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Wimbleton, 25<sup>th</sup> August 1800.

Sir,

Agreeable to the intimation I made to you, I have gone through the enormous Volumes, which have lately come from India, on the Subject of a permanent arrangement of the Land Revenues, under the Presidency of Fort St. George, and while the Subject was fresh in my Memory, I have likewise thought it best to put down my Sentiments in the shape of a Dispatch to be transmitted to Fort St. George, and I shall be happy if the Draft of it, which I send to you, shall save you any of the trouble, which the consideration of this extensive and complicated Subject has occasioned to me. A Copy of it, if adopted, will of course be transmitted to the Bengal Government, in answer to their Letter

Chairman of the East India Company.

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availed themselves to so  
of the business informat  
derived from the Minute  
ably conducted by M

in the Judicial Department of the  
5<sup>th</sup> of March last. —

I have the honor to be  
Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble servant

(Signed) Henry Dandus.

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We have received  
your Revenue Dispatch of the  
22 Jan<sup>r</sup> last, referring us to  
Minutes & proceedings preparatory  
to the introduction of a  
permanent system of Revenue  
and of Judicature into the Company  
territories under your Presidency,  
and we have perused with great  
attention the Report of the Revenue  
Board upon this important subject,  
with their subsequent Instructions  
to the Collectors, and we lose no time  
in expressing our full approbation  
of the Industry & Abilities which  
the Revenue Board has displayed  
in the Investigation & elucidation  
of this extensive and complicated  
subject, and we observe with a  
peculiar satisfaction, that they have  
availed themselves to so great a degree  
of the luminous information to be  
derived from the Minutes & Proceedings  
so ably conducted by Marques formerly

Ref No 100

Establishment

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Submitted to the  
Chairman  
Submitting a Draft  
of a Report on the  
Subject of the Proposals  
for a permanent Amendment  
of the Land Revenue  
of Madras

Ref No 2061  
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and Lord Teignmouth, at the  
time when a similar Institution  
was under the consideration of the  
Supreme Board at Calcutta.

An <sup>immediate</sup> attention to this subject  
has been necessarily pressed upon  
our consideration, by our reference  
to a Letter from Bengal on their  
Judicial Department dated 5. March  
1800 addressed to your Presidency.  
By that Letter you are directed  
to proceed to the permanent &  
Settlement in question without  
any Clause suspending its final  
effect, till it should receive our  
ultimate sanction. As that  
Injunction was so different from  
what occurred at Bengal when  
the measure was executed by the  
able Government, which at that  
time presided over our Councils in  
India we were naturally led to  
pause before we could thus  
agree to give out of our own  
hands, the final decisions upon  
a subject of such deep importance  
to our interests in India. But  
upon mature reflexion after a  
re-visit of what took place  
at Bengal and after an accurate  
perusal of the proceedings &  
already held at Fort St. George,  
we have come to a decided  
opinion to concur in the  
Instruction

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Instruction you have received  
from the Government General.  
Particular cases may occur in  
which we may regret, that the  
final correction of Error did  
not remain with us but  
this Inconvenience if it shall  
prove one, is so much more  
than counterbalanced by the  
danger, which might accrue  
to the whole system if a  
doubