlemen at Dacca and Jugdea about the removal of the latter to Mutlubgunge and that we had directed them to act jointly in that affair and pitch upon some place that would not interfere with Dacca. We have since that time received several letters from them on that subject and on the 8th ultimo they wrote us that they had fixed upon a place called Luckipore to remove to, whose commodious situation near the river and other advantages would answer their purpose and therefore desired we would endeavour to procure a perwannah from Muxadavad to permit their removal, as Aga Baka, the Nabob of Chitigong, had refused them one and would probably oppose it all in his power, upon which we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to procure such a perwannah if it would not be attended with too great an expence and advised the gentlemen at Dacca and Jugdea that we had done so.

48. We have signified to the Mayor's Court Your Honours' orders relative to them and have directed that no attorneys of that court presume to undertake any suit against a subject of the Mogul's not residing under our protection and that, if they do in future affile any bill contrary to those orders, we have given them publick notice we shall send them home, which proceeding of ours we hope will meet Your Honours' approbation, as it is calculated to prevent your being embroiled in any disputes with the country Government.

*Fifthly, concerning buildings, fortifications and revenues.*

49. Your Honours will observe by our Consultations that the judicial proceedings of the Zemindary conformoble to Your

Honours' orders have been regularly laid before the Board.

50. The Collector of Consulage having acquainted us the 18th January that, on levying the consulage upon Patna goods, there were complaints made, as they had come down by the king's rowanna and paid the government's duties which were very heavy, we took that affair under consideration and esteeming it unreasonable that goods which had paid the king's duty should be taxed equally with those which had not, by the protection of our dustucks, we agreed that in future no Patna goods coming down with a rowanna should pay consulage here.

51. Mr. John Knox who has purchased Your Honours' arrack licence sent in a letter to us on the 24th January to acquaint us of the bad circumstances he was reduced to by the excessive dearness of grain and jaggaree and the present small consumption of his arrack on account of Batavia arrack being so cheap, upon which we sent for him and ordered him to make a statement on oath of the difference of materials and consumption now and in former years. This occasioned a second letter from him on the 1st instant wherein he has fully set forth the differences we required and the reasons why there is not so great a consumption of his arrack as formerly, in consequence whereof he requested we would apply some remedy to prevent Your Honours being any sufferers by his incapacity to pay the present rate. His letters are entered after the Consultation of the respective day they were delivered in, and as we are all sensible what he alledges in them is matter of fact we have agreed to buy that licence at publick sale the 15th for the remainder of Mr. Knox his time and offer him the refusal of it at what it shall then produce, unless there are no bidders to any tolerable amount, in which case we have agreed to reduce it to such a reasonable sum as he may be capable of holding it and regularly pay Your Honours for the licence. This we flatter ourselves will appear equitable to Your Honours, as we are well assured the present circumstances render it impracticable for Mr. Knox to pay the rate he at first purchased it at, without a certain injury to his own fortune.

52. Mr. Robins being dead we have deferred putting Your Honours to any expence in building barracks for your soldiers as you directed, till Major General Lawrence's arrival, with whom we will consult thereon and follow his opinion.

53. We are now to reply fully to Your Honours' commands regarding the Zemindary received by the Godolphin, and having

gone through our examination of the charges laid against Govindram Metre by Mr. Holwell we shall in as few words as possible give Your Honours the result of our enquiries and refer you to our seperate Consultations transmitted by this ship for our particular proceedings on each article of the charges exhibited against Govindram Metre, in which we have acted with the impartiality required of us by common equity, and flatter ourselves the pains we have taken to set this matter in the clearest and fairest light will merit Your Honours' approbation.

54. The several orders relating to the management of the Zemindary have been duly put in execution, and the farms agreable to Your Honours' directions were sold at public outcry, the account sales of which have already been sent in the Wager's packet, and duplicates thereof are enclosed in this.

55. We must assure Your Honours we shall omit no opportunity of putting the rents and revenues of this place upon a better footing by any equitable means and Mr. Holwell has our directions to inform the Board when any article may be improved or any tax remitted for the releif of the poor.

56. The nature of the dussatary or 10 per cent on the annual value of your farms Mr. Holwell has fully explained in his state of the revenues, to which we beg leave to refer ourselves.

57. We shall now give Your Honours a short extract of our proceedings in our scrutiny of Metre's conduct in the management of your revenues.

58. Finding the charges laid by Mr. Holwell against Metre to be of an intricate nature we appointed a committee to make enquiry and examine into the evidences and proofs to be produced by him for the support of his charge and ordered them to lay their proceedings when finished before the Board.

59. On the 11th October we began our enquiry into Metre's conduct and on taking into consideration the sales of the farms for the years 1749, 1750, and 1751 Mr. Holwell desired the previous question might be asked whether Metre from the nature of his office was in trust for the Company or not? For our respective opinions we desire to stand referred to that day's Consultation when the majority were of opinion he was not in trust for the Company, upon which Mr. Cruttenden desired the question might be put whether Metre had a right to purchase these farms? The opinion of the majority being that he had a right to purchase equal with any other person, the President

put the following question whether Metre by his own confession of having made a profit on the sales of the farms as specified by Mr. Holwell was not accountable. which the majority was of opinion he was not.

60. After this we deferred any further enquiry till the 27th ultimo on account of the quantity of business on hand. For our particular proceedings from that day till we had done, we have already desired to be referred to our seperate Consultations by the result of which it appears that Metre has acquitted himself to our satisfaction of the greatest part of the charges laid against him by Mr. Holwell. The small sums which we have ordered Metre to be charged with we shall take proper care to have received from him.

*Sixthly, of factors, writers, officers and their accounts and seventhly, touching accounts.*

61. Captain Paul Philip Polier arrived here on the Chesterfield from Fort St. George, the gentlemen there having sent us the company of Swiss soldiers account of their desertion to the French. Your Honours will observe by our letter of the [.....] ultimo we have returned that company to the Coast as we found it impossible to prevent their daily desertion from us.

62. On the 27th October the President informed the Board he had thought proper to confer an ensign's commission on Mr. George Polier.

63. We have permitted Mr. Richard Court to go a voyage to sea on account of his health in consequence of his request entered after Consultation the 16th December.

64. Mr. William McGwire on the 8th January set out for Bulramgurry and on the 24th of that month advised us by a letter that he had taken charge of that factory with the books, papers etc., left there by Mr. Kelsall.

65. Your Honours' commands in regard to Mr. Lawrence shall be punctually complied with on his arrival at this Presidency.

66. Your orders relating to the hospital, we have already wrote Your Honours, have been duly executed.

67. The Accomptant on the 22nd January laid before us the open account current of Your Honours' sloops, which being examined and the sloops valued by the Super Intendant of the

Marine, the accounts were adjusted and are entered after that day's Consultation, the difference being wrote off to profit and loss.

68. On the 1st instant he laid before us the profit and loss article as they arise on the different heads of Your Honours' books for 1752, which being duly examined the debit side thereof is entered after that Consultation.

69. We have acquainted our Secretary and Accomptant with Your Honours' remarks on the loose hand the business of their offices is wrote in and directed them to be in future more carefull in that particular which they have promised to comply with.

70. We are now to advise Your Honours of the bills of exchange we have granted at the exchange of 2/3 each rupee, the amount of each being accounted for before the bills were drawn out.

On the 5th February of Adam Dawson Esqr. Current Rupees one thousand five hundred twenty one, eleven annas and nine pice (CRs. 1521-11-9) payable to John Hope Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is. £St. 171-3-11.

On the 8th February of Captain George Minchin Current Rs. one thousand two hundred fifty nine and two annas (CRs. 1259-2-0) payable to the legal representatives of Major James Mosman or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 141-13-0.

On the 5th do of Messrs Mackett and Amyatt Current Rupees fifteen thousand four hundred sixty four, seven annas and three pice (CRs. 15464-7-3) payable to David Findlay Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 1739-15-".

On the 6th do. of Doctor George Gray Current Rupees one thousand seven hundred and twenty (CRs. 1720-0-0) payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 193-10-".

On the 7th do. of Mr. Peter Amyatt Current Rupees two hundred sixty six, ten annas and six pice (CRs. 266-10-6) payable to Mr. John Dowsing or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 30-"-".

On the do. do. of Mr. Peter Amyatt Current Rupees six hundred twenty two, three annas and six pice (CRs. 622-3-6) payable to Mr. George Sherwood or order @ 2/3 per rupees is £St. 70-"-".

On the 8th February of the Hon'ble Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqrs. account Moses Franco & Co. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 246-1-1.

On the do. do. of the Hon'ble Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqrs. account Abraham and Jacob Franco Current Rupees three thousand and thirty nine (CRs. 3039-0-0) payable to Messrs. Abraham and Jacob Franco or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 341-17-9.

On the do. do of Captain John Coales Current Rupees five hundred thirty three, five annas and three pice (CRs. 533-5-3) payable to Messrs. Thomas and Nicholas Crisp or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 60-'-".

On the do. do. of the Hon'ble Roger Drake Junr. Current Rupees two thousand two hundred twenty two, three annas and six pice (CRs. 2222-3-6) payable to Roger Drake Senr. Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 250-"-".

On the do. do. of Captain George Minchin Current Rupees one thousand and eighty (CRs. 1080-0-0) payable to Messrs. Arthur Colley and John Barton or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 121-10-'

On the 9th February of Capt. John Coales Current Rupees two thousand seven

(CRs. 2007-0-0) payable to Sir Dudley Rider, Solicitor General, or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 225-15-9.

On the 10th do. of the Hon'ble Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqrs. Current Rupees two thousand five hundred ninety four and four annas (CRs. 2594-4-0) (being the produce of 1 chest of amber beads marked M. F. No. 11 imported per Colchester) payable to Moses Franco and Company or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 291-17-1.

On the do. do. of Thomas Raitt Current Rupees nine hundred seventy two (CRs. 972-0-0) payable to Thomas Raitt or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 109-7-'

On the do. do. of Mr. Thomas Coales Current Rupees two hundred sixty six and eleven annas (CRs. 266-11-0) payable to Theopolis Weight or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 30-"-".

71. The whole amount of bills of exchange granted at 2/3 each rupee is Current Rupees thirty-five thousand seven hundred fifty five, thirteen annas and three pice or £St. four thousand twenty two, four shillings and seven pence.

72. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize on Your Honours' account as per abstract of her invoice enclosed amounting to Current Rupees 443.500 which we have consigned to the gentlemen at Fort St. George.

*Supplement*

73. The President and Council of Fort St. George having wrote pressingly for a supply of gun powder and there being none in our magazine we resolved to send the Adjutant up to Hughley to purchase some there if he could. Upon his returning from thence he brought a muster, which being tryed and approved by the Commandant, we sent him up again with 4,000 rupees to purchase what quantity he could.

74. By the Durrington we wrote to the gentlemen at Bombay that we had no gun powder left in garrison, that the President and Council of Fort St. George had importuned us to supply

them with that article and therefore requested they would send us a large quantity as soon as they possibly could.

75. At the same time we desired them to forward us by the earliest conveyances what surplus cash they could spare as it would be of great service to Your Honours here.

76. Meer Abgeil, our Agent at Patna, wrote us from thence that our factory was greatly out of order and was daily growing worse for want of repair, desiring our directions if he should repair it or not, for which we have deferred giving him any permission till we have Your Honours' sentiments thereon and have your leave to repair that factory.

77. Had any of your ships imported here before they touched at the Coast we should have punctually complyed with Your Honours' orders relating to the licenced silver, coral, pearl, emeralds etc.

78. The indentures of Messrs. Finley, Oliver and Wood have been duly executed by them and were returned in the packet per Bombay Castle.

79. The free merchants having delivered in an address this day to the Board and requesting it may be transmitted to Your Honours, we have enclosed a copy thereof in this packet.

80. Mr. Holwell having delivered in two letters to the Board relating to our proceedings in the enquiry of Govindram Metre's conduct, and the account revenues for May and June, we have enclosed them in this ship's packet for Your Honours' perusal.

81. Mr. Peter Amyatt dispatches this ship to the Coast from whence she will proceed to Your Honours.

82. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithfull and most obedient servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre/ Jno. Zeph. Holwell.

Fort William,

February the 11th, 1753.

(Copies of records obtained from India Office 1752/53, Vol. 17, pp. 175—201.

Paragraphs 48 and 69 published in Long's *Selections from*

*Unpublished Records 1748-67,* pp. 46-47. Paragraph 52 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* Vol. I, pp. 251-52.)

*Enclosure*

Fort William, the 1st February, 1753.

Mr. Knox's letter about the arrack farm to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. President and Governor and Council of Fort William.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs

I some few days passt did myself the honour to address you by petition setting forth the unfortunate circumstances I am reduced to, the cause whereof I slightly touched on therein, and imagined that sufficient, as apprehending Your Honour etc. could not any of you be strangers to the decay of trade that must (in my way of business) naturally ensue a famine and dearth, in as much as the persons who are the chief if not only promoters of my trade are those on whom such famine and dearth falls the heaviest (I mean the poor labouring people), for which reasons I did not think it necessary to trouble you with a detail of reasons or causes of my being reduced to my present unhappy circumstances, but as I have learnt since, that it is expected I should be more explicit and point out in a clearer manner the causes of the great decay of my distillery trade, I humbly beg leave to add here by way of supplement to my said petition, that rice is one of the principal ingredients used in making pariah arrack, upon the sale or vent of which the profits of my business chiefly arises, which articles till of late used to be purchased at two maunds for the rupee or thereabouts, whereas of late it is notorious, rice hath been at half a maund, and three fourths of a maund at most for the rupee. Another material ingredient in the composition of pariah arrack is jaggaree which is also risen in its price from ten annaes, fourteen annaes and 1 rupee per maund which it used to be formerly sold for, to one rupee twelve annaes, one rupee fourteen annaes and two rupees per maund. Again it must be observed, in working my stills a large quantity of fire wood is expended, which article also is risen in it's price from ten or twelve rupees the hundred maund which it formerly used to sell for to twenty and twenty two rupees the hundred maund. From all which it is apparent the arrack must stand me in double, if not more than double the sum it did the former renters or farmers of the arrack license, and yet I am obliged to make it equally good and sell it at the same price now as formerly or no one will buy it. Again I must further observe that on account of the great scarcity and dearness of rice, the persons who were

the chief purchasers and drinkers of the said arrack, which were chiefly the poor labouring people, are rendered incapable of purchasing the same, all the money they being able by their industry and labour to scrape together being barely sufficient to buy them rice to support life which must necessarily be their first consideration, so that my sales have gradually decreased from time to time as the price of grain and other necessaries of life grew dear. In so much that from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and thirty maunds of arrack per day which used to be the consumption of the place, I have not for a long time past been able to vend more than from twenty to twenty five or at most thirty maunds of arrack per day, the profits on which, supposing all the aforesaid ingredients to be as cheap now as they ever were, would not be sufficient to maintain my necessary workmen and keep my stills going. Abstracted from all which considerations Your Honour etc. must be sensible that I have and must have a large dead stock, the interest on which is a very heavy burthen, as is also the rent of the house, godowns, and compounds which I am obliged to have to carry on the business. From all which unavoidable accidents and expences my misfortunes have risen and I hope my known character considered, which Your Honour etc., cannot be strangers to, will do me the justice to believe my misfortunes have not been brought on by negligence or any unfair practices in me, in which hope I beg leave to do myself honour by subscribing myself with great respect.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs.

Your obedient faithful and most humble servant.

John Knox Senior.

Calcutta,

February 1st 1753.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 17, pp. 165—167.)

## 33

## LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1753

*Shipping matters—the merchants' reasons for not contracting for fine cloth—J. U. Holwell's motion for taking 'effectual possession' of Patna factory—grievances of the merchants supplying ready money goods.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the

Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. By the Chesterfield we forwarded our letter under the established heads dated the 11th February, duplicate whereof is enclosed in this packet. That ship was dispatched from Ingellie the 18th instant by Mr. Peter Amyatt when she drew $17\frac{1}{2}$ foot water upon an even keel.

2. That gentleman in his report acquainted us that he met with a severe gale of wind on his return from the ship, which drove Your Honours' Cossimbuzar budgerow from her anchors on a lee shore, where he was obliged to leave her on account of the bad weather and that he had been informed the Lyon budgerow (who could not reach the ship) was laying ashore on Kedgerie Point, upon which we ordered the Super Intendant of Your Honours' marine to send down immediate assistance and endeavour to recover them if possible.

3. The several papers relating to this ship and Captain Stevens his requests are enclosed in the packet.

4. On the 19th February, the Warehousekeeper acquainted us that some goods purchased at outcry 18 months ago were not yet cleared out. We directed him to resell them on the 15th instant, the former purchasers making good the difference to Your Honours.

5. We agreed at the same time to try some of Your Honours' woollen goods that would not lately sell.

6. The merchants having refused to contract for the serra mulmulls, we agreed to take a few peices that were offered us at ready money on the 24th ultimo at 70 Arcot Rupees per corge.

7. Our merchants having promised to provide some chucklaes (which they would not contract for) we have taken 205 peices @ 9/4/- upon a medium, as they were made by order but proving very bad we prized them accordingly.

8. We have likewise taken 188 peices of flowered cuttanees and 312 plain, the former at 9 CRs. 3a. per peice and the latter at 10 CRs. 1a. per peice, which the merchants would not contract for but agreed to make the quantity ordered if possible, but as they did not prove equal to muster we have prized them accordingly.

9. The Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar on the 16th ultimo advised us of the dispatch of Ensign Markam with 235 bales of gurrahs and 48 chests of piece goods on Your Honours' account.

10. In the same letter they replied to Your Honours' remarks and orders on their investment to the following purport, that they had already prized 6800 pieces of bandonnaes and choptaes ordinary and hoped to get in a further quantity before the dispatch of the last ship, that the list of investment per Godolphin arrived so late they had contracted for 6,000 peices of the fine choppa sarrys, agreable to a former list and as their merchants said the weavers had them in hand, they were not able to reduce them to 2000 peices as directed by Your Honours, that they could not prevail upon the merchants to contract for the very fine doosutties, as they said they could not procure proper thread, neither could they get weavers to undertake that manufacture, the same reasons were given for their not contracting for the superfine gurrahs, that they had encreased the quantity of plain taffaties this year and had done all in their power to keep up to Your Honours' directions about the colours but had not been able to get any fine blues or greens as they would turn out much dearer than others, the former of which would cost 12 rupees per peice and the latter 15, that they had endeavoured all in their power to make their merchants sensible of Your Honours' complaints with regard to the weavers twisting two broken ends of the silk together, instead of tying them in a knot, to which they reply that by this method the silk would turn out much dearer as the winders could not then be able to wind off above two threads in a day of what they do now, that agreable to the list of investment per Godolphin they had got some few peices of flowered silk of the French and Dutch musters, and expect some more in a few days when they should send them down.

11. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 19 ultimo acquainted us of their having dispatched to us the day before on Your Honours' account 190 bales and chests under the care of Lieutenant Keene, that they were in hopes their merchants would have brought into their cottah the 72 covid gurrahs agreable to their contract, but having failed therein and given no very sufficient reasons for so doing, they shall insist on their paying the penalty, that some of their merchants having brought in about 40 maunds of Guzzerat silk, which on inspecting proving extremely bad, they had returned it on their hands, that having

a tender made them of 280 peices of fine gurrahs of 37 and 2¼ and their merchants falling short in the other sortments of this article, they had taken them as dadney goods and that their merchants still continuing to deliver in gurrahs for this year's contract, they desire our permission to go on prizing them till the close of their books.

12. The 6th February the gentlemen at Dacca sent us a letter accompanying invoice of 46 bales and 1 bundle of cloth and on the 13th ultimo arrived their letter with 66 bales and 1 bundle dispatched the 24 January.

13. Under date the 17th ultimo the gentlemen at Dacca sent us invoice of 74 bales and 1 bundle of cloth dispatched to us that day and on the 26th we received another letter from them acquainting us that the small remainder of th[em] could not be then got ready on account of some rainy weather they had lately had, but they hoped to dispatch them in three days if the weather proved fair and as there is about 1500 peices mostly of fine cloth and among others near 100 peices of the superfine mulmulls of 45 cobits, they think it for Your Honours' interest they should go by the last ship, which they hoped might be if the ship was not dispatched before the customary time (that is) the 11 Ma[rch] N.S.

14. On the 13th ultimo we received a letter from the gentlemen at Jugdea dated the 30th January, enclosing invoice of cloth dispatched to us the day before and advising us, as the price of rice is of late considerably fallen, so they had been able to make some small amendment in their cloth, that in regard to the measure of their cloth, as many peices in washing will shrink beyond the stated allowance thereof, so a regularity in that point was not in their power to procure. The 26th February we received another letter from them dated the 16th with an invoice of cloth dispatched to us the day before, in which letter they recommend the dressing of their cloth without congee to our approbation which saves about a cubit in length and 2 inches in breadth, and that having but 20,000 rupees in cash they requested a further supply with all expedition.

15. Mr. Holwell on the 19th February moved the Board to take more effectual possession of Your Honours' factory at Patna than had hitherto been done, by sending up a junior servant with a corporal and two private men and that orders might be sent to keep it in such repairs only as was absolutely necessary, till Your Honours' directions thereon were known, which

motion of his we took into consideration on the 22nd and were of opinion the sending any one or two persons thither can be of no benefit to Your Honours but on the contrary make us liable to the exaction of what these country people call yearly presents. Therefore unless Your Honours should think proper to re-establish that factory we do not esteem it for your interest at present to send any one up.

16. Mr. Holwell in a letter to the Board the 19th ultimo represented the grievances of the poor occasioned by the exportation of the common rice and requested it might not be exported under 35 seer the rupee, upon which we resolved to revive our former order of the 22nd June prohibiting the exportation of it under 32 seer the Arcot Rupee and Mr. Holwell's letter Your Honours will see entered after that day's Consultation.

17. Mr. William Wogan having requested our permission to resign Your Honours' service and return to Europe on the Oxford, we have complyed with his request, as he is no ways indebted to Your Honours, and the usual 96 rupees has by him been duly paid.

18. Your Honours will observe by our Consultation of the 19th February the arrack farm had been put up to sale on the 15th at 6000 rupees at which price there was no bidders. We then sent for Mr. Knox and acquainted him of the rate we had tryed it at, and asked him if he could afford to pay that price yearly to Your Honours. He replyed the present scarcity and dearness of grain and juggaree offered no prospect of gain at that rate but that he could well answer the payment of 5,000 rupees per annum for the licence, upon which we agreed to allow it him for the remainder of his time at that price, as we found no bidders for it when put up at 6,000 rupees.

19. The judicial proceedings of the Zemindary and register of fines to the 31st December are enclosed in this ship's packet.

20. The 26th ultimo the Accomptant laid before us the merchants' accounts made up to the 31st April 1752. We then called upon them to sign their respective accounts but they objected to it for the following reasons and requested us to represent to Your Honours the hardship it was to them viz., that the dadney merchants had 50 per cent advanced them on their contracts and interest allowed them on the remaining 35 per cent, whereas the ready money goods were provided with their own money, and therefore they think it unreasonable they should be charged the penalty on their deficiency as well as the

dadney merchants when they have no interest allowed them, that before the year 1750 their accounts were always made up with interest if the penalty was taken and if we will state them in that manner as was customary formerly they are ready to sign. Hereupon we promised them to lay their remonstrance before Your Honours but told them at the same time we expected they would sign their accounts for the present and when we had Your Honours' directions hereon we should state their accounts agreeable thereto. We must now beg leave to acquaint Your Honours that we think their objection very equitable, as they have no money advanced them and consequently are obliged to employ their own, and therefore to charge them with the penalty without allowing them interest we esteem a hardship, but shall not alter the present method of stating their accounts without your approbation.

21. A bill of exchange dated the 9th January 1753 was by mistake made payable to Mr. John Jones, insttad of Mr. George Jones, for £St. 300-6-9 or CRs. 2669-11-3, which error we beg Your Honours will rectify.

22. We are now to advise Your Honours of the bills of exchange we have granted at 2/3 each rupee the amount of each having been made good before the bills were drawn out.

On the 19th February of Mr. William Wogan Junr. Current Rs. 30,000 payable to William Wogan Junr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 3375-0-0.

On the 22nd do. of William Wogan Junr. CRs. 3838-0-0 payable to William Wogan Junr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 437-8-0.

On do. do. of William Sutherland Current Rs. 222-3-6 payable to Benjamin Sutherland or order @ 2/3 per rupee is

On the 26th do. of Capt. Commandant George Minchin CRs. 1,004-8-3 payable to Messrs. Arthur Colley and John Barton or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 113-0-0.

On do. do. of Adam Dawson, Esqr. account Capt. James Barton CRs.

66,311-1-9 payable to Henry Crab Boulton or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £ 7460-0-0.

On do. do. of Mr. William Kempe CRs. 1777-12-3 payable to Eliz. Mill and Ann Kempe or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 200-0-0.

On do. do. of Mr. William Fullerton CRs. 1000"-0"- payable to Messrs. David Findlay and William Watts or order @ 2/3 is £St. 112-10-".

On the 26th February of Mr. William Fullerton CRs. 432-10-". payable to Mr. William Cox or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 48-12-".

On the 26th February of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. CRs. 888-14-3. payable to Mr. Robert Cliff or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 100-".-".

On the 28th do. of Mr. Thomas Coales CRs. 391-15-6 payable to Roger Drake Senr. Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 44-1-11.

On do. do. of Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted CRs. 1,000-".-". payable to Thomas Burnet and George Male or order of either @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 112-10-".

On the 1st March of the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account Thomas Boddam CRs. 888-14-3. payable to Peter Roberts or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 100-".-".

On do. do. of Mr. William Kempe CRs. 1418-15-9 payable to Mrs. Ann Barton or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 159-12-11.

On the 27th February of Mr. Thomas Cooke CRs. 200-1-". payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Ravenhill or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 22-10-1.

23. The whole amount of bills of exchange drawn on Your Honours is Current Rupees one hundred and nine thousand, two hundred and twenty four, six annas and six pice or £St. twelve thousand three hundred and ten. five shillings and one penny.

24. Our Secretary having notefied to Messrs. Kempe and Goddard our orders for their returning to Europe on the Oxford or Chesterfield in obedience to Your Honours' positive commands, in reply thereto they delivered in seperate letters on the 19th February which letters are duly entered after that day's Consultation, and as we are sensible the purport of them is matter of fact, we have permitted them to remain here till the earliest of next year's shipping, but at the same time we forbad them from receiving any fresh consignments or engaging themselves in any new transactions of trade whatsoever, as an excuse of that nature would not in future be admitted of by us.

25. The 22nd ultimo we examined the people on whom Your Honours' cloth (lost in the way from Dacca) was taken, and it appearing very clear to us that Narroton Biswas (who says the manjee only deposited the cloth in his house on which he lent him 180 rupees) would never have advanced any money upon a deposit from a manjee, without first examining if it was of a value equal to what he lent, and therefore could not avoid seeing Your Honours' mark on the cloth, in which case he ought to have given proper information to the Warehouse keeper, we agreed to fine him the value of the cloth found on him, if he does not within the space of a month trace out where the remainder may be discovered, hoping by this means to recover some further part of that cloth. We likewise ordered Siveran and Mauderam to make good the amount of the ten peices they purchased of the dandys, and the manjee was ordered to return the 180 rupees he received of Narroton Biswas.

26. The securities of Govindram Metre and Rogo Metre having on the 26th ultimo applied for their bonds to be given up and the time limited in them being expired we complied therewith.

27. We have for some time past intended to examine into the conduct of Mr. Joshua Bodley on the Mallabar coast as set forth in the Bombay and Tillecherry letters, and learning he was not in the place we had put it off in expectation of his return, but the Oxford being near her departure and finding he was not returned, we ordered our Sechetary on the 26th ultimo to direct him to give his immediatt attendance on the Board to answer to the charges laid against him in the above letters from Bombay and Tillecherry, in answer to which he sent in a letter this morning informing us he had obeyed our orders, but on his coming to Calcutta he was informed we intended sending him home with these letters to answer for himself to Your Honours and on that

account he had withdrawn himself again as his ruine must have been inevitable had those intentions taken place. His letter Your Honours will find entered after this day's Consultation.

28. As we had resolved to send him home on the Oxford, had we upon examination found his conduct blameable on the Malabar coast, which he has disappointed by withdrawing himself, we beg leave to assure Your Honours we shall take proper care to make a narrow scrutiny into his conduct on that coast if he ever returns to this place.

29. The Export Warehouse keeper on the 26th informed the Board that one of the boats coming lately from Dacca was lost on this side Chingree Caul by the coming in of the boar, and that he had immediately sent down all the assistance he could to recover the goods if possible but had yet heard nothing of it.

30. Your Honours will receive in this packet a letter from the Export Warehouse keeper to the Board assigning reasons why the merchants cannot provide the particular sortments of goods mentioned at the end of your last list of investment.

31. We have likewise enclosed a letter delivered us this day by Captain Lawrence Witherington for Your Honours' observation with a calculate affixt of the difference of making gun powder here and having it from Bombay. We have also delivered a sample of his powder to Captan Stevens' care for Your Honours' observation.

32. The merchants having delivered very little more than half their contracts, we called upon them to know the reason of this dificiency, which they gave us in writing. We have transmitted the same in this packet and beg to be referred thereto.

33. Since writing thus far, we have granted the following bills of exchange to the under written persons, payable ninety days after sight as usual.

On 1st March of Peter Amyatt Current Rs. 133-5-3 payable to Mr. Richd. Blunt or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 15-".-'

On do. do. of Capt. David Rannie account Mr. William Forth Current Rs. 800 payable to Mr. William Fungerson or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 90-"-

On do. do. of Captain Thomas Stevens CRs. 4,400-".". payable to himself or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 495."-

On do. do. of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account 10 chests of silver Current Rs. 34,556-12-3 payable to Mr. Sampson Gideon or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 3887-12-9.

On do. do. of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Mr. William Percival Current Rs. 5396-12-3 payable to Messrs. James Whiat and Whichurch or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 607-2-9.

On do. do. of Messrs. Kempe and Amyatt Current Rs. 776-11-3, payable to Daniel Lascelles, Esqr. or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 87-7-7.

On 1st March of Adam Dawson, Esqr. Current Rs. 10,000-".-". payable to himself or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 1125-"-".

On do. do of Messrs. Kempe and Amyatt Current Rs. 1365-0-9. payable to Mr. Robert Orme or order @ 2/3 per rupee is £St. 3887-12-9.

On do. do. of Adam Dawson Esqr. Current Rupees 68,097 payable to himself or order @ 2/3 rupee is £St. 7660-18-".

34. Captain Commandant George Minchin having sent in a letter to us in respect to his conduct towards Captain Polier and requested it might be forwarded in our packet for Your Honours' perusal, we have enclosed it accordingly and beg leave to mention his behaviour in Your Honours' service has hitherto been entirely to our satisfaction.

35. This waits on Your Honours by the Oxford, Captain Thomas Stevens, on whom we have laden sundry goods and merchandize amounting to Current Rs. 911,000-".-". as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed.

36. Mr. Edward Eyre who dispatches this ship will advise Your Honours of what further may be necessary from Ingellie.

37. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of your island St. Helena amounting to Current Rs. 1066-6-3.

38. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithfull and most obedient humble servants.

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Mackett/Edward Frankland/W. Eyre/ J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,

March the 1st, 1753.

(Ref.: L. to C. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 17, pp. 227—242.)

## 34

## LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1753

*Shipping details—little sale of woollen goods—new method of investment—defence of the Company's servants against the charges of the Court—John Wood, a free merchant, ordered to return to England for contempt of the authority of the Board—complaint of the Madras Council about lading and unlading ships at ports south of Fort St. David.*

TO the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. The Oxford, Captain Thomas Stevens, carried our address to Your Honours under date the 1st March 1753, duplicate whereof is enclosed in this packet. That ship was not dispatched from Ingellie 'till the 9th of that month, owing to her not being ready to receive her dispatches before, by which means we had the mortification to find our endeavours for her early departure from hence entirely disappointed. Mr. Edward Eyre protested against Captain Stevens for this neglect, copy of which protest he forwarded Your Honours by her. She drew at that time 17 feet 10 inches water upon an even keel.

2. By Your Honours' ship the Montfort which imported here the 25th ultimo, we were favoured with your commands of the 24th January 1753, and had before received those of the 15th December by the Clinton, and Suffolk, with the list of investment enclosed, which the President and Council of Fort St. George forwarded down to us on the Fortune sloop.

3. The season coming on for our country ships to proceed to the Coast, we take that opportunity to give Your Honours an account of the most material occurrences in your affairs under our management, since the departure of the Oxford, and purpose forwarding this address to Your Honours via Madrass, being as yet in no manner of certainty, wether we shall have it in our power to dispatch a ship from hence in September.

4. By the Montfort the President and Council of Fort St. George sent us 50 chests of treasure, in the proportions of the different species and bullion we requested sometime since, which have been safely landed.

5. Your Honours may depend we shall do the utmost in our power to dispatch home all the ships consigned us this year, but we are afraid it will be impossible to effect it, as we were obliged last year to detain the Durrington, and the Colchester was prevented by an unhappy accident from proceeding on her voyage, which encreases the tonnage Your Honours have designed us this season; we must likewise beg leave to remark that though Your Honours have destinated six ships for the Coast and Bay, yet your orders for the investment, could it be fully and in every particular complied with, would only be sufficient to lade home three, as by the calculate enclosed in this packet will evidently appear; but as there are several articles which Your Honours direct us to reject entirely, if the quality be not much better than usual and the prices lower, we are apprehensive the investment will fall short of the tonnage even of three ships, but our utmost endeavours shall not be wanting to get the greatest part away the same season they arrive, which we hope we shall be able to do with the assistance of the gentlemen at the Coast; and should we be necessitated to detain any of them, we shall pay a due regard to Your Honours' commands in favour of Captain Baron.

6. In obedience to the 24th paragraph of your letter dated the 15th December 1752, we immediately wrote by pattamar to the President and Council of Fort St. George and acquainted them

of the directions, we had received from Your Honours, to act in concert with their Presidency in the disposition and appointment of the Coast and Bay ships, requesting them at the same time to inform us how they intended to act in that respect and wether they designed to keep a ship or two to send directly from their coast, as Your Honours had empowered them, or chose to have a ship from hence in September half laden, to which we have as yet received no answer nor have they in any of their letters intimated the least advice in what manner they think the ships might be stationed for Your Honours' interest.

7. It is with great concern we observe Your Honours' displeasure as contained in the 5th paragraph of your commands dated the 24th January 1753 per Montfort, but as we are willing to hope an explanation of the motives which determined our resolutions respecting the Hardwick and Scarborough will be a means of removing the censure we have so unhappily incurred, we beg leave to lay before Your Honours the following particulars:

8. The 2nd June 1751 we received your commands per Dragon of November 28th 1750, intimating the several ships taken up for the service of that season, and advising the large supplys of treasure you intended for this settlement, not only by the shipping immediately consigned hither, but also by the China ships who were to call at Fort St. David, and by the ships to Bombay, who would carry an additional quantity of bullion to be remitted from thence as opportunitys might offer, the previous notice of which you were perswaded would give new life to your credit and facilitate the business of the investment; and were in great hopes we should dispatch to you not only the ships of former seasons but likewise all or the greater part of those then proceeding to us, the better to enable to do which we were directed to lade such a quantity of saltpetre on every ship as would, with the other goods we might have ready, compleat the charterparty tonnage but not to exceed the same, unless we were satisfied a surplus on any particular ship would not impede the dispatch of others, in which case your orders were to lade as far as fifty tonns, over and above the charterparty tonnage at half freight; you were likewise pleased to direct us to send such a quantity of saltpetre to the Cormandell coast as would enable the President and Council there to dispatch home the ships on their hands; for this purpose also 500 tons of saltpetre was ordered for Bombay, informing us at the same time that you should direct

the President and Council at Bombay to forward to us what pepper they could procure after providing for the dispatch of the ships from that coast. The 17th of July we were honoured with your commands by the Hardwicke dated the 23rd January 1750 wherein Your Honours not only confirm the foregoing orders per Dragon but are pleased to mention that the expedition under the command of Admiral Boscawen necessarily required such numbers of ships for transports that it was with the utmost concern you observed the unhappy consequences with which it had been attended, by detention of so many of the ships sent out the following seasons; and as your trade could not regularly or to so great advantage be carried on but by returning your several ships the season they arrive in India, we should do you a signal piece of service in dispatching and contributing to the dispatch of, as many as possible by all the means we could think of; referring to your commands of November the 28th 1750 per Dragon for the methods you there pointed out which you say must be particularly attended to, and further add, to prevent your paying dead freight, you empowered us to fill up the charterparty tonnage of each ship with redwood, turmerick, lack, or any other gruff goods if procurable at reasonable rates.

9. Before the arrival of the Dragon we had 769 bales remaining in the warehouse, chiefly fine goods, and being in daily expectation of a further supply from Cossimbuzar etc., we had the satisfaction to find it would be in our power to comply with your orders respecting that ship by dispatching her to Your Honours as soon as the season would permit, and she was accordingly returned in August with 700 bales etc.

10. On the arrival of the Dragon we acquainted all our merchants with the great supply of treasure Your Honours proposed sending to us that season, and with pleasure observed it had the desired effect mentioned by you, giving new life to your credit and facilitating the business of the investment; for on the 17th July we compleated our Calcutta contracts with the merchants for 3157 bales, having in the month of March preceeding sent orders to the subordinate factorys for the provision of 3922 bales by which means our whole contracts that season for 7079 bales was finished by the middle of July, over and above the remains in warehouse which was appropriated for the dispatch of the Dragon; and that we might be further enabled to obey your orders for the dispatch of the ships in India we had

compleated our contracts with Omichund for Coja Wazeed's saltpetre, eighty six thousand maunds (Mds 86000), the 24th July after having used every other means in our power to furnish ourselves elsewhere but without effect, reducing the price from ARs. 6/8 to 5/14 per factory maund, which will more fully appear by our Consultations of that year.

11. The 17th July we received a letter from the President and Council of Fort St. David per Hardwicke dated the 22nd June intimating their taking up the Warwick for China and proposing to employ the Hardwicke on freight also, and by the Scarborough the 8th August we received another letter from said Presidency with their proposal of letting out the Scarborough on freight to Mocha, but we beg leave to observe no mention was made of their being able to get about 40000 ARs. freight for each ship, 'till we received their letter dated the 17th September. in answer to the reasons we assigned for not complying with their proposals, as may be seen by reference to their letters dated 22nd June per Hardwicke, July 19th per Scarborough and 17th September as extracted in our Consultations of said dates. On receipt of these advices we duely considered the state of our investment and the tenour of your orders of that season. Our contracts being compleated for 7079 bales and 86000 maunds of saltpetre, we had great reason to believe we should be enabled to execute your commands for returning home to you the ships remaining in India as well as those expected that season. The Dragon being provided with a cargoe for Europe, and the Brittania to be sent to take in the bales at Madrass, the Kent and London not returned from their freight voyages or expected till September or October, none of the Coast and Bay ships arrived except the Warwick taken up for China, and the Hardwicke and Scarborough proposed to be employed on freight; Your Honours' orders very pressing for the return of your ships in India, giving us great latitude in the disposition of their lading and pointing out various methods to effect what you so much desired; under all these circumstances we thought we could not anyways answer to Your Honours a deviation from your commands and leave ourselves entirely destitute of any conveyances for your investment, considering the many instances of the late arrival of your shipping from Europe, for neither the Kent, London, Benjamin, or Norfolk arrived us the former season 'till the Month of October, the Warren the 25th January the same season, the Caesar and Eastcourt the 9th January the year 1749

12. The foregoing are the real motives which induced us to act in the manner advised in our letters of that season, and as Your Honours' interest and commands were consulted as far as our abilities would extend, and the circumstances of the times admit, we are willing to hope this recital of the reasons for our conduct will remove the censure we have so unhappily incurred.

13. With regard to the great superiority of freight received for your ships, the Governour and Council of Madrass mentioning they could have obtained for the Hardwicke and Scarborough about 40000 Arcot Rupees for each ship, whereas we let the Walpole out for 24000 Current Rupees, and the London for 20000 Current Rupees, we beg leave to assure Your Honours this must rather be imputed to us as a misfortune not a fault, and can only arise from the advantages on the trade from Madrass superior to what we experience here, for the freighters of the Walpole and London on making up their voyages received such inconsiderable profit that we firmly believe none of your ships would let out for twenty thousand rupees (20000 Rs) freight at present.

14. In complyance with Your Honours' orders relating to the office of Master Attendant we shall ourselves contract for the stores wanted for the use of your marine as soon as Captain Lutton arrives, who is at present out of the place. We shall likewise put in execution what further regulations Your Honours have been pleased to make in that office on Captain Luttons taking charge of it

15. The negligence Your Honours are pleased to mention in our sending home the Severn and Walpole eighty tonns each dead freighted, regarding principally our President, he requested to insert on Consultation how that error arose, which must have been owing to those ships having been country voyages and he concluded on their return that their charterpartys were of the same tenour with those ships of that year and 'till Your Honours' paragraph thereon was read, he remained ignorant of so gross a mistake having happened; otherwise he would have endeavoured to take off any ill impression such a carelessness may have made to his prejudice, but as no benefit could possibly arise to himself therefrom, he flatters himself Your Honours will be convinced he could not design an injury to the Hon'ble Company, and therefore hopes this acknowledgment of his fault will restore him to your favour, premising further that the

censure he has now received will urge his utmost attention in future to Your Honours' affairs and your interest, which he has always strongly attached himself to, and not knowingly or willingly acted contrary to your benefit.

16. In answer to what Your Honours have wrote about the late dispatch of the Brittania from hence, the reason for which has not fully appeared to Your Honours, we beg leave to wipe off the censure of negligence and inattention, to which Your Honours have imputed this delay, by a recital of the following circumstances which we flatter ourselves will sufficiently convince Your Honours it was not in our power to have dispatched her sooner; and when the Brittania was reported fit to take in goods, we had but 902 maunds of saltpetre left on ballance, which being much too little for our then occasions, we contracted on the 1st July with Benautrambose for 6000 maunds of that article but did not receive it from Hughley 'till the latter end of that month. As soon as it was landed and weighed off here we sent it away to the Brittania which was the 3rd August following, but it did not get to the ship 'till the 11th which we could not possibly foresee. The 902 mds. of petre in our warehouse was laden in the meanwhile on board the Dragon, that we might loose no time; and as soon as the Brittania had taken in her rice and saltpetre she was dispatched from hence, the time of which dispatch we beg leave to observe was no later than usual for ships bound to the Coast at that season.

17. On the 15th March we tried Your Honours' woollen goods at publick outcry, but there being no bidders at the prices we put them up at, we agreed to keep them 'till another opportunity, and as the time drew near for the arrival of the Europe ships, we came to a resolution of trying them once more before the ships of this season came in, which was accordingly done on the 13th July, but there being little or nothing sold at the price we put them up at, which was 15 per cent upon that invoice price, we consulted if we could not put them up at a lower rate, but upon referring to Your Honours' commands of the 8th January we found them so positive that we should not sell them under 15 per cent upon invoice price, that we agreed to keep them till another opportunity. Upon enquiring into the reason of this backwardness to purchase Your Honours' woollen goods, we learn the great imports lately made of those commodities by the French have lessened the value of them and that

the consumption is much decreased since the abscense of the Morattoes. Consequently the demand not near so urgent.

18. After the dispatch of the last year's shipping the first thing we took into consideration was the provision of a quantity of saltpetre for the ensuing season, and that we might procure it on the cheapest terms we resolved to make an application to the Dutch and French to permit their Chiefs at Patna to provide us the quantity of saltpetre we should be in want of, which we would contract with them for to be delivered at Hughley on any reasonable terms. We first addressed the Dutch Directore and Council thereon and upon their refusing to undertake such a provision we wrote to Mr. De Leyrit and his Council at Chandernagore who likewise declined it.

19. Upon failing of success in the above application we asked our merchants on the 2nd April if they would undertake to supply us with the quantity of saltpetre we should be in want of, but their reply being evasive and very unsatisfactory we had recourse to Omichund who being called before us, we made the same demand to him, whose answer was that the petre was none of his own but Coja Wazeed's, that the proprietor insisted on ARs. 6.2 for each maund, and that he would contract with us at 6.4 for 60000 maunds, the advance of 2 annaes required by him being as a consideration for his paying the penalty in case the contract should not be complied with. Esteeming the price too extravagant we sent for him on the 12th April and offered him ARs. 5·12 per factory md. for 60000 mds. to which he promised to give a final answer next week.

20. The President on the 23rd April acquainted the Board he had been encouraged by Coja Wazeed's gomastah to apply to Coja Wazeed himself to contract with us for our saltpetre, instead of Omichund, that esteeming it for the Hon'ble Company's interest to purchase this article from the proprietor of it rather than at second hand (by which we should probably get it something cheaper, at least save the 2 annaes to be allowed to Omichund) he had wrote to Coja Wazeed about it, whose gomastah was on the spot and might be sounded by the Board. We accordingly sent for him and asked him on what terms his master would contract with us for his saltpetre and for what quantity? His reply to which was that he had wrote to his

master about it, and in three or four days should be able to satisfye us.

21. On the 30th April one Hurruckchund deputed by Wazeed's gomastah (who was returned to Hughley) attended us on his behalf and acquainted the Board he had orders from Coja Wazeed to contract with us for the delivery at Calcutta of fifty one thousand maunds (Mds. 51000) of saltpetre at ARs. 5.14 per factory md. between the months of September and January, that his master required no money to be advanced before the delivery of the petre, but interest on the amount from the day of making the contract and that he (Hurruckchund) would sign the teep for the delivery of it with the usual penalty in case of failing in the contract. There being so wide a difference between the price Coja Wazeed now offered his petre at, and what Omichund had demanded of us on the 2nd April, we sent for him in and made him acquainted with the purport of Wazeed's offer, asking him at the same time what he could say thereto and how excuse his requiring so advanced a price as 6.4 when the proprietor himself was willing to contract for it at 5.14? His answer was to the following effect: That when he first made application to Coja Wazeeds for this petre, he could not by any means prevail upon him to part with it under ARs. 6.2 per factory md. which he informed the Board of, and offered to have the contract drawn out in his name for a consideration of 2 annaes in the maund, that since that time the President with great difficulty and some expence has prevailed on Wazeed to sell his petre at ARs. 5.14 per factory md. and as this transaction has saved Your Honours a large sum of money, and might have an appearance to his disadvantage, he was content to give up the consideration of 2 annaes per md. which he at first insisted on, and contract with us for it at the price Wazeed himself had offered it, or even for less, if we thought proper (though he should be a sufferer), in order to obviate any suspicion of his having acted collusively. Esteeming this a very fit opportunity to lower the price of that article, we acquainted him that as the President had taken so much pains to reduce the extravagant price of this petre and had met with so much success as to engage Wazeed to contract for it @ 5.14 instead of 6.2, we expected he would give it at a still lower price if he desired the contract to be made with him, upon which he offered it at ARs. 5.13 the factory md. though he affirmed he should thereby be a sufferer, which offer we agreed to take into consideration the next Council day.

22. Upon resuming the contract for saltpetre the President requested to lay before the Board, previous to their final determination on so important a branch of the investment, the reasons which induced him to engage so far in his endeavours to procure that article from Coja Wazeed himself, whose property it is, and which are in substance as follows: In the first place he observed to the Board that Omichund in our Consultation of the 2nd April demanded ARs. 6.4 per md. which being a very extravagant price he resolved to try every means in his power to reduce it, which he has at last had the satisfaction to effect, though with much pains and difficulty, and by promising on his part that the contract should be made in Coja Wazeed's name or in that of his gomastah, who had thereupon consented to give it at ARs. 5.14 per factory md. and who was ready to enter into the same penal engagements as it customary in case of default on his part. The President further premised that Omichund's views in offering it one annae per md. cheaper than Wazeed could be no other than to maintain his great power at this place which has been hitherto, he conceived, by much too extensive; and therefore making the contract with him will be still adding thereto, as he did not doubt but Omichund would make his boast (should he carry his point) that the President was not able to succeed in this affair, by which Coja Wazeed would ever after be closely united to Omichund and hearken to no propositions from any one else in the purchase of any articles proper for the Hon'ble Company, petre being not the only one he is supplied with from Patna, but turmerick, tincall, and cloth likewise, all of which articles Your Honours stand in need of. The President therefore thought the steps he had taken, should the Board confirm them by contracting with Wazeed, would tend greatly more to the emolument of our hon'ble employers than the difference of one annae per md., Omichund's offer at that time, but submitted his judgment to the opinion of the Board and hoped it would by them be thought reasonable (if in their thoughts he had been any ways instrumental to Your Honours' interest) to be defrayed the expence he had been at on this occasion in presents etc., amounting to about two thousand five hundred rupees, or if we thought proper he was willing to submit it to Your Honours if he should be reimbursed or not.

23. After having well weighed and considered what the President had urged as recited in the preceding paragraph, the opinion of the Board was demanded in whose name it would

be more eligible to make the contract. For our several opinions we shall beg leave to stand referred to our Consultation of the 3rd May enclosed, when the majority seemed to think the contract should be made with Wazeed for the reasons alledged by the President, provided he would give one or two responsible merchants of Calcutta as securities for his complying with the tenour of his contract, but as some of the members of the Board were of opinion that the contract should be made with him that would give it on the cheapest terms, and that Omichund might be brought to reduce the price still lower, we sent for him in again and asked him if he would lower the price of his petre? His reply to which was that he was willing to give it us for one annae in the maund less than Wazeed and the same quantity, but could not afford to reduce it more as he must be a prodigious sufferer if he did. As we did not esteem this any equivalent for making void the promise which the President had given Wazeed, that the contract should be made in his name, and which the majority consented to, provided he could give us a security as abovementioned, we called in Hurruckchund, Coja Wazeed's gomastah, and asked him if his master would agree to sign the teep jointly with another responsible person who should be equally bound for the performance thereof. After some hesitation he replyed that he could not admit of any persons becoming security for his master, but if we were dubious of his performing the contract or evading the penalty in case of failure, he was ready to deposite in our hands a Company's interest note to the amount of the penalty as a security for his complying with the tenour of his contract. As we were apprehensive this deposite so far from answering the intent of a security might only involve us in some difficultys at the Durbar, should we detain it on his failure, we came to a resolution once more to try if Omichund would abate any thing in the price of the petre, by which means we might save Your Honours a considerable sum of money and at the same time be under a greater security of having the contract complied with. Accordingly on the 10th May we sent for him in and made the same demand of him as before *viz.*, if he would lower the price? He then told us he would contract for it at ARs. 5.12 the factory maund though he assured us he should be thereby a sufferer of 2 annaes in the maund.

24. Having thus far reduced the price of that article and finding it would not be in our power to bring it any lower, we

accepted of this proposal and then asked him what quantity he would engage to deliver us and when? to which he made answer he would contract for 51,000 maunds to be delivered in Calcutta. 20.000 mds. of it by the 30th September and the remainder between that and the 20th February. These terms being very agreable to us we agreed to contract with him on them and ordered him to lay before us the musters of his petre, which he accordingly did the next Council day and his teep being drawn out, he signed it before the Board the same day. Thus we have given Your Honours a full account of this transaction wherein we hope we shall merit your approbation by reducing the price even 2 annaes lower than what we gave for it last year.

25. The merchants having delivered us a letter a little before the dispatch of the Oxford (which we transmitted Your Honours by that ship) relating to the remains of cloth in our warehouses which arrived too late to be prized and sent home that year, they attended the Board on the 2nd April and desired our determination on the purport thereof, representing at the same time that many of the articles had been impeded from arriving earlier by the obstructions of the chokeys who had extorted from their Malda boats between three and four hundred rupees each boat. This we admitted might be true but remarked to them that there was a great deficiency of goods made nigh us which could not have been delayed by those chokeys and that although they represented to us early in the season that they had ready made some goods, which Your Honours had forbid, and desired we would take them as they had provided them upon the former year's orders, which we had consented to, yet those goods did not come into the factory 'till our last prizing, which proceeding of theirs was very injurious to Your Honours' affairs and disappointed our intentions of getting away the ships for Europe early in the season, as well as the management of loading them to a certain value as directed by Your Honours. But in consideration of what they represented to us and the heavy loss they would sustain by our absolute refusal of those goods even to the ruin of many of them and prevent their engaging in any new investment, and as it might have been a great advantage to Your Honours to have had in readiness a quantity of goods for the early dispatch of this year's shipping, we agreed in our Consultation of the 2nd April to take the balances then in our godowns of about three laack on

the following restrictions *viz.*, those goods provided at the aurungs where the chokeys had really distressed the merchants and impeded the arrival of the cloth to be taken on last year's contract, those provided near us to be prized from the 30th April and interest allowed them from that time, those goods which we consented to take from the consideration of their being provided on former orders, as they were not brought into the cottah till near the last prizing, to be rejected and the penalty to be paid on the deficiency of their contracts; having acquainted them on what terms we would accept of the cloth then in our godowns they requested a little time to give their final answer thereto, which on the 23rd April they gave us when they would not comply with any of our proposals for several frivolous reasons which we could by no means admit of and therefore acquainted them once more if they were contented to give the cloth on the terms we had mentioned we would take it, otherwise we should reject the whole and charge the penalty on the deficiency of their contracts, which offers of ours being by them absolutely refused we bid them withdraw and ordered our Accomptant to settle their accompts with the penalty charged on the ballances of their contracts.

26. As we have been this year obliged to provide Your Honours' investment in a method entirely different to what has hitherto been followed, it will be necessary to set the whole transaction in as clear a light as we possibly can, that Your Honours may see the necessity we have been under of taking the steps we have done and from thence judge favourably of our conduct. should it not meet with all the success we flatter ourselves it may, and if in this detail we should appear rather too prolix, we hope Your Honours will excuse a fault we cannot well avoid in order to illustrate our motives for setting aside the customary methods of procuring your investments and preferring one that has many difficultys to contend with; having premised thus much we shall proceed to our narrative and begin with our orders on the 17th May to the merchants to prepare their proposals for contracting with us for the investment of the present year, directing our Export Warehouse Keeper at the same time to bring in the list of goods ordered by Your Honours in your last command[s] per Godolphin.

27. The Export Warehouse Keeper accordingly on the 24th May laid before us a list of such goods, upon which the

merchants were called in and asked in what manner they proposed to contract for the present year's investment, their reply to which was that for three years past they had been sufferers by their contracts for the investment, that a large parcell of their cloth of last year's still remained in our warehouses unprized, that 'till they knew how their accompts were to be settled for the last year they could not think of entering into any new engagements, that they could not sign their accompts for the year 1751 unless we allow them interest on the deficiency of their ready money contracts, should we charge the penalty thereon, and that if we insisted on the penalty of last year they desired they might take the remaining cloth to their own houses.

28. Having considered of the above reply of the merchants and thinking the giving up so reasonable a point to them as the interest on the deficiency of the ready money goods might induce them to undertake the investment of this year on better terms than they otherwise would and with more alacrity, we complied with that part of their request. We acquainted them at the same time that we should certainly charge the penalty on the deficiencys of this year and that they had liberty to take the remaining cloth to their own houses upon giving security for their ballances. We then directed them to give us a positive answer on what terms they were willing to contract for the ensuing investment, without further trifling or evasion, else we should endeavour to procure it by some other method.

29. Before they gave us any answer to our directions as above cited, we received Your Honours' commands per Clinton and Suffolk under date the 15th December 1752 with a list of goods to be provided this year, which being compared with the former by the Export Warehouse Keeper, the differences were taken notice of and laid before us. Upon a perusal of this list we found Your Honours' complaints of the ill quality of our investment so strenuously repeated, and your expectations of our utmost endeavours to amend the same by some effectual methods that we resolved to try all in our power to better the terms hitherto made with our merchants for the provision of Your Honours' investment.

30. The merchants on the 31st May, in consequence of what we had directed them on the 24th, attended the Board with their answer to our demand of the terms they proposed to

contract the present year's investment on. After repeating to us their having suffered these three years past by Your Honours' business they told us they could not on any account undertake the investment upon the same terms they did the last year, but that as they had served Your Honours almost from their infancy and lived under your protection, they would do their utmost to forward your business and were therefore willing to contract with us upon the following conditions and no others: First they would not contract on the old musters nor on those of last year, next they would not consent to a less advance than 85 per cent dadney as was formerly practised and would contract for no ready money goods at all, that their cloth should be sorted mill moffick (and not in the present method), that is each parcell or toke brought into the godown should be divided into five letters and then prized agreable to their quality, that if their goods were detained in the way by chokeys or other impediments from the Government or if they delivered them into our godowns any time before the departure of all our Europe ships they could not consent to pay any penalty, and lastly that no penalty should be charged them on more than was short delivered of the money they were advanced.

31. Upon a consideration of the above proposals of our merchants we found them so extravagantly unreasonable that we could not pretend to comply therewith in any shape whatever, of which we acquianted them and asked them if they would not recede from what they had proposed to us just now. Ramkissenseat thereupon replied that if we were content with the terms they had offered us he would contract, otherwise he absolutely refused to undertake any part of the investment himself; esteeming this peremptory behaviour of Ramkissenseat's as a piece of insolence and what merited our resentment we dismissed him Your Honours' dadney and bid him withdraw, flattering ourselves the making a severe example of so considerable a person might have some good effect on the rest and induce them to offer us better terms.

32. We then agreed the President jointly with the Export Warehouse Keeper and his Deputy should examine Your Honours' general letters and standing orders relative to the investment and form out of them some proposals on our side for the merchants to contract for the investment on. The

merchants were at the same time informed that we should ourselves prepare some proposals for them against the next Council day when we expected their final answer, if they would contract with us or not, that we might endeavour in case they refused to procure our goods elsewhere.

33. The President and two Warehouse Keepers having examined (as was above agreed on) Your Honours' general letters and standing orders for some years past and collected the directions on that material branch of the Hon'ble Company's affairs the investment, laid before us the 4th June the result of their enquiries on that head, which being formed into proposals for making the contracts this year were in substance as follows. To contract on the old musters as usual, that we would receive no goods inferior to the musters of last year, to sort the goods in the same method as last year, to advance but 30 per cent dadney, to have a due proportion of ready money goods, the penalty to be charged on the deficiencys of their whole contracts and on the different species of goods short delivered instead of lumping it as was formerly done, to have it in our option to refuse or take the goods tendered us after the expiration of the time limited in their teeps and to have the price of their goods reduced; these were the proposals made them on our part (corresponding as nearly as possible to Your Honours' orders) which the merchants being called in had distinctly read to them and then were asked if they were willing to undertake the provision of the investment upon those terms, they replyed they could not possibly accept them without being ruined.

34. As we did not then imagine they were determined to insist upon the terms they at first offered us or refuse to meddle with the investment and believing some parts of our proposals might be too strict for them to comply with, we demanded them to recede from their proposals of the 31st May and make us any others that were more reasonable and with which we might venture to comply. But they replied that the terms they had that day made us were what they could not possibly recede from, especialy that part relating to the advance of dadney; we then took the pains to repeat to them each of their demands separately and asked them if they would relinquish any one? But we are sorry to acquaint Your Honours we found them obstinately bent not to give up a single point of what they had offered, which upon perusal was found to be so extremely unreasonable

and so very inconsistant with Your Honours' expectations that we could not but think we should have deservedly incurred your displeasure had we accepted them. We were therefore unanimous in opinion that the merchants' proposals should be rejected and other methods taken for procuring Your Honours' investment this season which might better answer your orders for not risquing too much of your estate at once and have our goods brought early into the warehouse besides, which we are very sensible from last year's experience how little able our merchants are to effect, even should we have contracted with them on their own terms.

35. Publick notice was thereupon ordered to be affixed at the fort gates in the several languages that Your Honours' musters should be exposed to view in the cottah, that if any person would contract with us for such sortments of goods, their terms would be accepted of, if adjudged reasonable by the Board.

36. As we were sensible we could never provide the whole investment by this method alone and as the uncertainty of having any contractors made it necessary to find out other means more to be depended on, we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper and his Deputy to examine carefully Your Honours' general letters and standing orders relative to this branch of your affairs, lay your sentiments and directions thereon before us and form a method to provide the same upon a plan the nearest corresponding with your orders.

37. Before we proceed any further we must beg Your Honours will candidly reflect on what we have already recited, observe the obstinacy and insolence of the merchants, our endeavours to induce them to offer terms more beneficial to Your Honours (by giving up the interest on their ready money contracts and considering the hardships they pretended they had suffered from the chokeys who had detained their boats), our making a severe example of the most considerable man among them in hopes of its having a good effect upon the rest, and lastly their resolution not to relinquish any one point of their offers when we took the pains to repeat to them their own demands, article by article, and asked them if they would recede from any one, especially that of the large advance of dadney so positively forbid by your orders. When these things are considered we flatter ourselves Your Honours will be convinced

of the necessity we have been under to dismiss these merchants from your service and coincide with us in our opinion that it was more eligible and more for the benefit of our employers to take the steps we have done than continue the usual method, under such disadvantages as the terms the merchants insisted on would have laid us under.

38. On the 7th June the Export Warehouse Keeper and his Deputy, pursuant to the orders we had given them on the 4th, delivered in a letter to the Board, in which they pointed out the methods for providing the investment of this year, agreeing as nearly as possible with Your Honours' directions thereon in several of your standing orders, which being referred to were publickly read at the Board. As this letter not only touches on the methods for providing the investment, but sets to view some other necessary matters in respect to the conduct of our late merchants for some years past, we have transmitted the same in this packet for Your Honours' perusal.

39. That we might not appear too hasty in our determination on a point of such consequence, we agreed to let the above-mentioned letter lay some days for consideration and that every particular member might, if he thought fit, take it to his house for perusal, and have an opportunity, by reflecting on the purport thereof, to offer anything that might appear to him as an amendment or object to any part he may disapprove. But that we might lose no time, the season being already far advanced, we ordered a publick advertisement to be affixed at the fort gates, giving notice that we intended to employ gomastahs at the aurungs on account Your Honours and that if any person or persons are willing to go up in that station and are approved of by the Board, giving sufficient security for discharging the trust reposed in them, they should be entertained in Your Honours' service.

40. The Warehouse Keepers' letter having been perused by the members of the Board at their own houses, when we met on the 10th June, Mr. Holwell delivered us a letter marking out some alterations which he thought necessary to be made to the methods pointed out by the Export Warehouse Keeper and his Deputy for conducting the provision of the investment this year. This letter is likewise enclosed for Your Honours' observation.

41. We then took into consideration the letter from the Warehouse Keepers, which being read again at the Board, we were of opinion it was the only means left us to procure Your Honours' investment with any security, upon which we made the following regulations for the conduct of it, *viz.*, that substantial gomastahs approved of by the Board should be employed at the aurungs, giving sufficient security for the discharge of their trust, and that they undertake no other than the Hon'ble Company's business on forfeiture of their wages and allowances, that each gomastah have the different musters of the cloth (made at the aurungs he is destined to) delivered him for his guide as well as the head letters of the musters of last year's prizing, with orders to keep up to that goodness and prepare as soon as possible fifty or one hundred (50 or 100) pieces of each sortment and send them down for our inspection, that no gomastah employed at the adjacent aurungs be entrusted with more than twenty thousand rupees (Rs. 20,000) at one time, that the lengths and breadths of each species of cloth be given in writing to the gomastah and he directed to keep strictly to them, that all occurrences relative to the investment be consulted and approved of in Council before it be executed and that the gomastahs be ordered to send frequent advices of their proceedings addressed to the Board. We likewise agreed that no banyan or servant belonging to any member of the Board be employed as a gomastah.

42. The regulation for addressing all letters and advices from the aurungs to the Board, being founded on the objection Mr. Holwell seemed to think there lay against the Warehouse Keepers having that office, was upon further consideration esteemed to be very inconvenient as the delays in summoning a Council upon the receipt of every letter would be many and frequent and no small interruption to the carrying on of the business. It was therefore thought necessary that some one person should be appointed to receive advices, proposals etc., for carrying into execution the present plan of our investment, so that they might in due form and order be laid before us for our consideration and directions, and as this office more particularly related to the warehouse, we agreed the Export Warehouse Keeper should be empowered to receive such proposals, advices etc., and lay them regularly before the Board, whose resolutions and orders through him should be transmitted back. The influence taken notice of by Mr. Holwell which a Warehouse

Keeper may by this means have over gomastahs and others to Your Honours' prejudice, can we apprehend be no objection at all as the Warehouse Keeper by the foregoing regulations has no power separate or independent of the President and Council, all transactions being only to be prepared by him and laid before the Board for their orders and he no more than the channell to convey those orders back which is a part of his duty and in case of infedelity or undue influence the Board have always a power to displace any Warehouse Keeper and appoint another in his stead.

43. We likewise took into consideration that part of Mr. Holwell's letter wherein he thinks it necessary that a chubdar should be sent from hence to Muxadavad with a letter from the President to the Nabob and were of opinion it would rather be a prejudice to carrying on our business as we purposed than of service by putting the Durbar in mind of what they would not probably think of otherwise, and as Your Honours' phirmaund gives us a priviledge to provide our goods in the manner we esteem most for your interest we could see no reason for such application till we found our business disturbed.

44. When Your Honours observe, by the regulations we have made for the conduct of your business, we have been particularly carefull to obviate the calumny of any sinister views to our own interest in the plan we are now pursuing by directing every transaction to be carryed on in the most publick manner, and by coming to an agreement that no banyan or servant belonging to any member of the Board should be employed at the aurungs on your account, we flatter ourselves Your Honours will be so favourable as not to give credit to any malicious intimations to our prejudice in that respect, which the novelty of the method may probably induce some men to represent in a bad light, should the success of it not answer the intention.

45. Our regulations being settled and notices having been sometime affixed that we should employ gomastahs in Your Honours' service, one Kissenchurn offered himself on the 14th June for Santipore and as he was a person esteemed worth money and had a family in the place we sent for him in and demanded on what term[s] he was willing to serve and what security he could give for his good behaviour. He replied he was willing to serve on the following conditions, to receive fifty rupees per month wages and a palankeen, that he must be allowed a cash keeper, 2 writers, 4 pikes and 4 peons from hence

with liberty to take more when he arrives at the aurungs as he sees occasion, that his son would be his security as well as the houses and possessions he had in Calcutta, that he would provide the cloth he is directed to purchase without any further advantages whatever than the allowance beforementioned, that we must stand to all bad debts, except those which arise on the providing of cloth by means of puttun, which it is customary for a deloll to be answerable for on receiving the usual delolly. As these proposals appeared to us very reasonable and fair, we agreed to employ him at Santipore as our gomastah upon the terms he had mentioned, and as he has possessions in the place to a much larger amount than he will ever be entrusted with at one time, we thought the security of his son jointly with himself very sufficient, especially as the cash keeper will be one of our own appointment and have one of the keys of the cash chest. At the same time we acquainted Kissenchurn that if we found him guilty in charging Your Honours more than he paid for the cloth or any fraud whatever we should not only make him refund the over charge but mulct him very severely. Thereupon we gave orders to the Export Warehouse Keeper to provide the cash keeper and other assistants to attend him and to get their security bonds and teeps drawn out.

46. Mr. Edward Eyre thinking the security offered by Kissenchurn was not sufficient and ought not to be accepted by us gave in his reasons for dissenting thereto in a letter on the 18th; having considered the purport thereof we were of opinion it was obvious from what had passed on the 14th that the security the Board depended on was the general opinion that he was a responsible person and known to have large possessions in the settlement; his refusing therefore to make over such possession in formal mortgage bond as security was really no objection as he could not do it without injury to his credit and character and as he acknowledges in the teep (that day laid before us) they were answerable for all frauds and embezzlements by him committed, nor could it reasonably be expected that an indifferent person would become security for any gomastah without some venal equivalent. As to the objection of the cash keeper's having orders to deliver what sums the gomastah may demand, though that cannot be avoided, yet this cash keeper would be a considerable check on the gomastah by regularly entering the particulars of every purchase for which any sums will be advanced.

47. That letter recommending likewise the employing some of Your Honours' junior servants at the aurungs, we were of opinion that, as none of them understood much of the language, they could not possibly be of any use at present, on the contrary the expence would be needless, the prices of goods be probably raised and be a cover only for the gomastah's committing many frauds he might not attempt but under such a sanction.

48. The Export Warehouse Keeper on the 18th informing us that Kissenchurn's security bonds and teep were prepared and that he had provided the cash keeper, assistants to attend him in consequence of our orders, they were sent for in and having executed their teeps and security bonds before us we ordered the Warehouse Keeper to dispatch them to Santipore as soon as possible with ten thousand Arcot Rupees (ARs. 10000) and the following directions, to procure immediately (50) fifty or (100) one hundred pieces of cloth and forward them to us with an account of the first cost and charges thereon of each piece, as well as what is brought to credit. account short measure and other allowances whatever, to advise us as soon as he can of the state of the aurung, what money will best answer for the procurement of goods, the different sortments made there (musters of which to be forwarded hither with the prices) and what kinds of cloth are purchased by the French and Dutch Companys, to knott all new cloth every 25th thread and to include in the invoices he sends down the number of threads contained in each species of cloth, to advise us from time to time the progress he makes and to take care that he keeps up the quality of the cloth.

49. Having dispatched this gomastah to Santipore there were others soon after that offered themselves for different aurungs and upon giving sufficient security were by us accepted and employed. As the terms they went upon were much the same as those of Kissenchurn, we shall not trouble Your Honours with a tedious repetition of them but enclose for Your Honours' observation a list of the several gomastahs, cash keepers and assistants which we have employed at the aurungs under which they are placed.

50. When we had proceeded thus far in the provision of Your Honours' investment on the plan already so fully related in this letter, we were moved by Mr. Edward Eyre the 23rd June to call in our late dadney merchants again and contract

with them if they could be prevailed on to recede from the terms they had hitherto insisted on, which he was well assured they would willingly do and then he thought the usual method of providing the investment by their means would be more eligible in many respects than sending gomastahs to the aurungs.

51. Upon taking the above motion into consideration we thought it necessary to make the following observations, that it was certain the merchants had assembled themselves of a night lately, and we knew no other end for their meeting in this uncustomary manner than to throw obstacles in our way and occasion delay in our present undertaking for the investment, that publick notice had been affixed and now remained at the fort gates that we were willing to contract with any one on reasonable terms, therefore if any of our late dadney merchants had an inclination to contract, their proposals would be listened to and accepted if reasonable, but that their making overtures to particular members was a mark of their crafty designs to interrupt the progress of the investment, for if their intentions were good they would naturally offer themselves publickly and propose better terms than they had hitherto done and given us a positive answer they would not recede from in the least degree when they were interrogated to every particular article they required. Mr. Holwell on the 25th June delivered in a letter with his reasons why Mr. Eyre's motion should not be complied with and the dadney merchants be secluded from having any hand in the provision of the investment this year at least, which corresponding with the sentiments of the Board we resolved to avoid calling them in for the present in a body but that if any separate merchant had proposals to make for ready money contracts they might offer themselves freely without giving us any umbrage and we should be pleased to make contracts with our black inhabitants and Armenians on reasonable terms and with any certainty of their engagements being complied with. Mr. Eyre thereupon desired leave to acquaint us he was far from thinking (from the reasons set forth in his letter) the purchasing by gomastahs advantageous for our hon'ble masters, therefore he could not agree thereto and declared whatever gomastahs were sent in future were against his consent.

52. Mr. Eyre's two letters and Mr. Holwell's answer to his last are transmitted in this packett under their respective numbers as marked in the list.

53. As we had but little money in the treasury at that time, and should be in want of a good deal for the supply of the aurungs before the arrival of the Europe ships, we agreed to take up at interest as far as one laack and a half of Current Rupees (CRs. 150000).

54. On the 25th June we ordered the cottah should be opened for the reception of ready money goods if offered, and as there are some cloths made in or near Calcutta and would probably be brought in by the weavers and delolls when they knew we were purchasing, we likewise agreed to send two of our sorters to those places with about 800 rupees each to buy those sortments that we might by that means be ascertained of their neat cost and enabled to fix a price on what we should take in future.

55. Mr. Holwell having on the 3rd July laid before us two accounts of the cost and charges of some sortments of cloth made in Calcutta of the kind purchased for Your Honours' investment to be a guide to us in our purchases of those goods this season, we directed the Export Warehouse Keeper to have some made in the same manner and lay before us the musters with the cost and charges of making, which he accordingly did on the 16th of that month; the particulars of the cost etc., of the three pieces he then produced are entered upon the face of that day's Consultations and turn out at a medium ARs. 3·3 per patch of soot romals, but then he remarked to the Board that this was the exact cost of those goods from the loom and that on providing a quantity they would cost from four to six annaes per piece more, no allowance having been made in the above calculate for delolly, picarry and other incidental charges etc. He acquainted us at the same time that by the best information he could obtain the weavers would be able to make near five thousand (5000) pieces monthly of the fabrick proper for Your Honours, but this they would not engage to perform without they were in some particular degree encouraged and protected from being taken off their work by those not immediately employed for the Hon'ble Company.

56. Upon an inspection of these musters and comparing them with those received of the merchants last year, we found them of a greatly superior quality and considerably cheaper. We therefore agreed the weavers should be set to work immediately for making a quantity of these romals, and the easier to

procure what we shall be in want of we ordered publick notice should be affixed at the fort gates and the dole sent round to interdict any persons from providing the Company's sortments of soot romals except those immediately impowered by us.

57. Several musters of other kinds of coloured goods indented for by Your Honours were laid before us by the Warehouse Keepers on the 2nd August, with the particulars of their cost and charges as they turn out from the loom, on which will be an advance from 6 to 8 annaes per piece when any quantity is provided. The sortments were as follows *viz.*, coopees 1000 threads 20 and 2 each ARs. 2.6 as.. soot romalls fine 45 and 1½ upon a medium ARs. 4.4, Barnagur roomalls 17½ and 1¾ upon a medium ARs. 2.6. Upon examination of these musters and comparing them with those of last year we found they far exceeded them in quality and were much cheaper and therefore directed the Warehouse Keeper to set about making a provision of such a quantity as Your Honours had ordered.

58. We have now gone through every particular transaction of our conduct in this material branch of Your Honours' affairs, in which we hope we have manifested a proper attachment to the interest of our hon'ble employers. What may further occurr herein we shall particularly advise Your Honours of in our letter under the established heads. Only we think it necessary for your satisfaction to acquaint Your Honours some musters have arrived from two or three aurungs, which upon being inspected we had the pleasure to find of a much better fabrick than we have prized in our cottah for many years, the lengths and breadths very well kept up and the prices (even with a large allowance for way charges, gomastah's wages etc.) greatly reduced. We cannot however pretend to ascertain Your Honours the whole investment will turn out so well, but as we continually repeat in our orders to the gomastahs a charge to be very carefull in preserving the quality of their goods and to take none that the inferiour to the musters of last year, we have great hopes the provision we shall this season make will meet with Your Honours' approbation.

59. In order if possible to comply with Your Honours' desire of having a ship or two dispatched from hence in September, we came to a resolution of demanding the ballances due from our dadney merchants to induce them by that means to give us the cloth they have in our godowns at a reasonable rate. We

have several times called upon them for that purpose but have not as yet been able to bring them all together on account of indispositions and such like excuses, but as soon as we have forwarded this dispatch we shall peremptorily insist on their paying us their ballances or giving us the cloth in our godown upon reasonable terms.

60. We must beg leave to deferr giving Your Honours any accounts of the contracts made at our subordinates for their investments till our letter under the established heads, as nothing very material or out of the usual road has occurred therein.

61. Having finished what belongs to our investment we think it incumbent on us to take notice of some parts of Your Honours' commands under date the 24th January, particularly that paragraph where Your Honours seem to think some of your servants have been underhand concerned in the contracts for the investment and that dadney has been advanced them under fictitious names. We are sorry to lay under such an imputation and infinitely more so, that Your Honours seem to give credit to a report of so malicious a nature, which we can with great confidence assure Your Honours from our own knowledge is utterly false and an insinuation that we flatter ourselves Your Honours will be convinced from our conduct this year could not have the least foundation.

62. Your Honours in the 38th paragraph of the above letter mention your having taken great pains to enquire into the utility of the office of a broker at this settlement and that reviving that office upon the old footing will be of great service to the Company. We should have paid a due obedience to these orders had we continued to provide Your Honours' investment in the usual method of contract with the dadney merchants, but we apprehend such an office can be of no manner of use in the present model of conducting the business, and have therefore avoided appointing any person in that station 'till we see whether the plan we are now upon will answer the end better than resuming our former method of making contracts with our late dadney merchants; should we be obliged to call them in again we shall punctually observe what Your Honours have said in respect to the office of broker and appoint some substantial person therein upon the most advantageous terms.

63. Last season we transmitted Your Honours Mr. Holwell's state of the revenues, but as you have in your commands of this year directed us to send a particular account of your revenues, as Your Honours are satisfyed, under proper regulations they must be much more considerable than you have hitherto experienced them to be, we have therefore come to a resolution to take into consideration, after these dispatches are forwarded hence, that state of the revenues as we had not time to do it when Mr. Holwell laid it before us and have been ever since taken up in the management of the investment. When we have made a strict scrutiny into this branch of Your Honours' affairs, we shall fully give our sentiments thereon, with the several particulars by Your Honours required of us and are now to express our humble thanks for the permission given us to relieve and assist the poor, which we shall take into our serious consideration at the same time we do the state of the revenues and act therein as shall to us appear just and reasonable.

64. Mr. Collett being arrived from Cossimbuzar was on the 9th July admitted to his seat at the Board and directed to take charge of the buxey connah.

65. When Your Honours' covenanted servants who came here on the Montfort were arrived in town, we called them in before us and demanded of them how they were treated by the respective captains they came out with; they replied extremely well and were then stationed in the respective offices as minuted on the Consultation of the 30th July.

6. Upon a consideration of Your Honours' 63rd paragraph in your letter under date the 24th January 1753 we are of opinion Your Honours were unacquainted with the inconveniences that would attend our complying with such an order. We must therefore beg leave to represent them in a proper light. We must in the first place observe to Your Honours that should a Chief of a subordinate factory be called down upon being of Council, the succession to such posts would be extremely quick as places of that importance could not be filled up but by servants the nearest to Council and the disadvantage this would be to the Hon'ble Company will easily appear when it is considered that the little stay each Chief would by this means be able to make would never afford time sufficient to make themselves masters of the business of their factory, besides which there would be a charge of ten or twelve thousand rupees, the usual

present to the Durbar every time a Chief went up. We must likewise remonstrate to Your Honours the hardship of secluding from the members of the Board the stations of most advantage and profit without any apparent emolument to the Hon'ble Company.

67. We have likewise taken into consideration Your Honours' 64th paragraph of the same letter and are of opinion it would rather be a prejudice than of service to have such an order complied with, as the rotation of servants from one factory to another would by that means leave them unacquainted with the business of any one factory, besides which it would be difficult to obtain securities for servants going up when their stay was to be uncertain and constantly fluctuating, by which means they might be great sufferers by being called away in the midst of their business and obliged to leave their debts unrecovered. We have therefore agreed to avoid putting these orders in force till we hear further from Your Honours, especially as the Persick language may as easily be obtained (by an industrious application) in Calcutta as at any subordinate whatever.

68. Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes being admitted to a seat at our Board by Your Honours' commands per Montfort we have directed him to repair to this place as soon as his affairs will permit and have appointed to fill up the vacancys at Dacca Messrs. Hyndman and Waller as they will commence factors very shortly after their having taken their places in Council there. We have been addressed by Mr. Harry Verelst to appoint him to that factory upon the vacancy which would happen when Mr. Pearkes left it, but as that gentleman is senior in the service to Mr. Hyndman we did not comply with his request, as we think it a hardship that a person who has been any time at a subordinate factory should be superceeded by one who has never been there.

69. When Caroline Frederick Scott Esqr. arrives we shall pay a proper regard to Your Honours' directions on that head and beg leave to deferr 'till his arrival giving our thoughts in regard to some methods whereby part of the expences, Your Honours must be at in fortifying the place, may be borne by the inhabitants.

70. Your Honours may rest assured that every one of us in our joint capacity of Council as well as in our respective stations

will with our utmost assiduity endeavour to eradicate any abuses in the management of your affairs that may come to our knowledge; we shall likewise keep a watchfull eye upon the manner of living among Your Honours' servants, and check whatever may to us appear extravagant and expensive, but with humble submission we must mention to Your Honours that we apprehend some misrepresentations has made Your Honours conceive a disgust at our manner of living, as it is rather the dearness of every kind of provisions that occasions our expences to run so high than any uncommon extravagancies committed by your servants themselves, whose allowances are indeed too small to bear the necessary charges of living suitably when they come of station. We should therefore esteem it a mark of the greatest favour if Your Honours would take this into consideration and act therein as shall seem to your justice reasonable. In the meantime we beg leave to repeat our assurances that no care on our parts shall be wanting to rectifye any mismanagements that come to our knowledge and we hope Your Honours will by the transactions of this year be fully convinced of our integrity as well as diligence in your affairs and attachment to the true interest of our employers, in which we shall make it our business to persevere and heartily pursue every path that we think will lead us to Your Honours' esteem.

71. Your Honours are pleased to take notice that Messrs. Bellamy and Crichton are not stationed in any offices on the list we transmitted from hence of Your Honours' covenanted servants and direct us to acquaint Your Honours why they have not been employed as well as the rest of the servants in some manner or other, to which we must answer that Mr. Bellamy has been employed at times both in the Secretary's office and export warehouse and his being left unstationed in the list must we imagine be owing to some mistake.

72. We shall take care to put in execution Your Honours' orders in relation to the fresh covenants and transmit them in the packets of this year's ships.

73. We have likewise given notice to the servants here and at the subordinates of your commands about acquainting us a twelvemonth before they resign your service and shall take particular care to comply with your orders thereon.

74. We have already acquainted Your Honours that to induce the merchants to undertake chearfully and on better terms the provision of our investment this year we had indulged them in a point which appeared to us but reasonable, that is settling their ready money accounts, with interest on the deficiency of their contracts, but having found them so very insolent and so obstinate in refusing to contract with us on any terms but their own unreasonable ones, we called them in on the 3rd August and directed them to sign their accounts for 1750 and 1751 in the manner already settled by the Accomptant, but they still insisted on being allowed the interest on the deficiencys of their ready money contracts if we took the penalty. However as they did not all agree in what manner and from what date that interest should be allowed. we ordered the Accomptant to make out some of their statements for our perusal, when we should consider if we could allow of any of their propositions. [The Accomptant] pursuant to this direction laid before us on the 9th August those statements and one of the method [s] their accounts are already settled in and have been signed by them; having considered thereof, the reasons we have abovementioned of their obstinacy and insolence, added to fresh orders we had this year received from Your Honours for settling their accounts agreeable to the statement we had transmitted for your observation, determined us to retract our concession made in the beginning of the season, our motives for it being to induce them to undertake the investment on reasonable terms which they had since refused. We therefore ordered the merchants to sign their accounts in the manner they are already settled and Your Honours have approved of, and should they endeavour to evade it by creating delays, we shall take proper measures to compel them thereto.

75. We are now to acquaint Your Honours that we have granted bills of exchange to the following persons at 2s. 3d. each rupee, the amount having been duly paid into the treasury.

| | |
|---|---|
| On September 1st a sett to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account the Hon'ble Thomas Saunders Esqr. payable to the Hon'ble Thomas Saunders Esqr. or order for rupees 21600 @ 2/3 is | £St. 2430-0-0 |
| On do to do account do payable to do for rupees 21600 is | £St. 2430-0-0 |

On do to do account do payable to do for rupees 21600 is £St. 2430-0-0

On do to Mr. George Gray payable to Mr. Henry Allen or order for rupees 1911-1-9 is £St. 552-10-0

On do to Mr. John Browne for returns of 1 chest of coral marked MMDC/1P No. 1 imported per ship Durrington sold by Solomon Franco at Fort St. George payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order for rupees 13715-8-0 £St. 1542-19-11

On do to do account Solomon Franco payable to do or order for rupees 7424-5-6 £St. 835-4-9

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland by order of the Hon'ble Richard Bourchier Esqr. payable to Mrs. Sarah Hawkins or order for rupees 355-8-9 £St. 40-0-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. and Mrs. Charles Manningham account Abraham and Jacob Franco, being produce of coral 1 chest B No. 1 imported per ship Colchester, payable to Abraham and Jacob Franco or order for rupees 5519-8-9 is £St. 620-19-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account the Hon'ble Thomas Saunders Esqr. payable to the Hon'ble Thomas Saunders Esqr. or order for rupees 941-15-9 £St. 105-19-6

On do to do account Samson Gideon by order of Walsh and Vansittart being account returns of 7 chests silver marked S. G. No. 4C 10, imported to Madrass per ships Essex, Scarbro', Duke of Dorset, Wager and Hardwicke anno 1751 payable to Samson Gideon or order for rupees 37748-14-0 £St. 4246-14-11

On do to do account Robert Clive payable to Capt. Robert Clive or order for rupees 14237-15-6 £St. 1601-15-5

On do to do by order of Mr. Sloper payable to John Starke Esqr. for rupees 1333-5-3 £St. 150-0-0

On do to do by order of do payable to Charles Floyer Esqr. for rupees 4316-12-3 £St. 485-12-9

On do to do by order of the Hon'ble Thomas Saunders Esqr. payable to Charles Floyer Esqr. or order for rupees 24073-11-0 £St. 2708-5-9

On do to Charles Manningham Esqr. on his own account payable to Thomas Manningham Esqr. or order for rupees 2000 £St. 225-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account James Barton payable to James Barton or order for rupees 9916 £St. 1115-11-0

On do to do account Solomon Franco payable to Solomon Franco for rupees 18606-10-9 is £St. 2093-5-0

On do to do account Rodolphus de Gingen payable to Captain Rodolphus de Gingen and Mr. Jean Boisseir or order for Rs. 53737 £St. 6045-8-3

On do to do by order of Henry Vansittart payable to Captain John Dalton or order for rupees 47783-12-9 £St. 5375-13-6

On do to Mr. William Mackett account Captain John Clark payable to Mr. Thomas Mander of Tottenham Gloucestershire or order for rupees 1917-1-0 £St. 2229-8-4

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland by order of Messrs. Walsh and Vansittart of Madrass account Capt. James Kilpatrick payable to George Stanyford and Charles Brett for rupees 8636-12-3 £St. 971-12-9

On do to Mr. George Gray payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennett or order for Rs. 2500 £St. 281-5-0

On do to Mr. William Fullerton payable to Mr. John Willis or order for Rs. 864 £St. 97-4-0

76. The amount that we have granted bills for is rupees 343239-15-3 or £St. 38614-9-10.

77. In the month of March last we had an application made to us by the Directore and Council of Hughley for a payment of a sum of money said by them to be due from Your Honours to their Company, on account of their proportion of the sale of sundries taken from the Ostenders in the year 1733, and our proportion of a sum of money by them paid to the Nabob on that occasion, our reply to which application was that the transaction was out of our knowledge and that we could not comply with 'till we received your orders thereon but promised them to acquaint Your Honours of their demand, which we now enclose for your perusal and shall follow such orders thereon as Your Honours shall think fit to give.

78. By the Oxford and Chesterfield Your Honours had our separate Consultations on the charges laid against Govindram Metre by Mr. Holwell, the result of which being to mulct him in the sum of CRs. 3397-10-6 we ordered the Secretary to levy the same on the 2nd April, which was accordingly received in- as Your Honours shall think fit to give.

79. An affair of an uncommon nature having this year occurred in our settlement and since we have been obliged to use the extent of our authority to put a stop to the proceedings of that kind for the future, we shall relate the matter as circumstantially as it will admit of and leave it to Your Honours to judge if the provocation we received did not merit the resentment it met with. To begin at the source from whence the

trouble arose we must inform Your Honours that Mr. Manningham on the 18th day of April delivered in a letter to the Board accompanying an award in a dispute, which he was made arbitrator of, by order of the Governour and Council when Zemindar, between one Abdel Nuby Cawn and Mohunpursaud inhabitant of this place, in which award the above Mohunpursaud was ordered to pay Abdel Nuby Cawn the sum of Rs. 3000 with the interest thereon. We made enquiry into the dispute and finding the award but just and very favourable to the party cast, we directed Mr. Holwell, the present Zemindar, to put the same in execution or in case of Mohunpursaud's refusing to abide thereby, to compel him to the payment of the penalty incurred in the arbitration bonds.

80. After some days past in which Mr. Holwell had endeavoured to prevail on this Mohunpursaud to comply with the tenour of the award and when we expected to have heard of his having executed our orders on that head, we were surprised to find him complain in a letter which he delivered the 30th April that as he was sending Mohunpursaud to the cutcherry in obedience to our directions he was snatched from his custody by Mr. John Wood, upon pretence of speaking with whom he had permitted Mohunpursaud to call in at his house for a little while, but that his peons informed him after a little conference Mr. Wood pushed Mohunpursaud into his compting house, locked the door and took the key with him refusing to deliver him up on the demand of the peons, unless they would pay him (14000) fourteen thousand rupees which he pretended was due to him from Mohunpursaud, and that Mr. Wood went immediately to the Mayor's Court and procured a warrant for the seizure of Mohunpursaud's person who was quickly after carried to prison.

81. Upon the above complaint of Mr. Holwell we sent for Mr. Wood and demanded of him by what authority he presumed to take Mohunpursaud from the Zemindar's custody and make him a prisoner in his own house as set forth by Mr. Holwell? He pretended that Mohunpursaud had told him when he called into his house of the occasion of his being in custody, and that the scandal of being sent to the cutcherry would oblige him to leave the place as it would be impossible for him to shew his face after such an ignominy and as he was largely indebted to him he thought himself obliged to take every legal method to save his own property and therefore bid him go to his compting

house the door of which he shut and went to the Mayor's Court where he affiled a bill of complaint against the said Mohunpursaud and obtain from that court a warrant to arrest his person. He likewise with some insolence told us if he had done an illegal thing he was ready to answer it at the Mayor's Court if prosecuted. The question was then put to him whether he did not know that Mohunpursaud was under the arrest and custody of the Zemindar? Which at first he denied but afterwards he replied, it was not his business to know that. The Zemindar's peons that had Mohunpursaud in custody were then called in and interrogated before Mr. Wood what they knew of this affair, who corroborated what Mr. Holwell in his letter had set forth, upon which Mr. Wood was bid to withdraw.

82. When we considered the whole of this transaction, Mr. Wood's behaviour appeared so insolent and unprecedented and manifested so open a contempt of the authority of this Board that we were determined to make him feel the weight of our resentment and by this example of our resolution to preserve the respect due to us by the inhabitants of this settlement and deter any others from attempting in future to spurn at our power. We therefore agreed that the Secretary should direct him to prepare for a return to England by the first of this year's shipping, having by this indecent conduct forfeited all indulgences and priviledges allowed him by Your Honours in his indentures as a free merchant.

83. The gentlemen at Fort St. George in a letter under date the 12th February having enclosed an indent made by David Hunter Esqr. for sundry stores and artificers for the use of Your Honours' new establishment at the Negrais, we have complied therewith as far as it lay in our power and have forwarded thither by a sloop freighted for that purpose such stores as they had indented for, and what artificers we could prevail on to go. We have hopes when all our country ships are imported we shall be able to procure some caulkers and carpenters to proceed thither likewise and have wrote to the President and Council of Fort St. George to know if they shall have any conveyances bound to the Negrais at that season of the year or whether it would be more convenient to send them on a vessell directly from hence.

84. Upon the receipt of Your Honours' commands per Montfort we directed our Secretary to transcribe and send Mr.

Jonathan Ranson copy of the 85th paragraph thereof and require his answer if he would pay the amount of the bill we had affiled in the Mayor's Court against him and by that means prevent further prosecution, to which he replied he could not consent to pay that demand, unless proved a just one by the course of our laws, to the decision of which he should leave it.

85. We likewise directed the Secretary to send Mr. Lawrence Witherington copy of the paragraph relating to his making the gunpowder at a cheaper rate, which he has replied to by a letter, copy whereof is enclosed for Your Honours' observation. The inconveniences he complains of therein we shall give him such relief in as we possibly can.

86. We have lately received a remittance of new Sicca Rupees sixty one thousand five hundred and thirty eight (SRs. 61538) from the gentlemen at Surat by order of the President and Council at Bombay and do shortly expect another remittance of ninety thousand rupees (Rs. 90000), which will be of great service to Your Honours' affairs at this place.

87. By the Sea Horse sloop which arrived on the 23rd July the President and Council at Madrass wrote us a letter under date the 20th June, in which they complain of some of our Bengall ships who had imported to the southward of Fort St. David, by which means Your Honours' customs had been affected, and in that letter they enclosed us a standing order dated in the year 1734, and hoped we would take care to prevent in future the occasions of this complaint. After we had received Your Honours' commands per Montfort and wrote to them a second time to know what they intended to do in the appointment of the Coast and Bay ships, we took notice of that part of their letter per Sea Horse and expressed our concern at their reviving a standing order of near twenty years ago, the impossibility of complying with which we set forth in some cogent reasons, but as that letter of theirs may make an impression on Your Honours to our disadvantage we beg leave to repeat the several reasons we made use of in the above letter and which have induced the owners of ships belonging to this settlement to import at other places on the coast than Madrass or Fort St. David. We must take notice the present unfavourable juncture would render our complying with that regulation of Your Honours an apparent prejudice to our fortunes, as the troubles on that coast have greatly detrimented if not entirely

ruined the markets there and more especially at Madrass and Fort St. David, where goods belonging to the gentlemen here have lain there three or four years, and unsold even to this day, whereby they have been sufferers in the loss of interest full forty or fifty per cent on the cost of those goods; another material reason for our permitting ships from hence to touch at other ports is the delay in lading and unloading so generally complained of by the commanders of our country ships when they have been consigned to Madrass or Fort St. David, the scarcity of boats at those settlements being such that very often our vessells have laid there many days before they could send any goods ashore, by which means they may sometimes run the risque of having the monsoon break upon them in the road; these added to the low price of all kinds of merchandize at those settlements have been the occasion that some gentlemen might have sent their vessells to the southward where the inconveniences abovementioned were avoided and their voyages turned to a better account, and we persuade ourselves Your Honours will so far indulge your servants of this establishment as not to insist on that standing orders being put in force 'till the times by a more favourable turn admit of our complying with the tenour thereof, without the prejudice it would at present [be] manifestly attended with to our private fortunes, but we submit the matter to Your Honours' consideration and shall follow whatever directions thereon you are pleased to transmit us.

88. Pursuant to Your Honours' orders for making an enquiry into Mr. Bodley's conduct on the Malabar coast when in the Mary, we took that affair into consideration on the 30th ultimo and having read his reply to the charges alledged against him in the Bombay and Tillecherry letters, with the several other papers and depositions produced before us, the majority of the Board were of opinion he had been highly culpable in his behaviour on that coast and merited the being sent home; we therefore directed our Secretary to acquaint him of our determination that he should return to Great Britain and order him to prepare himself to comply therewith by some of this year's ships.

89. Since writing the foregoing we have the pleasure to congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival here of the Portfield, Captain Legeyt; upon his coming up to town we sent for

him into Council and asked him in what time he could get his ship ready to proceed to Europe, to which he replyed that he believed it would not be possible to do it in less than two months as she was in want of a good deal of caulking. As this is a small vessell and we imagine we shall (by the time she can be got ready) have goods sufficient to compleat her tonnage, we have come to a resolution of dispatching her to Your Honours as soon as ever the season will permit, and as she will be sent to England directly from hence we are in hopes she will arrive pretty early with Your Honours.

90. In relation to what Your Honours have required of us concerning the deposit made at Hughley on account of the capture of the St. Catherine, we must inform Your Honours we have made all the enquiry into that affair that we could and find there was a deposit made in the hands of Coja Wazeed and Coja Mirza of 65000 rupees, 57000 in the former's and 8000 in the latter's as vacquels for the Armenians, with directions to divide it among the proprietors and it remained in their hands till about six months past when Coja Wazeed (on his going to Muxadavad) acquainted the Nabob that no persons had applyed to him for that money and desired to know if he should repay it to him, the Nabob, who ordered Wazeed so to do, and the truth of which we are well satisfyed of, as Coja Wazeed applyed to Omichund to advance who, not being sufficiently in cash, likewise gave him an order on his gomastah Ozoodram at Radnagur, from whence the money was carried in dooleys. Coja Wazeed was also obliged to repay at the same time the 8000 rupees deposited in the hands of Coja Mirza so that Your Honours will perceive an application for that money now will be of no signification.

91. In our advices last year we acquainted Your Honours of our having petitioned the Mayor's Court in the affairs of Deepchund's deposite, to which we had received no answer, and in consequence of your orders this season we directed our attorney to move the Court once more for an answer to that petition, which he has accordingly done but upon their taking it into consideration, they have thought proper to dismiss it for want of a representative on the part of Mr. Cole, not deeming themselves warranted or authorized to dispose of that deposit without His Majesty's directions.

92. We have by this conveyance wrote the President and Council of Fort St. George that as we shall in all probability be obliged to detain two ships in the country this season we took this opportunity of making them the offer of letting out to freight one or both of them conditionally upon the terms they advised Your Honours they could procure for the Hardwicke and Scarborough, as we are afraid it will not be in our power to get anything like that sum, should they be lett out at this place, for which reason should they not be able to procure as much at present as they then might have done, it would nevertheless be doing Your Honours a piece of service to let them on any terms whereby the demorage of such ships might be saved.

We are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Mackett/ Edward Eyre/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,
the 3rd September, 1753.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office 1752/53 Vol. 17, pp. 247—307.

Para. 69 published in C. R. Wilson's *Old Fort William in Bengal,* Vol. I, p. 253.)

## 35

## LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1753

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Under date the 3rd instant we addressed Your Honours via Madrass, a duplicate of which letter we now enclose and forward in the same manner that in case an accident should

happen to the other vessel Your Honours may not be disappointed in hearing from us and we have desired the gentlemen to send the packets by separate ships should they both arrive safe.

2. Since writing the forementioned letter, we have the pleasure to congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival here of the Winchelsea, Falmouth, Egmont and Elizabeth.

3. As nothing very material has occurred since our last dispatches went away from hence, we must beg leave to close this letter after having advised Your Honours of the sums for which we have given bills of exchange of this date, payable ninety days after sight as usual and the amounts have been duly accounted for before we granted the bills, viz.,

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 17th September 1753 of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland CRs. 3160-8-0 payable to Capt. Rodophus De Gingin and Mr. Jean Boisser or order is | £St. 355-11-1 |
| On do do of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland CRs. 32395-11-0 payable to Captain John Dalton or order is | £St. 3644-10-3 |
| On do do of Charles Manningham Esqr. CRs. 20000 payable to Robert Goodere Esqr. or order is | £St. 2250-0-0 |
| On do do of Mr. Harry Verelst CRs. 222-3-6 payable to Wm. Fraiser or order is | £St. 25-0-0 |

4. The whole amount of bills of exchange which we have given on Your Honours is Crs. 55778-6-6 or £St. 6275-1-4.

5. Colonel Scott having been a little indisposed since his arrival has not yet been able to give his attendance at the Board; but as he is now recovered we shall take into consideration Your Honours' orders relating to the fortifying of this settlement and what method will be the most eligible to ease Your Honours in part of so heavy an expence attendant thereon.

We are with respect,

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/M. Collett/W. Mackett/ Edward Eyre/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,
The 17th September, 1753.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office 1752/3, Vol. 17, pp. 308-309.

Para. 5 published in C. R. Wilson's *Old Fort Willian in Bengal*, Vol. I, p. 253.)

## 36

## LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1753

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. By the Portfield who is now under dispatch, we are addressing Your Honours F[urther] under the established heads to which letter we shall beg leave to refer ourselves for the particulars of our transactions in the management of your affairs since the dispatch of the Oxford.

2. Having acquainted Your Honours in the above letter that we have appointed [B—] ship to proceed to Bencoolen to take in the surplus pepper laying there, we shall first advise Your Honours by her of the several sums of money for which we have granted bills of exchange, payable at ninety days after sight as usual at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 20 December to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for CRs. 17777-12-6 payable to themselves or order @ 2/3 is | £St. 2000-0-0 |
| On do to do do for CRs. 17777-12-6 payable to do @ 2/3 is | £St. 2000-0-0 |

On do to do do account Mrs. Elizabeth Stratton for CRs. 968-12-3 payable to David Solomons @ 2/3 is £St. 108-19-4

On do to do do by order of Messrs. Wailsh and Vansitart for CRs. 8636-12-3 payable to Messrs. George and Charles Brett @ 2/3 is £St. 971-12-8

On do to do do for CRs. 2791-2-0 payable to Mrs. Rebecca Cassmajor @ 2/3 is £St. 314-0-0

On do to do for CRs. 487 payable to Miss Eleanor Powney @ 2/3 is £St. 54-16-4

On do to do do for CRs. 1860-15-6 payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 209-7-2

On do to do do account Captain John Dalton for CRs. 4855-14-3 payable to Joseph Fowke @ 2/3 is £St. 546-5-8

On do to do do account Captain Rodolphus De Gingin for CRs. 6945-12-6 payable to Captain Rodolphus De Gingin and Mr. Jean Boissier @ 2/3 is £St. 781-8-0

On do to do do by order of Messrs. Walsh and Vansitart for CRs. 6149-6-6 payable to Joseph Fowke Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 691-16-1

On 31st do to do do for CRs. 17777-12-6 payable to do @ 2/3 is £St. 2000-0-0

On do to do do for CRs. 17777-12-6 payable to do @ 2/3 is £St. 2000-0-0

On ditto to do do for CRs. 26088-14-0 payable to do @ 2/3 is £St. 2935-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland by order of Mr. Andrew Ross for two chests of coral marked [symbol] No. 1 and 2 shipped by Isaac and Samuel Tolly for CRs. 11300 payable to Isaac and Samuel Tolly @ 2/3 is £St. 1271-5-0

On do to do do by order of do, being part of the produce of two chests of coral and 1 chest of amber beads, marked Sv No. 1, 2 and 3, shipped by Henry Muilman and Joseph Solomons on the ship Colchester, for CRs. 1777-12-6 payable to Henry and Peter Muilman Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 200-0-0

On do to do do by order of do for do shipped by do on the ship Dragon for CRs. 5333-5-6 payable to Hugh Ross Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 600-0-0

On do to do do for CRs. 34634-11-0 payable to Robert Clive @ 2/3 is £St. 3885-2-9

On do do to do account Captain Rodolphus De Gingin for CRs. 1774-12-3 payable to himself and Mr. Jean Boissier @ 2/3 is £St. 199-13-3

On do to do do for CRs. 25390-13-0 payable to Robert Clive @ 2/3 is £St. 2856-9-4

On do to do do by order of Messrs. Walsh and Vansitart for CRs. 18157-8-9 payable to Messrs. Stanyford and Brett @ 2/3 is £St. 2042-14-5

On do to Capt. Henry Kent for CRs. 17280 payable to Mrs. Susanna Kent or order @ 2/3 is £St. 1944-0-0

3. The whole amount of bills of exchange is Current Rupees 245444-14-6 or £St.....

4. We have laden on this ship su[ndry] stores for the use of your island St. Helena, invoice and bill of lading for which we have transmitted the gentlemen there, amo[ unting ]to CRs.....

5. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respects.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithful and most obedient
humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/M. Collett/W. Mackett/ Edward Eyre.

Fort William,
the 31st December, 1753.

(Ref. Copies of Public General Letters to Court 1753-54, S. No. 3, pp. 1—3.)

## 37

# LETTER DATED 4 JANUARY 1754

*Credit for adequate provision of tonnage for all ships claimed —Company's failure to get a* parwana *from the* Chuta *Nawab for free importation of rice in Calcutta—differences with the Madras Council on the question of trading on the Coromandel coast—proposed legislation for the levy of duty on sale of houses—plea for reduction of duties on imports—establishment of the Court of Requests.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. By some of our country shipping bound for Madrass we gave Your Honours a summary account of your affairs under our management from the dispatch of the Oxford till that time, copy of which letters are enclosed in this packet.

2. In that address, we confined ourselves to the most material parts of our transactions and promised Your Honours a more circumstantial detail in our letter under the established heads, which we shall comply with by this vessel and

*First, concerning shipping.*

3. We advised Your Honours in our above letters of the safe arrival here of all your outward bound ships except the Dragon, Captain Kent, who has since imported and we have the pleasure likewise to acquaint Your Honours [to] have heard of the importation of the Prince Edward, Captain —— Holden, at Bombay.

4. In our advices per Oxford under date the 1st March we made mention of having the Deputy Master Attendant to proceed down [——] river and take with him what assistance he wanted to preserve, if possible, the Lion and Cossimbuzar budgerows which had been drove ashore by bad weather near Kedgree. On his return he reported to us his proceedings therein, by which Your Honours will perceive the Lion budgerow was intirely lost, and the other very much damaged though saved.

5. The river has this year been duly surveyed by the Deputy Master Attendant and his reports thereof are entered after our Consultations of the 23rd of April and 24th December.

6. Mr. Richard Man, late Deputy Master Attendant, having departed this life of a fever on the 24th of May we appointed Mr. John Aston in his room, at the recommendation of the Super Intendant of the Marine.

7. Your Honours will perceive by our Consultations of the 4th and 20th of June that we contracted with Mr. Cruttenden for stores wanted for the use of the marine on much the same terms as last year, lowering the price of such articles as were this year procurable at a cheaper rate than last, and allowing of some advance on such as we were sensible are considerably dearer in the place.

8. On the 23rd of July arrived from Bombay the sloop Sea Horse and on the 14th of August imported the sloop Syren from that place, both built at that Presidency for the use of this settlement, and they were accordingly delivered over to the Superintendant's charge, whose reports of those sloops are duly entered after our Consultations.

9. Your Honours' ships have all been regularly searched for private trade immediately on their coming to an anchor at Culpee. The reports of what found on board and manifests of

what has been landed from each ship will be transmitted in their respective packets.

10. Having advertised that we should be in want of a vessel to transport some stores and artificers to the Negrais, the sloop Success was offered us on the 30th July at 2000 A. Rupees, which being surveyed and the owners having reduced the sum to 1500 A.Rupees, we accepted of the proposal and dispatched her thither with such stores as they had indented for, and what artificers we could [procure], which were only 20 briklayers and 20 cooleys, informing Mr. Hunter that we might probably get some carpenters and caulkers to proceed thither on the arrival of the country shipping, but that at present we could not possibly induce any of those two professions to engage in this service.

11. We were a good deal concerned to find on the 25th October that the above sloop was obliged to return without being able to reach her port, on account of having fallen to leeward of it, and being likewise in great want of provisions and water. We dispatched her back the next day to Mr. Hunter and informed him of the accident which had occasioned the disappointment and delay of his not having received these stores and artificers long before.

12. Your Honours having directed the stores and materials wanted in future for the use of your marine should be contracted for by [the] Board, Mr. Ranson in consequence of that order sent a letter to our Secretary requesting him to inform us that he had several materials by him which he would dispose of on very reasonable terms, and which he imagined would be very serviceable to Your Honours' marine, upon wh[ich] we directed Mr. Cooke our Secretary to acquaint him we should make no contract of that kind till the arrival of Captain Lutton whom you had appointed Master Attendant and whose report we thought necessary before we engaged in any purchases for the marine.

13. Captain Christopher Baron having in a letter to the Board on the 17th September offered 24000 C.Rupees for the freight of the Winchelsea on a country voyage, we took the same into consideration, and were of opinion we ought not to comply with Captain Baron's terms, till we had tryed whether we could by a means procure a larg[er] sum, and as Your Honours in all probability will suffer a whole year's demorage for every ship that we may be necessitated to detain in the

country, which will amount to near 40000 rupees, we agreed to put her up at outcry at nigh that sum in obedience to Your Honours in the 6th paragraph of your orders dated the 24th January 1753 and in case there were no bidders at that rate, to endeavour by other means to procure as much as possible.

14. Accordingly on the 1st of October it was put up at publick outcry to be let to freight (on the terms Your Honours have directed in the 15th paragraph of your letter per Durrington dated the 21st of August 1751) at 38000 C.Rupees on wh[ich] sum we are sorry to acquaint Your Honours there was not a single bidder.

15. Whereupon we sent for Captain Baron and asked him how much he would [venture] to give for the freight of the Winchelsea on the terms Your Honours have prescribed which were then read to him. He replied he would not undertake to freight her at all upon those terms as they were quite uncertain and that part of your orders relating to damages and charges, should the ship not be returned in time to be despatched in the next season, required in his opinion [an] explanation, as he was ignorant of the damages Your Honours are liable to, should such a detention happen. To put the thing upon some certain foundation as nearly correspondent to Your Honours' intentions as we could, we asked him how much he would give for the freight of the Winchelsea [till] the 31st December 1754 and that if he did not return her by that time, he should make good Your Honours the whole demorage you may be obliged to pay, and further if he did not return so as to be dispatched home the next season he should indemnify the Company for such a [delay], to which he answered he could give no more [than] what he first offered, that is 24000 C.Rupees, and did not chuse to engage even for that sum [upon] the above terms.

16. As we could not possibly accept Captain Baron's offer without risquing Your Honours' displeasure, and as we were fully perswaded from this tryal as well as the state [of] our markets in India at present that it would not be possible to let any of your ships in the manner Your Honours have directed, we resolved to station the Winchelsea and Mont[ford] for Bombay and Surat, it being then beyond doubt that we should be under a necessity of detaining two if not more of your ships in the country this season; notice was accordingly affixed at the fort gates of their disposition and that freight would be received for th[ose] places on the usual terms.

17. We have likewise laden [on board] of those ships a thousand baggs of saltpetre and fifteen hundred baggs of fool sugar on Your Honours' account and have dispatched the Winchelsea from hence the 24th ultimo with what freight had been then offered, as it may be of great service to Your Honours' affairs to have her return early the next season.

18. We flatter ourselves our manner [of] proceeding and endeavour to procure freight for your ships, equal to your expectations, will meet with Your Honours' approbation and clear us from any suspicion of having been biassed by any private motives of our own, and as Your Honours complain that such of your ships as have been sent on country voyages have succeeded ill for wa[nt] of a sufficient stock, we have, to obviate that complaint, laden on those two ships the sugar and saltpetre already mentioned, and wish it may meet with a favourable sale.

19. The Dragon has been permitted to come up to town as she is a small ship and consequently runs but little risque and as it will save Your Honours a considerable expence in the lading and unlading of her.

20. We have likewise been obliged to permit Captain Field to bring the Falmouth up to town as she sprung a leak and there was no possibility of heaving her down at Rogues' River. The Master Attendant's report of her bottom is entered after our Consultations of the 20th December.

21. Captain Richard Drake in a letter of the 5th of November informed the Board the warehouse banian had weighed off only 600 baggs of saltpetre for the Durrington and told him he had no orders to weigh off any more; which ind[uced] him to request we would let him know what quantity we purposed to lade on board, as she would not have near sufficient dead weight in her bottom if we put no more than the above 600 baggs in her. We thereupon directed our Secretary to inform him that 40 tonns was the quantity specified in charterparty and if he wanted more he must petition the Board for it on half freight as is customary. He has since requested 900 baggs on half freight, which we have complied with, reserving to ourselves the power of turning it whole freight if we think proper.

22. The President and Council of Fort St. George in a letter dated the 15th of October has made us the following reply to our offer lett [ing] them two of Your Honours' ships on freight

40000 rupees each, which they informed us they could have obtained for the Hardwick and Scarborough, that we are very sensible of the difficulty attending the letting out ships of so [—] a burthen as well as that it requires a considerable time to collect the goods manufactured on the Coast to compleat cargoes for them, from wh[ich] as the season is now so late it is impracticable to afford us any assistance in the freight [——] them though, had it been possible for us to have given them earlier information of this, they imagine such a thing might have been effected, the Honourable Company's orders being to cooperate with us in the management of this branch of their affairs, that they may con[tribute] all that lays in their power to ease Your Honours in this respect, they shall be ready to stand apart with us in taking up any next year, should it be necessary, to any part of India that there is a probability a voyage will answer and therefore they desire we will favour them with our sentiments on this particular as early as may be convenient that they may concert measures accordingly.

23. They likewise acquaint us in the above letter that the Deputy Governour and Council of Fort Marlborough have advised them that they shall have about 200 tonns of pepper on hand after the dispatch of the store ship, they are therefore to request we will appoint a ship to proceed there to take it in properly loaded for Europe leaving sufficient room for the said pepper, and as they shall have only one conveyance from thence in the beginning of the year to carry their advices to the Company they must desire the favour we will order her to touch there in her way that they may have an opportunity of forwarding their duplicates. The vacancy that will be wanted for the pepper, they desire we will supply with rice for the use of that settlement.

24. Upon receipt of that letter from the President and Council of Fort St. George we took into consideration the appointment of the remainder of Your Honours' shipping, and as the Dragon is a small vessel we judged her the fittest to proceed to Bencoolen for the surplus pepper and accordingly directed Captain Kent to get her in readiness as soon as possible. We afterwards stationed the Falmouth for Europe and as it will not be possible for us to dispatch home this season more than an other ship (if we can do that), we determined to put the Elizabeth up to freight and ordered the Secretary to affix notice

accordingly, leaving the Egmount for the latter ship to be dispatched to Your Honours in case we should have a sufficient quantity of goods left in our godowns after the dispatch of the Falmouth.

25. We likewise resolved (in order to dispatch the Dragon and Falmouth with the greater expedition) not to send any bales on the former but send her away with 80 tonns of saltpetre and 20 tonns of redwood. She was accordingly dispatched from hence the 27th ultimo with orders to proceed first to Madrass and follow such orders as should be given by the President and Council there.

26. In consequence of the notice affixed at the gates for letting out the Elizabeth on freight, Captain David Rannie sent in a letter to the Board on the 10th of December offering 20000 rupees for the freight of that ship. Upon which we ordered our Secretary to let him peruse Your Honours' orders relative to the freighting of your ships in the 15th paragraph of your commands per Durrington dated the 31st August 1751 and agreed to make him the offer of that ship at 30000 C.Rupees on the same conditions we proposed to Captain Baron that is, to have the use of her till the 31st of December 1754 and in case he does not return her within that time, he should make good to the Company what demorage they may be liable to after the expiration of that time.

27. Having made the above offer [he] replied he could not give that sum, but that [——] would go as far as 23000 C.Rupees for the use of her till the 31st of December 1754 and that in [case] he did not return her in time to be dispatched home the next season, he would agree to make good the whole demorage, unless such detention should proceed from loss of masts or other unavoidable accidents which might require any tedious repairs. This proposal we agreed to consider of and give our answer to next Council day.

28. Accordingly on the 13th December we took the same into consideration, and put the question whether the Elizabeth should be let out to freight on the terms Captain Rannie had offered; for our several opinions we beg leave to refer Your Honours to our Consultation of that day, when the majority were of opinion it was for your interest to let Captain Rannie have her at 23000 C.Rupees, as they saw no probability of getting more for her at this season of the year or of employing her to

equal advantage on any voyage on Your Honours' own account. Captain Rannie was thereupon made acquainted that the Board had accepted of his terms for freighting the Elizabeth. He then desired to be informed if he might be permitted to receive freight for Surat should any be offered him? Our reply to which demand was that Your Honours had two ships destined for that port of your own, and we could not admit of his taking the freight away from them, but that after they were dispatched, we should not be against his receiving whatever freight might be offered him, upon which he requested he might give his final answer on Monday next as he understood [at] the time of making those proposals which he had offered us that he was intitled to receive the freight that should be tendered him.

29. The 17th December he sent us his answer in writing as entered after the Consultation of that day, which we directed our Secretary to inform him we could not accept of. But we have the satisfaction to advise Your Honours that on the 20th of that month he agreed to freight her at 23000 C.Rupees on the terms we had offered him, upon which we ordered Captain Wills to follow his directions in lading, unlading and navigating the Elizabeth, till his return to this place.

30. We flatter ourselves Your Honours will be satisfied with what we have done in this affair, and approve of our chusing rather to accept of so small a freight as 23000 C.Rupees than to let her lay unemployed the whole season which must have been the case, it being impossible (from the state of our markets in India at present) to send her on any voyage on Your Honours' own account that would yield a profit equal to the sum offered by Captain Rannie, grain being so dear at this place that we could not send her to the Coast; and the price of gruff etc., at Surat and Bombay so low that it scarce exceeds the prime cost here, which Your Honours will plainly observe by the enclosed price current transmitted us by the President and Council of Bombay, with the value of the goods at this place annexed. When Captain Baron made us an offer of 24000 C.Rupees for the freight of his ship, Your Honours will observe we refused to accept of it, as it was then early in the season and as we could employ her on a freight voyage to Surat to better advantage, but the case was widely different in regard to the Elizabeth, the Surat freight being then all provided for by the

appointment of the Winchelsea and Montford and the gentlemen at the Coast having declined the taking up any of Your Honours' ships which we had offered them.

31. The Stafford from Bombay imported here a few days since, by whom the President and Council there sent us a very acceptable supply of treasure, and desired we would return that ship to them again immediately as Your Honours had directed she should proceed to China.

32. Captain Felix Baker departed this life some time before the arrival of the above ship at this place, and we have confirmed Mr. John Green, the chief mate, in the command in his room.

33. As we found it to no purpose from the price current already mentioned to send any gruff to Bombay, as the detention of the Stafford might risque her passage to China, we came to a resolution of dispatching her away as soon as possible with only as much dead weight in her bottom as would make her sailworthy and upon advising with Captain Green how much he thought would be necessary, we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to lade 15000 baggs upon her and shall dispatch her hence in a few days.

34. Captain Samuel Lutton being arrived from Bombay he had the charge of your marine delivered over to him by Mr. Cruttenden with directions from us to comply strictly with Your Honours' orders relating to the management of your dock head expences. We have likewise directed him to deliver in an indent to the Board of what stores and materials may be wanted in the marine for the ensuing year and notice has been affixed that we will contract for them with those whose terms are esteemed the most reasonable by the Board.

35. In consequence of which notice Mr. Cruttenden delivered in a letter to the Board offering to contract for all the coir cables and cordage that might be wanted for the use of Your Honours' marine this year at the following rates *viz.*,

Coir cables @ 11-8-0 C.Rs. per md.

Coir cordage @ 12-8-0 do " "

which letter having laid some days for consideration and no one else giving in the least proposal of the kind, we accepted of his offer, and have contracted with him at the above rates for the coir cordage and cables.

36. Enclosed in this ship's packet are Captain Legyet's letters and requests with what other papers appertain to her.

37. After we had wrote thus far Mr. Cruttenden on the 24th ultimo made a motion to the Board to the following effect; that he was informed there was so large a freight in the place as from ten to twelve thousand rupees for Sinday, which he was of opinion ought by no means to be suffered to go on any other ship while Your Honours have one going that way. We therefore thought notice ought to be affixed at the gates that the Montford would take in freight for Sinday as well as Surat, which would no way impede her passage to the latter place, even was she to call in at Bombay for convoy.

38. The Board upon the above motion ordered that notice should be affixed at the gates that the Stafford and Montford would both take in freight for Sinday to be delivered at Bombay, from whence it would be transported to Sinday without any further charges to the freighters.

39. Captain David Rannie, whose terms for freighting the Elizabeth we had accepted as already related to Your Honours, sent in his contract executed on the 24th December for freighting the said ship, when Mr. Manningham took notice to the Board that by the tenour of the above contract he perceived the Elizabeth was designed for Sinday, which being a very hazardous voyage, he did not think (conformable to Your Honours' orders contained in the 15th paragraph of your commands per Durrington) we could admit of her going thither without call in at Bombay for a convoy. The question was thereupon put, whether Captain Rannie had a right to send her to Sinday or no. For our several opinions hereon, we beg leave to stand referred to that day's Consultation, when the majority of the Board thought he was intitled to send her to Sinday or anywhere else within the limits of Your Honours' trade, those being the terms we had advertised her to be freighted on agreeable to your directions.

40. The next question that occurred was whether Captain Rannie was intitled to take in freight for Sinday, now we had advertised Your Honours' ships for that place and the majority were again of opinion that as our agreement with Captain Rannie for freighting the Elizabeth was prior to our advertising the Stafford and Montford for the Sinday freight, we could not deprive him of taking any freight for that place if offered him.

41. The President and Council of Fort St. George having on the 22nd October informed us Mr. Hunter would be in want of Your Honours' ships at the Negrais to remain there the s[eason] in the room of the Colchester, whose charterparty time expires in February, and requested we would appoint one of them from hence for that island, upon which we stationed the Egmont for that service (all the rest of Your Honours' ships being already disposed of) and directed Captain Tolson to get her in readiness to proceed thither as soon as possible, of which we have advised the gentlemen at Madrass, but acquainted them at the same time that the notice we have received of such a step being necessary is so late that it will not be in our power to do any thing with the Colchesters, should she arrive here before her charterparty expires, though we apprehend she will scarcely even arrive here in that time.

*Secondly, concerning goods from Europe.*

42. In this packet we transmit Your Honours account sales of what goods we have this year received by the several ships consigned us, as well as what part of the woolens remaining of the former years in our godowns have been sold.

43. After trial at publick outcry on the 1st of November of Your Honours' woolen goods received this year, the Import Warehouse Keeper delivered in a list to the Board of what remained still unsold and it was our opinion, as the markets here were overstocked from reasons already given Your Honours, it would assist the sale of what was left, if we sent half of it to Bombay, where we imagine it may be disposed of to more advantage. We have accordingly laden half the broad cloth and perpets now remaining on the Winchelsea and Montford equally divided, having given the President and Council there notice overland of our intentions so to do.

44. A loss arising on some goods bought at outcry in the name of one Radakissen (resold because not cleared within the twelve month) and as no such person being to be found, Mr. Richard Becher the present Import Warehouse Keeper requested the Board would direct Mr. Cruttenden who had preceeded him in that post to find out who the purchaser was of that lott of broad cloth set down to the name of Radakissen. That gentleman's reply Your Honours will observe on the face of our Consultation of the 14th August, and the import warehouse banian

affirming Gungadarry had frequently purchased in that name and that the lott in question was bought by him, we sent for Gungadarry and asked him whether he was the purchaser of that lott and why he had not cleared it out? He replied he did not purchase the lott of broad cloth set down to the name of Radakissen and that whatever he had bought at the Company's sales, he had always punctually cleared out, upon which we asked if he would swear to what he now declared, but he refusing to take such an oath as the Board requested, we directed him to pay the difference of the sale that Your Honours might be no sufferers.

45. The Import Warehouse Keeper acquainted us on the 24th September that Your Honours' godowns in the factory were not sufficient to contain the goods received from Europe this season. We have given permission to hire what may be necessary for that purpose.

46. We have ordered the Store Keeper to be more particular in his indents for the future agreeable to what Your Honours direct. In this packet we enclose an indent for stores for the year 1754 and beg leave to request Your Honours will comply with that part relating to guns for sale, as they are greatly wanted for the country service.

47. We have examined into the sales of Your Honours' iron, and find the general run of buyers at the outcrys make little or no difference between the Gottenburgh and Russian, though the smiths, we are informed, esteem the former about 5 per cent better than the other, neither is there any distinction made in regard to round or flat barrs.

48. Enclosed in this ship's packet we transmit Your Honours the remains of goods in our import warehouse, and indent of what we shall want for the year 1754. Your Honours will observe we have not specified in that indent any woolen goods, as the quantities now remaining unsold are so very large and the supplys we may expect by the ships of the approaching season will we apprehend be likewise so considerable that it will not be in our power, we are afraid, to dispose of any thing near what we shall receive. We do not therefore think it for Your Honours' interest to request any supplys of woolen this year, but should it be absolutely necessary to send us some, we beg leave to point out to Your Honours the sortments that have

sold the best this year and which we apprehend will sell better than any other the following seasons which are

Broad cloth aurora
Broad cloth blue ordinary
Broad cloth yellow
Broad cloth emerald green
Perpets scarlet.

We must particularly desire Your Honours will avoid sending us any fine broad cloth, as there is a very large quantity now in the godowns of all colours undisposed of.

49. We must likewise beg leave to desire Your Honours will comply more nearly with our indent of Madeira than you have done of late years, as the consumption of that article is very considerable in this place, and what the small quantity we have this year received, is by no means equal to.

*Thirdly, of investments.*

50. In our last address we were extremely circumstantial and full on this head as far as related to the investment of this Presidency. We can therefore at present only continue our detail since the dispatch of those advices, and give your Honours an account of the proceedings of our subordinates in this branch of your affairs which we defered speaking of in the former letter.

51. After having settled our gomastahs and others designed for the aurungs, and dispatched them thither agreeable to the lists we before transmitted Your Honours, and now send a copy of, several letters have been received from them with particulars of their purchases, price of goods etc., our replys to which Your Honours will see extracted on the face of our Consultations herewith transmitted, to which we beg leave to stand refered. We shall by the latter conveyances send Your Honours their letters received and our answers entered at large in separate books.

52. Musters have arrived from many of the aurungs and been inspected by us, which will appear from the purport of our replys, wherein we have taken care to point out to the gomastahs, the sortments which we think too dear, forbiding them to purchase any if they could not lower the prices and amend the fabricks; it would be both tedious and useless to insert the particulars of this correspondence in the body of our

present letter. We must therefore beg leave to confine ourselves to a short sketch of the state of our aurungs for Your Honours' information, refering ourselves to our Consultations and the above mentioned letter book for particulars.

53. When our gomastahs first went up they found it a difficulty to procure cloth of an equal goodness to the musters we had given them for their guide, most of the fabricks having been intolerably debased by our merchants and some of them so very bad that they scarce seemed to be of the same kind, but our orders being very positive that they should take no cloth inferior to muster, they were obliged to reject large quantities and (with our consent) advance something in the muster price in order to engage the weavers to bring such cloth as they were warranted to take. This has occasioned great delay in their purchases, as most if not all of the cloth which the weavers had got ready in expectation the merchants would buy it up as usual has been thrown out which, added to the lateness of the season when we began, will, we apprehend, make us fall short of the quantity by Your Honours directed to be provided. We have hitherto supplied the several aurungs with 898135-11-9 rupees and we have received from thence to the amount of 235672-4-3 and by accounts from thence we learn there is bought and ready to the amount of 300000 making both together 535672-4-3 rupees.

54. That we might with more facility procure the sortments of cloth made in and about Calcutta, we empowered the Export Warehouse Keeper on the 3rd of September to contract with substantial delolls and picars for as much as they would undertake to provide.

55. We promised Your Honours in our former letter to call upon the merchants for the balances due from them and insist either on their paying the same or giving us the cloth in our godowns belonging to them on reasonable terms. Accordingly on the 13th September (after being frequently summoned) they attended us and were asked how they purposed discharging the balances due from them to Your Honours and whether they would give us the cloth they had in our godowns, as ready money goods? To which they replied, that if we would settle their accounts as they had desired they would sign them and give us their goods afterwards as we could agree about them.

56. But as we had determined to make up their accounts in the manner Your Honours have approved, for several reasons inserted in our last letter, we resolved that those merchants, who would not sign their accounts as settled by us before the 5th of November, should have peons put upon them and be compelled to sign. And that if any of them in that time were willing to open their bales in our warehouses and give us the cloth as ready money goods, we would accept of them in part of their balances and prize them by the last year's musters.

57. Since when many of them have complied and given us their cloth as ready money goods, which we have prized upon the musters of last year and hope they will meet with your approbation.

58. On the 24th of September the Export Warehouse Keeper informed us that part of Omichand's saltpetre was arrived, which being inspected and found very good we ordered him to weigh it off.

59. Having informed Your Honours in our last address of our intentions to dispatch this ship as early as the season would admit, we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper on the 1st of November to begin lading bales on board in order to forward her from hence the latter end of that month if we could, but we are sorry it has not been in our power to effect her dispatch so early as we could have wished owing to the delay of goods coming down from the aurungs, the reasons for which we have already accounted for to Your Honours.

60. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar on the 8th of March sent us down invoice of 140 bales of gurrahs and doosutties dispatched to us the 1st of that month, and promised us musters of the Novemberbund silk to be contracted on for our approbation, which they complied with on the 12th of March, and informed us at the same time that they had at last prevailed on their merchants to contract for the A at 7.14 per seer. They acquainted us likewise in that letter that Ruggonaut Bisswass and Narran Bisswass (who stand endebeted to Your Honours) had represented to them, in case they would take them into the dadney, they should be able to get credit to pay off some small part of their debt to the Company and would give undoubted security to pay an annual sum till their debt was discharged, which they had deferred giving any answer to for the present waiting our orders thereon.

61. Soon after, we received two letters from them, one dated the 19th March advising us of their having at last with the utmost difficulty prevailed on the merchants to contract for the silk upon the same terms as last year, notwithstanding putney was extremely dearer than it has been for three years past, for the truth of which they had undoubted proofs. The other letter pressed us to an immediate answer to what the had wrote us, as they apprehended their merchants would not stand to their proposals if they delayed contracts any longer, the time for giving their answer being elapsed, and the Guzzarat merchants buying up the Novemberbund silk.

62. On reply to the above letters we permitted them to take those two persons into their dadney, provided they kept an undoubted security in their hands, that they do not become further endebted to Your Honours, and transmitted them at the same time our sentiments on their musters of silk, the quality of which we approved of but thought the price too dear; however to prevent the Guzzarat merchants from buying up the putney as they were apprehensive of, we permitted them to contract for the silk at the price they mention if they could not lower it any thing.

63. As they wrote very pressingly for a large apply of treasure to begin their investment with, we forwarded them 2 chests of Arcot Rupees the 12th of March under care of Ensign Bellamy, the arrival of which they advised us of on the 23rd.

64. On the 13th of April they informed us they had not been able to make their merchants reduce the price of the Novemberbund silk as the price of putney is from 6 to 8 annas per seer dearer than it has been for some years past; but had been obliged to contract with them on the same terms as last year

For 1000 mds. of the Novemberbund silk @ 7·12 per seer.
800 mds. of the Guzzarat ... ... @ 8·5 do

that they had likewise contracted for their silk piecegoods on the same terms as last year and that they had prevailed with their merchants to agree for the 36 covid gurrahs at one rupee per corge less than last year, and the other sortments in proportion.

65. Upon receipt of Your Honours' commands per Clinton dated the 15th of December 1752 we transmitted list of goods (ordered under that date to be provided by Your Honours) to

all the subordinates and strictly injoined them to comply therewith.

66. To this the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar replied in a letter dated the 16th of June that they had acquainted their merchants with Your Honours' orders per Clinton and should endeavour to make them comply as near as possible thereto. That they apprehended they should have some difficulty in reducing the article of gurrahs to the quantity ordered in the list we sent them, having contracted with their merchants upon the plan of last year's orders and that the complaints Your Honours make at not having received any chints or chanderbannies anno 1752, they imagine, must arrise from some miscarriage, as they sent a small quantity of both, which will appear from their invoice dated the 13th of February 1751/2, to which they beg leave to be referred. On replying to that letter we directed them to make no alteration in their contract for gurrahs, as we had forbore contracting for that article in Calcutta upon observing of their letter of the 13th of April that they had entered into contract for a much larger quantity than Your Honours this year directed to be provided.

67. On the 30th of July we sent them up a further supply of 20 chests of Madrass Rupees with 10 chests of bullions, which latter we directed them to get coined into Siccas for our own use, and advise us at what rates they could purchase old Siccas of the two or three last reigns and on the 30th of August we supplied them with 10 chests of A. Rupees and 10 chests of Madrass Rupees.

68. Upon receipt of a bill of exchange from Surat drawn on Bell Krissna Lachmadass at Muxadavad we transmitted it to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to get it accepted and discharged, which they acquainted us in a letter of the 12th of December was nearly done; and that its being so long delayed was owing to the scarcity of Siccas.

69. The goods they have hitherto dispatched from that factory are all safely arrived, as Your Honours will perceive by the course of our Consultations.

70. When Mr. Watts came down to Calcutta in consequence of our permission he informed us they were in want of a very large supply of money at that factory, upon which we agreed to send them up 20 chests of bullion and two lack of Bombay

Rupees for the better carrying on their business. This supply we forwarded under the care of Lieutenant Harding as far as Nuddear, and directed them to send a party to that place to receive it from him, as he had orders to escort some money we were sending to the aurungs after he had delivered what was designed for the use of their factory. They accordingly sent Ensign Ellet with a party to Nuddear to take charge of it, and under date the 19th November advised us of its safe arrival.

71. When we inspected the goods arrived from Cossimbuzar, we found the quality of the Guzzarat silk exceeding bad, upon which we took out of several bales a small quantity of each letter and sent it up to the gentlemen there that they might compare them with the musters they contracted on and sent us down for our approbation, giving them our sentiments thereon and letting them know we expected some very sufficient reasons for so great a difference in the quality of the silk, and that we might not have the same occasion of complaint in what they sent us down in future.

72. This they replied to in a letter under date the 19th November, acknowledging the receipt of our remarks with the musters we had sent them out of the bales, which they acknowledged was much inferiour to the contract musters, and particularly in the lower letters, otherwise they should not have made such large deductions from the contract price, as 6 and 8 annas per seer, and that we should observe by their letter of the 19th September that they should still have made a further deduction, had they not been sensible that their merchants were considerable sufferers by this branch of the investment for the reasons given in that and other letters, notwithstanding which they assure us this silk is equal to any that has been sent down for several years past, and would have been superiour, had they not been obliged to take a few parcells (for fear of encreasing the debts Your Honours have so frequently cautioned them to avoid) which they had determined to reject. That they are purswaded, if we would seriously weigh and consider the difficulties their merchants met with on account of the dearness and scarceness of putney, we should be induced to think that nothing has been wanting on their parts to comply with Your Honours' directions regarding this branch of your business, which has been compleated beyond what they could expect, when immediately after their contracts were made the prices of putney rose from 1 rupee to 1¼ per seer more than was ever before

known, which makes a difference of more than 50000 rupees to the merchants, and gave them just room to apprehend that this branch of their investment would prove far shorter both in quality and quantity. That in order to prevent any future complaints they shall send down musters of their Novemberbund silk that is come into the cottah for our inspection that they may know our opinion of it in time either to accept it or reject it, as we shall judge for Your Honours' interest.

73. According on the 22nd and 27th of November they forwarded down to us musters of 7 parcells of silk that were brought into their cottah, with the prize musters of the three preceeding years' investments sent home for our inspection, which in their opinion were less superior to the samples we sent them out of their bales than they expected.

74. Upon comparing their musters now brought in with what was sent home last year, we found them inferior to the latter, particularly some parcells, and therefore directed them to reject those parcels (if they thought it would not make Your Honours liable to any outstanding debts) and take only the best; otherwise to sort it as well as they could and take the whole, making proper deduction for the inferior quality.

75. At the same time we forwarded them two bills of exchange drawn by Nommydass Lachmidass on Bell Kristna Nommydass at Muxadavad, one for 35000 and the other for 293393 which had been tendered us and which we accepted on condition of paying the amount of them as soon as we heard of their being received by our gentlemen at Cossimbuzar, at the rate Siccas then were at Muxadavad, which we directed the gentlemen there to inform us of.

76. On the 12th ultimo they informed us they purposed dispatching Lieut. Ellet the 16th with part of their investment of gurrahs and silk piece goods, which arrived here the 23rd.

77. The gentlemen at Dacca under date the 26th February enclosed us invoice of goods they had dispatched the day before and acquainted us of that parcel of cloth being but ill dressed on account of the badness of weather and lateness of the season. Which in our reply to them we could not avoid finding fault with, as we had duly advised them of our resolution to dispatch the Oxford the latter end of February, and were therefore surprised to find them consign us a parcel of cloth so late as the

23rd of that month, a season of the year that bad weather might naturally be expected on, and we were the more surprised at it as the cloth was but very indifferently dressed, on which account we returned them a few days after to be redressed, and sent them at the same time 25 chests of treasure to go on providing of their investment.

78. We recommended to Your Honours' servants at Dacca in the above letter to use their utmost endeavours to get their cloth in early, to prevent any accidents [for] its coming down too late in the season. We let them know that we were informed the French and others began giving out their putt[on] in December and January, by which means they were enabled generally to send a large quantity in July or August and therefore, if they thought this method would any way forward their business, we directed them to put it [into] practice for the future.

79. Having considered what the gentlemen at Dacca wrote concerning the provission of Chandapore cloth at their factory, we were of opinion it would be for Your Honours' interest if it could be effected, and therefore directed them to send us down immediately some musters of the different sortments of those goods with their prices affixed.

80. The 3rd of April Mr. Clarembault and his Council wrote us down a letter giving us for a reason of their having dispatched the last parcel of cloth so late in the season, that they apprehended the last ship would not sail from Ingelie before the 11th of March as usual, by which time they had hopes the cloth would arrive. They likewise advised us of their having given out their putton which they should have done sooner but that the delolls and picars had not brought in near the amount of what was advanced them last year.

81. The gentlemen had in a former letter excused the inferior quality of their cloth by acquainting us they were obliged to be less severe in the prizing than they otherwise would be, on account of the number of purcha[sers] who were ready to buy up what they turned out of their cottah. But as we looked upon this to be no way for Your Honours' interest and very contrary to your frequent orders, we could not admit of such a plea and directed them to reject what was not good and rather fall short of the quantity ordered to be provided than let the quality be

base, which they promised in the above letter of the 3rd of April to comply with but hoped we would clear them from any censure, should their investment fall short.

82. Mr. Clarembault and his Council having desired the musters of such Chandapore goods as were delivered by our merchants for their guide, we forwarded them on the 23rd of April, which they acknowledged the receipt of on the 8th of May, and informed us they had sent them to that aurung to know the prices of the different sortments.

83. Upon sending them the list of investment for their factory as already advised Your Honours they promised to comply as near as possible therewith, as well as in the early dispatch of their goods.

84. In that letter they informed us the musters of the Chandapore cloth which they received from us had been shewn to several of their principal delolls and picars; but they refused to bring them in dressed, and declined contracting on those musters, but have agreed to bring cloth of the same kind from Chandapore, by which they will contract, that they expected those musters in a few days and as soon as they had agreed on the prices they would forward them immediately to us.

85. This they complied with on the 18th of June and informed us that the prices marked on all the cloth was for it brown, as their delolls and picars will not contract to deliver it any otherwise. That the prices marked are the lowest for which they will contract and as those musters are those by which they are to contract, they request we will return them as soon as possible.

86. They advised us likewise that they were endeavouring to beat down the price of the ready money cloth, in which they met [with] some success, but by that means the cloth came in exceeding slow, the delolls and picars having taken back great quantities on account of the low prices at which they had been rated. They hoped the whole of the tirrendams, 300 pieces of the tanjibs and 200 pieces of the Dacca mulmulls ordered by Your Honours for fine work, in the present list of investment, may be got done accordingly, but they fear it will be impossible to get the whole of Your Honours' orders done fine work, as there are not above 15 out of 150 of their ruffagurs that can get that kind of work done at all, and it is only in consideration of

their making some advantage on the common work that they can get them to do the fine. That for the above reasons they thought it unavoidably necessary to give out some of the cloth for common work, which they thought had lately proved in general better than heretofore, and the greater part of what had been given out of late had been in patterns of a new taste and fancy, but requested our orders how to act.

87. We inspected the musters of Chandapore cloth (sent us down by the gentlemen at Dacca) the 25th June, and found them somewhat inferior to the musters we forwarded thither, which we informed them of and gave it as our opinion that the cloth might be cheaper bought and the quality better preserved if one of their Council were sent to Chandapore to purchase it on the spot, besides the advantage it would receive by being washed and dressed at the aurung itself. However we only recommended this method and did not expect they should practice it, unless they themselves thought it a more eligible way than contracting with their delolls and picars.

88. With respect to the cussidah work we thought they must be the best judges of their own investment, and therefore left it to them to act therein as they found necessary, only recommending it to keep as near Your Honours' directions as possible.

89. Under date the 13th of July they replied to our above letter and enclosed us a copy of their Consultation of the 12th for their sentiments in regard to the provission for Chandapore cloth at the aurung itself by one of their Councils, by which it appeared the majority thought the method eligible, but that it ought not to be put in practice till the begining of next season, as the present was too far advanced. They likewise promised to comply as near as possible with Your Honours' directions about their flowered goods.

90. In a letter dated the 11th August they acquainted us they had done all in their power to forward Your Honours' investment at that factory, notwithstanding which they were afraid they should not be able to send us above 70 bales by the 24th of that month. They observed that Your Honours ordered more of the Chandapore cloth, but cossaes and of them 10000 pieces a very large quantity to be procured so late in the season, but they should do their utmost to comply with those orders as near as possible.

91. The 6th of September they consigned us 87 bales of cloth which they had laden on the Dragon sloop, invoice of which they forwarded overland.

92. As they had pressed lately for some supplies of money we sent them on the third of September under care of Ensign Muire 30 chests of treasure in the following species

10 chests of A.Rupees
10 do of M.Rupees
10 do of bullion

acquainting them their not complying with their promise of sending us down a large parcel of cloth in August or September had proved no disappointment, as we were not able to dispatch a ship for Europe so early as we could have wished. But the Portfield having imported here some days before, we had stationed her for Europe to be dispatched directly from hence the beginning of November and therefore directed them to get ready as large a quantity of goods as they could by that time, which they promised in a letter of the 17th September to observe.

93. On the 18th of October they sent us 49 bales of cloth which they dispatched to us under care of Ensign Muir, which arrived the 31st of that month, and were by us inspected the 12th of November, when we found most of them very ill sorted and too great a difference from the outside folds to the inside ones. The baftaes in particular were very badly dressed, the inside folds very thin and the fabrick very bad. We therefore directed them to provide no more of that cloth, unless they could amend the above complaints. The flowered work in general was worked with too coarse a thread, the flowers very indifferently worked, and the inside ones extremely bad. The tanjibs and terrendams have a greater difference than usual between the inside and outside folds and the coarse threads were not well picked out. We transmitted them these remarks and directed them to be more careful in the provission of their investment for the future, and that the complaints of the flowered goods should be obviated, particularly that of working the flowers with a coarse thread, which Your Honours positively direct them to avoid.

94. To these remarks they replied under date the 29th November, and expressed their concern that the part of this year's investment already sent down from thence should have

drawn on them so severe a censure, as they were not consious of having neglected any thing in their power for Your Honours interest in the purchase of that cloth, which they beg leave to assure us they think much better and cheaper than that of last year. Some of the baftaes they allow was ill dressed, but they hope the much greater part of them did not deserve the censure of being very bad, indeed they were in hopes they would have been approved of. However, in obedience to our orders they shall purchase no more of them, seeing the very little probability of removing the complaints concerning them. They likewise take notice in that letter they wrote us very amply on the 18th of June concerning the flowered cloth, to which they desired reference, that they can assure us, as they have Your Honours' interest truely at heart, they shall always endeavour to avoid deserving complaints or censure in the purchase of their investment but at the same time they beg leave to observe that as the fabricks of all kinds of cloth have been greatly debased from the excessive dearness of cotton for the three preceeding years and the great increase of buyers, so they apprehend it will require some time before these fabricks can be recovered.

95. On the 15th ultimo they acknowledged the receipt of the 10 chests of treasure which we had sent them on the 1st November.

96. When we supplied our subordinates with money after the dispatch of the Oxford, we sent 15 chests of rupees to Jugdea to forward the investment of that factory and informed them thereof the 12th of March.

97. On the 26th of March arrived that parcel of cloth which they advised us they had dressed without conjee for a trial, and desired our orders thereon, upon an inspection of which we approved both of the quality of the cloth and the method of dressing it, and directed them, if they thought the rest of these cloth would turn out as well in proportion, to dress it in this manner. This in a letter of the 18th April they acquainted us they should comply with, as in their opinion this method had much the advantage of the other in many respects.

98. Your Honours will perceive by the course of our Consultations that the several parcels of cloth dispatched from that factory arrived here.

99. When they acknowledged the receipt of the list of investment sent there upon the arrival of Your Honours' commands of the 15th December 1752, they promised to amend the complaints therein as much as possible, though the procuring of cloth now, equal to musters made when it was at least 30 per cent cheaper than at present, was impracticable and the only way in their opinion to amend their investment was to allow a suitable rise in the price of their cloth. That in regard to what Your Honours were pleased to observe of the difference of their cloth sent you by the same ship, as a proof of their bad conduct, and want of due regard to musters, they beg leave to remark that their aurungs differ and some times considerably at different times, which will always make an inequality in the cloth even of the same investment. That the baftaes Your Honours now indented for of 1½ covids wide and 36 ft. long are not procurable but by putton, which being contrary to Your Honours' orders, they requested we would direct them how to act in that point.

100. A parcel of cloth which had been dispatched from thence on the 28th of April arriving on the 30th of June, the Board went down to the cottah to inspect the same, 900 pieces whereof were found to be extremely damaged, and some of them so bad that they could not bear being rewashed, whereupon we agreed to sell them at outcry. As this accident was chiefly owing to the cloth having been a long time in the boats, we could not help contributing it to a great neglect in them, as we learnt from the manjees and people, they had been obliged to return to their factory on account of bad weather, at which time they ought to have unloaded them and examined if any appearance of damage could be seen on the bundles, when it would have been very easy, and attended with but little expense to have redressed them and by that means prevented the cloth's rotting by laying two months wet in the boats. The account sales of the above damaged goods, Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 2nd of August.

101. In the foregoing letter we directed them to procure the baftaes of 1½ covids and 36 ft. long without advancing putton if they possible could, but if they could not, we permitted them to give out putton for the same, cautioning them to do it with as much security as lay in their power to prevent Your Honours

being sufferers, which orders they acknowledged the receipt of in a letter dated the 30th July, assuring us they would punctually comply therewith.

102. As the gentlemen at Jugdea had frequently importuned us for a supply of money we sent them up 10 chests of A. Rupees on the 30th August.

103. The baftaes lately received from that place turning out extremely good, especially that sortments called Luckypore, we directed them in a letter dated the 6th of November to increase the quantity and to let their wrappers in future be very good, as they were of great use to us in sending up to the aurungs to pack our cloth in.

104. When Mr. McGuire went down to Bulramgurry, we gave him directions to provide some musters of the different sortments of the Almorra goods, and send them us for our inspection, which he performed accordingly on the 10th of May and desired our immediate answer if he should set about providing any quantity for Your Honours.

105. Upon inspecting those musters and comparing them with the old ones in our warehouse, we found the quality of the chucklaes, ginghams and piniascoes pretty good, but the shalbafts we thought very indifferent. Whereupon we directed him to provide the following quantities of those sortments, whose quality we approve of—

Piniascoes—20 and 2—1000 pieces

Ginghams—20 and 2—500

Chucklaes—50 and 2—2500

enjoining him to endeavour to keep up the cloth equal to muster, and lower the prices if he could, and if he could procure tepoys of 28 and 1½ at 8 rupees per piece, to provide 800 pieces, but to reject the shelbafts.

106. Upon receiving of these orders he requested a supply of 32000 A.Rupees to meet this provission, which we sent him on the 10th of June, since when we have received some part of those goods. The tepoys and ginghams much about the same fabrick as those the merchants brought last year, the tepoys rather higher in price, the ginghams much about the same price,

the piniascoes are at the same price and much about the same fabrick as those the merchants used to bring in, chucklaes much better than those of last year but the price higher.

107. Having now given Your Honours a detail of this material branch of your affairs, we shall proceed to the fourth head concerning?

*The trade of India and therein any transactions with the country Government.*

108. In the beginning of the season [we] directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to make a representation to the Durbar in the strongest terms they could about the complaints of our merchants concerning the extravagant exaction[s] of the chowkeys, and ordered them to endeavour if possible to get the small chowkeys, planted up and down the country, intirely suppressed. We have been obliged to repeat these orders frequently to the gentlemen at that factory, and directed them to insist upon redress, as the oppression rather increased and scarce any regard was paid to Your Honours' dusticks. No reply could be obtained from the Nabob till lately (notwithstanding the frequent importunities of Mr. Watts and his Council for one and that too worded in so trite and customary a style that we have reason to apprehend very little redress will ever be obtained. However we have directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to make proper representations to the Nabob himself in case of complaints of this nature (agreeable to his request in his letter to Mr. Watts) that they may be without excuse, should they suffer these impositions to continue.

109. We have likewise determined to redress ourselves from the oppressions of these chowkeys that lay near us and have no manner of right to receive any contributions, intending to clear our goods, whenever detained at such places, by force as has been always customary.

110. Mr. Holwell informing us on the 24th of May that a mutchulka had been taken from the Phowsdar of Bakergunge[2] to prohibit the importation of rice from that place into Calcutta, we transmitted his letter to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to obtain an immediate perwannah for the free importation of grain from Bakergunge, otherwise the place must be reduced to the greatest necessity and misery. We ordered

them in that letter to remonstrate this manner of proceeding to the Nabob, which would be proper treatment for an enemy than a nation at amity with and trading in this country.

111. Your Honours will perceive by the course of our Consultations that the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar could not possibly obtain such perwannah, without making a nuzzir of 3000 rupees to the Chuta Nabob and his Duan, which we in several letters directed them to avoid paying if possible, as we were apprehensive they would make it a pretence to demand a sum annually upon the same account, should we once give in to so unjustifiable an extortion, nor did we know where it might stop, as it would be always in their power to raise trifling obstacles in order to make us pay a sum of money if they found us so easy. But Mr. Watts and his Council still acquainted us they could not possibly get a perwannah without making a nuzzir of 3000 rupees as they before advised us, and desired our directions whether they should give it or not, upon taking which into consideration we were of opinion for the reasons already given upon this head, that such a demand should by no means be complied with, and therefore absolutely forbid them paying it.

112. Your Honours will observe by the letters this year received from your servants at Jugdea, that they have procured leave to remove to Luckipore, and have accordingly built a house there, the expences of which we do not yet know.

113. We must under this head beg leave to offer once more to Your Honours' notice a subject we were in hopes the gentlemen at Madrass would have given up, upon the reasons assigned them by us when they first mentioned it, but as they seem determined to carry this [point] and have declared they will represent it to Your Honours, in the light they themselves are plea[sed] to esteem it, we cannot avoid troubling you of with our sentiments, and state the case in its real colours, that Your Honours may afterwards give such orders thereon as you shall judge proper. What we mean is the standing order Your Honours transmitted to India in the year 1734 "that no vessels from this place should trade to any settlements on the Coast except those belonging to Your Honours", which standing order the President and Council of Fort St. George are anxious to have revived. What motives induced these gentlemen to insist so streneously on a thing which must be attended with certain prejudice to every trader in this settlement, we are at a loss to

guess at, unless private interest should biass them to this way of thinking, which we will not however venture to suppose, and since Your Honours' interest is made the pretext, we hope those arguments made use of by them on that occasion will lose their weight, should it appear that it will be very opposite thereto, which we think must be the consequence, as it will not be worth any one's while to send a vessel to that coast if they are to be deprived of the advantage of selling and buying their goods at those markets where they would find it their interest to go, and confined only to such and such ports, where they must either make their purchases on the terms the gentlemen at those places please to give them, or go with[out]. We will not here intrude upon Your Honours by repeating the reasons we urged on this head in our letter of the 3rd of September, which we beg to refer ourselves to, but close what we have to say, by submitting it to Your Honours' consideration, whether it can be for the advantage of Your Honours or those concerned in trade to be confined in the manner the gentlemen at Madrass are desirous of: and flatter ourselves Your Honours will upon a candid view of this affair permit us to make use of those markets we find most for our benefit, which even at the best are very indifferent. We beg leave further to add that were we not convinced the excluding our vessels from a general trade on that coast would prevent any going there at all, and by that means Your Honours lose the dutys now collected at Madrass and Fort St. David by our trade, we should not plead so much in favour of such a priviledge.

114. The Armenians having promised to send in a letter to the Board setting forth the reasons why they expect to be excluded from paying the consulage, made us defer giving our sentiments thereon hitherto, but no such letter being yet delivered, we find no reason to alter our sentiments already given Your Honours that they should pay the consulage equally with Europeans, as they injoy the same benefit of protection.

*Fifthly, concerning buildings, fortifications and revenues.*

115. Enclosed in this ship's packet we transmit Your Honours the judicial proceedings [of] Zemindary with the account sale of your bazars and farms.

116. Mr. Holwell having finished his measurement of the ground, delivered in a letter the 23rd of July concerning it, as Your Honours will see entered after that day's Consultation,

which we took into consideration on the 26th of that month, and as the houses belonging to Europeans and others in the white town sell from ten to twelve thousand rupees each house, and the yearly charges of them are so large as to afford but little advantage to the proprietors, we agreed to submit the laying a duty of 5 per cent on the sales to Your Honours, and shall only just observe that we think it would be a hardship upon the proprietors of such houses. In relation to the converting the ground rent called Cowrie Mhul into Siccas, and raising the half rent into whole rent as he requests in the above letter, we did not think proper to alter an indulgence which has subsisted from the original of the settlement for so trifling an advantage

117. In our letter dated the 23rd of September 1753, we informed Your Honours we should examine Mr. Holwell's state of the revenues delivered in just before the dispatch of the Wager. Accordingly we met for that purpose on the 28th September when, after reading that state and other letters delivered in by Mr. Holwell, Mr. Frankland desired leave to give in his remarks in writing to the Board, which he performed accordingly on the 27th ultimo, copy of which letter we enclose in this ship's packet for Your Honours' observation.

118. Mr. Holwell has desired upon the face of that day's Consultation, Your Honours would suspend your judgement of the state of the revenues transmitted you last year, till he can have an opportunity of vindicating himself from the accusations contained against him in the above letter of Mr. Frankland's.

119. When we resolved not to pay the nuzzir of 3000 rupees demanded by the Chuta Nabob for a perwannah to import grain from Bakergunge, we [took] under consideration in what manner to encourage the importation of rice into the place, and by that means relieve the distresses of the poor inhabitants which we were of opinion was chiefly owing to the heavy duties there levyed on the imports at the gunges. We therefore directed Mr. Holwell to lay before us an account of the dutys which have been collected for some years past on the exportation of rice, in order to relieve the poor, if possible, by reducing the heavy tax now levyed on the imports, and make Your Honours some amends by encreasing the duty on the exportation.

120. In consequence of that order to Mr. Holwell, he laid before us on the 29th October the dutys which had been collected for six years past on the exports of rice, with a letter representing the ill effects of totally giving up the present tax on the imports at the gunge, and representing the intire prohibition of exporting grain out of the place as a much better and more salutary method of reducing the price of it. At that time we agreed to keep the gunge in our own hands, instead of selling it at outcry, by which means we should have it in our power either to continue or reduce the dutys as we saw occasion.

121. Upon a further consideration of this affair on the 19th of November, and refering ourselves to the Consultations of preceeding years, we found on a scarcity of grain in 1732 and 1734 (the gunge being then in Your Honours' hands), the President and Council granted an import of grain free of all duty during the time of scarcity, collecting the duty again as usual when grain grew more plenty, but as such an indulgence might be perniciously perverted by the dealers in rice and in the end no way relieve the consumers, we therefore agreed that for the future all grain should be landed solely at the gunge, and that a duty of 4 per cent be collected on the imports and 8 per cent on exports, *prohibiting all exportation of grain, unless the current price of the gunge be one maund for a rupee.*

122. We hope Your Honours will not disapprove of our taking this step, to which we were enduced by the misery and distress of the most usefull part of our inhabitants, the industrious poor, and as the quantity of rice brought into the place is estimated at 400000 mds., we have reason to imagine the reduction of the duty will not occasion any considerable deminuition in the revenue from what the gunge has on a medium sold for, though should a loss ensue, the present regulation may be either altered or amended as circumstances differ, and we are apt to think Your Honours (who have so frequently directed us to relieve our inhabitants as much as lies in our power) would rather chuse to suffer something in your revenues than to enhance them at the price of the poor.

123. Messrs. Eyre and Holwell have dissented from the resolutions of the Board in reducing the duty upon grain at this present juncture, as the price of it is now such as cannot be called a scarcity, and therefore makes this innovation in their opinion very useless and unnecessary.

124. Colonell Scott has acquainted us that he purposes sending Your Honours a plan of this town, as well as what other works may be necessary for the defence of it, in his private packet. We must therefore beg leave to refer Your Honours thereto, the expence of which he cannot estimate at present.

*Sixthly, concerning factors, writers and their accompts and seventhly, touching accompts.*

125. Mr. Joseph Lowe one of Your Honours' covenanted servants departed this life on the 24th of May.

126. Mr. Baillie having wrote for an assistant at Jugdea, we appointed Mr. John Johnstone to that factory.

127. The securities of Mr. Mathew Collet demanding their bond, we agreed the President should deliver it up.

128. Having received advice from the Coast of the death of Captain Jas. Chase and Lieutenant Kirk, Lieutenant Keene having likewise deceased on the 16th September, the President informed the Board he had granted a captain lieutenant's commission to Mr. Alexander Grant, and a lieutenant's commission to Mr. John Ellet.

129. Agreeable to Your Honours' directions, we have given commissions to the several officers you have this year been pleased to send us, according to the rank Your Honours have placed them, excepting Captain John Howes who is detained at the Coast by the President and Council there.

130. We have permitted Mr. Owen Jones, one of the surgeon's mates at this place, to return to Europe upon his request and have appointed Mr. Taylor (whom Your Honours have recommended to succeed to the first vacancy of surgeon here) in his room till a vacancy happens.

131. Mr. Charles O'Hara, one of the young gentlemen Your Honours sent with Mr. Robins, being arrived here and applying to be taken into the service agreeable to Your Honours' directions sent at that time, we admitted him accordingly, and he takes his standing as a writer from his first arriving in India.

132. Your Honours having directed Mr. George Alexander should return to Europe we appointed Mr. Nath. Wilson at Dacca in his room; we have since permitted Mr. Alexander to serve in quality of surgeon on board the Montford at Captain

Vincent's request and hope Your Honours will not be displeased therewith, as he is now of service on board one of Your Honours' ships and will return to Europe the next season.

133. Colonel Scott begs leave to acquaint Your Honours that upon his arrival at Madrass he thought it for the benefit of the place to change Mr. Hugh Barker, whom Your Honours sent out a lieutenant in the train, for Mr. Alford to whom we have given a commission accordingly.

134. We have called upon Your Honours' servants that are of age to execute fresh covenants, which they have accordingly done, and they are transmitted hence in the box of books by this ship.

135. On the 27th ultimo Colonel Scott took notice to the Board that there were a number of buxerries in the Zemindary which he was of opinion by the tenour of his commission should be put under his command, to be regularly trained and made serviceable for the defence of the settlement, as well as when required to be sent upon partys or other expeditions, and as he looked upon them to be a military establishment, he thought they ought to be comprehended in that clause of his commission which styles him Major of this garrison and Commander of all the Company's forces employed at this Presidency.

136. Your Honours will observe on the face of that day's Consultation our several opinions on that head, when the majority noted that the buxerries at present employed in the cutcherry (and which Mr. Holwell informed us he had reduced the number of as much as the nature of the post would admit or should be under the command of the Zemindar, without which it would be impossible for him to execute the judicial part of his office, but that in case it should be thought expedient in future upon an emergency to entertain a further number, they should be under the direction of the Commander in Chief of the garrison.

137. The Accomptant having in a letter of the 16th of July requested our permission to leave the prizings out of the general books to prevent their swelling to a size complained of by Your Honours, we complied therewith as it is not of any great importance, a fair sett of prizings being transmitted home every year.

138. We have already acquainted Your Honours of the method we have settled the merchants' accompts in and our resolutions to compel them to sign their accompts as settled by us.

139. In framing the invoice by this ship we have valued the goods received from the aurungs at Rs. 13/2 per cent more than their cost at those places by making the following advances:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dustore | ... | 2-5-6 |
| Brokerage | .. | 0-12-6 |
| Interest | ... | 10-0-0 |
| | | 13-2-0 |

which will be brought to Your Honours' credit in your books, as by charging these articles we find the goods turned out at a medium about the price contracted for with our merchants, and as we purpose gratifying such of our gomastahs out of the article of brokerage as have acted well in their employs, and exerted themselves in the purchase of cheap and good cloth.

140. Though by this statement our goods from the aurungs turn out much about the same price as what our merchants used to bring in, yet as the quality of them are in our opinion greatly superior, we flatter ourselves this method will meet with Your Honours' approbation.

141. The running cash and treasury accounts are enclosed in this packet, by which Your Honours will perceive we have a very large ballance now in our treasury, which we esteem a very favourable circumstance, as we shall have it in our power to send early supplys to our subordinates, and succeed we hope much better at our aurungs than we have done last year, by beginning to make our purchases immediately after the dispatch of the shipping this season.

142. We shall now advise Your Honours of the bills of exchange we have granted by this ship:

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 26th November to the Reverend Gervas Bellamy for C.Rupees two hundred sixty six, eleven annas (266-11-0) payable to Mr. Thomas Pomfrett @ 2/3 is | £St. 30-0-0 |

On 20th December to Chas. Manningham Esqr. for C.Rupees nine hundred eighty four, seven annas, three pice (984-7-3) payable to George Stainforth @ 2/3 is £St. 110-15-0

On do to do account John Shipwood for C.Rupees five hundred forty (540) payable to Thomas Burrow Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 60-15-0

On do to do account the estate of Thomas Braddyall Esqr. deceased for C.Rupees one thousand eleven, eight annas (1011-8-0) payable to John Braddyall Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 113-15-10

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for C.Rupees seven hundred eleven, one anna, nine pice (711-1-9) payable to Mrs. Sarah Hawkins @ 2/3 is £St. 80-0-0

On do to Chas. Manningham, Will. Frankland and Jane Douglas account Elizabeth Thorpe for C.Rupees three thousand five hundred fifty five, nine annas (3555-9-0) payable to Elizabeth Thorpe @ 2/3 is £St. 400-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for C.Rupees eighty one thousand one hundred fifty-one, one anna, nine pice (81151-1-9) payable to William Wogan Junr. or order @ 2/3 is £St. 9129-9-11

On do to do for C.Rupees forty one thousand seven hundred seventy six, two annas, three pice (41776-2-3) payable to Capt. Josiah Hindman @ 2/3 is £St. 4699-16-3

On do to Mr. Luke Scrafton for C.Rupees three thousand (3000) payable to Mr. Anthony Clerembault @ 2/3 is £St. 337-10-0

On do to Chas. Manningham account William Davis Esqr. for C.Rupees three thousand five hundred thirty four, three pice (3534-0-3) payable to William Davis Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 397-11-0

On do to William Frankland Esqr. for C.Rupees one thousand thirty eight, three annas, six pice (1038-3-6) payable to Thos. Frankland Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 116-16-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. on account 2 chests of coral imported per Bombay Castle and shipped per David de Castro marked S.B. No. 3 and S.B. No. 7 for C.Rupees eleven thousand two hundred four, two annas, six pice (11204-2-6) payable to Mr. Benjamin Mendez de Costa @ 2/3 is £St. 1260-9-4

On do to do account 1 chest of coral marked [symbol] No. 1 account Thomas Godfrey Esqr. for C.Rupees nine thousand five hundred fifty six, twelve annas, six pice (9556-12-6) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1075-2-9

On do to do and Chas. Manningham Esqr. being returns of a chest of amber beads marked MF No. 10 per Colchester for C.Rupees three thousand twenty six, nine pice (3026-0-9) payable to Moses Franco and Company @ 2/3 is £St. 340-8-7

On do to Chas. Manningham Esqr. account the estate Frances Woolaston deceased for C.Rupees seven thousand sixty two, six annas, nine pice, (7062-6-9) payable to Chas. Manningham @ 2/3 is £St. 794-10-3

On do to do account the estate of William Hume deceased for C.Rupees one thousand nine hundred ninety five, thirteen annas, six pice (1995-13-6) payable to do @ 2/3 is £St. 224-10-3

On do to do account Edward Eyles Esqr. for C.Rupees two thousand nine hundred eighty one, six annas (2981-6-0) payable to Edward Eyles Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 335-7-11

On do to do Edward Eyre and J. Z. Holwell account Richard Eyre for C.Rupees one thousand eight hundred (1800) payable to Richard Eyre Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 202-10-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account George Pigot Esqr. for C.Rupees eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas (8888-14-0) payable to Hugh Pigot @ 2/3 is £St. 1000-0-0

On do to Chas. Manningham Esqr. account John Coatsworth for C.Rupees two hundred twelve, twelve annas, three pice (212-12-3) payable to Mrs. Mary Coatsworth @ 2/3 is £St. 23-18-4

On 27th December to Mr. William Nixon for C.Rupees sixty thousand five, eight annas (60005-8-0) payable to Edward Eyles and Joseph Fowke Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 6750-12-4

On do to do account of Messrs. Jenks and Revely for C.Rupees eight hundred sixty eight, four annas (868-4-0) payable to Samuel Jenks @ 2/3 is £St. 97-13-6

On do to Mrs. Sophia Holland for C.Rupees five thousand five hundred (5500) payable to Edward and Joseph Fowke @ 2/3 is £St. 618-15-0

On do to Doctor Gray for C.Rupees twelve thousand two hundred fifty two (12252) payable to Henry Allen and Daniel Booth @ 2/3 is £St. 1378-7-0

On do to Captain George Minchin for C.Rupees seventeen thousand five hundred eighty three, one anna, nine pice (17583-1-9) payable to the legal representatives of Major James Morsman @ 2/3 is £St. 1978-2-0

On the 28th December to Messrs. Mackett and Amyatt for C.Rupees nine thousand six hundred (9600) payable to David Findley @ 2/3 is £St. 1080-0-0

On 30th December to Capt. LeGeyt for C.Rupees twenty eight thousand four hundred forty four, two annas, three pice (28444-2-3) payable to Captain LeGeyt @ 2/3 is £St. 3199-19-3

On 31st December to Richard Becher Esqr. for C.Rupees six hundred twenty nine, twelve annas, six pice (629-12-6) payable to Robert Nettleton Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 70-17-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake and J. Z. Holwell Esqr. account Mrs. Elizabeth Cockle for C.Rupees two thousand six hundred thirty nine, four annas, six pice (2639-4-6) payable to Messrs. James Adams, stationer in Lombard Street and Edmund Lardner, wholesale haberdasher in the borough of Southwark @ 2/3 is £St. 296-18-4

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account Philip Polier for C.Rupees three hundred fifty five, nine annas (355-9-0) payable to Mr. James Teissier @ 2/3 is £St. 40-0-0

On do to do account William Ballie for C.Rupees eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Hugh Ballie or order, Judge of the Court of Admiralty in Dublin @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to do account Captain Norton Hutchinson for C.Rupees one thousand seven hundred three (1703) payable to Capt. Norton Hutchinson @ 2/3 is £St. 191-11-9

On do to do on his own account for C.Rupees seven hundred forty eight (748) payable to Robert Goodere @ 2/3 is £St. 84-3-0

On do to do account William Keene for C.Rupees four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7-0) payable to Henry Crabb Boulton Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 50-0-0

On do to do on his own account for C.Rupees one thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas, six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Roger Drake Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 200-0-0

On do to Richard Becher Esqr. and Captain Thomas Powney for C.Rupees eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas (8888-14-0) payable to William Powney @ 2/3 is £St. 1000-0-0

On do to Richard Becher and J. Z. Holwell Esqr. for C.Rupees six hundred sixty (660) payable to Captain Nathaniel Jacobs @ 2/3 is £St. 74-5-0

On do to David Rannie for C.Rupees five hundred thirty three, five annas, three pice (533-5-3) payable to James and Mungo Rannie or order @ 2/3 is £St. 60-0-0

On do to William Forth for C.Rupees eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to William Ferguson, druggist in Wood Street @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to J. Z. Holwell Esqr. for C.Rupees one thousand one hundred fifty five, eight annas, nine pice (1155-8-9) payable to Charles Raymond Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 130-0-0

On do to do for C.Rupees four hundred thirty, five annas, nine pice (430-5-9) payable to Edward Stephenson Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 48-8-3

On do to do for C.Rupees seven thousand one hundred eleven, one anna, nine pice (7111-1-9) payable to William Davis Esqr. and Messrs. Gosling and Bennet @ 2/3 is £St. 800-0-0

On do to Mrs. Margaret Warrick for C.Rupees seven hundred (700) payable to Mr. William Cooke @ 2/3 is £St. 78-15-0

On do to Mr. Solomon Margass for C.Rupees three hundred twenty one, thirteen annas (321-13-0) payable to Solomon Margass or order @ 2/3 is £St. 36-4-1

On do to Mr. William Nixon for C.Rupees six hundred twenty two, three annas, six pice (622-3-6) payable to Messrs. Chauncy, Brown and Chauncy @ 2/3 is £St. 70-0-0

On 27th December to William Nixon account Messrs. Jenks and Revely for C.Rupees nineteen thousand three hundred five (19305) payable to Thomas Burrow Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 2171-16-3

On 31st December to do for C.Rupees eleven thousand five hundred fifty five, nine annas (11555-9-0) payable to

Edward Eyles Esqr. and Crommelin Pigou @ 2/3 is £St. 1300-0-0

On do to Mr. Joseph Gethin for C.Rupees four thousand four hundred forty four, seven annas (4444-7-0) payable to himself @ 2/3 is £St. 500-0-0

On do to Mr. Luke Scrafton for C.Rupees two thousand (2000) payable to Mr. Toby Chauncy @ 2/3 is £St. 225-0-0

On do to Messrs. Clerembault and Scrafton for C.Rupees three thousand (3000) payable to Thomas Burrow Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 337-10-0

On do to do for C.Rupees three thousand (3000) payable to William Wogan Junr. @ 2/3 is £St. 337-10-0

On do to Mathew Collet Esqr. for C.Rupees eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. John Collet @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to Mr. Thomas Cooke for C.Rupees eleven thousand six hundred seventeen, four annas, six pice (11617-4-6) payable to Mrs. Alice Forster @ 2/3 is £St. 1306-18-10

On do to E. H. Cruttenden for C.Rupees one thousand three hundred sixteen, six annas, three pice (1316-6-3) payable to William Holcombe @ 2/3 is £St. 148-1-11

On do to Mr. Peter Amyatt for C.Rupees eight hundred eighty-eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to himself or order @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to John Macmouth Junr. for C.Rupees one thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas, three pice (1777-12-3) payable to Mr. John MacMouth of Rotherith @ 2/3 is £St. 200-0-0

On do to Mr. Culling Smith for C.Rupees eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to himself @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to Mr. William Fulerton for C.Rupees two thousand two hundred sixty, nine annas, six pice (2260-9-6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 254-6-4

On do to do for C.Rupees one thousand two hundred thirty four, ten annas, nine pice (1234-10-9) payable to David Findlay @ 2/3 is £St. 138-18-0

On do to do for C.Rupees two thousand five hundred (2500) payable to David Findlay and William Watts @ 2/3 is £St. 281-5-0

On do to do for C.Rupees nine thousand six hundred (9600) payable to David Findlay account William Watts @ 2/3 is £St. 1080-0-0

On do to do for C.Rupees eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas (8888-14-0) payable to William Wynch Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1000-0-0

On do to Mr. James Gay for C.Rupees four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7-0) payable to James Barton @ 2/3 is £St. 50-0-0

On do to do for C.Rupees four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7-0) payable to John Gay @ 2/3 is £St. 50-0-0

On do to James Valicourt for C.Rupees five hundred forty (540) payable to William Barwell @ 2/3 is £St. 60-15-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. for C.Rupees nine hundred ninety, twelve annas, six pice (990-12-6) payable William Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 111-9-3

On do to Mr. Thomas Coales for C.Rupees three hundred fifty five, nine annas (355-9-0) payable to Captain Theophilus Weight @ 2/3 is £St. 40-0-0

On do to do for C.Rupees eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. Owen Jones @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to Mr. Mapletoft for C.Rupees eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. Peter Taylor of London, gold smith or order @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to William Mackett Esqr. for C.Rupees five thousand one hundred fifty five, nine annas (5155-9-0) payable to Mr. David Findlay @ 2/3 is £St. 580-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for the proceeds of two chests of coral beads marked BDM No. 5 and 6 shipped by Richard Barwell Esqr. on the Egmont Captain Tolson for C.Rupees twenty five thousand eight hundred sixty one, three annas (25861-3-0) payable to Richard Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 2909-7-8

143. The whole amount of bills of exchange is C.Rupees four hundred sixty nine thousand seven hundred seventy eight, three annas, six pice (469778-3-6) or £St. 52850-16-10.

*Supplement.*

144. The President and Council of Fort St. George having in a letter of the 12th February requested a supply of gun powder in the month of September we directed Mr. Lawrence Withering[ton] to get ready as large a quantity as he could by that time, when we promised to send them up whatever quantity should be made.

145. In our Consultation of the 14th of June Your Honours will perceive a letter delivered in by Colonel Maccaffray concerning a demand he had upon the estate of Capt. William

West, whose executor Mr. George Gray refused coming to any composition or adjustment but by course of law, the charges of which he was unable to support, and therefore deferred our orders to Mr. Gray to settle it by arbitration. Whereon we directed our Secretary to send that gentlemen a copy of Mr. Maccaffray's letter and acquaint him, we thought the method he had proposed of settling it by arbitration a very equitable one. Mr. Gray on the 23rd June replied to that letter, and his answer to that letter is entered after that day's Consultation, by which Your Honours will perceive the dispute seems to be of a complicated nature and what we could not interfere in as a Governour and Council.

146. Upon demanding of Ramnaut[bose] his son the annual 2000 rupees which he agreed to pay on account of his father's debts to Your Honours, we found that he was not able to discharge that sum, and on the 23rd of June he petitioned the Board to sell his effects and clear him of this annual demand which he could not possible comply with. We have accordingly disposed of such effects of his as we could get any account of, as per account sales entered after our Consultation of the 14th August and have directed the President and Import Warehouse Keeper to examine his books and make a strict inquiry, if any of the debts said to be outstanding are recoverable or not.

147. On the 11th October the Falmouth company wrote the President a letter requesting Mr. Thomas Bromfield, fourth mate of that ship, might be ordered to his trial for the murther of one of their comrades, whose death they laid to his charge, upon which we desired Captain Field to send for those of his men up to town as had any thing to alledge against the said Bromfield.

148. Upon their coming up, their several depositions were taken and sworn to before us, and as this seemed to be a criminal matter cognizable by us as a court of admiralty, we intended to have brought the said Bromfield to his tryal accordingly, but upon further examination finding the blow or kick said to be the cause of the seaman's death was given in the English Channel, it was the opinion of our lawyers we could not proceed upon the tryal in India, the presumptive cause of the seaman's death being without the limits prescribed in His Majesty's commission of admiralty to us granted. We have therefore bound Mr. Bromfield over by recognizance to deliver

himself up to the Commissioners of Admiralty in England and to be tryed, and have transmitted them the depositions of those who prosecute for the deceased as well as those who are evidence for the prisoner.

149. Upon receipt of Your Honours' packet per Egmont we read the exemplification of His Majesty's new charter sent us by that ship and on the 5th day of October promulgated the same. The first thing we did was the appointment of twelve commissioners for the Court of Requests, as many of which as we could we chose out of Your Honours' covenanted servants. We then appointed Mr. Thos. Coales, Accomptant General as directed in the charter; and we have transmitted the two courts such paragraphs of your orders as relate to them, agreeable to Your Honours' commands to us.

150. Your Honours will perceive by our Consultations what has since passed between us and the Court of Requests in regard to the establishment of that court with officers and allowances on the most reasonable footing; and as the fees settled by Act of Parliament for courts of the same nature in England were esteemed too extravagant for this country, we agreed to make the officers of that court certain reasonable allowances, and levy a duty of 5 per cent on all suits determined there to reimburse Your Honours that charge, which was accordingly done, and continued till after the ballot for new commissioners in the beginning of December when they informed us by letter that the peons they had hitherto entertained by our order were not sufficient and that they were in want of further writing assistance, the business of that court increasing daily, upon which we left it to them to make what allowances they thought proper and collect a large duty for the reimbursement of such advanced charges.

151. As the charter directs all suits under five pagodas should be prosecuted in the court, we ordered the Zemindar should not take cognizance of any disputes of property under 20 C. Rupees, to prevent the jurisdiction of the cutcherry and that court from interfering with each other and creating continual contests between them.

152. Three of the members of the Mayor's Court being absent at the time the charter arrived, and not coming in time to qualify themselves for their seats on the bench, we have appointed Messrs. Valicourt, Verelst and Fullerton Aldermen

in their room, as one of the absent members has been out of the place more than a twelve month, and there is no probability of the other two returning within that time; the reason of our not filling up these vacancies, at the time of swearing in the Mayor and Aldermen, was the ground we then had to imagine they would arrive very quickly, but from advices since received, that not being possible, we thought it for the advantage of the place that the administration of justice should not be confined to so small a number.

153. We must here take notice to Your Honours of a mistake which we apprehend has happened in the invoice and bill of lading per Winchelsea, both which mention but 60 tonns of iron by that ship, whereas the Store Keeper acquaints us he has received 78 tonns 18 hundredweights 3 quarters 19 pounds, from whence we conclude the quantity should have been 80 tonns, especially as there is 42 barrs deficient in tale. We have therefore demanded the deficiency of Captain Baron who has discharged it.

154. We have laden the following sortments of goods on this ship, which are intirely new and sent you by way of trial, for which purpose we request Your Honours' orders whether we shall purchase any for the future.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cardemis Dergoria | 20 and 2¼ |
| Do French sort | 20 and 2¼ |
| Do Heroa | 18 and 1⅞ |
| Elatches Muleapore | 18 and 1½ |
| Seersuckers French sort | 30 and 2 |
| Habasses | 30 and 2 |

155. We have likewise sent Your Honours the following sortments repeatedly by you ordered, but which we could never get our merchants to contract for:

| | |
|---|---|
| Photos middling | 28 and 2¼ |
| Do blue and white | 28 and 2¼ |
| Seersuckers middling | 24 and 2 |
| Mulmulls Santipore middling | 40 and 3 |
| Dooreas Coincola | 40 and 2 |
| Cotton yarn | |
| Do do fine | |

156. Mr. Culling Smith having requested our permission to return to Europe for the recovery of his health and it being the doctor's opinion that it will greatly contribute thereto, we have complied with his request and permitted him to return on this ship. We must beg leave to mention him to Your Honours as a young gentleman very diligent in your service and worthy of your favour.

157. Enclosed in this packet we transmit Your Honours a letter from our attorney directed to Nathaniel Cole Esqr. concerning the deposit of Deepchund, lodged in the Mayor's Court, to which we must beg leave to refer for the particulars of that affair.

158. In the box of books by this ship we transmit Your Honours a copy of our book of standing orders.

159. We have laden on this ship sundry stores for the use of St. Helena as per invoice and bill of lading transmitted thither amounting to C.Rs.....

160. We have likewise laden on her sundry goods and merchandize consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to C.Rs.....

161. Mr. William Frankland who dispatches this ship from Ingelie will advise Your Honours of what further may be necessary from there.

162. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours,

Your faithful humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Mackett.

Fort William,
4th January 1754

(Ref: Public General Letters to Court, Vol. 3, 1753-54. pp. 5—67.

Paras. 116, 124, 135, 136 published in C. R. Wilson's *Old Fort William in Bengal*, Vol. I, pp. 255-56.)

# 38
# LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1754

*Question of the levy of consulage on the Armenians referred to home authorities—account of the distribution of money to subordinate factories.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours.

1. Having laden sundry goods and merchandize on board this ship for Europe and consigned the same to the President and Council of Fort St. George, we are now dispatching of her to [the] place, and have enclosed in her packett a duplicate of our address to Your Honours by the Portfield under date the 31st ultimo, to which we beg leave to stand referred for the particulars of your affairs under our management.

2. The Armenians having addressed us since the departure of the Portfield on the [sub]ject of their paying consulage, we now enclose a copy of their letter for Your Honours' perusal, which we refer entirely to your consideration and shall wait Your Honours' orders thereon, levying the consulage as usual from them till that time.

3. There being a very large ballance in our treasury when we last wrote Your Honours, we agreed to supply our subordinates in the following proportions viz.,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cossimbuzar | ... | 400000 |
| Dacca | ... | 200000 |
| Jugdea | ... | 100000 |
| Ballasore | ... | 40000 |
| | | 740000 |

and likewise to discharge the ballances due to our merchants on the 30 April last, which amounts to about 217000 rupees including the goods we have this year prized from them, but as there would still remain a large sum of money, we have further determined to renew no interest note after the 1st day

of March next ensuing, by which means we hope to save Your Honours considerable sum in interest, as the owners of them notes will either bring them in to be discharged or lose the compound the interest on such notes; we have likewise advanced Omichund 150000 Rs. on his saltpetre contract to prevent paying him any further interest on that account.

4. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums of money for which we have granted bills of exchange payable at ninety days after sight as usual @ 2s. 3d. per rupee:

On the 7 Jany. 1754 of Jonathan Ranson Current Rupees three thousand five hundred (3500) payable to William Davis Esqr. and Capt. Thomas Hill is £St. 393-15-0

On the 14 do to William Nixon account Cornelius Goodwin Current Rupees five hundred eighty three, three annaes (583-3-0) payable to Thomas Burrow Esqr. is £St. 65-12-2

On do to Thomas Blaney Current Rupees four hundred forty four, seven annaes (444-7-0) payable to Mr. Wm. Alexander is £St. 50-0-0

On ditto to Wm. Nixon Current Rupees six thousand four hundred (6400) payable to Messrs. Crommelin Pigou and David Jenks is £St. 720-0-0

On do to William Fullerton Current Rupees seven thousand seven hundred seven, ten annaes, three pice (7707-10-3) payable to Mr. Henry Allen is £St. 867-2-4

On do to Capt. John Green Current Rupees three thousand four hundred seventy three, thirteen annaes (3473-13-0) payable to Capt. Nathan[iel] Cush is £St. 390-16-1

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account Messrs. Roberts and Baynes Current Rupees one thousand one

hundred forty three, ten annaes, nine pice, payable to Messrs. Roberts and Baynes is £St. 129-4-6

On do to ditto on his own account Current Rupees three thousand five hundred fifty five, nine annaes payable to Roger Drake Esqr. Senr. is £St. 400-0-0

On do Capt. John Green account Capt. Felix Ba[ker] deceased Current Rupees eleven thousand (11000) payable to William and Richard Baker Esqr. is £St. 1237-10-0

On ditto to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. on his own account Current Rupees four hundred forty four, seven annaes (444-7-0) payable to Capt. Richard Drake is £St. 50-0-0

On do to Robert Mapletoft Current Rupees five thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annaes, six pice (5777-12-6) payable to Mr. Peter Taylor of the Stran[d] goldsmith is £St. 650-0-0

On do to Messrs. Mackett and Amyatt Current Rupees five thousand one hundred seventy five, six annaes (5175-6-0) payable to David Findlay Esqr. is £St. 582-4-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. Junr. on his own account Current Rupees nine thousand six hundred (9600) payable to David Findlay Esqr. is £St. 1080-0-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. Current Rupees thirteen thousand one hundred eighty one, three annaes (13181-3-0) payable to Wm. David Esqr. is £St. 1482-17-8

On do to do do account Daniel Lascelles Esqr. Current Rupees four thousand (4000) payable to Daniel Lascelles Esqr. is £St. 400-0-0

On do to Manningham and Frankland account John Hope Esqr. Current Rupees one thousand ninety two, two annaes, six pice (1092-2-6) payable to John Hope Esqr. is £St. 122-17-4

On do to Capt. Richard Drake Current Rupees twenty one thousand six hundred (21600) payable to Capt. Richard Drake is £St. 2430-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account William Wogan Current Rupees four thousand six hundred forty five, three annaes, nine pice payable to William Wogan Junr. is £St. 522-11-9

On do to ditto account Levy and Reuben Salomons Current Rupees twenty three thousand five hundred twenty four, fourteen annaes, three pice (23524-14-3) payable to Messrs. Levy and Reuben Salomons is £St. 2646-10-11½

On do to Mr. Peter Amyatt Current Rupees three hundred eighty five, eleven annaes, six pice payable to William Barwell Esqr. is £St. 43-7-10

On do to do Current Rupees five hundred three, nine annaes (503-9-0) payable to Mr. Thomas Sherwood is £St. 56-13-0

On do to Messrs. Mackett and Amyatt Current Rupees nine thousand six hundred (9600) payable to David Findlay Esqr. is £St. 1080-0-0

On do to ditto Current Rupees fourteen thousand forty six, nine annaes, six pice (14046-9-6) payable to David Findlay Esqr. is £St. 1580-4-8

On do to Mrs. Jane Douglas, Current Rupees eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Hugh Watson Esqr. is £St. 100-0-0

5. The whole amount of bills of exchange granted at 2s. 3d. each rupee is Current Rupees 152274-2-3 or £St. 17131-7-8¾.

6. Mr. Frankland being returned from Ingelie has reported the dispatch of the Portfield from that place on the 14th instant when she drew 18 foot 2 inches water upon an even keel. Capt. Legeyt having returned 191 bales of his cargo, the same were endorsed off his bill of lading and the captain protested against.

7. We have laden on this ship sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island of St. Helena amounting to C.Rs. 1069-15-6.

8. Mr. Thomas Coales dispatches this ship to Madrass, we wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours being with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours,

Your faithful obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Machett/ Edward Eyre/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,

the 17th January 1754.

*Postscript.*

We have permitted Mr. Wm. James Harrod to proceed to the Coast for the recovery of his health, from whence he will be obliged to return to Europe, should he not meet with any amendment.

**(Ref. Public General Letters to Court Vol. 3, 1753-54, pp. 68—72.)**

# LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1754

*Purchase of goods at the aurangs through the gumashtahs—correspondence between J. Z. Holwell and the Council regarding the purchase of ground near Calcutta.*

TO the Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours.

By the inclosed copys of letters to Mr. Holwell, Zemindar, Your Honours will have the satisfaction to observe that we have not been unmindfull of the orders received last year from the gentlemen of the Secret Committee to give all encouragement for weavers to come and resort within our precincts. This method to procure any vacant ground we esteemed the more efficacious to prevent all suspicion of the design it was intended for, and by Mr. Holwell's reply Your Honours will notice that he, by observation when the ground was measured, takes notice of a spott which would be extremely commodious for the settlement of weavers and which we empowered him to purchase, but many difficulties has started which has been hitherto a hindrance to the procuring of that ground. Our endeavours shall not be wanting to promote the fabrick of as many sortments of cloth as possible within our bounds and under our [control]. We flatter ourselves that the method we read[ily employed] for and consented to for providing the investment will meet Your Honours' entire approbation. The different goods made in and about Calcutta are the sort[ments] we proposed to employ the weavers about last year, that a perfect knowledge might be gained of their real cost, but as we fell into another method than that of employing merchants to provide the investment, and being well assured that an attempt against the Export Warehouse Keeper privately to engage weavers to make the quantity of cloth, we designed, in our own houses (as by our letter to the Secret Committee of the 28th December 1752) might have frustrated the good design to obtain a quantity of those goods, by promoting a jealousy that we were acting underhand with him, has prevented our having in readiness those sortments which we proposed forwarding to Your

Honours. And as by our inspection they are of a good quality which have been brought into the warehouse and not much differing in the price we learnt they stood the weavers in, we think it has been for the Hon'ble Company's benefit that no step has been taken to thwart the publick orders of the Board relative to the procuring goods in and about Calcutta. The method we have fell into of providing the Calcutta investment by sending the Company's money and gomastahs to the aurungs we hope will prove salutary and Your Honours may be assured that our utmost abilities shall be employed to the promotion of the Hon'ble Company's interest in all points where we have the honour to give our voices, to which end as an examination may be necessary at the close of the season into the management of the conducting the Hon'ble Company's [business] at the aurungs, Your Honours may rely that a [strict scrut]iny will be made, that hereafter we may not be embroiled in disputes with the weavers and others who have had dealings with the gomastahs and thereby the Company suffer by bad debts [——] the dishonesty of the gomastahs, for we think that this is so extraordinary an undertaking that unless the utmost caution is used we may unawares fall into a labyrinth, therefore we may find it a matter worthy our most serious consideration whether to continue or annull this new method of providing the investment and perhaps cogent reasons may offer for confirming or discontinuing that method. We are with the greatest regards,

May it please Your Honours,

Your most faithfull and obliged servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,
18th January 1754.

(Extracts published in C. R. Wilson's *Old Fort William in Bengal* Vol. II, pp. 1-2.)

ENCLOSURE 1

To John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr.

Sir,

By orders from the Hon'ble Court of Directors to their President and second of Fort William we are directed to give all suitable encouragement to the weavers in Calcutta. We

therefore apply to you (as having been industriously employed in the measurement of the ground belonging to the Company) and desire you will inform us if there is any where within our bounds a sufficient vacant space for the number of weavers in Calcutta and many more to be expected from different parts of the country to build their habitations on and proper to fix looms for the manufacturing of many different kinds of cloth.

We are,
Sir,
Your most obedient servants,
Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,
2nd July 1753.

## ENCLOSURE 2

Answer.

To the Hon'ble Roger Drake and E. H. Cruttenden Esqrs.

Hon'ble and Worshipfull Sirs,

In obedience to your favour of 2nd instant I am to inform you that by the state of the present measurement which I shall be enabled to lay before the Board sometime this month, you will observe there remains only 321 begas of the Hon'ble Company's ground un-tenanted including the fort, churches, gardens, cutchery (etc.), so that there is no vacant space in the bounds anyway adequate to the intention you have in view towards executing the commands of our Hon'ble masters particularly addressed you. But to the southward of and contiguous[———] there is a large and commodious[———] to the Rajah Kissenchund and the zemindars Monore Roy, Joyram Roy and Santose Roy Chowdry, which would in all respects be extremely proper for the settlement you intend, as it is high in a clear open air and in the neighbourhood of good water and so situated within the creek that runs from Surman's Bridge to Callygat and under the eye of the principal guard to the southward of the town as to make it liable to no molestation. This ground I believe may be obtained for the rent of one rupee per

baga, provided the use it is intended for is concealed until we gain possession.

I am most respectfully,

Hon'ble and Worshipfull Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,
the 5th July 1753.

To John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr.

ENCLOSURE 3

Reply

Sir,

We hereby empower you to purchase the ground you mention in your letter to us of the 5th instant belonging to the Rajah Kissenchund and the zemindars Monore Roy, Joyram Roy and Santose Roy Chowdry on account of the Company, which as soon as obtained please to advise us thereof that we may give [further] directions thereon so as to have it properly laid out for the intention it is designed and we must desire that you in your office of Zemindar will be assisting to encourage the weavers on any applications made you by them that we may in time draw a numerous train to our settlements.

We are,
Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden.

(Ref. Public General Letters to Court Vol. 3, 1753-54, pp. 74—79.)

## 40

# LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1754

*Shipping matters—proposal for the removal of factory from Jagdia to Lakshmipur—charges of maladministration against Messrs. Baillie and Playdell—Col. Scott to expedite the completion of his projects for the security of Calcutta—bills of exchange drawn on the Company.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours.

1. Copy of our last letter under date the 19th January per Durrington is enclosed in this packet, as well as triplicate of what we wrote Your Honours by the Portfield.

2. The Durrington was dispatched from Ingelie by Mr. Thomas Coales when she drew 18-10 foot water upon an even keel.

3. Having already informed Your Honours of our stationing the Egmont to relieve the Colchester at the island of Negrais, she was dispatched accordingly for that island on the 22nd instant by Mr. Thomas Bellamy, laden with provisions, artificers, husbandmen, etc., for their use.

4. Captain Thomas Field complaining in a letter to the Board that he had lost several of his ships' company by death and desertion, we ordered the military to be draughted for him, and that such as were willing to return to England should have liberty to take their passage on his ship.

5. Enclosed in this packet are all Captain Field's requests. with what other papers appertain [to] his ship.

6. We have purchased and laden on the Falmouth a parcel of Patna goods which were tendered us by Omichund, and which we hope will meet with Your Honours' approbation.

7. After which a calculate of the number of bales already laden on this ship and ready to be laden being brought in by the Export Warehouse Keeper with their amount C.Rs. nine

hundred thirty six thousand (936000), and there still remaining 74 tonns to compleat her charterparty tonnage, we were of opinion, should we put it on board in bale goods, it would encrease her invoice too much and be contrary to Your Honours' directions. We directed the Export Warehouse Keeper therefore to make her tonnage up with saltpetre, reserving space for 100 bales of raw silk expected from Cossimbuzar.

8. By this conveyance we send Your Honours the account current of our several aurungs, by which you will observe the advances of money to each aurung, the amount of what has been received from thence, and of what still remains either in cloth there, or specie or outstanding to the weavers and delolls.

9. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having desired our permission to send a sum of money to the aurungs for the provission of the Novemberbund putney in order to come to a greater certainty of the price thereof, and engage their merchants to offer them better terms, we gave them leave to send as far as forty thousand rupees, (40000) for the present, and when we were informed of that amount being brought in, and how it turned out, we would give further orders thereon.

10. Soon after which they acquainted us they had pressed their merchants several times to bring in musters of the silk they would contract on, which they had frequently promised to do but at last told them they would not on any account undertake to contract with them for this year's investment, having suffered so considerably by the last year's contracts, whereupon they desired our orders how to act, and requested leave to send a further sum to the aurungs for the provision of the Novemberbund putney when the amount of the former forty thousand (40000) rupees was brought in, as they were well assured it would be attended with great advantage to Your Honours, in our reply to which letter we directed them by all means to endeavour to make their contracts with their merchants as usual, and send us down musters of the silk as soon as possible. We likewise forbid them sending any further sum of money to the aurungs till we were informed of the amount in putney bing brought in for the 4000 rupees already permitted them to send, and how it turned out.

11. Mr. Baillie in a letter of the 22nd January acquainting us that upon attempting to remove from Judgea to Luckypoor the Phowsdar of that place had impeded his effecting that removal, by forbiding all their servants, cooleys etc., to assist them in getting anything into their boats, whereupon he requested us to procure a perwannah from Muxadavad to remove to Luckypoor without molestation, which we have accordingly directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to make application for at the Durbar.

12. In a letter of the 10th December Mr. Baillie proposed to the Board the renting of the whole pergunnah or district of Luckypoor, which he was of opinion would be greatly for Your Honours' interest as it might be got for 2,000 rupees per annum, and the renting of the ground again to the tenants, who would willingly come and reside under the English protection, would more than clear that sum, besides which he did not doubt but in a few years the greatest part of their investment might be manufactured within their own bounds, by the encouragement the weavers would have to settle among them. He therefore requested our orders to farm that district for Your Honours, and to have it mentioned in the same perwannah that should be sent for the removal of their factory to Luckypoor which place would exceed the sum firstmentioned to the Board and amount to 19 or 20,000 rupees, but as there would so many advantages attend it preferably to Jugdea he flattered himself we would not esteem that expence any way too considerable, especially as it was chiefly occasioned by their being obliged to bring all their materials from Dacca, which was what he did not foresee when he wrote us it would amount to no more than 4,000 rupees, purposing at that time to remove to Mutlubgunge, where materials of all kinds are extremely cheap and near at hand.

13. Soon after the receipt of that letter the delolls from Judgea (whom Mr. Baillie had advised us he was informed were on their way down) arrived and presented an information in writing against Messrs. Baillie and Playdell for maladministration in Your Honours' affairs while at Judgea, for which information of theirs with our proceedings thereon we must beg leave to referr our Consultation of the 1st instant, wherein Your Honours will perceive we have appointed Mr. Edward Eyre to proceed to Judgea and transact your affairs at that factory till Messrs. Baillie and Playdell have justified their conduct to the satisfaction of the Board, for which pur-

pose we have called them down to Calcutta, and directed them to bring with them such vouchers as they are able to produce to invalidate the allegations laid against them by the delolls. We have likewise obliged the delolls to give us security that they will make good the charges they have exhibited against these gentlemen or be severely punished, and as there is room to imagine the foundation of these charges is private resentment against Mr. Baillie for having thrown them out of Your Honours' employ, we beg leave to desire you will suspend your judgment and censure of those gentlemen till we have investigated the truth of what is alleged against them, in which scrutiny we assure Your Honours we shall be careful to do you justice, should it appear to us they have any way abused their trust.

14. We have severely reprimanded Mr. Baillie for the unexpected increase of the expence in the removing their factory to Luckypoor and have forbid him attempting to farm the district of that place till we receive Your Honours' orders upon that head.

15. Mr. Pearkes being arrived from Dacca has taken his seat at our Board, for which promotion he begs leave to return Your Honours his most humble thanks. The charge of the Buxey Connah is ordered to be delivered him at the end of this month.

16. Colonell Scott having laid a project before the Board for securing the settlement against the attacks of a country force, which in the present conjuncture ought to be guarded against, and as we imagine the expence of it cannot be very considerable, we have complied with his proposal, and directed him to sett about it as soon as possible. A copy of that project we transmit Your Honours in this packet, as we did not chuse for the sake of secrecy to enter it after our Consultations.

17. The Falmouth being the only ship left to be dispatched this season to Europe, Mr. Holwell moved the Board that Your Honours' orders in relation to Messrs. Kempe and Goddard, and the Resolution of Council in regard to Mr. Wood should be carried into execution, and those gentlemen absolutely directed to return to Europe by the Falmouth, upon which we ordered our Secretary to remind them that this was the only ship left this season to be dispatched and that we expected their compliance with our orders by her. Their several answers are entered after our Consultation of the 1st instant, upon which on the 11th we took into consideration if the excuse pleaded by Mr.

Goddard and the apology made by Mr. Wood should be admitted. For our several opinions thereon, we must beg leave to be referred to that day's Consultation, when the majority were of opinion Mr. Goddard might be permitted to remain till he had settled the dispute he was engaged in, and Mr. Wood till the year and day allowed him by Your Honours in his covenants for adjusting his affairs.

18. We are now to advise Your Honours of the bills of exchange we have granted by this ship @ 2/3 each rupee.

On 14th January to Messrs. Mackett and Amyatt for C.Rs. five thousand one hundred fifty five, nine annas (5155-9-0) payable to David Findlay Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 580-0-0

On 20th February to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account John Henry Martins for C.Rs. seven hundred seven, eight annas, nine pice (707-8-9) payable to John Henry Martins @ 2/3 is £St. 79-11-11½

On do to do do account John Hope Esqr. for C.Rs. four hundred twenty six, six annas (426-6-0) payable to John Hope Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 47-19-4

On do to do do account Capt. Legeyt for C.Rs. eleven thousand eight hundred thirty five, two annas, three pice (11835-2-3) payable to Capt. Legeyt @ 2/3 is £St. 1331-9-00

On do to do do account Charles Floyer Esqr. for C.Rs. nine thousand nine hundred fifty two, eleven annas, three pice (9952-11-3) payable to Charles Floyer Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1019-13-7

On 25th to do do account Mr. Thomas Lane for C.Rs. nineteen thousand seven hundred fifty, fifteen annas, six pice (19750-15-6) payable to Mr. Thomas Lane @ 2/3 is £St. 2221-18-10

On do to do do account Mr. James Wood for C.Rs. two thousand three hundred eighty six, four annas, nine pice (2386-4-9) payable to Mr. James Wood @ 2/3 is £St. 268-9-0

On 26th to do do for C.Rs. two thousand nine hundred seventy two, two annas, nine pice (2972-2-9) payable to Messrs. Levy and Ruben Salomons @ 2/3 is £St. 334-7-4

On do to do do account Mr. Thomas Holmes for C.Rs. one thousand three hundred thirty three, five annas, three pice (1333-5-3) payable to William Davis and Charles Brown Esqrs. @ 2/3 is £St. 150-0-0

On do to do do account Solomon Franco at Madrass for C.Rs. five thousand seven, fifteen annas, six pice (5007-15-6) payable to Messrs. Abraham and Jaccb Franco @ 2/3 is £St. 563-7-11

On do to do do for C.Rs. fourteen thousand six hundred thirty five, nine annas, six pice (14635-9-6) payable to Captain Robert Clive @ 2/3 is £St. 1646-10-0

On do to do do account James Barton for C.Rs. twenty five thousand seven hundred fifty seven, six annas, nine pice (25757-6-9) payable to Capt. James Barton @ 2/3 is £St. 2897-12-2

On do to do do account William Wogan for C.Rs. nine thousand three hundred three, two annas, nine pice (9303-2-9) payable to William Wogan Junr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1046-12-1

On do to Peter Amyatt account Samuel Waller for C.Rs. three hundred eleven, one anna, nine pice (311-1-9) payable to Charles Waller Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 35-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Thomas Burrow for C.Rs. two thousand eighty one, three annas, three pice (2081-3-3) payable to Mr. Thomas Burrow @ 2/3 is £St. 234-2-9

On do to Mr. Henry Kelsall for C.Rs. one thousand one hundred forty one, five annas, three pice (1141-5-3) payable to David Findlay Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 128-8-0

On do to Capt. Thomas Field for C.Rs. fifteen thousand (15000) payable to Capt. Thomas Field @ 2/3 is £St. 1687-10-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. Junr. account Mr. Nathaniel Thomas Smith for C.Rs. one thousand five hundred forty one, five annas (1541-5-0) payable to Mr. John Sedgwick @ 2/3 is £St. 173-10-0

On do to do account 1 chest of coral marked LS No. 23 imported per ship Portfield for C.Rs. two thousand nine hundred twenty three, three annas (2923-3-0) payable to Jacob De Natal, Levy Sonsino & Company @ 2/3 is £St. 328-17-2

On do to do account 2 chests of coral marked RB No. 4 and 5 imported per ships Egmont and Falmouth for C.Rs. sixteen thousand three hundred ten. two annas, six pice (16310-2-6) payable to Richard Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1834-17-10

On do to Mr. Henry Kelsell for C.Rs. two hundred (200) payable to Capt. James Barton @ 2/3 is £St. 22-10-0

On do to Messrs. Kempe and Amyatt for C.Rs. five hundred, seven annas, three pice (500-7-3) payable to David Lasscelles @ 2/3 is £St. 56-5-11

On do to Edward Eyre Esqr. for C.Rs. three hundred fifty five, two annas, nine pice (355-2-9) payable to Mrs. Kenton @ 2/3 is £St. 40-0-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account William Davis Esqr. for C.Rs. six thousand five hundred forty, five annas, three pice (6540-5-3) payable to William Davis Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 735-15-8

On do to do account Messrs. Frederick Pigou and Henry Hadley for C.Rs. four thousand six hundred ninety, ten annas (4690-10-0) payable to Fredric Pigou and Henry Hadley @ 2/3 is £St. 527-14-4

On do to do do and Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account 1 chest of coral imported per ship Falmouth marked [symbol] No. A for C.Rs. fourteen thousand eight, five annas (14008-5-0) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 157-18-8 [*Sic*]

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account the estate of John Negus for C.Rs. one thousand five hundred ninety, ten annas (1590-10-0) payable to Humphry Negus @ 2/3 is £St. 178-18-10

On do to Mr. William Kempe for C.Rs. eight hundred eightyeight fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to William Kempe @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to Mr. Thomas Cooke account Mr. Miles Barne for C.Rs. seven hundred seventy three, eleven annas, three pice (773-11-3) payable to George Barne Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 87-0-0

On do to Mr. Thomas Rait for C.Rs. one thousand nine hundred ninety nine, eight annas (1999-8-0) payable to Mr. Ninion Ballantine @ 2/3 is £St. 224-18-10

On do to Mr. Thomas Cooke account Mrs. Eliz. Roverhill for C.Rs. one hundred fifty eight, eleven annas, three pice (158-11-3) payable to Mrs. Alice Forster @ 2/3 is £St. 17-17-0

On do to do for C.Rs. three thousand three hundred twenty one, three annas (3321-3-0) payable to Mrs. Alice Forster @ 2/3 is £St. 373-12-8

On do to Mr. George Gray account ⅓ of the balance of the estate of Mr. Perry Purple Templer deceased bequeathed to his sisters and his brother Dudley Templer for C.Rs. ten thousand five hundred forty six, six annas, six pice (10546-6-6) payable to Mr. Henry Allen @ 2/3 is £St. 1186-9-5

On do to John Zepheniah Holwell Esqr. for C.Rs. three thousand five hundred fifty five, nine annas (3555-9-0) payable to William Davis Esqr. and Messrs. Goslin and Bennet @ 2/3 is £St. 400-0-0

On do to Mr. Bartholemew Playstead for C.Rs. three hundred (300) payable to Mr. Thomas Bennet @ 2/3 is £St. 33-15-0

On do to do for C.Rs. two thousand eighty one (2081) payable to do account Mrs. Elizabeth [H.....] @ 2/3 is £St. 234-2-3

On do to Colonel Scott account the estate of [Lewis] William Keene Junr. deceased for C.Rs. eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Henry Crabb Boulton Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Thomas Burrow and Robert Orme for C.Rs. seven hundred eighty three, two annas (783-2-0) payable to Thomas Burrow Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 80-0-0

On do to Charles Manningham Esqr. account Thomas Holmes for C.Rs. eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Thomas Manningham Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 100-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Joseph Ameien for C.Rs. six hundred forty eight (648) payable to William Davis Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 72-18-0

On do to Mr. William Fullerton for C.Rs. two thousand two hundred (2200) payable to Messrs. Goslin and Bennet @ 2/3 is £St. 247-10-0

On do to Mr. Anselem Beaumont for C.Rs. seven thousand one hundred twenty three, ten annas (7123-10-0) payable to Thomas Water Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 801-8-2

On do to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. account Captain George Comming for C.Rs. seven thousand nine hundred ninety five, fifteen annas, three pice (7995-15-3) payable to Captain George Comming @ 2/3 is £St. 899-10-10

On do to do for C.Rs. nineteen thousand nine hundred ninety four, twelve annas, six pice (19994-12-6) payable to Messrs. Surman, Denely and Cliff @ 2/3 is £St. 2249-8-2

On do to do for C.Rs. two thousand two hundred sixty six, ten annas, nine pice (2266-10-9) payable to Robert Cliff @ 2/3 is £St. 300-0-0

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account Capt. Richard Drake for C.Rs. three thousand two hundred

ninety four, two annas (3294-2-0) payable to Roger Drake Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 370-11-9

On 28th to Mr. David Rannie for C.Rs. nine hundred fifty six (956) payable to Captain Benjamin Braund @ 2/3 is £St. 107-2-0

On do to Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr. for C.Rs. seven hundred fifty six (756) payable to Mr. Percival Bentley @ 2/3 is £St. 85-1-0

19. The whole amount of bills of exchange is Current Rupees two hundred forty seven thousand eight hundred thirty nine, one anna, three pice (247839-1-3) or £St. 27826-7-7.

20. We have laden on this ship for Your Honours' inspection the following new sortments of cloth received this year from our aurungs which we request your orders on:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cordarries Dutch sort | ... | 18 and 2¼ |
| Do Dergorah | ... | 20 and 2¼ |
| Do fine French sort | ... | 20 and 2¼ |
| Do Herva [?] | ... | 18 and 1⅞ |
| Seersuckers French sort | ... | 30 and 2 |
| Habashes | ... | 30 and 2 |
| Corradamis chicon | ... | 18 and 1⅞ |
| Do superfine | ... | 30 and 2 Yds. |
| Charconnoes romalls | ... | 20 and 1 |
| Carpore do | ... | 20 and 1 |
| New romalls Barnagore | ... | 17½ and 1¾ Yds. |
| Tanjibs Sera | ... | 32 and 1¾ Yds. |
| Mulmulls Raja Bullubpury | ... | 20 and 1 |
| Phottas Dutch sort | ... | 24 and 2¼ |
| Musters of several sorts | | |
| Jugdea factory | | |
| Doosutties | ... | 24 and 2¼ Yds. |
| Do | ... | 12 and 1 |
| Do romalls | ... | 30 and 1⅝ |
| Challaputy | ... | 24 and 2 |
| Nainsooks | ... | 40 and 2¼ |
| Cossaes Chandpore | ... | 40 and 2 |
| Seerhandconnoes | ... | 40 and 2 |

21. We likewise send Your Honours 12 bales of goods frequently ordered in the list of investment but which have not been brought in by the merchants for many years. They are put on board at half freight as per separate invoice and bill of lading amounting to Current Rupees nine thousand eight hundred fifty five (9855).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Allebonnies | ... | 24 and 3 |
| Seersuckers | ... | 24 and 2 |
| Mulmulls Sabadgepore | ... | 40 and 2¼ |
| Do Santipore | ... | 40 and 3 |
| Dooreas charconnoes Cossajura | ... | 40 and 2 |
| Cotton yarn fine | | |
| Do do coarse | | |
| Cuttonnoes | | |
| Do flowered | | |
| Herva lungee | | |
| Do taffatties | | |
| Atckabannies. | | |

22. The Export Warehouse Keeper having been obliged from a scarcity of sloops to send down the surplus saltpetre ordered for the Falmouth in boats; one of them with 250 baggs has had the misfortune to be run down by a Dutch sloop in is lost, upon which we ordered that number of tonns to be filled up with bales, as they must have deferred the stowing of such bales as were already gone down, were we now to attempt to make up the quantity of saltpetre lost by the above accident.

23. The Mayor's Court have made several deposits in our treasury of moneys and effects which we have accordingly received in such particular species as they have sent them agreeable to Your Honours' directions and those contained to His Majesty's charter. We shall hereafter put a valuation upon the different old coins received from them as deposits in order to bring them into Current Rupees, and pass them in Your Honours' treasury.

24. Captain Field this day sent in a letter to the Board acquainting us of the distress he was in from the dangerous state of health his surgeon and surgeon's mate were both in, and requested of us to supply him with a person to act in that quality on board the Falmouth till she arrived in England. Mr. Engles (one of our surgeon assistants) was thereupon sent for

and told of Captain Field's distress, who consented to go upon the following terms, in order to serve Your Honours whose risque was so considerable on this ship:

> "That he should act in all respects as surgeon of the Falmouth, and be allowed the surgeon's pay till her arrival in England. That he should receive on his arrival in England 200 £Sterling in lieu of priviledge which it was impossible for him to provide at so short a warning and that his passage back to India should be found him by the owners of the Falmouth"

which terms Captain Field agreeing to in behalf of his owners, we have ordered Mr. Engles to proceed to Europe on the Falmouth in quality of surgeon, and beg leave to recommend him to Your Honours for complying so readily and at so short a warning in an affair of such concernment to Your Honours, and as the 200 £ allowed him by Captain Field will be but a small recompence for his loss of time and the advantages of improving his fortune in India, especially should he be obliged to defray his expences while he remains in England out of employ, we hope Your Honours will consider him therein. We purpose filling up his vacancy here only provissionally till he returns to India again.

25. Your Honours will observe by the substance of the letter received from Mr. Watts and his Council under date the 23rd instant and extracted upon the face of this day's Consultation, that we are not to expect the raw silk from thence in time for this ship, upon receipt of which letter we have directed the Export Warehouse Keeper to fill up the room reserved for those bales in other kind of goods, taking care not to swell the invoice too much.

26. We have laden on this ship sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to Current Rupees 974-13-9.

27. We have likewise laden on her sundry goods and merchandize consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading amounting to Current Rupees 989000.

28. Mr. William Mackett who dispatches this ship from Ingelie will advise Your Honours of what else may be necessary from thence.

29. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours,

Your faithfull humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Machett/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,

28th February, 1754.

(Ref. Public General Letters to Court, Vol. 3, 1753-54, pp. 81—99.

Para. 16 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* Vol. II, p. 4.)

## 41

## LETTER DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 1754

*Shipping matters—success of the new method of investment and decision to continue it—death of Col. Scott.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours.

1. We are at this juncture addressing Your Honours via Madrass, but as you have directed us not to omit any opportunity of writing, and a conveyance for Persia now offering, we shall make use of it just to transmit Your Honours an extract of the most material parts of our abovementioned address.

2. Your Honours' ships the Portfield, Dragon, Durrington and Falmouth were dispatched from hence the last season as follows:

The Dragon on the 31st December.
The Portfield the 4th January.
The Durrington the 19th do.
The Falmouth the 28 February.

3. We have been duely favoured with Your Honours' commands per Essex and Ilchester under date the 19 December 1753, per St. George under date the 28th November 1753 and by the York under date the 23 January 1754, which two ships have safely arrived and we are in hourly expectation of the Denham, which the gentlemen at the Coast detained till the arrival of the Norfolk.

4. Mr. Saunders and his Council having declined a proposal we made him of filling up a ship (half laden from hence) in September and intending to dispatch a ship fully laden from their Presidency at that season, we purpose likewise to consign Your Honours one of the ships last year detained in the country fully laden from this place in the first week of December, having goods sufficient in our warehouse to perform the same and shall do our utmost to dispatch what other ships we may return to Europe so early as to prevent the disappointment Your Honours complain of by their non-arrival.

5. As the large detention of ships in India, we were last year constrained to make, will prevent us from returning more than one (if any) of this year's consignment, we shall do our utmost to employ those left behind upon the most advantageous terms we can procure, though to give Your Honours our sentiments upon it, we cannot hope from the present discouraging prospects of trade all over India to be able to procure Your Honours an equivalent for the demorrage of them.

6. The Montford (which ship and the Winchelsea we sent to Surat and Bombay last year on your own account) is returned; the Winchelsea not having then discharged her saltpetre and sugar at Bombay was detained by Mr. Bourchier and his Council till after the breaking up of the monsoon.

7. We have this season been very largely supplyed with money by Your Honours' servants at Bombay which, with the several consignments you have been pleased to order the President and Council of Madrass to make us, will sufficiently enable us to prosecute our investment with vigour and we hope to reduce some part of Your Honours' debt at interest.

8. Encouraged by the success we met with last year in the provision of our investments without the intervention of our late dadney merchants, we have unanimously agreed to continue the same method for the present season and as we began in time

and have not been strained for want of money, we make no doubt we shall make a provision of goods that will prove very satisfactory to Your Honours.

9. In the packetts via Madrass we have sent Your Honours the accounts current of the several aurungs made up to the 30th April as well as a general account of all the aurungs for your observation, of what sums they had been supplied with, what goods we had received from thence and what remained at that time outstanding.

10. We are extreamly concerned to inform Your Honours that Colonel Scott died at Madrass the 12th May last whither he proceeded in complyance to a request made by Mr. Saunders and his Council that he might relieve Major Lawrence who was greatly fatigued and indisposed.

11. We have punctualy obeyed Your Honours' orders in relation to the ships expected here from Empden and have positively forbid all pilots, masters and mates taking any charge of such ship or any other not belonging to powers already established in India. We have likewise made application to the agents of the French and Dutch Companys to concur with us, both in orders to their pilots to the same effect as we have given and in preventing their making a settlement in India, to which they have returned us very favorable answers and we assure Your Honours nothing shall be wanting on our part to put every obstacle we can devise in their way.

We rest with the utmost respect.

May it please Your Honours,

Your faithfull and obdient humble servants,

Rogar Drake Jnur./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Mackett/J. Z. Holwel.

Fort William,
the 6th September, 1754.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 18, 1754/1755, pp. 70—73).

Para 11 published in Long's *Selections* p. 52.

# 42

# LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 1754

*The Council pleads inability to provide tonnage for all ships in India—steps taken to prevent clandestine importation of goods—establishment of new aurangs—bills of exchange drawn on the Company—a plea for more allowances for the President.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours.

1. Our several advices of last season bearing date the 3rd and 17th September, 31st December, 4th and 19th January and 28th February, were forwarded to Your Honours by the Dragon, Portfield, Durrington and Falmouth, which last ship was dispatched from Ingelie by Mr. William Mackett the 6th March when she drew 18 foot water upon an even keel.

2. Captain Field upon receiving of his dispatches, delivered Mr. Mackett a protest against us for not assisting him with Europeans to make up his complement agreeable to charter-party, which procedure of Captain Field's we must submit to Your Honours' notice, as it will appear by the face of our Consultations we did all in our power to supply him by directing Colonel Scott to draught the military, and permit such as were willing to return to Europe to proceed on the Falmouth, more than which we apprehend we could not do.

3. This being the season for our country ships to proceed to Madrass, we should make use of this oppertunity to forward Your Honours a summary account of your affairs at this settlement since the Falmouth dispatch, leaving the full detail of our several transactions till our address under the established heads.

4. We are now to acknowledge the receipt of Your Honours' commands per Essex and Ilchester under date the 19th December 17[53] as well as those under date 28th November per St. George, Captain Robinson.

5. A few days after the dispatch of the Falmouth we received a letter from the President and Council of Fort St. George requesting Colonel Scott might proceed thither to take the command of their forces in the field, as Major Lawrence had been greatly indisposed as well as fatigued, and could not

remain at the camp much longer without emminent danger of his life, which request we informed Colonel Scott of. and ordered the Master Attendant to prepare the Syren sloop for his passage under the charge of John Smith, one of Your Honours' pilots in the river service, whose arrival at Madrass we were advised of by Mr. Saunders and his Council in a letter dated the 16th April.

6. In those advices they acquainted us that the late detention of the Colchester at the Negrais made it impracticable for her to reach Bengall in time to be dispatched the last season for Europe, and the ship being in want of many material repairs the commander had proceeded thither, and that they had thereupon ordered him to Batavia to [re]fit and return to them by the middle of September to be dispatched to England before the breaking up of the monsoon.

7. Having desired the gentlemen at the Coast (in our letter of the 15th January) would inform us if they intended to relieve the Egmont from thence, or if they should rather chuse it to be done from this place, they replied in their favour of the 16th April, that as the Coast and Bay ships are chiefly laden with consignments for our Presidency, it would be attended with great inconvenience were they to order one of them to relieve the Egmont without proceeding first to Bengall, and therefore left it to us to station what ship we thought proper on that service.

8. After the dispatch of the Falmouth, finding by the goods then in our warehouse, and what we had reason to expect would arrive from the aurungs and subordinates before the month of September, that we should be able to make up about 300 tonns with the assistance of the charterparty saltpetre and redwood, and as we expected either the Montfort or Winchelsea would return in time from Bombay to be forwarded to the Coast at that season, we wrote to the President and Council there that we would furnish such a [pro]portion, provided they were able to compleat the tonnage of one ship. To this they have replied, that as they intend to send the Colchester fully laden from thence in October, she will take up as many bales as they at present can answer for, but should they even have a surplus, they shall be obliged to detain them for the January dispatch when they hope to be able to supply half the tonnage of one ship. We are therefore of opinion it will be for Your Honours'

interest to have an early ship fully laden from hence, which we shall be able to effect in the first week of December, but as the Winchelsea, Elizabeth and Egmont are not yet imported, we have not determined what ship we shall appoint to proceed to Europe at that season.

9. We must in this place beg leave to take notice of the 16th paragraph of Your Honours' commands per Essex and Ilchester, by the purport of which Your Honours seem to think all the ships consigned us this season will be dispatched home with full ladings of bale goods. We are extremely concerned it will not be in our power to answer these expectations, not only on account of the large tonnage of ships we were obliged to detain in the country the foregoing year, but Your Honours' directions themselves as contained in your list of investment of the 19th December 1753 make it impracticable for us to comply with what Your Honours expect, for by a calculate of tonns ordered in this list of investment which the Export Warehouse Keeper laid before us on the 18th July, and which we now enclose, it appears that the tonnage calculated thereon does not exceed in bales 1255 tonns. This added to the very small assistance the gentlemen at the Coast are capa[ble] of giving us will render it impossible for us, we are afraid, to dispatch for Europe any more than the ships last year detained in India.

10. As we had great reason to apprehend we should be necessitated to make a large detention of tonnage this season in India, from the number of ships left here the last, and as the gentlemen at the Coast had intimated in one of their letters last year, when we made them an offer of freighting one or two of Your Honours' ships, that had we signified a necessity of keeping any ships in the country something earlier to them, they might in all probability have been enduced to take one or two of them on freight, we agreed to propose to the President and Council of Fort St. George the employing two or three of your ships of this season from their Presidency, either on freight or on Your Honours' account as they should judge most for Your Honours' advantage. This overture we made them in a letter dated the 3rd Sept. 1753 and did therein represent the manifest service it would be of to Your Honours, as we had great reason to imagine we could not employ them from this place, either on freight or on Your Honours' own account, so as to disburse the demorage there would become due on them, which reasons we made no doubt would have their proper weight with those gentlemen

who had always expressed themselves so very solicitous for your interest. In reply to which proposal they have candidly confessed their inability to employ any of Your Honours' ships on freight this season, the marketts in every part of India being so overstocked and trade so dead that it would be attended with a certain loss, their experience having already fully convinced them of it, and the reports they hear of the unsuccessfull voyages of a number of ships from this place being so many coroborating proofs of it, that they should rather chuse to dispose of their own ships than employ them, when the prospects are so unpleasing.

11. Your Honours will perceive by the substance of the foregoing paragraph that the whole weight of employing your ships kept in India will fall upon us and we flatter ourselves, should we be obliged to let any of them out at inferior rates to what you have directed, Your Honours will not esteem it proceeding either from neglect or self interest in us, as Your Honours may depend we shall do our utmost to procure the most advantageous terms we can, but the marketts all over India are so very indifferent that we have no hopes of being able to procure freights answerable to their demurages, especially as the number of ships this season detained will be so large.

12. The Montfort imported here from Bombay the 13th July with a consignment of (15) fifteen chests of treasure from that Presidency, Mr. Bourchier and his Council acquainting us that cotton is at so extravagant a price, that they did not think it for Your Honours' interest to purchase cargoes either for this ship or for the Winchelsea, who was arrived at Bombay but as they had not then taken out the sugar and saltpetre laden on her they could not dispatch her to us till the month of August.

13. By the Syren sloop who returned from Madrass the 3rd June the gentlemen there advised us of the arrival of the St. George, Captain Robinson, last from Madeira, which ship they detained there agreeable to Your Honours' orders till the arrival of the True Briton, in order to transmit us the broad cloth consigned us by the latter. We have now the satisfaction to acquaint Your Honours of her safe arrival here, and at Captain Robinson's particular request we have permitted him to bring her up to town, that she may be hove down, great part of her false keel being knocked off on her grounding a little below Gravesend.

14. We are now to congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival here of your ship York, Captain Edward Ward, by which ship we are honoured with your commands under date the 23rd January 1754 under the established heads.

15. The Colchester's packett we are informed was opened by the gentlemen at the Coast upon its appearing to be damaged. We are therefore apt to think its coming to Your Honours' hands without wax cloth must have been an omission committed by them, it having always been usual at this settlement to make up our packetts under wax cloth.

16. In persuance to the 32nd paragraph of your orders by the York we shall (after these dispatches are gone) take into consideration the state of your marine, and make any reductions that may then appear necessary.

17. It being now the proper season to relieve the Egmont in order to have her return to us so as to be dispatched to Europe this season, we have directed Captain Wa[tt] to keep his ship in readiness to sail upon the first notice, but as he complains that most of his men are in a very ill state of health, we shall not appoint him to that station unless the Denham should arrive too late to be sent thither.

18. We observe Your Honours have this year made us a very large consignment of woolen goods. We are sorry to acquaint Your Honours we cannot have any hopes of their meeting with an advantageous and ready sale, the great balances still remaining in our warehouse being a very convincing proof the marketts in these parts are over stocked with those articles. Our endeavours likewise in sending half our remains to Bombay proving unsuccessfull and the greatest part of it being returned by Mr. Bourchier and his Council will, we apprehend, prevent most of this year's receipts from being sold. We must likewise take notice that the President and Council at Madrass have declined reserving any part of our consignments of this season at their Presidency for the same reasons that we requested it of them; very little of their own broad cloth being yet disposed of and all remaining in their godowns uncleared, which will be another considerable disappointment to any hopes we might have had of being able to make any tolerable sales, by avoiding the appearance of too great a quantity.

19. Upon taking into consideration this discouraging prospect for Your Honours' imports, we esteemed it very necessary to endeavour to put an effectual stop to any clandestine importation of these articles, which at this juncture would so manifestly injure Your Honours' sales, and agreed in consequence thereof that all sloops or boats of what kind soever, which come from or bring goods from the Europe ships of this season belonging to the commanders or officers, shall come to and land their goods at the Crane Gaut near the factory stairs and at no other gaut or place in the town on any pretence whatever under penalty of confiscation of such goods landed contrary hereto, for Your Honours' use, without permission first had from the Import Warehouse Keeper and by him or persons appointed by him, inspected and examined. We have accordingly directed our Secretary to signify these orders to the Europe commanders, and the Zemindar to take mutchulkes from the syrangs of sloops and manjees of boats not to transgress herein under the severest punishment.

20. The several consignments of treasure received here this season have been transmitted us in the following manner by the gentlemen at Bombay and Madrass viz.,

*From Bombay*

By the Montfort fifteen (15) chests containing one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) Bombay Rupees and via Madrass four hundred five thousand one hundred (405,100) Arcot Rupees, which Mr. Saunders and his Council forwarded on the Syren sloop, St. George and York.

*From Madrass*

By the St. George thirty (30) chests of Madrass Rupees containing two hundred forty thousand (240,000) and by the York ten (10) chests of Madrass Rupees containing eighty thousand (80,000), twenty (20) chests of Arcot Rupees containing one hundred sixty thousand (160,000) and ten (10) chests of bullion, which several large supplies, with what we may further expect, will sufficiently enable us to carry on our business with vigour, and we doubt not but we shall likewise be able to make a large reduction of Your Honours' debt at interest.

21. Mr. Cooke informs us that since his having charge of the office of Secretary he has been very carefull that all accounts

of sales as well as all other material papers has been duly entered after Consultation.

22. We gave Your Honours a full account last season of our having altered the method of providing our investment, and the reasons which induced us to that step. The success of our undertaking having answered our expectations, and the goods we received from our gomastahs proving much superior in quality and many sortments greatly cheaper than what our merchants used to deliver in (as will appear by the enclosed calculate which we transmit in the packet for Your Honours' observation), we have continued the same method for the present season, and as we this year began pretty early we flatter ourselves the provission we shall be able to make will give Your Honours intire satisfaction.

23. When we determined in Council to persue the same method for providing the investment (most of our aurung accounts not being then adjusted), we ordered our Warehouse Keeper not to advance any sums of money, except for ready money goods till those accounts were brought in settled; and called upon the securities of our gomastahs to know if they were willing to continue the securities for the insuing season, which most of them complied with.

24. Your Honours will observe in the above calculate of the prices of goods received from the aurungs, we have inserted all the charges, as nearly as we could estimate them, and put an advance likewise of 10 per cent persuant to the 140th paragraph of our advices by the Portfield, at which time we gave Your Honours our reasons for so doing.

25. We have now the pleasure to acquaint Your Honours that all our aurung accounts have been delivered in adjusted to the satisfaction of the Board, except those of Santipore, Harrypaul, and Burron, which the Export Warehouse Keeper on the 3rd June requested we would examine into, as by the face of their accounts there was some reason to suspect the gomastahs employed at those aurungs had acted collusively and unfaithfully in several instances, to detect which they had used their utmost endeavours, and then delivered in several papers and vouchers received from delolls, weavers and others at those aurungs, in support of what they had alledged; upon which we determined to take the same into consideration on next Council day, and ordered the delolls, gomastahs etc., then in Calcutta to attend the Board.

26. Upon a strict examination into the conduct of those gomastahs, we found they had severally defrauded Your Honours in many articles. The amount of what each of them appeared to have dealt unjustly in we directed the Warehouse Keepers to recover of them again, and further mulcted them their whole wages, and imprisoned Kissen Buxey as an example to deter any others from the like practices in future. For the particular proofs and our proceedings herein we beg leave to stand referred to our Consultations of the 6th and 10th June, now transmitted Your Honours, by which you will please to observe that the Burron gomastah having objected to the validity of the attestations brought in proof against him, we have suspended our judgement upon him, till we hear from that aurung whither we have wrote to know if those weavers and delolls did really make the affirmations before the government's officers sent us down attested by the congoy [*qanungo*].

27. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having informed us they were apprehensive their merchants would fall short of the article of gurrahs contracted for, the Export Warehouse Keeper and his Deputy on the 3rd of June recommended the establishing the following aurungs—Innombazar, Nonoor, Moostally and Cowgong, for the purchase of that article, as they found it impracticable to provide any large quantity of gurrahs at the aurungs already settled. For which reason we agreed to establish those aurungs accordingly.

28. When we received Your Honours' commands per Essex and Ilchester we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to compare the present list of investment with that of last year, which he laid before us on the 18th July. We then took that into consideration, as well as the heavy tonnage on hand with the little assistance we were to expect from the gentlemen on the Coast, for all which reasons we agreed the gomastahs should be directed to go on providing agreeable to their former orders that we might by that means have the advantage of the markets when there were but few buyers, and be able to stop our hands when the prices of cloth rose too much. We ordered them likewise to make the encreases of the several sortments by Your Honours directed in the present list of investment. And as we had lately established four new aurungs for the purchase of gurrahs and sent gomastahs thither, we wrote to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to endeavour, if possible, to prevail with their merchants to reduce that part of their contracts.

29. Enclosed Your Honours will receive an account current of each seperate aurung made up to the 30th April last, as well as one general account of the state of all the aurungs delivered in by the Export Warehouse Keeper for your observation.

30. We informed Your Honours last season that we had directed the Zamindar to collect the duties of the gunge for 6 months on your own account, and lay the same before us on the expiration of that term, which he accordingly did the 13th May when it appeared so much for Your Honours' interest to continue the same method, instead of letting the gunge to farm, that we ordered him to collect those duties the remainder of the cutcherry year without any alteration.

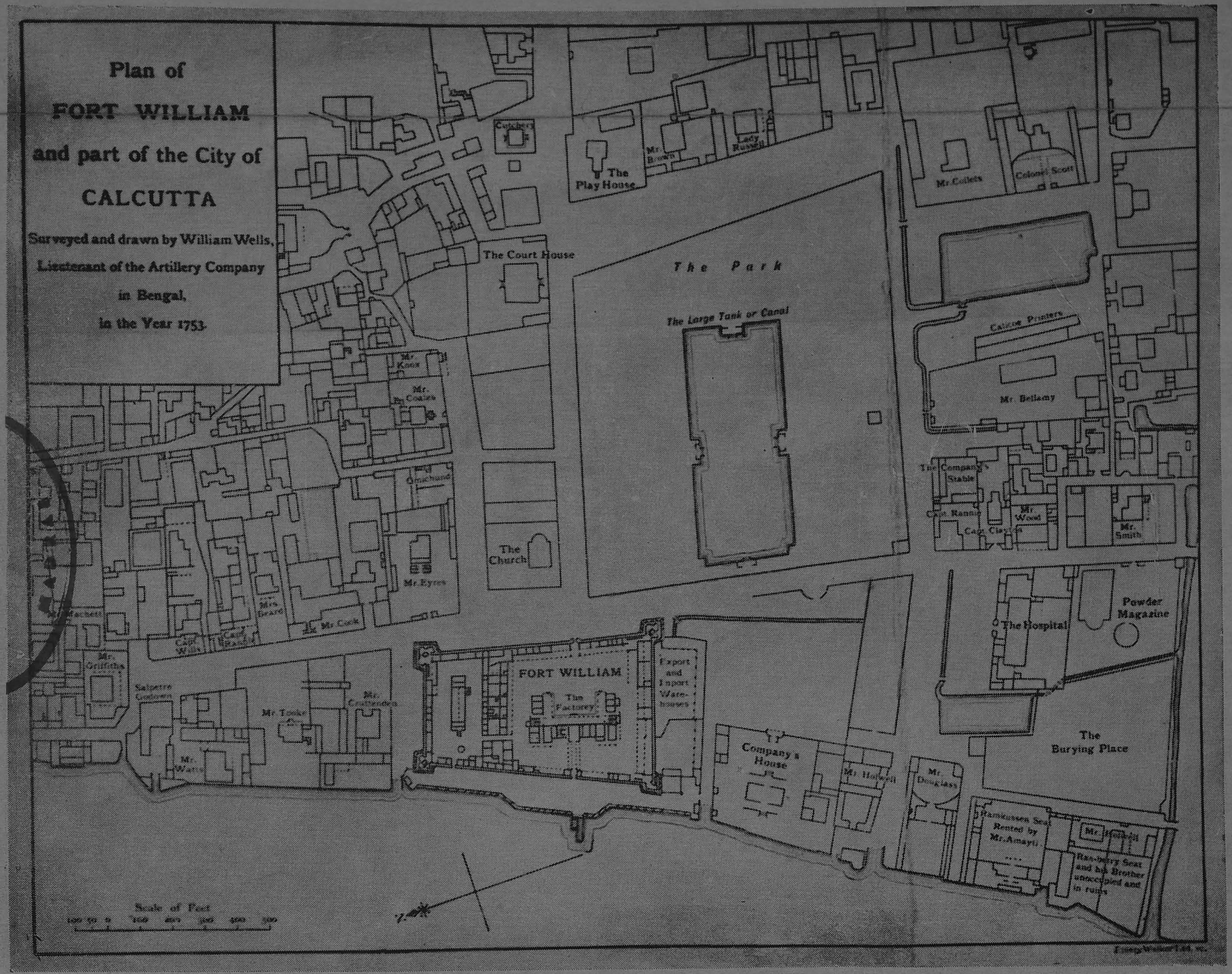
31. We have called upon Govindram Metre to state an account of the profits he has made on the several farms he has purchased while he was in Your Honours' service. When he delivers in the said account we shall do our endeavours to put Your Honours' orders in execution.

32. When Colonel Scott proceeded to the Coast he requested we would permit Lieutenant Wells to carry on the works he had planned at Perins in his absence, which we accordingly complied with.

33. Mr. Harrod being obliged to make a trip to Madrass for the recovery of his health our Secretary requested we would appoint Mr. Charles O'Hara provissional Sub-Secretary till his return, and the former gentleman demising at Madrass we confirmed Mr. O'Hara Sub-Secretary and appointed him Military Pay Master.

34. Colonel Scott, in consequence of Mr. Saunders and his Council's request already mentioned for relieving Major Lawrence in the field, left us on the 18th March for that end. but it is with concern we inform Your Honours he died at Madrass the 12th May of a violent fever; his decease occasioning a vacancy we gave the command of his company to Captain John Buchanan agreeable to Your Honours' orders.

35. We have had several sittings upon the information of the Jugdea delolls against Messrs. Baillie and Playdell, but as it is an aflair extremely complicated and very intricate we have not


Plan of
FORT WILLIAM
and part of the City of
CALCUTTA
Surveyed and drawn by William Wells,
Lieutenant of the Artillery Company
in Bengal,
in the Year 1753.
The Play House
Mr. Brown
Lady Russell
Mr. Collets
Colonel Scott
The Court House
The Park
The Large Tank or Canal
Calicoe Printers
Mr. Bellamy
The Company's Stable
Mr. Wood
Mr. Smith
Mr. Kent
Mr. Coales
Orchard
The Church
Mr. Byres
Mrs. Beard
Mr. Cook
Capt. Wills
Capt. Brooke
Mr. Griffiths
Saltpetre Godowns
Mr. Tooke
Mr. Cruttenden
Mr. Watts
FORT WILLIAM
The Factory
Export and Import Warehouses
Company's House
Mr. Holwell
Mr. Douglass
The Hospital
Powder Magazine
The Burying Place
Hamuseen Seat Rented by Mr. Amayti
Ras-inary Seat and his Brother unoccupied and in ruins
Scale of Feet
100 50 0 100 200 300 400 500

as yet been able to come to a decisive conclusion thereon. We shall not trouble Your Honours therefore at present with a detail of our proceedings thereon, but refer ourselves to the course of our Consultations which we shall forward Your Honours seperately that you may see at one view every particular relating to this charge.

36. In our letter per Falmouth we drew a bill upon Your Honours in favour of Charles Floyer Esqr. or order for C.Rs. nine thousand nine hundred fifty two, eleven annas, three pice (9952-11-3) or £S 1019-13-7, in which we find a mistake in the calculation, the proper amount in £S being one thousand one hundred nineteen, thirteen shillings, seven pence (1119-13-7), which difference Your Honours will please to make good.

37. Your Honours having complained of not receiving several books and papers by the ships dispatched home two years ago, we called upon our Secretary to know the reason why they were not transmitted as usual. His reply in writing is entered after our Consultation of the second of September, and is in substance this: that the books and papers from the subordinates arrived but three days before the Oxford's dispatches were closed, so that it was not in his power to forward them upon an earlier conveyance. That the general books of that season were not ballanced till the 11th February, which occasioned all the assistants in the Accomptant's office (then but few) to be too much taken up to draw out an account of the salarys and gratuitys of the covenanted servants till after the departure of the Chesterfield but that paper as well as lists of shipping arrived at and sailed from hence, and duplicate lists of covenanted servants, inhabitants and women were all transmitted in the Oxford's packett. That it had never been customary to send home more than one sett of letters received and sent, which, with the register of the Mayor's Court, charges general and dustick book was likewise forwarded by the Oxford, and that the omission of some material papers being entered after the Consultations of 1752, he cannot be accountable for, as he had not the charge of the office till January 1753. He likewise assured he already has been and always shall be very carefull that no material papers of any kind be neglected to be sent Your Honours, and that the business of his office be regularly kept up. In which we have had no occasion to complain of his remissness, and therefore beg leave to recommend him to Your Honours' notice for his care and diligence.

38. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums for which we have granted bills of exchange @ 2s. 3d. per rupee:

On 24th July to Mr. John Browne for C. Rupees fifteen thousand five hundred nineteen, six annas, nine pice (15519-6-9) payable to Mr. Solomon Franco or order @ 2/3 is £St. 1745-18-10

On 1st August to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland per order of Solomon Franco for C.Rs. four thousand three hundred two, four annas, three pice (4302-4-3) payable to Messrs. Abraham and Jacob Franco @ 2/3 is £St. 484-0-1

On do to do do for C.Rs. two thousand six hundred five, fourteen annas, three pice (2605-14-3) payable to Messrs. Joseph and David Franco @ 2/3 is £St. 293-3-3

On do to do do being returns of 1 chest of coral marked EFD No. 43 imported per ship St. George for C.Rs. four thousand eight hundred thirty eight, two annas, three pice (4838-2-3) payable to Messrs. Joseph and David Franco @ 2/3 is £St. 544-5-10

On do to Charles Manningham Esqr. and William Fullerton account Capt. Thomas Nairne for C.Rs. seven thousand eight, eleven annas, three pice (7008-11-3) payable to Thomas Nairne @ 2/3 is £St. 788-9-7

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Levy and Ruben Salomons for C.Rs. one thousand three hundred eighty three, fourteen annas, nine pice (1383-14-9) payable to Messrs. Levy and Ruben Salomons @ 2/3 is £St. 155-13-10

On do to do do account estate of Capt. Felix Baker for C.Rs. seventeen thousand two hundred thirty eight, four annas (17238-4-0) payable to William Baker Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1939-6-1

On do to do do for C.Rs. three thousand five hundred fifty three, two annas, nine pice (3553-2-9) payable to Capt. Carteret Legeyt @ 2/3 is £St. 399-14-7

On 8th August to Captain James Gay for C.Rs. four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7-0) payable to James Barton @ 2/3 is £St. 50-0-0

On do to do for C.Rs. four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7-0) payable to John Gay @ 2/3 is £St. 50-0-0

On 12th August to William Mackett Esqr. for C.Rs. five thousand four hundred (5400) payable to Capt. John Harrison @ 2/3 is £St. 607-10-0

On 17th to William Fullerton for C.Rs. eight thousand six hundred forty (8640) payable to William Fullerton @ 2/3 is £St. 972-0-0

On do to William Parker for C.Rs. five hundred forty (540) payable to Messrs. Gosilen and Bennet @ 2/3 is £St. 60-15-0

On 20th to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Joseph Fowke for C.Rs. nine hundred fifty one (951) payable to Joseph Fowke Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 106-19-0

On 21st to do do account Robert Clive for C.Rs. twenty three thousand three hundred fourteen, one anna (23314-1-0) payable to Robert Clive @ 2/3 is £St. 2622-16-8

On do to do do by order of Messrs. Walsh and Vansitart of Madrass for nine thousand three hundred twenty four, six annas, three pice (9324-6-3) payable to Messrs. George Stanyford and Chas. Brett account Capt. James Kilpatrick @ 2/3 is £St. 1048-19-10

On do to do do account Rodolphus De Gingin for C.Rs. thirty five thousand four hundred fifty eight, four annas (35458-4-0) payable to Captain Rodolphus De Gingin and Jean Boissier @ 2/3 is £St. 3989-1-1

On do to do do account Charles Floyer for C.Rs. eleven thousand two hundred fifty five, eleven annas, nine pice (11255-11-9) payable to Charles Floyer Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1266-5-5

On do to do do account John Dalton for C.Rs. seven thousand two hundred ninety four, six annas, six pice (7294-6-6) payable to Captain John Dalton @ 2/3 is £St. 820-12-5

On do to William Watts, Charles Manningham and J. Z. Holwell account Miss Elizabeth Glen for C.Rs. nine hundred thirty seven, nine pice (937-0-9) payable to Archibald Stirling Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 105-8-4

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Solomon Franco for C.Rs. eighteen thousand three hundred ten, four annas, six pice (18310-4-6) payable to Mr. Solomon Franco @ 2/3 is £St. 2059-18-2

On 24th to Mr. George Gray for C.Rs. two thousand one hundred eleven, seven annas, six pice (2111-7-6) payable to Henry Allen @ 2/3 is £St. 237-10-10

On do to Bartholomew Plaisted for C.Rs. one thousand five hundred ninety nine, two annas, six pice (1599-2-6) payable to Thomas Bennet @ 2/3 is £St. 179-18-1

On 26th to William Fullerton for C.Rs. eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (8888-14-3) payable to Daniel Campbell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1000-0-0

On 28th to do for C.Rs. six hundred forty eight (648) payable to Messrs. Gosilen and Bennet @ 2/3 is £St. 72-18-0

On do to do for C.Rs. one thousand eighty (1080) payable to John Willis @ 2/3 is £St. 121-10-0

On 30th to J. Z. Holwell Esqr. for C.Rs. four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7-0) payable to Messrs. Gosilen and Bennet @ 2/3 is £St. 50-0-0

On 20th August to Charles Manningham Esqr. for C.Rs. three thousand (3000) payable to Thos. Manningham Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 337-10-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Thomas Fytch for C.Rs. nine thousand two hundred thirty one, five annas, three pice (9231-5-3) payable to Thomas Fytch Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 1038-10-6

On do to do do account Lucia Mcgwire executrix to the estate of William Fytche Esqr. deceased for C.Rs. two thousand seven hundred eighty-eight, six annas (2788-6-0) payable to Thomas Fytche Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 313-13-10

On 31st to do do account William Wogan Junr. for C.Rs. twenty five thousand seventeen, five annas, six pice (25017-5-6) payable to Wm. Wogan Junr. @ 2/3 is £St. 2814-9-0

On 5th September to Captain David Rannie account Doctor Andrew Monrow for C.Rs. four thousand (4000) payable to Mr. William Ferguson @ 2/3 is £St. 450-0-0

39. The whole amount of bills of exchange is Current Rupees two hundred thirty seven thousand five hundred sixty two, thirteen annas (237562-13-0) or £S. 26726-19-0.

40. His Majesties late charter having put a stop to the application of Indian natives to the Mayor's Court in disputes among themselves, Mr. Holwell on the 6th May acquainted the Board that a practice was made use of to elude the intent and meaning of that charter by assigning over their notes or bonds to Europeans, Portuguise inhabitants and Armenians, to the great prejudice of Your Honours' etlack and commission, and in manifest opposition to your design in procuring that clause to be inserted in the said charter. Whereupon we took that affair into consideration, and directed our Secretary to make a publick advertisement that it had been intimated to us such a practise had obtained in the place, and that in case for the future we should find any European, Portuguiese inhabitant or Armenian accept[ed] of any assignments or indorsements of that kind, in order to prosecute the same in the Mayor's Court for or in behalf of the assigner or indorser, contrary to the true intent and meaning of His Majesties charter, that such persons should meet with our severest resentment, if a covenanted servant to be dismissed the service, if a free merchant to be sent home, and if a Portuguiese or Armenian inhabitant to be turned out of the bounds and punished otherwise as the Board should think fit.

41. Upon receipt of Your Honours' orders we directed our Master Attendant to forbid all our pilots taking charge of any ships in the Road except those belonging to powers already established in India. We have likewise made application to the Agents of the French and Dutch Companys to act in concert with us in preventing the ships you mention from coming into the river or making any settlement in Bengall.

42. The President begs leave to represent to Your Honours that, since (in his opinion) this wholesome practice to our honourable masters of providing the investment by means of

employing gomastahs has prevailed, he has foregone the benefit that constantly accrued to all persons in such [station] who yearly received a considerable present from the merchants; therefore as no emoluments of that kind now arise from his station and as the supporting the dignity thereof even in a frugal and prudent way of living is an expence of his whole allowance, he hopes Your Honours will consider and bestow on him such equal advantages as may amount to the duty on coral received by the President at Fort St. George or the consulage which is accounted for to the Governour of Bombay, and that you will in some degree make him amends for the time past in which he has not reaped the advantages heretofore esteemed attending his station. And here we likewise beg leave to recommend to Your Honours' consideration the purport of what is represented by the Export Warehouse Keepers in their letter to the Board under date the 6th instant, forwarded with address with respect to the emoluments and fees of that office before Mr. Manningham was appointed to that employ by Your Honours' commands in July 1752 per ship Godolphin, as certain it is they have likewise strictly foregone [the] benefit constantly accruing from [the] merchants to the Export Warehouse Keeper and his Deputy; all the fees of that office heretofore has been brought to Your Honours' credit by Mr. Manningham in the warehouse accounts of April 1753 and 1754 as passed in Council amounting to about 4000 rupees per annum on a medium.

43. We have sent Mr. McGwire a copy of Your Honours' paragraph relating to him, and when we receive his reply thereto, we shall transmit to Your Honours. We must here beg leave to mention that the complaints came before us as a bench of justices in Novr. 1752 when Mr. McGwire pleaded guilty to the charge but as it was then only esteemed a rash unthinking action, he was reprimanded from the bench and fined for his fault. He has since behaved very much to our satisfaction in his station at Bulramgurry and been very assiduous in making a considerable investment both at Ballasore and Almora, many of the musters which he has sent us for that purpose being approved of by the Board, and as we esteem him a person well qualified for your service we hope Your Honours will mitigate your resentment upon this representation of his character.

44. There was a bill drawn in our [letter] by the Chesterfield in favour of Mr. John Jones for C.Rs. 2669-11-3 or £S 300-6-9 but as that was a mistake and his proper name

George Jones and as that gentleman we are informed has been obliged to give security before he could receive payment, we take this oppertunity to acquaint Your Honours of it, that you may rectify the mistake.

45. Since our writing the foregoing we have granted a sett of bills of exchange to the Reverend Gervas Bellamy for C.Rs. one thousand five hundred eleven, one anna, nine pice (1511-1-9) payable to Mr. Edward Pomfret @ 2/3 is £S 170.

We are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,

Your faithfull and obedient servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Mackett/J. Z. Holwel. 1

Fort William,
the 9th September, 1754.

P. S. The Denham Capt. Meard being arrived from the Coast we have ordered him to unlade his ship with the utmost expedition, and get her in readiness to receive what stores we design for the Negrais, whither we have appointed her to proceed to relieve the Egmont.

Ref. Public General Letters to Court Vol. 3, 1753-54, pp. 100—130.

Paras. 32 and 34 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William.* Vol. II, pp. 12-13.)

## 43

## LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1754

*Shipping details—public announcement of the Act of Parliament authorising punishment of mutiny and desertion in the army—success of the steps taken to prevent contraband trade—compliance with Hakim Beg's demands—Messrs. Baillie and Playdell acquitted of all charges against them—bills of exchange drawn on the Company.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours.

1. Under date the 9th September we wrote a summary letter and transmitted it to the President and Council of Fort St. George to be forwarded to Your Honours by the September conveyance, since when we have been favoured with, your commands per Anson and Warren of the 15th Feby., 2 and 15 March, as well as a separate letter of that date in relation to the Act of Parliament for punishing mutiny and desertion in Your Honours' military, which Act of Parliament, articles of war, and commissions for appointing courts martial, and judges advocate have been publickly read and explained to the officers and soldiers in garrison, who have been acquainted they were in future to serve Your Honours on those terms, and that those who did not consent to continue under such rules and orders as in the said Act of Parliament were prescribed should have their immediate discharge.

2. The Montford, Captain Frederick Vincent, being now under dispatch for Europe we shall address Your Honours fully by her under the established heads and

*First, of shipping.*

3. The Master Attendant having reported to us that the Hawke, Mermaid, Grampus and Bonetta sloops were full of white ants, and that he had tryed several expedients to destroy them without effect, we permitted him to sink them as the only method left to preserve those sloops from being rendered useless by their havock, which has answered the end, and entirely cleared them of that destructive specie of vermin.

4. The river was regularly surveyed by the Master Attendant and pylots in the beginning of the season and their observations reported to the Board and entered after our Consultations of the 6th of May, but as most of Your Honours' sloops have been damaged by a severe gale of wind which happened on the 1st October, we have not been able to make the survey in that month but as soon as the sloops return from the Road we shall order the Master Attendant to set about it.

5. The Buxey having surveyed the State budgrow and undertaken to give it a thorough repair for C.Rs. 2200 we permitted him to set about it on those terms. On the 4th July the Master Attendant with his assistants went to inspect the planks, timbers, and materials to be used on that reparation.

6. The usual method of sending for the packets from the Europe ships on their arrival being frequently attended with great prejudice to the health of those who are employed therein, as well as delay, we have thought proper to direct the captains of Your Honours' ships to forward their packets up by the chokey boats under the charge of some carefull person, which alteration we hope you will not be displeased at.

7. We are concerned to acquaint Your Honours that the Hawke sloop was unfortunately burnt on the 23rd August as she lay at anchor in the river, from what accident we are not able to learn, as the European, who was at that time on board and had the charge of her, immediately left the place.

8. Captain Ward on the 5 Sept. acquainting the Board his ship was in so sickly a condition that it would be impossible for him to proceed to the Negrais in less than two months, and the Denham arriving at that time, we stationed that ship to relieve the Egmont and ordered Captain Meard to get her ready to receive the stores, we intended to lade on him, as soon as possible. The Denham was accordingly dispatched from hence the 4th November with such stores and provisions as we had provided for the use of the island Negrais and as many artificers as we could engage for that place.

9. By her we wrote Mr. Brooke to provide as large a quantity of teak timbers as he could procure, and send them to us when he returned the Denham, that article being generally in demand at this place and yielding a very considerable profit, and desired him to return the Egmont hither as soon as possible.

10. When we forwarded our packet for Your Honours to Madrass to be transmitted home, we wrote them we should comply with their request to send them a ship half laden in January and that we were in great hopes, by the permission Your Honours had given us this year in relation to the quantity of saltpeter to be laden on each ship in order to return as many as possible, they would be able to compleat the tonnage of two ships in January, provided they were better than half laden from hence, which would be of such apparent benefit to your affairs in preventing a large detention of your ships in India that we were confident they would exert their utmost to effect it, by which we requested they would give us as early notice as they could, as well as what quantity of surplus pepper the gentlemen of Bencoolen were likely to have, that we might

proceed to appointment of proper ships for that purpose. In this letter we took notice of the prohibition they had made of trading in callicoes to Bencoolen and ophium to Nattal, of which we had given publick advertisements and should send them 50 chests of ophium in the month of January agreable to their request.

11. On the 16 October imported here the Anson, Winchelsea, and Elizabeth, by the former of which ship the President and Council of Fort St. George advised us of the arrival at Fort St. David of Admiral Watson with two other men of war and Your Honours' ships Warren, Kent and London with a reinforcement of troops for that Coast. They acquaint us in that letter of their having put the said ships up to freight but were apprehensive it would be without effect, in which case they should [*sic*] them down to us and if we could not obtain a freight for them, they could see no other way of employing them than returning them to that Presidency in January with grain.

12. In answer to which letter we wrote them in 2nd ultimo that in the present situation of markets in India we were at a loss on what voyages to employ the ships this year detained from hence that would turn out to any account for Your Honours, except such as we shoud find necessary to send on freight voyages to Surat and therefore should there be no offers corresponding with your directions for letting the rest to freight, we shoud follow the plan they had laid down of sending them to their Presidency with cargoes of grain if procurabe.

13. As those gentlemen had not yet informed us what quantity of surplus pepper there should be at Bencoolen nor requested a ship for that purpose, we were induced to open two packets from that settlement under address to the President and Council of Fort St. George, which were delivered us by Captain Edwards of the Speedwell ketch, wherein we observe they are likely to have a surplus of 200 tonns of pepper at Fort Marlborough, in consequence of which we advised Mr. Saunders and his Council we shoud appoint one of last year's ships to proceed thither to take it in.

14. Your Honours will observe by our Consultations of the 7th October a violent gale of wind had happened on the 1st and 2nd of that month which damaged several of your sloops and dismasted the Denham. The York having likewise been on shoar, and beat several hours, Captain Ward desired our permission to bring her up to town which we consented to.

15. When Captain Meard applied to us for assistance after the storm we sent for him and asked what he wanted, to which he replied some lascars to work upon his ship and tow boats to weigh his anchor. We then asked him whether his being dismasted would prevent him from proceeding to the Negrais, to which he replied it would not, as he could proceed to that place with jury masts and esteemed it more for his owners' interest to buy sticks at the Negrais for masts than purchase them here.

16. In that gale of wind the sloop on which we had forwarded seven chests of treasure to Dacca was lost but by the care and diligence of the party sent therewith the money was all saved, for which reason we ordered the Military Pay Master to give them a gratuity of one month's pay each man and reimburse them what they had lost as well as their clothing.

17. Captain Baron having requested our permission to bring the Winchelsea to town, as she had been ashoar a little below Rangafoula, we gave him leave to bring her up in order to heave down, as we likewise did Captain Veitch whose ship had struck on a rock coming out of Madagascar.

18. Upon taking into consideration on the 17 October the disposition of Your Honours' ships designed to be dispatched for Europe this season, we agreed the Montfort should be sent immediately from hence early in December, the Winchelsea to proceed to Madrass the latter end of that month to fill up, the Elisabeth and Egmont to be dispatched home fully laden from hence, the former in January and the latter in February, but finding afterwards by private advices the Colchester was to be sent hither, we determined to send the Elisabeth to Bencoolen to take in the surplus pepper, provided the Colchester arrived in time to be dispatched to Europe in January. Having reason to expect likewise from a letter of Governour Bourchiers to our President that they would have more than sufficient cargoes on the Mallabar coast for the ships Your Honours had consigned them, we agreed to send the York, Captain Ward, with her red wood and saltpeter to be filled up from thence and be dispatched home, or returned to us in case there should not be a surplus tonnage of goods; of this we have duly advised the President and Council of Bombay as well as the Chief and factors at Tellecherry that they might provide accordingly.

19. The season being advanced for employing ships on voyages in the country we agreed on the 21st October to put

up an advertisement that we would receive proposals for freighting any of Your Honours' ships on voyages within your limits of trade in India and on the 24th Captain David Rannie back again at the rate of twenty three thousand (23000) Current sent in a proposal for freighting the St. George to China and Rupees for the voyage, to which we directed our Secretary to reply that Your Honours having directed us to insist upon the full demurrage of your ships when we lett them out to freight. we could not accept of less. He afterwards sent in three other proposals for freighting that ship to the port of China, the last of which we have accepted of, as we think the sum of forty thousand (40000) Current Rupees more than equivalent to one year's demurrage, and is a much larger sum (in our opinion) than we shall be able to procure for any other ship in the present situation of trade in India. For our proceedings in this affair as well as our respective opinions on his offers we beg leave to be referred to our Consultations of the 24th, 28th and 31st October and the 4 November transmitted by this ship. We flatter ourselves what we have done herein will meet Your Honours' approbation and that, should we not be able to procure near that sum for the freight of any other of your ships, it will not be deemed either negligence or self interestedness in us, as we can safely assure Your Honours we are of opinion nothing but the motives Captain Rannie has mentioned in his letters could have prevailed on him or any man to offer so large a sum for the freight of any of your ships.

20. In this ship's packet Your Honours will receive the several requests, reports, and other papers relating to her, as well as Captain Vincent's manifest of private trade under their respective numbers as per list of packet.

21. We have advanced Captain George Meard four thousand (4000) Current Rupees for the use and expence of the Denham, for which sum he has executed the usual bond.

22. It is not in our power to transmit Your Honours the account current of this ship's country voyage in her packet as you have directed, the gentlemen at Bombay having omitted to send the account sales of the sugar consigned them on her and the Winchelsea, of which we have taken notice in our letter to them under date 2nd November; as soon as we receive those sales we shall make up the voyages of those ships and forward them home.

23. In that letter to the President and Council at Bombay we informed them Your Honours had been obliged to send three of the ships, intended for their Presidency, to Madrass to transport the forces for that coast, and there being no prospect of those ships being employed from that Presidency, we had great reason to expect they would all be sent down to Bengal, which would occasion so large a tonnage for us to provide for that we were at a loss how to employ them with any tolerable view of advantage to Your Honours, but as a freight for Surat would in all probability offer for two of your ships we have desired them to direct cotton cargoes to be got ready for that number.

24. We must in this place beg leave to take notice that when the Montfort returned from Bombay, on a survey of the broad cloth she brought back, several bales appeared to be damaged which Captain Vincent had objected to in his bill of lading as he affirmed he received them in that condition from the Winchelsea; for which reason we have forbore demanding the amount of those damaged bales till Captain Baron's arrival, and the affair could be adjusted. When the Winchelsea imported we called upon Captain Baron to be present at the survey of those bales and to make good the damage, who replied the President and Council of Bombay had delivered him up his bill of lading regularly endorsed, and therefore he could not think himself accountable for any damage. Captain Vincent likewise persisting that he had received them in the condition he had delivered them and objected to them at Bombay, has obliged us to sell that cloth as damaged broad cloth at outcry, and refer the affair to Your Honours to reimburse yourselves from the owners of whichever ship you may think liable to the damage. We have likewise mentioned this circumstance to the gentlemen at Bombay and have desired them to give you what information they can in relation thereto. We have likewise enclosed in the packet the account sales of that broad cloth with the value of it as invoiced by Your Honours, and 30 per cent put thereon as usual, the difference of which being the sum the owners are to make good.

25. Your Honours will observe by our Consultation of the 17th October that we agreed to lade 150 tonns of saltpetre on each of your ships this year to be dispatched from hence to Europe conformable to your permission and to assist us in compleating their tonnage. We have since that determined to put 200 tonns of petre on the Montfort and send the richest goods

on that ship, as she will leave India in so fine a time of the year that she will in all probability arrive in time for Your Honours' sales in September, which step we flatter ourselves you will approve of, as we think it must be for Your Honours' interest that the first dispatched ships' invoices should exceed in value to those who depart late from India.

26. Captain Vincent on the 28th October sent in a letter to the Board complaining of his chief officer's behaviour, and requesting our permission to dismiss him from his ship; upon which we called Mr. Thomas Madge before us and as he then consented to make Capt. Vincent a proper concession we were in hopes the dispute would have ended there. But Mr. Madge on the 21st ultimo informing us Captain Vincent had suspended him from his office of chief mate and the ship was then dropping down, we ordered both of them to attend us on the 25th last month that we might either reinstate the officer, or give his captain permission to employ another. At the same time we directed our Secretary to request all the Europe commanders, and three of those in the country service, to attend us likewise and answer such questions as we might have occasion to put. Not to trouble Your Honours with a tedious detail of this affair we beg leave to be referred to that Consultation, wherein you will please to observe we directed Captain Vincent to receive Mr. Madge and permit him to act in quality of chief mate during this voyage to Europe upon his making a written acknowledgement of his error and promising a more suitable behaviour for the future. As we imagined it would have been settled without our intervention we omitted to enter Captain Vincent's letter thereon after our Consultations and therefore enclose them in our packet by this ship for Your Honours' observation.

27. On the 25th November Captain Nevil Norway came up to town and informed us of the Britannia's safe arrival at Culpee, of which we congratulate Your Honours. He acquainted us at the same time of His Majesty's ship Bridgewater and the Kings Fisher sloop of war being safe in the river and we hourly expect the arrival of the Colchester, Kent and London, which three ships the gentlemen at Madrass have informed us they dispatched for this place a few days before the Britannia came away.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe.*

28. In our letter via Madrass we acquainted Your Honours of the method we had taken to prevent a clandestine importation of commodities from Europe which might prejudice your sales, since which the zemindar of the party we appointed to take care no contraband trade should be landed in a private manner at any of our gauts detected a sloop, a pinnace and a budgrow in the night laden with copper on the opposite side of the river, which we immediately secured till we could find from whence it came, and to whom it belonged. Our examination into this affair Your Honours will find upon the face our Consultations of the 2nd September, when it appeared the copper was the property of Captain Jno. Coatsworth who alledged he had brought it from the Mallabar coast, but hearing that article was by a late order of Council made seizable, he intended to have carried some part of it with him to sea again, and to have landed the rest in the night. As Captain Coatsworth would not make affidavitt nor give any proof of his having purchased that copper on the Malabar coast we determined to detain it till he should prove where he bought it, to whom he paid the money for it and whose property it was to the best of his knowledge. The Import Warehouse Keeper was accordingly ordered to land in the factory what was found on board the sloop and budgrow but as the hatches of the pinnace were locked and the syrang had made of with the keys, we did not think ourselves sufficiently authorized to break them open but kept a centinal on board to prevent their taking it away clandestinely.

29. That we might trace out if possible whether this copper was imported on either of the Europe ships then arrived, we ordered our Secretary to demand the boatswain's books of the York and St. George, which were accordingly laid before the Board soon after but we could not observe any thing of it entered in those books.

30. After having used our utmost endeavours without effect to find out from whence this copper came and as a longer detention would in all probability have occasioned a law suit which would have been attended with great expence to Your Honours and the event remained extremely precarious, the slender proofs before us being very insufficient to authorize a seizure of this kind, this added to the risque a great part of that copper lay

at in the pinnace (which had very providentially escaped being lost in the late storm) induced us to agree the copper should be returned to Captain Coatsworth and we hope Your Honours will approve of our so doing, as we doubt not the seizure we made, together with our sedulous enquiry to trace out from whence it came, will in future prevent an illicit importation of this or any other article prejudicial to your sales, which we shall always be carefull to detect and make proper examples of any persons we may find culpable.

31. To enable us to act with proper confidence on these occasions, and exert our authority for putting a stop to these clandestine practices, we must request Your Honours will give us very explicit directions when we have a right to seize a commodity forbid by your orders to be traded in by the captains and officers of your ships, and whether we may lawfully detain it from the purchaser, though we should have no intelligence thereof till after it is out of the ship.

32. Upon the receipt of Your Honours' advices of the 23rd January 1754 per York we took into consideration the very large consignments of woollen goods made us this year, and as we would give our utmost attention to your orders for procuring a vend for that article, we agreed to put up the remains of last year's woolen goods as well as the York's and St. George's cargoes at outcry on the 20 September, imagining the advertisement of such a sale might prompt the former purchasers to clear out the goods they had bought or at least that they would not suffer those sortments to fall in their value, and as the waters were then very high, the expence of carriage was consequently much less than in the dry season, which might have induced others to become buyers. Mr. Becher being of a different opinion Your Honours will find his reasons for dissenting entered on our Consultation of the 22nd August.

33. When we tryed those articles at outcry agreable to our resolution, we found but little of the woollen goods would sell, there being no bidders for the ordinary broad cloth and aurora, upon which we agreed on the 26 September to make another tryal of them at outcry on the 18 November with the remaining copper, iron and lead, and in order to encourage the sale of the woolen goods we ordered the Import Warehouse Keeper to give notice that we would forbear making another sale of that commodity for six months from that period. On the 18 November

those articles were accordingly put up, the account sales of which as well as the former are regularly entered after our Consultations, and come enclosed in this ship's packet under their respective numbers.

34. We must in this place take notice that the sortment of plate copper marked Swan No. 2 sold at outcry better in proportion than the other plate copper though invoiced at near the same price; and that what Your Honours sent out in imitation of Japan copper sold at a very high price and we are informed is a sortment which these people esteem, for which reason we request Your Honours will comply with our indent transmitted in this packet.

35. We must here remark that we have not indented this year for any Barbary copper as we find it a sortment that will not answer so well as what we now write for. The first year we received that copper it sold better in proportion than the other, which encouraged us to indent for a large quantity, but we have since had reason to alter our opinion and therefore desire Your Honours will not send us any.

36. At our sales in November 1753 the Import Warehouse Keeper had picked a quantity of copper out of that invoiced by Your Honours for brass which looked much finer than the rest, and put the same up as fine copper for brass, as had been formerly done in a parcel received per Godolphin. It sold accordingly for near 20 per cent more than the other sortment and had been examined by the copper smiths before the outcry was made. When the six months for clearing the same were near elapsed, they attended the Board and informed us the copper was not the sortment they bought it for and therefore they could not think of clearing it out at the price they had paid for it at outcry, but if we would let them have it on the terms battery copper sold for, they would clear it immediately. We then asked them if it was equal to the musters it was sold by? to which they replied it was but that it was put up fine copper for brass whereas in reallity it would not make brass at all. This being a very material objection we ordered Mr. Pearkes to make an essay of it and if it would not make brass as they alledged we agreed their petition should be complied with, but that gentleman having made a tryal of the copper and producing on the 29th Aprill an essay of the brass it made, which appearing extremely good we ordered the purchasers to clear it

out at the price they had bought it, as their complaint was without foundation.

37. On the 18 October they petitioned us again to permit them to relinquish their purchases as they were likely to be very great sufferers by it, the copper not being the sortment it was put up for, and though it made brass yet it would not bear the hammer and was only fit for casting, a method this country people do not much practice and therefore there is scarce any demand for that kind of copper. As this seemed a very plausible objection, if well grounded, we ordered Mr. Holwell to procure some copper smiths privately and make an essay of the copper, whose report and essays were delivered in to the Board on the 7 November, by which it appeared the brass it made was extreamly good and bore the hammer very well. This determined us to insist on the buyers clearing out the several lotts they had purchased at the sales of 1753 and we ordered our Import Warehouse Keeper to give them notice of this resolution and if they did not clear it out by the 25 November that it would be resold and the difference demanded of them. After which we acquiesced with a request several of them applied to Mr. Becher to make and allowed them the discount of nine per cent as if they had cleared it out within the six months provided for at the sale, their first application to the Board having been delivered within that time and our ultimate resolution for clearing it out but lately made.

38. Captain Meard having delivered 12 chaldron and 20 bushels short of the coales he brought out, we permitted him to keep them on board, and use it for fuel to boil the victuals of the people we sent upon his ship to the Negrais and directed him to deliver the overplus to Mr. Brook, as likewise 30 cuffers which he desired he might have leave to keep on board as they formed his coale hole.

39. The damaged broad cloth, by the several ships this year imported, has been regularly surveyed in the presence of the captains of such ships and the amount thereof accounted for in Your Honours' treasury.

40. In our advices last year per Portfield under date the 4th January we gave Your Honours our reasons for leaving out of our indent all kinds of woollen goods, which we beg leave to stand referred to for doing the same in our indent this year, but should it be absolutely necessary to send us any, we must repeat what we then advised Your Honours and request that

only the following sortments may be consigned us as we find they are commonly in the greatest demand viz.,

Broad cloth aurora
Broad cloth blue ordinary
Broad cloth yellow do
Broad cloth emerald green do
Scarlet perpets.

41. The Import Warehouse Keeper acquaints us the sheers Your Honours sent out in year 1752 for cutting copper are not at all esteemed by these people who are ignorant of their utility and cannot be brought to use them.

42. Your Honours' orders in relation to the preamble at the head of our account sales are punctually complied with, but the directions you were pleased to give in regard to sorting every separate lott, and putting the purchaser in immediate possession of his purchase, will not be in our power to execute for the reasons Mr. Cruttenden (then Import Warehouse Keeper) gave upon the face of our Consultations of 21st July 1752, our meaning in the letter of the 11 February being understood to except such parts of your orders as we found were not practicable and of which we had taken notice in our Consultations transmitted for your observation.

*Thirdly, of investments.*

43. In our letter *via* Madrass, a copy of which is enclosed in this ship's packet, we gave Your Honours an account of our transactions in this branch of your affairs at our Precidency. What has since occurred we shall give as concise a relation of as we can and confine ourselves to the most material particulars of what has passed between us and our respective gomastahs.

44. Our orders at Malda last season agreable to the former list was to purchase but 27300 pieces, but the encrease this year in the list we received from Your Honours obliged us to order 45800 pieces, the full of which we fear they will not be able to provide time enough to be sent home this season, as the head gomastah's coming down to settle his accounts, adjusting the same and examining their particular transactions took up so much time that it was the 11th August before they begun their purchases, except some purchased by the under gomastahs for

ready money, the orders for that aurung likewise being very large.

45. At Santipore we have reason to expect our orders for 12000 pieces of different sortments of cloth will be fully invested, as by advices from that aurung we find 8226 pieces have already been bought. The cotton yarn, of which we directed our gomastah then to buy and send us 120 maunds, we are apprehensive they will fall short of, as it is not procurable without too great an advanced price.

46. We have the same assurances at Burran as at Santipore, the gomastah there having already made purchases of 16685 pieces and their order no more than 20000 pieces.

47. Our gomastahs at Hurrypaul advised us that they have hitherto invested as far as 6250 pieces, and they shall only be able to procure time enough to be sent by the ships of this season 3000 pieces more, their reason for which being principally the scarcity of provision which has reduced the inhabitants to such poverty they were afraid to make large advances of putney, the method of purchasing most of their goods.

48. The list of goods to be provided at Barnagore being 12900 pieces of different sorts, they begun the 2nd May, and by account from thence to the 17th November they had purchased 4816 pieces and hope to get about 4000 pieces more ready within the season.

49. The order for goods to be provided in and about Calcutta is 20700 pieces of different sortments and we have got in about 14000 pieces, and expect to compleat the whole within the season.

50. Cuttral will very near compleat it's order and their falling short is owing to much the same reasons as Hurrypaul.

51. From Doonea Cally[1] we are advised they have already invested 4896 pieces, most of which we have received and they expect to compleat their orders for 7750 pieces within the season.

52. As the method of buying cloth at Goolagore[2] is by advancing putney without which no quantity can be procured, they will not be able to fulfill the whole of their orders at that aurung time enough for the ships of this season, having to the 5 November been able to procure no more than 7343 pieces and by their advices we imagine they will not exceed 5000 pieces more in

time to come down, together making 12343 pieces instead of 17000 pieces.

53. At Buddall we have good assurances of their sending us down in time the whole of their list, having already provided 9428 out of 12200 pieces though they begun so late as the 13 July.

54. The loss of time in settling and adjusting the Harriall accounts occasioned our gomastah returning to that aurung very late, so that untill the 10th September their purchases were not entered upon otherwise than some ready money purchases made by the under gomastahs and we fear what we shall receive from that place will not exceed 21000 pieces though our orders were for 33100 pieces, the reasons given us for this difference being the prodigious rise of waters thereabouts which overflowed the country and occasioned so great a scarcity of provision which made the gomastahs cautious how they advanced the weavers any puttun, the method of doing their business there.

55. We gave the gomastah we employed at Soonamooky orders to invest 2900 pieces of silk and tosarry goods besides 20000 pieces of gurrahs, but as Your Honours had reduced that article [in] your list of investment this year, we directed them to lessen their purchase of gurrahs, in answer to which they informed us that these orders arrived so late they must be obliged to take as far as 12000 or 13000 pieces of gurrahs. We have already advised Your Honours of the new aurungs we had established for the provision of gurrahs and refer ourselves to that paragraph. The quantity of shell laak we gave those gomastahs orders to buy, they are likely to fall short of, on account of the troubles in the country which have stopt the roads and prevents any great importation of that commodity.

56. We have now given Your Honours a suncint[*sic*] account of the most material transactions of our several gomastahs; the letters which have passed to and from them we shall forward in box of books per Colchester and in the present packet enclose the names of the gomastahs etc., in our service under the respective aurungs at which they are employed.

57. The Export Warehouse Keeper and his Deputy on the 24 June laid before us several musters received from Keerpoy of the Almorra sortments, which being examined and compared with those in our cottah, we ordered them to make as many charconnahs, chuklaes and shellbafts as they could at Keerpoy

and as the teepoys from Ballasore were but indifferent we ordered them to provide that sortment likewise at Keerpoy, though the musters before us were entirely silk, instead of silk and herba, which made them turn out 3 rupees per piece dearer than those in our cottah.

58. We have this season supplied our aurungs with the following sums amounting in the whole to C.Rs. 1365407-15-3.

Malda—175164-4-0
Buddal—80362-1-3
Harrial—190143-15-0
Kerpoy—199374-15-3
Santipore—109538-9-0
Burron—114110-0-0
Cuttrah—43208-15-0
Barnagore—50776-1-6
Enum Buzar—43400-0-0

and have received from them in all to the value of C.Rs. 341991-6-0 and the remainder we make no doubt will be invested and sent us before the latter ships of this year leave Bengall.

59. Enclosed in this packet we send a list of our gomastahs' names with the different aurungs to which they are employed for Your Honours' observation.

60. The Export Warehouse Keepers acquainting us there was a very great inconvenience in the boats from Malda, Buddal, and Harrial coming down by the way of Jellingee where it was usual to detain them and extort money from the manjees, we wrote to the gentlemen at Dacca to let us know if it would give any umbrage to their Durbar or occasion them any trouble, were we to order the boats from those aurungs to go to that factory and come to Calcutta through the woods, to which they have replied they did not apprehend any trouble from that method and we have accordingly directed the Export Warehouse Keeper to order the gomastahs of those places to forward their goods to us by the way of Dacca.

61. Having deferred giving Your Honours an account of what has occured in the provisions of your investments at our several subordinates till our address under the established heads, we

shall now beg leave to be as particular in our detail of what relate thereto as we can without being unnecessary prolix.

62. The gentlemen at Cassimbuzar on the 1st March sent us down a parcel of gurrahs, silk and silk peicegoods which did not arrive with us till some days after the dispatch of the Falmouth. In their letter of that date they say those goods would have been forwarded somedays sooner, had not the disputes with the merchants on account of the strict sorting and prizing the Novemberbund silk occasioned a delay; they further informed us that the Novemberbund silk then sent us was in general very bad, yet by turning out great part of the D and E and throwing the upper letter into the lower (agreeable to Your Honours' directions) it appeared tolerably good, and as they could not reject the whole of that parcel of silk without incurring bad debts they hoped we should approve what they had done.

63. They advised us at the same time that their merchants were all assembled at a place near Muxadabad with an intention to present a petition to the Nabob for not taking the lower letters of silk.

64. As we had wrote them under date the 12 February, in answer to their requesting leave to send more money to the aurung for provision of putney, that we did not approve of their risquing too much of Your Honours' estate in that manner and recommended it to them to make their contracts as usual with their merchants, they explained themselves in their letter of the 1st March and observed that when they wrote us for such a permission they only meant to proceed in winding of what silk they could, till their merchants could be brought to terms, and not lose the benefit of the most favourable season for winding of silk. In answer to what we remarked in our before mentioned letter that silk was then considerably lower at their factory than it had been the last season and therefore hoped their contracts would be in proportion, they replied that though the price of silk then was indeed lower than it had been the year before, yet it was still as dear as when they made their contracts as the price of putney rose considerably after they had contracted, that what putney they had themselves provided in consequence of our permission, when wound off to the fineness required for Your Honours' Guzzerat silk, with the charges and allowances etc., would not have stood the merchants in less than D. M. Rupees 8-2 per seer, nor would such putney

be procurable a month from that date, so that they had little reason to think they should be able to contract for any silk fit for your use even at the last year's price.

65. There being a parcel of gurrahs which turned out shorter than usual upon measuring but were very good, they thought it most adviseable to take them and pack them separate making a proper deduction.

66. The gentlemen at Cassimbuzar under date the 4th March advising us that several of their merchants not having delivered goods to the amount of the dadney advanced them and requesting our permission to receive such goods into their cottahs till April to prevent their contracting bad debts, we gave them leave to accept of goods till April on their last year's contracts agreeable to their request.

67. The boats dispatched from Cassimbuzar on the 25 February having had the misfortune to meet with very bad weather, several of the bales of silk and chests of silken peicegoods were damaged and a bale of silk with another of gurrahs were lost. The damaged goods we returned to Cossimbuzar to be redressed and directed the gentlemen there to send divers immediately to search for the two bales which were missing. Some time after we had the pleasure to hear they had recovered the bale of silk.

68. When the damaged silk was returned us redressed we agreed to put it up at outcry and, if there were bidders for it at the rate of 5 C.Rs. per seer for the letter C, to let it go, which offering was sold accordingly.

69. Having inspected the raw silk dispatched from Cossimbuzar on the 25th February we found it extreamly bad, of which we acquainted the gentlemen there and they had sent us three chests of taffaties etc., for musters of a new sortment, which upon examination we did not approve of. We forbid them to provide any of those sortments till our further orders which do not propose to give till we know Your Honours' sentiments. They are transmitted home by this ship and marked M N: 1.2.3.

70. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar in a letter under date the 22nd April informed us they had at last prevailed with some of their merchants to make proposals of contract for raw silk but that they insisted on 8 Rs. per seer for the Novemberbund

and 8-9 per seer for the Guzzerat, which prices (though very extravigant) they had no hopes of reducing, as their merchants seemed rather to decline than engage in that article even at that exorbitant rate. They sent us by those cossides a muster of silk the merchants agreed to contract which was not (agreable to the practice of former years) so fine that it would be impossible to wind off any quantity nearly equal to it but such a muster as the merchants say may be wound of and which they will use their best endeavours to keep up to. They likewise sent us on the 23 April a muster of Guzzerat silk wound off from the putney we had permitted them to purchase (at the aurungs), taken out of the parcels promiscuously without being sorted into assel, poor etc., of which silk there would be about 240 maunds and it would turn out, when sorted as usual allowing for charges and customary deductions, about D. M. Rs. 8-2 per seer the A.

71. Upon inspection of the musters mentioned in our former paragraph we wrote Mr. Watts and his Council that the Guzzerat silk of their own winding off is much superior to what their merchants delivered in last year and inferiour to the musters they were now willing to contract on but the price they demanded was by much too extravigant to be complied with, and since the putney they had provided was likely to turn out so well, we recommended it to them to go on providing the other sortments of silk in the same manner, unless they could bring their merchants to better terms; we likewise took notice that the present musters delivered in by their merchants was much inferior to what they formerly contracted on, which we did not approve of as we were apprehensive it might be a means of debasing by degrees the quality of their silk investment.

72. On the 10 May we recieved a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar advising us they had called their merchants and told them we would neither permit them to contract for raw silk on the muster nor at the price they insisted on, to which their merchants replied they had agreed to providing the silk this year only in order to obtain the continuance of the favour and protection of the factory without any prospect of advantage and were very glad to be excused from engaging in that branch of business.

73. In answer to the permission we had given them to provide the other sortments of silk in the same manner as that already

come in, they replied the fine had been long since all bought up, for which reason they should not be able to procure any more fine enough to produce the Guzzerat silk without allowing a considerable advance in the price nor would it then wind off to the quality of that whereof they had sent us samples for our inspection and even the Novemberbund silk would be both considerable dearer and inferior in quality to what we might have procured early in the season.

74. As we had disapproved of their accepting musters not so fine as usual for contracting on, they informed us their not objecting to those musters was owing to what we wrote them under date the 12th November, and by our not replying to their letter of the 19th of that month they judged we did not approve of the long continued practice of contracting on musters so very fine that no quantity could be procured of near the quality and they could not be of opinion themselves that it was any way necessary to the keeping up the quality of the silk that they should contract on musters which cannot nearly be equalled by any quantity though produced from the very best putney to be procured in the country and wound off with the greatest care and circumspection, that they judged the musters they had sent us was sufficient to prevent a debasement of the silk, as no finer could at that time be procured and that they supposed the merchants would pay some regard to those musters whereas those in former years were never in the least adhered to as being by far superiour to any silks they could possibly deliver.

75. Upon the receipt of that letter we immediately wrote them that they had been too hasty in excusing their merchants from contracting this season for silk without having tried to reduce them somewhat in the price, as we still preferred that method of making their investment to risquing the Company's money abroad. We likewise observed to them that we had wrote them so early as the 11th January to procure and send us down musters of Novemberbund silk, a few days after which we sent them 2 laak of rupees that the investments might be begun early, that on the 11 February we had pressed them to send us musters of the Guzzerat and recommended their making their contracts so that the silk might be brought into their factory by the month of July, instead of which we had received no samples till 26th April, by which proceeding they have had a large ballance in their treasury unemployed and their contracts had been greatly delayed; on this account we directed them to lose

no more time but exert their utmost to procure the Guzzerat and Novemberbund silks, should their merchants persist in their refusal to contract for that branch of their investment.

76. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar under date the 22nd May replied to the above letter that though it might appear to us they had not endeavoured to bring their merchants to contract with them for silk on reasonable terms, yet they assured us nothing had been wanting on their parts to bring it about, though it had failed of success, but that we might depend they should still continue to try all possible means to engage their merchants or some of them at least to contract for a part, if they will not for the whole of what Your Honours direct, as they prefer that method themselves which nothing but an absolute necessity could induce them to request an alteration of. For answer to what we had mentioned in regard to their contracts being so much protracted they referred us to their several former letters wherein we should find they had endeavoured all they could to bring their merchants to an early contract and the reasons which prevented it, which were chiefly the extravigant prices demanded by them, for had they imagined we should have approved of their allowing such an advanced price, they could have contracted as soon as the merchants had dropped their complaint to the Durbar.

77. We have now the pleasure to acquaint Your Honours that Mr. Watts and his Council on the 31st May sent us down musters of silk which their merchants had consented to contract for at the last year's prices, and upon inspection it being approved of by the Board, we directed them to contract for it immediately and recommended it to them to press their merchants to bring it in early as the season was then very far advanced, which they informed us they had done in a letter of 18th June but that they had not been able to prevail with them to contract for more than one thousand maunds and that Novemberbund only.

78. When we recieved Your Honours' commands per Essex and Ilchester we immediately transmitted the several subordinates their respective lists of investment extracted from what [was] received in those packets dated 19 December 1753.

79. We have already taken notice in our letter under date 9th September that the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote us they could not prevail on their merchants to lessen the quantity of gurrahs they had contracted for, as they had already advanced

the weavers puttum for the whole of Your Honours' former orders. Upon the receipt of this year's list they observed to us that 150 bales of the 3 first letters of Commercolly silk and 50 bales of the two first letters of the yellow Rungipoor silk were ordered as formerly but as we had directed them in our letter of the 22nd April 1752 to provide only a bale of each sort on account of the quality and price, and those sortments continuing as dear as ever, they desired to know whether they were to provide that quantity or wait till they knew if those musters were approved of.

80. On taking that matter into consideration we find those bales had been laden on the Oxford, as they did not arrive in Calcutta till the 19 February 1753, and as that ship was not imported when Your Honours' advices of the 23rd January 1754 were closed, we imagined we might in all probability be acquainted by the Anson with your sentiments thereon, till when we directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to desist purchasing any Commercolly or Rungipoor silk.

81. The merchants at Cossimbuzar having declined the contract for Guzzerat silk, and as we imagined some might be procured if money were sent early in the season to the aurungs, we permitted them to risque a sum of money for that purpose and recommended it to them to get it wound off and sent down before the dispatch of the last ship this season.

82. We have now given Your Honours a full account of what has passed in relation to your investment at Cossimbuzar and are only to inform we have amply supplied them with treasure at different times to perform their contracts amounting in the whole to C.Rs. 766680-0-0 which has safely arrived there. The several consignments of goods received from them we beg leave to be referred to the course of our Consultations for and shall now proceed to particularize the occurrences of the rest of our subordinates in their proper order in relation to their respective investments.

83. The investments from Dacca not having met our approbation for these two years past and the gentlemen at that factory seeming to think our censures thereon were without foundation, we sent them on the 23rd April some musters of goods provided by our gomastahs of the same fabrick with those we receive from Dacca, which we directed them to compare, and be themselves judges if we had not great reason to complain

and observed to them that though some of the sortments were something inferiour in quality, yet it was no way equal to the prodigious disproportion of the price. Their reply Your Honours will find extracted in our Consultations of the 20th May, in which they were of opinion very different to ours but allowed the Conicola doreas, and charconna doreas were much cheaper than theirs, for which reason they had forbid the latter and promised to use their best endeavours to amend the former.

84. As we had particularly complained of the flowered goods and directed them to provide no more, as they were invoiced extravigantly high, they sent us down a few pieces worked in their own factory and referred us to Mr. Sumner's report entered in their Consultation of the 12th May for an answer to our letter. Upon inspecting these pieces and comparing them with what we had formerly received from thence, we found extreamly superior both in the quality of the cloth, the goodness of the work, and beauty of the patterns, for which reasons we directed them to continue making the worked goods agreeable to the orders of their list of investment, and recommended it to Mr. Sumner to use his utmost diligence in keeping up the stitch work agreeable to the musters then before us.

85. The gentlemen at Dacca had in the month of February desired our directions in relation to their ferret cloth which they had detained in their godowns and were, if they did not take it, apprehensive Your Honours would be liable to considerable bad debts, upon which we ordered them to prize the goods in a lower degree than they [were] contracted for and take them at those rates, which they informed us in their letter of the 9th May they had done and were of opinion the whole parcel was extreamly cheap at those rates.

86. In the same letter they informed us of an alteration they had made in their contracts for dooreas this season, the method of prizing them brown having for these two years last past never answered, when dressed, the expectation they had entertained of them when brown, for which purpose they had insisted on the delols and piccars bringing in those of this year half dressed. This we very much approved of and hoped the methods they had pursued in giving out their puttem etc., this season would enable them to make a considerable amendment in their investment, a point we strenuously recommended to their attention, as Your Honours by no means approved of accepting

cloth that was inferiour in fabrick, be the price ever so considerably reduced.

87. When we transmitted the list of investment to Dacca extracted from that received per Essex and Ilchester, we directed the gentlemen there to let us know what money they should be in want of to compleat their investment, to which they replied they were in no immediate want of money but as they were in hope to be able to procure considerable quantities of ready money cloth as soon as the rains were over and thought it would be for Your Honours' interest to give out puttim in November for the ensuing season, they desired we would send them two laak of rupees and ten chests of bullion. We have in consequence of that request sent them 17 chests of A.Rs. and 10 chests of bullion by different conveyances and permitted them to risque down 60000 Rs. of cloth on every good sloop that should be coming from thence in the favourable monsoon, as they looked upon it a safer and cheaper way than forwarding their goods by boats.

88. On the 14th October we received a letter from the gentlemen at Dacca dated the 6th of that month, wherein they acquainted they have received information from Mr. Hyndman at Chaundpoor that upon sending a gomastah to the dimity aurung for the purchase of that article for Your Honours' use, he found the price of that specie of cloth greatly enhanced by Mr. Eyre's employing a person at the same place for the purchase of dimmitties; which would be of great prejudice to the Company's provision if continued and therefore they requested our orders for that gentleman to desist, which we accordingly gave as the article of dimities was not inserted in the Jugdea investment.

89. We have supplied that factory for carrying on their investment and their charges since the dispatch of the Falmouth with C.Rs. 224253-9-0, with which we doubt not they will be able to make a considerable as well as good investment as those supplies were forwarded in time.

90. When we ordered Messrs. Baillie and Playdell to Calcutta and sent Mr. Edward Eyre to take charge of Your Honours' effects at Jugdea and make your investment there in the absence of those gentlemen, we directed him to enform us of the properest methods to purchase Your Honours' goods at that factory; upon his arrival there he accordingly advised us that he had

used his best endeavours to get at the real prices of cloth at Jugdea and its adjacent aurungs and was greatly surprized to find Your Honours paid an advance of 15 or 20 per cent on the weavers' price and therefore he had proposed to the delols a deduction of 8 per cent on the prizing of every sortment, except the doosutties, which being an article they profit from 50 to 70 per cent by, he had offered them Rs. 5-8 for what had hitherto been taken at 7 per piece, that upon their refusing to comply he had forbad them providing any more, as he thought it shamefull to take them at such a disadvantage, that when he first proposed a reduction to Narsing deloll he positively refused it, but afterwards agreed to reduce the price 3 per cent, which he had declined accepting and that he was then buying up cloth privately as musters, which he would forward us if the delols would not comply with his terms without a proof of their imposition.

91. This cloth purchased in a private manner he wrote on the 1st May he had effected and sent us the prizings, by which we might observe how much Your Honours had been imposed on. He wrote us at the same time he had made an agreement with a delol to deliver him the cloth at all times on the terms of the last prizing and that it would be greatly for Your Honours' advantage to have a bungalow at the four principal aurungs that the Chief may go and purchase at them himself without residing at any one place.

92. In that letter he assured us we need be under no apprehension that the reduction of the prices would detriment the fabrick of the cloth, but as the delols who were then in Calcutta might represent things to their own advantage and secret the truth as far as lies in their power, he should mention his observations on the quality of the cloth he had purchased, compared with the same sortments as delivered in by the delols, which were as follows: that the baftaes Chowbissa, Jugdea, and Madrass are no otherwise inferior to those he receives from them than their being a thinner cloth which will look better washed than brown, that the baftaes Chittybully and the hummums of both sorts are greatly superiour, that the cossaes are rather so than not and that the doosutties were equal. He further observed that the difference to Your Honours by providing the investment there in the manner he proposed would amount to forty thousand rupees per year.

93. As the prizings he had sent of the private cloth by him purchased were greatly advantageous to Your Honours, we directed him on the 27th May to continue providing his investment in the best manner he could and to decrease the expences as much as possible. The goods sent us last year by Mr. Baille from Luckypore being much approved of by us, we directed him likewise to send a person to that place to procure as many of those sortments of goods as he could on reasonable terms. Agreable to which order he informed us on the 1st July he had engaged for some fine hummums and baftaes Jugdea at that place at very reasonable rates.

94. In that letter he acquainted us he had received from the Jugdea delols cloth to the amount of 40000 Rs. at 6 per cent less than the prices formerly allowed them; since when they had agreed to anotner reduction which he enclosed with a list of the rates they acknowledged those goods were purchased at the aurungs, wherein he had allowed them an advance that will always keep them from loosing and by which they will have such a gain as will induce them to keep up the quality. He observed that though the Jugdea baftaes were reduced no further than to 51-8 per Co. [corge?], yet that sortment was greatly improved and the rest considerably lowered, and requested a supply of treasure, as what he had there at that time would be invested very speedily and he could send us this season a much larger and better investment than we had received from that place these many years.

95. The gentlemen at Madrass having indented for 4400 pieces of baftaes Jugdea we directed Mr. Eyres to provide that quantity, exclusive of what was ordered in the list of investment which we transmitted him upon the receipt of Your Honours' commands per Essex and Ilchester.

96. Your Honours having in this year's list of investment directed the brown baftaes for Madrass should be 28 cobits long, Mr. Eyre on the 16th September informed us that before the receipt of that list he had provided those baftaes of 24 cobits as usual and therefore he should not be able to procure above 500 pieces this season of 28 covids.

97. Upon the receipt of Mr. Eyre's list of the pieces the delolls acknowledged they purchased their goods at the aurungs and the advance he had agreed to allow them, we wrote him that we thought the allowance was by much too extravigant and

directed him to lower it if possible and, upon examination of his invoices afterwards received, finding the cloth rated as usual, though he himself had sent us down prizings by which the prices were very much reduced even with the advance he had agreed to, we imagined the superiority of the cloth had been the reason of it, but observing upon an inspection of what he had sent down that the qualities of his goods were rather inferiour to those forwarded by Messrs. Baillie and Playdell we wrote him thereupon and demanded the reason of his rating the goods in his invoice as usual, when by his letters and prizings we expected to have found a considerable reduction. To neither of these letters have we as yet received an answer.

98. The several parcels of goods received from Jugdea since the Falmouth's departure are duly taken notice of in our Consultations, and the peices, which were found damaged and torn, have been sold at outcry and the amount brought to Your Honours' credit.

99. We have supplied that factory with A.R. 129600 and when Messrs. Baillie and Playdell were returned thither, we directed them to compleat the investment in the manner they judged most for Your Honours' advantage.

100. Your Honours having demanded the reason for sending home so few sannoes of late years Mr. McGuire in a letter of the 28th February informed us it was chiefly owing to the oppressive government of the Marattoes, ever since their first invasion, added to the excessive dearness of grain and consequently the necessitous circumstances of the weavers.

101. Observing, by the accounts of Bulramgurry factory sent us a little before the departure of the Falmouth for Europe, a large ballance remained in cash there, exclusive of what money he had advanced for sannoes and sent to Chumra, we directed Mr. McGuire on the 11 March to make a calculate of what quantity of the goods ordered in the list of investment he could provide, and return us the surplus, reserving no more than sufficient for such a provision and his charges. We likewise observed to him that upon inspecting the Olmorra goods received from him we did not find the quality answer our expectations.

102. In reply to which letter he addressed us under date the 30th March acquainting us that he had contracted with the

weavers for the whole of the sannoes investment which amounted to 30000 Rs. and that he was extreamly concerned to find the Olmorrah goods did not meet our approbation, but the country round about having been infested with Marattoes the last year prevented him from inspecting into the manufactures there in person agreable to his intentions, which he purposed to do this season as the Marrattoes had left the province, and should set out for that aurung the next day where he should wait our orders whether he might contract for the chucklaes, tepoys, piniascoes, and ginghams upon last year's musters and as he had no musters of nillaes or charconnahs ordered by Your Honours, he requested we would send them with our particular directions.

103. The above musters of nillaes and charconnahs we sent him on the 15 April and directed him to let us know what terms he could procure them on and get the other sortments of Olmorrah goods better manufactured this season than they were the last.

104. Mr. McGuire on the 24 April informed us of his having set out for Olmorrah where he had made the following contracts to be approved of or rejected by us:

| | A.RS |
|---|---|
| 2000 pieces of chuclaes | 50 and 2 at 9″ 12 per piece |
| 700 pieces of tepoys | 28 and 1½ @ 8″ |
| 350 pieces of do | 14 and 1½ @ 4″ |
| 200 pieces of charconnahs | 35 and 1¾ @ 3″ |
| 1000 pieces of piniascoes | 26 and 2 @ 4″ 12 |
| 600 pieces of ginghams | 26 and 2 @ 4″ |
| 700 pieces of nillaes | 20 and 2 @ 4″ 12 |
| 350 pieces of do buno | 20 and 2 @ 5″ 4 |
| 700 pieces of do tuto | 20 and 2 @ 3″ |

the whole amount to be delivered in the month of December agreeable to the musters he then sent us, on inspecting which we must observe that the buno nillaes are to be of the same goodness as the nillaes and will be enhanced 8 annas per piece for the colour.

105. Upon the receipt of these musters we compared them with those in our cottah and directed him to amend the quality of the chucklaes and charconnahs, if possible, which were but indifferent, that the price for colouring the buno nillaes was so

extravigant he must provide but 100 pieces of that sortment, but if he could keep the nillaes of Rs. 4-12 full up to the musters, we directed him to encrease their quantity to 3000 pieces and to provide the same quantity of the nillaes of 3 Rs.

106. He acknowledged the receipt of these orders in a letter dated the 12 June and sent us one piece of chucklaes and one peice of charconnahs for our sentiments thereon, which being compared with those in our cottah were found so much inferiour that we forbid him on the 24th of that month providing any more of those sortments than what might be ready at the receipt of that letter. As we thought him then sufficiently able to judge what sum of money he should want for his investment and charges, we directed him to reserve a sufficiency for those uses and return us the surplus of cash he had in ballance. But in a letter of the 6th July he informed us there was barely sufficient for the investment and charges, consequently none could be returned.

107. On the 1st August we received 20 peices of fine sannoes and 20 pieces of superfine sannoes from Mr. McGuire which he desired we would have sorted in our cottah and return them to him for his guide, with our sentiments on their quality and price, which we accordingly did and wrote him if the superfine sannoes were to be prized at 14 C.Rs. the A and the fine sannoes at 9 C.Rs. the A, with a proportionable decrease allowed for the lower letters, they would turn out very reasonable, but if these were the medium prices of the whole quantity, they would be exceeding dear. But in a letter of the 17 August he informed us those were the prices for the head letters and a proportionable decrease was to be allowed on the lower one's.

108. As we have had no occasion to supply this factory since the Falmouth's departure, Your Honours will see by the account sent home in her what money was then remaining in ballance. As yet we have received but small consignments of goods from thence but by a late letter from Mr. McGuire we have reason to expect a large parcel some time this month.

109. We have now gone through our detail on this head of our letter in which we have been as full as possible and omitted nothing of consequence. We shall therefore beg leave to proceed.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India.*

110. The Jugdea delols in their complaint against Messrs. Baillie and Playdell having alledged the removal to Luckypore would be far from advantageous to Your Honours, Jugdea being the properest place to make the purchases for your investment, and Mr. Baillie having made the charge of that removal amount to a much larger sum than we expected, we directed Mr. Eyre, upon his setting out for that place, to examine into the situation of both these factorys and give us his opinion which was the most commodious for your trade. This he did soon after his arrival in a letter of the 25 March when he informed us that Jugdea in his opinion was greatly preferable to Luckipoor for carrying on your investment, as it lay in the heart of the cloth aurungs which, should we once relinquish, the French and other foreigners would immediately take the advantage, that the only inconvenience of Jugdea was its river which for many months of the year is unsafe and too hazardous to risque the Companies goods down by that way, he therefore advised the keeping of both places and transporting the cloth overland to Luckipoor to be forwarded hither from thence.

111. Mr. Baillie being then in Calcutta we gave him a copy of that letter and directed him to reply thereto fully and shew us what grounds he had to request a removal to Luckipoor, which he did the 15 April and therein he pointed out the many advantages the situation of the last would have in preference to Jugdea, among which that of providing the investment without the intervention of the delolls and by that means buying the cloth at their real prices from the weavers was the most material; upon the whole we esteemed Luckypoor the more convenient place if what Mr. Baillie affirmed was true and therefore directed Mr. Eyre to effect the removal as soon as possible, if he had no objections to the assertions contained in Mr. Baillie's letter, copy of which we sent him for his perusal.

112. As we are still perswaded that Luckipoor will be a properer place for the residence of our Chief and Your Honours' effects, as well as more convenient than Jugdea in respect to the provision of the investment at that factory and forwarding their goods to Calcutta at all times of the year, we permitted Messrs. Baillie and Playdell, when they returned, to compleat the works at that place and remove there as soon as possible.

113. On the 18 July Mr. McGuire sent us a letter from the Nabob of Cuttack to our President in relation to a demand made on Mr. Kelsal by one Ouselma Bramin there, which he expected an answer to in fifteen days and a failure of satisfaction to the bramin, he apprehended, would make Your Honours' business liable to stoppages; upon calling on Mr. Kelsal to know the reason why he did not satisfie the said bramin, he informed us that the dispute between them had been decided by arbitration and an acquittance given by the bramin relinquishing all claim whatever on him, which acquittance he then produced before us.

114. Thereupon we ordered a copy of that acquittance to be sent to Mr. McGuire and directed him to shew it to the Nabob of Cuttack, by which he would see how unreasonable the claim made by the bramin was, and ordered him at the same time to enquire who the arbitrators were that decided this dispute as Mr. Kelsal cannot recollect their names, it being settled while he was in Calcutta.

115. In answer to these directions he informed us on the 14 October that he had made all the enquiry he could to find out who were the arbitrators of this dispute but could not hear of any, on contrary that there never was an arbitration but the acquittance Mr. Kelsal has produced extorted by force during the bramin's confinement. He likewise sent us a letter from the Phousdar Mier Abderine, by which we might perceive how necessary it would be to make a speedy conclusion of this affair, as the Nabob of Cuttack threatened to stop their business in case it was not very soon accommodated.

116. Hereupon we have sent a copy of this acquittance to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar and directed them to apply to the old Nabob for an order to the Nabob at Cuttack to make an equitable accommodation of this affair and not interrupt our business upon so trifling apretence. We have like with ordered Mr. Summer at Dacca to inform us who the arbitrators were that settled the accounts between Mr. Kelsal and the bramin, as he was at Ballasore at the time.

117. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having been pretty strict in the sorting their silk they wrote us on the 23rd February that their merchants proposed complaining to the Durbar, though they had offered then the silk back again upon their payment of the dadney advanced with the penalty, and on the 1st March

they wrote us they were informed the merchants were assembled at Suncully close to Muxadavad, and were framing a petition against them to deliver to the Nabob on his arrival at the city.

118. On the 8th of that month we wrote them that we thought their merchants were proceeding in a very extraordinary manner, which we directed them to prevent if possible by letting them know they must expect to forfeit Your Honours' protection and employ, should they carry the affair to such a length.

119. The gentlemen there having desired our permission for Mr. Watts his going to the Durbar in person to finish the dispute, should the merchants carry it to that length as to present their complaint to the Nabob, we did not approve of that expedient as it would be attended with a great expen[ce] and as we were of opinion the Durbar would never give ear to a complaint of so absurd a nature.

120. After some time spent in this dispu[te] at Cossimbuzar the gentlemen there wrote us on the 10 April they had prevailed with most of their merchants to drop their complaint and come to their factory.

121. Kissendeb being dead we have directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to entertain Madurylol[3] (a former vacquel to that factory) in his stead, he being a person who bears a good character and who had served Your Honours with great integrity while he was in your employ.

122. Your Honours' paragraph relating to Hookumbeg's demand, account the purchasers of sugar, was duly transmitted to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar who promised to avoid paying it if they could, but in some of their subsequent letters they having wrote us that Hookumbeg was very pressing for the money, account the purchasers of sugar, and that it was their vacquel's opinion he would insist upon the money as it had been always paid him and his predecessours hitherto, they assured us likewise that they had used their utmost endeavours to avoid complying with this demand by urging we had provided no sugar this season but that it was without effect, Hookumbeg's reply being we might have provided if we would.

123. As Mr. Watts and his Council seemed apprehensive a stop would be put to Your Honours' business, if Hookumbeg was not satisfied in this affair, we have permitted them to comply

with his demand rather than risque an interruption to our business at this season of the year but we have directed them to reduce the sum as low as possible. Of which step we hope Your Honours will approve and you may rely upon it, should there be any persons who purchase sugar this season, we shall take care to reimburse your estate.

124. No person has hitherto appeared to prosecute in behalf of Mr. Humphrey Cole deceased so that the affair of Deepchund's deposite remains in the state it did the last time we advised Your Honours thereof.

*Fifthly, of building and revenues.*

125. Mr. Holwell on the 1st April delivered into the Board an English register of the measurements of the ground, to which day's Consultation we beg leave to refer Your Honours for his remarks thereon.

126. The Catwall prison[4] being represented to us by Mr. Holwell as very unwholesome from the lowness of its floor and that it was too small for the number of prisoners confined therein, we gave him leave to raise the floor and enlarge the room, which has been accordingly done and Your Honours' revenues debted for the amount.

127. On the 8th August Mr. Holwell in a letter to the Board informed us he had been at some pains to prevail upon the proprietors of a spot of ground called Similia to rent it to Your Honours for the sum of C.Rs. 2281, which he requested our permission to take on your account as its situation (being as it were part of Calcutta itself) had many advantages and its revenues yielded, in its present management, more than the sum we should pay and he did not doubt would produce considerably more when in our hands. We have accordingly given him leave to take possession, but as there are some contested claims to the ground, we have not as yet been able to settle it, but when we do, we shall duly advise Your Honours.

128. Some part of the market at Govindpoor being carried away by the encroachment of the river, we permitted Mr. Holwell to purchase a further spot for that use.

129. Mr. William Frankland, Collector of the Consulage, representing to us on the 26 September that several Armenians residing in Calcutta refuse paying the consulage on many goods

by them exported from hence, on pretence of their belonging to persons up the country, for whom they only act as agents, and the goods having paid the King's customs before their coming down, we directed him to levy the duty of consulage on all goods which were the property of those Armenians residing in Calcutta, and, in case there was any suspicion of their endeavouring to evade the payment of this duty on their own property by passing them as goods belonging to people up the country, that they be put to their oaths.

130. We have already advised Your Honours that we had determined to keep the gunge in our own hands for the remaining six months of the cutcherry year and we have been induced to continue it on the same footing for the year to come, from a statement laid before us by Mr. Holwell (when we were about selling Your Honours' farms and bazars at outcry as usual), wherein it appears there has been collected at the gunge the last year C.Rs. 37684-12-6, though the duty on grain had been so considerably reduced, a sum far exceeding what Your Honours would have received, had the gunge been farmed, even though the duties on imports of grain had been left unaltered.

131. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar informing us some time in October that great part of their factory was damaged by the rains, that without immediate repairs they would fall, we directed them to send us an estimate of what expenc[es] such repairs would amount to, which they have since informed us would be 30000 D.M.Rupees, the north west of their factory being so shattered that unless it was thoroughly repaired it would endanger the whole. We shall therefore order Mr. Wells to that factory to survey the condition of it and shall take care it be effected on as reasonable terms as possible.

132. We informed Your Honours that on the receipt of your commands per York we ordered Govindram Metre to state an account of all the farms he ever held and lay an account of the profits before us. This he complied with on the 14 November and accompanied the accounts, he then delivered, with a letter explaining the occasion of his purchasing and method of managing them. To this letter and accounts we beg leave to refer Your Honours for the particulars of what he had urged in his own vindication but as Mr. Holwell did not esteem these accounts as sufficient and authentick, he addressed us on the 25 ultimo thereupon and moved that Metre might be obliged by

the most solemn oath his cast would admit of to lay before us the true and original account of the farms held by him and the duties collected thereon, as well as to declare how many years and what those years were he held them, particularly the gunge, the salt farm, the great buzar, Sooter Nutty hant, Subor buzar and its dependants, and the vermillion farm.

133. Upon taking this letter of Mr. Holwell's into consideration we sent for Govindram Metre and directed him to give in the whole account of farms he had ever held, to which replied he had already given in the whole account of farms held by him, those of the salt and vermillion farms being already given to the Committee of Enquiry to which he refers. We then demanded the original Beng[ali] accounts of those farms, to which he answered though he had no other original accounts than what were extracts from his gomastahs and which he had methodized the accounts current etc., he had given in their copies the other day with a state of their profit and loss. Upon this we asked him if he would swear that the accounts current he had delivered in of the farms held by him were true authentick accounts of all the profits he had made thereon and that he never held any other farms or buzars than those, which he has not yet given us any answer to.

*Sixthly, of factors, writers, military officers and their accounts.*

134. As Your Honours have directed a salary should be allowed the officers made in consequence of the late new charter, we agreed to give the Sub Accomptant and Accomptant Generals 250 S.Rs. each per annum, which we hope will not be disapproved of, as the allowance is as moderate as we could well make it for their trouble. We have likewise consented the Register of the Mayor's Court should have the same salary, upon his representing to us that the new regulations of making deposits in Your Honours' treasury has occasioned much trouble and writing to his post.

135. The promotions in the military this season are as follows
Mr. James Markham made a lieutenant on 18 March
Mr. William Scott made a quarter master on the 3rd June
Mr. Granger Muir made a lieutenant on the 18 July.

136. We have appointed Mr. Sykes an assistant at Cossimbuzar, Mr. Harry Smyth at Jugdea, Mr. John Johnstone at

Dacca and Mr. Chas. English at Ballasore at the request of each respective factory.

137. Upon the demise of Colonel Scott, Captain Jasper Leigh Jones requested leave to contract with us [for] gun powder on the same terms we agreed to with him, soon after which Captain Minchin made us the same request, as he looked upon himself as the properest person to manufacture that article as Commander in Chief of the garrison. Hereupon we ordered our Secretary to advertise that we would accept proposals from any person or persons whatsoever for contracting with us for gun powder. On the 24 June both the above mentioned gentlemen addressed us on this head. For our proceedings herein we beg leave to be referred to our Consultations of that day and 11 July, when we determined not to contract for that article at that time, as we had a large ballance in our magazine and were uncertain if the gentlemen at the Coast would want any supplys from hence.

138. On the 7 October we were advised of the death of Mr. John Stackhouse at Ballasore of an abscess in his lungs.

139. Upon Mr. John Law's becoming a factor we appointed him of Council at Cossimbuzar.

140. It will here be proper to acquaint Your Honours that we have at last gone through our enquiry into the information of the Jugdea delolls against Messrs. Baillie and Playdell, in which we have taken the utmost pains to trace out if Your Honours have been any way defrauded by those gentlemen. To give a detail of our proceedings on the affair would swell our letter to an unnecessary length, as we have entered them in separate book for your inspection, which we transmit by this ship and beg leave to be referred thereto. Upon the whole we could not find these gentlemen had acted so as to forfeit a deprivation of their office but as Mr. Baillie had received an acknowledgement from the delols of 2½ per cent on Your Honours' investment for his patronizing and protecting them at the Durbar, and settling their private disputes (a practice we could not give a sanction to, though it was a voluntary allowance), we ordered him to repay that charge amounting to D.M.Rs. 18000 into your treasury and have brought it to the credit of the debt due from the delolls to the Hon'ble Company. This is the only sum of money we could find any just pretence to make Mr. Baillie repay. The expences at the factory during his Chiefship

(another part of their charge against him) have been rather less than those of other Chiefs, though his investment was increased from 50000 Rs. per annum to near two laak, we could not esteem unreasonable, especially as Mr. Baillie took a solemn oath before us that the money charged Your Honours on that head more than his publick allowances was to the best of his knowledge (and as he is in his conscience convinced) laid out in expences resulting from his office as Chief of that factory. The several other parts of their charge likewise were far from being sufficiently supported, particularly that of picking the cloth, which we look upon to be a very malicious and groundless accusation, as it appeared by the testimonies produced by Mr. Baillie that what cloth he had at any time sent down with Your Honours' mark was not at all superior in quality to his private goods but sold in Calcutta for the same pr[ice] as the Company's goods of the same sortment are invoiced at, though there was an advance of 20 per cent allowed him and that they were sometimes rejected even at that rate.

141. We hope Your Honours will approve of our conduct through the course of this enquiry and of our having permitted Messrs. Baillie and Playdell to return to their station at Jugdea, as we have not found a sufficient cause to deprive them of the benefit of either your service or their offices.

142. Having had great reason to imagine from what appeared in our examination of Messrs. Baillie's charges at Jugdea that it was a common practice at all our subordinat[es] to pass many expences under heads to which they do not properly belong and disguise the real allowance of Chiefs and others in station, though but reasonable and necessary, we determined to prevent this manner of proceeding in future and directed our servants at each respective factory to specifie in the plainest manner and under their real heads in their accounts all disbursements, allowances and charges whatever for our inspection and approbation, our meaning in these orders being to prevent the method of disguising sum advanced the Chiefs and others [in] station, which, if necessary, we are of opinion ought to be fairly charged and, if unnecessary and exorbi[tant], should not be allowed, which we flatter ourselves we shall have Your Honours' concurrence in.

143. The several writers Your Honours this season sent us have arrived and, upon being asked how they were treated by

the respective commanders they came with, replyed extremely well. They have been stationed in the offices mentioned opposite to their names in the list of servants transmitted in this packet and we shall take care that not only they but all your junior servants at this Presidency be kept strictly employed, for insist on their assistants attending their business from nine to which end we have ordered the heads of our several offices to twelve in the forenoon, and in the afternoon and evening when occasion requires.

144. In consequence of Your Honours' commands contained in the 80th paragraph of your letter under date the 23rd January 1754 we signified to the writers in your service that we expected they would conform to those orders and particularly lay aside the expence of either chaise, horse or palankeen during their writership. Your Honours will observe they addressed the Board on the 4th November to be indulged in keeping a palankeen for such months of the year as the excessive heat and violent rains make it impossible to go on foot without the utmost hazard of their healths, which would be subjected to many kinds of sickness, were they obliged to disuse their palankeens. We have complied with their requests and indulged them in the use of their palankeens for those months, as we are very sensible it would endanger many of their lives, were we to insist upon your orders being strictly adhered to the year ro[und] and we beg leave to recommend this representation of theirs to Your Honours' consideration.

145. The flowered goods from Dacca this year being upon inspection found to be far superiour to any we had received from the factory for many years, and as we are informed in their letter of the 9th May Mr. William Sumner, who has the charge of the warehouse, has been particularly carefull and attentive to this branch, we beg leave to recommend that gentleman to Your Honours' notice. The cossaes etc., provided at Chaundpore prove very good and we doubt not a considerable amendment in every specie of cloth at that settlement.

146. Mr. George Grav. Senior Surgeon at our settlement, has requested our recommending his son to be entertained in Your Honours' employ at this establishment and as that you[ng] gentleman has been regularly bred to writing accompts, French and other accomplishments, we hope Your Honours will be pleased to acquiesce with his request in consideration of his long service.

147. Finding the fees on law suit in the court of appeal and to His Majesty in Council very exorbitant we have this year reduced them to the same standard as those allowed by Mayor's Court to the attorneys and their clerks. This has deprived our Secretary of so material a perquisite annexed to his post that we have been induced to give up the pass money usually received by Your Honours amounting to 250 Rs. per month upon a medium. But as this is a very small recompence for the close attention his post requires, we beg leave once more to offer it to your consideration to make the person, who has the charge of that office, a suitable allowance for his care and trouble, as it is not possible for him to mind his private affairs without neglecting your business.

*Seventhly, touching accompts.*

148. We have made our Sub-Accomptant acquainted with your remarks on the books and papers of his office, who has promised to be more carefull in future and in this ship's packet Your Honours will receive his address to us on that subject.

149. The general books of this Presidency being but just balanced we shall not be able to forward their copies till our next conveyances, which will, we hope, arrive in time to prevent any disappointments.

150. The error in the Winchelsea's invoice and bill of lading we took proper notice of in our last year's advices and have brought it to credit in our books.

151. In this packet Your Honours will receive the state of our Presidency made up to the 7th instant with running cash and treasury accompts and every other material paper of each respective office and may depend on our forwarding them by the earliest conveyances in future.

152. As we gave our Accomptant leave to alter the method of particularizing the prizings in our journalls and our present manner of providing the investment, easing our books of a number of heads, they are reduced to a very moderate size, for which reason we have not put in practice Your Honours' direction of framing a new pair of books under the denomination of a callicoe journal and leidger.

153. The providing our investment by gomastahs at aurungs has of course altered the method of journal entrys in that particular, and that no mistake or confusion might occur between the books in the export warehouse and the general books. Messrs. Manningham and Frankland delivered in a sketch of the method to be followed in the entries of those accounts, which Your Honours will find copied after our Consultations of the 8th August and which we directed the Accomptant to use.

154. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums of money for which we have granted bills of exchange by this ship at 2/3 each rupee:

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|---|---|
| On the 18 November to the Revd. Gervas Bellamy for C.Rs. three hundred and fifty five, eight annaes and nine pice (355-8-9) payable to Mr. Edwd. Pomfret @ 2/3 is | £40-0-0 |
| On ditto to ditto for C.Rups. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. Thomas Pomfret @ 2/3 is | £100-0-0 |
| On the 20th ditto to Mr. George Gray on his own account for C.Rs. two thousand six hundred and fifty eight (2658) payable to Mr. Henry Allen @ 2/3 is | £299-0-6 |
| On ditto to ditto on do for C.Rs. one thousand one hundred and sixty seven, five annaes (1167-5-0) payable to Mr. John Browne @ 2/3 is | £131-5-5 |
| On ditto to Mr. Chas. Noble on account Capt. Lewis D'Illeus for C.Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes, and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Messrs. La Gier La Motte & Company @ 2/3 is | £100-0-0 |
| On ditto to ditto on account Baron Vasserott for C.Rupees six hundred and seventy five, eight annaes and | |

nine pice (675-8-9) payable to Messrs. La Gier La Motte & Company @ 2/3 is £76c0-0

On the 21st ditto to Capt. Robert Veitch for C.Rs. eighteen thousand nine hundred and eighty one (18981) payable to Captain Pinson Bonham @ 2/3 is £2135-7-3

On do to ditto for C.Rs. one thousand two hundred and seventy five, seven annaes and nine pice (1275-7-9) payable to Mr. Lorenzo Collins @ 2/3 is £143-9-10

On the 25 ditto to Messrs. George Gray and William Parker for C.Rs. six thousand two hundred and sixty five and six pice (6265-0-6) payable to Messrs. Gostlin and Bennet @ 2/3 is £704-16-4

On ditto to Mr. Bartholemew Plaisted account Captain John Ranson for C.Rs. seven thousand nine hundred and fifty nine, one annae (7959-1-0) payable to Captain Johnathan Ranson @ 2/3 is £895-7-10

On ditto to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. account Captain Paul Philip Polier for C.Rs. three hundred and fifty five, nine annaes (355-9-0) payable to Mr. James Tessier @ 2/3 is £40-0-0

On ditto to ditto and John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. account Mrs. Elisabeth Cockle for C.Rs. two thousand five hundred and three, five annaes and six pice (2503-5-6) payable to Messrs. James Adams and Edmund Lardner @ 2/3 is £281-12-6

On ditto to ditto account Mr. Robert Goodere for C.Rs. one thousand four hundred and twenty two, three annaes and six pice (1422-3-6) payable to Mr. Robert Goodere @ 2/3 is £160-0-0

On ditto to ditto account William Barwell Esqr. for C.Rs. one thousand four hundred and eighty, thirteen annaes and six pice (1480-13-6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £166-11-11

On the 28 ditto to Captain George Minchin for C.Rs. one thousand one hundred (1100) payable to Messrs. Colley and Nixon @ 2/3 is £123-15-0

On ditto to Mr. Thomas Coales for C.Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice payable to Roger Drake Esqr. @ 2/3 is £100-0-0

On the 30 ditto to Mr. Charles O'Hara for C.Rs. three hundred and fifty five, eight annaes and pice [*sic*] (355-8-9) payable to Mr. John Le Gross @ 2/3 is £40-0-0

On ditto to Mr. Richard Court for C.Rs. seven hundred and sixty seven, one annae and six pice (767-1-6) payable to Messrs. William Fraser and Henry Marshall @ 2/3 is £86-6-0

On ditto to Mr. John-Afton for C.Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. Jno. Snodgrass or Captain Johnathan Ranson @ 2/3 is £100-0-0

On the 20 December to Captain David Robertson for C. Rs. forty four thousand four hundred and forty four seven annas and three pice (44444-7-3) payable to Capt. David Robertson @ 2/3 is £ 000-0-0

On ditto to Mr. Charles Smith for C.Rs. nine hundred and six, six annaes and nine pice (906-6-9) payable to Messrs. Hollwell and Webber @ 2/3 is £101-19-5

On ditto to Captain John Mackmath for C.Rs. one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annaes and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Captain John Mackmath Senr. @ 2/3 is £200-0-0

On ditto to Mrs. Jane Douglass for C.Rs. one thousand (1000) payable to Messrs. Hugh Watson and Samuel Bennet Smith @ 2/3 is £112-10-0

On ditto to Capt. Johnathan Ranson for C.Rs. fifty four thousand five hundred and twenty one, eleven annaes and six pice (54521-11-6) payable to William Davis Esqr. and Capt. Thomas Hill @ 2/3 is £6133-13-10

On the 3 ditto to the Revd. Robert Mapletoft for C.Rs. three thousand three hundred and twenty six (3326) payable to Mrs. Mary Bodley @ 2/3 is £374-3-6

On ditto to Mr. William Parker for C.Rs. one thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes, and three pice (1333-5-3) payable to Messrs. Humphry Cotes, and John Browne @ 2/3 is £150-0-0

On ditto to Mr. William Fullerton for C.Rs. one thousand three hundred and eighty eight, nine annaes and three pice (1388-9-3) payable to William Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £156-4-4

On ditto to ditto for C.Rs. nine thousand (9000) payable to Messrs. Gostlin and Bennet @ 2/3 is £1012-10-0

On ditto to ditto for C.Rs. three thousand (3000) payable to Mr. William Watts @ 2/3 is £337-10-0

On the 4th ditto to Mr. John Browne for C.Rs. eleven thousand (11000) payable to Mr. John Browne @ 2/3 is £1237-10-0

On ditto to Capt. Frederick Vincent for C.Rs. eight thousand six hundred and forty (8640) payable to Capt. Frederick Vincent @ 2/3 is £972-0-0

On the 4 December to Mr. Charles Noble for C.Rs. six hundred and twenty two, four annaes (622-4-0) payable to Mr. Charles Noble @ 2/3 is £70-0-0

On the 5 ditto to Charles Manningham Esqr. account Captain John Howes for C.Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Robert Bird Esqr. @ 2/3 is £100-0-0

On ditto to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Captain George Gardner for C.Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. John Backholtz @ 2/3 is £100-0-0

On ditto to ditto account Sarah Hawkins for C.Rs. three hundred and fifty five, eight annaes and nine pice (355-8-9) payable to Mrs. Sarah Hawkins @ 2/3 is £40-0-0

On ditto to ditto account Miss Eleanor Powney for C.Rs. four hundred and eighty seven, four annaes and three pice (487-4-3) payable to Miss Eleanor Powney @ 2/3 is £54-16-4

On ditto to ditto account Mr. Thomas Holme for C.Rs. one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve

annaes and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Thos. Manningham Esqr. @ 2/3 is £200-0-0

On ditto to ditto by order of George Stratton of Madra[ss] for C.Rs. eight hundred and twenty four, twelve annaes and three pice (824-12-3) payable to Captain Robert Baillie or order account Mrs. Elisabeth Stratton of Bristol @ 2/3 is £92-15-9

On ditto to ditto account Levy and Reuben Solomons for C.Rs. four thousand five hundred and three, two annaes (4503-2-0) payable to Messrs. Levy and Reuben Solomon[s] @ 2/3 is £506-12-0

On ditto to ditto account Nicholas Clerembault for C.Rs. three thousand (3000) payable to Mr. Anthony Clerembault @ 2/3 is £337-10-0

On ditto to ditto account Luke Scrafton for C.Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. Toby Chauncy @ 2/3 is £100-0-0

On ditto to ditto account Rebecca Casamajor for C.Rs. two thousand five hundred and eighty one, fourteen annaes and six pice (2581-14-6) payable to Mrs. Rebecca Casamajor @ 2/3 is £290-9-3

On ditto to ditto account Charles Hampton for C.Rs. one thousand two hundred and six, twelve annaes and three pice (1206-12-3) payable to Stephen Law Esqr. and Mr. Charles Hampton @ 2/3 is £185-15-3

On ditto to ditto account Charles Floyer Esqr. for C.Rs. one thousand seven hundred and eighty one, eight annaes and six pice (1781-8-6) payable to Charles Floyer Esqr. @ 2/3 is £200-8-6

On ditto to ditto being the nett proceeds of 1 chest of coral beads marked SF No. 21 per Anson for C.Rs. six thousand seven hundred and sixty, seven annaes and nine pice (6760-7-9) payable to Mr. Joseph Salvadore @ 2/3 is £760-11-1

On ditto to ditto account Robert Sloper for C.Rs. two thousand one hundred and thirty, six annaes and three pice (2130-6-3) payable to Mr. John Turner @ 2/3 is £239-13-4

On ditto to ditto by order of Mrs. Luisa McGwire account the estate of Wm. Wake Esqr. deceased for C.Rs. twelve thousand nine hundred and twenty five, four annaes and nine pice (12925-4-9) payable to Peter and Joseph Godfrey Esqr. @ 2/3 is £1453-17-5

On ditto to ditto account John Hope Esqr. deceased for C.Rs. eighteen thousand and three hundred and four, eight annaes and six pice (18304-8-6) payable to Adam Dawson Esqr. and Mrs. Dinah Hope @ 2/3 is £2059-5-2

On ditto to William Frankland Esqr. for C.Rs. one thousand and thirty eight, three annaes and six pice (1038-3-6) payable to Thomas Frankland Esqr. @ 2/3 is £116-16-0

On ditto to Chas. Manningham Esqr. and Mr. William Fullerton account Capt. Thos. Nairne for C.Rs. two thousand three hundred and seventy, six annaes and nine pice (2370-6-9) payable to Capt. Thomas Nairne @ 2/3 is £268-18-5

On ditto to Charles Manningham Esqr. account Edward Eyles Esqr. for C.Rs. four thousand nine hundred and

thirty, one annae and six pice (4930-1-6) payable to Edward Eyles Esqr. @ 2/3 is £554-12-8

On ditto to Archibald Campbell for C.Rs. five thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes and three pice (5333-5-3) payable to Mr. Daniel Campbell @ 2/3 is £600-0-0

On ditto to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Solomon Franco of Madrass for C.Rs. nine thousand seven hundred and eighty three, two annaes (9783-2-0) payable to Mr. Moses Mendez da Costa @ 2/3 is £1100-12-0

On ditto to ditto account William Davis Esqr. for C.Rs. eleven thousand five hundred and thirteen, five annaes and six pice (11513-5-6) payable to William Davis Esqr. @ 2/3 is £1295-5-0

On ditto to ditto account Adam Dawson Esqr. for C.Rs. seventeen thousand two hundred and seventy seven, four annaes and three pice (17277-4-3) payable to Adam Dawson Esqr. @ 2/3 is £1943-13-10

On ditto to ditto account Henry John Palmer infant for C.Rs. eight thousand six hundred and fifteen, fourteen annaes and six pice (8615-14-6) payable to Stephen Law Esqr. account Henry John Palmer infant @ 2/3 is £969-5-9

On ditto to ditto account Joseph Salvadore for C.Rs. one thousand eight hundred and ninety two, two annaes and nine pice (1892-2-9) payable to Joseph Salvadore or order being the nett proceeds of 1 box of coral beads per Anson Marked GM No. 5 @ 2/3 is £212-17-5

On ditto to Charles Manningham, Edward Eyre, and John Zeph. Holwell account Richard Eyre Esqr. for C.Rs. three thousand nine hundred and eighty five (3985-0-0) payable to Richard Eyre Esqr. @ 2/3 is £448-6-3

On ditto to Mrs. Jane Douglas, Charles Manningham and William Frankland account Mrs. Elisabeth Smith for C.Rs. sixty seven thousand six hundred and sixteen, four annaes and three pice (67616-4-3) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, William Davi[s] and Charles Browne Esqr. @ 2/3 is £7606-16-7

On ditto to William Nixon for C.Rs. five hundred and eighty three, three annaes (583-3-0) payable to Mr. Cornelius Goodwin @ 2/3 is £65-12-2

On ditto to ditto for C.Rs. one thousand and sixty three, thirteen annaes (1063-13-0) payable to Mr. Samuel Jenks @ 2/3 is £119-13-7

On ditto to ditto for C.Rs. seven hundred and eleven, one annae and nine pice (711-1-9) payable to Messrs. Chauncy, Browne and Chauncy @ 2/3 is £80-0-0

On ditto to Roger Drake Esqr. Junior account Daniel Lascells Esqr. for C.Rs. forty eight thousand two hundred and thirty seven, six annaes and six pice (48237-6-6) payable to Daniel Lascells Esqr. or order @ 2/3 is £5426-14-2

On ditto to Samuel Lutton for C.Rupees four hundred (400) payable to William Wiggot Esqr. @ 2/3 is £45-0-0

On ditto to James Meredith for C.Rs. two thousand six hundred and sixty six, ten annaes and nine pice (2666-10-9) payable to James Meredith @ 2/3 is £300-0-0

On ditto to Messrs. Drake, Manningham, and Holwell account John Pinson for C.Rs. twenty thousand one hundred and twenty seven (20127) payable to William Davis and Charles Whaley Esqr. @ 2/3 is £2264-5-9

On ditto to Messrs. Manningham, William Frankland and William Macket account Eliz. Glover for C.Rs. one thousand six hundred and seventy, two annaes and six pice (1670-2-6) payable to William Davis account of Mrs. Elizabeth Glover @ 2/3 is £187-17-10

On ditto to Messrs. Kelsall and Amyatt for C.Rs. two thousand five hundred and seventy eight, nine annaes and six pice (2578-9-6) payable to William Kempe Esqr. @ 2/3 is £290-1-10

On ditto to Mr. George Male account Mrs. Margery Male for C.Rs. one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annaes and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Messrs. Gerardot and Burges @ 2/3 is £200-0-0

155. The whole amounts of bills of exchange is C.Rs. two laak twenty nine thousand and ninety eight, thirteen annaes and nine pice (229098-13-9) or £St. twenty four thousand seven hundred and seventy four, fourteen shillings and nine pence (24774-14-9).

156. In obedience to the 96 paragraph of your orders of this season dated the 23rd January 1754 we purpose to endeavour a reduction in part of the heavy debts at interest Your Honours are loaded with at this Presidency. We have accordingly

ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper and Store Keeper to lay before us estimates of what moneys will in all probability be paid in our treasury by the first day of June next on account of sales already made, and have directed the Export Warehouse Keeper to give us a calculate of what sums of money will be wanted for carrying on the investment. When these estimates are laid before us we shall take into consideration the ballance of treasury, with what consignments may be expected from Bombay and elsewhere and the money which will be paid from every branch of the revenues, and whatever surplus there may appear after our investments, supply to the subordinates, and current charges are allowed for, we shall appropriate to the discharge of interest notes.

*Supplement.*

157. We observe Your Honours think we have been very remiss in our duty in purchasing the tincall we sent you by the Wager at 52 rupees per maund, when Captain Hyndman bought his at 37 per maund. As this reflected not a little upon our management we enquired the reason of this essential difference and find Captain Hyndman having brought out severall necessaries for Mr. Bosdam, the Dutch Chief at Cossimbuzar; in return for the favour that gentleman had this tincall procured at Patna and let Captain Hyndman have it at prime cost without any charges whatever; for truth of this we refer ourselves to Captain Hyndman himself which will convince Your Honours, we hope, that we did not act unfaithfully or negligently, to confirm which we beg leave to acquaint you that Captain Kirwin bought what we had refused at 50 per maund after its being picked for your use.

158. We have scrutinized into our Marine agreeable to Your Honours' directions and find, so far from having too many sloops, we have scarce sufficient for the river service, since the loss of the Hawke most of our budgrow[s] are destroyed, and we shall keep no more than are absolutely necessary and in demand for use. We have likewise had extracts of the marine expences laid before us and do not see where we can lessen any one charge but have directed our Master Attendant to be as frugal in the consumption of stores for the sloops as he can without making them liable to a risque.

159. In consequence of Your Honours' orders for scrutinizing and regulating the Buxey's office we beg leave to acquaint that all stores and materials of any consequence are contracted for by the Board and we have ordered Mr. Pearkes to draw his monthly accounts in a plainer manner for the future, which we hope will give satisfaction.

160. Mr. Ranson had not our permission to return to England till his affair was finished, which we must now advise Your Honours has been given in his favour in the Mayor's Court, from which decree we appealed it to ourselves that he might have an opportunity of carrying it before His Majesty to be decided there.

161. Since writing thus far, have imported here the London, Kent and Colchester, of which we congratulate Your Honours. In consequence of the Colchester's importing we have stationed that ship to be dispatched fully laden from hence in January that there may be no risque of her loosing her passage round the Cape, and have appointed the Elizabeth to proceed to Bencoolen with 30 tonns of redwood and 200 tonns of saltpetre to take in the surplus pepper there.

162. The gentlemen at Madrass by these ships inform us it will not be in their power to provide for more than half the lading of one ship in January, but as they have desired one or two of the ships now sent us may be returned them in January to be dispatched to Canton and proceed from thence to Europe agreeable to Your Honours' directions, we have agreed to send the Brittania and Kent thither for that purpose and have stationed the London to Surat where we shall likewise send the Anson, which ship we shall keep till the arrival of the Egmont that we may not be disappointed of having a ship to carry home what goods we shall have in our warehouses after the Winchelsea and Colchester leave Bengal.

163. Mr. McGwire having desired our permission to come to Calcutta in oder to vindicate himself from the misrepresentation Mr. Plaisted had made to Your Honours of his behaviour, arrived here in consequence thereof the beginning of this month and in a letter of the 5th acquaints us the depositions taken before us as a bench of justices in relation to that affair were

lost and as two material witnesses are dead he left the purport of what was then deposed to our recollection and requested we would transmit the result to Your Honours. In consequence of this address we beg leave to mention that to the best of our remembrance the affair appeared to us by the evidence then before us in a very different light to what it has been represented to Your Honours, as by the witnesses Mr. Plaisted himself produced to support his charge he seemed to have been in great measure the aggressor by treating Mr. McGwire very abusively before that gentleman offered to resent the injury, which was the real occasion (and not his information laid before Your Honours while he was in England) of the assault he complains of. We presume the present relation of that fact so widely different from what Mr. Plaisted has wrote will sufficiently exculpate Mr. McGwire from the aspersion of having acted in opposition to your authority, which we beg leave to assure Your Honours we do not imagine he ever intended, as he has always behaved to our general satisfaction in your service.

164. In this packet we transmit Your Honours four letters received from Mr. Walpole Eyre in relation to a lott of copper he purchased at your sales on [ ] Nov[ember] 1753, by which you will perceive the insolent and refractory behaviour of that young gentleman in opposition to the repeated essays and directions of the Board. We have therefore ordered him to clear out that lott immediately or we shall sell it at outcry and make him pay the difference and as he persists in his obstinacy of laying the affair before Your Honours (though he had particularly desired Mr. Holwell to intercede with us to withdraw what he had said on that subject which we complied with), we are of opinion he has forfeited his title to the indulgence of 9 per cent discount which we have allowed the other purchaser.

165. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize on Your Honours' account as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to C.Rs. 883000.

166. We have likewise laden sundry stores on her for the use of your island St. Helena amounting to C.Rs. 1378.

167. Mr. Holwell who dispatches this ship will advise Your Honours of whatever else may be material from Ingelee.

168. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithfull humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Mackett/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,
December 7th, 1754.

(Public General Letters to Court, Vol. 3, 1753-54, pp. 132-205.

Paras. 125-28 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. II, p. 20. Paras. 127, 143, 144 and 146 published in Long's *Selections*. pp. 52-54.)

## 44

## LETTER DATED 20 DECEMBER 1754

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

Having appointed the Elizabeth, Capt. Edward Wills, to proceed to Fort Marlborough for the surplus pepper at that settlement, we are now dispatching the ship thither for that purpose and have laden 200 tons of saltpetre and 30 tons of redwood on her which, with the quantity of pepper the gentlemen there have advised they are likely to have, will about compleat her charterparty tonnage.

In order to expedite her dispatch from that coast and prevent the risque of losing her passage round the Cape, we have ordered Capt. Wills to touch at all your settlements in his way to Bencoolen and take in what pepper may be laying ready for him at any of those places.

We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithful and most obedient humble servants.

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/
Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/
M.Collet/W. Mackett/J.Z. Holwell.

Fort William,

the 20th December, 1754.

(Public General Letters to Court, Vol. 3, 1753-54, p. 206.)

## 45

## LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1754

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. We have already advised of our having stationed the York, Capt. Edward Ward, to proceed to Tellicherry for such surplus goods as we have reason to expect there will be at that coast, for which purpose we now dispatch her to the Mallabar coast with 150 tonns of saltpetre and 30 tonns of redwood to be filled up from thence.

2. In order to expedite her dispatch from that coast we have directed Capt. Ward to touch at such of Your Honours' settlements as lay in his way to Tellicherry and take what goods may there be ready.

3. Upon Capt. Ward's requesting 500 bags of saltpetre more than we had ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to lade, we complied therewith, reserving to ourselves the power of turning it into whole or half freight as we should find occasion, of which we have advised the gentlemen at Tellicherry for their guide.

We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/ M. Collet/W. Mackett/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,
the 22nd December, 1754.

(Public General Letters to Court, Vol. 3, 1753-54, pp. 208-9.)

## 46

## LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1755

*Shipping matters—death of Capt. Veitch and appointment of Thomas Debuke as commander of the* Anson*—grant of bills of exchange.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. By the Montfort, Captain Frederick Vincent, we addressed Your Honours under date the 7th December copy of which letter (under the established heads) as well those per York and Elizabeth we now enclose. Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell dispatched the Montfort from Ingelie on the 12 December when she drew 18 feet water upon an even keel.

2. Since the dispatch of that ship from hence the Egmont, Capt. Thomas Tolson, imported from the Negrais at which place the Denham was safely arrived before he came away.

3. The Elizabeth and York were dispatched from Ingelie by Mr. William Billers the 29th ultimo, the former to proceed to Fort Marlborough, and the latter to Tellecherry to fill up with such surplus pepper as may be laying at those places agreeable to what we have already mentioned to Your Honours. To expedite the dispatch of those two ships from the respective

ports they are bound to, we have directed Captain Willes and Ward to touch at any settlements that lay in their way and lade on board what pepper may be ready, which step we hope will be a great means to prevent their losing their passages round the Cape.

4. Captain Robert Veitch having departed this life of a mortification in his liver we have confirmed Mr. Thomas Debuke (chief mate of the Anson) in the command of that ship as he is a person of very good character, and has behaved with great diligence and assiduity in his station on board that ship.

5. Having stationed the London for Bombay and Surat and Mr. Bourchier and his Council having particularly desired we would not send them any saltpetre, we have purchased 2800 baggs of fool sugar and ordered it to be laden on that ship as that is the only article which has the least prospect of turning to any account. We have likewise ordered the Buxey to lade on board the Brittannia and Kent their charterparty tonnage in rice for the Cormandel coast. As soon as the lading of those ships are compleated we shall dispatch them to Fort St. George and have pressed the President and Council there to return them both to Your Honours via Canton.

6. We have advanced Captain Robinson fifteen thousand CRS. for the use and expences of his ship upon his requesting that sum.

7. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums of money for which we have granted bills of exchange by this ship to the underwritten persons @ 2/3 each rupee, the respective amounts being duly accounted for in your treasury.

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| On the 21st December to the Rev. Gervas Bellamy for C.Rs. three hundred and eleven, six annaes and six pice (311-6-6) payable to Mr. Edward Pomfret @ 2/3 is | £35-0-6 |
| On the 6th January to Captain Christopher Barron for C.Rupees ten thousand eight hundred (10800-0-0) payable to Captain Christopher Barron @ 2/3 is | £1,215-0-0 |

On ditto to Mr. William Nixon account William Forth for C.Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes (888-14-0) payable to William Ferguson or order @ 2/3 is £100-0-0

On ditto to ditto account Alexander Grant for C.Rs. eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes (888-14-0) payable to Messrs. George and William Cattanack @ 2/3 is £100-0-0

On ditto to ditto for C.Rs. one thousand one hundred twelve, three annaes and three pice (1112-3-3) payable to Edward Eyles Esqr. and Mr. Crommelin Pigou @ 2/3 is £125-2-5

On ditto to ditto for C.Rs. two thousand five hundred (2500-0-0) payable to Mr. Daniel Booth @ 2/3 is £281-5-0

On ditto to Mr. James Munro account Captain Benjamin Braund for C.Rs. one thousand four hundred and forty four, eleven annaes and six pice (1444-11-6) payable to Captain Benjamin Braund @ 2/3 is £162-10-8

On ditto to Mr. James Valicourt for C.Rs. five hundred and forty (540) payable to William Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £60-15-0

On ditto to Charles Manningham Esqr. and William Fullerton for C.Rs. three hundred and ninety eight (398) payable to Captain Thomas Nairne @ 2/3 is £44-15-6

On do to Messrs. Kelsal and Amyatt for C.Rs. one thousand four hundred and forty eight, seven annaes and six pice (1448-7-6) payable to William Kempe Esqr. @ 2/3 is £162-19-0

On do to Mr. Peter Amyatt for C.Rs. three hundred and eighty five, eleven annaes and six pice (385-11-6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £43-7-10

On do to Mr. Richard Court account Richard Starke Esqr. for C.Rs. four hundred and fortyfour, seven annaes and three pice (444-7-3) payable to John Starke Esqr. @ 2/3 is £50-0-0

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland C.Rs. one thousand nine hundred and fifty eight, two annaes and six pice (1958-2-6) payable to Cornelius Goodwin @ 2/3 is £220-5-9

On do to do for C.Rs. two thousand thirty six, six annaes (2036-6-0) payable to Joseph Salvadore @ 2/3 is £229-1-1

On do to do for C.Rs. one thousand two hundred and ninety two, eleven annaes (1292-11-0) payable to William Briggs account Miss Amelia Briggs @ 2/3 is £145-8-6

On do to Messrs. Manningham, Frankland and Holwell for C.Rs. two hundred and sixty nine, seven annaes (269-7-0) payable to Mrs. Judith Whaley account Miss Judith Cottle @ 2/3 is £30-6-2

On the 8th January to Roger Drake Esqr. by order of Mr. Thomas Boddam for C.Rs. one thousand one hundred and seventy three, five annaes and three pice (1173-5-3) payable to William Minett @ 2/3 is £132-0-0

On do to do for C.Rs. twenty three thousand nine hundred and seventy six (23976) payable to Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. @ 2/3 is £2697-6-0

On do to Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted for C.Rs. three hundred and twenty six, seven annaes (326-7-0) payable to Mr. Thomas Burnett or Johnn. Ranson @ 2/3 is £36-14-5

On do to do for C.Rs. three hundred and seventeen (317) payable to Mr. Thomas Burnett or Gabl. Snodgrass @ 2/3 is £35-13-3

On do to do for C.Rs. three hundred (300) payable to Mr. Thomas Burnett @ 2/3 is £33-15-0

8. The whole amount of bills of exchange by this ship is C.Rs. fifty two thousand eight hundred and twelve, two annaes and closed we transmitt them in our box of books by this ship.

9. The general books of this Presidency being ballanced and closed we transmitt them in our box of books by this ship.

10. In our letter per Montfort the following bills were omitted to be inserted viz. on the 2nd November to the Worshipful Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. for C.Rs. five thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes and three pice (5333-5-3) payable to Robert Cliff or order @ 2/3 is £600-0-0. On the 5th December to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. for C.Rs. seven thousand four hundred and forty three, eleven annaes and three pice (7443-11-3) payable to Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. @ 2/3 is £837-8-4.

11. The President and Council of Fort St. George having requested a ship half laden from hence in January we now consign them the Winchelsea, Captain Christopher Baron, for that purpose and have laden on her sundry goods and merchandize for Europe as per abstract of her invoice enclosed amounting to C.Rs. ....

12. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of Your Honours' island St. Helena amounting to C.Rs.....

13. Mr. William Ellis dispatches this ship from Ingelie to Fort St. George. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Mackett/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,
9 January, 1755.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 18, 1754-55, pp. 108-13.)

## 47

## LETTER DATED 30 JANUARY 1755

*Unsuccessful attempts to purchase land near Calcutta for the settlement of weavers—opportunity to be watched for obtaining permission to establish a mint.*

TO the Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

Since our last bearing date the 18th January 1754 we have been honoured with your letter of the 23rd of said month by the several ships imported this season and are to reply thereto that we find any new grants attended with much difficulty to obtain and that a favourable opportunity must be watched for our procuring a proper authority for the establishment of a mint here which priviledge we shall have in view to procure if we can possibly facilitate the means to obtain such a grant. We are sorry that we have been hitherto frustrated in our endesvours in the purchase of any ground that would be commodious for the settlement of weavers nor have we been negligent to fulfill Your Honours' desire on this head as will appear by the

inclosed letters from Mr. Holwell in consequence of our directions to him. We are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and obliged servants,

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden.

Fort William,

30th January, 1755.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office. Vol. 18, 1754-55, p. 114.)

## 48

## LETTER DATED 3 FEBRUARY 1755

*Shipping matters—the Council's decision touching Govindaram Mitra—protest against the Court's practice of sending military officials with superior commissions from Europe—plan for reduction of the Company's debts.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. The Winchelsea, Capt. Christopher Baron, was dispatched from Ingelie on the 17th ultimo when she drew sixteen foot ten inches water upon an even keel. By her we addressed Your Honours under date the 9th January as per duplicate thereof enclosed.

2. At the same time we returned the Brittania, Captain Neville Norway, to Fort St. George with a cargoe of rice, whether we shall likewise send the Kent, Captain Wilson, as soon as her lading of grain is compleated.

3. The President and Council of Fort St. George wrote us by pattamar under date 6th December with a duplicate of their letter of the 22nd November in which they inform us of their having dispatched the Porto Bello sloop for this place the 26th October, and request us to use the utmost diligence in giving

that sloop the repairs she stands in need of and return her to them in January, as they are apprehensive the critical situation of their affairs may make it necessary to send Your Honours early advices, in which case it would be very convenient to have the Porto Bello sloop in readiness, especially as they are uncertain how late it may be before they may be able to compleat the tonnage of the ship they expect from us to fill up. By their letter of the 6th December they advise that by letters from Tellicherry they have heard of the arrival at Bombay of the Hardwick and Warwick and that they should have in warehouse by the end of November two thousand (2000) candies of pepper of the old crop, and from the appearance of the new they make no doubt of being able to procure full five thousand (5000) more.

4. The Porto Bello sloop has not as yet imported at our place.

5. It growing late in the season, and the London having taken such freight as was weighed off and offered for that ship, we judged it improper to detain her any longer and she was accordingly dispatched by Mr. Thomas Bellamy from Ingelie the 31st January.

6. By her we wrote Mr. Bourchier and his Council that should it be in their power to dispatch either this ship or the Anson (whom we purposed to send thither) for Europe from their coast it would very much lessen the weight of tonnage which we might reasonably expect we should have to provide for from this Presidency the next season, and do Your Honours a considerable piece of service.

7. Captain Debuke on the 13th January requested our permission to ship Mr. James Monro as his chief mate, the second mate of the Anson having left the ship some time ago, which we have accordingly permitted him to do, and as that gentleman has been a commander in our country service, and is esteemed a very able seaman we beg leave to recommend him to Your Honours' notice for any future employ.

8. We must now beg leave to reply to the 51st paragraph of Your Honours' commands of the 24th January 1754 and explain the difficulty if not impossibility of complying with the method Your Honours have there pointed out for our assorting the goods in our export warehouse when we employed dadney merchants. In the box of books by this ship we transmit the extract of one day's prizings, with the embaling of the said goods by which you will observe that to complete one bale of any single letter

it is some times necessary to include cloth received from fifteen or twenty different merchants (as we are obliged to preserve as near as possible the same quality and price in every bale) sorted by three or four different sorters which would render it almost impracticable to distinguish who the several pieces in the bale belong to, and by whom they were sorted unless by marking every single piece and then we apprehend the salutary ends Your Honours design would hardly be answered, more especially as the cloth in some merchants' names belong to several persons under him. We can assure Your Honours of our having taken the utmost care in assorting and embaling our goods and we hope our attention to that branch of your affairs will prove very satisfactory to Your Honours.

9. By this ship we likewise forward the aurung letters sent and received, to which we beg leave to be referred for the particulars of our transactions in relation to our investment.

10. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having hitherto sent us no gurrahs from that factory, and as those goods would now arrive too late to be laden on any of the ships of this season, we have directed Mr. Watts and his Council to receive no more of that article than what was already delivered in by the merchants provided they did not apprehend such a refusal would subject Your Honours to any bad debts.

11. They have this year sent us a parcel of Tannahs silk for trial even spun upon a wheel, which they wound of in the factory from the pods. They acquaint us in a letter of the 13th January that this manner of winding off silk is entirely foreign to the winders of these parts, and it was with some difficulty they could get proper hands to work the machine, which is made like those in Europe consisting of a furnace, a copper, a reel and a wheel. As this method obliges the workmen to more labour and attention than the usual method the silk turns out very dear though even and should it be approved of by Your Honours they hope to be able to send home the first year from six to eight bales, and should they be allowed to continue that method a season or two, they imagine they may be able to reduce its price, and bring their merchants to contract with them for the same sortments wound off in like manner. The half of this parcel of Tannah silk we have forwarded by the Colchester, the other half will be sent by the Egmont and we shall wait Your Honours directions thereon.

12. By letters from Messrs. Baillie and Playdell at Jugdea we are acquainted that their business is carried on at that factory to great advantage on the present plan, and that when they are removed to Luckipoor they hope to increase their investment very considerably.

13. The Phowsdar of Hughly's Duan having passed through our town and paid a visit at the factory, it was judged convenient for keeping up a good understanding with him and his master that a present of about 7000 rupees should be made them.

14. When we closed the Montfort's letter we gave Your Honours an account of what we had done in relation to Govindram Metre since when he has delivered into the Board an account of the bad debts and losses he sustained by the farms he held in his hands. After which the several farmers of the gunge for years past were called in and asked whether Metre was ever concerned with or under them in that farm, which they respectively declared he never was directly or indirectly, but as Mr. Holwell recommended it in his letter of the 25th November that Metre should solemnly swear the accounts he had delivered in of the bazars he had farmed were just and true accounts, and that he had never farmed the gunge directly or indirectly (in consequence of which we had asked Metre whether he would take that oath, to which he had as yet given no positive answer), we called upon Gobindram Metre on the 16th January to know if he would swear to that effect, who replied that if the Board insisted on that method of validating those accounts he was ready to take his oath provided that would be satisfactory and that he was not to be molested any further on that head. Upon which the opinion of the Board was required if that would be a satisfactory proof of the truth of his accounts, and Mr. Holwell, upon being called upon, declaring he had no further vouchers to produce than what were then before us, the Board were unanimous that Metre's swearing to his accounts would be sufficient, which he accordingly did on the 30th January by the Court bramin, as Your Honours will perceive by that day's Consultation. We then summed up the profits he had made on the farms he had held by his own accounts which amounted to CRupees four thousand eight hundred seventy five (4875) and the opinion of the Board being asked whether he should repay that sum with interest in consequence of Your Honours' order, it was the

opinion of the majority that he should repay that sum with interest from October 1752 which he was called in and ordered to repay into your treasury. For our separate opinions we beg leave to refer to that day's Consultation.

15. The majority of the Board take the liberty to acquaint Your Honours that they do not find by what has hitherto appeared before us Metre farmed the buzars (he has given in an account of and sworn to) in a clandestine or fraudulent manner, as the late Governour Mr. Dawson and the gentlemen on the spot who have formerly been Zemindars have acknowledged, they knew of his being the purchaser, and that notice of the sales of Your Honours' buzars and farms was always given one month before the sales were made, which we hope will remove the opinion Your Honours have conceived of his having acted unfairly in his trust and entitle him to your favour, especially if it be considered that his profits arose by farming out in different parcels what he purchased in the whole, and running all risques of bad debts, losses etc.

16. Enclosed in this packet Your Honours will receive a remonstrance addressed you by the subaltern officers of our establishment setting forth the hardship they suffer by the present method of sending out annually gentlemen from Europe with military commissions superiour to theirs which remonstrance we beg leave to recommend to your considerations, and as we apprehend their complaint to be justly founded and cannot tax any of them with a neglect of their duty or any ill behaviour whereby they might forfeit your favour, we doubt not their case will be duly considered by Your Honours and their grievance relieved.

17. Mr. Edward Eyre being returned to his seat at our Board, he is appointed Register of the Dusticks, and Mr. Mathew Collet, Military Store Keeper.

18. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange by this ship to the underwritten persons at 2s-3d each rupee, the respective amounts being duly accounted for in your treasury.

| | |
|---|---|
| On 11th January to Bartholomew Plaisted for CRs. five hundred eighty one (581) payable to Thomas Burnett @ 2/3 is | £65-7-3 |

On the 23rd to Capt. George Willson for CRs. ten thousand four hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (10488-14-3) payable to Ralph Wilson and Son @ 2/3 is £S. 1180-0-0

On the 29th to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. for CRs. eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (8888-14-3) payable to Messrs. James Adams and Edmund Lardner @ 2/3 is £S. 277-6-3

On do. to do. for CRs. five thousand three hundred thirty three, five annas, three pice (5333-5-3) payable to Roger Drake Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 600-0-0

On do. to William Macket Esqr. account Mrs. Elizabeth Samson for CRs. eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Samson @ 2/3 is £S. 100-0-0

On do. to do. for CRs. one thousand three hundred thirty three, five annas, three pice (1333-5-3) payable to Mr. Charles Browne @ 2/3 is £S. 150-0-0

On do. to do. for CRs. four thousand eight hundred (4800) payable to David Findlay Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 540-0-0

On do. to Richard Becher Esqr. for CRs. four thousand eight hundred (4800) payable to David Findlay Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 540-0-0

On do. to do. for CRs. seven hundred (700) payable to Mr. James Rannie @ 2/3 is £S. 78-15-0

On do. to do. for CRs. one thousand (1000) payable to Messrs. Nettleton and Raikes @ 2/3 is £S. 112-10-0

On do. to George Gray account the estate of Mr. Joseph Arbuckle deceased for CRs. eight hundred (800) payable to Henry Allen @ 2/3 is £S. 90-0-0

On do. to William Frankland Esqr. for [CRs.] four hundred forty four, seven annas, three pice (444-7-3) payable to William Frankland Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 50-0-0

On do. to Charles Manningham Esqr. for CRs. two thousand one hundred sixty (2160) payable to George Alexander @ 2/3 is £S. 243-0-0

On do. to do. account the estate of Walter Stainforth deceased for CRs. one thousand four hundred fifty seven, one anna, three pice (1457-1-3) payable to Thomas Manningham Esqr. and Mr. George Stainforth @ 2/3 is £S. 163-18-4

On do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Adam Dawson Esqr. for CRs. twelve thousand six hundred twenty six, six annas, six pice (12626-6-6) payable to Adam Dawson Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 1420-9-4

On do. to do. do. account Mr. Robert Goodere for CRs. one thousand five hundred fifty seven, five annas, three pice (1557-5-3) payable to Robert Goodere @ 2/3 is £S. 175-3-11

On do. to do. do. account Capt. Philip Joddrell CRs. four thousand two hundred eighty six, twelve annas, nine pice (4286-12-9) payable to Capt. Philip Joddrell @ 2/3 is £S. 482-5-0

On do. to do. do. account John Hipwood for CRs. five hundred forty (540) payable to John Hipwood @ 2/3 is £S. 60-0-0

On do. to do. do. account John Henry Merllins for CRs. seven hundred seven, nine annas (707-9-0) payable to John Henry Merllins @ 2/3 is. £S. 79-12-0

On do. to do. do. account the estate of Thomas Burrow Esqr. deceased for CRs. eight thousand three hundred two, six annas, nine pice (8302-6-9) payable to Mrs. Ann Burrow @ 2/3 is £S. 934-5-0

On do. to do. do. by order of Henry Powney Esqr. for CRs. three hundred eighty five, nine annas (385-9-0) payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 43-7-6

On do. to do. do. account William Wogan Junr. for CRs. five thousand sixty one, nine annas, six pice (5061-9-6) payable to Wm. Wogan Junior @ 2/3 is £S. 564-8-6

On do. to do. do. account the estate of Captain Felix Baker deceased for CRs. two hundred sixty four, nine annas, nine pice (264-9-9) payable to William Baker Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 29-15-4

On do. to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr., Charles Manningham and John Zephaniah Holwell account William Davis Esqr. for CRs. two thousand forty six, eleven annas, six pice (2046-11-6) payable to William Davis Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 230-5-0

On do. John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. for CRs. three hundred forty eight, three annas, nine pice (348-3-9) payable to Mrs. Mary Colefox @ 2/3 is £S. 39-3-6

On do. to do. for CRs. eight hundred fifteen, four annas, nine pice (815-4-9) payable to Capt. Francis Cheyne @ 2/3 is £S. 91-14-5

On do. to Solomon Margass for CRs. five hundred fifty three, thirteen annas (553-13-0) payable to Capt. James Barton @ 2/3 is £S. 62-6-1

On do. to Mathew Collet Esqr. account Thomas Boddam for CRs. two thousand six hundred sixty six, ten annas, three pice (2666-10-3) payable to Peter Roberts Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 300-0-0

On do. to Capt. Thomas Debuke for CRs. two thousand three hundred two, one anna, nine pice (2302-1-9) payable to Capt. Pinson Bonham @ 2/3 is £S. 258-19-9

On do. to Mr. Thomas Coales and Mrs. Sarah Mapletoft for CRs. four hundred fifty three, five annas, three pice (453-5-3) payable to Humphry Bellamy Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 51-0-0

On do. to Thomas Coales for CRs. three hundred forty four, thirteen annas, nine pice (344-13-9) payable to James Spagg @ 2/3 is £S. 38-15-11

On do. to Capt. Thomas Debuke for CRs. two hundred nineteen, three annas, nine pice (219-3-9) payable to John Hattell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 24-13-3

On do. to do. for CRs. twenty three thousand three hundred fifty seven, eight annas (23357-8-0) payable to James Veitch Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 2626-13-1

On do. to John Zep. Holwell Esqr. for CRs. four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7-0) payable to William Davis Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 50-0-0

On do. to Peter Amyatt account William Sumner for CRs. one thousand five hundred forty five, nine annas, three pice (1545-9-3) payable to David Findlay Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 173-17-6

On do. to do. account Stanlake Batson for CRs. five thousand one hundred eighty three, fifteen annas, three pice (5183-15-3) payable to David Findlay Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 583-4-0

On do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. for CRs. eighteen thousand six hundred fifty six, twelve annas, three pice (18656-12-3) payable to Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 2098-17-9

On 31st to Roger Drake and Chas. Manningham Esqrs. being the produce of one chest of coral marked T. No. 13 imp. per Egmont for CRs. twelve thousand two hundred fifty one, five annas (12251-5-0) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 1378-5-5

On do. to Roger Drake Esqr. being the produce of a chest of coral marked RB No. 3 imported per Egmont for CRs. fourteen thousand five hundred seventy nine, eight annas (14579-8-0) payable to Richard and William Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 1640-3-0

On 1st February to Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr. for CRs. one hundred sixty two (162) payable to Percival Bentley @ 2/3 is £S. 18-4-6

On 3rd to William Fullerton for CRs. five hundred forty three, four annas, six pice (543-4-6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 61-2-4

On do. to do. for CRs. three thousand two hundred sixty four, one anna, six pice (3264-1-6) payable to Henry Allen @ 2/3 is £S. 367-4-2

On do. to do. account Edward Cooke for CRs. two thousand two hundred twenty two, three annas, six pice (2222-3-6) payable to William Watts @ 2/3 is £S. 250-0-0

On do. to Richard Becher Esqr. account Captain Nathaniel Jacobs for CRs. six hundred sixty (660) payable to Captain Nathaniel Jacobs @ 2/3 is £S. 74-5-0

On do. to Messrs. Eyre, Kelsall and Amyatt for CRs. nine hundred seven, three annas, three pice (907-3-3) payable to William Kempe Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 102-1-2

On do to Henry Kelsall for CRs. one thousand one hundred forty one, five annas, three pice (1141-5-3) payable to David Findlay Esqr. @ 2/3 £S. 128-8-0

On do. to do. for CRs. two hundred (200) payable to James Barton Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 22-10-0

On do. to Peter Amyatt for CRs. four hundred ninety four, eight annas, nine pice (494-8-9) payable to Ynyr Barges @ 2/3 is £S. 55-12-0

On do. to do. for CRs. one thousand seven hundred fifty and nine pice (1750-0-9) payable to Capt. Thomas Stevens @ 2/3 is £S. 196-17-7

On do. to do. for CRs. one hundred ninety three, seven annas, three pice (193-7-3) payable to Robert Luckin @ 2/3 is £S. 21-15-3

On do. to Anselm Beaumont for CRs. two thousand five hundred four (2504) payable to Jon. Waters @ 2/3 is £S. 281-14-0

On 31st January to Capt. Thomas Debuke for CRs. five hundred twenty six, seven annas (526-7-0) payable to Edward Lord Chick @ 2/3 is £S. ...

On 3rd February to William Fullerton for CRs. seven hundred thirty nine, eight annas, nine pice (739-8-9) payable to David Findlay Esqr. @ 2/3 £S. 83-4-0

19. The whole amount of bills of exchange is Current Rupees one hundred eighty thousand three hundred twenty three, two annas, three pice (180323-2-3) or £S.

20. We have repeated our orders to Mr. Goddard for returning to Europe, but as he is not only engaged in a law suit which is not yet determined but has been for some time past bed-rid and totally deprived of sight we are apprehensive it will not be in his power to leave India at all.

21. Mr. Henry Andrews, surgeon of the Egmont, having attended the artificers we sent from hence to the Negaris, and the garriso[n] of that place likewise, during the sickly season, applied on his return hither for an allowance to be made him for his trouble for which service we have allowed him two hundred fifty (250) ARupees, he having produced to us a certificate from Mr. Henry Brooke setting forth the care he had taken of the sick at the Negrais.

22. Some Pattna [*sic*] cloth being offered us we found upon assorting them they turned some thing better in quality than what we last year bought, upon which we endeavoured to reduce the prices to 4 rupees per corge less than those of last year, but the merchants refusing to accept of that price, we took them upon the same terms as those of last year, that is 89 A Rupees per corge for the baftaes and 79 A Rupees per corge for the emmerties.

23. Your Honours will observe by the face of our Consultation of the 30th ultimo that we were necessitated to suspend Mr. Walpole Eyre from your service to preserve the respect due to the Board. his unbecaming treatment of us in general but

particularly Mr. Becher and his obstinacy in refusing to make any concession having forced us to this severity. But as he has now thought proper to make a submission and acknowledge his rashness which his heavy loss in the purchase of the disputed copper prompted him to, we have reinstated him in your service and take the liberty to desire Your Honours will overlook his misbehaviour, as he is a very capable and well-qualified young gentleman.

24. Enclosed in this packet we forward copy of a letter delivered in by Mr. Edward Eyre accounting for the cloth received from Jugdea being invoiced at the usual prices and explaining the new debts mentioned by Mr. Baillie.

25. We have likewise enclosed copy of a letter delivered in by Mr. Holwell on the 30th ultimo giving reasons for the increase and decrease of Your Honours' farms and buzars for the years 1753 and 1754 and that gentleman seeming to apprehend a considerab[le] reduction of these revenues from the present establishment of the dutys of the gunge, we purpose giving Your Honours a full account of our reasons for putting those dutys on their present footing, in our next advices, as we have not time to take Mr. Holwell's letter into consideration before the departure of this ship.

26. In consequence of Mr. Holwell's motion of the 28th November we this day took into consideration the reduction of your debt at interest. By the estimates of what money we might expect would be paid in by the 1st June for sales of goods this season and the ballance of cash in our treasury we find the utmost it can amount to will be about sixteen lacks of rupees which sum the demands we may reasonably expect on us for our investment, the supplys of our subordinates and our current expences will exceed, and should we call in our interest notes it would reduce our cash so low, that we must be necessitated to borrow money again before the arrival of our ships from Europe next season which might be attended with difficulty and inconvenience. We are therefore of opinion such a step must be deferred till our next supplys arrive, when we shall do our utmost to lesson the heavy load of Your Honours' debts at this Presidency.

27. We beg leave to recommend surgeon Nathaniel Wilson to Your Honours to succeed to a vacancy at this settlement

after those already ordered by you have been preferred, as he is a person very well esteemed and approved of.

28. Enclosed we send Your Honours an attested copy of a receipt given by Captain Edward Wills for an anchor he carried away from Ingelie weighing 33 cwt. the amount of which Your Honours will please to demand of the owners of the Elizabeth.

29. We have laden sundry goods and merchandize on this ship consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rs. 931000.

30. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of your island St. Helena amounting to CRs. 1372-14.

31. Mr. William Mackett who dispatches this ship from Ingelie will advise Your Honours of what else may be necessary from thence.

32. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithfull and most obedient humble servants.

Roger Drake Junr./E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M Collet/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,

3rd February, 1755.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 18, 1754-55, pp. 115-31.

Para. 16 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records of Government* 1748-67, p. 62.)

# 49
# LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1755

*Shipping matters—revolution at Dacca and appointment of Rajballabh as* naib*—payment of 'visit' money to Rajballabh by the English and the French—increase in revenue resulting from control of the* gunge*—reduction of duty on imports.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. The Egmont, Captain Thomas Tolson, being fully laden we now dispatch her to Your Honours and by her packet forward a duplicate of our address per Colchester which ship Mr. William Mackett dispatched from Ingelie the 9th ultimo when the drew [ —— ] foot water upon an even keel.

2. Captain Thomas Tolson having protested against us on the 12th February for detaining the Egmont after that day, we forward a copy of that protest for Your Honours' persual, by which you will please to observe Captain Tolson is of opinion the terms of the Egmont's charter party expires on the 11th ultimo whereas we apprehend (and it was so understood by Capt. Robinson as will appear by our Consultation of the 28th October) that her charter party contract does not cease till the 11th March 1755. To prevent therefore any misconstruction in future, and enable us to provide suitably for such ships as we may be necessitated to detain in India we request Your Honours will fully explain that particular clause in the charter partys of the Coast and Bay ships.

3. The Anson, Captain Thomas Debuke, left Ingelie the 12th February bound for Bombay and Surat.

4. Your Honours having consigned us a parcel of Barbary copper on the Norfolk which sortment we find to be improper for this place, we have desired the President and Council of Fort St. George to dispose of the copper at their settlement, and if it occasions any iconvenience to their sales by the surplus quantity, we have desired them to send us the same proportion of any other sortment consigned them by Your Honours.

5. We have likewise requested them to send us all our consignments of treasure in rupees the ensuing season (as we do not find any demand for bullion), one sixth of which to be Madras Rupees and the remainder in Arcott, which species is at present in the greatest demand over the whole country.

6. Some time before the dispatch of the Colchester from hence, our merchants offered us a parcel of ready money goods, which we directed the Export Ware House Keepers to open and assort in the cottah. Upon inspecting the goods we found them of a tolerable good quality and as we were willing to give encouragement for larger quantities to be provided and offered in the same manner in future, we agreed to give them the following prices for their goods viz.,

Cossaes Cogmaria———40 and 3——CRs. 11.
Do Orna————————40 and 2——9.
Do Commercolly————————5-6.

which after much hesitation on their side they have at last agreed to accept as our ship was on the dispatch.

7. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar have informed us they called upon their merchants to give in musters of Guzzerat and Novemberbund silk with their terms of contract, that their merchants had accordingly given in their musters of those sortments, but refused to deliver the silk under 8-2 the Novemberbund and the Guzzerat in proportion, which was so very extravagant that they told their merchants if they did not lower their prices they must endeavour to procure Your Honours' investment by some other means. At the same time they advise us that after strict inquiry they really find the putney dearer this year than the last, so that they apprehend it will not be in their power to bring their merchants to contract on the same terms as last year. As yet we cannot ascertain in what manner we shall be able to finish those contracts.

8. A revolution having happened in the government at Dacca, Ragabullub[1] is placed there as Nabob of the city for the present who has peremtorily demanded the usual visit from the three European nations. Upon his pressing this matter very urgently Mr. Clerembault and his Council paid his three thousand (3000) rupees to quiet his demand[s] and prevent the consequence of longer refusal which would have been attended with a stoppage

of their business. As Ragabullub'[s] stay at Dacca was not fix't, we directed the gentlemen there to avoid the unnecessary expence of a visit, in consequence of which order they sent their vacquiel to the Durbar to acquaint Ragabullab they could not pay the visit, who thereupon imprisoned the head vacquiel and threatened to stop the business of their factory if they did not immediately pay the visit or make the usual present in lieu of it. This the gentlemen at Dacca immediately informed us of, and desired our orders how to act.

9. Upon taking that letter into consideration we agreed to dispatch a lieutenant [in] command and 25 buxerrys to Bakergunge to clear the goods on the way from Dacca, Harsial Buddall etc. of which we advised Mr. Clerembault and his Council, and as we were of opinion a stoppage of their business at this juncture could not be very prejudicial to your affairs, we absolutely directed them not [to] comply with Ragabullub's instances for paying the visit till the government of their city was better settled.

10. Before the receipt of these orders Mr. Clerembault (considering the large quantities of goods on the way to Calcutta besides what was further expected from the aurungs and the advices from the Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar that Ragabullub Duan bore the principal sway in affairs at Muxadabad and that it was absolutely necessary to keep as fair with him as possible and finding also that he grows more urgent and pressing for a visit, with violent threats of his present and future utter resentment if his demand was not immediately had actually submitted to the payment of Sicca Rupees four thousand three hundred (4300) in lieu of a visit) had acquiesced to the payment of the said sum, in the same manner as the French, with an agreement that this should in future be the regular sum to be paid in lieu of all former and customary presents in money and goods, that were given when a visit was due. This step Mr. Clerembault says he has been induced to take as he esteems it greatly advantageous for Your Honours, as the visits paid of late have been a charge of above ten thousand (10,000) rupees each. He has therefore requested we would transmit Your Honours the above representation of the whole affairs for his justification, as nothing but a full perswasion that it would be for your interest could have engaged him to take a step of this kind.



Raja Rajballabb

11. Upon weighing the several circumstances which at present subsist at that factory and the prejudice which Ragabullub's future resentment might be of to Your Honours' affairs, and considering it is now the proper time for giving out their puttun, we are of opinion the payment of this money was a prudent step at this juncture, and have accordingly signified our approbation to the gentlemen there, but have at the same time cautioned them not to pay any large sums to the Durbar without our permission first obtained.

12. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums for which we have granted bills of exchange by this ship at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

On 25th February to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. for CRs one thousand ten, ten annas, three pice (1010-10-3) payable to William Price @ 2/3 is £S. 113-13-11.

On 28th to Charles Manningham Esqr. account the estate of William Hume deceased for CRs. one hundred sixty two, four annas (162-4) payable to Francis Hume @ 2/3 is £S. 28-11-3.

On do to do account the estate of Francis Wollaston deceased for CRs. one hundred sixty five, three annas, three pice (165-3-3) payable to William Wollaston Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 28-11-3.

On do. to Messrs Manningham and Frankland being the net proceeds of one chest of coral beads marked I/S No. 9 per ship Norfolk account Judah Supino for CRs. four thousand ten, twelve annas, nine pice (4010-12-3) payable to Judah Supino @ 2/3 is £S. 451-4-3.

On do to Charles Manningham Esqr. for CRs. two thousand two hundred twenty two, three annas, six pice (2222-3-6) payable to Thomas Manningham Esq. @ 2/3 is £S. 250-0-0

On do to Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Robert Hall for CRs. three thousand two hundred twenty six, ten annas, nine pice (3326-10-9) payable to Messrs Ralph Wilson & Son @ 2/3 is £S. 363-0-0

On do to do account William Wogan for CRs. two thousand seven hundred twenty eight, fifteen annas, six pice (2728-15-6) payable to William Wogan Junior @ 2/3 is £S. 307-0-2

On do to do do account Capt. Carteret Le Geyt for CRs. three thousand seven hundred forty, nine annas, nine pice (3740-9-9) payable to Capt. Carteret Le Geyt @ 2/3 is £S. 420-16-4

On do to do do being the nett proceeds of one chest of coral beads marked VD No. 1 per ship Norfolk account Joseph Salvador for CRs. three thousand one hundred twenty eight, ten annas, nine pice (3128-10-9) payable to Joseph Salvador @ 2/3 is £S. 351-19-9

On do to Richard Becher Esqr. for CRs. four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7) payable to Capt. Thomas Field @ 2/3 is £S. 50-0-0

On do to Thos. Blany for CRs. four hundred forty four, seven annas (444-7) payable to William Alexander @ 2/3 is £S. 50-0-0

On do to Capt. Thomas Tolson for CRs. twelve thousand (12000) payable to Capt. Thomas Tolson @ 2/3 is £S. 1350-0-0

On do to Messrs Eyre, Kelsall, and Amyatt for CRs. four thousand four hundred forty four, seven annas (4444-7) payable to William Kempe Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 500-0-0

On do to do do do for CRs. four thousand four hundred forty four, seven annas (4444-7) payable to Mrs. Priscilla Wastell @ 2/3 is £S. 500-0-0.

On do to Francis Stevenson for CRs. two thousand one hundred sixty (2160) payable to Miles Smith Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 243-0-0.

On do to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account the estate of Robert Browne for CRs. three thousand two hundred sixty nine, four annas (3269-4) payable to Roger Drake Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 367-15-9.

On do to do for CRs. one thousand seven hundred seventy four, eight annas (1774-8) payable to Messrs Roberts and Baynes @ 2/3 is £S. 199-12-7.

On do to do account the estate of Charles Wilkins deceased for CRs. nine thousand six hundred twelve, three annas (9612-3) payable to Roger Drake Esqr @ 2/3 is £S. 1081-7-4

On do to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Capt. James Barton for CRs. two hundred forty one, fifteen annas (241-15) payable to Capt. James Barton @ 2/3 is £S. 27-4-4.

On do to do account Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. for CRs. two thousand nine hundred eighty nine, fourteen annas, nine pice (2989-14-9) payable to Anthony D'Arnaud Esq. @ 2/3 is £S. 336-7-3

On do to Capt. Thomas Tolson for CRs. one thousand and five hundred (1500) payable to Capt. Thomas Tolson @ 2/3 is £S. 168-15-0.

On do to Messrs Kelsall and Amyatt for CRs. six hundred sixty (660) payable to Daniel Lescelles Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 74-5-0.

On do to William Fullerton for CRs. two thousand (2000) payable to William Watts @ 2/3 is £S. 225-0-0

On do to do account the estate of Captain Robert Veitch for CRs. fifteen thousand (15000) payable to James Veitch Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 1687-10-0

On do to Messrs Kelsall and Amyatt for CRs. three hundred eighty nine, nine annas, nine pice (389-9-9) payable to Messrs Lascelles, Dewer and Pye @ 2/3 is £S. 43-16-7

On do to Mr. John Knox Junr. for CRs. eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (888-14-3) payable to James Knox @ 2/3 is £S. 100-0-0

On do to William Billers account William Smith for CRs. one hundred fifty [*sic*], one anna, three pice (151-1-3) payable to William Smith @ 2/3 is £S. 17-2-0

On do to Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr. for CRs. two hundred sixteen (216) payable to Mrs. Cecilia Verelst @ 2/3 is £S. 24-6-0

On do to Edward Eyre Esqr. for CRs. two hundred twenty two, three annas, six pice (222-3-6) payable to Richard Eyre Esqr. @ 2/3 is £S. 25-0-0

On do to do for CRs. three hundred fifty five, eight annas, nine pice (355-8-9) payable to Henrietta Kenton @ 2/3 is £S. 49-0-0

13. The whole amount of bills of exchange is Current Rupees eighty thousand six hundred four, four annas, nine pice (80604-4-9) or £St. 9406-11-1.

14. Since the close of our last Mr.. Holland Goddard has departed this life.

15. By the Colchester we forwarded a letter to Your Honours from Mr. Holwell addressed to the Board under date the 30th January at a time we were assembled for that ship's

dispatch and therefore delayed giving our sentiments thereon till we had more maturely weighed the contents. The paragraph respecting the gunge implying (in our conception) a disregard in every member of the Board to the interest of our employers, or at least an inattention we are not concious of we beg permission to referr to our several Consultations since taking the gunge last year into our own hands to this present time and Your Honours will observe we were tempted to make this trial from the real distress and misery of our inhabitants by a scarcity and dearness of grain as is amply sett forth in our first minute on this affair when we agreed that in future all grain imported from Doolia and Bakergunge should be landed solely at the gunge and a duty levied on the import of 4 per cent, at the same time encreasing the duty on export from 3-12 to 8 per cent, hoping by this method no loss would ensue to Your Honours from the alteration then made, reserving the power of altering or amending the same as circumstances offered.

16. By this trial we found the revenue of the gunge considerably encreased, since CRs. twenty five thousand three hundred twenty four, nine annas, three pice (25324-9-3) was collected by a duty on import of 4 per cent, whereas the medium for which the gunge sold fifteen years past( 1752 included) was only CRs. eleven thousand three hundred twenty eight (11328) and in 1752 CRs twenty two thousand seven hundred sixty (22760) without any account being made of the duty on export which in 1754 at 8 per cent amounted to CRs. fifteen thousand eight hundred seventy nine (15879) and in 1753 @ 3-12 per cent five thousand seven hundred ninety nine, eight annas, three pice (5799-8-3). But as this duty of 8 per cent appeared a most heavy burthen on the present unhappy state of trade we were prompted to reduce the same to its former standard of 3-12 per cent, and so little encouragement is there for an export of grain by this reduction of the duty that none of our shipping carry with them more than absolutely requisite for their ballast, and were a calculate made it might be proved not one fifth part of the grain usually exported from hence has been carried out this season. In order likewise to encourage a greater importation we assented to take off the duty of 4 per cent paid by the import and levy instead thereof the duty of coyally on the purchaser, still hoping we may be able to prevent Your Honours suffering by the revenue of the gunge. as we can

either alter or amend these methods if we find any remarkable difference in the amount thus collected from what the gunge usually produced to Your Honours.

17. Mr. Holwell's motion that the dutys of the gunge might be collected on the old establishment of 9-12 per cent (import and coyally together) and 3-12 on export would most certainly encrease the revenues, since only a duty of 4 per cent has yielded CRs. twenty five thousand three hundred twenty four, nine annas, three pice (25324-9-3), without which and the advance on the export of grain, instead of pointing out an encrease of CRs. one hundred three, two annas, nine pice (103-2-9) in the nett amount revenues of this year compared with the year 1754, a decrease of more than ten thousand (10,000) rupees would have been the consequence as is very obvious.

By the statement of the revenues the nett amount for 1753 was CRs. 113951-7-9

The statement of 1754 the nett amount . 114054-10-6

Increase deduct of export duty on rice the whole amount at 8 per cent being 15879 the difference between said duty @ 3.10 or 8 per cent is about 8000.

Increase on the gunge by keeping it in the Company's hands CRs. 2564-9-3, 10564-9-3, 103490-1-3, CRs. 10461-6-6. Allowing therefore the gunge to have sold for CRs. twenty two thousand seven hundred sixty (22760) as it did in 1752 (whereas the medium of fifteen years, 1752 included is only C (Rupees eleven thousand three hundred twenty eight 11328), still the real decrease of the revenues this last year would be CRs. ten thousand four hundred sixty one, six annas, six pice (10461-6-6).

18. Our sole motive for keeping the gunge in our own hands has been a regard to the necessities and disstresses of our inhabitants, greater within these few years than ever were experienced in the memory of any of us, the cause we cannot presume to assign though the fact is beyond dispute, and as these disstresses still continue we hold ourselves indispensibly obliged to relieve and redress them by every means in our power, and hope therefore we may stand exculpated to Your Honours for not assenting to this motion of Mr. Holwell's for collecting the duties of the gunge on the former establishment, notwithstanding the revenue therefrom might be extended to

forty thousand rupees (40,000) instead of what now collected, for we cannot presume Your Honours intend to enhance your revenues by the distress of your inhabitants as you have repeatedly inculcated a different conduct in many storng persuasive paragraphs of your late commands.

19. We beg leave to assert we are equally relous for promoting the true interest and credit of our employers and could we esteem this method proper to be persued in our present situation, we should have chearfully assented thereto, since Your Honours may be assured we shall not wantonly relinquish any part of your revenues; but in cases where the wellfare of the inhabitants (in our conception) is so essentially connected the refraining from a present advantage is the true interest of our employers as an increase may be attended with distress if not odium and disgrace.

20. We think proper to acquaint Your Honours that the Madeira wine sent us this year by the St. George has proved but very indifferent, all of it in general being poor and weak bodied, by which means several of the pipes in fining have turned quite sour.

21. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to Current Rupees eight hundred seventy four thousand (874000).

22. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of your island St. Helena amounting to CRuppees 1898-2-6.

23. Mr. Mathew Collett who dispatches this ship from Ingelie will advise Your Honours what else may be necessary from thence.

We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr/E. H. Cruttenden/C. Manningham/ Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M Collet/W. Mackett/J. Z. Hollwell.

Fort William,

1st March, 1755.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Vol. 18, 1754-1755, pp. 132-45.)

# 50

# LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1755

*Correspondence between the Council and William Watts regarding fortifications of Fort William and obtaining permission from the Nawab for establishment of a mint at Calcutta.*

TO the Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

We are honoured with your separa[te] letters to us, Colonel Scott and Wm. Watts Esqr. under date the 29th November 1754 copy of which letter we forwarded to Mr. Watts at Cossimbuzar and required his sentiments thereon. As Your Honours will perceive by a transcript thereof herein enclosed, his answer and our reply to the purport of what he wrote us whereby we have the satisfaction to inform that we agree in sentiment with that gentleman and we are to assure you we shall be attentive to embrace the first favourable opportunity to obtain a grant for a mint to be established in Calcutta.

The death of Colonel Scott put a check to our pursuing his plan (for securing the settlement from any attack of the country forces) with much alacrity as we were cautious of laying out much money until Your Honours signifyed your approbation of that work which shall now be set about in as expeditious a manner as the season of the year will permit our carrying it into execution. Here we must remark that the Government has not attempted to frustrate that design though it has a formidable appearance.

With respect to the principal fortification of Fort William our intentions are set forth in our second letter to Mr. Watts which will be abided by and as men of probity we give you our sincere assurances that the Company's estate shall be dealt with in the most frugal manner in the purchase of all material and expences attending thereon, in case events oblige us to make a beginning. In like manner we shall deal with the Company's estate in those works already begun and in all other branches of their affairs regarding the distribution of their wealth with a watchfull eye to prevent imposition or wastage.

We make bold to make known to Your Honours that it is highly necessary to send three or four expert gentlemen educated in the branch of engineering and carrying on in the most regular manner plans of fortification, as experience teaches us to verifye this general observation that men's lives advanced to or nigh the age of forty are very precarious in such a change of climate from their native country, therefore successor should be appointed to prevent the inconveniences we now labour under. This we submit to your consideration deeming ourselves attached to our hon'ble employers' interest and that we are with great truth.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithful servants,

Roger Drake Junr. and C. Manningham.

Fort William,

3, September, 1755.

(Extracts from last paragraph published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records* 1748-67, p. 63.)

*Enclosure I*

Transcript of a letter to William Watts Esqr., Chief at Cossimbuzar, dated the 6th August 1755, No. 1.

We send for your notice the Court of Directors' separate address to us and on the purport thereof we are to crave your opinion how far you think it proper to make present application to the Nabob or the inconveniences if any which you think might attend our prosecuting Colonel Scot his plan for the fortification of this settlement without previous leave or connivance from the Government or whether a less gift to be bestowed for such permission as well for the procurement of a grant for the establishing a mint here would be accepted in such manner as that we could depend on not suffering any molestation in the carrying on those works and here we have further to give you notice that great armaments are preparing in France and that our Company have thought proper to give directions that we be on our guard. In the present critical situation of affairs between the English and French nations

such advice properly whispered to the Nobob that great fleets and many forces are suspected to be preparing in France for this part of the globe will we think give him an alarm that that nation might be ambitious to extend their conquests in his territories, therefore facilitate any application we have to make and easily procure us his countenance and protection to prosecute our works and set aside any evil machinations that are on foot tending to the interruption of our trade here which we have reason to think are forming by the Nabob or some of his ministers, having lately received a perwannah for the transmitting the effects of Sutchy and Radanaut Cotmah and Gosseram deceased to him Allwerdi Cawn on pretence that those people died without male issue and that in such case the Mogul becomes heir. We have not further to add hereto but to desire your free sentiments on the subjects we now address you on and your particular attention to the proceedings of the Durbar that the provision of our investment is not impeeded and that we do not suffer by a stoppage of the Company's business which if in agitation you will please us by setting forth what you think will be the easiest methods to be pursued to prevent interruption to the Company's trade. We are,

Your most obedient servants,

Signed Roger Drake Junr., C. Manningham.

*Enclosure 2*

Transcript of William Watts his answer under date the 15th August 1755, No. 1

I received your favour of the 6th the 10th instant accompanying a letter from the Hon'ble Court of Directors with several paragraphs of their letters per Godolph [in] and York. The purport of this letter requiring the utmost consideration, I hope you will not think me remiss in not replying to your favour sooner. I observe our hon'ble masters are almost positive in their orders to apply for leave to fortifye before we begin and principally in consideration of a letter they received from Colonel Scott importing that the French were stopped from going on with their works for near two years but as I am called upon to give my sentiment freely on this occasion I must declare to you gentlemen that I think a previous application

to the Nabob of leave to fortifye Calcutta a step highly improper for us to take; for in case the Nabob should absolutely refuse us his permission we must at once give over all thoughts of fortifying or do it in defiance of him. And the Nabob's coffers are so far from being empty as our hon'ble masters have been informed that from the time he made up his dispute with the Morattes and disbanded the greater part of his forces he has undoubtedly laid up every year a large sum and is now esteemed so immensely rich that if his permission is to be obtained for money, the sum we are at liberty to offer, part whereof must of necessity be divided amongst his ministers, would, I fear, appear to him very inconsiderable. But it is far from being certain that any stoppage would be put to our work were we to begin them without shewing any diffidence of our right to secure our effects and settlement in the best manner we can, notwithstanding what happened to the French. They are settled here only by verbal leave from the Subah of the province, and the neighbourhood of Chandernagore to Houghly might occasion umbrage to be taken at their enlarging their fortifications, especially at a time they carried on little or no trade and were, in consequence of the success they met with on the Coromandel Coast, looked upon here as an enterprizing people with more of the spirit of the soldier that the merchant in them, and that the Nabob was particularly jealous of them at that time appears from the contents of a paper Mr. Forster obtained from him and which I believe is now in his Honour's possession. On the contrary we are settled in Calcutta by a full and positive phirmaund from the King from which we have reason to insist on a ripht to secure our settlement in such manner as we think necessary and the Nabob not having had of late years such reason to be jealous of us as of the French and never having taken the least notice of the ditch cut round Calcutta or any other works since carried on there though they appear to these people equally formidable to what the French set about which was no more than rebuilding and enlarging their bastions. Besides as I before observed it is far from being certain that he will take any notice of our making Calcutta defensible though we may be assured his previous leave could not be obtained without a considerable sum of money and would for ever be attended with this ill consequence that should we in future find it necessary to make any addition to the strength of the place or to repair even any decayed works it will be necessary to pay for leave to

do it and every new building would be called a new fortifycation for a pretence to extort money from us. But in case a stoppage should be put to our proceeding after we begin our works, I have very little doubt of our being able to get permission to continue them on as reasonable terms as we should obtain a previous order. Huckembeg is the person most busy in seeking pretences to extort money therefore with permission [*sic*]. In case Your Honour etc. should determine to set about fortifying without applying for leave I shall keep a watchfull eye on him and in case he should appear desirous of bringing us into trouble on that account I shall endeavour to content him and get him to prevent any stoppage being put to our works which I believe is in his power and which a handsome present may induce him to use in our behalf. In the mean time or until I am favoured with a reply to this I shall make it my business to confirm the report which has already reached the Durbar of the great armaments preparing in France and destined for these parts and endeavour to learn what notice the Nabob takes of this report. In regard to the demand on the Cotmahs and Monick I must add that if that affair is not speedily brought to an issue a stoppage will I am told be put to our hon'ble masters' business. The advantage that would accrue from the establishing a mint in Calcutta are so great that I would not leave any means untryed whereby a permission for it may possibly be obtained but the immense profit the Seats reap from the quantity of Arcot, Madrass and Bombay Rupees imported by us, the batta whereof they raise or lower at their pleasure, will undoubtedly engage them even at a large expence to obstruct our views as soon as they have notice of them, on which account all applications on this head must be made with the greatest secrecy and circumspection. I am with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,
Signed Wm. Watts.

*Enclosure 3*

Transcript of the reply to William Watts his letter of the 15th August under date the 22nd of August 1755, No. 2

We have received your favour of the 15th August. The perusal thereof gave us much satisfaction in that we are of one accord and we believe had Colonel Scott dwelt such a time



Alamgir II

with us as could have afforded him a more intimate circumspection into the form of the Mogul's government and the venality of Subahs here and their ministers, his natural good understanding would have given him different ideas than those he seems to have been first struck with. It has hitherto been very unfortunate to this settlement that every gentleman who has had capacity has been appointed by our employers to fortifye this place have not lived even to make a beginning on the plans proposed. We have therefore agreed to wait our masters' last commands by this year's shipping when if they are absolute and the situation of affairs in Europe portends war we must employ those who have the most experience and knowledge to execute plans of fortifycation and this we shall put in practice without shewing any diffidence to the right we have of securing our settelment. We send you copy of what wrote to the Nabob in reply to his perwannah for the delivery of the effects of Sutchy and Radanaut Cotmahs and Gosseram which we hope will prevent any futher trouble on that account. In relation to the procuring leave for the establishment of a mint here we find it must be a work of time if ever to be obtained without a much larger present than we are limited to give. At the same time we doubt not your embracing an opportunity when you find a favourable one to obtain so great an advantage as would by such grant accure to the East India Company. We are,

Your most obedient servants,

Signed Roger Drake Junr., C. Manningham.

*Enclosure* 4

Transcript of Mr. Watts his reply to our letter of the 22nd August under date the 2nd September 1755, No. 2.

I received your favour of the 22nd the 26th ultimo. Your approving of my opinion of not applying to the Nabob for leave to fortifye gave me great satisfaction. I attentively have read the copy of your answer to the Nabob's perwannah. The reasons you there give are strong and would be valid anywhere but under a lawless arbitrary government, but from the little regard this Nabob and his Prime Minister Hackembeg have ever shewed for justice where money has been the points

in view I am doubtfull of the success of them. The Nabob is now at Agah Diep, therefore have heard nothing concerning the letters. I have the pleasure to advise you that from the reports I have occasioned to be spread abroad I have instilled such a jealousy in the Nabob of the French that Hackembeg and the Subah Duan Rajah Omeydray assure me that he will give us an order to the same purport as that obtained by Mr. Forster whenever he is certain that the force is intended for these parts. I am with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Signed Wm. Watts.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 1—11.

Extracts published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* Vol. II, pp. 27—30.)

## 51

## LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1755

*Shipping details—high prices of cotton and rice and demand of Patna merchants for* pattar*—a statement of purchases at the several* aurungs*—a* parwana *received from the Nawab for clearance of the business in Burdwan—bills of exchange drawn on the Company.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Our several advices of last season were transmitted on the Norfolk and Winchelsea, *via* Madras, the Montford, Colchester and Egmont, directly hence, the Elizabeth *via* Fort Marlbro' and the York *via* Tellicherry and bore date *viz.*, 9th and 12th September, the 7th, 20th and 22nd December, 1754, the 9th January, the 3rd February and the 1st March, 1755.

2. In those letters we gave Your Honours a full account of your affairs since the departure of the Falmouth, and the Hardwick, Capt. John Jamson, being now under dispatch for Fort St. George to be returned home from thence, we take that opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your commands of the 29th November 1754 and the 31st January 1755 and to give Your Honours a summary account of our transactions since the dispatch of the Egmont, Capt. Thomas Tolson, by Mr. Matthew Collet which ship left Ingellie the 1st March and drew 17ft. 7 in. water upon an even keel.

3. We congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival here of your ships Hardwick and Eastcourt, the first of which we are now returning to the gentlemen at Fort St. George who advised us in consequence of what we wrote them on the 10th March they should have about two hundred (200) tons of bales ready in September. We have therefore laden on her three hundred (300) tons of saltpetre, her charter party tonnage of red wood, her St. Hellena stores, and have compleated her tonnage with bales; one reason for lading that quantity of saltpetre is to obviate any mispresentations of the gentlemen on the Coast, as thereby it will be left in their powers to take out such tonnage of that article as will make room for the bales they have in readiness to be shipped on board, which may prevent too long a detention of the Hardwick on the Corromandell Coast and furnish them with saltpetre to lay in the warehouse to answer any occasions and we must here observe to Your Honours that the ship Hardwick's packett did not reach us untill the 2nd ultimo though she arrived so early at Madrass as the 19th June.

4. The President and Council of Fort St. George under date the 21st June make mention that they should advise us by the Coast and Bay ships if there would be any need to send one of Your Honours' ships to relieve the Denham, for want of which notice by the Eastcourt we have directed Capt. Arthur Evans to hold that ship in readiness to proceed thither upon the first notice, by which order we have shewed our intention that the Denham should arrive with us at a proper season to be dispatched for Europe.

5. We acquainted Your Honours last season that we had sent the Brittania and Kent back to Madras with cargoes of rice which ships the President and Council there informed us

in a letter of the 27th March they should consign to the supra-cargoes at Canton.

6. Having advised Mr. Bourchier and his Council that we should send the York to that coast to be fitted up and dispatched to Europe we had the satisfaction to receive a letter from them in reply under date the 1st February in which they made no doubt the gentlemen at Tellicherry would be able to compleat her tonnage in pepper with the assistance of Anjengo for which purpose they had sent an express boat to that factory with necessary orders.

7. They informed us likewise of their having given directions for providing cotton for two ships before the receipt of our letter intimating that we expected to send them two of your ships to be returned with cotton cargoes and that Capt. Baron's bill of lading being given up without his being charged with the damage of the bales of broad cloth transhipped from the Winchelsea on board the Montford arose from the neglect of the then Accomptant who omitted to report that Captain Vincent had excepted thereto which they promise to represent to Your Honours.

8. By the Speedwell, one of our country ships, Mr. George Pigot and his Council transmitted the packett per Rhoda under our address, with a letter dated 21st June in which they judged from the latitude given us by Your Honors to compleat the tonnage of your ships with a large proportion of saltpetre they should be able to return two ships for Europe in September and for that purpose requested if it met with our approbation that we would divide our bales equally on two ships and compleat the tonnage of both with saltpetre consigned to them that they might take out as much as would make room for their own bales which they apprehended would not exceed two hundred (200) tonns.

9. Having taken this letter of the President and Council at Fort St. George into consideration we replied thereto on the 15th July and advised them that in consequence of what they had wrote we should send them the first ship we had in readiness with three hundred (300) tonns of saltpetre, thirty (30) tonns of red wood and the remainder of her tonnage in bales, that we could not acquiesce with their proposall of sending up two

ships in September to be fitted up at their Presidency as Your Honours had recommended it to us to dispatch home an early ship or two directly hence and the small quantity of bales they were likely to have would lay us under a necessity of loading almost four fifths of each ship from this place and by that means put it out of our power to comply with Your Honours' directions.

10. In that letter we intimated to the President and Council of Fort St. George that we were in hopes from the small number of ships destined this year for the Coast and Bay we should have it in our power for concert with them and the expectation we had of Governour Bourchier and his Council assisting us with filling up one ship at least to free Your Honours entirely of the heavy burthen of ships now remaining in India as well as those expected this season, especially as we were permitted to lade a large proportion of salt-petre on each ship. We therefore requested they would inform us as soon as possible what quantity of bales they should have in readiness by January and whether they would chuse one or two ships to be sent them from hence in that month to be filled up and returned to Europe. Here we beg leave to acquaint Your Honours that we cannot tax ourselves with supineness in not giving the earliest advices to the gentlemen at Madrass and Bombay after receiving any intelligence of the number of ships allotted to proceed hither when we were at a certainty how many we could provide for with cargoes for Europe and beg leave to be referred to our Consultations of the year 1753 and 1754 and collections of letters sent those years for the truth of what we now alledge wherein it will appear that so early as the 25th May and 10th October 1753 we addressed the President of Madrass and Bombay acquainting them with the amount of tonnage we could supply and desired to know how far they could assist in employing to the best advantage such ships as were to remain in India that season to which purpose we likewise addressed those Presidencys on the 19th March and 2nd November 1754.

11. Capt. Samson's requests and the reports of the Hardwick within board Madeira landed (*sic*) etc. are enclosed in this packett.

12. In our letter per Montford under the established heads we advised Your Honours that we had directed the Import

Warehouse Keeper to give proper notice at the sale we made on the 18th November of woollen goods that we should forbear making another sale of that article during the space of six months from that period which we accordingly complied with but upon the expiration of that limitt we advertized an outcry of woollen goods for the 19th June on which day we agreed to put them up that we might make a tryall before the arrivall of the ships of this season.

13. We met accordingly on the 19th June to put our woollen goods up to sale, but having learnt by private letters that Your Honours proposed to consign us but three ships this year and in all probability but a small quantity of woollen goods, being likewise well informed that the Bombay Castle was arrived on the Coast by which ship we had reason to expect we should receive some advices to guide us in this branch of your affairs and as we might expect your directions hereon every hour by some of our country shipping returning from the Coast we agreed to deferr the sale till the 30th of that month when we again deferred it till that day fortnight as we had not then received any letters from Your Honours and the same reason still subsisted as before.

14. In the interim we were honoured with your commands of the 29th November by which we observed there were but three hundred and thirty (330) bales of woollen goods intended for our settlement and as we were in hopes the notice of so small a supply might induce the purchasers of broad cloth to bid with more spirit at our sales we agreed to prolong the time of sale to the 20th August that those buyers who live at any distance might have timely notice; we wrote likewise to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to acquaint such purchasers of woollen goods as resided at Muxadavad how small a quantity would be consigned us this season and the day we had fixed upon for our sales.

15. What success our endeavours have met with in respect to this branch of your affairs Your Honours will perceive by the account sales of the 20th August enclosed in this packett for your observation in which there are some sortments that we found no bidders for; we have therefore agreed to deferr a further tryall till the 15th November of which we have given publick notice as directed.

16. Your Honours having permitted us to sell your woollen goods at the invoice prices when our markets are so bad as not to admitt of an advance we shall guide ourselves in future agreeable to those directions; but Your Honours may rest assured we shall make use of this liberty with the utmost caution and never put our goods up under an advance of 15 per cent. unless we find it impracticable to procure that price. Our best endeavours to promote your sales on the 15th November shall be employed.

17. Enclosed we likewise transmitt Your Honours an abstract of such goods as now remain in the import warehouse.

18. On the 10th March we took into consideration the provision of our investment for this season when the Board were unanimous in their opinion that the method of making our purchases at the aurungs themselves should be continued and as at that early season of the year we might expect the prices of every kind of cloth would be considerably cheaper than in those months when other Europeans are making their purchases we directed the Export Warehouse Keeper to write to the gomastahs at the aurungs to continue buying without waiting till their accounts for the last year were adjusted which we find notwithstanding our eagerness to have them settled soon cannot be effected until about the months of August or September.

19. Omichund and other Patna merchants addressed us on the 5th May to acquaint us of their having given orders for the provision of such species of Patna goods as Your Honours had indented for as well as several other sortments which you had never yet received but that a few days before they had received letters from their correspondents informing them that the prices of cotton, rice etc. was now extravagantly dear at Patna on which account they should be obliged to give out their puttun at an advance in order to have the cloth equal to what they had delivered us last year which they hoped we would consider of when we prized the goods they should deliver into our cottah this season to which we made the following reply that we should take no cloth inferior to what we sent home last year but that in case we had certain intelligence of the price of cotton and provisions being much dearer we would allow them a suitable advance on their goods.

20. It is with the greatest satisfaction we observe Your Honours approve of our dismissing our late dadney merchants and in general of the plan we have pursued in the provision of your investment at this Presidency for which we can assure Your Honours we have given the strictest attention and have taken every precaution in our power to prevent your estate being embezzled by those we have employed as gomastahs or incurring any loss by bad debts from delolls or weavers and it is with pleasure we find our care had hitherto been attended with as much success as could have been expected from it. We shall continue our utmost endeavours to prevent your being any sufferers by trusting our gomastahs with as little money at one time as possible but it is not practicable to confine ourselves to so small a sum as twenty thousand (20,000) rupees at those aurungs which are at any great distance from Calcutta as it would be a prodigious disadvantage to the purchases made at those aurungs for reasons already given upon the face of our Consultations. As we never send any supplies of money till advices are received that the greatest part of what they had in hand before is invested and the cloth come in and always take care to make such gomastahs find very able security, we do nott apprehend Your Honours run any material risque.

21. Inclosed in this packett we transmitt the accounts current of the aurungs at which we employ gomastahs as well as one generall account of all the aurungs for your observation with the particulars of the ballance specified under their respective heads. The amount of ready money CRs. 147912-12-6 was chiefly sent up to the aurungs in December and January and the gomastahs had not time to invest the same when their accounts were closed in February and of the sum of CRs. 30993-4-9 outstanding CRs. 3880-6-9 has since been collected.

22. The gomastahs' accounts have been adjusted to the 28th February and were delivered into Council on the 1st instant by the Export Warehouse Keepers and referred to the Committee of Warehouse for examination.

23. We shall give Your Honours a particular account of the state of our aurungs by the letter under the established heads when we shall be better able to judge of the purchases made and remains of money and goods to which we beg leave to be

referred; the quantity of cloth purchased and ready at the severall aurungs is as follows *viz.*,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Santipore | to the 18th August | | 5249 |
| Keerpoy | 13 | Do | 5902 |
| Burron | 18 | Do | 8767½ |
| Harrypaul | 27 | Do | 2663 |
| Domrea Colley | 13 | Do | 1974½ |
| Harryall | 13th | July | 10852 |
| Buddall | 11 | Do | 3454 |
| Malda | 21 | August | 22910 |
| Cottrah | 26 | Do | 33679 |
| Barnagore | 13 | Do | 470 |
| Gollagore | 2nd | Do | 2905 |
| Soonamooky | 2nd | Do | 414 |
| Calcutta | 31st | July | 3580½ |
| Cawgam | 24th | May | |
| | | | 76748 |

of which 8801 pieces are arrived in warehouse and 15005 pieces on the way down from Malda.

24. Your Honours will observe by our Consultations of the 1st April that the business at severall of our aurungs was stopped by the Burdawan Rajah[1] on pretences of his houses and effects in Calcutta being sealed by the Mayor's Court upon a complaint lodged there by Mr. John Wood against Ramjeebon Cubbarage, the said rajah's gomastah; as a stop of this kind would have subjected our business to great inconveniencies had we remained quiet we determined to make an application to the Nabob immediately from hence, wherein we represented to him that the rajah had been guilty of great insolence in stopping the business transacted in his province without a license from him, that a proceeding of this kind was extreamly unwarrantable and contrary to the immunities granted Your Honours by the royall phirmaund, that we should therefore insist upon a proper reprimand being sent the rajah and the usual currency given to our affairs at the aurungs situated in his jurisdiction. We have the satisfaction to acquaint Your Honours this application met with a favourable reception and produced a perwannah from the Nabob for the clearance of

our business and a strong reprimand to the rajah for acting in the manner he did by his own authority.

25. We shall comply with your direction in relation to the demand of the Director and Council at Hughley, should they renew it.

26. We shall pay a due regard to your orders in regard to the fortifications Collonell Scott had projected for the defence f the place against a country enemy which are carrying on greeable to his instructions but are not yet near finished. Mr. Wells who was recommended by the Collonell to overlook those works being dead we have directed Mr. Barth Plaisted to see them executed; for what may relate further to those works or any others that may be found necessary for the defence of the settlement we beg leave to referr Your Honours to the gentlemen you have entrusted on that head.

27. As soon as the Hardwick is dispatched for Europe we shall take Mr. Holwell's state of the revenues into consideration in consequence of Your Honours' directions, and have ordered that gentleman to affix lists of the severall duties collected at each buzar on provisions etc. at the most publick places for the information of the inhabitants in general.

28. Enclosed in this packett is transmitted a copy of Mr. Holwell's letter relating to the ground rent which was omitted to be entered after our Consultations by the carelessness of the copiers. We have in consequence of this complaint charged our Secretary to look more narrowly to those young gentlemen who transcribe our Consultations and take particular care that all materiall papers laid before the Board are entered upon our diary.

29. We have taken the liberty to allow the Head Assistant at the cutcherry the same salary as the Deputies of other offices receive which is five hundred (500) Sicca Rupees per annum. We hope Your Honours will not disapprove of our making him this allowance as his post requires a close attention as well as a knowledge of the country language.

30. Upon receipt of your orders of the 29th November 1754 we appointed Mr. Charles O'Hara an assistant ingineer and shall allow him the same salary as the gentlemen at the Coast give the assistant engineers. He has our orders to overlook

the works carrying on at Parrin's Point jointly with Mr. Plaisted. In his room we appointed Mr. Francis Vassmer Sub-Secretary and Military Pay Master upon his being recommended by the Secretary as a capable and diligent assistant.

31. Mr. Charles Manningham desires leave to return Your Honours his most humble thanks for the favour shewn him in the 92nd paragraph of your letter under date the 31st January 1755 assuring Your Honours he shall always endeavour to preserve the good opinion you have entertained of his abilities by his exerting himself for your interest.

32. Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell likewise returns your Honours thanks for the favours conferred on him in your letter by the Eastcourt with his assurances that he will to the utmost of his power and capacity study to meritt the continuance of your approval as long as he has the honour of your service but that as his health has lately been much impaired he further (in obedience to Your Honours' standing order in the 66th paragraph of your Generall Letter under date the 24th January 1753) begs leave to intimate his intentions of leaving India sometime in September 1756, provided his private affairs and concerns outstanding enable him possibly to put such his intentions in execution.

33. We have directed all our servants above the rank of writers to attend the cottah every cottah day in order to acquire a knowledge of the investment.

34. Upon taking into consideration the paragraph of your commands per Eastcourt we stationed Mr. Matthew Collett second of Council at Cossimbuzar and filled up the vacancy at the Board occasioned by Mr. Cruttenden's dismission with Mr. Nicholas Clerembault whom we continued Chief at Dacca.

35. The alteration of the posts at the Board by the above appointment were regulated in the following manner:

Mr. Richard Becher—Accomptant

Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes—Import Warehouse Keeper

Mr. Frankland—Buxey

Mr. William Mackett—Store-keeper

Mr. Edward Eyre—Military Store-keeper

by which means the posts of Collector of the Consulage and Register of the Dusticks becoming vacant we joined them together on account of their connection and they were conferred on Mr. Thomas Coales and Mr. Frankland being appointed upon the Committee of Export Warehouse, Mr. Nathan Drake was nominated Deputy Export Warehouse Keeper upon the recommendation of Mr. Manningham.

36. Your Honours will observe by our Consultations of the 28th August that the severall committees appointed in your commands per Eastcourt have been constituted by the Board and will take effectual care to put your orders and instructions into execution.

37. We have duly transmitted to the severall subordinates such parts of your commands per Eastcourt as relate to their respective factories and have strenuously recommended it to them to pay due observance to those orders and apply themselves to an assiduous discharge of their duty to their employers now in order to reinstate themselves in Your Honours' good opinion.

38. Mr. William Rider being arrived was put upon the line of servants on the rank he held before he left India for his health pursuant to your orders and is stationed an assistant in the cutcherry.

39. We are now to acquaint Your Honours of the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at 2/3 each rupee, the amount thereof being first duly accounted for in our treasury.

On the 11th August to Richard Becher Esqr. account the estate of John Hall deceased for Current Rupees four thousand five hundred and thirty three, five annaes and six pice (4533-5-6) payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikes @ 2/3 is £St. 5110

On ditto to Peter Duncan for CRs. one thousand eight hundred (1800) payable to Messrs. Joseph and Francis Fowkes @ 2/3 is £St. 202-10-0.

On the September to the Hon. Roger Drake Esquire account Paul Philip Colier for CRs. three hundred fifty five, nine annaes (355-9) payable to Messrs Stephen and Lewis Teissier @ 2/3 is £St. 40

On ditto to Captain John Samson for CRs. thirty five thousand five hundred fifty five, eight annaes and six pice (35555-8-6) payable to John Hallett Esqr. is £St. 4000

On ditto to Peter Amyatt account Samuel Waller for CRs. two hundred twenty two, three annaes and six pice (220-3-6) [*sic*] payable to Charles Waller Esqr. is £St. 25

On the 8th ditto to John Zephaniah Holwell account Richard Starke Esqr. for CRs. six thousand and forty four, seven annaes (6044-7) payable to John Starke Esqr. is £St. 680

On the 8th September to Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Charles Floyer for CRs. two thousand three hundred twenty four, five annaes and nine pice (2324-5-9) payable to Charles Floyer Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 261-9-10

On ditto to ditto ditto account Robert Sloper of Fort St. David's for CRs. two thousand and sixty two, nine annaes (2062-9) payable to John Turner Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 237-4

On ditto to ditto ditto account James Barton for CRs. nine thousand five hundred seventy five, four annaes and three pice (9575-4-3) payable to James Barton @ 2/3 is £St. 1077-4-4

On ditto to ditto ditto account Solomon Franco for CRs. fifteen thousand two hundred and six pice (15200-0-6) payable to Solomon Franco @ 2/3 is £St. 1710-1-0

On ditto to ditto ditto account George Heath for CRs. eleven hundred fourteen and three annaes (1114-3) payable to George Heath @ 2/3 is £St. 125-6-11

On ditto to ditto ditto account Capt. Major James Kilpatrick by order of Messrs Wailsh and Vansittart of Madrass for CRs. twelve thousand nine hundred fifty six, twelve annaes and three pice (12956-12-3) payable to Major James Kilpatrick @ 2/3 is £St. 1457-12-9

On ditto to ditto ditto being the full return of one box coral marked F.S. No. 1 imported at Fort St. George per Montford Capt. Hanslapp anno 1749 for CRs. two thousand three hundred and three, fifteen annas and three pice (2303-15-3) payable to Mr. Joseph Salvadore executor of Mr. Jacob Salvadore and of Mr. Francis Salvadore, absent, Mr. Joseph Salvadore to his assigns @ 2/3 is £St. 259-3-11

On ditto to ditto ditto account Edward Edwards for CRs. two thousand one hundred and fifty six, twelve annaes and three pice (2156-12-3) payable to Edward Edwards @ 2/3 is £St. 242-12-9

On ditto to ditto ditto account Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. for CRs. one thousand four hundred thirty nine. twelve annaes and three pice (1439-12-3) payable to Anthony D'Arnaud Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 161-19-6

On ditto to William Watts, Charles Manningham and John Zephaniah Holwell account Elizabeth Glenn for CRs. nine hundred thirty four, eight annaes and nine pice (934-8-9) payable to Archibald Sterling Esqr. @ 2/3 £St. 105-2-9

On ditto to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account George Temple for CRs. five thousand and seventy eight, four annaes and nine pice (5078-4-9) payable to Mr. George Temple of Tower Street @ 2/3 is £St. 571-6-2

On the 8th September to Messrs. Mackett and Amyatt for CRs. four thousand six hundred eighty one, seven annaes and six pice (4681-7-6) payable to David Fyndlay Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 526-13-3

On ditto to William Fullerton for CRs. nine thousand three hundred thirty three, five annaes and three pice (9333-5-3) payable to Mr. John Gay @ 2/3 is £St. 1050

On ditto to ditto for CRs. seven thousand six hundred eighty two and one annae (7682-1) payable to James Killpatrick @ 2/3 is £St. 864-4-7

On ditto to George Gray and William Fullerton for CRs. six hundred and ninety one, three annaes and three pice (691-3-3) payable to Henry Allan @ 2/3 £St. 77-15-2

On ditto to William Fullerton for CRs. three thousand three hundred twenty five and six annaes (3325-6) payable to Gostlin and Bennett @ 2/3 is £St. 374-2-1

On ditto to William Dumbleton for CRs. four hundred forty four and seven annaes (444-7) payable to James Vaston and Edward Baker @ 2/3 is £St. 50

On ditto to William Nixon being the full return of one chest coral marked IFO No. 45 imported per Durrington for CRs. seven thousand and twenty three, four annaes and nine pice (7023-4-9) payable to Mr. Solomon Franco @ 2/3 is £St. 790-2-5

On ditto to Captain Arthur Evans for CRs. seventeen thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annaes and six pice (17777-12-6) payable to Mrs. Mary Evans or the Reverend Mr. Henry Evans @ 2/3 is £St. 2000

On ditto to Charles Manningham Esqr. account John Cartier for CRs. five hundred thirty three, five annaes and three pice (533-5-3) payable to Stephen Law Esqr. @ 2/3 is £St. 60

On ditto to Allan Hutton for CRs. one thousand and sixty six, ten annaes and nine pice (1066-10-9) payable to Richard Newton @ 2/3 is £St. 120

40. The whole amount of bills of exchange is current rupees 1,56,240-8-9 or pound sterling 17,579-10-6.

41. Capt. Samson and Evans have been duely sworn to their bills in consequence of your orders.

42. Enclosed in this packett we transmitt Your Honours a report of the copper landed from the Hardwick and likewise a report of the Madeira landed from that ship by which there appeared a leakage of near eight pipes exclusive of the usual leakage in each pipe. We directed a survey to be made thereon by Capt. Evans Lutton Mackinath and Walmsley and their report is enclosed in this packett and as it was their opinion the leakage was occasioned by a pressure of weight stored upon the pipes we have demanded the amount of those pipes with thirty (30) per cent of their invoice from Captain Samson who requesting it might be referred home to be adjusted between Your Honours and his owners we have complied with his request. We beg leave to remark in this place that the staves of the pipes received this season are extremely thin and will scarce hold together.

43. The gentlemen of Cossimbuzar having sent us down three bales of raw silk the putney whereof was provided by themselves and wound off in their own factory we have laden one of them on the Hardwick for Your Honours' observation; the ends are knotted instead of being twisted agreeable to your directions and the letters not run into one another.

44. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize consigned to the President and Council of Fort St. George as per abstract of her invoice enclosed amounting to CRs. 574700.

45. We have likewise laden on her the stores designed for your island of St. Hellena amounting to CRs. 1076-8.

46. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M. Collett/J. Z. Holwell/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre.

Fort William,

11th September, 1755.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 12-31.

Para. 26 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William* Vol. II, p. 21.)

## 52

## LETTER DATED 28 SEPTEMBER 1755

*Shipping matters—small consignment of woollen goods received—statement of purchases at several* aurangs—*a* parwana *received from the Nawab for clearance of the business in Burdwan.*

To the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. We addressed Your Honours by the Hardwick on the 11th instant and there being a vessel bound to the Gulph of Persia we shall make use of the opportunity to transmit Your Honours via Aleppo the most material parts of that letter pursuant to your directions.

2. In that letter we advised of the safe arrival here of the Hardwick and Eastcourt since when the Duke of Dorset imported safe at this place of which we congratulate Your Honours.

3. The Hardwick was sent to Fort St. George to be filled up and dispatched from thence to Europe in October; on her we loaded 300 tonns of saltpetre. 30 tons of redwood. her St. Helena stores and compleated her tonnage with bales. By youi [*sic*] putting that quantity of saltpetre on board the Hardwick the President and Council at Fort St. George will have it in their power to take out such a part thereof as will be sufficient to leave room for their bales which we hope will prevent too long a detention of that ship on the Coast, and furnish the gentlemen there with saltpetre for their own use.

4. The York was consigned to the Chief and Council at Tellicherry agreeable to what we informed Your Honours in our advices of last season from whence she was dispatched on the 26th February.

5. We daily expect the London and Anson from Bombay with loadings of cotton on your account which will we flatter make the detention of those ships in India turn out rather a profit than a loss to Your Honours as cotton is at present in great demand here.

6. By private advices we learn that the Drake, Capt. Fisher, sailed from Batavia for Canton the 28th May, and the Holderness, Capt. Court, for Limpo on the 2nd June and that the Prince George, Capt. Joddril, was at Batavia on the 30th June for China who gave an account of Capt. Norway's being at Fort Marlborough.

7. Mr. Pigot and his Council transmitted the packett per Rhoda under our address with a letter dated the 21st June in which they judged (from the latitude given us by Your Honours to compleat the tonnage of your ships with a large proportion of saltpetre) they should be able to return two ships for Europe in September and for that purpose requested if it met with our approbation that we would divide our bales equally on two ships and compleat the tonnage of both with saltpetre consigned to them that they might take out as much as would make room for their own bales which they apprehended would not exceed two hundred tonns.

8. Having taken this letter of the President and Council of Fort St. George into consideration we replyed thereto on the 14th July and advised them that in consequence of what they had wrote we should send them the first ship we had in readiness with 300 tonns of saltpetre, 30 tons of redwood and the remainder of her tonnage in bales, that we could not acquiesce with their proposals for sending up two ships in Sept. to be filled up at their Presidency as Your Honours had recommended it to us to dispatch home an early ship or two directly from hence and the small quantity of bales they were likely to have would lay us under a necessity of loading almost four fifths of each ship from this place and by that means put it out of our power to comply with Your Honours' directions.

9. In that letter we intimated to the President and Council of Fort St. George that we were in hopes from the small number of ships destined this year for the Coast and Bay we should have it in our power (in concert with them and the expectation we had of Governor Bourchier and his Council assisting us with filling up one ship at least) to free Your Honours entirely of the heavy burden of ships now remaining in India as well as those expected this season, especially as we were permitted to lade a large proportion of salt petre on each ship. We therefore requested they would inform as soon as possible what quantity of bales they should have in readiness by January and whether they would chuse one or two ships to be sent them from hence in that month to be filled up and returned to Europe. Here we beg leave to acquaint Your Honours that we cannot tax ourselves with supineness in not giving the earliest advices to the gentlemen at Madras and Bombay after receiving any intelligence of the number of ships allotted to proceed hither when we were at a certainty how many we could provide for with cargoes for Europe and beg leave to be referred to our Consultations of the years 1753 and 1754 and collections of letters sent those years for the truth of what we now alledge wherein it will appear that so early as the 25th May and the 10th of Oct. 1755 we addressed the Presidencys of Madras and Bombay acquainting them of the amount of tonnage we could supply, and desired to know how far they could assist in employing to the best advantage such ships as were to remain in India that season to which purpose we likewise addressed those Presidencys on the 19th March and 2nd November 1754.

10. In our letter per Montford under the established heads, we advised Your Honours that we had directed the Warehouse Keepers to give proper notice at the sale we made on the 18th Novr. of woollen goods that we should forbear making another sale of that article during the space of six months from the period which we accordingly complyed with but upon the expiration of the limit we advertised an outcry of wollen goods for the 19th June on which day we agreed to put them up, that we might have a tryal before the arrival of the ships of this season.

11. We met accordingly on the 19th June to put our woollen goods up to sale, but having learned by private letters that Your Honours proposed to consign us but three ships this year and in all probability but a small quantity of woollen goods, being likewise well informed that the Bombay Castle was arrived on the Coast by which ship we had reason to believe we should receive some advices to guide us in this branch of your affairs, and as we might expect your directions hereon every hour by some of our country shipping returning from the Coast, we agreed to deferr the sales till the 30th of that month, when we again deferred it till that day fortnight as we had not then received any letter from Your Honours and the same reasons still subsisted as before.

12. In the interim we were honoured with your commands of the 29th November by which we observed there were but three hundred and thirty bales of woollen goods intended for our settlement, and as we were in hopes the notice of so small a supply might induce the purchasers of broad cloth to bid with more spirit at our sales, we agreed to prolong the time of sale to the 20th August, that those buyers who live at a distance might have timely notice. We likewise wrote the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to acquaint such purchasers of woollen goods as resided at Muxadavad how small a quantity would be consigned us this season and the day we had fixed upon for our sale.

13. On the 20th August we put our woollen goods up at outcry at an advance of 15 per cent as usual and had the satisfaction to dispose of several sortments to the amount of CRs. [.....]. But as there was some articles for which there were no bidders we have agreed to defer a further tryal to the 15th Nov. of which publick notice has been given as usual.

14. Your Honours having permitted us to sell our woollen goods at invoice prices, when our markets were so bad as not to admit of an advance, we shall guide ourselves in future agreeable to those directions. But Your Honours may rest assured we shall make use of this liberty with the utmost caution and never put our goods up under an advance of 15 per cent unless we find it impracticable to procure that price. Our best endeavours to promote your sale on the 15th November shall be employed.

15. On the 10th March we took into consideration the provision of our investment for this season, when the Board were unanimous of opinion that the method of making our purchases at the aurungs themselves should be continued and as at that early season of the year we must expect the prices of every kind of cloth would be considerably cheaper than in those months when other Europeans are making their purchases we directed the Export Warehouse Keepers to write to the gomastahs at all the aurungs to continue buying without waiting till their accounts for the last year were adjusted, which we find, notwithstanding our eagerness to have them settled soon, cannot be effected till about the months of August and September.

16. It is with the greatest satisfaction we observe Your Honours approve of our dismissing our late dadney merchants and in general of the plan we have pursued in the provision of our investment at this Presidency to which we can assure Your Honours we have given the strictest attention and have taken every precaution in our power to prevent your estate from being embezzled by those we have employed as gomastahs or incurring loss by bad debts from delols or weavers. And it is with pleasure we find our care had hitherto been attended with as much success as could be expected from it. We shall continue our utmost endeavours to prevent your being any sufferers by trusting our gomastahs with as little money at a time as possible. But it is not practicable to confine ourselves to so small a sum as twenty thousand rupees at those aurungs which are at any great distance from Calcutta as it would be a prodigious disadvantage to the purchases made at those aurungs for reasons already given upon the face of our Consultations. As we never send any supplies of money till advices are received that the greatest part of what they had in hand before is invested and the cloth come in and always

take care to make such gomastahs find very able securitys, we do not apprehend Your Honours run any material risque.

17. Inclosed in the Hardwick's packett we transmitted Your Honours an account current of the aurungs at which we employ gomastahs as well as one general account of all the aurungs made up to the 23rd February for your observation with the particulars of the ballances specified under their respective heads. The amount in ready money CRs. 17912-12 was chiefly sent up to the aurungs in December and January and the gomastahs had not time to invest the same when their accounts were closed in February and of the sum of CRs. 30993-4-9 which was then outstanding among the delols and weavers CRs. 3880-6-9 had since been collected.

18. We shall give Your Honours a particular account of the state of your aurungs by the letter under the established heads when we shall be able to judge of the purchases made and remains of money and goods to which we beg leave to be referred.

The quantity of cloth purchased and ready at the aurungs is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Santipore | 5249 |
| Keerpoy | 5902 |
| Burron | 8767½ |
| Hurrypaul | 2663 |
| Domea Colley | 1974½ |
| Harryal | 10852 |
| Buddaul | 3454 |
| Maulda | 22910 |
| Cuttorah | 3367½ |
| Barnagore | 4709 |
| Golligor | 2905 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Soonamooky | 414 |
| Calcutta | 35801½ |
| | 76748 |

of which 8801 pieces are arrived in warehouse and 15005 pieces are on the way down from Maulda.

19. The business at our aurungs was stopped by the Burdawan Rajah on pretence of his house and effects in Calcutta being sealed by the Mayor's Court upon a complaint lodged by Mr. John Wood against Bamjebon Cubbarge the said rajah's gomastah. As a stop of this kind would have subjected our business to great inconveniences, had we remained quiet, we determined to make an application to the Nabob immediately from hence, wherein we represented to him that the rajah had been guilty of great insolence in stopping the business transacted in this province without a licence from him, that a proceeding of this kind was extreamly unwarrantable and contrary to the immunities granted Your Honours by the royal phirmaund, that we should therefore insist upon a proper reprimand being sent the rajah and the usual currency given to our affairs at the aurungs situated in his jurisdiction. We have the pleasure to acquaint Your Honours this application met with a favourable reception and produced a perwannah from the Nabob for the clearance of our business and strong reprimand to the rajah for acting in the manner he did by his own authority.

20. Upon receipt of your orders of the 29th November 1754 we appointed Mr. Charles O'Hara an assistant engineer and shall allow him the same salary as the gentlemen at the Coast give their assistant engineers. He has our orders to overlook the works carrying on at Perrin's Point jointly with Mr. Plaisted. In his room we have appointed Mr. Frans. Vasmer Sub Secretary and Military Pay Master upon his being recommended by the Secretary as a capable and diligent assistant.

21. Upon taking into consideration the 62 paragraph of your commands per Eastcourt we stationed Mr. Matw. Collett second of Council at Cossimbuzar and filled up the vacancy at the Board occasioned by Mr. Cruttenden's dismission with Mr. Nichs. Clerembault whom we still continue Chief at Dacca.

22. The alteration of the posts at the Board by the above appointment were regulated in the following manner.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr Richd. Becher . . . | Accomptant |
| Mr P.R. Pearkes . . . | Import Warehouse Keeper |
| Mr Wm. Frankland . . . | Buxey |
| Mr Wm. Mackett . . . | Storekeeper |
| Mr Edwd Eyre . . . | Military Storekeeper |

By which means the post of Collector of the Consulage and Register of Dusticks becoming vacant we joined them together on account of their connection and were conferred on Mr. Thos. Coales, and Mr. Frankland being appointed upon the Committee of Warehouse, Mr. Nathan Drake was nominated Deputy Export Warehouse Keeper upon the recommendation of Mr. Manningham.

23. The several committees appointed by Your Honours' commands per Eastcourt have been constituted by the Board and will take particular care to put your orders and instructions in execution.

24. We have duly transmitted to the several subordinates such parts of your commands per Eastcourt as relate to their respective factorys, and have strenuously recommended it to them to pay due observance to those orders and apply themselves to an assiduous discharge of their duty to their employers now in order to reinstate themselves in Your Honours' good opinion.

25. Mr. Wm. Rider being arrived was put upon the line of servants in the rank he held before he left India for his health pursuant to your orders and is stationed an assistant in the Cutcherry.

26. Mr. Henry Kelsall reported the dispatch of the Hardwick from Ingelie on the 21st instant and as the President and Council at Fort St. George have informed us by the Duke of Dorset that they shall have a loading of bales sufficient for one whole ship in January we shall consign them one for that purpose the latter end of December, and by sending one to fill up with pepper at Fort Marlborough we are in great hopes it will be in our power to return all Your Honours' ships to Europe this season which will give us a sensible satisfaction. However should it be necessary to detain any one in India we shall do our utmost to employ her so as to save her demurage at least.

27. We consigned the gentlemen at Fort St. George on the Hardwick, Capt. John Samson, sundry goods and merchandize on Your Honours' account amounting to CRs. 574700 which ship we hope will arrive safe in England and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants, Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/J. Z. Holwell/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre.

Fort William,
28th September, 1755.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 32-42.

Extracts from paragraph 20 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* Vol. II, p. 31.)

## 53

## LETTER DATED 24 NOVEMBER 1755

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Having laden the salt petre and redwood we intend for this ship, we have given Mr. William Ryder orders to proceed to Ingelie and dispatch her to Fort Marlborough for their surplus pepper.

2. At Capt. Debuke's request we have put ninety tonns of salt petre on board more than is stipulated in charterparty, with this condition that we reserve the power to ourselves of turning it into whole freight or half freight as we see occasion.

3. We have granted the following setts of bills of exchange by this ship at 2s. 3d. each.

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 24th November to Messrs Manningham and Frankland for CRs. 25067-7-9 payable to William Davis Esqr. and Capt. John Griffin is | £st. 2820-1-9 |
| On do to Capt. Thomas Debuke account Capt. Robert Veitch for CRs. 11441 payable to John Hallatt Esqr. is | £st. 1287-2-3 |

4. By the London, which ship will be dispatched from hence between the first and eigth of next month, we shall address Your Honours under the established heads to which we beg leave to be referred for the occurances of our Presidency and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants, Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Paul Richard Pearkes/ W. Frankland/J. Z. Holwell/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre.

Fort William,
24th November, 1755.

(Ref: Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 43-44).

## 54

## LETTER DATED 8 DECEMBER 1755

*Shipping details—high prices of cloth due to competition of other European companies—formation of a committee for managing correspondence with the* aurungs—parwana *from the Nawab forbidding all rajas and zamindars to molest the Company's trade—case for vessels trading at foreign ports on the Coromandel Coast reiterated—clash of jurisdiction between the Mayor's Court and the Zamindar's Court.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. We did ourselves the honour of giving you a summary account of your affairs at this Presidency by Hardwick, Capt. John Samson under date the 11th September which ship Mr. Henry Kelsall dispatched from Ingelie on the 19th of that month when she drew 18 feet water upon an even keel. Extract of the most material parts of that address we forwarded on the 23rd September to Bussorah on the Neptune snow to be from thence transmitted to Your Honours via Alleppo.

2. Duplicates of the above letters are enclosed in this packet and we shall now proceed to give a full detail of our transactions under the usual established heads and

*First, of shipping.*

3. The river has this year been surveyed and the report entered after our Consultations of the 22nd May. The sloops being most of them in Ballasore Road waiting for shipping in the month of November, the later survey of the river for this season will be reported in December.

4. On the 1st September we ordered our Secretary to give public notice that we were willing to receive proposals for contracting to supply Your Honours' marine with naval stores from any person or persons whatsoever (covenanted servants excepted) to commence the first day of January 1756 and the contractor to take the farm of the rope walk at a thousand Arcot Rupees (ARs. 1000) per annum which is four hundred and eighty (480) Current Rupees more than before received on that account. Mr. John Afton tendred his proposals to the Board the 20th October, copy thereof we send in this packet. and Your Honours may rely upon it, we shall use our utmost endeavours to procure the stores as cheap as possible, though to the 11th November he is the only person who has offered to contract.

5. A vessel being bound for Bombay we wrote Mr. Bourchier and his Council by her under date the 9th September to this effect, that as there were but three ships destined this season for the Coast and Bav we were in hopes it would be in our power to return to Europe all Your Honours' ships, both those detained in India the foregoing year and those of this year, provided they could assist us by filling up one ship from that Coast, and as they had indented for three hundred (300) tonns of salt petre, we requested they would inform us whether our loading it upon the ship we should station to be filled up at Tellicherry (if a ship was sent there) would be as agreeable to them as freighting it upon some of our country ships bound directed [*sic*] to their Presidency.

6. By the London and Anson who imported safe from Bombay on the 4th October we had the satisfaction to learn from Mr. Bourchier and his Council that the contracts made on their Coast's settlements for pepper would enable them to

ease us in the tonnage of one ship and that they should give their Chief and factors at Tellicherry previous notice to prepare a loading for any ship we might think proper to send thither to be filled up and dispatched to Europe. At the same time they requested of us to put the salt petre they had indented for on board the ship we should send to Tellicherry, unless we designed any one for their Presidency on a country voyage.

7. In consequence of these advices we stationed the Duke of Dorset, Captain Bernard Forrester, to proceed to the Malabar Coast with thirty (30) tonns of redwood, and three hundred (300) tonns of salt petre leaving it to the gentlemen at Tellicherry to take out as much salt petre as will make room for their surplus pepper. Besides the above three hundred (300) tonns of salt petre, we came to a resolution to put on board that ship her charterparty tonnage of eighty (80) tonns but Captain Forrester representing that so great a dead weight in the ship's bottom might, in any bad weather, occasion her masts to be rolled away, we then at his request ordered only three hundred (300) tonns to be laden. The remaining eighty (80) tonns for Bombay we shall forward there if any good conveyance offers, and we can send it on a reasonable freight.

8. We have likewise stationed the Anson, Captain Thomas Debuke, to proceed to Fort Marlborough for the surplus pepper, the President and Council of Fort St. George have advised us there will be at that settlement. On her we purpose lading her charterparty tonnage of redwood and one hundred and fifty (150) tonns of salt petre, with twelve hundred (1200) bags of rice and gunnies two thousand Mille [*sic*] indented for that settlement by the President and Council of Fort St. George.

9. Mr. Pigot and his Council having likewise informed us they should in January have bales sufficient for loading home one whole ship from their Presidency, we have appointed the Eastcourt, Capt. Arthur Evans, to proceed thither with her charterparty redwood and three hundred (300) tonns of salt petre; the remaining tonnage will be supplyed by rice from hence.

10. The respective commanders of those ships have received our orders to get in readiness to take their cargoes on board as soon as possible, and we hope to dispatch them all from

hence so early in the season, that if they meet with no impediments in their lading at the several ports they are consigned to they will arrive with Your Honours in proper time, which will give us a very sensible satisfaction.

11. There remain the Denham, London and St. George to be consigned Your Honours directly from hence. The London we purpose to dispatch home the first week in December, the Denham early in January if possible and the St. George some time in February and we shall use our best endeavours to get her away as early as her return from China will admit of.

12. By the Duke of Dorset the President and Council of Fort St. George informed us they had ordered Mr. Brooke to send the Denham without waiting for any advices from hence. But having received no advice of her so late as the 10th November, we are under some apprehensions the conveyance sent to the Negrais with those orders had miscarried, and as it was of the utmost consequence to have the Denham return in time to be dispatched home in January, we have sent Your Honours' sloop the Bonetta with a letter to Mr. Brooke requesting him to direct Captain Meard to make the best of his way to Bengall. On that sloop we have laden some rice and provisions to be landed at the Negrais. At the same time we wrote the President and Council of Fort St. George what we had done, and advised them likewise that we had stationed the Eastcourt to proceed to their Presidency to be loaded for Europe.

13. The several consignments of treasure made us this year by the President and Council of Fort St. George are as follows.

By the Hardwick, seventy (70) chests.

By the Eastcourt, forty (40) chests.

By the Duke of Dorset, twenty five (25) chests.

In all one hundred and thirty five (135) chests containing 288,000 Madrass Rupees and 792,000 Arcot Rupees, which small supply will scarce be sufficient for the investments of our aurungs and subordinates, and puts it entirely out of our power to attempt any great reduction in our debt at interest, though it gradually decreases; on the contrary we are apprehensive we shall be under a necessity of borrowing money to begin our purchases of next season, unless the gentlemen at Fort St. George send us a very large consignment by the Doddington.

14. We have endeavoured as near as possible to comply with your directions for sending two thousand (2000) tonns of salt petre from India this season and have laden the following quantities on the under written ships, for that purpose *viz.*

On the Hardwick. three hundred (300) tonns.

On the Anson, one hundred and fifty (150) tonns.

On the London, one hundred and eighty (180) tonns.

On the Duke of Dorset. three hundred (300) tonns.

On the Eastcourt. three hundred (300) tonns.

We shall likewise lade about two hundred(200) tonns on the Denham, and as much on the St. George, when we dispatch those ships to Europe.

15. Captain Samuel Lutton departed this life of a fever on the 1st ultimo and agreeable to your directions, Captain Bartholomew Plasted is appointed Master Attendant in his room.

16. Captain John Sampson having carried one of Your Honour's anchors from Ingelie after his ship was dispatched by Mr. Kelsall we have enclosed his officers' receipt for the same and the Storekeeper's bill to be adjusted with the owners of the Harwick.

17. On this ship we have laden one hundred and twenty (120) tonns of salt petre on whole freight and sixty (60) tonns more on half freight in consequence of your permission, Captain Alwright having first requested for it in writing.

18. The several letters, reports etc. relating to the London are enclosed in this packet agreeable to the numbers annexed to them in the list of the packet.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe, and from one part of India to another.*

19. We have already given Your Honours a full account of what relates to the tryals we have made of our woollen goods at outcry, and the success our endeavours have met with.

20. Enclosed in this packet we transmit you an account sale of goods on the 15th November.

21. The Madeira per Hardwick being sold at outcry, the Import Warehouse Keeper delivered in the account sale thereof of 22nd September amounting to twelve thousand, two,

hundred and thirty (12230) Current Rupees which Your Honours will receive enclosed in this ship's packet.

22. The damaged broad cloth per Eastcourt and Duke of Dorset was regularly accounted for by the respective captains of those ships as well as the deficiency of metals before their bills of lading were delivered up.

23. We have directed the Storekeeper to be more particular for the future in describing properly the sorts and sizes of cordage, anchors, canvass etc. in his indents and remains.

24. By the London and Anson Mr. Bourchier and his Council consigned us one thousand and forty five (1045) bales of cotton from Bombay (one bale thereof is deficient per Anson which Captain Debuke has accounted for) which were sold at outcry on the 4th November as per account sales thereof enclosed.

25. We likewise transmit Your Honours an accompt current of their country voyaged enclosed, but we have not been able to close these accompts as the President and Council of Bombay have not yet sent us an accompt sale of the sugar consigned them on those ships.

26. Mr. Richard Becher on the 2nd November delivered in a list of such ballances as were then outstanding from persons whose purchases at Your Honours' sales had been resold upon their neglecting to clear them out within the twelve-month, whereupon we ordered the Zemindar to endeavour to recover the money due from such of those persons as were to be found.

*Thirdly, of investments.*

27. In our letter of the 7th December 1754 per Montford we gave Your Honours a particular account of the aurungs and shall now subjoin a detail of our transactions for this present season.

28. The gomastahs began their purchases this year in February, from whence we hope the major part of your orders will be fulfilled. As you will please to observe by the particular statement of each aurung, the price of provisions, indigo and other materials have been very high till the month of November, when the proposed of a plentiful crop of rice reduced the value of grain. The country cotton with which the fine sortments are made was sold this year at seven to eight seer per

rupee, instead of fifteen to seventeen seer per rupee the price of the former season; and Surat cotton has risen from nineteen (19) and twenty two (22) rupees per maund to twenty five (25) and thirty (30) rupees per maund, occasioned by a lesser import from Surat than customary; for these reasons we fear the cloth will not be of quite so good a quality as last year, and the Danes, Prussians, Portugeese etc., by sending gomastahs to the different aurungs, have enhanced the prices of most sortments of cloth, which will more particularly appear from our correspondence with the gomastahs, copies of all letters to and from the aurungs being sent for your observation as likewise copy of the Committee of Warehouse their transactions.

29. By the list of investment received per Rhoda the proportion of cloth to be provided at Maulda is forty six thousand eight hundred (46800) and is five hundred (500) pieces more than your orders of the prior season; our gomastah was advised of this under date the 20th July and directed to provide that amount. The purchases to the 14th October were nineteen thousand nine hundred and seventy seven (19977) pieces which, with nine thousand five hundred and ninety eight (9598) pieces the last year's ballance remaining there, amount to twenty nine thousand five hundred and ninety eight (29598) pieces; of these, fifteen thousand and six (15006) pieces are arrived in Calcutta, and seven thousand nine hundred and eighty two (7982) pieces on the way which we expect will arrive in fifteen days. The gomastah writes he hopes he shall be able to provide and send us ten or eleven hundred pieces more in time to be dispatched to Europe this season and by a letter of October 21st he informed us he had wrote to Dacca for boats and a party of soldiers, by whom he would dispatch the third parcel of cloth, which we imagine is now on the way hither.

30. The whole amount of your orders we fear will not be compleated as the Maulda cloth is from forty five to fifty days in the passage hither, by which means the cloth purchased after November cannot arrive in time to be sent to Europe the same season, and as all the cloth is bought brown, one month and a half is taken up at the aurung in washing and dressing.

31. The orders for Badaul this year are fourteen thousand (14,000) pieces exceeding that of last year eighteen hundred (1800) pieces; our gomastah has been acquainted herewith, and directed likewise to provide five hundred (500) pieces of Cone-

ley cossaes for Cossimbuzar chints to be printed here by way of trial, this being the cloth on which the Consimbuzar chints were usually made. He had provided to the 19th of October eight thousand eight hundred and sixty five (8865) pieces of which four thousand eight hundred and thirty two (4832) pieces are arrived, one thousand two hundred and twenty four (1224) pieces on the way and he advises us he should despatch four thousand (4000) pieces in November or December and hopes he shall be able to provide three (3) or four thousand (4000) more. The last year's fine chowtars were made 20 and 2 and our gomastah had provided some of that sortment prior to the receipt of your commands of this season wherein you direct them to be made 28 and 2. He immediately acquainted the weavers thereof, who pretended they could not make them of so good a quality as the former if of that length but he had now prevailed on a few of the weavers to receive putton for this sortment at eleven (11) rupees per piece. What cloth is purchased after November cannot arrive here in time to be dispatched for Europe the same season, it being equidistant with Maulda and from the above reasons we fear the orders for the cloth of this aurung will fall somewhat short.

32. The orders for Harriall last year were thirty two thousand one hundred (32100) pieces (exclusive of five hundred (500) pieces to be sent for flowering at Maulda) which being by the list of investment per Rhoda reduced to twenty eight thousand one hundred (28100) we acquainted the gomastah therewith the 19th July, and to the 14th October nineteen thousand five hundred and fifteen (19515) pieces were ready at the aurung of which six thousand four hundred and fifty five (6455) pieces are arrived and another parcel on the way. The orders for addaties and cossaes forty and two and a quarter will not be fully compleated as they are not procurable without an advance of putton which the gomastah is obliged to give out very sparingly from the poverty of most of the weavers considerably encreased this season by an inundation in that part of the country, causing a very great scarcity and dearness of provisions etc. In the article of cossaes cogmaria forty and three, we shall somewhat exceed your commands; the quantity directed last year being eight thousand (8000) pieces, the gomastah had made proportional purchases of that sortment prior to the arrival of the list of investment this present reason wherein only a thousand (1000) pieces are

ordered of which he was immediately advised, and directed to desist from purchasing that article. He hopes he shall be able to procure of the different sortments seven (7) or eight thousand (8000) pieces more than what were purchased to the 14th of October, but for the same reasons as are assigned with respect to Maulda and Badaul, the cloth bought after November will not arrive here in time for being shipped for Europe the same season.

33. Your orders for seven thousand five hundred (7500) pieces to be provided at Dorneacolly will be fully complied with, except in the article of allibannies, which sortment is made but by a few weavers. An extraordinary dearness of cotton yarn and herba silk will somewhat enhance the price of goods provided at Dorneacolly this season.

34. At Keerpye the orders for fifteen thousand one hundred (15100) pieces of white goods will we hope be fully compleated as the gomastah had provided nine thousand eight hundred and forty (9840) pieces to the 29th of October, five thousand one hundred and sixty five (5165) pieces of which are arrived in Calcutta. The goods at this aurung are ready money sortments (excepting about three thousand (3000) pieces for which putton must be given out) but they will be somewhat dearer this season by reason of the large purchases made there by the Danes, Prussians, Portuguese etc. who have raised the markets. At an adjacent aurung called Patna some of the Olmorrah weavers reside, who make ginghams, chucklaes, shalbafts etc. We have therefore ordered two thousand, two hundered (2200) pieces of these sortments to be provided. The goods purchased at Keerpye after the 15th of January cannot be dressed and sent us in time for Europe the same season.

35. The orders for last year to be provided in and about Calcutta were twenty thousand seven hundred (20700) pieces, which are now encreased to twenty three thousand six hundred (23600) pieces; of these nine thousand six hundred and ninety five (9695) pieces were ready the 26th November and we shall be able to provide about sixteen thousand (16000) pieces more in time to send home this season. As the provision at this aurung are all in coloured goods, the price of indigo which formerly sold from seven to eight rupees per maund being now risen to twenty and twenty two rupees per maund will occasion the dyes being worse than usual, and the cloth will be inferior as

we are obliged to give out putton for all the sortments and the dearness of cotton, cotton yarn etc. materials and provisions is so great, that were we to reject all the indifferent pieces brought us, we should find it impossible to get the money again from the weavers—the price therefore of those goods is enhanced, and the investment got in with difficulty.

36. The orders for Cuttorah are thirteen thousand (13000) pieces of which six thousand two hundred and ninety three (6293) pieces are ready and the gomastah thinks he can provide five (5) or six thousand (6000) more. We have received five thousand and ninety three (5093) pieces to the 26th of October but this aurung labours under great disadvantages in regard to the price of indigo etc. materialls and provisions.

37. We directed the gomastah at Gollagore to purchase only thirteen thousand (13000) pieces which is four thousand (4000) pieces less than last year's order and prohibited his providing any soot romalls, those of last year proving very dear as will appear by the invoice of this ship. He had purchased to the 7th November six thousand one hundred and seventy[*sic*] seven (6127) pieces of sorts and expects to procure four (4) or five thousand (5000) pieces more. We have received three thousand one hundred and twenty seven (3127) pieces and daily expect three thousand (3000) pieces, which are on the way hither. This is a putton aurung and the sortments provided are coloured goods, and the same complaints against the enhance of indigo, materials and provision as at Cuttorah and Calcutta.

38. The orders for Barnagore are fourteen thousand six hundred (14600) pieces which exceeds those of last year seventeen hundred (1700) pieces: to the 14th October they had purchased seven thousand four hundred and seven (7407) pieces of which six thousand two hundred and forty (6240) are arrived in Calcutta and the gomastah thinks he can purchase five (5) or six thousand (6000) more within the season. This is likewise a putton aurung and we have equal complaints as from the three preceeding aurungs.

39. The orders for Santipore are twelve thousand five hundred (12500) pieces of cloth, and eighty (80) maunds fine cotton yarn of which eight thousand two hundred and eighty four (8284) pieces were ready at the aurung the 9th November.

Five thousand two hundred and ninety six (5296) pieces are arrived in Calcutta with fifteen (15) maunds fine yarn; they expect to provide two (2) or three thousand (3000) pieces more. The cotton yarn is so very dear and difficult to be obtained that we fear the order will not be fully compleated. What cloth is purchased before the 15th January may arrive in time to be sent home.

40. The orders of last year for Hurrypaul were eleven thousand three hundred (11300) pieces, but are now encreased to thirteen thousand three hundred and fifty (13350) pieces. The gomastah had provided to the 2nd of November five thousand one hundred and thirty six (5136) pieces of which one thousand six hundred and forty four (1644) pieces are arrived and he expects to procure five (5) or six thousand (6000) pieces more within the season. This being a putton aurung, the poverty of the weavers obliges the gomastah to be very carefull in the advance of money and we are apprehensive the order will not be compleated within fifteen hundred (1500) or two thousand (2000) pieces.

41. The gomastah at Buron will be able we expect to comply with our orders for twenty thousand (20000) pieces, as he had ready the 29th of October fourteen thousand one hundred and eight (14108) pieces.

42. None of this cloth is yet arrived as the carriage is by land when the waters are run off. and the ways open for oxen. We sent the gomastah a dustuck the 11th November for two hundred and fifty oxen load, by whom we expect in ten or fifteen days to receive twelve thousand (12000) pieces. What cloth is purchased before the 15th January may arrive in time to be forwarded to Europe the same season.

43. At Soonamookey the orders of last season were to provide two thousand nine hundred (2900) pieces of silk goods, two hundred (200) maunds of lack, and twenty thousand (20,000) pieces of gurrahs but this year's orders are only for two thousand five hundred (2,500) pieces of silk goods, and six hundred (600) maunds of lack.

44. The silk goods they will be able to procure, there being ready at the aurung the 3rd of October one thousand four hundred and ninety one (1491) pieces but there will be a deficiency in the lack, little having been produced this season, and many purchasers.

45. In the orders of 1753 were ninety thousand (90,000) single pieces of gurrahs, one half whereof we directed to be provided at Cossimbuzar, and our gomastah at Soonamookey advising us he could procure some, we ordered him to send musters of the same which, proving better and cheaper than those of Cossimbuzar, induced us to establish four more aurungs *viz.*, Elambuzar, Cowgang, Mustolly and Nannour, but upon the reduction of your orders this year to thirty five thousand (35,000) pieces. we withdrew our gomastahs from these four aurungs except Elambuzar, where we found about two hundred (200) maunds of lack might be provided, and as the putton had been given out, we permitted the gomastah to remain in order to collect the amount. The gomastah at Mustolly had settled the whole business and returned. At Cowgang two hundred and fifty (250) rupees remain outstanding and a peon is left to collect the same. We are obliged to continue a deputy gomastah, writer, and peon to collect about one thousand (1000) rupees at Nannour where the people are very poor. We have not given any orders for gurrahs the ensueing season, but shall make a beginning when the ships are dispatched and Your Honours may be perswaded of our best attention and care to provide them in the best and cheapest manner. The gurrahs etc. coarse cloths being chiefly made of Surat cotton, their price will be dear the ensuing season from the high rate of cotton, what received per London and Anson on Your Honours' account having sold this season at thirty (30) rupees per maund free of discount.

46. All the gomastahs had orders early in the season to send us a monthly price current of provisions and materials for make the cloth; this had been punctually obeyed and we are concerned to inform Your Honours, the prices of every article are amasingly enhanced from what they were only a few years since.

47. Upon receipt of Your Honours' list of investment this season, we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to compare the same with that received last year and mark the increase and decrease which was accordingly done on the 4th September and is entered after that day's Condultation. We observe the indent for gurrahs is greatly lessened in this year's list, which will put us to some trouble in flooring the Europe ships with coarse goods as salt petre will draw the dyes of all coloured goods, which for that reason we cannot use for flooring.

48. We have supplied the aurungs with one million two hundred and eighty one thousand six hundred and thirty seven rupees, two annaes (1,281,637.2.—.) current *viz.*

| | Current Rupees | As | Pice |
|---|---|---|---|
| Santipore | 93,592 | 3 | 9 |
| Hurrypaul | 85,443 | 8 | 6 |
| Dorneacolly | 38,533 | 7 | 3 |
| Gollagore | 38,518 | 3 | 6 |
| Cuttorah | 51,491 | 6 | 6 |
| Burron | 82,261 | — | 3 |
| Harriall | 224,120 | 6 | 9 |
| Badaul | 79,483 | 14 | 6 |
| Keerpye | 162,570 | 12 | — |
| Malda | 264,007 | 2 | 6 |
| Calcutta | 59,500 | — | — |
| Barnagore | 73,015 | 2 | — |
| Soonamokie | 22,099 | 14 | 6 |
| Current Rupees | 1,281,637 | 2 | — |

And have received from the aurungs to this date, four hundred and fifty thousand (450,000) Current Rupees in goods.

49. And here we beg leave to assure Your Honours that nothing but a real attachment to your interest and the necessity of the service attended with no appearance of danger or troubles in the country could induce us to deviate from the regulation at first laid down of sending only small sums at a time to the aurungs, but the inconveniences were great and manifest as the currents of the business would be frequently interrupted and the gomastahs of other nations advantage themselves by our want of money; we have therefore amply furnished the aurungs, always regulating our supplies by the cloth to be purchased, and ballance of cash remaining at each aurung uninvested which are duely set forth in the letters and cash accompts received from the gomastahs at the close of every ten or fifteen days according to the distance of the

aurung. The most advantagious times of purchasing are the months of February, March and April, and the proper seasons for dressing the cloth (which is all bought brown) June, July and August, and unless we had pursued this method, little or no cloth could have been provided, more especially at Malda, Badaul, Harriall and Burron aurungs so as to arrive in time for the shipping of the same season, the carriage of the three former being by water in the months of August, September, October and November and from Burron by land in November, December and January when the ways are open for the passage of oxen. From the above reasons, the early purchases have always the advantage in regard to price and dressing.

50. Since drawing out the above statement we have received from the different aurungs twenty seven thousand three hundred and fifty three pieces of cloth.

51. The Export Warehouse Keeper reporting to the Board that the weavers residing in Calcutta and the adjacent places making great complaints of the dearness of cotton, which made it impracticable to keep up the fabricks to their usual goodness without an advance, and the Board being satisfied of the truth of this complaint, we permitted him to make such reasonable allowances upon that score as he might judge necessary to preserve the qualities of the several sortments of goods fabricated in and near Calcutta.

52 Our contract for salt petre made before the departure of the Egmont being insufficient to comply with your directions relating to that article and the indents received from Fort St. George and Bombay, we encreased the quantity Omichund agreed to deliver us by the end of January from thirty thousand (30,000) maunds to forty thousand (40,000) upon the same terms and conditions that is, five rupees, twelve annaes (5-12) Arcot per factory maund and interest allowed on the encreased quantity from the 10th July, the day of contracting. Your Honours may rest assured we shall never be wanting in our endeavours to procure this commodity on the most reasonable terms we can; and as we have made our contracts this year at the same rate we did in the year 1753 we flatter ourselves it will meet with your approbation; whenever circumstances will admit of its being reduced, we shall do our utmost to effect it.

53. Your Honours will observe by our Consultation of the 4th September the Export Warehouse Keeper acquainted the Board that upon opening the cottah last season for prizing ready-money goods, several merchants had sent in a large quantity of cloth, great part of which still remained in our ware house unsorted, the proprietors whereof desired our resolutions either to take the cloth on the Hon'ble Company's account, or permit them to carry it away and dispose of it to other purchasers, upon which we directed the Export Warehouse Keeper to open those goods and sort them conformtable to the cloth we receive from our aurungs of the same kinds and agreed to take such parcels as answered in quality at ready money prices, which step we make no doubt Your Honours will approve as it will prevent their being disposed of to foreigners to the detriment of your sales at home.

54. The ferret and damaged goods received from the aurungs and subordinates being reported on the 22nd September by the Export Warehouse Keeper, the Board agreed to sell them at outcry on the 20th October, esteeming it more beneficial to Your Honours rather to suffer a small loss in their sale at this place than to receive any goods which are inferior in quality or damaged. Enclosed in this packett we transmitt the accompt sale of those goods amounting to Rs. 80827-9-9 Current Rupees, by which you will perceive that they have sold for a very inconsiderable loss, though they were the damaged and ferreted goods.

55. Before we proceed to the transactions of our subordinates, we beg leave to reply to such parts of your commands per Eastcourt as relate to the investments made under our direction, and here we take the liberty to affirm the intimations Your Honours have received concerning the inclinations of some of the Board to reinstate the dadney merchants are groundless as our resolution to continue the present method of making our investment has hitherto been unanimous. Your Honours may depend that while the plan we now pursue preserves the advantages it had already been intended [*sic*] with, we shall make no alteration; and as we were swayed by no motive but the interest of our employers in dismissing our merchants, and providing our investment without their intervention, that consideration shall ever be closely attended to in any resolution we may come to in future.

56. Conformable to your orders contained in the 48th paragraph of your letter of the 31st January 1755 we constituted four persons to be the committee for managing the correspondence with the aurungs, namely the President, Mr. Manningham, Mr. Becher and Mr. Frankland.

57. Every precaution in our power is taken to prevent your being any sufferers by the gomastahs we employ, and they and their securities are accountable for all moneys advanced them, notwithstanding the cash keepers sent with them keep one of the keys of the cash chest.

58. As we are extreamly sensible of the advantages which must accrue from having as large a share of the investment as can be made under our own eyes, no endeavours shall be omitted to encourage weavers from all parts to settle in Your Honours' bounds.

59. Having finished our account of the investment of this place, we shall next relate the particulars of what has passed at our several subordinates on this head.

60. When we transmitted extracts of the list of goods to be provided this year to our respective subordinate factories, we directed the gentlemen of each of them to pay a strict obedience to those orders and remedy as much as possible the complaints therein mentioned.

61. Before the dispatch of the Egmont the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar had, in a letter under date the 13th February, informed us that upon calling on their merchants to know if they had yet concluded on the terms they were willing to contract with them for raw silk the ensuing season they replied the November bund putney was so dear and scarce they should not be able to provide silk of that bund fit for the Company's use under eight rupees four annas (Rs. 8 As. 4) per seer. This we could not help esteeming a very extravagant price, and accordingly told the gentlemen at that factory in a letter of the 10th March that we expected the merchants would lower the price they had demanded very considerably and directed them in the interim to send privately to the aurungs, and learn the prices of putney. At the same time we ordered them to

send down musters of Guzzerat and November bund silk without further delay (as the season was far advanced) with their lowest prices, as well as on what terms they should be able to purchase gurrahs and silk piece goods.

62. There being a large quantity of gurrahs remaining in our warehouse of last year's provision, we forbid the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to contract for any this season, till they heard further from us, and Your Honours' indent for that article being but small we have continued that prohibition, as the aurungs we have established for the provision of gurrahs will more than supply the quantity we are directed to send.

63 By a letter of the 19th March the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar informed us they should not have delayed so long to send down musters of raw silk, but that they judged the price their merchants insisted on was such as could not be allowed, and they observed with concern that since their letter of the 13th February their merchants say the price of putney was risen so considerably that they could not then agree to contract even upon the terms they had offered before. They informed us likewise, that by a tryal they had made in providing some November bund putney by two of their cottah banyans (who were deemed the two most experienced and trustworthy persons they could employ in this affair) it turn out nine or ten annaes per seer dearer than what they had provided last year from which and other repeated tryals they were confirmed in their opinion that the merchants could not afford to give the true November bund silk at the price contracted for three years past and that they would not contract till they knew the price of the March bund putney.

64. In the same letter the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar expressed their concern that they had thus ineffectually used their utmost endeavours for these two years past to bring their merchants to an early contract which they had purposely evaded by trifling excuses and delays in order to mix the inferior bunds with the November bund. They remarked likewise that the mean circumstances of most of their merchants gave them annually the greatest apprehensions of incurring bad debts by advancing dadney and many years' experience evinced that in case of a failure in any one of them, little was to be got from their securities whose circumstances were generally as indifferent as those they were bound for, to obviate which difficulties

the only expedient which occurred to them was the re-establishing of the office of broker, which they earnestly requested we would take into our serious consideration.

65. We replyed immediately to the foregoing letter, and directed them to send down musters of silk without further delay with the lowest prices their merchants would contract on, and that in relation to the appointment of a broker at their factory we intended to wait till the receipt of Your Honours' commands of this season, as we expected some orders in reference to the establishing of that office.

66. On the 14th April we received a letter from Mr. Watts and his Council in answer to what we wrote them as above wherein they informed us, they had been endeavouring ever since to bring their merchants to contract upon more reasonable terms, but that the price of putney had risen so much that their merchants had repeatedly refused contracting with them at less than nine rupees three annaes (Rs. 9 Ans 3) for the November bund and in proportion for the Guzzerat and that even that price they could have only a small quantity of the true November bund silk. They likewise informed us their merchants had asked eleven rupees, fourteen annaes (Rs. 11 Ans 14) per seer for plain taffaties, and in proportion for all other sortments of silk piece goods.

67. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having transmitted us a muster of raw silk with their last letter, we inspected the same, and immediately wrote them that upon taking into consideration what they said concerning the extraordinary rise of putney at the aurungs, and being apprehensive it would be a great disappointment to Your Honours if we desisted entirely from a provision of silk this year, they must contract for that branch of their investment immediately on the most reasonable terms they can bring their merchants to and hoped they would be able to reduce the prices insisted on, but that unless they could make their contracts on the same terms as last year they must not provide the full quantity ordered by Your Honours. That the same directions must be observed in their contracts for silk piece goods, the prices of which they must endeavour to reduce if possible and as they seemed to entertain but a bad opinion of the circumstances of their merchants, they must advance as little dadney at a time as they could and no more than what they thought their merchants would deliver in goods for and that if they had any

opportunities of purchasing the putney by their own gomastahs on reasonable terms, we permitted them to do it and wind it off in their own factory, which method we were of opinion had less of risk in it than making large advances to their merchants.

68. They acknowledged the receipt of these orders in a letter of the 29th April and informed us of their having sent a further sum of money to the aurungs for the purchase of putney, and that they had likewise given out some money for silk piece goods in consequence of our pemission, not having been able to bring their merchants to accept of more reasonable terms for those articles.

69. In a subsequent letter of the 9th May they advised that with great difficulty they had brought their merchants to contract for plain taffaties at fourteen (14) annaes advance on last year's price, and in proportion for the other sortments of silk piece goods whereupon we permitted them to contract for the whole quantity ordered by Your Honours provided they thought they might advance so much dadney without any risque of bad debts. And Your Honours will observe by their letter of the 2nd June extracted on their Consultation of the 9th of that month that the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar acquainted the Board of their having contracted with such of their merchants as they esteemed trustworthy for twenty four thousand, three hundred (24,300) pieces of silk piece goods which was as much as they would undertake.

70. Upon receipt of such part of the list of investment as relate to their factory, by the China ships of this season Mr. Watts and his Council advised the Board that after having with a particular attention considered what methods could be fallen on to remedy the evils in their raw-silk, they could conclude upon no other way than winding off the silk within their own walls, and that as the price of putney at the aurungs is extreemly fluctuating, often rising and falling considerably within a few days, they esteemed it highly eligible to fix gomastahs at the aurungs where putney is to be purchased who might take every opportunity to buy it up when there were fewest purchasers, and thereby obviate the inconvenience attending the sending gomastahs occasionally, whose going to the aurungs generally raised the price of the putney. They requested therefore (should we approve of their proposal) that we would send up one or more proper persons to be employed

as gomastahs, not knowing any at their factory, whose securities they could have no objection to.

71. In our reply to that letter we approved of their proposal for fixing gomastahs at the aurungs to purchase putney by which methods we made no doubt the investment of raw silk might be greatly improved. We therefore permitted them to establish such gomastahs on Your Honours' account provided there was no apparent risque in the accomplishment of it, for which purpose we recommended it to them to make choice of persons whose integrity might be relyed on, and to supply them with such sums of money at a time only as would procure a currency to their purchases. That as it was not in our power to send them persons from hence so proper for the business of their aurungs as may be met with at their own factory, we should therefore leave it to them to fix on persons they might judge fit for the employ, taking care to obtain good and sufficient security for their upright dealings which we repeated in a letter of the 8th October.

72. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having on the 24th October wrote us a letter concerning the severe censure Your Honours have been pleased to pass upon their conduct, in which they have recapitulated the several occurrences and transactions for these three years past relating to their contracts for silk, we have entered the said letter at large in our Consultation of the 30th of October to which we beg leave to be referred.

73. With the aforesaid letter we received one from them under date the 21st October in reply to ours of the 8th of that month, wherein they inform us they had considered that part of our letter relating to the sending of gomastahs to the aurungs from their own factory but that, not knowing of any person in whom they could entirely confide, they purpose with our permission for the present to send one of their Board to the putney aurungs, that if they find this method attended with any success they shall continue it, but in case the residence of an European at those places should enhance the value of putney, they shall look out for the most trustworthy among the country people to be employed as their gomastah there.

74. Upon taking this proposal of theirs into consideration we were of opinion it could not be attended with any material inconvenience to make a tryal; we have therefore consented that they should send one of their Board to those

aurungs, and have directed them to inform us of the success that method meets with.

75. We have supplied this factory with 320,000 rupees since the dispatch of our ships of last season, and have hitherto received from thence 209 bales of raw silk, 103 bales of gurrahs and 50 chests of silk piece goods.

76. The gentlemen at Dacca having given us hopes that the investments made at that factory this season would surpass in quality those of former years, we have the pleasure to remark that the cloth received from thence is extreamly good, greatly amended in fabrick and in our opinion excells the cloth for several years past received from that factory, which attention to your orders and interest we make no doubt will merit Your Honours' favour and have strongly recomended it to them to continue their utmost endeavours for the improvement of their investment.

77. Those gentlemen have replied in a separate letter to the censure passed on their conduct by Your Honours in your commands per Eastcourt, a copy of which letter we transmit in this packett for your observation.

78. The supplies we have sent them this season amount to 314819 Current Rupees and we have received from that factory since the Egmont's departure 244 bales of cloth.

79. As there has nothing material occurred this year in the course of their advices concerning the investment which (by their letters) is conducted without any interruptions or complaints, we shall proceed to an account of the Jugdea affairs.

80. Upon inspecting some goods received from that factory in the beginning of the season, we observed their quality to be inferior to the provision of the former year; whereupon we wrote them to give their attention more closely to the amendment of the fabricks rather than the reduction of the price as the latter was no equivalent to Your Honours for goods of a bad quality.

81. In the same letter we informed them that the Chowbissa baftaes were quite unfit for your use from the thinness of their fabricks, upon which account we purposed to send that sortment back to them, and had accordingly laden them

on a sloop for that end but an offer being made us for those baftaes at the invoice price, we thought it more for Your Honours' advantage to dispose of them at that rate, than to hazard them back to Jugdea where they would not in all probability (even should they arrive safe) sell for so much.

82. When Messrs. Baillie and Playdell acknowledged the receipt of that letter, they promised to observe our orders in future for the amendment of their fabrics, and informed us that upon a visit Mr. Baillie had lately made to one of their markets he had found out that a dustore of one annae per piece had been all along allowed to their delols from the weavers as a drawback, which they intended in future to bring to the Company's credit.

83. The business of that factory having been stopped by the Government upon their removal to Luckypore, we directed Mr. Watts and his Council as well as the gentlemen at Dacca to make a strenuous application at their respective Durbars for a clearance, which was accordingly obtained and Mr. Baillie gives us hopes that their investment will be very much amended by their present method of making their purchases.

84. Mr. Baillie on the 29th transmitted us sixteen (16) pieces of musters to inspect and desired our orders as to what quantity of each sortment they should purchase.

85. In answer to that letter we wrote the gentlemen at Luckypore that as Your Honours had forbid the fine and superfine hummums, they must not provide a single piece of either nor of those sortments called nyansooks and seerhandconnaes. At the same time we enclosed them the list of investment for their factory extracted from that received by the China ships of this season, by which list they would observe Your Honours had lessened your orders for Calcutta chints, and we directed them to stop their purchases of baftaes for chinting till they received further orders from us.

86. Under date the 9th September Messrs. Baillie and Playdell transmitted us an invoice of cloth dispatched from their factory. Upon examining the sortments of goods which were in their way down, and what we had already received from thence, we found they had exceeded our orders in a most extraordinary manner in the hummums, seerhandconnaes

nyansooks, and cossaes; of which we advised them on the 21st September and enclosed a list of such overplus for their observation, insisting on their paying a stricter obedience in future to our directions, and that they should confine themselves to the provision of such sortments and quantities only as Your Honours or the Board might direct.

87. In that letter we directed them to provide five hundred (500) pieces of callypatties and five hundred (500) pieces of cossaes Chaundpore agreeable to Your Honours' orders per Eastcourt.

88. Upon the receipt of that letter Messrs. Baillie and Playdell replied that their reasons for exceeding the quantities we had ordered were our directions to Mr. Eyre to provide as many of the Luckypore sortments as he could procure upon reasonable terms, which sortments were the nyansooks, seerhandconnaes, and cossaes, and that as Your Honours had mentioned the two former sortments selling for an advance though dear, they imagined it would not be unacceptable to provide a larger quantity of them now they had reduced their prices almost thirty per cent.

89. These reasons not appearing satisfactory to us, after they had received the last list of investment for goods to be provided, we wrote them that our directions to Mr. Eyre should have been no inducement to them to deviate from our subsequent orders forbidding them to purchase any of those sortments, and that though Your Honours advised of their selling at an advance, yet it was with difficulty, and only for a bare advance. We therefore repeated our caution that they should not in future exceed the quantities of any sortments without first obtaining our permission.

90. We have supplied that factory with 230,000 rupees and Bulramgurry with 40,000 rupees, for the investment of sannoes and Olmurrah goods at which place there has occurred nothing of any moment to advise Your Honours of.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and therein any transactions with the country government.*

91. In our advices last year, we informed Your Honours of our having rented Simlea and it [*sic*] districts account the Hon'ble Company. By a reference to our Consultation of the

24th April you will observe that a claim was laid by Rajah Kissenchund to Tengra[1], a detached part thereof, and possession actually taken into name. But as a proceeding of that kind (by virtue of a claim which upon enquiry appeared to be counterfeit) was very injurious and unwarrantable we ordered the Zemindar to dispossess the rajah's servants by force, if they did not quit upon the first notice in a peaceable manner, which had been accordingly affected; and we have heard no more of it from Rajah Kissenchund with whom we live at present in a very good understanding.

92. As the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar had recommended Goliem Hussein Cawn's services at the Durbar in their behalf upon several occasions, and that it would be for the Company's advantage to continue him our friend by a present we requested our President to write Mr. Watts that he had our permission to make him a gratification and return him thanks for his good offices.

93. Coja Wazeed, having in a letter to Mr. Watts made a demand of Deepchund's deposite, the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar transmitted a copy thereof to us, which you will find entered after our Consultation of the 12th May. In our reply of that date we wrote them we could give him no positive answer in relation to that deposite till we received Your Honours' orders thereupon; since which date we have not had any further demand made, but are apprehensive the detaining that deposite, when applied for strenuously, will be a plea for the interruptions of trade and to this day no one has taken upon himself the administration to Mr. Humphrey Cole his effects.

94. The business at Jugdea being interrupted in the beginning of the season by the removal of the factory and complaints of the delols at the Durbar, we gave proper directions to our Chiefs at Cossimbuzar and Dacca to get a currency obtained to the purchases at that factory without the intervention of their old delols, which had been complied with and their removal to Luckypore is at last finished and the factory established at that place.

95. On the 28th July the President laid before us two perwannahs from the Nabob, demanding the estate and effects of Sutchee Cutmah and Gosseram Saw, both of whom had demised without male issue. Their families residing under

our protection were called upon to know what answer they could give to the Nabob's demand. Their representation and remonstrance was delivered into the Board on the 4th August and translates thereof are entered after our Consultation of the 11th of that month. What they alledge therein appearing then to us very just and reasonable, we desired the President to prepare an arassdass to the Nabob to that purport which has been forwarded and we hope will have a good effect.

96. The chokeys planted up and down the country having obliged us frequently to repeat our complaints to the Durbar of their impositions and exactions, the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar at length obtained an ample perwannah both from the Great and Chuta Nabobs directed to all their subahs, rajahs, and zemindars forbidding them on pain of their highest displeasure to molest or detain any conveyances with English dusticks on any pretence whatever. This perwannah is so strongly worded that we are in great hopes it will prevent any interruptions or exactions from those chokeys in time to come. and that there may be no occasion given on our parts for a neglect of obedience to these orders, we shall continue to use our utmost endeavours to prevent any abuse of our dusticks.

97. As it must have required a zealous and hearty attention to Your Honours' interest to have succeeded in obtaining the above mentioned perwannah we make no doubt Your Honours will esteem it as a very material piece of service.

98. In reply to Your Honours' orders concerning the renting of the pergunnah of Luckypore we must give it as our opinion that farming any large tract of ground so distant from the head settlement may be attended with great inconveniences and probably involve us in frequent disputes with the country government, and therefore think it would be best to decline the proposal Mr. Baillie has made of renting the district of Luckypore unless future circumstances should make it appear in a different light to what it does at present.

99. The re-establishment of Patna factory being an affair of such importance to our employers, it requires our maturest consideration for which reason we beg leave to defer giving Your Honours our sentiments thereon till we have further and fully weighed the advantages and disadvantages of such a measure.

100. We must beg leave in this place to reply to that part of your commands which forbid the importation of our ships at foreign ports on the Corromandell Coast and it is with concern we observe that what we wrote in our letters of the 3rd September 1753 and 4th January 1754 on that subject has had no weight with Your Honours. In those letters we represented the hardship such a limitation on the trade to that coast would be attended with, and daily experience confirms the truth of what we then alledged. We shall take the liberty to recapitulate the reasons we at that time made use of to induce Your Honours to permit our vessels to trade at foreign ports which were these, first, the delays they meet with at Madrass and Fort St. David in loading and unloading for want of boats which subjects them to a risque of having the monsoon break upon them and secondly that the markets at those places are so bad as not to afford any prospect of disposing of our goods there to an advantage. We apprehend the President and Council of Fort St. George have taken pains to render these persons [reasons] of no force by insinuating to Your Honours that they are entirely groundless. We shall therefore corroborate our first allegation by instancing what happened no longer ago than the preceeding year, when the Brittania and Elizabeth, two ships belonging to this settlement, discharged their cargoes at Madrass and Fort St. David; the Brittania arrived at Madrass the 30th September and was detained till the beginning of December for want of boats to unlade with by which means she not only suffered a great deal of damage by being obliged to ride out the monsoon in the road but was so late before she returned that it was with difficulty the southerly monsoon would permit her to proceed upon another voyage that season bound for the Maldivas in the course of which she was forced to bear away (the winds not permitting her to proceed further to the southward) and was afterwards unfortunately lost upon the Corromandell Coast. The Elizabeth likewise did not leave Fort St. David till the 14th November although she imported there some time in the beginning of October.

101. But as Your Honours seem to think it will prejudice your customs in case our ships are permitted to touch at foreign settlements on that coast we shall take the liberty to set the affairs in its proper light, leaving it to Your Honours to determine upon the force of the reasons urged on both sides.

102. We cannot deny that by our vessels importing at other ports than our own the customs at those places will be diminished in some degree; but that must be attributed solely to the badness of their markets which afford no encouragement for owners to consign their steps [ships] thither, otherwise we are well assured there are none who reside under your protection but would be glad to trade with their own countrymen. If therefore our ships are prohibited from an importation at such ports on that coast as will purchase some parts of their cargoes for profit, the consequence must be that no gentlemen will find it worth their while to send their ships to that coast at all, by which means the customs arising now on Bengall goods, though but small, will be entirely lost. On the contrary if our ships vend to the southward such commodities as Madrass and Fort St. David are at present overstocked with, those markets will have time to recover themselves, the usual currency to trade will again be established there and Your Honours' customs of consequence increase very considerably. It may not be improper to mention likewise that no returning cargoes can be procured either at Madras or Fort St. David, the articles proper for such a cargoe being produced either to the southward or northward of those ports.

103. Another bad consequence attending the prohibition of our ships importing to the southward of Fort St. George and its dependencies is the advantages it will give our rivals in trade, the French, who will reap the benefit of our exclusion, as they are intent upon improving every opportunity and we dare say will never neglect so fair an occasion of establishing a trade, at present enjoyed by the English.

104. Upon the whole we request Your Honours will take this affair once more into serious consideration and when the disadvantages of such a step are duely weighed without the least prospect of an advantage to ballance them we hope you will reverse the orders you have given, and permit us to trade in these bad times where we find it most for our interest within the limits of our indentures.

105. Your Honours have likewise forbid us to transact any business with new comers, which directions we have punctually complied with. But we beg leave to observe that our declining to have dealings with them does not in the least prevent

their being supplied with proper cargoes as the French, Dutch and natives make no scruple to provide and sell them such sortments of goods as they are in want of, by which means we alone are the sufferers, without any benefit to Your Honours' affairs.

*Fifthly, concerning buildings, revenues and fortifications.*

106. Upon receipt of your letter under date the 13th February advising of very great naval preparations being made in France and England, we ordered our Commandant Captain Minchin to survey our fortifications and report to the Board any new works he might think absolutely necessary for the immediate defence of the place in case of a war. This report was delivered in the 2nd October and is referred to the committee Your Honours have appointed for that purpose.

107. On the 4th August Captain Jasper Leigh Tom sent in a letter to the Board with his sentiments of the present fortifications of the place and what he thought necessary for its defence in case of a war. This letter is entered after that day's Consultation, and the Board being of opinion it was irregular, improper and unnecessary we ordered our Secretary to inform him that our orders had been issued to his superior officer to whom he should have applied if he had any thing material to offer.

108. Mr. William Wells, second lieutenant of the train under whose inspection the works at Perrin's were carrying on, departed this life on the 18th August. In his room Wm. Bartholomew Plaistead took charge of those works jointly with Mr. O'Hara. They have our directions to execute the plan Colonel Scot left behind him.

109. Conformable to Your Honours' directions in the 74th paragraph of your commands per Eastcourt we have appointed Messrs. Pearkes, Mackett and Eyre to be the committee for enquiring into Mr. Holwell's state of the revenues. The results of their inquiries and our proceedings thereon, we shall give you an account of, as soon as they have gone through the whole.

110. Mr. Holwell having requested we would take into consideration in what manner the duty of the gunge should be collected, and delivered us in a letter for that purpose, the Board were of opinion it should be continued in their hands,

and as the decrease of that duty has been owing to the excessive dearness of grain at Baker gunge on which account a very small quantity has been imported at the gunge and consequently a very small exportation, we are in hopes it will this season make amends for the loss of last, as there is a prospect of plenty over the whole country in which case we shall levy the former duties on the imports into the place.

111. Your Honours' farms were sold at outcry on the 6th November, the accompt sale whereof is enclosed in this packet amounting to forty seven thousand and ninety four (47094) Current Rupees.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military servants and accompts.*

112. Mr. Walpole Eyre requesting our permission to return to Europe for his health we have consented thereto.

113. Upon the return of Mr. Inglis we appointed him to his former station and as there was still an assistant required for the attendance of the hospital, we continued Mr. John Know Senior in that office, which gentleman we beg leave to recommend to Your Honours' notice as a person very industrious in his profession, and one who spent thirty years in your service here and at our subordinates.

114. On the 1st October the charge of the several offices was delivered up to such members of the Board as were appointed thereto upon Mr. Cruttenden's dismission.

115. Your Honours will observe on the face of our Consultation of the 2nd October the Committee of Accompts referred some proposals to the Board regulating the method of carrying on the business of the buxey connah and for producing vouchers in the other offices for the number of workmen etc. employed in them. These proposals were approved of and the method of ascertaining what materials were expended or workmen employed adjusted.

116. At the same time we agreed to purchase a quantity of cowries on the Company's account for the payment of daily labourers, and have accordingly bought two parcels at fifty (50) punds per rupee. But as there will arise deficiency by pilferage, breakage etc. should we keep the cowries ourselves, we have contracted with one Collychurn Podar upon his giving

good security to make him an allowance of two (2) punds in every fifty (50) and eight (8) rupees per month to take the care of the cowries we have purchased, which we hope Your Honours will approve of.

117. Upon taking the rotation of our servants at subordinates into consideration, we agreed to recall messrs Boddam, Reveley and Law from Cossimbuzar and Mr. Playdell from Luckypore. We have appointed Mr. Warren Hastings to fill up the vacancy at Cossimbuzar and Mr. Harry Verelst to go to Luckypore in the room of Mr. Playdell.

118. We have made no removes at Dacca for the following reasons, that as the gentlemen at that factory have the misfortune to ly [*sic*] under Your Honours' displeasure, and as manifest improvements were made in their investment of last year and greater expected this year by several reforms already begun by the gentlemen there they ought in all justice to have full latitude given them to re-establish themselves in your favour, especially as we imagined there could be no removes made at that factory at present without injury to that branch of your affairs. We flatter ourselves Your Honours will concur in our reason, and approve of our conduct particularly as the cloth hitherto received from that factory exceeds upon inspection what they have procured for many years past. Mr. Becher's dissent to this you will find entered upon the face of our Consultation of the 2nd October to which we beg leave to be referred for his reasons.

119. Captain Robert Saunderson demising on the 29th October, we conferred the vacant company on Mr. Lawrence Witherington then first lieutenant of the train of the artillery conformable to Your Honours' orders of this season "That the officers of the train should succeed to vacancies equally with those of the battalion". Mr. Alex Grant having delivered in a remonstrance upon this occasion, Your Honours will find it entered after our Consultation of the 10th November. The commission Mr. Lawrence Witherington obtained from Your Honours as capt. lieutenant of the train is dated in the year 1748 prior to Mr. Grant having obtained even a lieutenant's commission which was in December 1749.

120. The following promotions have been made likewise in our military and artillery by the President: Ensign Collin

Simpson made a lieutenant of the battalion, Mr. William Cudmore made 2nd lieutenant of the train, Mr. George Male made a lieutenant of the battalion.

121. An engine's commission was likewise granted Mr. William Hastings on his arrival.

122. Captain Thomas Fenwick having requested our permission to proceed to England for the recovery of his health and to settle some affairs of consequence to himself and family, being satisfied that his health is very much impaired by a late fit of sickness, we have permitted him to return to England, and have granted him a furlow for that purpose. We take the liberty to mention that Captain Fenwick's behaviour in the profession he is in, has always given general satisfaction and we doubt not his long services will plead so far in his favour with Your Honours as to confirm the step we have taken and dispense with his attendance on duty till he has settled the affairs which call him home.

123. We shall take care to transmitt Your Honours an account of the quick stock by every opportunity in future, and have directed the Accomptant to particularize at the foot of such accompt what goods or money we may have consigned the other Presidencies.

124. Mr. Charles O'Hara is transcribing the book of Standing Orders to be sent Your Honours but as it is extremely voluminous, and will require great pains to extract them agreeable to your directions, it cannot be ready till the ensuing year. In this place we beg leave to request Your Honours will compile and send us out digested under their proper heads a compleatt sett of such orders and rules of conduct as it is necessary for us to put in practice explaining fully such as may admit of doubt or uncertainty.

125. The omission Your Honours mentioned of several papers being sent in the Falmouth's packet without being listed was not owing to any neglect in the Secretary, as he was not made acquainted that such letters or papers were sent by that ship. In future all papers relative to the Company shall be listed agreeable to your directions.

126. By advices from Dacca we were informed of the death of Nicholas Clerembault Esqr. on the 16th November in consequence of which advice we have appointed Richard Becher

Esquire Chief of that factory who set out on the 8th instant to take charge of it accordingly.

127. Mr. Clerembault's demise occasioning a vacancy in Council we have filled it up with Mr. William Baillie as we esteem Mr. Thos. Bellamy (the senr. servant on the list) too young for so important a trust. In Mr. Baillie's room we have appointed Mr. Peter Amyatt Chief of Luckipore who will proceed to take charge of that factory as soon as their investment of this season is over.

128. Mr. Thos. Barker and Mr. John Drummond are likewise deceased.

129. Your Honours will observe by our Consultation of the 27th ultimo that Captain Jasper Leigh Jones departed this life of a fever on the 22nd of that month. We then took into consideration how to dispose of the charge of his company, and were of opinion it was of the utmost importance to keep up the practice and exercise of the artillery at a time when there was so great a prospect of a rupture with France in which case that company might be of infinite service. To effect this we were of opinion it would be proper to give it in charge to a person skilled in the discipline of the train, and Captain Lawrence Withrington being the only officer in the place, who from his experience and knowledge in that branch was qualified to undertake the charge of the company, we have granted him a commission to command the train of artillery till we receive your further orders and we flatter ourselves this step of ours will be approved of, as so great a dependance must be placed in the train of artillery should we be attacked and as Capt. Withrington is the only officer sufficiently qualified to keep up and regulate the practice and discipline of that company.

130. The company vacant by this translation we have conferred on Capt. Alexr. Grant and have provided that these promotions are not to prejudice Capt. Withrington's rank in the battalion should Your Honours think fit to send a captain of artillery to this Presidency.

131. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange by this ship, at two shillings and three pence (2sh. 3d.) each rupee.

On the 1st December to Capt. Richard Alwright for ten thousand (10,000) rupees, payable to Capt. Richard Alwright or order, at two shillings and three pence (2sh. 3d.) each, is pounds stng. one thousand one hundred and twenty five £ 1125-0-0

On the 4th December to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. account Jacob de Natal Levi Sonsino and Company, for two thousand seven hundred and seven rupees, four annaes (Rs. 2707 Ans 4.) being the produce of one chest coral marked S. S. N. 9 imported per ship Norfolk payable to Jacob de Natal Levi Sonsino and Company at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) each is pounds stng. three hundred and four, eleven shillings, and three pence £ 304-11-3

On do. to William Nixon account John Jenks for seven hundred and eleven rupees, one annae, nine piee, (711-11-9) payable to Samuel Jenks at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) each, is pounds stng. eighty £str. 80

On do. to William Nixon for eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes (888-14-0) payable to Crommeline Pigou at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) each, is pounds sterling one hundred £ 100

On do. to do. account Mr. Edwd. Cole for two hundred and fourteen rupees, twelve annaes (214-12-0.) payable to Messrs John Goddard and Crommelin Pigou, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) each is pounds stg. twenty four, three sh. and two pence £24-3sh-2d

On do. to do. account Mr. Ann Barlow, for one thousand four hundred and fifty nine rupees, four annaes, three pice (1459-4-3) payable to Messrs. John Goddard and Crommelin Pigou, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pound strg. one hundred and sixty four, three shilling and four pence £164-3sh.-4d.

On do. to do. account Messrs Jenks and Reveley, for eight hundred and sixty eight rupees, four annaes (864-4-0) payable to David Jenks, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds str. ninety seven, thirteen sh. and seven pence £s. 97-13sh.-3d.

On do. to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. and Charles Manningham Esqr. account Moses Franco & Co. (being the produce of a chest of coral imported per Denham marked MFR No. 2) for three thousand four hundred and sixty five rupees ten annaes (3465-10-0) payable to Moses Franco & Company at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterlg. three hundred and eighty nine, seventeen shillings and eight pence £s. 389-17sh.-8d.

On do. to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqre. account Jacob de Natal Levi Sonsino and Company (being the produce of a chest of coral imported per Norfolk marked L. S. No. 26) for three thousand seven hundred and sixty four rupees, three annaes (3764-3-0) payable to Jacob de Natal Levi Sonsino and Company, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterling four hundred and twenty three, nine shillings and four pence £423-9sh-4d.

On do. to William Sumner for eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes (888-14-0) payable to John Gay at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) [£100]

On do. to George Gray for one thousand eight hundred rupees (1800-0-0) payable to Henry Allen, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is two hundred and two pounds, ten shillings £202-10sh.

On do. to Mr. Anselm Beaumont for eight thousand nine hundred and ninety seven rupees, eleven annaes (8997-11-0) payable to Capt. Cristopher Baron at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds stg. one thousand and twelve, four shillings and ten pence £1012-4sh.-10d.

On ditto to Mr. Richard Court for eight hundred and twenty five rupees, four annaes and six pice (825-4-6) payable to Messrs. William Frazer and Henry Marshall at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling ninety two, sixteen shillings and ten pence £92-16sh-10d.

On do. to Mr. Solomon Margas for five hundred and three rupees, one annae and nine pice (503-1-9) payable to Mr. Solomon Margas at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterlings fifty six, twelve shillings £ 56-12s.

On do. to Mr. Francis Stevenson for four hundred and forty four rupees, seven annaes (444-7-0) payable to Mr. William Ferguson at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterlg. fifty. £ Str. 50

On do. to Richard Becher Esqre. account Capt. Thomas Debuke for eleven thousand five hundred and seventy nine rupees, one annae (11579-1-0) payable to Mrs. Jane Debuke, or order, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterlings one thousand three hundred and two, twelve shillings, and ten pence £1302-12sh-10d.

On do. to Richard Becher Esqre. account the estate of Robert Barnes deceased for five thousand seven hundred and nineteen rupees, fourteen annaes and three pice (5719-14-3) payable to Capt. John Sampson, or John Hallet Esqre. at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) is pounds sterling six hundred and forty three, nine shilling and nine pence £St. 643-9sh-9d.

On do. to Richard Becher Esqre. for eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes, three pice (884-14-3) [*sic*] payable to Mr. Thomas Baitt, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterling one hundred £St. 100

On do. to Richard Becher Esqre. account the estate of John Hall deceased for three hundred and fifty one rupees, one annae, nine pice (351-1-9) payable to Messrs. Nettleton and Raikes at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterlg. thirty nine, ten shillings £39-10sh.

On do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for eight hundred and eighty eight rupees fourteen annaes and three pice (888-14-3) payable to Thomas Cooke Esqre. account George Morton Pitt Craddock

at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterling one hundred. £st. 100

On do. to do. for four hundred and eighty seven rupees, four annæs and three pice (487-4-3) payable to Miss Eleanor Powney at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is fifty four pounds, sixteen shillings and four pence £st. 54-16sh-4d.

On do. to do. for three hundred and fifty five rupees, eight annaes, nine pice (355-8-9) payable to Mrs. Sarah Hawkins at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterlg. forty £st. 40

On do. to do. for two hundred and sixty six rupees, twelve annæs, three pice (266-12-3) payable to Miss Leonora Boys at two shillings and three pence (2s.3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling thirty and two pence £30-0s-2d.

On do. to do. for ten thousand two hundred and sixty eight rupees, twelve annæs, three pice (10268-12-3) payable to Mr. Solomon Norden junior at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterlg. one thousand one hundred and fifty five, four shillings and eight pence [*sic*] £1155-4s-6d.

On do. to do. for eight hundred and ninety six rupees, twelve annaes and three pice (896-12-3) payable to Capt. Robert Baillie, Mesdames Mary and Sarah Strutton at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterlg. one hundred, seventeen shillings and eight pence £ 100-17sh-8d

On do. to do. for two thousand four hundred and sixty four rupees, fourteen annæs and three pice (2464-14-3) (being the nett proceeds of one box of coral marked S. F. B. No. 4 imported at Fort St. George per Griffin, Captain Thomas Dethicke (anno 1749) payable to Mr. Joseph Salvador, executor for Mr. Jacob Salvador and for Mr. Francis Salvadore absent Mr. Joseph Salvador to his assigns, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling two hundred and seventy seven, five shillings and eleven pence £277-5sh-11d.

On do. to do. for one thousand one hundred and eighteen rupees, fifteen annæs, three pice (1118-15-3) payable to Mrs. Rebecca Casamajor at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling one hundred and twenty five, seventeen shillings and eight pence £125-17sh-8d.

On do. to do. for nine hundred and fifty red and thirty three rupees, six annæs (1633-6-0) payable to Charles Hoyer Esqre. at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterlg. one hundred and eighty three, fifteen sh. and one penny. £183-15sh-1d.

On do. to do. for nine hundred and fifty rupees, one annae, nine pice (950-1-9) payable to Miss Mary Houghton at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pound sterlg. one hundred and six, seventeen shillings and eight pence. £106-17sh-8d.

On do. to Messrs. Maningham and Frankland, account William Perceval Esqre. of Madras, for four thousand (4000) rupees payable to Messrs. James Whitechurch and David Powell, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterlg. four hundred and fifty £st. 450

On do. to Charles Maningham Esqre. and William Fullerton for two thousand, three hundred and seventy rupees, six annaes, nine pice (2370-6-9) payable to Captain Thomas Nairne, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling two hundred and sixty six, thirteen shillings and five pence £266-13sh-5d.

On do. to Charles Maningham, John Zeph. Holwell and Edward Eyre Esqres. for ten thousand two hundred and one rupees, nine annæs, six pice (10201-9-6) payable to Richard Eyre Esqre at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling one thousand one hundred and forty seven, thirteen shillings and four pence £1147-13sh-4d.

On do. to Richard Becher Esqr. for one thousand and thirty eight rupees, three annaes, six pice (1038-3-6) payable to Mr. John Collett at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling one hundred and sixteen, sixteen shillings. £116-16sh.

On do. to Mr. George Gray for one thousand five hundred and sixty five rupees, five annaes (1565-5-0) payable to Mr. John Brown or order at two shillings and three pence

(2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterg. one hundred and seventy six, two shillings £176-2d.

On the 6th December to Messrs Gray and Mackett for one thousand seven hundred and thirty three rupees, fourteen annaes (1733-14-0) payable to John Brown Esqre. at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. one hundred and ninety five, one shilling and two pence £195-1sh-2d.

On do. to Thomas Holme for one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven rupees, twelve annaes and six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Sir William Russel Bart at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling two hundred £200

On the 8th December to Capt. Richard Alwright account the estate of Mr. John Nicholls deceased (late second mate of ship London) for one thousand rupees (1000) payable to Captain Richard Alwright at two shillings and three pence (2sh. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling one hundred and twelve, ten shillings £112-10sh.

On do. to the Revd. Mr. R. Mapletoft on his own account for one thousand, three hundred and thirty three rupees, five annaes, three pice (1333-5-3) payable to Mr. Peter Taylor Goldsmith at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. one hundred and fifty £150.

On 8th December to Mr. William Fullerton, for eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes, three pice (888-14-3) payable to

Messrs. Hen. and Jos Guinand at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterlg. one hundred £100

On 8th December to William Frankland Esqre. for one thousand and thirty eight rupees, three annaes, six pice (1038-3-6) payable to Thomas Frankland Esqre. at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. one hundred and sixteen, sixteen shillings £116-16sh

On 8th December to Charles Manningham Esqre. for two thousand four hundred and seventy one rupees, six annaes, six pice (2471-6-6) payable to Mrs. Ann Burrow or order account John Hipwood, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) is pounds strg. two hundred and seventy eight and six pence £278-0sh-6d.

On the 8th December to the Hon'ble Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqrs. for seven thousand eight hundred and ninety six rupees, fifteen annaes, six pice (7896-15-6) payable to Messrs. Abraham and Jacob Franco, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling eight hundred and eighty eight, seven shillings and nine pence £888-7sh-9d.

On do. to dos. for three thousand two hundred and seventy nine rupees, fifteen annaes, six pice (3279-15-6) (being the nett proceeds of one box of pearl marked M: F: N: 13 imported per Duke of Dorset, Capt. Bernard Forrester) payable to Moses Franco and Company at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d) per

rupee, is pounds strg. three hundred and sixty eight, nineteen shillings and six pence £368-19sh-6d.

On do. to do. for fourteen thousand three hundred and forty six rupees, four annaes (14346-4-0) being the produce of a chest of coral imported per ship Denham marked B. No. 2 payable to Messrs. Abraham and Jacob Franco, at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. one thousand six hundred and thirteen, nineteen shillings £1613-19sh.

On do. to Mr. Andrew Ross account Capt. John Brohier for one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven rupees, twelve annaes, six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Mr. John Le Grose at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds sterling two hundred £strg. 200.

On do. to do. account Lieutt. Paschoud for rupees one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annaes, six pice (1777-12-6) payable to the Revd. Mr. Paschoud at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. two hundred £str. 200.

On do. to do. account Capt. D' Hellens for eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. John Boisseir at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. one hundred £str. 100.

On do. to dos. for three thousand two Nasserot for eight thousand (8000) rupees payable to Mr. John Boisseir at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. nine hundred £str. 900.

On do. to Mr. William Nixon, account Messrs. Jenks and Reveley, for seven hundred and fifty four rupees, thirteen annaes and six pice (754-13-6) payable to Mr. Cornelius Goodwin at two shillings and three pence (2-3) per rupee is pounds strg. eighty four, eighteen shillings and five pence £84-18sh-5d.

On do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for eleven thousand eight hundred and thirteen rupees, eleven annaes, six pice (11813-11-6) payable to William Davis Esqr. at two shillings and three pence (2-3) per rupee is pounds strg. one thousand three hundred and twenty four and four pence £1324-0sh-4d.

On do. to dos. for eight hundred and eighty eight rupees, fourteen annaes, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Susanna Scrafton at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee, is pounds sterling one hundred £100

On do. to dos. for one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven rupees, twelve annaes, six pice (1777-12-6) payable to Charles Hay at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. two hundred £str.200

On do. to dos. for sixteen thousand one hundred and fifteen rupees, twelve annæs (16115-12-0) payable to Richard Barwell Esqre. at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. one thousand eight hundred and thirteen and a penny £1813-0sh-1d.

On do. to the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. and Mr. Peter Amyatt for twenty thousand eight hundred

and fifty six rupees (20856) payable to Richard and William Barwell Esqrs. at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. two thousand three hundred and forty six, six shillings £2346-6h-0d.

On do. to Mr. William Fullerton for five hundred and eighty eight rupees, nine annaes, six pice (588-9-6) payable to William Barwell Esqre. at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. sixty six, four shillings and four pence £66-4sh-4d.

On do. to do. for six thousand three hundred (6300) rupees payable to Messrs. Gosling and Bennet at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. seven hundred and eight, fifteen shillings £708-15sh.

On do. to Paul Richard Pearkes for nine hundred and eighty (980) rupees payable to Mrs. Adriana Cecila Pearkes at two shillings and three pence (2s. 3d.) per rupee is pounds strg. one hundred and ten £110

On do. to Mr. John Afton for four hundred and forty four rupees, seven annaes, three pice (444-7-3) payable to Gabriel Snodgrass or Johnathan Ranson at two sh. and three pence per rupee is pounds strlg. fifty. £50

132. The whole amount for which we have granted bills of exchange, is Current Rupees one hundred and ninety four thousand two hundred and fifteen, eleven annaes, nine pice (or pounds sterlg. 22867-12-7).

*Eighthly, of the Charter.*

133. Upon receipt of your commands of the 31 January 1755, we ordered our Secretary to send the two courts established by His Majesty's charter, copies of such parts of that letter as related to them and acquaint them that in future their addresses

to Your Honours must be laid before the Board and be transmitted in our packet.

134. As there has happened a warm contest between the Mayor's Court and our Zemindar concerning a decree of his in cutcherry upon a complaint lodged there by an European and Fringy against a Fringy, we shall relate the particulars of that affair very minutely and request Your Honours' sentiments thereupon fully in order to prevent the two jurisdictions clashing with each other.

135. On the 19th May Mr. Holwell acquainted us that on the 12th of that month one Monsr. Dimondtaguy and his wife Phoebe laid a complaint in the cutcherry against the latter's mother, a black Fringy named Sarah Shadow, setting forth that prior to the marriage of the said Phoebe her mother had prevailed on her to secret and lodge in her hands a pair of diamond earrings, a gold headed cane, eighteen gold buttons and a silver cup and salver, telling her that as she was a stranger to the principles of the man she was going to marry she had better conceal the above things from him, as she might have them again whenever she pleased. The cause coming to issue before him the defendant (Sarah Shadow) asserted the things were deposited with her by Phoebe for the use of a child of hers by a former husband but this being absolutely denyed by the said Phoebe and the defendant having no proof beyond her own assertion, nor any written obligation produced or pretended to be given by the said Phoebe by her mother, he had decreed the restitution of the above things to the complainants, to whom they were delivered the same day. Mr. Holwell then remonstrated that he had been served that day with a citation to appear before the Mayor's Court the Fryday after, and there to produce and deliver the above things. This proceeding he thought so extrajudicial and injurious in the said court as would (he doubted not) call for the cognisance of the Board, for if he could be cited to appear before the Mayor's Court for any decree duly pronounced in the execution of his office, the authorities of the honours of the Board, and of that annexed to his office were nought and the whole jurisdiction of the settlement invested in the said court. He therefore desired the orders of the Board touching the regard he must pay to that citation. Before we gave any opinion or orders thereon, we directed our Secretary to procure a copy

of the court records in relation to that affair, and copy of the citation served upon Mr. Holwell.

136. On the 22nd Mr. Holwell delivered in a letter to us upon the foregoing subject and our Secretary at the same time informed us he could obtain no copy of the court proceedings as they were not wrote fair, but that he had read them and taken minutes of such parts as were material. Your Honours will observe by the face of that day's Consultation, the Board esteemed themselves (as agents for the Company) the proper persons to have been applied to by the Mayor's Court in those circumstances, setting forth the nature of the complaint they had against the Zemindar (an office established by Your Honours) or for explaining any part of the charter not clearly understood and that the Board upon such an application would interpret any dubious expressions in the said charter, and take care to restrain any power the Zemindar may assume by his own authority. This we ordered the Secretary to inform the court of and did not doubt they would recall their citation, till they had replyed and received our further resolution thereupon.

137 The next morning being the day for Mr. Holwell to make his appearance in court (from whom we had received no answer to our Secretary's letter) he requested the opinion of the Board "Whether he as Zemindar had deviated from the constant Practice of the Cutcherry in taking Cognizance of and determining on the property which he was cited to deliver into the Mayor's Court?" For our several opinions we beg leave to be referred to the Consultation of the 23rd May.

138. The Mayor's Court on the 26th of that month sent in a letter to the Board in reply to what the Secretary had wrote them by our order, copy of which letter as well as those delivered in by Mr. Holwell upon this subject, we transmitt Your Honours enclosed in this packet that you may see it at one view what each of them alledged to vindicate their own proceedings.

139. Mr. Holwell having been obliged to appear before the Mayor's Court and deposite the amount of the effects he had decreed to be delivered by Sarah Shaddow appealed from that judgement of the Mayor's Court to us as a court of appeals and addressed us as a Board on the 16th June and requested our determination upon eight queries regarding the judicial part of his office which letter lay for consideration till we should

receive Your Honours' commands in answer to what the Mayor's Court had wrote upon the new charter.

140. In the interim the Mayor's Court addressed the Board for copies of Mr. Holwell's letter and minutes relating to them as a body corporate, which was denied them by a majority of the members as we did not think they had a title to demand any copies of papers delivered in to us as a Council Board nor to any minutes made upon the face of our Consultations, but we directed our Secretary to inform them they might come to his office and peruse such letters and minutes as relate to themselves.

141. After the receipt of Your Honours' commands per Eastcourt, we took into consideration Mr. Holwell's letter of queries, and the question being put, the majority of the Board were of opinion that as it had been the constant practice of the cutcherry to receive complaints from Europeans against natives, the Zemindar might continue to take cognizance of and decide upon causes of property where an European, Fringy or Armenian were complainant against natives as his decision by no means oblige the parties or prevent them from applying to the Mayor's Court afterwards. But that the Zemindar had no right to determine upon matters of dispute between any Europeans, Fringys and Armenians as we esteemed them to have the same title to the benefit of His Majesty's charter as British subjects themselves while they lived under our protection. Our several opinion Your Honours will observe at large in the Consultation of the 25th September and we hope it will meet with your approbation as we have endeavoured to prevent as much as possible the jurisdiction of the Zemindary from interfering with that delegated to Mayor's Court by His Majesty's charter.

142. We have likewise established a quorum of justices of the peace, to act in criminal cases whe e Christians are concerned.

143. Mr. Holwell thinking himself injured by being cited to appear before the Mayor's Court for a decree made in the execution of his office as Zemindar and having in his letter of the [16th] June desired the opinion of the Board "Whether the Mayor's Court had any Authority to cite Zemindar of Calcutta before them for any decress he might make in his judicial capacity?" we have referred that question to Your Honours to be answered and desire you will give us your sentiments fully thereon.

144. Another incident has likewise thrown us into a very great dilemma upon which we must beg the favour Your Honours will transmitt us very explicit orders for our conduct, should a case of this nature happen again. We shall relate the particulars as concisely as possible.

145. The Recovery snow, Capt. Thomas Moore, being bound upon a voyage to the coast of Africa, in the passage his officers and crew (for some bad usage) conspired his death and actually perpetrated the deed, after which they run the vessel ashore near Pata [*sic*] where they were seized by the king of that country and delivered up to Capt. Thomas Holme in the Alla Dowlat snow and by him brought hither. A court of admiralty being opened upon the occasion, the grand jury found a bill of indictment against the chief and second mates, syrang, tindall and several lascars. The two first as Christians were arraigned before us, tryed and condemned by a petit jury and executed as accessaries and accomplices in the murder of the said Capt. Thomas Moore. The syrang, tindall, and lascars being Mussulmen, the court were of opinion it might embarrass the Company's affairs were we to proceed against them by the laws of our country, for which reason we did not then bring them to their tryal. Soon after a grand jury summoned upon the sessions of oyer and terminer presented the aforesaid syrang, tindall and lascars as persons indicted for murder, and desired they might be tryed accordingly, and receive the punishment due to their crime. Hereupon we wrote to Mr. Watts to know whether an application to the Nabob for permission to try those people, and execute them if guilty by our laws would be attended with success. Mr. Watts wrote us in answer that he was of opinion it would be very improper to apply for such a permission, as it might give the Nabob a handle to demand the lascars upon which we ordered Mr. Holwell to enquire into the matter and report their examination to the Board, which was accordingly performed on the 2nd October. But some of the members being of opinion we had no authority as a Governour and Council to try them for a crime for which they had been indicted by a grand jury summoned upon a commission of admiralty, the affair was laid before the Board on the [....] October and our several opinions are entered at large on the face of that day's Consultation, when the majority thought they ought to be tryed by a court of admiralty. In consequence of which they will be tryed by a court of admiralty, but we shall suspend the sentence till

we receive Your Honours' answer hereto unless we find we may put it in execution without a risque of embroiling Your Honours' affairs.

146. As we have been very much at a loss how to act under the circumstances already mentioned, we must repeat our request that Your Honours will transmitt us very explicit orders for our conduct in future as well as the advice of able Council for we apprehend the murder which these lascars have been guilty of differs in some material respects from those which come under the cognizance of the Zemindar; first it was committed upon the high seas which could not be tryed in these parts without His Majesty's commission of admiralty for the end; next, it was upon the body of an European and lastly, it was accompanied with an act of piracy.

147. Under this head we beg leave to request Your Honours will transmitt us the opinion of Council to the following queries, as we esteem of very great consequence, and we are at a loss concerning them.

First whether by His Majesty's charter for establishing the several courts of justice in India we are empowered to grant letters of mart [*sic*] in case of a war between Great Britain and other European powers?

Secondly whether upon tryals by a commission of admiralty it is absolutely necessary to summons and swear in a grand and petit jury as in cases of a criminal nature within the jurisdiction of the court of oyer and terminer; or whether the commissioners of admiralty can arraign and try a prisoner at their bar without an indictment from a grand jury and inflict sentence of death without the verdict of a petit jury?

Thirdly after sentence is passed by a court of admiralty and no warrant issued by them for execution, whether another court of admiralty not consisting of the same commissioners as before can sign the warrant for execution of the sentence pronounced by the former court?

Fourthly whether the President or the bench of justices are empowered to respite execution, after having signed a Warrant direct to the Sheriffs to put their sentence in force, upon circumstances coming to light in favour of the prisoner?

Fifthly if a prisoner should be condemned by the laws of our country to suffer death, whether the President or Bench of Justices can reprieve the said prisoner or set him at large for a certain term of years, if his crime should merit an alleviation of the punishment?

*Supplement.*

148. Since writing thus far, have occurred two or three material things of which it will be necessary to give Your Honours the fullest information.

149. Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted with a letter to the Board on the 20th November accompanyed two memorialls to be transmitted the Hon'ble the Court of Directors in our packets to them, one of which we forward by this ship. Upon perusing the memorial laid before us as above and taking the same into consideration, the Board were of opinion he had treated them in a manner very unbecoming the respect due to them as a President and Council and had made several insinuations derogatory of their honour, inferring they had made use of the power and dignity of their stations to commit injustice by misrepresenting facts and turning advocates for a criminal. As so injurious a treatment of Your Honours' representatives would subject them to the contempt of the inhabitants living under their protection, if proper notice was not taken of so insolent and unparalleled an attack of their characters in a publick capacity, we were of opinion Mr. Plaisted merited our severest resentment, and that he ought to be suspended from his office of Master Attendant, which we accordingly did and directed him to deliver over the charge thereof to Mr. John Afton, Deputy Master Attendant.

150. The bussiness of the dockhead being at a stand after Plaistead's suspension we appointed Capt. David Graham (an experienced officer and one who has been long in the Company's service) to take the charge of Your Honour's marine and have since confirmed him in the post of Master Attendant, till Your Honour's pleasure is known; and as we esteem him a person very well qualified for that employ, we take the liberty to recommend your favour.

151. In case our appointment of Captain Graham to the office of Master Attendant is approved of, we then beg leave

to recommend Capt. Henry Wedderburn, a capable officer, to succeed him in that employ.

152. Mr. Plaisted on the 8th instant advised us of his intention to return to Europe on the London, and we have given Capt. Alwright orders to receive him on board agreeable to his request.

153. Mr. William McGuire being then in Calcutta by permission from the Board, sent in an address to the Board setting forth therein, that he observed from Mr. Plaistead's memorial, that gentleman seemed determined at all hazards to prejudice him in the favour and esteem of Your Honours, to gain which point he had paid as little regard to truth in his memorial as in his first representation of the affair which happened on his arrival here. He, therefore, requested our indulgence to permit him to return to Europe and answer before Your Honours any objections to his conduct and behaviour that Mr. Plaistead might raise by further malicious insinuations; and as he understood Mr. Plaisted returned to Europe on the London now under dispatch, he desired our permission to go home on the first ship that will be dispatched, after delivering over the charge of Bulramgurry factory to whom we might direct him and that we would signify to Your Honours, that should you be disposed to hear Mr. Plaisted further on this head you will please to defer giving him an audience till his arrival in England.

154. We took this request of Mr. McGuires's into consideration, and as Mr. Plaisted seems to us bent upon ruining that gentleman in Your Honours' favour we thought it reasonable to give Mr. McGuire an opportunity of vindicating his conduct and behaviour in person and have, therefore, permitted him to return to Europe for that purpose as soon as he had delivered over the charge of Bulramgurry factory to Mr. Boddam whom we have appointed Resident there in his room. As Mr. McGuire has always behaved to our satisfaction in the employ he has been entrusted with, we hope his return to Europe will not prejudice his rank in the service, not doubting he will be able to justify his conduct to Your Honours' satisfaction.

155. By a letter from Bombay we have been informed of the arrival of Your Honours' ship the Dragon on the 14th September and that the other ships designed for their Presidency had left England in company with the Doddington on the 25th April. They have requested likewise the saltpetre they had formerly indented for might be encreased to five hundred (500)

tonns; which we shall freight on the first and best conveyances that offer for that Presidency.

156. Capt. John Durand this morning delivered in a letter to the Board with his reasons for not complying with the demand made on him by Mr. Holwell for five per cent duty on the sale of his house. A copy of this letter we have enclosed in this ship's packet, by which Your Honours will observe that we justly deemed it a very insolent address to a President and Council, and as we were not willing to be too hasty in showing our resentment we ordered our Secretary to show him Your Honours' orders for levying that duty and to let him know that we would permit him to withdraw his letter if he thought fit, but as he insisted on its being taken notice of in our Consultations, we sent for him and acquainted him at the Board, that the duty of five per cent on the sale of houses belonging to Europeans was directed to be levied by the Hon'ble Company, after which we demanded of him whether he would pay the bill Mr. Holwell had tendered him for the amount of that duty; to this he replyed that he would not pay it unless he was obliged to do so by a decree of the Mayor's Court.

157. When Capt. Durand attended us Mr. Holwell called upon that gentleman to prove any one instance of what he had so freely asserted of the inhabitants having been taxed by his sole authority. Capt. Durand evaded this by saying that he apprehended his meaning was misunderstood and would appear different by reading what preceeded and what immediately followed the words quoted by Mr. Holwell, and that he was ready to reply in writing to any thing we might require.

158. Your Honours may observe a motion was then made by Mr. Holwell for shewing a proper resentment of Capt. Durand's contempt of your orders by denying him the protection of the place and directing him to leave the shore in twenty four hours. This being put to the vote the Board were of opinion that Captain Durand deserved our severest notice and ought to be sent home by the ships of this season and in case of his refusing to do so, that he will be denied any future residence in the settlement

159. We flatter ourselves Your Honours will think us very justifiable in this step and of the resentment we have been obliged to shew in order to check the growing insolence offered us.

160. Upon Mr. Becher's setting out for Dacca we made the following changes of posts at the Board:

Mr. Pearkes, Accomptant,

Mr. Frankland, Import Warehouse Keeper,

Mr. Mackett, Buxey,

Mr. Eyre, Storekeeper and to keep the post of Military Storekeeper till Mr. Baillie's arrival.

161. Mr. Pearkes was likewise appointed of the Committee of Supravisors and Mr. Mackett of the Committee of Warehouse in the room of Mr. Becher.

162. We have permitted Mr. Amyatt to resign his post of Sub-Accomptant in consequence of his request, to which post we have appointed Mr. Richard Court and have stationed Mr. Henry Kelsall head-assistant in the import warehouse.

163. When we put up the woollen goods at fifteen per cent on the invoice price, we found no bidders for the ordinary red and popinjay broad cloth which we afterwards lowered pursuant to your directions of this season and have disposed of them at a very small advance on the invoice price, esteeming it more for Your Honours' interest to have them sold even at that low rate than keep them any longer in our warehouses.

164. Since closing the fourth head of this address, the President has received a fresh perwannah from the Nabob insisting upon his demand of Sutchee Cutmah's effects being complied with. As we cannot yet ascertain what the event of this affair may prove we shall defer saying any more till it is totally settled.

165. On this ship is laden the following new sortments of cloth from the aurungs and subordinates *viz.*,

From Jugdia

| | Length | Breadth | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tanjebs Jugdea | 40 | and 2¼ | 2 bales..187 pieces |
| Hummuns Do | 24 | and 3 ordy | 10 bales 970 pieces |

From Cossimbuzar

| | |
|---|---|
| Raw Silk Fine Bind | 1 bale 4 Mds 3 sr. 8 Ch. |

From Dacca

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tanjebs Tungul Fine | 40 and 2 | 2 bales 136 pieces |

From Malda

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cossaers Serra | 40 and 2 | 9 bales 1009 pieces |
| Mulmuls Serra | 36 and 1¾ | 8 „ 893 „ |
| Mulmuls Do Fine | 36 and 1¾ | 7 „ 724 „ |

166. Mr. William Ryder has reported the dispatch of the Anson from Ingelie on the 1st instant when she drew sixteen feet, three inches water upon an even keel.

167. Enclosed in this packet we transmit Your Honours an address laid before us by Mr. Holwell in reply to the letter wrote you by the Mayor's Court with copy of his appeal annexed.

168. In this packet we forward proposals from Mr. Solomon Margas for supplying Your Honours' Marine with naval stores. As yet we have concluded upon no contract but have advertised that we do not purpose to receive any further proposals after the 20th instant.

169. We have consigned Your Honours on this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed, amounting to nine hundred and twenty thousand (9,20,000) Current Rupees.

170. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of your island of St. Helena amounting to one thousand and eighteen rupees, seven annas (Rs. 1,018-7 as.) Current.

171. Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes who dispatches this ship from Ingelie will advise Your Honours of what else may be necessary from thence.

172. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honours and are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours
Your most faithfull humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Paul Richard Pearkes/ W. Frankland/J. Z. Holwell/W. Mackett.

Fort William,

8th December, 1755.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755—57, pp. 45-120

Paragraphs 106-8, 122, 129, 149, 152 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* vol. II, pp. 37-39, Paragraphs 48, 142 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records* 1748-67, pp. 63-64.)

# 55

# LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1756

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. The London carried our address under the established heads, in which we have been as full as possible; she was dispatched from Ingelie on the [.....] ultimo and then drew [.....]foot water upon an even keel.

2. Since her departure nothing material has happened to advise Your Honours of more than our having contracted with Mr. Solomon Margass to supply your marine with naval stores for the space of three years, upon the terms offered us on the [.....] of last month for which terms we beg leave to be referred to his letter entered after our Consultation of the 29th ultimo.

3. Having compleated the lading of the Eastcourt we now dispatch that ship to the President and Council of Fort St. George with 300 tonns of saltpetre, thirty tonns of redwood and the remainder of her tonnage in rice.

4. Abstract of her invoice we enclose in her packett amounting to CRs.

5. We have likewise granted the following bills of exchange by this ship at 2s. 3d. each, the amount of the respective sums being first paid into your treasury.

On the 1st January to the Hon'ble Roger Drake, Chas Manningham and J. Z. Holwell Esqres. for CRs 15523-10 payable to William Davis Esqre. is £str. 1746-8-1.

On do. to Chas Manningham Esqre and Frankland and Holwell for CRs. 269-7-0 payable to Mrs. Judith Whaley is £str. 30-6-2.

On do to Chas Manningham Esqre. and William Fullerton for CRs. 398 payable to Captain Thomas Nairne is £str. 44-15-6.

On do. to Chas. Manningham Esqre. for CRs. 888-14-3 payable to Stephen Law Esqre. is £str. 100-0-0

On do. to do. for CRs. 888-14-3 payable to Charles Browne Esqre. is £str. 100-0-0

On do. to do. for CRs 33877-0-6 payable to Willm. Davis Esqre. is £str. 3811-3-3

On do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for CRs. 2823-11-9 payable to Mrs. Anne Burrow is £str. 317-13-4

On do. to do. for CRs. 1997-2-9 payable to Coinduis Goodwin Esqre. is £str. 225-3-7

On do. to do. do. for CRs. 3140 payable to Samuel De Castro is £str. 353-5-0

On do. to do. for CRs 3905-14-3 payable to Solomon Franco is £str. 439-8-2

On do. to Mr. George Grey for CRs. 2450 payable to Messrs. Johnston and Fothringham is £str. 270-12-6

On do. to Mrs. Elizabeth Beard for Crs. 177-12-6 payable to Richard Benyan Esqre. is £str. 20-0-0

On do. to Mr. Daniel Whaley for CRs. 1658-14-0 payable to Bartholomew Plaisted or Anne Gascoigne is £str. 186-10-6

On 5 January to William Nixon account Willm. Forth for CRs. 888-14-0 payable to William Ferguson is £str. 100-0-0

On do. to do. for CRs. 700 payable to Jonathan Ranson is £str. 78-15-0

On do. to Messrs. Wm. Fullerton and Wm. Nixon for CRs. 888-14-0 payable to Bartholomew Plaisted or Thomas Burnett is £str. 100-0-0

On do. to Charles Douglas account the estate of Mrs. Jane Douglas for CRs. 31830-8-0 payable to Hugh Watson and Archibald Stirling Esqr. is £str. 3580-13-7.

On do. to Edward Eyre Esqre. for CRs. 888-14-3 payable to James Meredith [£str. 100-0-0]

6. The whole amount of bills of exchange by this ship is CRs. 103196-10-6 or £str. 11604-19-8.

7. We have likewise granted Capt. Arthur Evans three certificates of the same tenor for CRs. 26666-10-9 or £str. 3,000, he being first sworn to the same.

8. The Denham not being yet arrived we have not let the Duke of Dorsett proceed to Tellicherry as we wrote Your Honours we should, it being necessary to keep one ship to carry home the goods we shall have in readiness by the end of this month. In case the Denham should not return from the Negraise very shortly, we purpose to lade those goods on the Duke of Dorsett and dispatch her to Your Honours directly home some time this month, that you may not be disappointed in receiving your returns from this Presidency in proper time.

9. We have the pleasure to advise Your Honours that the Hardwicke, Capt. Samson, left Fort St. George the 27th October.

10. We wish this ship a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/J. Z. Holwell/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre.

Fort William,

the 26th January, 1756.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 141-44.)

## 56

## LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1756

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. We have now the pleasure to advice of the safe arrival here of the Denham and St. George, which leaves us at liberty to send this ship to Tellicherry to be filled up and dispatched from thence to Europe, agreeable to what we before informed Your Honours.

2. Capt. Robert Robinson having demised at China, we have confirmed Mr. Pearson Fenner in the command of the St. George, Mr. Thomas Harrison being likewise dead.

3. As soon as we were apprized of the arrival of the St. George, we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to weigh off and lade her charterparty redwood and saltpetre (in order to expedite her dispatch) without waiting for the usual survey of her within board. We hope to complete her loading and dispatch her to Your Honours about the 12th or 15th of next month.

4. Captain George Meard having wrote the President that he was in want of a cable and men to work his ship, we directed the Master Attendant to send him twenty five lascars and a cable and we likewise sent him down some of our military for his further assistance. We have permitted Capt. Meard to bring the Denham up to town to report and shall give him all the assistance in our power; as soon as she can be got ready to take in goods, we shall proceed in loading of her, and hope to be able to dispatch her from hence by the 5th of March.

5. We have given Capt. Barnard Forrester three certificates of one tenour and date for eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight Current Rupees, fourteen annas and three pice (8,888-14-3) to which he has been regularly sworn agreeable to your directions.

6. We have likewise granted the following setts of bills of exchange in favour of the underwritten persons at two shillings and three pence each rupee, the respective amounts of each bill being first accounted for.

On the 26th January to Mr. Peter Amyatt one sett for four hundred fourty four Current Rupees and seven annas (444-7) payable to William Barwell Esqr. and Mr.

George Sherwood at 2 shillings 3 pence each is £str. 50.

On the 26th January to Capt. Barnard Forrester one sett for two thousand Current Rupees (2,000) payable to Capt. Richard Alwright or order at 2 shillings 3 pence each is £str. 225.

On the 26th January to Mr. William Nixon one sett for one thousand and two Current Rupees, fourteen annas and three pice (1,002-14-3) payable to Messrs. Chauncey, Browne and Chauncey or order at 2 shillings 3 pence each is £str. 112-16-6.

On the 26th January to Mr. William Nixon and Messrs Jenks and Reveley one sett for eight hundred and eight Current Rupees, and eight annas (808-8) payable to Mr. Samuel Jencks or order at 2 shillings 3 pence each is £str. 90-19-1.

7. Mr. William Mcguire being returned from Bulramgurry (the charge of which factory he has delivered over to Mr. Thos. Boddam) now takes his passage to Europe the Duke of Dorset in consequence of our permission for his proceeding to England as already mentioned to Your Honours in our address per London.

8. Enclosed in this packet we transmit manifest of private trade laden on the Duke of Dorset by Captain Barnard Forrester with the several other papers relating to this ship.

9. We shall write Your Honours fully by the St. George and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,

the 26th January, 1756.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 121-23.)

# LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1756

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

In consequence of your orders we have wrote to the several factorys subordinate to this Presidency for their sentiments in relation to the method of conducting their investments and whether it could be carried on with more advantage by any other means.

We have likewise wrote for and received a list of debts contracted at Cossimbuzar and Dacca marking out the respective years they were contracted in, which are recoverable and which are not so, and shall take the whole into consideration after the dispatch of this year's shipping, transmitting Your Honours by the early conveyances next season, an account of our transactions in which you may depend on our utmost care to rectifie any abuses we may observe either in the conduct of your servants at those factorys or mismanagements in the oecoming [*sic*] of their charges. At present there has not appeared any thing to tax the gentlemen at those places, and Mr. Becher assures us that from what he has learned at Dacca, none of your servants there interest themselves unfaithfully in the investments of that factory.

Messrs. Amyatt and Boddam have been directed by us to form a sett of regular books at Luckipore and Bulramgurry to be transmitted annually down instead of the present method of keeping their accounts.

We have nothing more to add and remain with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants,
Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Paul Richard Pearkes/
J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William,

17 February, 1756.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 124-25.)

# LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 1756

*Correspondence between Roger Drake and William Watts for obtaining a* parwana *from the Nawab against exactions at the* chaukis*—estimate of expenses to complete Col. Scott's plan.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

We had the pleasure to write you per ship Hardwicke, duplicate thereof we forwarded per London, since the dispatch of which last ship we received a letter from Mr. William Watts, Chief at Cossimbuzar, copy where of we transmit herewith with our reply thereto, and his answer together with copy of the dustick which was first to be obtained and an account of what the chowkeys did exact from our merchants' boats when we carried on the dadney; since which we have suffered many inconveniences in the bringing down the Company's investment both by detention of the boats and a large expence. We therefore hope the measures we have taken with the concurrence of the Board will be esteemed by Your Honours as a necessary expence on the terms we set forth to Mr. Watts.

The redoubt at Perain's being nigh compleated and observing the expence of that work was far more considerable than was represented to Your Honours by Colonel Scott, we required Mr. Symson to make a calculate at what expence the whole work might be finished, copy of which estimation we also forward and have thought proper to drop any further expence until we are commanded to proceed in that work from Your Honours or that such able person or persons you may think proper to send out as engineers can convince us it will have greater utility than we at present imagine. We are with great truth.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull servants,
Roger Drake Junr and C. Manningham.

Fort William,
21st February, 1756.

*Enclosure* 1

To the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqre. and Charles Manningham Esqr

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Copy

I have for some time past been making application to Hackembeg, the Pachowterah Droga, in behalf of our hon'ble masters for relief against the extortion of his chowkys without effect, he alledging he farmed out those chowkys to different people for a large sum and that if he restrained their exactions, he must suffer considerably by the lessening the value of those farms; therefore though satisfied of the justness of the complaint he could not think of redressing us, without we would make him a handsome present as an equivalent for the loss he must suffer; his demands at first were very exorbitant, but having reduced those demands to the lowest sum he positively asserts he will take, which is from ten to twelve thousand rupees, I thought it advisable to write you, for your approval, or otherwise, before I proceeded further or addressed the Board on this subject. Enclosed is copy and translate of the dustick he is to give us, besides which he is to take mechulkahs or obligations from all the chowkydars etc. not to take more under a severe penalty than what is mentioned in the dustick. Copys of these mechulkahs under the Cauzee's etc. seal are to be delivered to us. I likewise enclose a list of what his chowkys have exacted for some years past and what we are now to pay by which you will observe the difference is 90 rupees per boat. Though the sum he demands is large, I am of opinion it will be well laid out, and of infinitely more service to our hon'ble masters than any money ever paid the government, or Hackembeg; in his dustick, our phermaund is confirmed which some years ago he called in question and 20,000 rupees was paid to silence him, without having the least acknowledgement in return; only a common receipt for the money; this affair, if finished, will I flatter myself put the Company's trade with regard to the chowkys on a firm and sure basis; validate and give strength to the other two perwannahs which if we had not before obtained without his knowledge, four times the sum now demanded would not have been accepted of. Hackembeg being

Prime Minister and favourite of his master, whom he may influence with regard to rendering those perwannahs useless, ought to be considered as a motive towards settling with him for his chowkys. If gentlemen, your opinions coincide with mine, I beg you will return an answer as expeditiously as possible that I may write to the Board as I imagine the sooner this affair is finished the more advantageous it will be for our hon'ble masters.

I am with the greatest respect,
Hon'ble Sir and Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
Signed Wm. Watts.

Cossimbuzar,
December the 21st, 1755.

*Enclosure* 2

William Watts Esquire.

Copy

Sir,

On due consideration which we have given to the purport of your favour, bearing date the 21st instant and to the translate of the dustick, which can be obtained from Heckembeg (as you wrote us) for the sum of ten or twelve thousand rupees, we are in ourselves well satisfied, it would be money well bestowed, could we be firmly assured that his successor or successors in his place of government could not or would not attempt under pretext of renewing such dustick or otherwise to levy a contribution for a priviledge absolutely granted us by the royal phermaund of a free trade without any duty or charge whatsoever though we are compelled by usurpers and through great inconveniences that attend the delay of the passage of our goods and boats to satisfye those arbingars at the several chowkeys and gauts. This is one material objection we have to your further proceeding; another arises in the wording of the dustick where it mentions "That Contrary to their ancient Custom, no new impositions be laid on their Goods". We think it would have greater force and more according to the tenour

of the phirmaund that the phraise should run that contrary to grants obtained from the Mogul and expressed in our phirmaund impositions have been laid on our goods and carriages, which expression would more effectually validate our priviledges which that Prime Minister some time since called in question, likewise free us from any further charge at the several gauts and chowkeys than what is paid by the manjees under the term cherakkee or for lights and which pay those masters of the boats reckon in the hire.

If the dustick can be thus altered and you can be ascertained that the sum to be given will not be brought into a precedent we would have you address the Board.....

.....

We must further remark that if you can settle the dustick on the above terms, it should be intimated (to obviate any further objection or dispute) that the officers of all parties will have orders to submit to no detention or imposition, at any place, nor shall we hesitate clearing by force any boats that may hereafter be impeded.

The chowkeys depending on the Hughly phousdarry and pechowterah often give us much trouble as likewise several petty chowkeys which our boats are necessitated to pass in going to and coming from the adjacent aurungs. We shall therefore after publication of the Nabobs' perwannah embrace the first occation [*sic*] of chastising any insult that may be offered to our boats with the Company's dustick and we request you will advise when these perwannahs should be published. These particulars should be explained to Huckumbeg as we shall expect and think ourselves entitled to his best assistance on any complaints made on this head after paying him so hand-somely for enforcing a peremptory order from his master the Nabob. We are with respect.

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Signed Roger Drake Junr. and C. Manningham.

Fort William,

7th December, 1755.

*Enclosure No. 3*

Copy

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

I received your favours of the 27th the 31st ultimo. Hackembeg's dustick is altered agreeable to your directions. I acquainted the vacqueel with the term you would have inserted of chergokee to be paid by the mangees, to which he replyed that cherackee was a term made use of at the Moormen's durgahs or tombs; at the King's chowkeys no such expression is used but it is customary for those that pay duty or shodarry likewise to pay something on account of lights, oil, pen, ink and paper, but as we do not pay any duty we are of consequence free from the perquisites attending thereon; therefore the vacqueel thinks it much better to insett the word maungun, the signification of which is a free gift, or charity bestowed. We are likewise by our phirmaund exempted from paying on hired boats any kut currah, therefore the vacqueel says mentioning in the dustick that the mangys are to pay anything would be giving up that privilege, on which account he says it is more advisable to mention that the chowkys are to take only so much from each boat by way of gift without mentioning mangees.

Upon my making an objection to the vacqueel that I was apprehensive that Hackembeg's successor might demand the same present for a renewal of the dustick to which he replyed that we had no reason to be under any fears on that account, that this money would be paid and received privately, would be never entered into the pachowterah, or any other books and would never be brought as a precedent to demand the same sum in future. On the accomodating of this affair, I have assurances given me that Hackembeg will assist us all in his power to carry the perwannahs into execution to their full extent and meaning. I am with the utmost deference,

Hon'ble Sir and Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
Signed Wm. Watts.

Cossimbuzar,

January 6th, 1756.

*Enclosure No. 4*

To the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqre.
and Charles Manningham Esqre.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Copy

Since writing the foregoing, we have received the General Letter. I am in hopes your forbidding us to buy any more putney will lower the price of that article as I am informed the Guzarat merchants have done the same.

Though I have wrote you that I have assurances of Hackembeg's assistance with regard to the carrying the perwannahs into execution, when the affair of his ghats is settled, yet Your Honour etc., must be sensible how little these people are to be depended on. I thought proper to make this remark lest by my possibly having expressed myself too strongly I should lead you into error.

I am with the greatest respect
Hon'ble Sir and Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
Signed Wm. Watts.

Cossimbuzar,
January 6th, 1756.

*Dustores at the several gauts belonging to the putchetrah*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aurungabaud[1] | What agreed to take—Rs. | 4 | now taken—6 | |
| Buragoziah[2] | Ditto. | 1 | do. | 10 |
| Godagozy[3] | Ditto. | 2 | do. | 7 |
| Moorachah[4] | Ditto. | 3 | do. | 7 |
| Jullungey | Ditto. | 3-10 | do. | 14 |
| Butsolah | Ditto | -6- | do. | 14 |
| Siberampore | Ditto. | 2 | do. | 13 |
| Lullydangah | Ditto. | 1 | do. | 8 |
| Buxeypore[5] | Ditto. | 1 | do. | 7 |
| Bawley | Ditto. | -8- | do. | 7 |
| Termohunny[6] | Ditto. | -8- | do. | 6 |
| Surdah[7] | Ditto. | 2 | do. | 10 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nazerpore | What agreed to take—Rs. | 1 | now taken—7 | |
| Custah | Ditto. | -8- | do. | 5 |
| Achdunk | Ditto. | -8- | do. | 3 |
| | | Rs.23 | | Rs. 113 |

*Enclosure No. 5*

Dustick to all rahdars, guzrbnas, chowkeydars, izardars etc. and to all the gotts, guzars within our districts as farr as the pechowterah of Moorshadavad extends. Be it known: That agreeable to the complaint made by the gomastahs of the English Company the Nabob granted them a perwannah for all the ghats in the subahship of Bengal that contrary to their ancient customs no new impositions be laid on their goods by the rahdarrys etc., because they have a phirmaund from the King as also senauds of former Subahs exempting them from such impositions. For this reason I wrote that my pachowterah ghats do not take more than what is now settled as particularised below. Take care they have no further cause of complaint. In this affair, be punctual and observant.

| | |
|---|---|
| Aurangabad | 4 |
| Barrah Gurreah | 1 |
| Godah Gurry | 2 |
| Moorchah | 3 |
| Jellengy | 3-10 |
| Butsallah | -6- |
| Seberampore | 2 |
| Lully Dangah | 1 |
| Buxypore | 1 |
| Ballu Bulrampore | -8- |
| Turmohaunny | -8- |
| Surda | 2 |
| Nazarpore | 1 |
| Custeah | -8- |
| Aikdunk | -8 |
| | 23 |

*Enclosure No. 6*

To the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqre. and Chas. Manningham Esqre.

*An estimate of the charge to execute Colonell Scott's scheme of inclosing the bounds of Calcutta.*

One thousand cubical feet of earth costs at a medium 14 annaes to digg and remove. The ditch is 36 feet over and twelve deep with a slope equal to the depth; so that a yard of the ditch in length contains 864 cubical feet and one hundred yards contains 86400 cubical feet which will cost at the above rate 75 rupees 9 annaes but to avoid fractions in the following calculation 100 yards in length is estimated at 76 rupees.

| | Yards | Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| Expence of digging the ditch from the river at Govinpore to the cross roads near Mr. Frankland's garden estimated at three fourths of the expence of digging a new ditch . . . . . | 2710 | 1545 |
| From Mr. Frankland's garden to the end of the old ditch near the late Mr. Coale's garden to be new dug . . . | 1200 | 912 |
| From the end of the old ditch to the north east cornor of Meter's garden at half the expence of new work . . . . | 5280 | 4088 |
| On the north side of Meter's garden to be new dug. From thence to Cow Cross bridge at half the expence of new work. | 675 | 256 |
| From Cow Cross bridge to Bogbuzar at three fourths of the expence of new work | 1345 | 1022 |
| Ten old earthen redoubts 40 yds. extra-ordinary work in each . . . | 400 | 304 |
| Eight new earthen redoubts 100 yards each | 800 | 608 |
| Total length to be dug and the expence of earth work. . . . . | 12860 | 9001 |
| Wooden barriers or gates for 18 earthen redoubts .. 50 Rs. each . . . | .. | 900 |
| Houses and grounds to be purchased in several places estimated by Mr. Holwell at | .. | 2000 |
| Twelve drains of masonry to be made thro' the masonry in several places (50 f) | | 600 |

The expence of the wood work of one draw bridge will be nearly as follows :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Teak plank 16 C 11 Rs. each | 176 | |
| Knees 8 C 3 Rs. each . | 24 | |
| Beams 10 C 12 Rs. each . | 120 | |
| Sundry plank 5 C 3 Rs. each | 15 | |
| Small knees 40 C 3 Rs. . | 120 | |
| Beams 8 C 8 Rs. each . | 64 | |
| Iron 5 mds. wrought C 16 per md. . . . | 80 | |
| Brasswork for pullys 1 md worked . . . | 75 | |
| Lead for the counter-poise 25 md. . . . | 243-12 | |
| Total for one bridge . | 917-12 | |

Forty eight cubical feet of masonry costs at a medium eight rupees. In one draw bridge there is 5992 cubical feet of brick work, this divided by 48 gives 126 which multiplyed by 8 gives 1008 Rs. for the brick work of one draw bridge.

There will be six draw bridges wanted beside those at Baagbuzar and Gobinpore. The brick work of 6 draw bridges C 1008 Rs. each is . . 6048

The wood, iron and work of 6 do 917 Rs. 12 as. each is . . . . . 5506 11554

The expences at a redoubt at Baagbuzar to January 1st 1756 have been as follows :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Materials furnished by Col. Scott and monthly accounts. . . . | 8939-12-9 | |
| Materials etc. furnished by the Buxey . . . | 14145-2-3 | |
| Total expence to January 1st 1756 . . . . | | 23084-15 |

stimate of the expence it will be to finish the redoubt, draw bridge and lock at Boogbuzar from Jany. 1st 1756

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wood and iron work of the draw bridge | 917 | |
| Gates, hinges etc for the lock | 300 | |
| Monthly account for 2 months etc. | 900 | |
| Chunam, brick, durt, paint etc. | 500 | 2617 |
| Charge of building a redoubt, lock and draw bridge at Govinpore . . . . | | 25701-15 |
| Total expence of Col. Scott's scheme for inclosing the bounds . . . . | | CRs. 75458-14 |

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 126-40.

Last paragraph of letter dated 21st February published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. II, p. 214.)

## 59

# LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1756

*Survey made of the river—Hakimbeg bribed to ensure effectual stoppage of exactions at the* chaukis*—steps taken to prevent misuse of* dastak*—trouble with the Nawab's government over the case of Kanai and Sachi Cotmah—a plea for remission of duty on the sale of houses in Calcutta.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Duplicate of our letter under the established heads, (forwarded by the London) goes enclosed in this packett, to which we beg leave to refer for the particulars of our transactions to that date and shall now give Your Honours a summary account of what has occurred since the dispatch of the London.

2. By private advices from Bombay we have heard of the safe arrival there of the Stretham, Pelham, Houghton and Edgcourt of which we congratulate Your Honours.

3. The President and Council of Bombay having indented for 500 tonns of saltpetre we have consigned them 220 tonns on the Duke of Dorsett exclusive of the ship's charterparty tonnage of petre and freighted the remainder on the Drake and Doddalay, two of our country ships, at Rs. 2-12 As. per bag which is 4 annæs less than formerly has been paid to owners of country shipping.

4. In our letter per London we informed Your Honours, that the river had been at that time surveyed but once and Capt. Grahame, the Master Attendant, reporting that from the observations of most of the pilots and masters in the service there had happened no material alteration in the channels and lands since that survey we have dispensed with its being done again till after the dispatch of this year's shipping.

5. The Bonetta sloop returned from the Negraise on the 7th ultimo with letters from Mr. Henry Brooke advising of the necessity he had been under to detain the Denham so long at that place, but that the President and Council of Fort St. George having sent the Prince George to relieve her, he should return that ship to us in a few days.

6. We have already advised Your Honours of our having permitted Captain Meard to bring his ship to town. Upon her arrival here, Captain Meard delivered us a letter advising that her charterparty term expired on the 11 February, by which day if she was not dispatched for Europe he should be obliged (in order to indemnifie himself and owners) to protest against us. At the same time he delivered in a protest against Mr. Henry Brooke for his detention of the Denham at the Negraise so long, that his being able to get ready in time to proceed to Europe this season seemed precarious. Your Honours will observe by our Consultation of the 2nd instant, that we sent for Captain Meard and offered him all the assistance in our power, acquainting him that we intended to load and dispatch the Denham home within this month if he could get her in readiness to leave the place so soon. We have since directed our Secretary to inform him that we expect he leaves town by the 21st instant, and in order to expedite his getting away as much as possible we have dispensed with her being hove down upon Capt. Meard's notifying that when she was lightened to a draught of 14 foot he found she made no water at all and upon the Master Attendant's reporting her fitt in all respects to receive the Hon'ble Company's goods on board.

7. The Eastcourt was dispatched to Fort St. George from Ingelie by Mr. Billers on the 13th January and the Duke of Dorsett to Tellicherry by Mr. Thomas Coales on the 1st instant.

8. By a pattamar from Fort St. George we received a letter from the President and Council there dated the 23rd November advising us of their having completed the Hardwicke's loading and dispatched her to Your Honours on the 28th October.

9. Capt. Parson Fenner having requested 250 tons of saltpetre might be laden on the St. George we have ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to comply therewith reserving to ourselves the power of turning what part of it we think fit into half freight.

10. Enclosed in this packett we transmit Your Honours copys of the several letters and requests delivered in by the late Captain Robert Robinson, as well as one board [bond] executed by him for ten thousand Current Rupees advanced him on charterparty terms for the use and expenses of his ship.

11. The ballance of our treasury being very low, we have addressed the Presidencys of Fort St. George and Bombay for as large remittances of treasure as they can possibly spare and have urged them to send us a consignment of some money by the first conveyances that offer that we might have an opportunity of beginning our purchases of cloth early in the season, an advantage too apparent to be neglected.

12. We have likewise desired your servants at those Presidencys to acquaint us what quantitys of saltpetre they shall want from hence the ensuing season, that we may provide accordingly.

13. The chief and second mate of the Denham being both dead we have complyed with Capt. Meard's request for entertaining Mr. Edmund Massey in quality of his chief officer as he bears a good character and has always behaved (during his residence here) soberly and quietly. He has accordingly been sworn to that station.

14. By the London we transmitted Your Honours an account sale of your broad cloth, copper, lead, iron and steel

on the 15th November, but we omitted to inform you that finding no bidders for het red and popinjay ordinary broad cloth at the advance of 15 per cent we made use of the liberty given us to put them up for invoice price, when they sold for a small advance thereon; and as by that means we have disposed of almost all the goods in warehouse some of which had lain unsold for 4 or 5 years, we esteem it more for your advantage than to have kept them any longer in hopes of their selling at a higher advance.

15. Capt. Forrester upon going away sent us a letter in relation to the deficiency of his copper from Madras, which turned out 45 maunds short in weight out of so small a quantity as 500 maunds, whereas what he received on board in Europe proved but 15 maunds deficient out of 6000. As he seems to apprehend this difference must be owing to some mistake at Madrass, we have wrote the gentlemen there concerning it, and have desired them to advise Your Honours, should it appear an error, that the Duke of Dorsett's owners may be reimbursed the money Capt. Forrester has paid on that account.

16. Some of the merchants who had tendered us the cossaes orrua, as mentioned in our Consultation of the [.....] having accepted of the price we offered, the Export Warehouse Keeper was directed to receive and pack them up for Europe.

17. We have likewise purchased 150 maunds of tincal for Your Honours at 32 Rs. per maund part of which is forwarded by this ship and the remainder will be sent on the Denham.

18. There being about 5,000 maund of Patna saltpetre offered us at 5-12 per maund ready money we have purchased it at that price pursuant to your directions for buying that article whenever to be procured upon reasonable terms.

19. Since the departure of the London we have received the following quantities of cloth from the underwritten aurungs.

| | |
|---|---|
| Santipoor | 3448 |
| Cottora | 2180 |
| Keerpoy | 2472 |
| Burron | 5084 |
| Hurrypaul | 3608 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Donniacolly | 240⅝ |
| Hurrial | 20053 |
| Mauldau | 20039 |
| Bandant | 9034 |
| Barnagore | 2435⅜ |
| Goolagore | 2410 |
| Soonamokey | 2640 |
| Calcutta | 3880 |
| Elombuzar | 210 |
| | 82896½ |

and there are now in the way down to Calcutta 2605 pieces besides 17870 pieces lying ready at the several different aurungs.

The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having found their merchants for some years past very deficient in the quality as well as quantity of the bandannoes and choppas advised us in a letter of the 17th December that they had employed gomastahs to buy up the cora cloth of which those articles were made in order to manufacture those piecegoods themselves which step we have approved of, as we are of opinion it will be a means of procuring them both better and cheaper.

20. Your Honours will find entered after our Consultation of the 29th December, copy of a letter from Mr. Warren Hastings to the Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar informing them of his transactions at the putney aurungs and giving reasons for the present dearness of Novemberbund putney. We beg leave to be referred to that letter for particulars, and as we could not but imagine Your Honours would disapprove of providing the silk at so high a rate as the present price of putney would make it turn out, we directed Mr. Watts and his Council to forbid Mr. Hastings purchasing more than just sufficient to inform us how it would turn out in winding off. But having since learnt by private advices from China that the price of raw silk there was so high as to determine Your Honours' Supra Cargoes at Canton to decline buying any this season, we were of opinion it would be more eligible to provide that commodity at Cossimbuzar even at the price it has risen to, than to hazard your being totally disappointed of it from

India, which might prejudice your sales at home; we have therefore directed Mr. Watts and his Council to permit Mr. Hastings to purchase the Novemberbund putney, but have ordered them likewise to advise us as soon as any parcels of putney come in at what rates they are bought, that we may countermand these directions should we find it grow too extravagant: of which proceeding of ours we flatter ourselves Your Honours will approve. But if the step we have taken should not be agreeable we request the favour you will give us positive instructions what regard (if any) shall in future be paid to advices of this kind and how far it may influence our conduct (if at all) in deviating from your orders contained in the lists of investment.

21. The gentlemen at Dacca having observed to us in a letter of the 26th November that they had sorted their dooreas according to their stripes so as to make as great a variety as possible in each bale, which method occasioning a great disparity in value of the pieces in one and the same bale, we desire Your Honours will inform us if this method of sorting meets with your approbation.

22. Messrs. Baillie and Playdell have transmitted us a sortment of baftaes 28 covid and 2B made in their own bounds which we forward by this ship for your inspection; and as those gentlemen seem to think the whole investment of that factory might be made in the same manner, by renting the pergunnah of Luckipore and encouraging the weavers to settle there from the several adjacent aurungs, which they imagine may be easily effected, Your Honours will be pleased to give us your directions thereon. The only objection which occurs to us of any weight in taking such a measure, is, the umbrage it may give the neighbouring fowsdars and zemindars (who finding their revenues lessened by the weavers leaving the towns in their jurisdiction) will no doubt make use of all their influence to embroil Your Honours' affairs there and throw impediments in the way to prevent carrying into execution a scheme which, if firmly established, would certainly be of great benefit to the Hon'ble Company.

23. We have been obliged to permit the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to pay Hukembeg the sum of SRs. 2300, account the purchasers of sugar, as he insisted on it in a peremptory manner and threatened a stoppage of our business in case of a refusal.

24. In our letters under the established heads we informed Your Honours of the perwannahs Mr. Watts and his Council had obtained from the Great and Chutah Nabobs forbidding all impositions and unjust levys of money from boats and carriages belonging to the English; but as these perwannahs would avail but little unless the pachowterah drogah gave orders to the chowkeys under his jurisdiction to pay a punctual regard to them, Mr. Watts applied to that minister for such directions; but was answered that he farmed those chowkeys of the Nabob at a great price and let them out again to others, who would not pay near so much for the farms of those chowkeys if he forbid them levying the customary payments from our boats as well as all others, by which means he should be a great sufferer; if we expected therefore his complyance we must make him an equivalent for the loss he must sustain and Mr. Watts observed that nothing less than ten or twelve thousand rupees would prevail upon Huckembeg to issue out such orders.

25. On considering this affair we were of opinion the sum of ten or twelve thousand rupees would be well disposed of, could we be sure the order Hukembeg promised would have the desired effect and that this present would not be made use of as a precedent and be demanded by his successors as a right, to which effect we wrote the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar.

26. By their reply to our letter we perceived very plainly that Huckembeg was endeavouring by some means or other to get a sum of money from us, and therefore we esteemed it a proper opportunity to settle this affair of the chokeys and as Hukembeg had given Mr. Watts the strongest assurances that he would see his orders strictly complied with, and that the money should not be entered in the pachowterah's books nor appear in any shape whatever to entitle his successors to demand it as a right, we have upon these considerations given the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar permission to accommodate this matter upon the best terms they can, but have at the same time directed them to acquaint Hukembeg that after procuring this order we should not on any account submit to any exactions or impositions whatever from the chokeys under his jurisdiction but should chastise them in the severest manner, upon any complaint of boats or carriages with English dusticks being molested in their passage up and down the country.

27. That no occasion might be given to the country government to evade the force of these perwannahs by urging that our dusticks were abused and given to persons who had no right to them, and the King by that means defrauded of their proper revenues we have given the Register of Dusticks an order to keep a separate account of each covenanted servant's name, who have dusticks granted them, to be laid before the Board every six months and the respective persons to make oath that they were on their own proper account or for goods consigned them from abroad, as Your Honours will observe at full by referring to our Consultation of the 18th January.

28. Since closing our advices per London and Eastcourt, the Nabob sent an asswar and some peons with a peremptory perwannah to deliver up the effects of Connoy and Sutchee Cutmah or to send Bridjoo Cutmah up to Muxadavad to adjust the matter there. The President replied by the same asswar that this being our busy season we could not now examine the demand but that as soon as the ships were all dispatched for Europe, we would make a scrutiny into his claim, and give him all the satisfaction in our power. A few days after we were apprized by a letter from Mr. Watts and his Council, that the asswars and peons upon their return to Muxadavad made complaints of their being dismissed from Calcutta without any answer to the perwannahs they had carried, which so exasperated Hukembeg that he was going immediately to carry them to the Nabob, but had been prevailed on by his Duan to wait a few days, till he had informed the English Chief and received his answer; Mr. Watts had engaged him to waite 5 or 6 days longer before he acquainted the Nabob, that he might write to us and receive our orders.

29. As the secreting of our answers by the asswar convinced us that the Nabob knew nothing of the affair, we wrote Mr. Watts and his Council that we were satisfied some heads at the Durbar were employed to give us trouble on this occasion without the Nabob's knowledge; we transmitted them copys of what the President had written by the asswar to be laid before the Nabob and directed them to find out if possible the instigators of these practices and endeavour to put an effectual stop to them.

30. on the 11th instant the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar wrote as that Mr. Watts had sent the copys of the President's arassdass

to the Durbar and was promised an answer, that their vacqueel assured them in case this matter was not soon accomodated it would occasion a stoppage of our business, and that it was easy to observe Hookembeg, his son and his Duan were the instigators of this affair; by the same cossid we received a letter from them with the Nabob's answer wherein he peremptorily insists on the restitution of the effects of Sutchee and Connoy Cutmahs without further delay or excuse.

31. To this we have replyed that we cannot think of submitting to a demand of so unprecedented a nature which if once admitted might subject Your Honours to being perpetually harassed and troubled on the same pretence, which kind of claim to the propertys of our tenants the government would always have in their power to lay against those who are esteemed the most wealthy, that we should therefore expect they as our Chief and Council will exert themselves in clearing us from so unreasonable a demand and which we are determined not to submit to.

32. On considering the purport of their letters it appeared very evident to us that the Nabob was ignorant of these proceedings, for which reason we have directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to apply for a private audience of the Nabob (in case their vacqueel cannot by his own representations get the affair dropt) and that Messrs. Jenks and Hastings should attend the Durbar upon this occasion with their own vacqueel, who must in the presence of those gentlemen acquaint the Nabob in the warmest terms what methods have been used to embroil us upon every trifling pretence and particularly this of the Cutmahs which we esteem very unjustifiable, that we cannot think of subjecting our flag and protection to so much contempt as to abandon our tenants and inhabitants and permit their estates and properties to be seized and plundered to satisfy the avarice of his rapacious ministers and that in case this demand is not laid aside we shall be under a necessity to withdraw their factory and take proper measures to secure our employers from these impositions.

33. We have recommended to Mr. Watts and his Council to act in this affair with spirit and prosecute with vigour our directions when we make no doubt we shall be freed from these embarassments in future and Hukembeg will find himself

disappointed of the lucrative ends he proposes to himself in this transaction.

34. When Your Honours duely weigh the inconveniences that would attend an easy compliance with a demand of so dangerous a nature and what ill consequences may arrive to this settlement from it, by opening a door to perpetual claims of the same kind, we flatter ourselves you will approve of the resolution we have taken to submit rather to a stoppage of our business than suffer the protection of our flagg to grow contemptible by becoming merely nominal and of no use to those who have fixed their residence under it

35. We promised Your Honours in our letter of the 8th December to give our sentiments concerning the re-settling of Patna factory, in consequence of which the President and Mr. Frankland undertook to extract from the book of that factory the gains and losses for the space of the 12 last years before it was withdrawn, which they have accordingly lain before us and copys of their extracts we transmit in the box of books by this ship for your observation. It appears from thence and from the subsequent statements drawn from them by Mr. Pearkes, that the Hon'ble Company have been considerable sufferers by withdrawing their factory at Patna, and that the same being resettled on a footing of oeconomy must be very beneficial to their affairs at this Presidency; some things it will however be necessary to adjust previously to the re-establishing the factory in order to make it prove an advantage; the first is, the setling the petre assamys' accounts at present disputed; and as most of these people or their descendants are dead or in an insolvent way, we conceive the most elegible method to obviate the difficultys those assammys may throw in our way would be to attack them first by a regular complaint at the Durbar against them for their balances as they stand upon the Company's books, which we imagine would produce the compromise of general releases on both sides—the utmost which in our opinion should be aimed at. The next thing requisite to be adjusted before the resettling of the factory is the Durbar charges to be paid there, which we are of opinion should be fixed and the sum to be paid expressly agreed on between us and the government at Muxadavad as well as way charges to the several chowkeys when our fleets and boats go up or come down. But as the advantage of re-establishing that factory will depend greatly on the

present value of the Patna investment at Patna and we have not had time sufficient to inform ourselves of this very needfull piece of knowledge we cannot give our final judgement upon this affair now; more especially as the prices of those commodities (when we are favoured with Your Honour's reply to this address) may vary considerably from what they are at present, so that an exact knowledge of the Patna market will (we apprehend) with more propriety and use be taken into consideration sometime before the period in which we may expect Your Honours' orders will arrive, for should the investment of that factory be procurable at the former prices, as set forth in the statements laid before us or even at some small advance on those prices, the extraordinary benefit arising to the Company from re-establishing the factory would not bear a dispute. The last consideration is the vend of our woolen goods and copper etc. and how the sale of those articles will be affected by this step; for by the several statements laid before us it does not appear that Your Honours have been much benefited in point of profit by the sales of those articles at Patna which in the general seem to have been influenced by the current prices here, but as a larger vend seems to be a chief consideration with Your Honours, more especially regarding woollen goods, we are of opinion your intention in this particular will be a great deal promoted by resettling Patna factory. We submit the wnole to Your Honours' consideration and shall follow such directions as you are pleased to transmit us upon this subject.

36. The Hon'ble Company's house near the factory being in a weak condition we have ordered the Buxey to strengthen it by building a verandah round it.

37. Your Honours will observe by the face of our Consultations of the 5th January Mr. Holwell moved the Board to come to a determination touching the duty of 5 per cent ordered to be levied on the sale of Europeans' houses. We accordingly took that affair under consideration and judging from information and the particular instance of Capt. John Durand that there would be much trouble and perplexity in collecting this duty, and that few, if any body, will submit to it without a litigation, we agreed to postpone the collecting of it on Europeans till your further pleasure was known, which steps we hope will not be disapproved of; and as the order has occasioned an universal clamour and is esteemed a very burthensome duty

we beg leave to recommend it to Your Honours as more eligible to relinquish it.

38. As Your Honours seem to approve of Colonel Scott's plan for enclosing the Company's bounds by a fosse and redoubts erected at proper distances, Mr. Simpson our Engineer was ordered to make an estimate of the sum of money it would cost to execute the said plan; upon his estimate being laid before us it appeared to us greatly to exceed what the Colonel or Your Honours imagined it would amount to; we have therefore deferred carrying the said plan further into execution till we receive your orders.

39. We have directed our Chiefs and Council at Cossimbuzar and Dacca to constitute a standing committee of accounts at their respective factorys agreeable to your instructions.

40. The Committee of Supervisors address Your Honours by this ship. Their letter is in the packett under its proper number.

41. Lieutenants John Harding and George Male have departed this life.

42. We are now to advise of the several sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at 2-3 each payable at 90 days after sight, the respective amounts being first accounted in Your Honours' treasury.

| | |
|---|---|
| On the 12th Feby. to George Minchin Esqr. for Current Rupees eleven thousand five hundred fifty five, nine annaes (11555-9-0) payable to Messrs. Arthur Colley and John Barton is | £Str. 1300. |
| On the 19th do. to John Z. Holwell Esqr. Current Rupees one hundred eight (108) payable to Mr. John Smith is | £Str. 12-3. |
| On the 19th Feby. to Jno. Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. account Nathaniel Wilson for CRS. two hundred twenty five, eight annaes and nine pice (225-8-9) payable to Jno. Sewell Esqr. is | £Str. 25-7-6. |

On do. to do. do. account Margaret Warwick for CRS. ninety eight, thirteen annaes and six pice (98-13-6) payable to William Cooke is £Str. 11-2-4.

On do. to William Rider account Samuel Waller for CRS. eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Charles Waller Esqr. is £Str. 100.

On do. to William Lyndsay for CRS. eight hundred (800) payable to the Hon'ble William Murray Esqr. His Majesty's Attorney General is £Str. 90.

On do. to Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. for CRS. fourteen hundred twenty two, three annaes, six pice (1422-3-6) payable to Mr. Robert Goodere is £Str. 160.

On do. to John Cotesworth for CRS. two hundred twenty two, three annaes, six pice (222-3-6) payable to Mr. George Wilson Cooper on Wapping Wall is £Str. 25.

On do. to Mr. Archibald Campbell for C.R.S. eight hundred eighty eight. fourteen annaes, six pice (888-14-6) payable to Mr. Daniel Campbell is £Str. 100.

On do. to Charles Manningham Esqr. for CRS. six hundred eleven, fifteen annaes, six pice (611-15-6) payable to Mr. George Heath is £Str. 68-15-6.

On do. to Mr. Thomas Holme for CRS. four hundred forty four, seven annaes (444-7) payable to Sir Wm. Russell Barrt. is £Str. 50.

On 23 do. to Charles Manningham Esqr. for CRS. three thousand five hundred fifty five, nine annas payable to Thomas Manningham Esqr. is £Str. 400.

On do. to do. for CRS. twelve hundred thirty one, three annaes, three pice (1231-3-3) payable to Wm. Davis Esqr. is £Str. 138-10-3.

On the 23rd Feby. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for CRS. two thousand seven hundred eight, twelve annaes, nine pice (2708-12-9) payable to William Wogan is £Str. 304-14-9

On do. to do. do. for CRS. twenty eight thousand five hundred twelve, ten annaes (28512-10) payable to Mrs. Ann Burrow is £Str. 3207-13-4

On do. to do. do. for CRS. fifteen hundred fifty seven, five annaes, three pice (1557-5-3) payable to Mr. Robert Goodere is £Str. 173-5-11.

On do. to do. do. for CRS. seven hundred seven, nine annaes (707-9) payable to John Henry Mertins is £Str. 79-12.

On do. to do. for CRS. two thousand seven hundred twenty three, twelve annaes (2723-12-0) payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esqr. is £Str. 306-8-5.

On do. to do. do. for CRS. four thousand one hundred fifty three, ten annaes (4153-10-0) payable to Messrs. Thos. Grendon and Wm. Fergusan is £Str. 467-5-8.

On do. to Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. for CRS. five thousand three hundred thirty three, five annaes (5333-5-0) payable to Roger Drake Esqr. is £Str. 600

On do. to Mr. Stair Dalrymple for CRS. five thousand five hundred ninety one, two annaes, six pice (5591-2-6) payable to Mr. Thomas Jones is £Str. 629.

On do. to Mr. Thomas Blaney for CRS. six hundred twenty two, three annaes, six pice (622-3-6) payable to Mr. William Alexander is £Str. 70.

On do. to Mr. Geofrey Jones account the estate of Mr. John Ellice deceased late chief mate of the Denham for CRS eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. Geoffrey Jones is £Str. 100.

On do. to Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. account Paul Phillip Polier for CRS. three thousand five hundred fifty five, nine annaes (3555-9-0) payable to Messrs. Stephen and Lewis Teissieur is £Str. 400.

On 23rd Febry. to Mr. Thomas Purnell for CRS. thirteen thousand three hundred thiry three, five annaes, six pice (13333-5-6) payable to Mr. Thomas Purnell is £Str. 1500

On 19th do. to J. Z. Holwell Esqr. for CRS. four thousand four hundred forty four, seven annæs, three pice (4444-7-3) payable to Charles Raymond and Thomas Fenwick Esqr. is £Str. 500.

On do. to do. for CRS. two thousand seventeen, nine annaes, six pice (2017-9-6) payable to William Davis and Mr. Peter Taylor is £Str. 226-19-7.

On 23rd do. to William Mackett Esqr. account the estate of Hugh Elphinson deceased for CRS. five hundred eighty, eleven annaes payable to Mrs. Ann Elphinson is £Str. 65-6-6.

On do. to Messrs. Becher and Holwell account Nathaniel Jacobs for CRS six hundred sixty (660) payable to Nathl. Jacobs is £Str. 74-5.

On 19 do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frankland being the nett proceeds of one chest of corall beads marked [symbol] No. (imported per Duke of Dorsett, Bernd Forrester) for CRS sixteen thousand eight hundred ninety three, fifteen annaes (16893-15) payable to Mr. Richard Barwell is £Str. 1900-11-1.

On do. to Roger Drake Junr. and Charles Manningham Esqrs. being the nett proceeds of one chest of coral beads marked B No. 4 imported per do. for CRS. eight thousand one hundred thirty two, three annaes, nine pice (8132-3-9) payable to Messrs. Abraham and Jacob Franco is £Str. 914-17-6.

On 23rd do. to do. account Thomas Godfrey Esqr. being the produce of one chest of coral marked A. B. No. 1 imported per ship Norfolk for CRS. fourteen thousand six hundred ninety two, thirteen annaes payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. is £Str. 1652-18-10.

On 19th do. to do. being in part returns of one chest of coral beads marked [symbol] No. 3 imported per ship Eastcourt for CRS. nine thousand one hundred twenty two, one annae (9122-1) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. £Str. 1026-4-7.

On 19th Feby. to Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. for CRS. nine hundred ninety, twelve annaes, six pice (990-12-6) payable to William Barwell Esqr. is £Str. 111-9-3.

On do. to Messrs. Manningham and Frank land for CRS. fifteen thousand three hundred forty one, eleven annaes and three pice (15341-11-3) payable to Adam Dawson Esqr. is £Str. 1726-18-10.

On 23rd do. to William Mackett Esqr. for CRS. two thousand three hundred thirty, eleven annaes, nine pice (2330-11-9) payable to Elizabeth Samson is £Str. 262-4-1.

On do. to do. for CRS. eleven hundred fifty five, nine annaes (1155-9) payable to Charles Browne is £Str. 130.

On do. to William Fullerton for CRS. two thousand (2000) payable to Mr. William Watts is £Str. 225.

On do. to do. for CRS. three thousand six hundred seventy four, nine annaes, six pice (3674-9-6) payable to Mr. William Barwell is £Str. 413-7-10.

On do. to Peter Amyatt account Mr. Stanlake Batson for CRS. four hundred fourty four, seven annaes (444-7-0) payable to Mr. [*sic*] Margaret Batson is £Str. 56.

On do. to do. account Miss Ann Amyatt for CRS. four hundred forty four, seven annaes (444-7-0) payable to William Allix Esqre is £Str. 50.

On do. to Mr. Andrew Ross being the produce of two boxes of amber beads marked [symbol] SS No. 1 and 2 imported per ship York for CRS two thousand five hundred thirty, fourteen annaes, six pice (2530-14-6) payable to Messrs. Isaac and Samuel Solley is £Str. 284-14-6.

On do. to William Fullerton for CRS. four thousand five hundred (4500) payable to Messrs. Gostling and Bannet is £Str. 506.

On do. to Mr. Edmund Massey for CRS. four thousand three hundred twenty (4320) payable to Thomas Phipp Esqr. is £Str. 486..

On do. to William Nixon for CRS. four hundred forty four, seven annaes (444-7-0) payable to Crommelin Pigou is £Str. 50..

On do. to William Nixon for CRS. four red (600) payable to Geo. Barnes Esqr. account Miles Barne is £Str. 67-10..

On do. to Paul Richd. Pearkes Esqr. for CRS. three hundred eighty four (384) payable to Mrs. Adriana Cecilia Pearkes is £Str. 43-4..

On do. to Henry Kelsall account Peter Lacelles, Dewar and Pye for CRS. two thousand two hundred thirty seven (2237) payable to Daniel Lascelles Esqr. is £Str. 251-13-3..

43. The whole amount of bills of exchange by this ship is CRS. one hundred eighty nine thousand six hundred eighty three, fourteen annaes, six pice (189683-14-6) or £Str. 21339-5-9.

44. We have likewise granted a sett of certificates of the same tenor and date to Capt. David Rannie account the estate of Capt. Robert Robinson deceased for CRS. fifty six thousand (56000).

45. By our Consultations of the 9th instant you will observe Capt. Buchanan sent in a letter to the Board offering to make the gun powder on the Company's account which by his estimate would not turn out, all charges included, for the musqueel and canon, above 10 rupees per maund upon an average. This being more reasonable than what Capt. Witherington offered to supply it for, and in our opinion the securest method for having the powder of a good quality, we have agreed to purchase the mills erected by the late colonel

at 4000 CRupees and to give Capt. Buchanan a saiary of 700 ARs per annum for his trouble in overlooking the work, the powder when delivered to be proved and examined by the Military Store Keeper and none received into the magazine that is not good.

46. By the Duke of Dorsett we advised Your Honours of having drawn a sett of bills in favour of William Barwell Esqr. account Geo. Sherwood for £Str. 50 which bills were not granted by that ship.

47. Mr. Pearkes having addressed the Board in relation to the allowances of his post we have enclosed his letter for your observation and directions.

48. We have consigned Your Honours on this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to CRS. [.....],

49. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of your island at St. Helena amounting to CRS. [.....].

50. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants.

Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Paul Richard Pearkes/
W. Frankland/J. Z. Holwell/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre.

Fort William,

23rd February, 1756.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57 pp. 145-69.

Paragraphs 36 and 38 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. II p. 44. Paragraph 37 published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records 1748-67*. p. 61.)

# LETTER DATED 26 FEBRUARY 1756

THE Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

Since closing our last under date the 23rd instant Mr. Simson has delivered us the accompanying representation and plan which we now transmit for Your Honours' observation remarking that engineers seldom agree in matters of fortification. How justly Mr. Simson may judge Colonel Scott his plan to be deficient we shall not presume to determine but think it our duty to transmit you his observations thereon. We are with great truth.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull servants,

Roger Drake Junr. and C. Manningham.

Fort William,

26th February, 1756.

*Enclosure* 1

Fort William, February 25th, 1756

To the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. and Charles Manningham Esqr.

Gentlemen,

Since the time I have had the honour to be appointed Engineer, I have had an opportunity to examine the plan projected by Colonel Scott for a fortification where Fort William now stands, which appearing to be deficient in some of the things principally requisite in a fortification I thought it my duty to represent the same to Your Honour &c. that if you think proper this representation with the accompanying plan may be transmitted to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors.

The Honble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies

May it please your Honours

Since Closing Our last undertook the 23rd Instant Mr Jenson has delivered us the accompanying Representation and Plan Which We now transmit for your Honours Observation, Remarking that Engineers seldom agree in matters of fortification How justly Mr Jenson may judge Colonel Scott his Plan to be Defficient We shall not presume to determine but think it our Duty to transmitt you his Observations thereon We are with great Truth

May it please your Honours

Your most faithfull Servants

Fort William
26th February 1756

Roger Drake Junr
&
6 Manningham

Facsimile of the letter on the opposite page

The side toward the river of Colonel Scot's plan is much too long, being 514 yards from point to point, so that the faces of the bastions are out of the reach of musket shot from the opposite flanks, there being 410 yards from the flank of one bastion to the shoulder of the other, and 462 yards from flank to point.

The gun wharf or low battery on the river side, which is not flanked by any fire from the fort, is proposed to be left in its present situation, and as its wall projects forward from the angle of the shoulder of the northwest bastion towards the river it prevents the face of that bastion from being flanked. Neither is the face of the southwest bastion toward the river flanked, the line of its face running with outside the opposite flank.

The north curtain being bent in the middle is flanked only at its angle, so that the flanks of the adjoining bastions are no defence to one another, nor to any of the lower part of the wall of the curtain, the middle excepted.

The whole fort when finished will be a narrow slip on the side of the river, and in order to build it, the whole north side of the factory, which contains the apartments for most of the young gentlemen in the Company's service, the magazine for arms and military stores, the shop for medicine, smith's shop etc. must be pulled down immediately, as also the church and hospital. As all these buildings are in constant use they cannot be well spared and it would be difficult to supply their place immediately.

It may then be questioned whether it would not be more adviseable to save most of these buildings, and to erect a square fort as by the accompanying plan, which runs from the north side of the present fort round the church through the tank, toward the horse stable and thence down to the water side between Mr. Amiot's house and that of the Company's.

This would be a compact regular fort, containing as much space as that of Colonel Scott has, all its bastions well flanked and the river sufficiently commanded by the low tenailles and advanced battery on the river side whose platform is on a level with the highwater mark; its ditch may be made of the same dimensions and redouts in the re-entering angles of the covered way constructed as those of Colonel Scott's plan,

excepting on the north side where it will be better to save Mr. Eyre's house by inclosing it in a large redout as by the plan.

The houses to be pulled down by each plan allowing sixty yards on the outside of the line wall with a rough estimate of their values, or the expense of raising buildings equivalent to them is as follows.

*Houses destroyed by Colonel Scott's plan*

| | CRs. |
|---|---|
| The north part of the fort to raise buildings equivalent or to answer the same uses ..... | 50000 |
| The church to build another..... | 17000 |
| Horse stables ..... | 1500 |
| Captain Fenwick's house ..... | 3000 |
| Captain Clayton's house ..... | 7000 |
| Hospital ..... | 15000 |
| House possessed by Mrs. McGuire ..... | 7000 |
| Godowns at the dockhead and Mr. Amiot's ..... | 6000 |
| Godowns of the Company's house | 1000 |
| Seats' old houses ..... | 6000 |
| | 113500 |

If the rampart is likewise continued at the back of the Company's house that must come down, but as it may be discontinued as at the northside of the factory house I shall leave it out.

*Houses destroyed by the square allowing the same area of 60 yards without the wall*

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Cruttenden's house ..... | 12000 |
| Lower roomed house to the north of Mr. Eyre's ..... | 3000 |
| House lately possessed by Mr. Cook belonging to Omichund ..... | 7000 |
| House lately repaired of Omichund ..... | 10000 |
| Mr. Coale's house ..... | 10000 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Valycourt's ..... | 8000 |
| Mr. Amiot's ..... | 10000 |
| Godowns of the Company's house ..... | 2000 |
| Part of the north east corner of the fort ..... | 16000 |
| Mr. Eyre's house, brought but not pulled down, may be surrounded by the redoubt and be a usefull place for lodging etc. ..... | 12000 |
| | 90000 |

Before the buildings of the Colonel's plan can be carryed on there must be pulled down immediately all the northside of the factory, the church, hospital, godowns of Mrs. McGuire's house, the dockyard and godowns of the Company's house, whereas in order to go on with buildings the square, nothing needs to be pulled down but the outhouse at the Company's house, and a small part of the north-east corner of the present fort.

If the line wall, ditch and redouts were finished, the parts of the glacis which interfere with the neighbouring house may be left till the appearance of a siege makes it absolutely necessary to clear all away and then the glacis may be made in the same time the houses are pulled down.

This fort would require fewer men to defend it, in the proportion of five to four.

The flanks toward the landside may be arched, so as to afford room for two casemated guns in each flank and likewise sufficient room to hold all the garrison and people off duty, secure from shells in case of a siege.

The flanks toward the river are made circular, as by that figure they afford somewhat more room, and flank the lower advanced battery better.

The flanks toward the landside are made somewhat shorter than they commonly are in a fort of this size, in order to save room, but as they are sufficiently long to hold five guns each on a line, it is presumed they will be found to be long enough for their use.

As the walls must be founded nearly as deep as the bottom of great tank all round, the building through it need be no great objection.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect
Honourable Sirs,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,
Colin Simson.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755—57, pp. 170—75.

The whole letter with the enclosure published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* Vol. II pp. 44-47. Paragraph 5 of the enclosure published in Long's *Selections from Unpublished Records* 1748-67, p. 62.)

## 61

## LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1756

*Holwell's minute regarding establishment of Residency at Agra.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. The St. George, Capt. Parson Fenner, was dispatched from Ingelie on the 1st instant by Mr. William Mackett when she drew [.....] foot water upon an even keel. That ship carried our address of the 23rd February, duplicate whereof is inclosed in this packett.

2. We have been obliged to protest against Capt. Meard for neglecting to move his ship from town by the 21st of last month pursuant to our orders and for not being in readiness to take in such part of her cargoe as we had intended to lade while she was up; copy of which protest we transmitt Your Honours in this packett.

3. The detention of the Denham so long at the Negrais has been a great disappointment to us in our intentions of sending home our investments early in the season, which we were prepared to do conformable to what we wrote in our several

letters of the 11th September, 8th December and 5th January, the bales we have laden on the St. George having been all packed by the 20 January. We flatter ourselves therefore, that the late dispatches of these ships from hence will not be attributed to any mismanagements or delays on our part, having exerted our utmost to hasten the commanders, and get them away as soon as the condition and readiness of their vessels would admit of, and had the Denham imported in proper time she might have sailed for Europe before the 10th of last month.

4. Capt. Meard has been advanced 4.000 CRupees upon charter party terms since his return from the Negraise, one of his bonds for which as well as that for 400 CRs. before advanced him and his several requests and letters are enclosed in this packett

5. Enclosed we likewise transmitt the accounts current of our aurungs and a general account of the whole, with a list of the gomastahs and their securities now employed in our service. These accounts are transmitted open for Your Honours' observation for which reason we beg leave to remark that in the ballances of ready money outstanding at the several aurungs is included 120000 rupees forwarded lately to Malda etc. and the sum of Rs. 68545-12 as. is for puttun advanced to delolls and weavers not yet collected, and are not to be esteemed as bad, debts, as we expect the greatest part of it will be delivered in by those people within a few months.

6. This morning we received a letter from the President and Council of Bombay under date the 31st October with a remittance of 120000 Sicca Rupees, which supply is very agreeable at this juncture, as the ballance of our treasury is but very low.

7. We are now to advise Your Honours of the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange by this ship at 2/3 each rupee and 90 days, the several amounts being duely accounted for in your treasury.

On the 2nd March to Messrs. William Mackett and George Gray for CRs. three thousand seven hundred thirty four, ten annaes and three pice (3734-10-3) payable to Mr John Browne is £Str. 420-2-11.

On the 4th do. to John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. account William Baillie Esqr. for CRs. four hundred forty four, seven annaes (444-7) payable to Robert Baillie Esqr. is **£Str. 50.**

On do. do. to Charles Manningham Esqr. for CRs. one hundred seventy seven, twelve annaes, six pice (177-12-6) payable to Charles Manningham Esqr. is **£Str. 20.**

On do. do. to Roger Drake and Chas. Manningham Esqr. (in part proceeds of one chest of coral beads marked [symbol] No. 1 imported per Duke of Dorsett. Capt. Forrester) for CRs., four thousand six hundred fifty eight, one annæ (4658-1) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. is **£Str. 524-0-7.**

On do. do. to Mr. David Rannie for CRs. eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (888-14-3) payable to Mr. James Rannie is **£Str. 100.**

On do. to Mr. Anselm Beaumont for CRs. two thousand eight hundred (2800) payable to Mr. Richard Gamon is **£Str. 315.**

8. The whole amount of bills of exchange is CRs. twelve thousand nine hundred three, thirteen annaes (12903-13) or £Str. 1429-3-6.

9. Mr. Holwell on the 1st instant having made in minute in relation to establishing a Residency at Agra subordinate to the Chief and Council at Patna (in case that factory is resettled by Your Honours) and made a motion to send some small adventures of your staples to the inland marts under the conduct and management of our junior servants, we have enclosed copy of that minute in our packett by this ship and shall give you our sentiments upon the latter part by our advices of next season.

10. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to CRs. 954500.

11. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for your island of St. Helena amounting to CRs. 754-6-9.

12. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants, Roger Drake Junr./C. Manningham/Paul Richard Pearkes/ W. Frankland/W. Mackett/Edward Eyre.

Fort William,

4th March, 1756.

P. S. Capt. George Meard having refused to make good the deficiency of copper received by the Denham we have not delivered up his bill of lading and must leave it to be adjusted by Your Honours.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755—57, pp, 176—80.

## 62

## LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1756

*Causes for the loss of Fort William—the Nawab's orders calling on the Council to level down their new works of fortification—the Chief of Kasimbazar forced to sign a* muchalka*—desertion of Governor Drake and others and surrender of Fort William—imprisonment of soldiers and deaths by suffocation.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

[1.] It is with the utmost concern we now inform you that Fort William was taken the 20th of June by the Nabob of Bengal,

grandson of Allwerdicawn who died last April. The first rise of these troubles are as follows.

[2.] Sometime after his coming to the government he sent one Narran Singh, brother to Rogeram who is Nabob of Cuttack and Commander of the Spys (which in this country is a considerable post), to Calcutta where he arrived privately and in disguise with a letter from the Nabob to the Governor, which the Governour did not think proper to receive as it was presented in such a way, but turned Narran Sing with disgrace out of the place. The Chief of Cossimbuzar being apprehensive that this might occasion some trouble wrote to the Durbar officers to prevent any complaint being made to the Nabob and the affair was seemingly hushed up, but few days were elapsed when he sent for our vacqueel and told him he heard they were making fortifications and digging a ditch round Calcutta and insisted that we should level our new works and fill up the ditch. Upon the vacqueel returning from the Durbar and acquainting the Chief with what the Nabob said he wrote to him that he had not heard of any new fortifications being raised or ditch dug and that we were apprehensive that our enemies for their own lucrative advantages had raised these reports. To this letter he returned no answer, but sent a perwannah to Calcutta ordering them to desist from fortifying and to level what new works they had begun. He then marched to the northward and gave out he was going to Patna[1]. On his arrival at Rajamaul he received the Governour's answer at which he was greatly incensed and immediately ordered a party of horse and gun men upon our factory and returned back himself with the greatest expedition with his whole army which encamped round our factory and according to the most moderate computation consisted of 10000 horse and 20000 Rajepouts and other gun men with a large train of artillery, and then demanded the Chief to come out and see him, the Nabob's Duan who commanded the van of the army writing the Chief the letter that he might come out with great safety, that no harm should happen, and that he would introduce him to the Nabob. Upon this we thought proper to send the surgeon of the factory[2] to the Duan and he gave him the same assurances and sent him back with a considerable person and a present of beetle (which is esteemed a pledge of faith) to accompany the Chief to the Duan who was to in-




Plan of the territory of Calcutta when attacked and taken by Sirajud-Daulah on 18 June 1756

REFERENCES

a Perrin's Point
b Gobindaram Mitra's garden
c Omichand's garden
d Gobindapur
e Tents and hut[illegible] Nawab's army
f Fort William
g Adjoining wa[illegible]ses
h Governor's h[illegible]
i Cruttenden's
k Eyre's house
l Church
m Park
n North battery
o East battery
p South battery
r Pallisades to avenues
s English houses
t Ditches and slight works made in 1742

troduce him to the Nabob. Accordingly, agreeable to the unanimous opinion of the gentlemen of the factory and officer of the garrison, the Chief went and was presented by the Duan to the Nabob who immediately ordered him into confinement and insisted on his giving an obligation that in 15 days' time the gentlemen of Calcutta should level what new works they had raised, deliver up the Nabob's tenants who had fled for protection there, and that if it could be proved we had falsified the Company's dustucks by giving them to those that had no right to them we should pay back what the Government had suffered by loss of duties. The Chief being in their hands was obliged to sign this. They then told him that his signing was of no consequence without the rest of the Council; accordingly upon the surgeon's returning to the factory with a eunuch of the Nabob's and two or three others who acquainted Messrs Collet and Batson that it was necessary they should go to the Chief and make an end of the affair, they went and were detained prisoners, nothing more being said about the obligation the Chief had signed. The next day we were ordered to deliver up our ammunition and cannon which upon mature deliberation we thought proper to comply with in hopes to entirely pacify the Nabob and prevent his march to Calcutta. The army then drew off from the factory. Mr. Batson was sent back to the factory and Messrs. Watts and Collett kept prisoners in the camp. The Nabob then bent his march towards Calcutta, having ordered all the godowns at Cossimbuzar to be sealed with his seal and the soldiers to be carried prisoners to Muxadavad.

[3.] As the Chief etc. going out of the factory and afterwards delivering up the cannon and ammunition may perhaps appear to Your Honours extraordinary, we think it necessary to give our reasons for taking such steps. It has been always customary in Bengal for the Chiefs of subordinates to visit the Nabobs of the province, and we had great reason to believe that on paying this visit we should be able to accommodate matters and prevent his march to Calcutta. Had we attempted to resist, our factory must inevitably have fallen into their hands, we being in no condition to make a defence against so large a force, our factory being surrounded on three sides by houses which overlooked our bastions, some not 30 yards from our bastions, most of our guns were honey-combed and carriages rotten, though we had repeatedly indented to Calcutta for new

ones. Our garrison consisted of about 50 Soldiers most of which were Portugeese. We had about 80 maunds of powder but few or no shot or granades. We might possibly with this force have held out 3 or 4 days which would not have prevented the consequences that have since happened but even supposing we had been able to resist the Government we are humbly of opinion it would have been madness in us to have attempted it when so great a part of Your Honours' estate amounting to many lacks of rupees was dispersed over the whole country which would have been immediately seized and you might justly have blamed us for commencing a war with the Government and being the occasion of so immense a loss, the effects in our factory not being near so considerable as the money, goods and debts we had outstanding—all which with the money and goods at the several aurungs would have been saved, had the Governour and Council thought proper to come to any terms with the Nabob. We therefore hope (though unfortunate) Your Honours will approve off and think the steps we took the most prudent though by unthinking men who see affairs but in one light we may possibly be blamed.

[4.] The best account we can get of the taking Fort William, we being then prisoners in the Camp, is that two days before the place was delivered up the Governour, Messrs. Manningham, Frankland, and Mackett with the Commandant George Minchin, Captain Alexander Grant and 8 or 9 of the junior servants with part of the military quitted the fort and retired on board their ships but with such precipitation that we heard they have saved nothing belonging to the Company, not even their books and papers or Mogul's phirmaund. Messrs. Pearkes, Holwell, Eyre and Baillie with the rest of the Company's servants and military remained in the fort. But when the Governour etc. were gone the soldiers got to their liquors and wine under no command. 56 of the soldiers that were Dutch deserted that night, after which all was tumult, disorder and confusion which we imagine occasioned the gentlemen to hoist a flag of truce in order to capitulate. This opportunity the Moors took to rush in upon them, applied ladders to the walls which they scaled and were soon in possession of the fort. Most of the gentlemen, officers and soldiers were carried prisoners to the Nabob who ordered them into the Black Hole where out of 146 one hundred and twenty three were found dead the next morning supposed to be suffocated by the closeness of the place. Messrs Holwell, Court, Burdett and Walcott, and Ensign, were put in

irons and carried prisoners to Muxadavad of whom we have since heard nothing. We are persuaded this dismal catastrophey of Your Honours' estate in Bengal being plundered, your settlements lost, your servants destroyed and ruined with some hundred thousands of Calcutta inhabitants, might have been prevented had the Governour and Council thought proper to have compromised matters for a sum of money. And as a proof, the Nabob touched nothing at Cossimbuzar but the warlike stores or at any of the other factorys or aurungs till he had taken Calcutta. Roydulub, the Nabobs' Duan and who commanded the van of the army, likewise frequently sent for the Chief while he was prisoner in the camp and told him smiling that we must pay a crore of rupees and when the Chief assured him the Company's whole estate did not amount to that sum he then asked him if they would pay 20 lack of rupees, to which the Chief answered again that the Company's annual trade to Bengal was not more than the demand he made. The Duan then desired to know what they could afford to pay to which he replyed he had no powers to treat but if the Duan would permit him to write to Calcutta he should then be able to inform him. This request the Duan absolutely refused, but told him if any proposals of accommodation were made first from Calcutta he might then write as often as he pleased. We being surrounded and strictly watched night and day by the Nabob's people, we had no opportunity of writing to Calcutta till we were opposite to Hughley where we got permission to write to the Dutch Directore for some provisions to whom we sent a letter to be forwarded to Calcutta wherein we wrote that if the Governour and Council would send a proper person to the camp or empower us to act, we flattered ourselves that even then the dispute with the Nabob might be finished for a sum of money. This letter the Dutch Directore assures us was delivered to Mr. Drake along with a letter of his own, and we are well informed an answer was wrote importing that after the disgrace the Company had suffered at Cossimbuzar by the taking of their factory and imprisoning their servants they were resolved not to come to any agreement.

[5.] Coja Wazeed, a considerable merchant and one who has great influence with the Nabob, his duan also told us that he was sent by his master four times to Calcutta to persuade the gentlemen to pay a sum of money and pacify the Nabob, but without effect, and the last time was threatened to be used ill

if he came again on the same errand. From the above proofs there appears to us the greatest moral certainty that the Nabob never intended to drive the English out of his province but would have been satisfied with a sum of money. His treatment of the French and Dutch after the taking of Calcutta is a corroboratory circumstance, of each of whom he demanded twenty lack of rupees, and on their representing to him that their trade in his province did not amount to that sum but that they were willing to make the present which was usually given on a Subah's first coming to the Government, he appeared so incensed that he ordered ten thousand men into the Dutch town with directions to demolish and plunder the houses and people on the first signal. He then demanded their guns, ammunition and colours but was at last pacifyed with a present of four hundred and fifty thousand Sicca Rupees. The French were threatened and treated much in the same manner and were obliged to pay three hundred thousand Siccas; this account we can affirm to be true as we had it from the gentlemen themselves.

[6.] We are informed that Mr. Richard Becher, Chief, and Council of Dacca were surrounded by the Nabob's forces and obliged to surrender themselves prisoners and are now on the French factory there, the French Chief having passed his word for their appearance, all the Company's effects and money being seized for the Nabob's use.

[7.] Mr. Peter Amyatt, Chief at Luckypore, escaped on board a sloop and has saved about 60000 rupees in money and goods of Your Honours' estate. Mr. Thomas Boddam has likewise saved from Ballasore about 6000 rupees. They are now with Mr. Drake and the rest of the gentlemen who are on board country ships at Fultah.

[8.] Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Drake and the gentlemen below with our answer. We did not think it adviseable to act as we were of opinion that the gentlemen who had deserted the fort had by that step abdicated their several stations in the Company's service and had not power to indemnifye us if Your Honours should not approve of the measures they might direct us to take and we are of opinion that as they had wrote to the Governour and Council of Madras for assistance, and as we had since wrote an account of the taking of Calcutta, we think it more adviseable to wait till we have answers from Madras, and are informed what measures the Governour and Council there may be able to take to

reestablish the Hon'ble Company's affairs in Bengal, then [*sic*] meanly to return into a ruined and open town which the Nabob may possibly consent to in hopes of still further plunder on the arrival of any of Your Honours' ships, as we think he is not to be trusted after affairs have gone the length they have.

[9.] Enclosed is a translate of the Nabob's letter to the Hon'ble George Pigot Esqr., on which we must beg leave to remark that the Chief of Cossimbuzar wrote a letter to the Nabob that he was persuaded Mr. Drake would deliver up Rojebullub's son and wealth who is the person the Nabob means in his letter, whenever he thought proper to demand him, at which as the Chief was assured from Coja Wazeed who delivered the letter that the Nabob seemed then satisfied. Whether the Nabob applied afterwards to Calcutta for the delivery of this man we cannot say.

[10.] Since writing the above Mr. Gray Junr., one of Your Honours' servants, has given us an account of the attack and taking of Calcutta, he being present the whole time, which we now enclose and here we must beg leave to inform Your Honours that Mr. William Mackett's intentions was not to leave the fort, but his wife having miscarried the night before, he thought it incumbent on him to see her safe on board a ship, when he wanted to return but would get no conveyance though we are informed he offered a thousand rupees for a boat. Enclosed is an account of the Company's servants and officers on board the ships at Fultah.

[11.] We have since the above reviewed another letter from the gentlemen at Fultah which we now enclose with our answer thereto. We hope Your Honours will not blame our conduct in this affair as what we have done was to the best of our judgement, and we flatter ourselves their protest will have no weight with Your Honours as we think they may with more propriety be charged with what damages and wrongs both have and may ensue by the deprivation of the Company's privileges as contained in the royal phirmaund. And we are of opinion that the immediate possession of Calcutta in its present ruined condition can be of no service to the Company, neither do we think it adviseable or safe to trust any of the Company's effects there till a sufficient force arrives to defend the place against the Nabob in case he should think proper to attack it

again, we being of opinion as we mentioned before that no trust or confidence can be reposed in him.

[12.] We were released by the Nabob at Hughley on his return from the taking of Calcutta and were delivered to the French Governour of Chandernagore from whom the Nabob took a receipt for us and ordered him to send us safe to Madras. We have received here the most humane treatment and have now 110 soldiers and sailors in their hospital who are all supplied with diet and cloathing.

[13.] We assure Your Honours that the above account relating to ourselves and our transactions is in every particular true and just and what regards the taking of Calcutta is from the best information we could get in which we have taken particular care not to be deceived or biassed by favour or prejudice. We hope from your candour that you will make allowances for us as men and consequently falliable for any errors in judgement we may have committed. We being conscious of having acted as faithfull servants what we thought most for the interest of the Hon'ble Company, therefore flatter ourselves we shall meet with your future favour, we being entirely ruined, having lost every thing even to our cloaths and necessarys.

We are with the greatest respect,
May it please Your Honours
Your Honours' most obedient and most faithfull humble servants,

Wm. Watts/M. Collett.

Chandernagore,

July the 16th, 1756.

*Account of the loss of Calcutta by Mr. Grey, Junior*

[1.] On the 17th of June, 1756, the enemy attacked the redoubt at Perrins about noon and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon 40 men with 2 field pieces were sent to the assistance of that place where in the engagement the Moors from behind the trees and bushes killed 2 Europeans, one of whom was Ralph Thoresby. About 8 o' clock an 18 pounder came out to Perrins and the 2 field pieces with the reinforcement that had been

sent in the afternoon, went back to their former stations. In the night Lieutenant Pacard who had the command at Perrins, sallied out upon the enemy and having drove them from their guns spiked up 4 of them and brought away some ammunition.

[2.] On the 18th about 9 o'clock in the morning our outworks were attacked. Small parties were dispatched to the tops of some of the highest houses from thence to annoy the enemy on their approach. Amongst those Messrs. Charles Smith and Robert Wilkinson had the misfortune to be killed. Mons. La Bonne, who with a small party was posted at the Jail, bravely defended it for six hours, till himself and most of his men being wounded, they were obliged to retire within the battery at the Court House. In the evening the enemy killing and wounding several of our men and surrounding us on all sides, we were ordered to retreat from our outworks (after having spiked up our guns) and take possession of the Church, Mr. Cruttenden's, Eyre's and the Company's houses, which we quietly kept all night.

[3.] The enemy on the morning of the 19th advanced upon us and still surrounding us killed and wounded some of our men. We were ordered to retire from the Church and houses we had taken possession of the night before and come within the fort. The ladies and wounded men were sent on board the ships The Governour, Messrs. Manningham, Frankland, Mackett, Commandant Minchin, Capt. Alexr. Grant, Messrs. Cruttenden, Mapletoft, Sumner, Billers, O'Hara, Rider, Tooke, Senior, Ellis, Vassmer, Orr, Leycester, Charlton, with several of the military and militia fled on board the ships and went down the river, which greatly dispirited our men. Immediately upon the Governour's going off, Mr. Holwell was unanimously chosen in his room (Mr. Pearkes who was his senior in Council delivering him up the charge of the factory till the troubles should cease). The new Governour made a publick declaration of his detesting Mr. Drake's base flight, at the same time encouraging the military to hold out the siege with a promise of 3 chests of the Company's treasure containing 2400 rupees among them if they could keep the place. But upon so many of the principal officers leaving us, the soldiers could not be hindered from breaking into the rooms of those that were gone and taking from thence what wine or spirits came in their way, by which getting drunk they began to be mutinous and unruly.

In the night a corporal and 56 men, most of them Dutch, deserted us and went over the walls to the enemy.

[4.] Next morning the enemy having got possession of the top of the Church and houses round the fort, from thence galled our men with their small arms, killing several of them (among whom was Capt. Smith) and wounding many of our officers. The Church commanded our walls in such a manner that the men could not stand to the guns, and the officers were obliged to go about and present cocked pistoles at the soldiers to make them mount the walls which were almost deserted, but they, whenever they were out of sight, skulked and would not get up. About noon the Governour and Council thought it proper to write to the Nabob and Duan demanding a truce and accommodation, but had no answer returned. The ship Prince George which had hitherto layn before Perrins (from whence our forces had been some time withdrawn) was ordered down abreast of the fort, but in the way unluckily ran ashore by the misconduct of the pilot Francis Morris, and was taken by the Moors. About 4 o' clock in the afternoon, the enemy called out to us not to fire, in consequence of which the Governour showed a flag of truce and gave orders for us not to fire, upon which the enemy in vast numbers came under our walls and at once set fire to the windows which were stopt up with cotton bales, began to break open the fort gate and scaled our walls on all sides. This put us in the utmost confusion. Some rushed out at the gate towards the river to take possession of a boat that lay half in and half out of the water and in an instant it was so laden that it was impossible to get it off. In the mean time the Moors surrounded and showed them signs of quarter, upon which they delivered themselves up. Some of them went to the Nabob himself, and even by him pardoned, and others whilst the enemy were busy about the plunder got into a boat and went down the river to the ships at that time lying of Surmon's Gardens. But most of those remained in the fort were put into the Black Hole to the number of 146 of whom 123 were miserably suffocated by the heat, occasioned by so many being shut up in so small a place. Among those that unhappily suffered, were Messrs. Eyre, Baillie, Coales, Dumbleton, Jenks, Reveley, Law, Jebb, Carse, Valicourt, Bellamy Senr, Drake, Byng, Dalrymple, P. Johnston, Street, Stephen and Edward Page, Grub, Dod, Torriano, Knapton, Ballard, Captains Clayton, Witherington, Buchanan, Lieutenants Hays, Simpson,

Blagg, Bishop, Pacard, Bellamy, Ensigns Scott and Wedderburn. Among those that had been in the Black Hole, but came out alive, were Messrs. Holwell, Court, Burdett and Ensign, Walcot who were sent up to Muxadavad in irons and Messrs. Cooke and Lushington who got down to the ships.

[5.] At the time the fort was taken there was not above the number of 20 men upon the walls. The greatest part of the soldiers were drunk, and those that were sober, were quite fatigued with continual hard duty and want of a regular distribution of provisions.

(Ref.:—Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 193-210.

Extracts of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the letter of Watts and Collet published in Wilson's *Old Fort William,* Vol. II, pp. 59-60. The letter of Watts and Collet and the account of the loss of Calcutta published in Hill's *Bengal in 1756-57,* Vol. I, pp. 99-109.)

## 63

## LETTER DATED 17 JULY 1756

*Causes of the loss of Fort William—fall of Kasimbazar—estimate of the Nawab's army—decision to send treasure and European ladies out of the Fort—desertion of the President and others and nomination of Holwell as Governor—surrender of the Fort and imprisonment of soldiers—release of Holwell.*

TO the Hon'ble Richard Bourchier Esqr. President and Governor of Bombay and Council.

Muxadavad, the 17th July 1756.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

[1.] Little capable as I am in my distressed situation of executing a task of this kind it yet cannot be neglected, consistent with my duty to my Hon'ble employers, and the trust last devolved on me at the settlement of Fort William, now theirs no more, an incident I doubt not but you have before this been advised off by pattamars from this city and possibly our late President from Ingillee. This conjecture however will not excuse my omitting to transmit you under general heads the several gradations by which our Hon'ble masters have sustained this important loss. These I am to request you will forward to

them, by the most expeditious conveyance in your power, whilst I refer them and you to a particular and distinct narrative of the causes and various accidents which have contributed to our fatal catastrophe in these provinces, which I will attempt as soon as the recovery of my health (now much impaired) will enable me.

[2.] Our factory at Cossimbuzar being given up to the Nabob the 4th of June last (by the most unhappy and unaccountable infatuation in our Chief and Council there) the foundation of our ruin was laid; the accession was too important to the Nabob to be relinquished and he was sensible he must relinquish it, as well as restore our money and goods seized at the different aurungs, or entirely extirpate us from the provinces. The cannon, ammunition and military stores he became possessed of at Cossimbuzar determined him to the latter and as he expected some succours might reach us from the Coast, he marched against us with the whole force of his provinces consisting, by the best accounts we have since acquired, of 30000 horse and 35000 foot with about 400 elephants of war, though our best information during his approach made his force no more than 6 or 7000 horse and 12 or 13000 foot nor could we even learn with any certainty whether the Nabob marched against us in person or not, for he had cut off all communication between us and the gentlemen of Cossimbuzar (whom, with the garrison, he made prisoners) and our spys either had not courage enough to approach his army for any just intelligence, or not integrity enough to give it us. On the earliest notice of his real intentions we made all the dispositions in our power for his reception, though I believe never was fortress less defensible, encumbered with houses close round us and not a proper esplanade to one gun, nor time possibly to pull the houses down to remedy this evil; advanced posts were appointed, ditches sunk, breast work thrown up and batteries raised at three principal posts to wit, at the Court House eastward, at the corner of Mr. Griffith's house to the northward and at Mrs. Piearce's Bridge to the southward and the Jail was fortified as a further advanced post. We had flattered ourselves that we should have mustered between 5 and 600 effective men—Europeans, black and militia, inhabitants and those belonging to the shipping but to our utter astonishment when our military roll was returned in Council it consisted only of 45 of the train and 145 infantry and in both only 60 Europeans, in the militia were about 100

Armenians who were entirely useless and more than the number amongst the black militia boys and slaves, who were not capable of holding a musket; so that in fact when the seafaring people who most of them appeared only at the first muster were draughted off on board the vessels of which we had in port about 30 sail of every craft our garrison did not consist of 250 fighting men, officers included.

[3.] On the 7th June all provisions were prohibited by the Nabob being brought into Calcutta by orders to the several zemindars round us and the other side of the river. Between the 10th and 13th June several partys of the Nabob's troops took possession of Tanners Fort to cut off our communication on the river from below, on the 14th 3 or 4 ships were sent to dislodge them without effect, on the 16th Baagbazar redoubt was attacked by the Nabob's army who were repulsed with considerable loss by Ensign Piccard and 25 men with 30 buckserries. Here 2 European soldiers were killed and Mr. Ralph Thoresby, a hopeful young gentleman who with many others of the junior servants had entered volunteers in the infantry. About this time two Moors ships were brought under our guns which by way of reprisal we had taken below. On the 17th all our buckserries to the number of near 700 taken the most of them into our pay on this occasion fled to a man of our out chowkeys and I believe deserted to the enemy. Early this day our principal post to the northward by Mr. Griffith's was attacked and something later that at the Court House by flying partys from the streets and houses, whilst a multitude of other detached partys from the Nabob's army were plundering and destroying every part of the town to the northward. These two advanced posts were continually alarmed and harassed this whole day and the succeeding night and day that is to say the 18th when the enemy brought a twelve pounder supported with about 5000 musketry to bear against the Jail which was gallantly defended by a French officer Monsr. Le Beaume[1] with Ensign Carstairs and 32 men detached from the advanced post at the Court House and maintained untill about noon when Monsr. Le Beaume and Ensign Cartairs being wounded, some of the train killed and others of the detachment disabled, the post was relinquished and one field piece brought off with the party; about 4 afternoon the enemy having taken possession of the houses all round the advanced post at the Court House it was ordered to be abandoned and the same evening the like

orders were sent to the other two posts to the southward and northward and Piccard's party called from Baagbuzar. This evening at a council of war it was resolved to embark the Company's treasure, books and the European ladies and further agreed that the ships should remain under the guns of the fort. Messrs. Manningham and Frankland, the first colonel and the other lieutenant colonel of the militia conducted the ladies on board and I understood were to return, when they had reconciled the ladies to their situation but they never returned again, no more did Captain Lieutenant Mapletoft, Lieutenant H. Wedderburn, Ensigns Wm. Sumner and Charles Douglas—all officers of the militia, besides about 15 of the volunteers and many of the militia who deserted the fort this day and the succeeding morning. On the 18th more advanced in the night we held another council of war and the captain of the train being ordered to make a return of the ammunition we were thunderstruck when he reported there was not full three days' amunition in the garrison. The debate then turned on the question whether a retreat with the garrison and all the Company's effects could be attempted that night but so much of it elapsed in debate that it became impracticable untill the next when myself and I believe every body else present judged the retreat was determined to be carried into execution. In the morning of the 19th the enemy were pretty quiet and only now and then threw a random shot at the fort from the batteries they had raised in three or four different stations whilst they were busy in forming lodgements in the houses round us. About 9 this morning our President Mr. Drake, Commandant Minchin, Mr. Macket, 2nd captain of the militia, Captain Grant, Adjutant General, Mr. O'Hara, lieutenant of the train, privately withdraw out the back gate, deserted the factory and embarked on board the shipping which immediately weighed and stood down the river without leaving us a single boat at the gate or possibility of making a general retreat and this before any one attack had been actually made on the fort. On the Governor etc.'s desertion being known, the garrison fell into the utmost confusion and tumults when the gentlemen remaining of the Council, officers and others, intreated I would immediately take upon me the government of the fort, as the only means of quieting the present tumults which must have ended in the destruction of the whole. A Council was directly called and Mr. Pearkes, waving his right of seniority, himself and Messrs Eyre and Baillie appointed me Governor of the

fort and administrator of the Hon'ble Company's affairs during the troubles, in which light I was recognized by the whole garrison. I immediately visited every post and soon quieted the minds of the people, by assuring them they should have three chests of treasure divided amongst the soldiers and militia, if they would defend the fort untill we could make a general retreat with all the Company's effects and that I would be the last man that quitted the fort. At the Council held as above, we suspended the President and the gentlemen of the Council and officers with him from the Company's service, it being the only just piece of resentment in our power, for the cruel peice of treachery they had been guilty of to the whole garrison as well as breach of trust to their employers. We likewise sent an order to Captain Hague, Commander of the Company's ship St. George stationed at Baagbuzar, to weigh and immediately drop down opposite the lane between the new godowns of the factory and the Company's house; these new godowns being the weakest part of the fort and not flanked by any gun from it, the ship in this station would have accomplished this service, have contributed to dislodge the enemy from the Company's house and have been under our guns. As she was then the only remaining chance we had for a general retreat, three or 4 boats being yet with her, Mr. Pearkes was so obliging as to tender himself with three or four volunteers on this service and went on board accordingly but the pilot neither that day nor the next would undertake to bring her lower than opposite to Mr. Watts' house where she was useless to us. To return to our situation: the 19th after the President's desertion from Council I had hardly gone round the ramparts before the enemy attacked the fort incessantly the whole remainder of the day from their batteries and small arms; of the former, from the battery we had raised at the Court House, from another they had erected in Mr. Allsop's compound between the Court House and the Jail, from a third erected at the south west corner of the park, from a 4th in the Reverend Mr. Bellamy's compound and from a small battery they had raised at the dock head. They fired so wildly from their batteries they would not have made a breach in a twelve month though they fired from 18 pounders but their small arms from the houses round us particularly the Company's, Captain Rannie's and Mr. Cruttenden's annoyed us much from whence we several times dislodged them with great slaughter and obliged them at last to set fire to them and abandon them. The 19th

at night our people had some reces, but were obliged to sleep on their arms; the 20th in the morning the enemy formed three assaults at once against the north west bastion, against the north east futtock or barrier and against the windows of the labritory on the eastern curtain and attempted to scale to the north west. From each of these assaults they were beat off with great loss to them before noon and a general cessation in a manner ensued for some hours when finding we had 25 killed and 70 or more of our best men wounded and our train killed, wounded and deserted to all but 14 and not two hours' ammunition left, we threw out a flagg of truce towards the evening, intending to amuse the enemy, and make the best retreat we could in the night to the St. George, not then knowing that she was on a sand opposite to Omichund's house. During the parley our back gate was betrayed to the enemy in concert, I judge, with some that had deserted the preceeding night from the walls and those who had the guard of that gate, who were obliged to wrench off the locks and bolts, the keys being in my possession. In this situation we had nothing left to resolve on, but a surrender at discretion.

[4.] Thus I have transmitted to Your Honour etc. as circumstantial an account of this melancholy event as my state of body and mind will at present permit me (ruined in my own private fortune as well as much injured in constitution) of both having barely strength to hold the pen a yet necessary period, whilst I advise you that of the enemy we killed first and last by their own confession 5000 of their troops and 80 jemmautdaar and officers of consequence exclusive of the wounded. The resistance we made and the loss they suffered so irritated the Nabob that he ordered myself and all the prisoners promiscuously to the number of about 165 or 170 to be examined* altogether into a small prison in the fort called *the Black Hole* from whence only about 16 of us came out alive in the morning, the rest being suffocated to death. Amongst those myself, Mr. Richard Court, Mr. John Cooke, Mr. Lushington, Ensign Walcott, Mr. Bender† (a young gentleman volunteer), Captain Mills, Captain Dickson and about 7 or 8 soldiers, blacks and whites. Amongst the dead Messrs Eyre and Wm. Baillie, the Revd. Mr. Bellamy, Messrs Jenks, Riveley, Law, T. Coales etc., our 3 military

* Hill Vol. I, p. 115, has "crammed."
†Ibid., has "Burdett".

captains and 9 subalterns, many of our volunteers and inhabitants of whom particular lists shall be forwarded the Hon'ble Company as recollection enables me. Myself, Messrs Court, Walcot and Burdet were sent to the camp the 21st in the morning, there put in irons and marched 3 miles to town the 22nd in the sun and our irons, with no covering to our heads and hardly any to our bodies. At the dock head we were detained the 22nd, 23rd and 24th and the evening of that day put on board an open boat for this city, destitute of a rupee or any necessary of life. On the 7th instant we arrived there (our subsistence on the way up on rice and water) and were deposited under a guard in an open stinking cowhouse, a spectacle to the whole city (and hardly escaped a second smothering) untill the 11th when we were removed to the Jemmautdaar house, under whose custody we were. On the 15th we were again remanded to the cowhouse, flattered with hopes of knowing our ultimate fate; there we remained that night, and yesterday were once again blessed with liberty and freedom to go where we pleased. The humanity and friendship we received here from the gentlemen of the French and Dutch factorys will ever require our most grateful remembrance.

[5.] It only remains that I inform Your Honour etc. that at the first approach of the trobles we wrote to Chandanagore and Hughley to join us in a cause we deemed common and pressed their assistance with men and ammunition; the answer we received from Hugley was that they were ordered by their principals to remain neuter in all disputes of this kind with the Government; from Chandanagore the answer was more favourable but of equal utility to us, for when we pressed them for ships and ammunition they genteelly refused us and pleaded their own weakness. Neither were we deficient in writing letter after letter to the Nabob, making him every concession in our power of which he took not the least notice nor returned one answer.

[6.] Your Honour etc. have heard of the suffering of the gentlemen with me which alone entitle them to the Hon'ble Company's favour but I should do great injustice to Messrs. Court and Walcot, if I omitted mentioning them in the particular manner they merit, the former the only officer of the militia and the other the only one of the military alive who did

not desert their colours. The former has distinguished himself as a faithful convenant servant and both as gallant officers. Dacca Factory is given up, but Luckipore received timely advice to withdraw and have I hear joined the President at Ingellie.

I am most respectfully,
Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble servant,
J. Z. Holwell.

P. S. Our intentions are to quit this city to-morrow, to proceed on board any ship we find at Culpee and take the first opportunity for the coast of Coromandell. J. Z. H.

Copy of this address I have forwarded to the Presidency of Fort St. George.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court. Vol. 4, 1755—57, pp. 181—92.

Published in Hill, *Bengal in 1756—57,* Vol. I, pp. 109—16. Abstracts of paragraphs 1—3 published in Wilson, *Old Fort William,* Vol. II, pp. 61-62.)

## 64

## LETTER DATED 17 JULY 1756

*Governor Drake's insolent remarks about the Nawab—the English to be permitted to resettle in Calcutta on the same terms as the Portuguese and the Prussians.*

THE Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. Since the conclusion of our letter we were apprehensive that we might be misinformed in regard to the Governor and Council's not making any proposals to the Nabob for an accommodation. Mr. Watts therefore went to see Seree Babboo, Coja Wazeed's duan at Chinchura and inquired of him what he knew of the matter to which he replyed that he was down several times in Calcutta and that the last time he was there he told the Governour the Nabob was marching down, to which

he answered that the sooner he came the better, and that he would make another Nabob, with other harsh expressions he was ashamed to mention. · When the Nabob was at Rannah Ghat, which is about two days march from Hughley, Coja Wazeed his master wrote him immediately to go to Calcutta, that he went as far as Bamagur, but there received a message from his gomastah in Calcutta not by any means to proceed, for Ommichund was confined, and he would be so likewise on his arrival on which advice he returned to Hughley, that when the Nabob was at Bankabuzar, Seree Babboo was in the camp, from whence he wrote to Mr. Drake enclosing the form of a letter to the Nabob for the Governor to get wrote fair and sign, which the Governor accordingly did but this letter did not arrive till the Nabob was at Mr. Kellsall's Gardens and hostilities had been then commenced at Tanais Fort[1] etc. Seree Babboo delivered the letter, but it was too late, and the Nabob then too incensed to reply to it.

2. Seree Babboo also informed Mr. Watts that Mr. Drake etc. at Fulta had wrote to Mr. Bisdom, the Dutch Directore at Chinchura and enclosed him letters for Coja Wazeed, Monickchund, Roy Dullub and Golam Hossein Cawn desiring their interest with the Nabob to be admitted again into Calcutta. Upon Mr. Bisdom's receipt of these letters he sent to Coja Wazeed to desire a conference to which Coja Wazeed answered that the Nabob might at this time take umbrage at any private meeting, therefore requested he would send some person of trust to him to let him know what he had to impart. Accordingly Mr. Bisdom sent his Secretary with the letters for the fore mentioned persons and who also acquainted Coja Wazeed with the desire the English had of being re-established in Calcutta, to which Coja Wazeed replyed that as the letters were wrote in English and only signed they would have no force, therefore it was necessary for to have them translated into Persian and sent down to Mr. Drake to have his seal put to them, when he would deliver them to the respective people except Golam Hossein Cawn, who is turned out of the province Seree Babboo said he had orders from his master Coja Wazeed to tell Mr. Watts to write to Mr. Drake that he would deliver his letter agreeable to his desire but he imagined if the Nabob did so far comply with his request to admit the English into Calcutta, it would not be upon better term than the Portuguese and Prussians trade on, which is to pay duties and hire houses

and were house for themselves and goods. He likewise says that we must not expect to be put into possession of Fort William again and that Seree Babboo from his master ingenuously told Mr. Watts that the only method to re-establish Calcutta upon creditable terms would be to proceed to Madrass, and there concert measures with the Governor and Council, and to return with strength sufficient to enforce any petitions we had to make.

3. We must beg leave to observe here that Coja Wazeed's opinion entirely coincides with what we have already wrote you.

4. We must beg leave further to remark to Your Honours that in our letter to Mr. Drake etc. dated the 8th July we wrote them as follows, "Had Your Honours etc. thought proper to treat before the Nabob reached Calcutta we are pretty certain a sum of money would have made all easy, prevented the loss of the settlement and the ruin of many thousands and we wrote to Your Honours etc. to that purpose when we were off Hughley, the only opportunity we had while in the camp and are informed the letter came to hand" to which in their answer they made no reply; therefore, if they had made any application they should have acquainted us that we were wrongly informed which as they did not, it appears to us a tacit confession that they made none at least before it was too late.

We are with the utmost respect,

May it please Your Honours,

Your Honours' most faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Wm. Watts/M. Collet.

Chandernagore,
the 17th July, 1756.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755—57 pp. 211—14. Letter published in Hill, *Bengal in 1756-57*, Vol. I, pp. 116—18.)

## 65

## LETTER DATED 18 JULY 1756

*Succession of Siraj-ud-daulah—protection given to Krishnadas in Calcutta and refusal to deliver him up to the Nawab—fall of*

*Kasimbazar—loss of Fort William attributed to Roger Drake's imprudent conduct—exactions from the Dutch and the French—fall of Dacca.*

To the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

[1.] The present melancholly situation of your affairs in Bengal will appear a very sufficient apology for our not addressing you in the usual form. Of your Council, some are killed, some prisoners and those who remain retired with Mr. Drake we know not well whither. You have been doubtless long since informed of Ali Verdi Khan having named Seir Rajah Dowlat his successor to this province in prejudice of his nephews Newages Mahmud Khan and Sahib Khan[1], the former of which had his residence at Muxadavad, the latter in Proonean country of which he was Nabob. The succession of Seir Dowlat notwithstanding this preference was greatly doubted, his creditors were rich and powerful, both men of much more experience in life, the one esteemed of abilities greatly superior. Fortune however had adopted him and took care to pave his way to that point of grandeur to which he is now arrived. In December last died Newages Mahmud Khan a few months after the Nabob of Proonean and on the 9th of April Ali Verdi Khan breathed his last. The widow of Newages for some time maintained a faint shew of opposition to the succession of Seir Raja Dowlat in favour of a boy named Murradel Dowlat[2] nephew to Seir Rajah Dowlat and who had been adopted by her late husband. But deserted by her adherents she was necessitated to drop it and to claim the protection of Seir Rajah Dowlat at this time firmly established. Kissendas, son to Rajabullub who had long acted as Prime Minister to Newages Mahmud Khan, is said to have retired to Calcutta in March last with immense riches of his father's and of the widow of his late master. The protection granted to this man and the refusal of delivering him up when demanded is universally believed to be the cause of all our misfortunes. Umbrage taken at some new works of fortification which were carrying on at Calcutta and artful insinuations to the Nabob that the English were putting themselves in a state to make war upon him may be the pretences. On the 23rd of May the factory at

Cossimbuzar was invested by a body of about 500 men. From that time till the 3rd of June fresh forces were daily arriving when the number is said to have consisted of 50,000. That day the Nabob Seir Raja Dowlat likewise arrived with a large body of horse, the rear of his army. The day following he is said to have dispatched a messenger to Mr. Watts to signify his desire of a conference with him. This was complyed with. Mr. Watts was no sooner in his presence than he was made prisoner and the messenger returned to the factory for Messrs Collet and Batson, the only two gentlemen in Council at that time at Cossimbuzar. He told them their presence was necessary to undersign a paper to which Mr. Watts had set his name and which without theirs would not be valid. These two gentlemen likewise waited on the Nabob. The latter was immediately made prisoner and the former sent back to the factory with orders to the officer who commanded to deliver it up to whoever the Nabob should appoint to take possession of it with guns, ammunition etc. His orders were conformed to and the Nabob took possession of it the 6th. This done, orders were issued for the march of the army towards Calcutta. For the particulars of the siege of that place and Fort William we must beg leave to refer Your Honours to some of those gentlemen who continued in the fort till it was taken. The accounts we have vary much and are difficult to reconcile. All agree in this that many brave men have died miserably whose lives might have been saved by the smallest degree of good conduct and resolution in their leaders. That Mr. Drake refused listening to any terms of accommodation said to have been proposed by the Nabob while at Hughly to avert the storm which threatened the colony is what we can hardly credit though this is confidently affirmed. In a garrison so ill provided as it appears Fort William was, it would certainly have been eligible to have submitted to any for the present and to have waved his resentment till a change of circumstances might enable him to gratify it and to obtain such as were more advantageous. The Nabob in his return from Calcutta, after marching a number of his men through Chandernagore and committing many irregularities, extorted from the French the sum of 3 lacks of rupees and from the Dutch 450,000 and from the Danes 50,000. The French have behaved with the greatest humanity to such as have taken refuge at their factory and the tenour of their conduct every where to us on the melancholly occasion has been such as to merit the grateful acknowledgement of our nation. The sloop, which in our correspondence with Monsr Courtin

Your Honours will observe we became answerable for, to prevent the ill consequences of Mr. Amyatt's seizing her at so critical a juncture, is with her cargo we are informed safely arrived at Chandernagore.

2. It was on the 23rd of May as in a preceeding paragraph we have acquainted Your Honours that Cossimbuzar factory was first invested. It was the 9th of June before we heard any letter from the gentlemen in Calcutta as it was dated the 3rd and in general terms directed us to be upon our guard as the Nabob had taken offence at some works which were carrying on at Calcutta and it was uncertain to what lengths his caprices and passion might lead him. Our situation and the want of embarkation rendered a compliance with their orders of the 7th received the 12th utterly impracticable. For our reasons fully deduced we beg leave to refer Your Honours to our Consultation of the 12th. In these and our Public letters both which accompany this address to Your Honours (the Consultation of the 3rd and 5th excepted 2 copies of which have been sent to Calcutta but the originals we have not been able to get out of the factory), we have been sufficiently explicit to enable you to judge and determine on our conduct and shall not enter into a further detail.

3. As your books and papers are all in the possession of the Nabob, we cannot with exactness inform you of the loss you have sustained at your factory at Dacca. If they will permit us to extract a few minutes from the books we shall shortly be able to make it up, and Your Honours may depend on having it by the first occasion.

4. As to ourselves we have lost every thing. A consciousness of having to the utmost of our abilities discharged our duty to Your Honours and the hopes of your future favour, should it appear to you we have acted in such a manner as to deserve it, must for the present support us. Your Honours will do us the justice to believe that in the surrender of our factory without resistance we have not been actuated by any unmanly attachment to life. Every necessary disposition our situation would admit of had been made, and while Fort William stood our resolution was taken to defend ourselves to the last extremity. That gone, and all hopes of assistance cut off, it is certain we might have died, or by exasperating an ungenerous

enemy, exposed ourselves to ignominy and torment, but this would in no shape have availed Your Honours.

5. The French gentlemen at Chandernagore and Cossimbuzar are warmly solliciting our liberty. If we are so happy as to obtain it, we purpose going to Madras in the first ship where we shall be ready to serve Your Honours in any suitable employment that your President and Council there may point out to us till your pleasure is known.

6. Exclusive of the gentlemen whose names appear at the foot of this letter there are prisoners with us here Mr. John Cartier, a factor of one year's standing, Mr. John Johnstone just commencing assistants, Lieutenant John Cudmore and Mr. Nathaniel Wilson Surgeon. Mr. William Sumner, the second at this factory, [is] absent at Calcutta by permission and who we hear is safe having been ordered on board ship some days before the place was taken. We advised the gentlemen at Madras of this unhappy event as soon as we could collect any particulars which we thought carried an appearance of truth.

We are with great respect,

May it please Your Honours

Your Honours' faithfull humble servants,

Richd. Becher/Luke Scrafton/Thom. Hyndman/Samuel Waller. From the French Factory at Dacca.

July 18th, 1756.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 215-21.)

## 66

## LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1756

Parwana *from the Nawab forbidding erection of new works of fortification—an evasive reply incenses the Nawab—fall of Kasimbazar—Bombay and Fort St. George Councils requested to help in the recovery of Calcutta.—Holwell's reply to the charges of the Council.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours

1. As it is probable a vessel may be dispatched for Europe by the President and Council of Fort St. George or some other nation settled on the Coast and a conveyance offering from hence to Vizagapatam, we think it our duty to give Your Honours some account of an event which must be of the utmost consequence to your trade. It is with the greatest concern we find ourselves under the necessity of transmitting Your Honours such disagreeable news and shall beg leave to confine ourselves to generals for the present, referring to a future address for the particulars of the affair.

2. Upon the receipt of your packet by the Delawar we thought it necessary to put ourselves in the best posture of defence we could and for that purpose gave directions to have the line of guns towards the river repaired and strengthened. While we were carrying on this work a perwannah arrived from the Nabob Surajud Dowla (who had succeeded to the Government upon the death of Aly Verdi Cawn) forbidding us to erect any new works, or dig a ditch which he was informed we were doing.

3. As we esteemed this a very unreasonable prohibition, the President made the following reply by the approbation and consent of the Board that we were not erecting any new fortifications, but only repairing our wharf which had been much damaged by the freshes, and that he had been misinformed in regard to the ditch, having dug none since the invasion of the Marattoes, which had been executed by the requests of our inhabitants and with the approbation of Aly Verdi Cawn himself, that we had received advice of there being a likelihood of a rupture between the French and us and as they had disregarded the neutrality of the Mogul's dominions in the last war by attacking Madrass, we were under some apprehensions of their making some attempt upon our settlement, should there be a declaration of war between the two nations, for which reason we thought it necessary to be upon our guard and make our place as defensible as we could.

4. The Nabob was at that time encamped at Rajamaul and the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar a few days after informed us that he was much incensed at the foregoing reply and had ordered their factory to be invested with a party of horsemen. This was confirmed in a second letter from them with advice that a large body of troops were actually placed upon them and that more were daily expected, for which reason they desired a reinforcement of military and a supply of stores. Another letter from those gentlemen advised us that troops were daily stationed on them, that the Nabob himself was returning from Rajamaul, that a train of artillery was ordered to be planted against them and that he threatened to attack their factory as soon as he arrived. In this letter they requested us to complain against Hukumbeg and his duan for their extortions of late years as they looked upon them to be the instigators of these disturbances.

5. Upon the receipt of this letter we transmitted them a blank arasdass for them to insert the complaint against Hukumbeg and his duan, as they who were on the spot must be the best judges what to write and directed them to remonstrate in that arasdass the injury done us in surrounding our factory upon so frivolous and unjust a pretence the falsity of which he might be satisfied of by sending a person to examine and report the works we were carrying on. We likewise ordered them to endeavour all in their power to accomodate the matter, but on no account to mention the demolition of any works; that in the present situation of affairs we thought it more adviseable to sooth the Nabob than to provoke him, which sending up a reinforcement might occasion and therefore we thought it best to defer the supply they had requested and directed them that in case the Nabob carried matters to extremity and attacked their factory, to make the best defence they could till the waters rose and then to retreat with their garrison to Calcutta.

6. Two other letters arrived from Mr. Watts and his Council with intelligence of a further number of troops having surrounded their factory and that the Nabob was daily expected at Muxadavad when it was imagined they would actually be attacked. In the former of these letters they informed us that one of the principal jummadars placed upon them told their doctor the Nabob was angry with the English on no other account than a draw bridge we had built at Perrins and an

octagon at Mr. Kelsall's Garden and that if we would destroy those works, the forces would be immediately taken off their factory; in consequence of which information they gave it as their opinion, if the President would address the Nabob and promise to demolish the draw bridge and octagon, the affair would be accomodated.

7. This letter was taken into consideration by the Board and for many strong reasons it was judged more adviseable to promise the demolition of those works than hazard a rupture with the Nabob at a juncture that we were so little prepared for it. Accordingly an arassdass was wrote to that effect and triplicate of it forwarded to the Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar for them to get delivered. These letters Messrs. Watts and Collet acquaint us were not received while the factory remained in our hands.

8. On the 7th June we received the disagreeable news of Cossimbuzar factory being delivered up to the Nabob who had made Mr. Watts a prisoner upon his going to visit him, that the Nabob on his arrival before Cossimbuzar demanded the Chief to come out and see him, the Nabob's Duan who commanded the van of the army writing the Chief a letter that he might come out with great safety, that he would introduce him to the Nabob. Upon this it was thought proper to send the surgeon of the factory to the Duan who returned and assured the Chief he might go out with great security. From these assurances and the pachowterah droogah (or Collector of the Customs) being sent by the Duan to the Chief with a present of beetle and to conduct him to the Duan who was to introduce him to the Nabob, he by the advice and opinion of all the gentlemen of the factory and officer of the garrison went and was by the Duan presented to the Nabob who ordered him into confinement and forced him to sign a muchulka to the following purport, that we should give no protection to the King's subjects, that we should destroy any new fortifications we had raised and fill up the new ditch, and that if it could be proved we had granted dustucks to any persons that were not entitled to them, the loss sustained by the Government in the custom should be made good by the Company. These letters likewise informed us the Nabob intended to march to Calcutta with his whole army which now amounted to 50,000 men besides a very large train of artillery.

9. Upon the receipt of this intelligence we thought it expedient to put our town (which was extremely open towards the land) in the best posture of defence we could by throwing up such outworks as the shortness of our time would admit of, conformable to plans laid before us for that purpose which was accordingly executed. The militia were likewise summoned and trained and everything in our power prepared to sustain our attack in case the Nabob should be rash enough to carry matters to that extremity.

10. The 16th of June the van of his army appeared before the redoubt at Perrins and about one in the afternoon attempted to force a passage that way in the town, but were bravely repulsed by the party stationed there, numbers of them being killed, which made them decamp in the night from thence, and enter the town from the eastward, at which quarter it was not in our power to prevent their getting in. On the morning of the 18th they begun the attack of our lines and after a very warm fire the whole day, one of our batteries were obliged to retreat which made it necessary to recall the rest that they might not be cut off by the enemy in the rear.

11. The next morning they commenced a brisk fire upon the fort which they continued the whole day and great part of Sunday the 20th. And having gained possession of the several houses near the factory and the Church, they destroyed a great many of our officers and private men, who being harassed out with continual duty and the enemy overpowering us with their numbers, the walls were scaled on the evening of the 20th and the fort surrendered upon promise of their civil treatment of the prisoners.

12. We have now given Your Honours a summary relation of the Nabob's proceedings at Cossimbuzar, his march against Calcutta, the attack and capture of that place.

13. There being some country vessels in the river, such of the inhabitants as could escape have been confined in them and suffered the greatest distress, most of them having lost every thing they had and scarce saved the cloaths on their backs, which has induced us to take the liberty of maintaining them at Your Honours' expence, which we flatter ourselves will not be disapproved of when it is considered how general the calamity has been and what numbers had it not in their power to subsist themselves by any means whatever.

14. Our remaining here so long has been owing to our judging it absolutely necessary to keep the river in order to re-establish ourselves in these provinces, for which purpose we have applied to the President and Council of Fort St. George to assist us with all the force they can possibly spare from the calls of their own coasts and have deputed Charles Manningham Esqr. to satisfye them of the necessity of exerting themselves on this occasion for recovering Your Honours' settlements, rights and privileges in these provinces. As yet we have received no answer from those gentlemen though we daily expect one and we hope they will not refuse or delay sending us down a considerable body of troops as soon as they received our letter upon that head, as their arrival at this juncture would enable us to re-establish Your Honours in all the previledges and immunities of the royal phirmaund, the country being involved in troubles by the appointment of another Subah from Dilly[1] who is joined by some royal troops and several considerable jummadars that have deserted Surajud Dowla. There is likewise an invasion expected from the Marrattoes as soon as the rains take off and by the intelligence we have received from Cossimbuzar the Nabob is greatly embarassed.

15. We have likewise applied to the President and Council of Bombay for a supply of troops, and in case those two Presidencys give us the necessary assistance, we may hope in a short time to acquaint Your Honours of our being resettled upon a secure and respectable footing.

16. The gentlemen at Luckipore and Bulramgurry have safely withdrawn their factories pursuant to our orders and brought away all their military stores with what cash and effects were laying in their respective factories. Those at Dacca could not do the same for want of conveyances, all their boats being seized by the Nabob of that place, but were obliged to surrender after they heard of the loss of Fort William.

17. By the next conveyances we shall transmit Your Honours copys of our proceedings since the loss of Calcutta, with the cash account and what other papers are material; and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours

Your faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./Wm. Watts/James Killpatrick/Richd. Becher/Paul Richard Pearkes/W. Frankland/M. Collet/J. 2. Holwell/W. Mackett/P. Amyatt/Thos./Boddam.

Fulta,

the 17th September, 1756.

(Ref. Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755—57 pp. 222 *et seq.*

Published in Hill, *Bengal in 1756-57*, Vol. I, pp. 214—19. Abstracts of paragraphs 1, 2, 8—11 published in Wilson, *Old Fort William*, Vol. II, pp. 60—1.)

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## LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1756

Fulta, the 25th October, 1756

TO the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr. and Council at Fulta.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

1. On a late perusal of your Fulta Consultation on the 14th July I find myself called upon (amongst others of the surviving members of the Council of War held in Calcutta the 18th of June last) to attest the assertion of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland touching their being ordered by that Council of War "to embark the European women on board the Dodaly and Diligence with a detachment of 30 men to guard the said ships, with directions to move the Dodaly clear of the small craft with which she was encumbered and of the enemy's fire". Most sorry I am, gentlemen, to find myself obliged to speak on a subject so very disagreeable to my memory, but the whole proceedings of that Council appearing to my conception of so extraordinary a nature, joined to the consideration of my minute and dissent in Council the [20th] August last (against any allowance being made the owners of the Dodaly for her loss and damages) that I cannot remain silent without incuring my own censure as well as the imputation from you of much injustice in my minute above referred to. Thus far I thought it necessary to apologize for giving you trouble at this juncture and shall with your leave proceed to speak with that strict regard which every gentleman owes to truth not only to the particulars I am called on by those gentlemen to attest but to the whole proceedings of that Council of the 14th July and consider the defence Messrs Manningham and Frankland

there make for depriving the Company's forts, effects and garrison of the succour of that ship and then submit the justice of my said minute and dissent to the determination of yourselves and my hon'ble employers.

2. That the European women was ordered to be embarked by the Council of War of the 18th is true but that Messrs. Manningham and Frankland should embark them was no part of the order. Those gentlemen tendered themselves for that service to which none objected publickly though myself with many others thought their stations both civil and military were of such importance as might well have excused them from that service.

3. That there was any particular order relative to the Diligence I do not remember and think I can truely attest the contrary. Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Mapletoft, Mrs. Coates and Mrs. Wedderburn with their familys being embarked on board that vessel was purely the result of my own advice to them, imagining the Dodaly would be extreamly crowded and they had my order to be received on board, the ship being under my directions.

4. That a detatchment of 30 men was ordered for the defence of those ships I do not remember and should certainly have objected to any such measure had it been proposed whilst I was in the Council of War as it certainly was both imprudent and needless. Imprudent, as it would have been a considerable weakening a fatigued garrison who had barely a relief for duty, and needless, whilst the ships remained under the cover of our fort.

5. That those gentlemen had directions to remove the Dodaly clear of the small craft with which she was encumbered and of the enemy's fire are assertions to me totally new and I can truely attest was no part of the order of the Council of War, nor know I from what quarter such directions went, but if she really was encumbered with small craft, there would surely have been more propriety in moving them than her own. On supposition that propriety was not attended to, yet surely whatever directions those gentlemen had did not nor could imply that they were to remove her low as Mr. Margass's house, a station where she was more exposed to the enemy's

fire had they taken the advantage, deprived of the benefit of our guns and small arms and rendered useless as to the defence or succour of the settlement and contrary to Mr. Manningham's express promise to me that she should not stir from under the cover of the fort.

6. Touching the other part of the charge laid against those gentlemen by the colony as a just objection to Mr. Manningham being sent to the Presidency of Fort St. George viz., that of their refusing joining the Councils whe[n] sent for, I can form no judgment further than I can collect from the defence of those gentlemen as entered in the Consultation of the 14th July, being a stranger to the nature of the orders the President sent by Captain Wedderburn and subsequently by Mr. Holme for their return to the fort. I was myself but just come in from the center battery when the Council of War in the evening of the 18th was called and having been the preceeding night and day exhausted with continued fatigue, without rest or food, as soon as the Council of War broke up I retired in hopes of getting a little repose, not doubting but the resolution of it would have been strictly obeyed which were that the European women, the Company's treasure and I think their essential books and papers should be embarked that night on board the Dodaly but whether this last was entered on the minutes of that Council I cannot be possitive, but perfectly recollect a discourse I had with Mr. Manningham on the propriety of it just as the Council broke up, and indeed I ever thought untill I joined your Councils here that both the treasure and books had been embarked, and here I cannot omit remarking that better no reason at all had been given for the neglect of a measure of such importance to the Company than that which stands on the Consultation of the [20th] August. But it is time I come to consider the pleas made use of by Messrs. Manningham and Frankland for their not returning to the fort which are that "a little after one in the morning Mr. Lindsay came on board and informed them he left a General Assembly sitting, that the captain of the artillery had reported there was not two days' ammunition, that many of the military and militia were in liquor and mutinous, that it was the unanimous opinion the fort was not tenable, that a retreat was resolved on, that Mr. Holwell was strenuous of its being made immediately and opposed by Mr. Baillie particularly, that the whole of the common people were in confusion, and that

nothing was determined on". Without, gentlemen, my entering particularly into the merit of these pleas, let us consider the weight of these gentlemen's seats in Council and their importance as bearing the names and authority of field officers and colonel and lieutenant colonel of the militia and I think an impartial eye will at first sight pronounce that there was not one of the pleas urged by them in defence of their not returning into the fort, but should have urged their immediate rejoining our Councils though they had no orders from the President for that purpose, in place of waiting on board for the detatchment and removing the Dodaly a second time that night, as low as Govindpore runing that ship and the ladies on board into ten times the risque from the enemy. They ought rather to have returned with the ship on the flood under our guns, to have favoured the embarkation of the Company's books and treasure (which they knew were not on board) and the retreat of the garrison. Mr. Lindsay informed them the Council was siting, that our Councils were divided and that when he left the fort all was in confusion, nothing determined on, which was true, the Council not breaking up untill near 4 in the morning without any thing being resolved on but desiring [deferring?] the retreat without in my judgment a single reason being urged in defence of. The presence, weight and authority of those gentlemen might have made our Councils unanimous or have given a happy majority for a general retreat, have prevented the unhappy defection of the President, the officers and part of the garrison the next morning and have been the cause of saving the publick and private property lodged in the fort as well as the lives of many who fell a miserable sacrifice by our retreat being cut off, the primary cause of which I must still attribute to the retreat of the ship to Mr. Margass's house and Govindpore on the night of the 18th without order or the knowledge of any one in the garrison. It was urged I know and asserted by Mr. Frankland in Council the [20th] August when I entered my minute and dissent to the payment of the Dodaly's loss and damages that those gentlemen had orders for moving the ship down and I beg leave to remind you that I asked the President touching this assertion who in your presence declared he neither gave such orders nor knew of any such being given. Therefore on the whole I hope I stand vindicated in your judgment for such my dissent, as it is to me not a little astonishing how the gentlemen composing that Council of the 14th July could unanimously on the

defence before them pronounce it as their opinion that those gentlemen had cleared themselves of the charge laid against them in that letter signed as I am informed by the greatest part of the colony.

I am with respect,
Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble servant,
J. Z. Holwell

(*Ref.* Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 222—39.

Published in Hill, *Bengal in 1756-57*, Vol. I, pp. 244—47 and in Holwell, *India Tracts*, pp. 337—42.)

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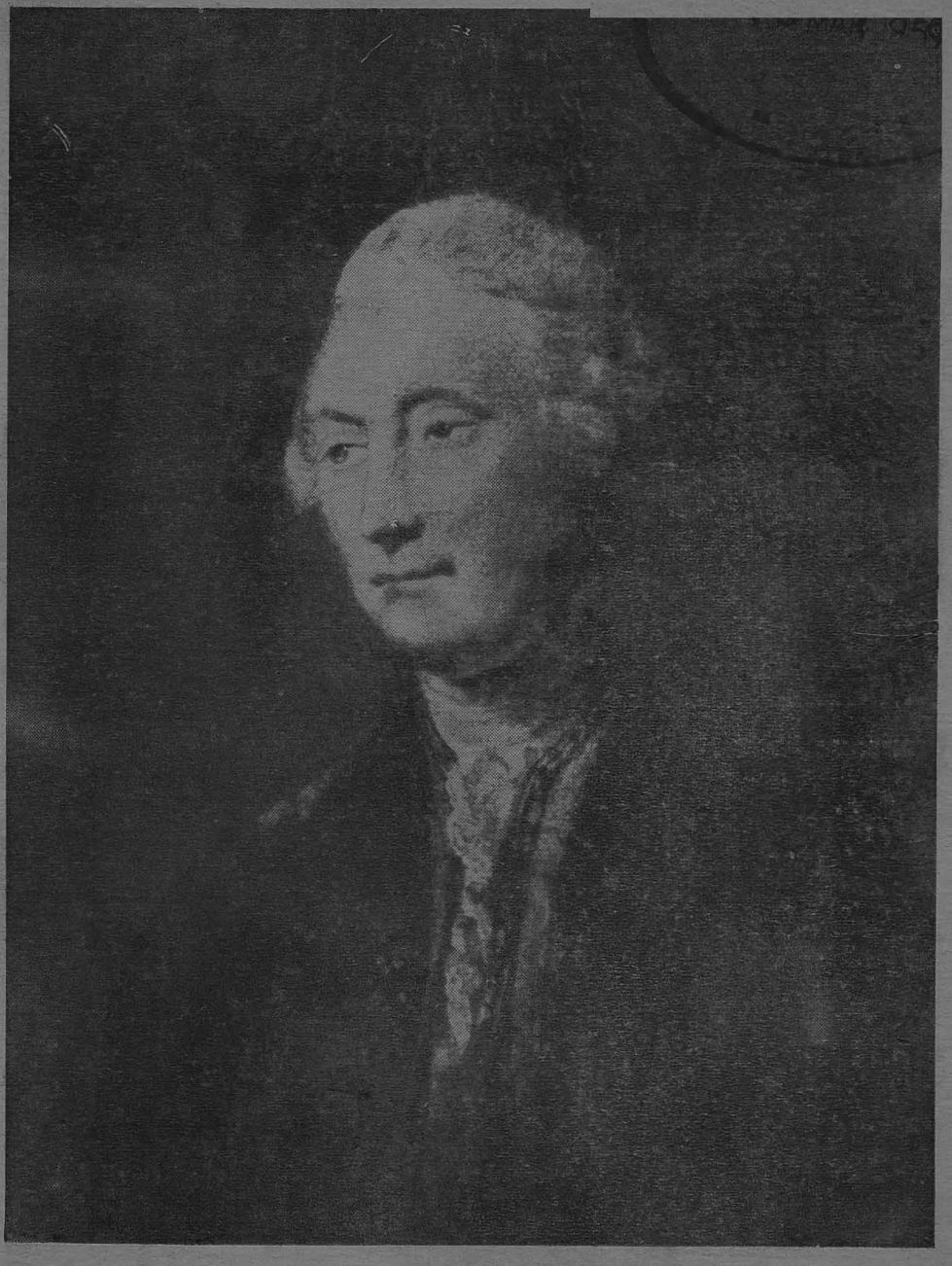
## LETTER DATED 30 NOVEMBER 1756

*Successful succession of Siraj-ud-daulah—President's imprudent reply to the Nawab's order demanding demolition of all new works of fortification—real causes of the quarrel with the Nawab—tactical, strategical and other errors responsible for the surrender of the fort—censure of the conduct of Roger Drake and others—imprisonment of soldiers and deaths by suffocation.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Immediately on my being released from my imprisonment at fetters at Muxadavad I addressed your two Presidencys of Bombay and Fort St. George on the subject of the loss of your possessions in these provinces, under date the 17th July last and again on my arrival at Hughly under date the 3rd August when I duely forwarded to them duplicates of those I dispatched from Muxadavad and requested the advices I gave them might be transmitted to you by the most expeditious



J. Z. Holwell

conveyance and at the same time referred to a particular narrative of the causes and various accidents which brought on the heavy loss you have sustained. This I promise to forward as soon as my health would enable me. The slow recovery of my sight, much impaired by the shock and injury my nerves suffered that fatal night in the Black Hole and from being exposed to the sun on my passage to Muxadavad, must plead my pardon for your not receiving the narrative I promised by the ship dispatched, I understand, sometime this month from your Presidency of Fort St. George and by which I am sensible you will receive many different narratives and accounts of the causes of our misfortunes. Leaving those to your impartial consideration, I now set down to discharge this part of my duty, humbly entreating you will believe me determined to pay the strictest regard to the truth to the best of my knowledge and that I will not by any representation, either in reasoning or facts, endeavour to mislead your judgments or influence them either in favour of myself or to the disfavour of any one else further than justice to myself and the state and nature of things will make it unavoidable, shuning, as much as possible, any repetition of matters already transmitted you in my letters of the 17th July and 3rd of August last, which I request may be kept in your view as I do not find any cause to retract any essential part of them.

2. Mahabut Jung (better known by the name of Aly Verdy Cawn) demising on the 9th of April last, was succeeded in the government of the Subaship by his grand son Surajud Dowla without opposition excepting from the young Begum, relict of Shaw Amet Jung[1], uncle of Surajud Dowla. This princess, foreseeing her liberty and the immense wealth of her lately deceased husband would fall a sacrifice to the new Suba, had meditated for some time the raising another to the Subaship and with this view retired before the death of the old Suba to her palace (some distance from the city) named Mootee Giel, with Raagbullob, the dewan of the late husband, Nazzur Aly Cawn and others the most faithfull of her officers and domesticks, where she fortifyed herself and raised some troops to oppose the succession of her nephew. When the dispute was near coming to extremity the old begum, relict of Ally Verdy Cawn interposed with her mediation by which and the promises of Surajud Dowla that the princess should remain in full possession and security of life liberty and property, she was prevail-

ed on to disband her troops, submitted to the banishment from the provinces of Nazzur Ally Cawn, and two other officers and returned to the city where she was no sooner arrived than she was made a prisoner and her pallace and possessions seized and confiscated to the Suba's use.

3. The new Suba having, on his succession to the government, sent a seerpaw and advice thereof to Shocut Jung[2], his cozen, the Nabob of Purranea, this latter returned the seerpaw and disavowed submission to him as Suba of the provinces, asserting his government to be left by Ally Verdy Cawn independant of him. This occasioned the resentment of Surajud Dowla who resolved to reduce him by force and after he had laid the storm the young Begum had attempted to raise against him he immediately marched against Shocut Jung with a strong army which had been raised by the old Suba as forseeing the difficultie his grandson would have to encounter after his death. Here I must leave the Suba on his march and go back in point of time to matters no less necessary to investigate the real causes of his subsequent march to Calcutta, which is so blended with some incidents attending the late change of government at Muxadavad that it is impossible to give a distinct view of the one, without a short recital of the other.

4. On the death of Shaw Amet Jung (more generally known by the name of Newaris Mahomet Cawn) and during the life of the old Suba, Surajud Dowla, who had in effect the reins of the government in his hands long before the decease of his grandfather, seized on Raagbullob above mentioned, the chief minister of Shaw Amet Jung, and by imprisonment and other despotic and severe methods endeavoured to force from him a confession and discovery of Shaw Amet Jung's riches but the minister, faithfull to his deceased master, could not be brought to any confession injurious to the interest of his surviving family, and after a few days' sufferings, obtained his liberty by the intercession of the young Begum with her father and mother, Ally Verdy Cawn and his Begum, but Raagbullob, being sensible the resolution he had shewn for the interest of the family of his deceased master (between whom and Surajud Dowla there had been a long hatred and animosity) would never be forgiven by Surajud Dowla, thought incumbent on him to provide as well as he could for the safety of himself, and in resentment for the usage he had unjustly received for

his integrity to the young Begum readily entered into her councils to oppose the succession, and finding the death of the old Suba was near at hand and recollecting his own family and greatest part of his wealth were exposed to danger at Dacca, his first care was to draw them to a place of security, in order to which he applyed to Mr. Watts, your Chief at Cossimbuzar, telling him his family were going from Dacca to worship at Jaggernaut and should take Calcutta in the way, requesting at the same time that they might there find a proper reception. Mr. Watts accordingly wrote the President and I think to Mr. Manningham, to much the same effect. These letters arrived during the absence of your President at Ballasore and much about the time that Kissendass, the eldest son of Raagbullob, and the family reached Calcutta from Dacca; at least I know no otherwise, for on the evening I think of the 13th March my people at the waterside chowkeys brought me intelligence that Raagbullob's family was arrived from Dacca and that they had received orders from Mr. Manningham for their admittance who, having occasion to summon a Council the next morning for the dispatch of the Negrais supplys, showed me Mr. Watts' letter to the President, who likewise communicated the same to me on his return to the settlement. This letter I now understand the President has lost amongst the rest of his papers, though I often since the commencement of our troubles, as he must recollect, urged to him the necessity of preserving it in his own and our vindication. However as I had twice perused it and had since occasion enough to retain in my memory the first impression I had received of it, I can venture to assert it was near the following purport:

> "That he, Mr. Watts, had been applyed to by Raagbullob, the Chuta Begum's[3] dewan, who advised him that his family had left Dacca with intention to go to worship at Jaggernaut and should take Calcutta on his way and requested he would write to the Governor touching their reception there and that they might be supplyed with boats or aught else they might have occasion for on their expedition, that in compliance with Raagbullob's intimation and request he wrote and recommended his family being received with all possible respect and regard, not only on account of his influence with the Chuta Begum, but as his power at Dacca might be of the utmost consequence to our hon'ble masters' affairs there."

In consequence of this recommendatory letter and the reasons urged by Mr. Watts, they were received in the settlement and treated with all possible regard. Whether Mr. Watts knew or can be supposed to have judged that Raagbullob's family going to Jaggernaut to worship was a pretence only to facilitate their obtaining a protection in Calcutta, I cannot say, but I recollect the President's communicating to me another letter he received from Mr. Watts about the time the death of the old Suba was deemed inevitable, wherein he advised it expedient "that Kissendass and the rest of Raagbullob's family should have no longer protection in Calcutta, as it was very uncertain what a turn things would take after the demise of the Suba." The President will, I doubt not, do me the justice of acknowledging I enforced this salutary advice and pressed more than once the dismission of this family, foreseeing they would be demanded, and Mr. Manningham and myself had many uneasy conferences on the protection being continued to them, fearing it might be productive of troublesome consequences and possibly embroil us with the new Government, should they remain in the settlement untill the Suba's decease. Why the President delayed their dismission I am at a loss to account for, but certain it is, had they been obliged to quit the place, a handle would have been taken away from many who have been too ready to urge and maintain the protection given to this family as the greatest, nay, the sole cause that drew on us the Suba's resentment, which I doubt not of convincing your Hon'ble Court is very distant from the truth. Their dismission would however have saved us from a most difficult situation which we presently fell into; for we no sooner received advice of the death of Ally Verdy Cawn than we had notice also of the stand made against Surajud Dowla's succession by the young Begum and her party, of which Raagbullob was the chief minister and favourite of his mistress, so that it became at that juncture a dangerous step to the Company's interest to turn his family out of the settlement, the more especially as for some days advices from all quarters were in favour of the Begum's party, notwithstanding which, as the new Suba had been proclaimed in the city, the President wrote the usual congratulatory letter to him, which was favourably received.

5. Here it became needfull to recite that, some little time before the old Suba's death, the President received a private letter from Mr. Watts to the following purport, "that there

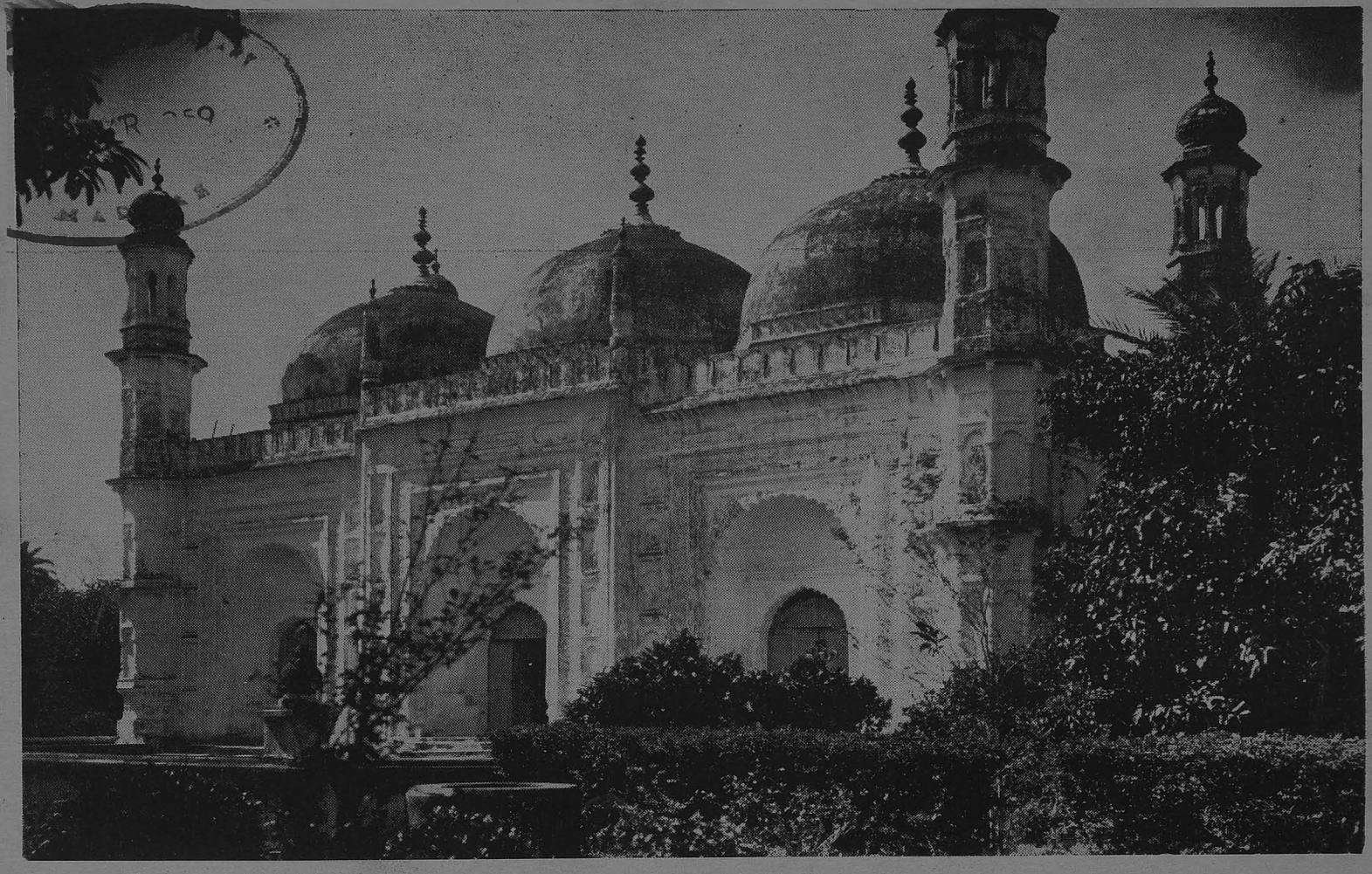
was a multitude of the Governments' spys at Calcutta, that the small strength of its fortifications and garrison and the easy capture of it, were the publick discourse of the city and Durbar and that it behooved Mr. Drake to be upon his guard, and by some means prevent the Government's spys bringing daily intelligence to the Durbar of the weak situation of the place". This letter the President communicated to me, and gave me orders to make a strict enquiry after such as might justly be suspected and that had no real call of business in the place, and also that I would issue orders to the several chowkeys to admit none to land or be admitted into the town without his orders. These instructions I immediately obeyed, and several suspected persons were in consequence of them turned out of the place, and none admitted without a strict examination.

6. On Raagbullob's withdrawing himself with the young Begum to Mootie Giel, Surajud Dowla dispatched Narran Sing, brother to Rajaram, the Fowzdaar of Midnapore, to Calcutta with a perwannah, the contents of which were to demand Kissendass and his family to be delivered up. Between 8 and 9 on the evening of, I think, the 14th of April the President being at Barasut[4] and Mr. Manningham at his country residence, Omychund came and advised me that Narran Sing had got, in the disguise of a European dress, into the settlement and had the Suba's perwannah to demand Raagbullob's family, and was at his house, asking me whether I would admit his bringing him to visit me. As he had got enterance into the place, I thought it adviseable to see him and Omychund brought him accordingly in about half an hour. I received him with the respect due to a brother of Rajaram, an officer in much trust and confidence with both the late and present Suba. He tendered me his perwannah but I excused myself from receiving it, as it was addressed to the Governor who, I told him, would be in town in the morning on which he took his leave well satisfyed. In the morning early I sent for the jemmautdaar of the chowkey where Narran Sing landed and was going to punish him for admitting any one in the settlement without orders, when he informed me that Narran Sing came in the disguise of a common Bengall pikar, that he opposed his landing but that soon after Omychund's servants came to him with a message signifying that he was a relation of his house and that he might admit him. Soon after, on advise

that the President was returned to town, I waited on him with the report of this transaction and found with him Messrs. Manningham and Frankland. We were all a good deal embarassed how to act on this occasion, the same reasons that before forbid the family being turned out of the place after the Suba's death subsisted equally strong against delivering them up, as the contest was yet undecided between Surajud Dowla and the young Begum. The result at last of our deliberations was that as Narran Sing had stole like a thief and a spy into the settlement (and not like one in the publick character he pretended and as bearing the Suba's orders) the President should not receive him or his perwannah, which resolution was put in execution and the President sent one of his chubdaars to him with orders to quit the settlement which he did, and instantly letters were dispatched to Mr. Watts to advise them of the affair with instructions to guard against any ill consequences which might arrise from it.

7. The foregoing is, Hon'ble Sirs, a faithfull narative of the protection given to Kissendass the son and family of Raagbullob which has been industrously and maliciously by some, and erroneously by others, circulated as the principal cause of the loss of your settlements in Bengall, an event which, I will soon demonstrate, had a much deeper and more remote foundation, for on your Chief at Cossimbuzar making a proper representation of this affair at the Durbar, it hardly occasioned any emotion or displeasure in the Suba, nor ever had a place in any of the subsequent complaints forwarded to us through the channel of that subordinate.

8. The probability of a breach with France had been the subject of discourse for some time before it was confirmed to us by the arrival of your letter on the Delawar, and about the same time we received the news of the taking Gyria[5] by His Majesty's squadron; both became the subject of much speculation at the Durbar where the military and naval strength of the English in India were greatly exaggerated and no small pains taken to instill a dread of it into the Government; and if the agents for the French East India Company (whose garrison at Chandanagore did not at this period amount to 50 men) were not at the bottom of these reports, it is at least I hope no breach of charity to conclude they used every means in their power to confirm them, at least such was our information when it was confidently asserted in the Durbar at



Motijhil, Murshidabad

Muxadavad and gained belief that the English had sixteen ships of war and a strong land force coming to Bengall.

9. On the receipt of your letter by the Delawar we began to put the settlement into as good a posture of defence as we could and as the parapet and ambrazeures as well as the gun carriages of the line to the westward of the fort was much out of repair, they became the first object of our attention. A number of workmen were employed and I believe the parapet and ambrazures (the greatest part of which we were obliged to pull down) more than half run up when the President was surprized with a perwannah from the Suba to the following purport:

> "That he had been informed we were building a wall and digging a large ditch round the town of Calcutta, that he did not approve of our carrying on these works without his permission and ordered Mr. Drake to desist immediately and destroy what he had already done".

10. The French having strengthened their fort by an additional bastion which at this time they had compleated, received at the same juncture we did a perwannah to the like effect, both of them having been dispatched by the Suba as he was on his march against the Purranea Nabob; and the answer to them reached the Suba on the same day at Rajamaal, a city about three days' march from Muxadavad; and the French by the completion of their bastion being enabled to desist immediately, answered him accordingly, assuring him at the same time that they had built no new works, and had only repaired one of their bastions which had been injured by lightning, with which answer he appeared satisfyed.

11. The reply your President returned to the Suba's perwannah was to the best of my remembrance as follows:

> "That the Suba had been mis-informed in respect to our rebuilding a wall round our town and that we had dug no ditch since the invasion of the Marottoes at which time we executed such a work, at the particular request of our inhabitants and with the knowledge and approbation of Ally Verdy Cawn that, in the late war between our nation and the French, they had attacked and taken the town of Madras, contrary to the neutrality we ex-

pacted would have been preserved in the Mogull's dominions; and that there being at present great appearance of another war between the two Crowns, we were under some apprehensions they would act in the same manner in Bengall, to prevent which we were only repairing our line of guns to the water-side".

It is fruitless now to wish this answer had been debated in Council before it was sent, where I think much impropriety would have appeared in it, as the whole of it had a tendency to confirm the Suba in a belief of those insinuations which had been already conveyed to him that the war between us and the French would probably be brought into Bengall, besides its carrying a tacit reflection on the Suba's power or will to protect us. The consequence was adequate, for he was much enraged at the receipt of it and immediately ordered your factory at Cossimbuzar to be invested, which was accordingly done on the 22nd May by Roy Dullob, of which we received advice from the gentlemen there the 25th and several other subsequent letters informing us of additional forces being added on the factory from time to time, and that they expected every moment to be attacked and that the Suba was on his march to Muxadavad. The subject matter of complaint assigned in every letter still regarded the new works we were carrying on in Calcutta.

12. On the first advice received from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar, we forwarded to them copy of the President's answer to the Nabob's perwannah and in our several dispatches recommended them to use every salutary means in their power to put a stop to the Suba's resentment and obtain a currency to our business (which was now obstructed at every subordinate and aurung). We directed them to assure the Suba we were carrying on no new works, that we had dug no ditch, that our enemies had mis-represented us, that if he gave no credit to our assertions, we intreated he would send any one he could confide in to inspect them, and wrote the Suba repeated letters to the like purpose. We also gave the gentlemen instructions to remonstrate and expostulate strongly against this hard treatment, and to endeavour and trace out if possible whether one or other of the European nations was not at the bottom of it with intent to embroil the Company's affairs, and benefit those of their employers, and to use all means of

knowing from his ministers if the Suba's intention was to extort a sum of money from us, conformable to the unjust and unusual method of his predecessors; with all giving them possitive orders to make no concession or give any promises touching the demolition of our fortification.

13. Thus, Hon'ble Sirs, you see us reduced to the necessity either of resisting the arbitrary orders of the Suba or of abandoning and leaving open your Presidency to the mercy of the French contrary to your orders and intimation to us by the Delawar; for to all our remonstrances we could receive no satisfaction from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar but was still advised the Suba insisted on our demolishing our new works (when in fact we had made none) and fill up a ditch we had never dug.

14. Under date I think the 1st of June, we received a letter from your Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar, advising that Roy Doolob had told Doctor Forth that the Suba's resentment was caused only by the draw bridge and works we had built at Baagbuzar and the octagon which Mr. Kelsall had rebuilt in his garden, and that if we would write the Suba we would demolish those works, the forces would be immediately withdrawn; and the gentlemen likewise enforcing this a necessary and effectual expedient to put an end to the troubles, we in full Council took it into consideration and reflecting on the heavy loss and disadvantage you would sustain in your investment by the continuance of the stoppage of your business and judging those works and draw bridge at Baagbuzar so far detatched as to be of little use in the defence of the place against a European enemy, we unanimously determined and agreed to promise the demolition of them and the octagon at Mr. Kelsall's garden; and to that purport as soothing a letter as could be indited was instantly drawn up to the Suba from the President and enclosed to Mr. Watts and his Council, to whom we also wrote advising them of our compliance and readyness to demolish those works which had given him displeasure. Triplicates of this arassdass and letter we dispatched in four hours to arrive in thirty six hours and ordered a large reward to the cossids if they arrived in the time.

15. We received another short letter under the same date *viz.*, the 1st June, wherein the gentlemen informed us the

forces on their factory amounted to 12,000 with a train of artillery and that positive orders were arrived to attack it, requesting they might be re-inforced with a hundred men, on which a Council was summoned, their request taken into consideration and the five captains called in and desired to give their opinion whether it was impossible this reinforcement could be thrown into the place. They withdrew and after debating it amongst themselves gave us their opinion in writing, declaring the thing impracticable and that the force the gentlemen had in the fort was in their judgments sufficient to defend it against the troops brought against them. This opinion we immediately dispatched to them, directed them, if they were attacked, to make as good a defence as they could, and when they found they could defend the factory no longer, to make the best retreat in their power, but I believe neither this letter nor some of our preceeding ones reached the gentlemen, the Suba having for some days cut off all correspondence between us, a plain indication that an accommodation was not the mark he aimed at.

16. On the 6th of June we had a rumour of Cossimbuzar being taken by the Nabob, which was confirmed to us the 7th by a letter from Mr. Mathew Collet, your second at that factory, which according to my best recollection expressed as follows:

> "That upon the Nabob's repeated orders to his generals to attack the factory unless the Chief went in person to him, Mr. Watts, by the advice of his Council, thought it more adviseable to go to the Nabob than risque involving the Company in a war with the Government, that he accordingly did so on the 2nd June and on coming into his presence was made a prisoner, and orders sent for Mr. Collet (and I think Mr. Batson) to attend him likewise to sign jointly with Mr. Watts a machulka, which order they obeyed, but in place of being set at liberty upon signing the machulka required, Mr. Collet was sent back to the factory with directions to deliver it up to Roy Doolob, which he was obliged to comply with, and was then giving up the account of the cannon, ammunition and military stores, that the factory was not plundered and that the Nabob was determined to march to Calcutta with his whole army estimated then at 50000 men, besides a large train of artillery."

The reasons which swayed Mr. Watts to quit his government at such a juncture as that, and trust himself in the hands of the Suba, (on whose character or principles no reasonable faith could be had) without any proper security, hostage, or safeguard, for his person, or those which urged Mr. Collet to follow his example when he knew his Chief was made a prisoner and that consequently the trust, command and government of the factory, fort and garrison devolved upon himself, or why this your settlement was thus given up without a single stroke being struck for it, I am totally a stranger to, and can only hope, for their sakes and the honour of their country, they have or will justify the conduct to you in those particulars. I will not subscribe to the opinion of our five captains as already recited and say their force was sufficient to resist and defend the place for any long time against the Suba's army; but had it been defended at all, he could not have attacked and taken it without the loss of time and many of his people, and probably some of his principal officers. A stroke of this kind might have had happy consequences to your affairs; it might have inclined the Suba to an accommodation by cooling still more the zeal of his ministers, generals, officers, and people who allmost to a man were averse to this expedition and attempt against the English as knowing the consequence would be as fatal to his country as to us, though he succeeded in it. A defence of only 24 hours would in its consequences have retarded in all probability his march to Calcutta for many days, and would have been a point gained to us of the utmost importance, by having more time for the completion of many requisites, which for want of it we were obliged wholey to neglect or remained unfinished at the time we were actually invested. A detention of his Army before Cossimbuzar for two or three days would have brought on dirty rainy weather in his march towards us, and incommoded him greatly, as well in the passage of his troops and cannon as in the attack of our settlement; whereas, by the easy possession he acquired of Cossimbuzar, he was enabled to march against us without loss of time or obstruction from the weather which afforded not a drop of rain during his march and attack of Calcutta; but on the 21st at night whilst I was prisoner in the camp, it rained heavily and dirty weather succeeded for many days after, during which his musketry being all matchlocks would have been rendered in a manner useless. We should also have had an important succour in the afrival before

the fort of the Success galley, the Speedwell and Bombay frigate, these vessels having passed Tanners the 19th and 20th and joined the Dodaly and the rest of our fleet about Govindpore, after they fell down from the fort though before it was surrendered. Many more are the advantages I could enumerate which would have resulted from the smallest defence and resistance made at Cossimbuzar, and can only regret now its not having been done, repeating my hopes, the gentlemen in trust there will give you sufficient reasons why it was not done. Their treatment could hardly have been worse had they been obstinate in its defence, they themselves being continued prisoners in the Suba's camp under many hardships untill I think the latter end of June, their effects plundered and the gentlemen at the factory viz., Messrs. Hugh Watts and Chambers with the whole garrison put in irons and sent to the common prison at Muxadavad—the fate Messrs Batson, Sykes, Hastings and Marriott would have undergone, had not luckily the two former made their escape and the two latter been at the aurungs.

17. On Cossimbuzar being invested, we wrote to the several subordinates and to all our gomastahs at the several aurungs, advising them of the Suba's proceeding and to be upon their guard, and hold themselves in readyness to retreat with the Company's effects etc., and on intelligence of the capture of the place and the Suba's march to Calcutta, we sent them orders to withdraw and join us with all expedition but these orders were too late excepting your factory at Luckypore as I have already intimated in my letter of the 17th July. Mr. Boddam, your Chief at Ballasore, received our orders in time to withdraw himself, the few soldiers he had there and about 6000 rupees of your effects; the remainder to the amount of about 40000 remain yet sequestered and your factory house in part only demolished at Ballasore; but Bullramgurry by its situation having escaped the Government's notice and by the prudent conduct of Mr. John Bristow (left Resident at Ballasore by Mr. Boddam) is still retained. Myself and Mr. Boddam were dispatched to take a formal possession of it the 18th September and to negotiate other matters which will be transmitted on the face of our Fulta Consultations and we have thought it necessary to nominate Bullramgurry your Presidency, being divested of every other possession you had in these provinces. But to resume my narrative—dispatches

were likewise forwarded express to Bombay, Fort St. George and Vizagapatam the 8th of June for a reinforcement of troops, stores etc., and succours demanded of the French and Dutch settlements on this river; the success of which last negotiation you have likewise in my said letter of the 17th July. The militia were under arms for the first time the 7th June, something too late I am afraid you will say to be of much service, just coming to action.

18. I am now, Hon'ble Sirs, come closer to the unravelling the real causes which stimulated the Suba to the lengths he has proceeded against us; how far my conjectures and assertions will be supported by probable system of politicks in him, and by the tenour of his whole conduct considered together, I humbly admit to your judgments; and first I will beg leave to remark on the three articles contained in the machulka (or obligation with a penalty annexed) which your Chief and Council were obliged to sign in the Suba's camp, when before Cossimbuzar, the terms of which were viz.,

> "That we should not protect the King's subjects, that we should not mis-use the liberty of our dusticks by covering the trade of the native merchants and that we should refund and make good whatever sum it should be proved the King had been defrauded in the revenues and dutys by this practice, and that we should demolish our fortifications."

These, Hon'ble Sirs, are the purport of the 3 articles of the machulka, however they [I?] may have varyed the wording of it by not having it before me. Had the Suba any intention of being satisfyed with our concession to these articles, he certainly would have rested here; your Chief, Council, fort and garrison of Cossimbuzar was in his possession; the gentlemen had signed and executed the obligation demanded of them; he knew their signing it was not valid or binding without our approval; and if he had ever inclined to an accommodation he would have transmitted the terms they had complyed with and at least have desisted untill our reply could have reached him, in place of cutting off for some days the means of all correspondence or intelligence between us and your factory, and marching directly against us without ever replying to or taking notice of many arassdasses received from us; but the truth is, his jealousy of the independent power of the Europeans in his country was at this juncture confirmed, which he was deter-

mined to reduce; and being sensible ours was the most formidable to him, we became the first objects of his ruinous politicks. To support this my conclusion, I must here refer to three letters which Wazeed's gomastah in my presence read your President (copys of which I believe is in Mr. Drake's possession) addressed to his master Wazeed from the Suba, all three to the best of my remembrance bearing date in May last. In each of these, "He avows his intention to reduce the power of the English, forbids his interfering on their behalf, asserting his having long intended it, and swears by God and his prophets that he will drive them out of the country, unless they are satisfyed to trade in it on the footing they did in Jaffier Cawn's time", by which he meant before the time the Hon'ble Company obtained their phirmaund[6]. Your fort at Cossimbuzar (esteemed by all judges more regular and tenable than that of Fort William), so near his capital, appeared too dangerous a hold at a time he was influenced to believe our strength in India was four times more formidable than it really was, and that we were on the eve of a French war which would be probably brought into his country. Consistent with this was his expression of resentment at Rajamal on receipt of your President's letter, "Who shall dare to think of commencing hostilities in my country or presume to imagine I have not power to protect them?" and it was current in the mouths of all degrees when I was at Muxadavad that Mahabut Jung had long meditated to destroy the forts and garrisons of the Europeans and to reduce their trade on the footing of the Armenians. And here I hope it will not be deemed impertinent if I recite verbatim the last discourse and council which Mahobat Jung gave his grandson a few days before his death and which I had from very good authority at Muxadavad after my releasement.

> "My life has been a life of war and stratagem. For what have I fought, to what have my councils tended, but to secure you, my son, a quite succession to my Subadary? My fears for you have for many days robed me of sleep. I perceived who had power to give you trouble after I am gone hence. Hossein Cooley Cawn by his reputation, wisdom, courage and affection to Shaw Omet Jung and his power is no more, Monickchund Dewan, whose councils house, I feared, would obstruct your government. His might have been your dangerous enemy, I have taken him to favour. Keep in view the power the European nations

have in the country. This fear I would also have freed you from, if God had lengthened my days. The work my son must now be yours. Their wars and politicks in the Telinga country should keep you waking. On pretence of private contests between their Kings they have seized and divided the country of the King and the goods of his people between them. Think not to weaken all three together. The power of the English is great, they have lately conquered Angria and possessed themselves of his country. Reduce them first, the others will give you little trouble. When you have reduced them, suffer them not my son to have fortifications or soldiers: if you do, the country is not yours."

19. How consistent the Suba has been in his adherence to this last council of his grandfather, we have woefully felt; but that we were not solely the objects of his resentment and designs is evident. His perwannah to the French was dispatched the same day with ours. When he marched against us he sent perwannahs to both French and Dutch with orders to provide and join him with ships, men and ammunition to attack us by water, whilst he attacked us by land. They refused, in consequence of their refusal he invested their several forts and factorys, and demanded an exorbitant sum from each. The French were glad to accommodate matters for the payment of three lack and half of rupees; the Dutch for four lack and a half, after having had (these last) for a day and half a body of the Suba's troops in their settlement, waiting orders to attack it, and a man stationed with an axe in his hands to cut down their flagg-staff and colours. The French had not money to pay the mulct laid on them, but gained Roy Doolob to become their security; the Dutch were reduced to immediate payment; and both did then, and have ever since been obliged to endure the most audacious and exasperating insults from the lowest peon in the service of the Government. That there was this difference in the sum extorted from them has been accounted for, how justly I will not say, by the supplys of ammunition given the Suba privately by the agents for the French at Chandernagore. The thing however was verifyed by two of our spys, who brought us intelligence that the French by night crossed over 200 chests of powder to the Suba's army, then laying near Banka Bazar.

20. Still consistent with the last advice of Mahabut Jung, he appeared at Rajamal satisfyed with the answer from the

French Directeur, though no one can imagine his intelligence was such that he was really imposed on as to the pretence of repairing the damage they had sustained by lightening. He manifested sufficiently his resentment and intentions against both French and Dutch, but their time was not come; it was not his bussiness to have the three nations to encounter at once but to compromise at the present for as much as he could get from them; but that the French were and still are the next object of his arms, will not admit of doubt no more than that he would have proceeded immediately against them, had not his advices from his court obliged him to proceed against Shocut Jung, the Purranea Nabob, as an object more important; for when I was twice conducted into his presence after the surrender of the fort, allmost his first question to me was, "Will ye all engage to join me against the French?" Adequate has been the conduct of the Government to another part of Mahobut Jung's advice; for though liberty of trade is granted to the Danes and Prussians, yet they are prohibited fortifications or garrisons. And in further proof of the resolutions of the Government to divest the Europeans of their forts and garrisons and that we were the objects of his policy and not of his resentment only (from either one particular private course or other that may be transmitted you), I may justly add the apprehensions of the French and Dutch themselves, who on the first approach of our troubles sent strenuous dispatches to their principals at Batavia and Pondicherry for the most expeditious supplys of men, ammunitions etc., and I doubt not but it will be soon their turn to regret the having so quietly given us up a sacrifice, unless the Suba should be vanquished in his present expedition against Shocut Jung.

21. The 3rd instant (November), a perwannah arrived to the Dutch from the Suba's camp demanding them to join him against us, with threatenings if they refused; and the same day a perwannah reached the French factory, purporting that he was informed they were carrying on their fortifications, and that if they did not immediately desist, he would pass through the Dutch factory and settlement and with their (the Dutch) solidiers destroy their fort and drive them out of the country as he had done the English; and the Government have already obliged the French to take down their colours erected on their bounds.

22. I believe, Hon'ble Sirs, it will by this appear clearly evident to you that the government [governing] principle in the Suba was political and the real object of his proceedings the demolition of your forts and garrisons, as his demands always expressed, not that I will be hardy enough to aver he had no concurring subordinate causes that had a special colour of resentment; and this reflection leads me to consider the other two articles of the machullka, as their being inserted carry the appearance of complaint, though never before urged by him in any of his demands, as transmitted us by your servants at Cossimbuzar.

23. That the abuse of dusticks should be one cause of complaint, I am not surprized at. The face of your Consultations, just before the dispatch of your last year's ships, will give you, Hon'ble Sirs, my sentiments of the ill use made of this indulgence to your servants. My minute and motion on this subject was, after the dispatch of your ships, taken into consideration and such remedys and checks resolved on as were judged might put a stop to the abuse.

24. That we should not protect the King's subjects, is an article will bear a much larger discussion. This prohibition in the extent it might have been carryed by the Government whenever they were inclined to obstruct your business, or plunder your merchants, would have rendered your trade most precarious. Had the article been explained so as to prohibit our giving protection to those who were actually servants to the Government, or others not born in or for a term of years settled under our colours, it would I think have carryed nothing unjust or unreasonable in it, but that by no means was the real intention of it. The article had a latitude in expression that would include your merchants and inhabitants whenever the Suba or his ministers were pleased to call on them, a call they would never fail in, on some pretence or other, whenever they had got anything worth taking, so that in truth, it would have been as impossible for us, consistent with your interests, to have subscribed to this article as to the other regarding the demolition of your fortifications; and the most favourable terms intended for us (which I could with the utmost diligence learn when at Muxadavad) were, that if we had paid an implicit obedience to the Suba's commands by delivering our forts and dismission of our garrisons, we should then have been permitted to trade on paying Armenian dutys, admitting

a Fowzdaar into your settlement on the part of the Government and relinquishing to them all dutys of consulage, revenues etc., terms scandalous and injurious to your honour, as well as commerce, terms which we could never have submitted to, even if we had received no allarm from the side of France, without sacrifizing the rights of your phirmaund, giving up every part of our trust and breaking through your repeated standing orders for more than thirty years past.

25. Thus, Hon'ble Sirs, it will appear to you that submission could not have been paid by us to two articles of the machulka executed by your Chief and Council of Cossimbuzar and that we had many months before guarded against (as much as in us lay) the complaint laid in the third, if the honours and consciences of men were to be influenced by checks the most binding and solemn; but it is plain the two articles of complaint were at the last inserted to give a colouring for enforcing the third (and only one the Suba untill then insisted on and had really in view). I am sensible, no small pains will be taken to throw the rise of your misfortunes here on every cause but the right.

26. From the appearance of the Suba's letter to Governor Pigott, your President seems to be solely culpable in drawing on his resentment, but neither justice or probability will justify the conclusion. Angry he certainly was at the terms of his letter, but had not his resentments been much deeper founded, the terms of this letter or the error of one of your servants would never of itself have provoked him, or can vindicate the cruel destruction, both public and private, attending his proceedings which fell equally heavey as well on the natives subjects of the Mogull's as on yourselves and us; and the immense plunder of Calcutta we know was one no small subordinate motive (instilled into him by two or three harpys in confidence about him) for his march against us, at a time when he was rapaciously plundering wherever he could, amassing wealth to enable him either to buy at Court his confirmation in the Subaship or keep such a standing force on foot as would secure it to him, in spite of any opposition or orders from thence.

27. That matters might have been accommodated with the Suba for a sum of money, as was effected by the French and Dutch, I am likewise sensible will be strongly alledged against

us, but by whomsoever it is, I will be bold to say they are either ignorant of the chain of politicks and circumstances which influenced and led him on, or never reasoned or thought upon them. The Suba's whole conduct opposes this allegation. His ministers were by our orders sounded on the alternative and your Chief and Council of Cossimbuzar advised us that he had declared money was not the thing he wanted, but that we should desist from our fortifications and destroy our new works etc.

28. The protection granted the family of Raagbullob (of which I have already given a faithfull account) will I also know be urged (with circumstances which never existed) as matter of heavey complaint against us, though the Suba never (that came to our knowledge) made complaint about it. I will not vindicate the protection being continued to them, untill the decease of the old Suba; I have already, and I think justly, condemned it, but, this excepted, I will hope the circumstances attending and urging it will be sufficient to extenuate that part of our conduct.

29. I am informed it has been cruelly asserted and published by the French that the bringing down the Nabob and his army and the desertion of the fort etc., had been long a concerted scheme the President's and the rest of the gentlemen of Council who went off in the shipping, and mention in proof, as a corroborating circumstance, myself and the other gentlemen of Council being left a sacrafice behind (who they say used generally to oppose their measures), with this further addition that they had embarked and carryed off with them the greatest part of the wealth of the settlement. However little right these gentlemen have to expect from me a vindication of their conduct, yet here common justice to mankind forbids my silence, and urges me to defend them from a charge of which I from my heart believe to be *infamously* false, not only as to the act, but the intention; nor would I even repeat a libel so scandalous and untrue, had I not received information that some of your own servants had forwarded from your subordinates (for want of a better) the public narrative the French in Bengall sent to their superiors of the capture of Fort William, in which narrative, I hear, the above cruel charge has a place in near the same terms I have recited it, with many other causes assigned for this misfortune equally void of probability or truth.

30. It will by some, I doubt not, be represented to you that Omychund was at the bottom of all the Suba's councils and proceedings against us. The part he really acted under cover in this affair is difficult to distinguish and point out, that he was much chagrined at the little influence he had in the settlement for a few years last past is most certain, in applications to the Durbar (wherein he usually was the acting person, between the Company and the Government) little use had been made of him, possibly more had been better. Be this as it will, it is most sure he had no general weight in the place for these four or five years, beyond what his wealth gave him, so that his name and reputation became lessened in the eye of the Government, as well as in Calcutta. Piqued at this and implacable in his resentments, it is not improbable he worked with some instruments of the Durbar to embroil us in such manner as would make his mediation and assistance necessary and thereby regain his credit and influence with both, little imagining things would go the length they did, in which it must have been most evident to him, his own large possessions would be equally the Suba's prey with yours. That he advised the dispatch of Narran Sing to demand Raagbullob's family and introduced him into the settlement will not I think admit of doubt, no more than that he deeply resented his being turned out of it again. His endeavours with Wazeed to mitigate things when he really found they were coming to extremities was I believe sincere enough untill his imprisonment by the President, an act of his power and sole authority, for which the pretence made use of was, in my judgment, by no means sufficient; the correspondence detected between him and Rajaram Harkarah (the Suba's head spy) which was read in the presence of many of us contained, in our opinions, nothing to vindicate it, nor had your President even the consent or approbation of his Council for this step, or that I remember ever required it. On his imprisonment his head jemmautdaar Jaggernaut Sing stabed himself and set fire to his master's house, and some of his women either butchered themselves or were butchered by others in the family, which became a scene of much horror and confusion. It can hardly be doubted that Omychund became desperate in his resentments, and it is probable enough he expedited the march of the Suba's army, then advanced I think as far as Bancabazar, and it is likewise probable that he then sent him the real state of the fort and garrison, and afterwards might (as has been

generally suspected) from time to time have given him intelligence, but this is all conjecture. We only know that his jemmautdaar just now mentioned, surviving of the wound he had given himself, was put upon his horse and joined the Suba, whom he informed of the transactions relating to his master's imprisonment, and when the enemy was repulsed at Baagbazar, he led the van of the army to the eastward and directed them the avenues by which they entered the next day.

31. From others I believe you will be told that the dismission of your dadney merchants was one cause of our misfortunes, arising from their endeavours at the Durbar to embroil your affairs at the aurungs as conducted by your own gomastahs, hoping thereby to get the dadney re-assumed and themselves reinstated; nay, some, I have been informed, have been hardy enough to urge and assert that the large increase of your revenue zemindary was another very principal cause which drew the Suba's attention on the settlement, though themselves, your President and Council, and I believe the greatest part of the Subadaary as well as my hon'ble masters know the credits of that branch was only increased, without any innovations made in the branch itself but to its loss and disadvantage. Many more causes and reasons equally substantial will, I doubt not, be assigned and transmitted to you by such busy and very short-sighted politicians as these. Strangers to the real ones, they think they shall not appear of any importance unless they assign some, no matter how incongruous, but you will have now materials enough before you to form your own judgments. I think my conclusions on every cause that can be alledged for the extraordinary and unprecedented conduct of the Suba have facts and probability to support them. To you, Hon'ble Sirs, I humbly submit them, with this one conclusion more, that your situation in these provinces on a re-establishment will be such as to admit of only two alternatives: that you must in future either keep such a fortification and garrison as will at all times be sufficient to force your trade against the opposition and extortions of the Government, or reduce your commerce to the footing of the Prussians and Danes etc., without forts and garrisons at all and on payment of the lowest dutys that can be stipulated. The immunities and priviledges granted you in your phirmaunds, you find now, are of no validity without a military expence (more I fear than equivalent) to put them in force;

but on this subject it will be my duty to give you my sentiments on another occasion more at large whilst at present I resume the thread of my narrative, broke off at the surrender of your fort and factory of Cossimbuzar, the easy capture of which concurring with his intentions beyond his expectations, not only gave the finishing strokes to his resolves but expedited and facilitated his march to Calcutta; which leads me to a consideration of the immediate causes of its sudden reduction, most needfull to be known to my hon'ble masters; the rocks and quick sands on which we have unhappily struck and split being fairly and candidly laid down, may prevent a second wreck of your estate and trade.

32. These causes I will beg leave to investigate under three general heads: the state of our fortifications and garrison, the state of our ammunition, guns and military stores and the several errors and miscarriages arising from a deficiency (or rather a total want) of military knowledge or order.

33. To the first article of my first general head, it will not become me to add much more than I have set forth in my letter before you of the 17th July, addressed from Muxadavad to your other two Presidencys of Bombay and Fort St. George. The nature and extent of the power given to the Committee of Fortifications—Messrs. Drake, Watts, Scot and Manningham—we have ever been kept strangers to, but I will venture to conclude that had the money which was expended on the redoubt, drawbridge etc., erected at Baagbuzar, and that which was meditated to be spent on the circuit of ditch beyond our bounds, as also that which was disbursed on the batterys etc., raised on the Suba's approach, been timely appropriated to the demolition of the houses round us to have given a proper esplanade to the northward, eastward and southward of your fort, the sinking a ditch round it well palisaded, it had been employed to a more important use and purpose, and have been a sufficient discouragement to the Government to have prevented any project or hopes of attacking it with any probability of success. I am sensible it will be urged the Government would have never suffered these measures, a reasoning *ex post facto* will not invalidate my conclusion, for had it been thought of, or carryed into execution, at the commencement of the old Suba's sickness, when every thing at the Durbar was in confusion and both partys there employed on their own

schemes and designs, the work might have been effected without any let or hindrance; a perwannah might possibly have reached us to prohibit our proceeding, but no troops could have been sent against us whilst the attentions of the clashing interests at the Suba's Court were taken up in securing each their own safety on his demise. What might have been done during that favourable interval is sufficiently evident from the almost inconceivable useless works which we accomplished during the space of a few days only, and the same plea which your President urged in his letter to the Suba subsisted equally at the beginning of the old Suba's sickness, when he had reason enough to be allarmed by the approach of a war with France. The ruinous state of the line to the westward of the fort had been a reproach to your settlement and to every thing bearing the name of fortifications for more than two years and was in strong and just (I will not say very decent) terms represented in a letter to the Board by Mr. Jasper Leigh Jones, the Captain of your Train, I think in April or May 1755, but no steps taken to repair it untill we had reason hourly to expect the enemy at our doors. The whole easterly curtain had been for many years in so ruinous a condition as not to bear a gun; one we fired from it, a three or four pounder as I remember, which made its way through the terrace. Through this curtain from the principal gate to the north east bastion were struck out five or six large windows, so many breaches ready made for the enemy, in a quarter too where we were most liable to be attacked. To sum up the whole, the new godowns to the southward had rendered your two southerly bastions useless to each other and to the whole southerly face of the fort which could not be flanked by a single gun from either bastion. From a consideration of these circumstances, joined to the incumbrance of the church and houses round us and the other wants and disadvantages mentioned in my letter of the 17th July, it is self evident the place could not have held out an hour against a European enemy.

34. The state of your garrison comes next under view, a subject on which I could wish my duty to your service would permit my silence, as truths disagreeable to me in the recital and very unpleasing to you to hear must arise from the smallest scruitiny made in it. It is most irksome to a benevolent mind to rehearse the faults which may be justly charged even against the living, much more so against the dead, become so

in a great measure by their own errors and want of knowledge in the dutys of their profession; but the choice and appointment of commanding officers in your garrison is now become so important a consideration to the well being of your service that none who would have any claim to your favour or would be deemed faithfull to the trust you have reposed in them can be vindicated in concealing the truth from you.

35. Your five commanding officers were Commandant Minchin, Captains Clayton, Buchanan, Witherington and Grant. Each of these gentlemen (Captain Clayton excepted) had seen service either in Europe or on the Coromandel Coast. Touching the military capacity of our Commandant I am a stranger. I can only say we were unhappy in his keeping it to himself, if he had any, as neither I nor, I believe, any one else was witness to any part of his conduct that spoke or bore the appearance of his being the commanding military officer in the garrison. Whether this proceeded from himself, or his not being properly supported in his rank I cannot say, but such, I have heard, has been his allegation and plea for his supine remissing at a juncture which required the exertion of every quality he could have been master of. Your President, I remember, spoke to me more than once with much uneasyness at the beginning of our trobles on the indolence of the Commandant, and seemed to think of breaking him. Had this measure been carryed into execution, it had been better for the service and I think for that gentleman too; the disgrace would have been less, I believe, in the opinion of all mankind than that which falls on him by his quiting the fort and garrison in the manner he did, whilst he bore the character of the commanding officer in it. But the mischief was we could not have stopped here; the next gentleman in command to him had never seen any service, and I am sorry to say demonstrated his want of the most essential requisities of a soldier. Had both these gentlemen been set aside and the next in command preferred to the commandantship, it would have promised a happier issue for them and us; and most assuredly this was no time to have regarded forms or ceremony. Remissing or a deficiency of military knowledge in commanders when coming to action are equally fatal in their consequences, and are ever the parents of neglects, confusion and disorders. and troops I believe are hardly ever known to do their duty unless where they have an opinion of, as well as love for, their commanders.

That neither was the case with regard to the two gentlemen above mentioned I believe the whole settlement can witness with me, and they were in no higher degree of esteem with their subalterns than with their soldiers. The perfering Capt Buchanan who was next in command to them would have obviated all the disadvantages we laboured under in this particular, a gentleman whose character as a man and a soldier deserved a better fate than the unhappy one which befell him by the errors and misconduct of others. The vacant companys would have been filled up with those we had good reason to think (and who indeed proved themselves) brave officers. The next in command to Capt. Buchanan in the batallion would then have been Captain Grant, a gentleman who had during his stay in the garrison remarkably exerted himself in every duty which could have been expected from him and demonstrated no want of either spirit or military skill, but much the contrary, however both may have suffered in the eye of the world by his quiting the fort with your President and for want of an opportunity of vindicating his conduct by a proper enquiry being made into it. The Captain of your Train was a laborious active officer but confused, and would, I believe, have had few objections either to his character, diligence or conduct, had we been fortunate in having any Commander-in-Chief to have had a proper eye over him and taken care that he did his duty. Here we had a fatal instance of a remissness in command, for that we had neither a sufficiency of ammunition etc., nor that good, was doubtless as much the fault of those above him, whose duty it was to have inspected his conduct, as his, but as this poor gentleman fell a sacrifice, as well to his own as to the errors of others, they should be touched as lightly as possible.

36. Thus, Hon'ble Sirs, I have given you as faithfull a picture of the commanders of your five companys as I can draw or as I hope can be drawn by any one else. Three of them, my wretched companions in the Black Hole, perished there, as did also all your brave subalterns (Ensigns Walcot and Carstairs excepted), where I will leave them and proceed to consider your troops in garrison, consisting, as already mentioned in my letter of the 17th July, by the muster rolls laid before us about the 6th or 8th of June, of 145 in the batallion and 45 of the Train, officers included, and in both only 60 Europeans. We were taught to believe there were at all your subordinates at

least 200 men, the best of our garrison, viz., at Cossimbuzar 100, at Dacca about 40, at Luckipore 30, and at Ballasore about the same number, but it is certain the numbers there barely exceeded one hundred. Whether two hundred ought to have been there or not I am not master enough of the subject to declare; so am obliged here to refer to your President for your further satisfaction, who (or in his absence your second) had allways the inspection of the rolls and mustering the people. Of these handfull of troops in garrison there were not five who had ever, I believe, seen a musket fired in anger. Had the militia of the place been (agreeable to your orders per Godolphin No. 51)* regularly trained to arms, they might at this juncture have been a most seasonable supply, but this essential regulation, I am sorry to say, was totally neglected, so that when we came to action, there were hardly any amongst the Armenian and Portugueese inhabitants and but few amongst the European militia who knew the right from the wrong end of their pieces. From the militia about 65, chiefly Europeans, entered volunteers in the batallion (most of them your own covenant servants), in whose just praise I can hardly say enough. They sustained every hardship of duty greatly beyond the military themselves; their address in the use of their arms was astonishing, the short time there was to train them considered; and though their bravery may have been equalled, I am sure it has not been exceeded by any set of men whatever. A considerable body of these were on the Saturday morning relieved from duty and were gone on board the ships to deposit their papers, or on other occasions relative to their private affairs, as were likewise on the like call many of the militia with four of them officers, to wit, the Reverend Mr. Mapletoft, captain lieutenant, Capt Henry Wedderburn, lieutenant of the first company and Ensigns Sumner and Charles Douglas, all of them gentlemen who had failed in no part of duty, either as officers or soldiers, in the defence of the place, so that there is no reason to doubt the veracity of their own assertion in which they are joined by the volunteers, "that they had no intention but to return to the defence of the place untill they saw your President, Commandant Minchin, Capt Grant and Mr Mackett quit it (Messrs. Manningham and Frankland having quitted it before) and a general retreat rumoured," and indeed immediately after, all means of returning were cut off.

* Holwell's *India Tracts*, p. 302 has "anno 1751"

from them by the falling down of every ship, vessell and boat. Thus, Hon'ble Sirs, you see our garrison, small as it was, reduced and weakened both in its strength, officers and councils, in a very important degree to the disheartening those who stayed, and encouragement of the enemy, and when it is considered those remaining, including officers, volunteers, soldiers and militia, did not exceed one hundred and seventy men, and that, of these, there were 25 killed and about 70 wounded before noon the 20th and the whole exhausted of their strength by continual duty and action and our people of the Train reduced to 14 only, it would not, I hope, been wondered at had we surrendered your fort without parley or capitulation, though it is certain we should not have surrendered ourselves, had not our own people forced the western gate during the parley. For having no dependance on the clemency of the enemy we had to deal with, we had meditated, in case the St. George with her boats failed us, the forcing a retreat that night through the southerly barrier by the river side and have marched untill we came under cover of the ships then lying below Surman's Garden, imagining the enemy would be too much employed on the plunder of the fort to have molested us greatly in our retreat.

37. On my second general head I shall have little to say. That we had not powder sufficient, and that we had, not good, that we had hardly any shells fitted, or fuzes fitted to them, that there was hardly a carriage that would bear a gun, that the 50 fine canon you sent out three years ago, 18 and 24 pounders, lay neglected under your walls, and that we were deficient in allmost every kind of military stores, are all truths will not admit of dispute, but who is properly accountable for these defects, or under whose immediate care and inspection they were or ought to have been, must, Hon'ble Sirs be determined by yourselves.

38. I am come now to my third and last general head, our own errors, a subject, I am sorry to declare, too fruitfull of matter though bearing great extenuation, when it is considered we had in truth no military head to guide us; and that I may be as little tedious as possible I will wave the rehearsal of our smaller errors and keep to those most capital ones which variously, in my judgment, contributed to the loss of your settlement and were the causes of embarassing and prevent-

ing our general retreat with the publick and private effects deposited in your fort, and shall recite these in order of time as they happened, that if due heed be paid to them, the like misfortune may be avoided in future.

39. Our first capital error was the neglecting taking possession of Tanner's Fort, on our provisions being prohibited the settlement, and when there was no force or troops there to have opposed us. This measure in our first council of war I moved and urged with every argument in my power should be done with 25 or 30 men and a party of buxerries, and that a battery of six guns should be immediately erected there towards the northward or land side. In this motion I was strongly seconded by Monsr. La Beaume and I think Capt. Grant only, and consequently it was over-ruled. The utility I thought evident. It would have secured provisions from the other side of the river, or the Suba must have divided his forces; it would have secured the retreat of our shipping, it might have been a retreat to ourselves, or if at last drove from it we had it still in our power to destroy it in such wise as to have rendered it useless and prevented its proving a troublesome thorn in our sides, which it may possibly yet be, if ever we advance again to retake your settlement, as our ships must pass within almost pistol shot of it. The gentlemen saw the utility of this measure too late; our ships were sent down to attempt the possession of it; a great deal of ammunition was fruitlessly thrown away against it; our ships received much damage and were obliged to make an inglorious retreat to the no small encouragement of the enemy and our disgrace; and to sum up all the misfortunes attending this error, our ships in their flight with that part of the colony who left the fort, were, from the fire they were obliged to sustain from this fort, and the little order observed amongst themselves, thrown into such confusion that several ran ashore (and some the richest in the fleet), fell into the enemy's hands and were plundered.

40. Our second capital error with our small and untrained garrison, was, I conceive, the raising the three advanced posts and batteries to the northward, eastward, southward and at the Jail, which answered no purpose but exhausting, harassing and destroying the few people we had. If we, in place of this measure, had kept our force more united, withdrawn Piccard and his party from Baagbuzar, and taken possession with our

musketry of the Church, the Company's, Messrs. Cruttenden's, Eyre's, and Omychund's houses, the enemy could not have approached us without infinite loss and with hardly any possibility of success. From these posts, close under the cover of our guns, our troops could hardly have been attacked, much less dislodged, as we had sufficient proofs afterwards when the outposts were withdrawn; or if there had appeared a necessity for abandoning them, the retreat to the fort was secure; considerably less than half the number of troops stationed at the outposts would have been sufficient for this service, and this important consequence had followed a regular relief for duty, of which we had none, as things were unhappily conducted, nor would that infinite confusion and disorder in the fort have ensured, which did on withdrawing these batteries. The fort had been in a manner left defenceless for the support of them and little benefited by the return of troops fatigued and hardly able to stand. You have, Hon'ble Sirs, an exact plan of your settlement and of every house in it, on inspection of which you will at one view see the inutility of these three principal outposts. That to the northward was erected to defend the pass between the corner of Mr. Griffith's house and the river side, a precaution totally useless as you will find Mr. Griffith's house, your salt petre godowns and the whole street were commanded by the guns on the north east bastion within less than musket shot of your fort. That to the eastward, at the Court House, you will find commanded by the battery over the eastern gate and from the old and new south east bastions within musket shot. That to the southward was not indeed commanded by any gun from the fort but field pieces advanced a few paces without your eastern gate, would not only have commanded that but the other two principal avenues to the fort. If the battery on the gate and the north east bastion had not been deemed a sufficient defence against the approach of the enemy, and had they advanced by the ditch to the southward of the burying ground and up the avenue between that and my house, or penetrated through the burying ground, we still had nothing to apprehend from them, as the whole square between the southerly face of the fort and the hospital and gate of the burying ground was commanded not only by the new south east bastion but by seven four pounders on the new godowns and our small arms from thence and the Company's house. Had the disposition I have mentioned been made, and the walls of the Loll Baag and those opposite the Company's house levelled it is more than probable the Suba at last would

have been obliged to retreat with his army, for it is plain he had none with him capable of erecting any battery that could have hurt us (that which did us most damage being our own 18 pounders turned against us from the Court House), and with their small arms there was hardly a possibility of approaching near enough to have affected us. My conclusions, Hon'ble Sirs, are on this head the result of reason and a late fatal experience, and not of art, for I am no soldier; but cannot help thinking such would have been the salutary disposition, had we been happy enough to have had a soldier at our head or a chief commanding officer in any degree skilled in the art of defence, but, in place of it, lines were formed which required ten times the number of men to defend. Lucky we were in having an enemy who had as little skill and address in the attack as we in the defence, and much less resolution, or on the night of the 16th or 17th they might have entered at four different posts, and cut off the retreat to the fort of each of the five advanced batteries (including Baag Bazar and the Jail), for not a gun could have been fired to cover their retreat but must have been equally levelled at our own troops, as at the enemy. In the avenue between Mr. Coale's and Omychund's houses we sunk a ditch and threw up a tank within, which post, for want of people, was trusted to the guard of 4 pykes only. The importance of this will appear in a moment from the plan of your settlement before you through which the enemy might have thrown ten thousand men into the very centre of our lines, before or as soon as we could have known any thing of the matter. In the avenue north of the Court House tank was another ditch sunk which, from the same cause, was little better defended than the former. From the south east angle of the park to the corner of Mr. Lascell's house was a third, defended by a corporal and 6 men. The 4th was at the entrance into the square the lesser tank, by Mr. Putham's house, and defended by a detatchment from the south advanced battery. At neither of these four immediate posts were planted a single cannon and might have been forced in the night without the loss of ten men to the enemy, and the neglect of it cost them some thousands. I am the more particular on this subject in proof of the error I have here censured, because from the plan before you, you will be convinced from the situation of those posts that the forcing any one of them in the night would have intercepted the retreat to the fort of the troops stationed at all the advanced batteries, and caused the immediate surrender of the fort,

and points out not only the danger and inutility of these batterys but the impropriety of forming an extent of line we had not men to defend. And to complete our blunders in engineering, a trench was sunk through your park from north to south within little more than half muskett shot of your bastions, the earth of which proved (after the advanced batteries were withdrawn) a secure breast work to the enemy, and from whence they did us the greatest injury with their small arms. We were, it is plain, engineers in theory only, with the additional misfortune that those in superiour command either had no judgment in the direction or did not chuse to show it, whilst others who had probably better could not with propriety interfere; to which I may add we had neither time for projection or execution; and still further proof we should have remained satisfied in occupying the houses round us and trusted to our fort only.

41. A third error, and which I esteem a capital one, was the neglecting to attack the rear of that body of troops, which supported the enemy's 12 pounder in their attack of the Jail the 18th. This body consisted of 5000 chosen men and officers. The troops that defended this post sustained the enemy's attack for some time in the open road before the Jail with two field pieces and their small arms; but being entirely open to the enemy and having some killed and several wounded, they were obliged at last to retreat under cover into the Jail with their field pieces, having before prepared two ambrazures for them in the wall, which commanded the avenue through which the enemy was advancing, and the post was obstinately and gallantly defended for a great while under the command of Monsr. Le Beaume and Ensign Carstairs. During the attack of this post and just after the troops retreated into the Jail, we projected at the centre advanced battery, the attacking the enemy in the rear with 25 or 30 men and 2 field pieces, to be marched from the north battery, whilst we advanced two more from our post with all our infantry and militia and joined the troops at the Jail to make one general sally and attack on them in front, whilst the detachment from the northward fell on the rear by order of Captain Clayton who commanded at the centre advanced battery. I wrote strenuously to the President to let him know our intentions and to request he would instantly order the detatchment with a couple of field pieces to advance into the middle road on the enemy's rear, to

which we received answer that "It was impossible, there were not men to send". The error I censure on this incident, is the not sufficiently considering the importance of it, and the troops that might have been without danger or inconvenience detatched on this service had the north advanced battery been divested entirely of the musketry stationed there, and with the volunteers sent out, the post would have run no risque, whilst there remained only a single officer and people of the train sufficient to attend the battery; or on the march of the detachment (if it had been judged necessary), that battery might have been re-inforced with a detachment of the militia from the fort as ours had been the 17th at night under Ensign Charles Douglas, when Captain Clayton was ordered on a piquet of 50 men to secure the retreat of Lieutenant Blagg and the troops from Baagbuzar; or some people might have been draughted off from the south advanced battery, which had not once been (or was likely to be) attacked; the misfortune of this neglect will best appear from the allmost certain consequences which would have attended the carrying it into execution. There was no impediment that could have obstructed the detatchment arriving directly close on the back of the enemy, who would have been between two fires, without hardly a possibility of a tithe of the whole body escaping a repulse and slaughter, which I am convinced would have struck such a panick into the enemy as in all human probability, had obliged the Suba to have retreated and droped his designs against us. Touching the error, I am far from blaming your President; I only regret his misfortune of having no commanding military officer near him, who could have seen at first sight and convinced him of the important use this sally would have been to the service.

42. The abandoning the center advanced battery at the Court House has by some been asserted as the cause of the loss of the fort, and consequently comes under the head of our errors, and requires consideration in the 4th place, the more so as I am convinced much stress will be laid on this cause by those who are totally strangers to the situation of things at that battery or the reasons which made it needfull to abandon it. This post was commanded by Captain Clayton, as eldest captain (next to the Commandant), myself, as captain of the first company of militia, was stationed under him. At this battery, with a detachment of the militia, we had on the whole, including officers, batallion volunteers, militia and train, about

90 men and 15 buxerries, 2 six pounders mounted on the battery, 2 field pieces and 2 eighteen pounders. From the most superficial view of this post, it was evident to any capacity that the enemy would never venture to make an open attack against it. Our musketry for this reason became useless at the battery; the manifest and only service that could be made of them was stationing them in the houses round us which commanded the battery, and the lesser avenues leading to it, but this very important step not seeming to be attended to by Captain Clayton, myself and Captain Henry Wedderburn, my lieutenant took the liberty to represent to him the utility and absolute necessity of this measure. Piqued, I fear, that a thing so obvious did not occur to himself, he replyed "there was not men enough, he would not weaken his post," though this most certainly was the only means of strengthening it. Often as we urged it, he persisted in his error, the consequence was natural; the enemy, benefiting themselves by our neglect, took possession of every house round us and of the play house also, after the Jail was abandoned in the afternoon, and from thence, by half past 4 in the afternoon, were breaking out several loop holes bearing on our battery. About this time the enemy had forced the pass by Mr. Putham's house and had got in multitudes within our lines; they had obliged the detachment from Captain Buchanan's post, under Lieutt Blagg, to retreat to the south battery. They had also obliged the guard by Mr. Lascell's house, which we had reinforced with 2 serjeants and 20 men to retire and were seemingly advancing to attack our post in flank through the Loll Baag and intercept our retreat; but having brought one of the 18 pounders to bear upon them and sweep the whole easterly side of the lesser great tank, we stopped their career with much slaughter, the fort at the same time keeping a warm fire upon them from the bastions. Thus circumstanced, Captain Clayton ordered me (I think about 5 afternoon) to go down to the fort and represent the state of the battery, and receive orders whether the fort should be withdrawn or maintained. The orders were to withdraw it immediately and spike up the cannon we could not bring off. I returned with these orders and, to my astonishment, found the 2 eighteen pounders and 1 of the six pounders on the battery spiked up, and the post in such confusion as bars all description. There was nothing could have prevented our bringing off the cannon and making the most regular and

soldier like retreat, had we been commanded by an officer of resolution and judgment; but as it was, our retreat had more the appearance of a confused rout, bringing off only one field piece, and the cannon spiked with so little art, that they were easily drilled and turned against us. The orders for withdrawing this post, circumstanced as it then was, carryed the utmost propriety with it (the enemy having then made lodgments in the theatre and houses close round us), for though with our cannon and cohorn shells advanced without the battery, we dislodged the enemy from two of the houses, to wit, Mr. Bourchier's and that formerly belonging to Mr. Twiss, yet in an hour more not a man could have appeared on the battery or stirred in or out of Court House without being a dead mark to the enemy, to say nothing of our people having been needlessly fatigued and harassed to such a degree that I believe in two hours more not a man of us would have had strength enough to have walked to the fort. On the orders being issued for abandoning our post, precipitate orders were sent to Captain Buchanan, and Captain Lieutenant Smith, immediately to withdraw from the other two advanced batteries and spike up their cannon. The reason pleaded and urged in defence for this hasty step was "The absolute necessity of doing it as soon as the centre battery was withdrawn". To this I am obliged to object as a reason very insufficient; if any reasons at all subsisted for their being erected and maintained prior to the withdrawing the center battery, they subsisted as much, if not more, afterwards; at least, there was no cause in nature for the order for spiking up the cannon. The south advanced battery had never been attacked, the northerly had in the morning, and repulsed the enemy, the only circumstance to be apprehended was the retreat of the troops being cut off, which was easily guarded against as we knew the enemy was within our lines. A reserve battery had been thrown up across the principal south avenue, just opposite to the Company's house, and close under the cover of the guns from the two southerly bastions, with intention that Captains Buchanan's command should retire to it with his cannon, in case he was obliged to retire from the advanced battery at the bridge, but this was never thought off. At this reserve battery they could not have been attacked without infinite loss to the enemy nor flanked from the intrenchment cut through the park or Loll Baag which, in its whole length, was scoured by our small arms from the church; that and Mr. Eyre's house being taken possession of on abandoning the centre battery, which like-

wise secured the retreat of Capt. Lieutenant Smith's command, so that there could be no reason for quitting either of those posts in the precipitate manner they were, which was the cause of infinite confusion amongst ourselves and of no small encouragement to the enemy, and proves a support to the censure I think I have justly passed on our second capital error, that it had been a happy incident if these out posts had never been thought of. I must not quit this subject without doing particular justice to Lieutenant Blagg and 10 of our volunteers (8 of them your covenanted servants) viz., Messrs. Law, Ellis, Tooke, N. Drake, Chas Smith, Wilkinson, Dod, Knapton, William Parker and Mackpherson; these gentlemen were detatched from Capt. Buchanan's post to sustain serjeant and 16 men posted in Mr. Goddard's house to defend the post at Mr. Putham's and threw themselves into Captain Minchin's house, from the top of which they made a great slaughter of the enemy; and when that post was forced, the serjeant and his men made a precipitate retreat to the battery, without once thinking of the gentlemen posted at Captain Minchin's, where these had a long and bloody conflict with a number of the enemy most unequall, and at last forced a retreat glorious to themselves, but with the loss of two of their small detatchment viz., Messrs. Smith and Wilkinson who by mistake was separated from the body; the first refused quarter and killed 5 of the enemy before he fell, the other called for quarter but was denyed it and cut to pieces.

43. I have now brought you, Hon'ble Sirs, to the fifth and last act of our tragedy of errors which brought on as fatal and melancholly a catastrophe, I believe, as ever the annals of any people or colony of people suffered since the days of Adam; to wit, the Governour, Messrs. Manningham, Frankland, Mackett, the principal officers and a considerable part of the colony, abandoning your fort, effects and garrison, with the ships and vessells, whereby the retreat of those who remained were to all intents and purposes cut off to the number of about 170 persons, and left a sacrifice to an exasperated and merciless enemy, amongst those, four of your Council, a great number of your principal and valuable covenanted servants, three military captains, several commanders of ships, 8 or 9 commissioned officers, many of the principal inhabitants and others. Our proceedings in this distressfull situation I have in few words summed up in my letter of the 17th July from the capital

of the province, which I beg leave to repeat here, lest that letter by any accident should not have reached you.

> "Mr. Pearkes waving his right of seniority, he, with the gentlemen of Council, with the unanimous approval of the gentlemen in the service, the garrison and inhabitants, elected me their Governour and Administrator of your affairs during the troubles, and suspended your late President and Messrs. Manningham, Frankland, and Mackett from your service for this breach of trust, as also the military officers who accompanyed them."

In my letter above referred to, I indiscriminately blamed the whole who had left us in which I may well be excused, for I had it not then in my power to make the just distinctions and exceptions I have here already done; for in truth it can be incumbent only on your Governour and Commander in Chief and the gentlemen of Council and the officers who accompanyed him in this defection to vindicate, if possible, this piece of conduct; nor can it be wondered that those neither in trust or command should quit a cause where those who bore the highest distinctions in both deserted it. That the fort was not tenable is a truth cannot be contradicted, any more than that a general retreat with all its effects, publick and private, might with ease have been effected, had those on whom it rested done their duty. When I mention a general retreat, I would be understood to mean no more than of the European inhabitants, the garrison and their familys; as for the multitude of others which were, by an infatuation not to be accounted for, admited into the fort, to the number of 6000 at least, they must have been abandoned; they would have suffered nothing by being left behind, and have caused much embarrassment and distress to the whole by being embarked. As I have before done justice to the officers of militia and others who were embarked, without (I am convinced) having any intention to abandon the fort, I must in this place likewise render justice to the best of my knowledge and information to the character of one of your Board, Mr. William Mackett; this gentleman had the command of the 2nd company of militia and on the 17th* at night went to see his lady and children on board the Dodaly where about 11 at night he left her, dangerously ill as she was,

* Holwell's *India Tracts*, p. 317 and Hill's *Bengal in 1756-57*, Vol. II, p. 39, have "18th."

and returned to the fort, though the strongest persuasives I am well informed were used to detain him on board. Could any consideration or plea [have] been prevalent enough to shake that of honour the situation of this gentleman's family, joined to those persuasions, would have swayed his stay; but he returned to the duty his honour called him, and with the consent and approbation of Mrs. Mackett. Early on the morning of the 19th, the President, Mr. Mackett, the Reverend Mr. Mapletoft, myself and others were employed in cuting open the bales of cotton and filling it in baggs to carry upon the parapets, then (I recollect) Mr. Mackett intimated to me the unhappy condition he left his lady in the preceding night and expressed his desire and intention to step on board for five minutes to see her; that this was the sole motive of his going without any design of abandoning the fort, I am in my sentiments convinced of, and is, I think, proved by the whole of his behaviour during the siege and his return to the fort from the Dodaly the preceeding night. With equall pleasure I would embrace any, even probable, appearance to justify the conduct of your other servants in higher trust, against whom I with more real concern say, the charge lyes too heavy and obvious to admit of extenuation. The proof and supporting this charge I could wish a task imposed on any body else; but none unluckily but myself is equall to it, as none can be so well acquainted with the circumstances attending it, and however galling the remembrance of my own chains, sufferings and losses may be, they shall not influence me to deviate from truth, though such remembrance may urge me to terms of seeming bitterness, hardly unavoidable, when those sufferings can be attributed to naught but the unaccountable conduct I am now impeaching, a conduct which (however palliated by a thousand frivolous reasons) will justly lay your President and Messrs. Manningham and Frankland open to the censure of breach of trust of the highest imprudence and inconsistence, and prove them strangers to the very dictates of humanity.

44. In what degree either of the above named gentlemen may appear less culpable than the others, or really are so, is not my business to determine. This, Hon'ble Sirs, I will leave to your judgment and sentence, whilst I give you as faithfull a statement of the facts, as is in my power; that Messrs. Manningham's and Frankland's falling down from the fort with the Dodaly and refusing to return to it and join our councils

the night of the 18th, though more than once summoned to it by your President, were the primary causes of all the confusion that ensued, will, I think, hardly admit of contest. The defence those gentlemen make to exculpate themselves, stand on the face of the Fulta Consultations of the 14th July last and are replyed to by me on my return from Ballasore in a letter to the Board at Fulta under date the 25th of October last, copy of which I hereunto annex; the departure of the Dodaly (of which those gentlemen were part owners) and their refusal to return, were the cause of jealousies and fears which otherwise would never have existed, and the garrison are well vindicated in their conclusions (that when gentlemen who bore the most distinguished characters, both civil and military, had quitted and refused to return to their trust and duty), every man was providing for himself the best he could. The captain of the Dodaly exculpates himself by producing from your President an order of the 15th June, purporting that he should obey all such orders as he should receive from himself or Mr. Manningham; and these gentlemen take the advantage of this order to prove their power and extenuate their departing with the ship, a power which devolved to Mr. Manningham for quite another purpose, and cannot be wrested, with either truth or propriety, to the purpose it is now produced to serve, as your President can well witness. The inspection and necessary orders to be issued in matters relative to the marine, was offered and undertaken by Mr. Manningham to lay [ease] the President, and not with the intention that he should be thereby empowered to distress him and the garrison with the defection of that ship, and of quiting a trust which opened the way and was, I believe, in some measure the cause of your President quiting his trust also, on the succeeding morning, though, I offer it not in sufficient vindication of a conduct not to be vindicated in one who bore the character of Governour and Commander in Chief of your fort and garrison. That things were in the utmost confusion I admit; that no proper order, rule or command was observed is most true; that the proceedings of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland were suspicious and allarming I grant; but on whom will all this reflect and recoil? Had, on the first refusal these gentlemen made to join our councils at this important juncture, the ship been remanded back under the cover of our guns, and a detachment sent to bring them to their duty, in place of their being suffered to

wait for one to defend the ship from the hazard they themselves had brought her into, without orders or knowledge of any one in the garrison, the measure would have spoke the Governour and Commander in Chief, a thousand mischiefs had been avoided, nor he himself reduced the next day to the unhappy dilemma which at last ended in his following their example, to the destruction of those left behind, and with the knowledge that, neither the Company's treasure, books, or essential papers were embarked, no more than the immense property then deposited in the fort, consisting of your own effects and of a multitude of others left miserable and indigent by the desertion, in having all means cut off from them of saving it, and with those very ships which were employed and destined for its preservation. Fortitude is not given to every one, and I may most justly plead excuse for any failure arising from our want of military knowledge; it could not be expected from us, but every act of common prudence will. If the levies* [*sic*] of so many brave and valuable men who perished by this conduct merited no regard, these gentlemen's own support with their employers depended on their having a regard to their effects entrusted to their charge; as treasurers, it was incumbent chiefly on them to see that the treasure was embarked; this was a measure judged eligible in a Council of War, before the fort was judged not tenable and sure ought immediately to have been carryed into execution. That coolys could not be obtained to carry that and the Company's books off, as alledged on the face of the Fulta Consultation, must appear to every body then in garrison and indeed to the whole world a pretence to palliate a needless panick, disorder and neglect. That many† effects were that night embarked is a truth known to every body, and on supposition there was not a cooley in the fort, a single topaz could have embarked the last year's books, the Consultations and the essential papers. But it must appear a fact beyond contradiction that these and every thing else were sacraficed and abandoned to the consideration of these gentlemen's own safety, though that no ways endangered but from the steps taken to secure it; for had we been joined in our councils and the ships continued under the protection of our guns or brought back and any the least command exerted, we had it

* Holwell's *India Tracts*, p. 320 has "lives".

†*Ibid.*, p. 321 has "money".

in our power to leave the Suba the bare walls of your fort only, without a gun in it that could have been of any use to him or injury to us or the shipping. Had we remained united in our force and any proper spirit shewn and examples made what could have been apprehended from a few drunken Dutch soldiers, or a few seditions amongst the rabble of the militia. The President, Council, Officers, gentlemen in the service, volunteers and principal inhabitants, were surely more than equall to quell any tumult that could have been raised by those to have obstructed an orderly retreat with every thing of value deposited in the fort. Had this been done with proper coolness and resolution, and the whole colony proceeded as early in August as the fleet could push out to Fort St. George, with the effects, publick and private, immense had been the gain to both. There proper measures might have been expeditiously consulted and adopted for the re-establishment of the settlement and the remains of our shattered and distressed colony would have met repose and shelter. This step would have been eligible even in the wretched circumstances they retired, but the misfortune is, errors are fruitfull and generally beget one another. The panick which first seized the gentlemen in command never lost its influence; the little saved was, in the general confusion, lost at Tanners and Buzbudgea; and in place of continuing their route to Fort St. George, the alternative of residing at Fulta was determined on, and such advices forwarded to that Presidency by Mr. Manningham as made it a case of necessity to remain there, under such disadvantages and distresses as I believe hardly ever a wretched people laboured and at an immense expence to yourselves in supporting the colony and freight of ships for their reception and defence; part of your expence indeed daily lessened by the multitudes of deaths here which has proved a grave to a large portion of the colony and to more than half the detatchment and officers sent under Major Killpatrick, all which might have been avoided by a prudent proceedure to Madrass as above. Why this was not done, in preference to the advices sent and our miserable residence here, I am a stranger, and have not yet received or heard one tolerable reason to support the measure. It has been alledged the quitting the river would have been giving up the cause. Had this been done, it would have been only giving up a cause already lost, and which they themselves had first abandoned. The fleet quitting the river would have lulled the enemy into a security which would greatly have facilitat-

ed the re-taking your settlement, whereas our residence in it have kept them on the allarm and preparations are made for the defence of it which probably would never been thought of. Nor is it possible in my conception to account for this strange perseverance in misery and heavy charge to yourselves but from these two motives which swayed the councils of those gentlemen who had quitted your fort, garrison and effects whilst they bore the first characters of command in it. Conscious and self-condemned of a conduct not to be vindicated, it became necessary that one of their own body should be dispatched to give the first impression of it. Had they proceeded with the colony, a hundred mouths would have been open to report their conduct as well as their own. This, Hon'ble Sirs, must I think have been the principle they acted on, to allow them the shadow of consistence. If the gentlemen support their remaining in the river from other even probable reasons, I will be the first to retract my sentiments; not my sentiments alone, but that of near the whole colony. More, I think, I need not say in support of my charge against these gentlemen that they justly incurr the censure of breach of trust, have acted with the highest imprudence, and been consistent in nothing but errors from the first moment they meditated abandoning your fort in the manner they did. It remains only that I prove they might safely have retrieved this unhappy step by a return to it with all the ships, and that by this neglect they not only further merit the censure I have already passed on them, but that of being strangers also to the very dictates of humanity.

45. The Dodaly (with Messrs. Manningham and Frankland) and some other vessells fell down the river the 18th at night. Your President, with the rest of the ships, vessells and boats, followed them the 19th about nine in the forenoon; they lay in sight of our fort and flagg flying untill the 20th. About eleven forenoon, saw the St. George, our last resource was aground and could not come down to our succour, and heard us engaged with the enemy during all this period. They knew the desperate state they had left and abandoned us in, without all possibility or means to escape or retreat, and this their own doing. They were sensible we had not ammunition to defend the fort two days, or if we had, that our strength, with continued fatigue, watching and action, was

exhausted, and that we were reduced to the wretched alternatives of either sacraficing our lives by resolving to dye sword in hand, or surrender ourselves to an enraged and merciless enemy; and yet neither ship, vessell or boat was sent to favour our retreat, enquire what was our fate or whether we existed or had perished. To palliate this (I believe unequalled inhumanity), the danger of returning with the ships has been, I hear, alledged. Capt. Grant, in his letter to us in vindication of himself the 20th August, asserts he more than once urged your President to move up with all the ships and sloops before the fort, once in the presence of Capt. Young, commander of the Dodaly, who represented it as a dangerous attempt. I submit it to you, Hon'ble Sirs, to determine whether your President ought to have remained satisfyed with an answer of this kind, or whether the ships would have run greater risque in moving up to the fort than they did in moving down from it; or if there actually had been danger in the attempt (of which there was not even the shadow whilst we remained in possession of the fort), was the preservation of the lives of so many brave and valueable men as were cooped up in it, with your treasure, effects, books etc., of such small estimation with these gentlemen as not to merit one attempt to retrieve them, though even this attempt had been attended with danger? But it has been urged that they were at no certainty whether we were in possession of the fort or not, and by some conjectured that we had surrendered or the place taken by assault and that the flagg was only kept flying by the enemy to decoy the fleet back. But if these were the doubts which actuated them, why did they not satisfy themselves? A single sloop or boat sent up in the night of the 19th might have hailed us on the bastions without risque, even had the place been in possession of the enemy, the contrary of which they would have been ascertained in, and the fleet might have moved up that night. This motion would have put fresh spirits in us, and given dismay to the enemy already not a little disheartened by the numbers slain in the day when dislodged from the houses round us and otherways, particularly by our shells and cannon at Lady Russell's and the Court House. Had the ships moved up and our forces re-united, and part of the ammunition on board them dis-embarked for the service of the fort, the Suba at last might have been obliged to retreat with his army or at worst the effects might have been shipped off the 20th even

in the force* [*sic*] of the enemy, without having power to obstruct it; and a general retreat been made of the whole garrison, as glorious to ourselves, all circumstances considered, as a victory would have been; the gentlemen would then have found a plan ready formed to the minutest circumstance for a general retreat that would have been attended with no disorder, confusion or difficulty, if proper resolution and command had appeared. Had your President, as was encumbent on him, hoisted his flagg on board the Dodaly, of which he was likewise part-owner, and moved up even the 20th, not a man or vessell but would have followed him and he would then have been early enough to have given a new face to things; but in place of that, he rendered himself totally inexcusable by not only quitting us himself, but in letting† others, and amongst them some of the officers of the militia then on board the Dodaly, that the retreat was general, thereby cooling the resolutions and endeavours of those who were returning to us, and had never once entertained a thought of quitting the fort. The want of boats has been another cause alledged for a general retreat not being practicable. Were there any grounds for this assertion, where did the fault lye? Though there might have been few boats at the Crane Gat, when the President went off, yet it is a known truth that the wharfs to the right and left were lined with them and that not one of them stirred from the shore untill immediately after he put off, when they all rowed cross the river, most of them with grain on board, and this desertion occasioned by neglect of the obvious measure of having a sufficient guard over them. But to obviate every excuse that can possibly be urged against the facility with which we could have made the retreat general, I will suppose there had not a country boat existed, those belonging to the ships, and the small craft, brought close in shore would have been amply sufficient to have embarked the effects, garrison and their familys, which we had not at all despaired of effecting, even with the St. George's 3 or 4 boats (had she happily [*sic*] come down to our succour) and the assistance of Captain Witherington's pinnace, then lying at the Crane. But in short, Hon' ble Sirs, it is not to be wondered at that, in a panick such as here evidently possessed those in the chief command and direction, means the most obvious should either not occurr

* Holwell's *India Tracts*, p. 325 has "face".

†*Ibid.*, p. 325 has "telling".

or be neglected; nor that handles, the most weak and improbable, should be laid hold of to extenuate the conduct resulting from it. As such, I think myself justifyed in treating every reason advanced in vindication of these gentlemen quiting your fort in the manner they did, and not returning when they had it so demonstrable in their power, and thereby losing the means of saving your treasure, books and effects; of preserving the lives of the many gallant worthy men who persisted in their defence and thus fell a sacrafize; of preventing the tears of the fatherless children and widows left destitute and unhappy, as well as those of the many parents and relations deprived thus of the ornaments of their familys in the miserable death of a number of the most promising youths you ever had in your service; and lastly of saving myself and others your faithfull servants, from chains, shame and imprisonment with other distresses and sufferings hardly to be described.

46. This subject, Hon'ble Sirs, disagreeable as it is, I must not quit, without speaking to an aspersion which has been spread in the fleet and I doubt not elsewhere, "That those who were left behind and some of the principal of them intended going, had not the means of doing it been cut off from them, and so made a virtue of necessity." This assertion I will venture to term bold as well as base, being founded on the conjecture only of some, with important* hopes to reduce others on a level with themselves. The intentions of the heart are impenetrable but to the breast it dwells in; therefore I can only say, I solemnly believe that not a man left in the fort had any intention or design of quiting it but in a general retreat, nor would aught be discovered in their behaviour that either did then, or could since, give me cause to alter my sentiments. As to myself, against whom I don't question but this slander is chiefly aimed, it has been also as audaciously said that I was not only privy to your President's going away but was to have gone with him. Of both, he has honourably and publickly acquited me. My knowing myself free from this scandalous imputation of intending to quit your fort (otherwise than in a general retreat) is not enough; it is my duty to convince my hon'ble masters likewise that such could not be any design, if it had, my motives were superiour, the means equally in my power, and

*Holwell's *India Tracts*, p. 327 has "impotent".

the reflection less in proportion to the less command and trust invested in me. These gentlemen declare they embarked no private effects, belonging either to themselves or constituents. The Diligence now lying at my Gat, I sent orders the 18th afternoon from the out battery to embark my cash, plate, essential papers and some jewells and in all to the value of about fifty to fifty two thousand Arcot Rupees, which was done by my own people (my servants having before brought me word every cooly in the settlement was employed in emptying the rice boats at the factory so that they could not get people to carry them to the fort where most people's valuable effects were deposited); my godowns being unfortunately full of heavy and cumbersome goods, there was no possibility of embarking them, or depositing them in the fort, though my house so far detatched as surely to be one of the first possessed and plundered by the enemy which so happened. Had my intentions been to abandon the settlement, the temptation was great, and still greater as the whole remains of my fortune then in Calcutta was embarked, the means in my own hands, the vessell under no command but my own, without any possibility of my being obstructed the whole night of the 18th or the morning of the 19th. If such had been my design, I might have laid hold of the pretence to accompany Mrs. Drake and the ladys embarked on board the Diligence, about eleven the night of the 18th, or afterwards, when I requested and sent Monsr. Le Beaume with three of my servants to embark on board that vessell for the greater security of her and the ladies. Such were the opportunities and such were the temptations I had to have quitted your fort, but the thought never entered my breast nor that it could enter the breast of any one else, with the certainty there was of the retreat being general the succeeding night, that I neither did go nor had a sentiment that tendered to it, I am still happy in, notwithstanding all my sufferings, and though with this reflection that if I had gone I had, in all humane probability, saved the above remains of my fortune which fell a prey to the enemy the 21st at Buddgea,* without any one friendly, humane or salutary step being taken by the fleet or those who commanded in it to preserve her, the officer on board having weighed in the general rout and accompanyed the other ships, without my orders or knowledge. As to our having made "a virtue of necessity", these gentlemen should be the last

*Holwells *India Tracts*, p. 329 has "Buzbudgee".

to reproach us or take an advantage even in expression of the necessity they had reduced us to; that any has assumed a virtue from it, I do not believe; we did our duty and no more in defending your property as long as was in our power, which certainly is a virtue comparatively considered to those who did not do their duty.

47. Thus, Hon'ble Sirs, I have with strict truth to the utmost of my knowledge and remembrance traced out and laid before you the causes and various capital errors which caused the loss of your Presidency and your settlements in the provinces. Necessary as it has been, I am sensible by what I feel myself on this subject, how unpleasing to you, therefore will not give you further pain than in the addition of a few lines, explaining the manner your fort was surrendered, on which I find I have in my letters from Muxadavad and Houghley been rather too short.

48. Having been much pressed at different times on the 20th by the gentlemen of Council and others to throw out a flagg of truce, I opposed it as much as possible, foreseeing the little utility would arise from it, considering the enemy we had to deal with, and that they were as perfectly acquainted with our distressed situation as we ourselves; however, to quiet the minds of every body as much as in my power, I caused a letter to be wrote the 20th early in the morning by Omychund, who was left a prisoner in the fort, to Raja Monick Chund to the following purport. "That as he and his house had always been a friend and tenant to the English, we hoped to experience it on this occasion, and that he would use his influence with the Suba to order his troops to cease hostilities; that we were ready to obey his commands, and persisted only in defending the fort, in preservation of our lives and honours." At this period I was at no certainty of the Suba's being at the siege and all the hopes I had from this letter or a flagg of truce was to amuse untill the St. George came down, and that we might have the night to make our general retreat in. About noon, as I before observed, the enemy was repulsed from the attacks they made this day to the northward and a cessation on both sides ensued for more than two hours, and not one of the enemy were to be seen; the gentlemen of Council, officers and inhabitants still pressing me, I was pre-

vailed on to consent to a flagg of truce being thrown out before dark. About 4 afternoon word was brought me that some of the enemy was advancing with a flagg in his hand and called us to cease firing and that we should have quarter if we surrendered. This was judged a favourable juncture to answer it with a flagg of truce; accordingly I repaired with the flagg on the original south east bastion, where Captain Buchannan was then posted and ordered firing to cease. I had a letter prepared with me addressed to Roy Doolub, the general of his forces, "Importing an overture to cease hostilities untill the Suba could be wrote to and his pleasure known." This letter I threw over the ramparts and hoisted the flagg of truce on the bastion. The letter was taken up by the person who advanced with the flagg who retired with it; soon after multitudes of the enemy came out of their hiding places round us and flocked under the walls. A short parley ensued, I demanded a truce to hostilities untill the Suba's pleasure could be known, to which I was answered by one of his officers from below that the Suba was there, and his pleasure was that we should immediately strike our colours and surrender the fort and ourselves, and that we should have quarter. I was going to reply when at that instant Mr. William Baillie, standing near me, was slightly wounded by a muskett ball from the enemy on the side of his head, and word was brought me that they were attempting to force the south west barrier and were cuting at the eastern gate. On being ascertained of this, I ordered Captain Buchanan to point a cannon from the bastion which flanked the eastern curtain and told them to withdraw from the walls or I would instantly fire amongst them. They withdrew and I immediately took down the flagg of truce and steped to the parade to issue orders for a general discharge of our cannon and small arms. The manner* I arrived there, Captain Dickson (who now commands the Lively Grabb at present in your service) and just after him Ensign Walcot came running to me and told me the western gate was forced by our own people and betrayed. I instantly sent Ensign Walcot with orders to see if there was no possibility of securing it again; he returned and told me it was impossible, for the locks and bolt were forced off. On this returned to Captain Buchanan's post and found some of the enemy's colours planted on the bastion. I asked him how he came to suffer it, he replyed he found farther resistance was vain, for that the moment I had left him advice was brought him of

* Holwell's *India Tracts*, p. 331 has "moment".

the western gate being betrayed, and returning myself I saw below multitudes of the enemy who had entered that way, and others who had scaled by the south west bastion and the new godowns—that bastion and the barrier, as I afterwards learnt, having been deserted at the time the western gate was forced. To the first jemmautdaar who scaled at the bastion I advanced and delivered my pistols; he told me to order instantly the colours to be cut down; I replyed, I would give no such orders, they were marched to* the fort and might order it themselves. He demanded my sword, I refused to give it but in presence of the Suba; on which the jemmautdaar carryed it to† the ramparts, opposite to where the Suba was below, without the walls; from thence I made him the customary salaam and delivered my sword to his jemmautdaar; the Suba from his litter returned my salaam, and moved round to the northward and entered the fort by the small western gate. I had three interviews with him that evening, one in Durbar. At first he expressed much resentment at our presumption in defending the fort against his army with so few men, asked why I did not run away with my Governour etc., seemed much disappointed and dissatisfyed at the sum found in the treasury, asked me many questions on this subject, to all which I made the best replys that occurred; and in the conclusion he assured me on the word of a soldier that no harm should come to me, which he repeated more than once. The consequence proved how little regard was paid to this assurance, for I was with the rest of my fellow sufferers about 8 at night, cramed into the Black Hole prison and passed a night of horrors I will not attempt to describe, as they bar all description. On the ensuing morning (the 21st June), I was taken out from amongst the dead and again carryed before the Suba, more dead than alive. He seemed little affected. I told him the miserable catastrophe of my companions; he answered me by saying, he was well informed there was an immense treasure buryed or secretted in the fort and that I was privy to it, and commanded me to point out where it was hid, if I expected favour (one of his jemmautdaars had told me on the way the cause of my being sent for and advised me to make a full discovery or that I should be shott of from the mouth of a cannon the next half hour). I urged every thing possible against the information he had received, or that if such a thing had been done, I was

Holwell's *India Tracts*, p. 332 has "masters of".
*Ibid.*, p. 332 has "me round".

totally a stranger to it; but all I could say seemed to gain no credit with the Suba, who ordered me a prisoner under charge of one of his generals, Mhir Modun, and with me Messrs. Court, Walcot and Burdet, as intimated in my letter from Muxadavad, to which letter I beg leave to refer for the account of our subsequent sufferings, and to subscribe myself with the most perfect respect and duty.

Hon'ble Sirs

Your ever faithfull and obedient humble servant,

J. Z. Holwell

Fulta,
The 30th November, 1756.

(*Ref.* Copies of records obtained from India Office, Letters to Court, Vol. 4, 1755-57, pp. 240-331.

Published in Hill's, *Bengal in* 1756-57, Vol. II, pp. 1-52.

Published in Holwell's *India Tracts*, pp. 267-333.

Paragraphs 9-11, 33, 35-37, 39-43, 45 and 48 published in Wilson's *Old Fort William*, Vol. II, pp. 75-99.

Bengal and Madras papers, Vol. II, 1688-1757, pp. 14-40.)

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# NOTES

## LETTERS FROM COURT

**No. 3**—*23 January 1754.*

1. **By the way of Aleppo** (p. 9)—The land route *via* Bombay, Ormuz, Basra, Aleppo.

2. **Free Merchants** (p. 14)—They were not the Company's servants, but they had the authority of the Court of Directors to carry on trade. They did not encroach upon the monopolies of the Company and did not enjoy the benefits of the Company's *dastak*. They were required to pay the usual duties. Every 'free merchant' had to give a security of £ 2,000 for the proper performance of the covenant which he had to execute.

3. **Tellicherry** (p. 15)—The East India Company had a factory here since 1683. The place is 42 miles north of Calicut.

4. **Gurrahs** (p. 18)—*Garha*, a variety of coarse Indian cloth which had a wider sale in England than finer goods, not only on account of the comparative cheapness of the former but also on account of their greater suitability in a colder climate. *Garhas* were also used for packing goods.

5. **Jugdea** (p. 21)—Jagdia, a place near the mouth of the Feni river, in Noakhali District, Bengal. The place was noted for its cotton cloth manufacture.

6. **Deepchund** (p. 22)—Dipchand was brother of the famous merchant Omichand. An influential saltpetre merchant of Bihar, he was one of the contractors of the Company. In a letter dated 30 October 1746 from Chandernagore to the President of the Dutch Council at Hooghly he is referred to as *Faujdar* of Chupra (Chapra).

7. **Coja Wazeed** (p. 23)—Khwajah Wajid also known as *Fakhr-ut-tujar* or chief of the merchants. He was one of the most prominent merchants of Bengal, residing at Hooghly and Chandernagore. For some time he enjoyed the exclusive privilege of the purchase of saltpetre in Bengal. He interfered actively in the political relations between the contemporary European trading companies in Bengal and the Nawab's government.

8. **Hookumbegg** (p. 23)—Hakim Beg, an officer in the service of Nawab Alivardi Khan. He was a man of an extremely mercenary nature. It was through him that Wadham Brooke, Chief of the Cossimbazar English Factory, procured the *parwana* for removal of restrictions on English trade.

9. **Luckipore** (p. 23)—Lakshmipur, a town in Noakhali District, East Bengal. *Baftaes* (*Baftas*) and other coarse goods of excellent fabric were manufactured in its neighbourhood.

10. **Scott** (p. 24)—Caroline Frederick Scott was Engineer-General of all the Company's Settlements in the East Indies. He was appointed to that post in October 1752.

11. **Holwell** (p. 25)—John Zephaniah Holwell was well-known as author of the *Narrative of the Black Hole* and other books. He was Captain of the Militia and conducted the defence of Calcutta after the flight of Drake and Minchin. He was taken as prisoner to Murshidabad, but released on 17 July 1756.

12. **Office of Jemindar** (p. 25)—The Company's Zamindar acted in a double capacity. In the first place, he was the Collector of the Revenues. Secondly, he was the Judge of the Court of *Cutcherry*. In his latter capacity, he decided cases, both civil and criminal, in which both the parties were Indians. In 1758, the Zamindar's functions as Judge of the Court of *Cutcherry*, which often led to conflicts with the Mayor's Court, were abolished. (Holwell, J. Z., *India Tracts*, pp. 177-8).

13. **Govindrem Metre** (p. 25)—The Company's Zamindar had a 'standing deputy' to assist him who was always styled as the "Black Zamindar"—perhaps because he was an Indian. While the Zamindar was continually changed—often there were two or three Zamindars in one year—his deputy enjoyed a longer tenure. Gobindaram was the Company's "Black Zamindar" for twenty-eight years.

14. **Drake** (p. 29)—Roger Drake was a nephew of Roger Drake (Senior), one of the Directors. He was President and Governor of Fort William from 8 August 1752 to 20 June 1758, in succession to Fytche.

15. **Cossimbuzar** (p. 29)—Cossimbazar was one of the most important factories of the East India Company. Since 1667, the Chief of this factory was a member of the Council in Calcutta.

16. **The Mayor's Court** (p. 30)—Established at Calcutta in 1727 by a Royal Charter, it was empowered to try all civil suits except those in which both the parties were Indians.

17. **Dusticks** (p. 32)—From the Persian word *dastak*—a little hand hand-clapping to attract, a notice. A pass or permit. The term usually meant the passport issued by the Governor of Fort William or the Chiefs of the English factories, which exempted the goods of the Company or of their servants from payment of duties.

18. **Polier** (p. 33)—Captain Paul Philip Polier, uncle of the better-known Antoine Louis Henry Polier, was granted commission in the Swiss Infantry of the Company in December 1751.

19. **Company of Swiss** (p. 33)—The experiment of Swiss companies was begun in 1751. In July that year, Sir Luke Schaub and Jasper Sellon engaged to provide two companies of soldiers from the protestant cantons of Switzerland for service in India. The experiment, however, did not prove satisfactory and after 1756 Swiss companies were gradually absorbed in the British army.

20. **Godeau** (p. 34)—Charles Godeheu, successor of Dupleix, reached Pondicherry early in August 1754.

21. **Doreas** (p. 35)—*Doria* from the Hindi word *dor*, a cord or leash. A kind of cloth. "As the characteristic pattern of the *charkhana* is a check, so that of the *doria* is stripes running along the length of the *than* i.e. in warp threads." (Yusuf Ali, *Monograph on Silk Fabrics produced in the North Western Provinces and Oudh*, p. 94.)

**No. 5**—*15 February 1754.*

1. **Robert Orme** (p. 38)—The famous author of "*A History of the Military Transactions of the British Nation in Indostan from the year 1745*", and other books.

**No. 9**—*29 November 1754.*

1. **Fort Marlbro'**, (p. 54)—Fort Marlborough was the chief settlement possessed by the English East India Company in Sumatra.

2. **Dadney merchants** (p. 60)—*Dadni* from the Persian word *dadan*, to give. They were the merchants of the European companies who received money in advance for supplying goods on contract.

3. **Aurungs** (p. 60)—From the Persian word *aurang*, a place where goods are manufactured, a depot for such goods. The term was applied to the Company's factories set up for the purchase of piece-goods, etc. Also a place where any article of trade is manufactured and collected for wholesale disposal or export.

4. **Gobinpore** (p. 61)—Gobindapur, a village no longer existing. The area is now included in the Calcutta Corporation.

5. **Perrin Point** (p. 61)—Was situated on the Hooghly river north of Calcutta, about $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Fort William. It was so called after Capt. Charles Perrin who was in Calcutta from 1703-07. It may also be noted that Perrin's Garden, Perrin's Redoubt and Perrin's Bridge were also similarly called after him.

6. **Rashpoots** (p. 66)—Rajputs settled in Bihar.

**No. 12**—*31 January 1755.*

1. **Settlement of the Negrais** (p. 74)—Negrais Island or modern Hainggyi is at the mouth of Bassein river, in Burma. The first British trading settlement was established on this island in 1687.

2. **Omichund** (p. 78)—A Punjabi by birth, Omichand was a contractor of the East India Company for saltpetre and other merchandise. He figured prominently in the Bengal revolution of 1756-57.

3. **Orua Cossaes** (p. 79)—*Orhna* or *Orna* is a woman's mantle covering the head and upper half of the body and *khasa* (*Cossae*), is a kind of muslin; *orhnas* made of *khasa* muslin.

4. **Doreas Cossajura** (p. 79)—*Dorias* manufactured at Kasijora, Midnapur District, Bengal.

5. **Mulmuls Santipore** (p. 79)—Muslin (*malmal*) manufactured at Santipur. Santipur is a town in the Ranaghat subdivision, Nadia District, Bengal, situated on the left bank of the Hooghly.

6. **Alliballie mulmuls** (p. 79)—The word *Alibali malmal* is derived from Ar. *ali*, superior and P. *bala*, fine, meaning 'very fine'. A variety of muslin of a very fine texture. C. R. Wilson identifies the term with *alvani*.

7. **Terrindam** (p. 79)—*Tarhandam*, from Ar. *tarh*, a kind, and P. *andam*, body, a kind of cloth for the body. A variety of muslin.

8. **Seerhaudconnaes** (p. 79)—Appears to be a corruption of *sirband-kora* which means unbleached muslin for turbans (H. *sirband*, turban, and *kora*, unbleached). Taylor in his *A Descriptive and Historical Account of the Cotton Manufactures of Dacca* describes *seerbands* as Dacca muslins.

9. **Romalls Baranagore** (p. 80)—*Rumals* Baranagar, from the Persian word *rumal*, face rubber, a handkerchief, a towel. *Rumals* manufactured at Baranagar, a town six miles north of Calcutta.

10. **Callapattip** (p. 81)—From H. *Kala*, black, *patti*, strip of cloth; a kind of black cloth.

11. **Cossaes Chaundpore** (p. 81)—*Khasa* Chandpur, *khasa* produced at Chandpur, the headquarters of the subdivision of the same name, Tippera District, Bengal.

12. **Mulmuls Subadgpore** (p. 81)—*Malmals* Shahbazpur, muslins manufactured at Shahbazpur, a place in Backerganj District, Bengal.

13. **Hurricall Aurung** (p. 83)—Modern Harial in Pabna District, Bengal, once a prosperous trade mart and a centre for the purchase of silks and cotton fabrics.

14. **Buxerys** (p. 100)—*Baksari*, probably soldiers from Buxar, once a great recruiting centre. Commonly used in the same sense as *barqandaz* or a matchlockman.

15. **Court of Request** (p. 103)—The Court of Request in Calcutta was constituted by the Royal Charter of 8 January 1753 to provide "a speedy remedy for the recovery of small debts" not exceeding the value of five pagodas.

**No. 15**—*16 April 1755.*

1. **The Mogul Emperor has been dethroned** (p. 115).—Emperor Ahmad Shah was blinded and Prince Muhammad Aziz-ud-daulah aged sixty-six, grandson of Bahadur Shah I, was proclaimed Emperor Alamgir II on 2 July 1754

**No. 16**—*10 October 1755.*

1. **Letters of mart** (p. 120)—Letters of marque granted by a sovereign authorizing seizure of the subjects or goods of a foreign state by way of retaliation or reprisal for injuries. It also meant a licence or extraordinary commission granted by a government to a private person to fit out an armed vessel to cruise as a privateer or corsair at sea and make prize of the enemy's ships and merchandise under such a commission, the acts so committed being not regarded as piracy.

2. **Provisional treaty and truce** (p. 121)—A three months' truce on 11 October 1754 was followed by a provisional treaty which was signed on 31 December 1754.

3. **Saunders** (p. 121)—Thomas Saunders was the Governor of Fort St. George from 19 December 1750 to 14 January 1755.

**No. 18**—*19 December 1755.*

1. **Humhums** (p. 128)—*Hammam* is a cloth of thick stout texture and apparently so named from its having been used at *hammam*, a Turkish bath.

**No. 19**—*11 February 1756.*

1. **Crane Gauts** (p. 136)—Craneghat, the landing stairs opposite the principal river gate of Fort William.

2. **The Nabob of Cuttack** (p. 145)—Mirza Saleh, Deputy Governor of Orissa since September 1752.

3. **A late revolution at Dacca** (p. 145)—The reference is to the assassination of Husain Quli Khan, Nawazish Muhammad's deputy at Dacca, at the instigation of Sirajud Daulah, and the subsequent appointment of Rajballabh in his place. (Ghulam Husain Khan, *Seir-Mutakherin*, Vol. II, pp. 122-25.)

4. **Stringer Lawrence** (p. 146)—Was appointed Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies in 1752. Replaced by Adlercron in 1754.

5. **Similia** (p. 148)—Simla, an area in north Calcutta, now a part of Ward VI of the Corporation of Calcutta.

6. **Dussutary** (p. 150)—From the Persian word *dastur*, custom and *dasturi*, that which is customary. A customary fee, perquisite, or commission of a broker.

7. **Surman's embassy** (p. 156)—John Surman had led an embassy to Emperor Farrukhsiyar's Court in 1714.

**No. 20**—29 *December 1756.*

1. **Point Palmiras** (p. 175)—Headland at the most projecting part of the combined Mahanadi and Brahmani delta in Cuttack District. It was an important landmark for ships bound from the south for the mouth of the Hooghly, particularly because of dangerous shoal off it. Not to be confused with another point of the Mahanadi delta, 24 miles to the south-west, which is called False Point, from its liability to be mistaken for Point Palmyras.

# LETTERS TO COURT

**No. 1**—*10 January 1747/8.*

1. **Kedgeree** (p. 183)—Khijiri or Kijari, a village near the mouth of the Hooghly, on the west bank and 68 miles below Calcutta. It was formerly well known as a usual anchorage of the larger Indiamen bound for Calcutta. In the latter quarter of the 19th century a sand-bank formed in the channel and the place lost its importance.

2. **Anjengo** (p. 184)—A village in Travancore State, 72 miles north of Cape Comorin, it was one of the earliest English settlements in India.

3. **Ingellee** (p. 185)—Hijili, a village in Contai subdivision, Midnapore District, Bengal. The place was an important centre of salt manufacture and was ceded to the Company by Mir Qasim in 1760.

4. **Pagodas** (p. 186)—A coin, both gold and silver, once current in South India. The gold *pagoda* was also called *varaha* or *hun*. In 1818 the rupee was made the standard coin and one *pagoda* was reckoned as equivalent to $3\frac{1}{2}$ rupees.

5. **Ingeram** (p. 190)—Injaram, a village in Godavari district, Madras, once famous for its fine cloths.

6. **Soosies** (p. 195)—*Susis*, a kind of "fine coloured cloth.... striped in the direction of the warp with silk, or cotton lines of a different colour, the cloth being called *dokanni* if the stripe has two lines, if three *tinkanni*, and so on." (Birdwood, George C. M., *Industrial Arts of India*, p. 246).

7. **Serry** (p. 196)—*Sari* or *Sarhi* (?), the cloth which constitutes the main part of a woman's dress in Northern India, wrapt round the body and then thrown over the head.

8. **Juggutseat's House** (p. 197)—Jagat Seths were "the Rothschilds" of India, their transactions being "as extensive as those of the Bank of England". The European companies used to borrow money from them.

9. **Banyan** (p. 204)—*Banian* from the Sanskrit word *Vanik*, a merchant. "A Banyan is a person....by whom the English gentlemen in general transact all their business." (William Bolts, *Considerations on Indian Affairs*, p. 80).

10. **Mautobray** (p. 204)—Mahtab Rai, grandson of Fateh Chand.

11. **Bisdom, Adrian** (p. 207)—For some time he was Chief of the Dutch factory at Cossimbazar. He was Director of the Dutch Council at Hooghly from 1753 to 1759 and Director of the Dutch Council at Chinsura later on.

12. **Mircha** (p. 209)—(Mirchaigang?) A place near Patna, once a great business mart of the city.

13. **Hajee Hamet** (p. 210)—Haji Ahmad was the elder brother of Alivardi Khan. He helped his brother in conquering Murshidabad. He was staying with his son Zainuddin at Patna.

14. **Panarack** (p. 226)—Punarak or Pandarak, a village on the Patna-Monghyr road 40 miles from Patna. This was one of the camping grounds on the Ganges road from Bengal to Bihar.

15. **Novemberbund** (p. 231)—In Murshidabad District there are three seasons or *bands* for rearing cocoons, *viz.*, the November *band* from 1 October to the end of February, the March *band* from 1 March to 30 June, and the July *band* from 1 July to 30 September. The November *band* is the most important, for the silk worms thrive best in the cold season, and the silk is then better in quality and much more valuable. The March *band* is not so good, and the rainy season *band* the worst.

16. **Guzzeratt** (p. 231)—Gujarat, a variety of silk cloth then manufactured at Gujarat.

17. **Commercolly** (p. 231)—Kumarkhali, a kind of silk cloth manufactured at Kumarkhali, a small town of lower Bengal in Nadia District.

18. **Marchbund** (p. 232)—See Note No. 15 of this letter.

19. **Buddlepoor** (p. 238)—Buglepor or Bhagalpur, headquarters of the division and district of the same name in Bengal (now in Bihar) on the right bank of the Ganges.

20. **Jillengee** (p. 238)—Jalangi, a village in Murshidabad District, on the Jalangi river, a tributary of the Ganges, situated in 24°8′10″ latitude north and 88°44′35″ east.

21. **Phousdar of Hughley** (p. 240)—*Faujdar* of Hooghly. Hooghly was an important place. On account of its importance it was held by a *faujdar* or military governor on behalf of the Nawab of Bengal.

22. **Junkeram** (p. 240)—Raja Janakiram was one of the staunchest and most zealous of Alivardi's friends and was at this time his prime minister.

23. **Golumhassum Cawn** (p. 240)—Ghulam Husain Khan Tabatabai, the famous author of *Seir-Mutakherin*.

24. **Captain Commandant Robert Hamilton** (p. 243)—Robert Hamilton's proposal was to strengthen the fortifications of Calcutta with palisades, closing up every "avenue and connecting the seven batteries." The scheme was carried out in opposition to the expert opinion of Plaistead and Fenwick.

**No. 2**—*24 February 1747/48.*

1. **Cutwa** (p. 273)—Katwa, headquarters of the subdivision of the same name in Burdwan District, Bengal, situated at the confluence of the rivers Ajay and Bhagirathi.

2. **Nuddea** (p. 275)—Nadia or Nabadwip, town in Nadia District in Bengal, situated on the west bank of the Bhagirathi.

3. **Culna** (p. 275)—Kalna, headquarters of the subdivision of the same name in Burdwan District, Bengal, situated on the right bank of the Hooghly.

4. **Cossaes Boualea** (p. 276)—*Khasa* Boalia, *khasa*, a variety of fine muslin manufactured at Boalia in the Rajshahi District, Bengal.

5. **Cossaes Busna** (p. 276)—*Khasa* Bhushna, *khasa* produced at Bhushna, a place 50 miles s.w. of Dacca.

6. **Deans Town** (p. 277)—Dane's Town, a place near Diamond Harbour opposite Hooghly Point.

7. **Rangafoulla** (p. 277)—Rangafala, a creek on the eastern bank of the river Hooghly near Diamond Harbour.

8. **Subah of Patna** (p. 278)—Shamsher Khan was an Afghan general of Alivardi Khan. Dismissed from service in June 1746 on the suspicion of intriguing with Raghuji, he took service with Zain-ud-din, the Governor of Patna, nephew of Alivardi Khan, and then treacherously murdered him.

9. **Feizgong** (p. 279)—Tejgaon, three miles from Dacca where the East India Company had their original cantonment.

10. **Reas** (p. 288)—*Rees*, the 25th part of an anna. Down to 1834 accounts at Bombay were kept in rupees, quarters and *rees*.

11. **Dougazapatamn** (p. 289)—Dugarajapatnam, a village in Nellore District, 40 miles north of Pulicat, now known as Armagaon.

12. **Rogue's River** (p. 290)—One of the Sundarbans channels, so called from its being frequented by pirates with a view to plundering crafts going up and down the Hooghly. It is either the present Chingri khal, entering immediately below Diamond Harbour or Kulpi Creek, about 6 miles further down, more probably the former.

**No.** 3—*26 July 1748.*

1. **John Forster** (p. 294)—Was President of Bengal Council from 4 February 1746 to 20 March 1748.

**No.** 4—*19 November 1748.*

1. **Calcoola** (p. 296)—Geonkhali, a village in the Tamluk subdivision, Midnapur District, Bengal, situated on the right bank of the river Hooghly. Owing to its position opposite Hooghly Point, where the Hooghly estuary narrows into the river, the place was known to the Europeans at an early date.

2. **Admiral Griffin** (p. 299)—Thomas Griffin reached Bengal in December 1746. He was promoted to be Rear-Admiral of the *Red* on 5 July 1747, and Vice-Admiral of the *Blue* on 12 May 1748. In July 1748, he resigned the command to Admiral Boscawen. He sailed for England in January 1749.

3. **Sydabad** (p. 300)—Saidabad is a place near Murshidabad, also called Farasdanga

4. **Sunderbund** (p. 303)—Sundarbans, a tract of intersecting creeks and channels, swampy islands and jungles constituting the part of the Ganges delta nearest the sea.

5. **Futtua** (p. 303)—Fatwa or Fatuha, a village seven miles east of Patna.

6. **Mahumet John** (p. 304)—The reference is to the death of Muhammad Shah, Emperor of Delhi in 1748, and the succession of his son Ahmad Shah.

**No. 6**—*27 January 1748/9.*

1. **Sootamally** (p. 318)—Sutanati, literally, 'cotton mart'. The northern portion of modern Calcutta.

2. **The Government** (p. 319)—of Nawab Alivardi Khan. In 1748 the Nawab had protested to the Company's Governor in Calcutta against the seizure of some trading vessels of the Armenian and the Mughal merchants. Receiving no satisfactory reply from Calcutta, the Nawab adopted repressive measures against the English traders in their different factories.

**No. 8**—*24 February 1748/9.*

1. **Braddyll** (p. 331)—Thomas Braddyll was President of the Council of Fort William from 29 January 1739 to February 1746.

**No. 9**—*10 August 1749.*

1. **Culpee** (p. 337)—Kulpi, a village on the Hooghly river in the district of 24-Parganas, Bengal, about 33 miles (by water) south of Calcutta.

2. **Nunadges Mahmud Ceewne** (p. 343)—Nawazish Muhammad Khan was the eldest son of Haji Ahmad, brother of Alivardi Khan. He was appointed nominal *Diwan* of Bengal and Deputy Governor of Dacca by Alivardi.

3. **Mierabib** (p. 344)—Mir Habib, surnamed Habibullah Khan. At first in the service of Murshid Quli Khan, Mir Habib later entered the service of Alivardi Khan but joined the Marathas and induced them to invade Orissa and Bengal.

4. **Doolooberam** (p. 344)—Raja Durlabh Ram Mahindra was the son of Raja Janakiram, Minister of Alivardi Khan.

5. **Biramdutt** (p. 345)—Biram Datta succeeded Chin Ray as the Chief Minister of Alivardi Khan.

**No. 11**—*13 January 1749/50.*

1. **Bulramgarry** (p. 372)—Balaramgarhi, a village in Balasore District, Orissa, 9 miles east of Balasore. The East India Company had a subordinate cloth factory here.

2. **Moansing** (p. 378)—Mohan Singh Rawal was the ruler of Bijagad, south of the Narbada.

3. **Captain Delavaux** (p. 380)—Captain Alexander Delavaux was granted a Captain's commission on 20 January 1748, and was appointed Chief Engineer and Captain of the Train of Artillery at Fort St. David on 27 January. He was dismissed from the Company's service on 12 July 1749.

**No. 13**—*25 February 1749/50.*

1. **Terret** (p. 402)—*Tret*, an allowance made for wear, damage, or deterioration in goods during transit from one place to another.

**No. 14**—*24 August 1750.*

1. **Chowtars** (p. 414)—*Chautar*, H. *chau*, four and *tar*, fold, sheets folded four times. Same as *chautaha*, *chautahi*—a variety of thick calicoes listed among Bengal piece-goods.

2. **DMRs.** (p. 416)—*Dasmasa*, Beng, *das*, ten, *masa*, goldsmith's weight—17 grains; a rupee weighing about 170 grains: 10/11 of a current rupee. The exchange rate, however, fluctuated.

3. **Nurdeas** (p. 418)—*Nawardias*, H. from P. *nawardan*, to fold; to twist; to crease; a weaver's beam, on which he rolls the cloth. Those who wound the cloths upon their rollers.

Taylor in his *Descriptive and Historical Account of the Cotton Manufactures of Dacca*, pp. 98-99, has given a description as to how cloths were dressed and packed in the Dacca factory for transmission to England. "After the cloths are bleached they are delivered in a neat state to *nurdeeahs*, *contadars*, who count and dry the cloths. The cloths, after having been dried, are examined by a '*Serbaracar*', with respect to their colour and state of dryness and are then wound by the *nurdeeahs* upon their rollers....Fine and thin cloths are first given to *nurdeeahs* to be turpayed, and then to *rafugars* (darners), if they are to be gold-headed or flowered."

4. **Huditally Cawn** (p. 422)—Hidayat Ali Khan was the father of Ghulam Husain, author of '*Seir-Mutakherin*'.

**No. 17**—*4 February 1750/51.*

1. **Bridjoos** (p. 467)—Braja Cotmah, a merchant of the East India Company.

2. **Agabakkur** (p. 474)—Agha Baqar, *Naib* at Jagdia on behalf of the Nawab's Government.

**No. 21**—*20 August 1751.*

1. **Kissendub** (p. 515)—Krishna Deb, *Diwan* of Hakim Beg. Appointed *Vakil* of the Cossimbazar English Factory at the *Darbar* in 1752. On his death he was succeeded by Mathuralal.

2. **Ramkissenseat** (p. 518)—Ram Krishna Seth was a banker and the Company's chief broker; he was dismissed in 1753.

**No. 23**—*2 January 1751/2.*

1. **Hossein Cooley Cawn** (p. 548)—Husain Quli Khan, Deputy to Nawazish Muhammad, Deputy Governor of Dacca.

2. **Queda** (p. 559)—Kedah, one of the five unfederated Malaya States on the west coast of the Peninsula and north of Wellesley Province and Perak.

**No. 28**—*18 September 1752.*

1. **Island Mayotta** (p. 590)—Mayotte Island, one of the Comoro islands in the Indian Ocean at the north-eastern entrance of the Mozambique Channel.

2. **Permamed** (p. 604)—Parmanand, *dalal* to Mr. William Baillie, Chief of the English Factory at Jagdia.

3. **Rayeritchund** (p. 605)—Raja Kirttichand, son of Rai-rayan Alam Chand, was the *diwan* of Alivardi Khan. He succeeded Biram Datta in that office.

**No. 29**—*1 January 1753.*

1. **Huzzeramull** (p. 618)—Hazari Mal, brother-in-law of Omichand, was an influential broker and a prominent saltpetre merchant.

2. **Ely Rupees** (p. 618)—*Hali* Rupees, Ar. *hali*, present, actual, new; applies to coins current. Particularly the term is applied to the coins of Native States, especially Hyderabad.

3. **Munsoor All Mullick** (p. 619)—Mansur Ali Khan or Safdar Jang, Nawab of Oudh 1739-1754, and *Wazir* to the Emperor 1748-1752. Alivardi Khan had in 1750 come to an agreement with him to make an annual payment of 52 lakhs of rupees to the King in return for a *farman* confirming him as Nawab of Bengal.

**No. 37**—*4 January 1754.*

1. **Mill Muwafiq**—Sorting of cotton or silk piece-goods in accordance with the practice followed in the mills or factories.

2. **Bakergunge** (p. 736)—Was the headquarters of the district of the same name till 1801.

**No. 43**—*7 December 1754.*

1. **Doonea Cally** (p. 811)—Dhaniakhali, a village in Hooghly District, Bengal, where the East India Company had a large weaving factory.

2. **Goolagore** (p. 811)—Golaghar, a place in Hooghly District, Bengal, was the centre of trade in hemp and jute.

3. **Madurylol** (p. 829)—Mathuralal, *vakil* of the East India Company's Cossimbazar factory at the Nawab's *darbar*; *see also* Krishna Deb (p. 515).

4. **Catwall prison** (p. 830)—Prison of the *kotwali* or the police station.

**No. 49**—*1 March 1755.*

1. **Ragabullub** (p. 873)—Rajballabh was born in 1707 A.D. *Diwan* of Husain Quli Khan, the deputy of Nawazish Muhammad at Dacca since 1743, Rajballabh became the Deputy at Dacca after the assassination of Husain Quli in 1754.

**No. 50**—*3 September 1755.*

1. **Rajah Omedyray** (p. 888)—Raja Umed Rai, appointed deputy of Raja Kirttichand, *Diwan* of Nawab Alivardi Khan in 1751. Umed Rai was promoted as *Diwan* with the title of Rai-rayan on the death of Kirttichand in 1753.

**No. 51**—*11 September 1755.*

1. **Burdwan Raja**—Tilak Chandra Rai who was the Raja since 1744.

**No. 54**—*8 December 1755.*

1. **Tengra** (p. 935)—Tangra, a place near Calcutta, situated on the eastern side of the Hooghly.

**No. 58**—*21 February 1756.*

1. **Aurangabad** (p. 977)—A place in Jangipur subdivision, Murshidabad District, Bengal.

2. **Buragoziah** (p. 977)—Boragharia, a village in Malda District, opposite Nawabganj.

3. **Godagozy** (p. 977)— Godagari, a place in the Sadar subdivision of Rajshahi District, situated on the Padma river.

4. **Moorachah** (p. 977)—Moorcha, the place is mentioned as Murcha on the Cossimbazar-Boalia road in Rennell's map.

5. **Buxeypore** (p. 977)—A village in Nadia District, on the Jalangi river, 30 miles north of Krishnagar.

6. **Termohunny** (p. 977)—Trimohini, a village in Jessore District.

7. **Surdah** (p. 977)—In the Sadar subdivision of Rajshahi District, Bengal, Sarda was a centre of silk manufacture.

**No. 62**—*16 July 1756.*

1. **Patna** (p. 1008)— Mistake for Purnea.

2. **Surgeon of the factory** (p. 1008)—Dr. William Forth was the surgeon. He took refuge at Hooghly after his release; here he was employed in obtaining intelligence of the Nawab's movements.

**No. 63**—*17 July 1756.*

1. **Monsr. Le Beaume** (p. 1019)—A French officer, who had left Chandernagore and taken service with the English. He was a volunteer and Lieutenant of Militia at the time of the siege.

**No. 64**—*17 July 1756.*

1. **Tanais Fort** (p. 1025)—Tanar's Fort (Tanner Fort), also known as Tanna, Thana or Mackwa Fort. A fort on the right bank of the Ganges below Calcutta.

**No. 65**— *18 July 1756.*

1. **Sahib Khan**—He was son-in-law as well as nephew of Alivardi Khan.

2. **Murradel Dowlat** (p. 1027)—Muradud Daulah was the son of Fazl Quli Khan, otherwise named Ikram-ud-Daulah.

**No. 66**—*17 September 1756.*

1. (p 1035)—The reference is to Shaukat Jang, son of Saiyid Ahmad Khan and Sirajud Daulah's cousin.

**No. 67**—*30 November 1756.*

1. **Relict of Shaw Amet Jung** (p. 1041)—In other accounts she is said to be the widow of the Nawab's eldest uncle, Nawazish Muhammad Khan and not Shahmat Jang, but Holwell confuses between the two brothers.

2. **Shocut Jung** (p. 1042)—Shaukat Jang was the son of Saiyid Ahmad Khan, nephew and son-in-law of Alivardi Khan. He held the post of Grand Master of the Artillery at Purnea under his father and afterwards at Murshidabad. He succeeded his father as Nawab of Purnea in January 1756. In July 1756 he succeeded in obtaining a *farman* from Delhi appointing him Nawab of Bengal on promise of the payment of an annual tribute of one crore of rupees. He was killed in the battle of Baldibari fought on 16 October 1756.

3. **Chuta Begum** (p. 1043)—Chhoti Begam, also known as Mihr-un-Nisa Begam and Ghasiti Begam, was the eldest daughter of Alivardi Khan and the wife of Nawazish Muhammad Khan. At the time of Sirajud Daulah's succession, Ghasiti Begam conspired without success to place Muradud Daulah on the throne.

4. **Barasut** (p. 1045)—Barasat, headquarters of the subdivision of the same name in the district of 24-Parganas, Bengal.

5. **Gyria** (p. 1046) —Gheria, also known as Vijaydrug. A port in Devgarh subdivision of Ratnagiri District, Bombay. In 1756, Tulaji Angria was the Chief of Gheria. An English expedition under Watson and Clive started from Bombay on 7 February 1756 and the fort fell on 14 February.

6. **Hon'ble Company**..... **phirmaund** (p. 1054)—As a result of Surman Embassy, the East India Company obtained three *farmans* from the Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar in 1717. By one of them the right of the Company to trade in Bengal free of all dues, subject to the customary payment of three thousand rupees per annum, was confirmed. The Company was allowed to rent additional territory round Calcutta, and its officials allowed to settle wherever they might choose.

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| 773 | 10 | Frederick | Fredrick |
| ,, | 14 | Fredric | Fredrick |
| 776 | 21 | Herva [ ? ] | Herva |
| ,, | 30 | Raja Bullubpury | Rajabullubpury |
| 777 | 18 | Atckbannies | Atchabannies |
| 779 | 7 | W. Machett | W. Mackett |
| 781 | 28 | obdient | obedient |
| ,, | 29 | Rogar Drake Jnur. | Roger Drake Junr. |
| ,, | 31 | J. Z. Holwel | J. Z. Holwell |
| 786 | 17 | Captain Wa [tt] | Captain Wa [rd] |
| 790 | 37 | aflair | affair |
| 802 | 17 | Rangafoula | Rangafola |
| 803 | 4-5 | back again at the rate of twenty three thousand (23000) current sent in a proposal for freighting the St. George to China and | sent in a proposal for freighting the St. George to China and back again at the rate of twenty three thousand (23,000) current |
| ,, | 8 | freight. | freight, |
| 809 | 30 | cuffers | buffers |
| ,, | 32 | coale | cole |
| 819 | 18 | Rungipoor | Rungpoor |
| 828 | 33 | apretence | a pretence |
| ,, | 33 | like with | likewise |
| ,, | 34 | Summer | Sumner |
| ,, | 40 | then | them |
| 832 | 5 | Subor buzar | Subor Buzar |
| 835 | 6 | insist on their assistants attending their business from nine to | which end we have ordered the heads of our several offices to |
| ,, | 7 | which end we have ordered the heads of our several offices to | insist on their assistants attending their business from nine to |
| , | 36 | George Grav. | George Gray, |
| 839 | 40 | £ 000-0-0 | £ 5,000-0-0 |
| 842 | 9 | Elisabeth | Elizabeth |
| 856 | 15 | closed we tansmitt in our box of books by this ship | three pice (52, 812-2-3) or £ Stg 5,941-7-0. |
| 857 | 26-27 | endesvours | endeavours |
| 858 | 26 | whether | whither |
| 869 | 3 | Jon. Waters | John Waters |
| ,, | 21 | Negaris | Negrais |
| ,, | 39 | Board. | Board, |
| 870 | 37 | lesson | lessen |
| 872 | 17 | persual | perusal |
| ,, | 34 | iconvenience | inconvenience |
| 874 | 27 | immediately | immediately complied with and being also well informed that the French |
| 875 | 33 | (4010—12—3) | (4,010-12-9) |
| 876 | 4 | (3326-10-9) | (3,226-10-9) |

| Page | Line | For | Read |
|---|---|---|---|
| 877 | 38 | Lescelles | Lascelles |
| 879 | 42 | gunge. | gunge, |
| 880 | 26 | C (Rupees | C. Rupees |
| 881 | 4 | storng | strong |
| ,, | 6 | relous | zealous |
| ,, | 34 | J. Z. Hollwell | J. Z. Holwell |
| 885 | 7 | Morattes | Morattoes |
| ,, | 23 | that | than |
| ,, | 29 | ripht | right |
| 887 | 24 | accure | accrue |
| ,, | 38 | points | point |
| 888 | 12 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 889 | 3 | John Jamson | John Samson |
| 895 | 11 | 33679 | 3367½ |
| ,, | 12 | 470 | 4709 |
| 903 | 16 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 904 | 19 | flatter | flatter ourselves |
| 905 | 37 | 1755 | 1755 [*sic*] |
| 907 | Page title | 29 September | 28 September |
| 909 | 9 | Bamjebon Cubbarge | Bamjebon Cubbarage |
| 912 | 2 | eigth | eighth |
| ,, | 12 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 916 | 21 | Harwick | Hardwick |
| 917 | 16 | voyaged | voyages |
| ,, | 37 | proposed | prospect |
| 919 | 2 | Consimbuzar | Cossimbuzar |
| ,, | 43 | reason | season |
| 920 | 28 | hundered | hundred |
| 923 | 38 | Condultation | consultation |
| 926 | 10 | conformtable | conformable |
| 930 | 10 | pemission | permission |
| 942 | 4 | engine's | ensign's |
| 944 | 24 | (711-11-9) | (711-11-9) (*sic*) |
| 945 | 1 | Mr. Ann Barlow | Mrs. Ann Barlow |
| 948 | 31 | pence (*sic*) | pence |
| ,, | ,, | £ 1155-4s-6d | £ 1,155-4s-8d |
| 949 | 25-26 | nine hundred and fifty red | one thousand six hundred |
| 953 | 37 | dos. for three thousand two | do. account David Baron |
| 956 | 2 | packet | packets |
| 958 | 26 | opinion | opinions |
| ,, | 40 | decress | decrees |
| 960 | 37 | direct | directed |
| 961 | 37 | recommend your | recommend him to your |
| 964 | 33 | Hummuns | Hummums |
| 965 | 31 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 966 | 1 | 26 January | 5 January |
| 967 | Page title | ,, ,, | ,, ,, |
| 968 | 29 | 26th January | 5th January |
| ,, | 30 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 970 | 39 | ,, ,, | ,, ,, |
| 971 | 20 | oecoming (*sic*) | becoming |
| ,, | 37 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 973 | 4 | Sirs, | Sir, |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 975 | 37 | 7th | 7th (*sic*) |
| 976 | 4 | Sirs, | Sir, |
| ,, | 10 | shodarry | rhoddary |
| ,, | 14 | insett | insert |
| 977 | 4 | Sirs, | Sir, |
| 978 | 6 | guzrbnas | guzrbans |
| 979 | 32 | 12860 9001 | 12860 (*sic*) 9001 (*sic*) |
| 980 | 18 | 5992 | 5992 (*sic*) |
| 981 | 1 | stimate | Estimate |
| ,, | 12-13 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| ,, | 17 | *made of the river* | *of the river postponed* |
| 984 | 2 | het | the |
| 988 | 40 | on | On |
| ,, | 41 | as | us |
| 991 | 25 | wnole | whole |
| 996 | 35 | Frank | Frank— |
| 997 | 35 | Bannet | Bennet |
| 999 | 26 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 1004 | 5 | ,, | ,, |
| 1005 | 25 | bad, debts | bad debts |
| 1007 | 18 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 1017 | 11 | ,, | ,, |
| 1018 | 38 | black | blacks |
| 1019 | 37 | Cartairs | Carstairs |
| 1022 | 1 | reces | recess |
| 1024 | 15 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 1026 | 1 | were house | warehouses |
| ,, | 32 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 1030 | 25 | ,, | ,, |
| ,, | 31-32 | *Calcutta.—Holwell's reply to the charges of the Council* | *Calcutta.* |
| 1036 | 2-3 | J. 2. Holwell | J. Z. Holwell |
| ,, | 3 | Thos./Boddam. | Thos. Boddam. |
| ,, | 6 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| ,, | 7 | 222 *et seq.* | 222—231. |
| 1037 | 15 | Coates | Coales. |
| 1040 | 9 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| ,, | 10 | pp. 222—39 | pp. 232—39 |
| 1042 | 16 | difficultie | difficulties |
| ,, | 23 | Shaw Amet Jung | Shaw Omet Jung |
| ,, | 28 | ,, | ,, |
| 1054 | 34 | quite | quiet |
| ,, | 39-40 | power is no more, Monickchund Dewan whose councils house, I feared, would obstruct your government. His | house, I feared, would obstruct your government. His power is no more. Monickchund Dewan, whose councils |
| 1056 | 38 | solidiers | soldiers |
| 1063 | 40 | scruitiny | scrutiny |
| 1064 | 33 | requisities | requisites |
| 1065 | 4 | perfering | prefering |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1089 | 13 | Copies of records obtained from India Office, | Public General, |
| 1094 | 21 | Gobindaram | Gobindaram Mitra |
| ,, | 30—31 | at Calcutta in 1727 by a Royal Charter, | by a Royal Charter of 1726, it did not start in Calcutta till 1728; |
| ,, | 34 | hard hand-clapping to attract, a notice. | hand, hand-clapping to attract notice. |
| 1096 | 26 | Backerganj | Backergunge |
| ,, | 41 | July | June |
| 1097 | 21 | Cuttack | Chuttack |
| ,, | 27 | *Seir-Mutakherin* | *Seir-ul-Mutakherin* |
| ,, | 36 | 1714. | 1714—15. |
| 1099 | 32 | Golumhassum | Golumhassun |
| ,, | 33 | *Seir-Mutakherin* | *Seir-ul-Mutakherin* |
| ,, | 38 | Plaistead | Plaisted |
| 1100 | 21 | Dougazapatamn | Dougazapatam |
| ,, | 22 | now | also |
| 1102 | 30 | '*Seir-Mutakherin*' | *Seir-ul-Mutakherin* |
| ,, | 32 | Bridjoos | Bridjoo's |
| 1103 | 24—25 | No.37—4 *January* 1754. I. Mill Muwafiq | No.34—3 *September* 1753. I. Mill Moffick (p.681) |
| ,, | 27 | 2. Bakergunge | No 37—4 *January* 1754. I. Bakergunge |
| 1104 | 7 | Omedyray | Omeydray |
| ,, | 12 | Burdwan Raja | Burdawan Rajah (p. 895) |
| ,, | 18 | Aurangabad | Aurangabaud |
| 1105 | 6 | Sahib Khan | Sahib Khan (p. 1027) |
| ,, | ,, | II. (p. 1035) | I. Another Subah from Dilly(p. 1035) |
| ,, | 16 | Khan and not Shahmat Jang, | Shahmat Jang, |
| ,, | 33 | Vijaydrug | Vijayadurg |
| ,, | 39 | Surman | Surman's |
| 1106 | 37 | Ms. | Mss. |
| 1107 | Page title | BIBLIOGRAPH | BIBLIOGRAPHY |
| ,, | 36 | *Seir -Mutakherin* | *Seir-ul-Mutakherin* |
| 1109 | Page title | BIBLIOGRAPH | BIBLIOGRAPH |

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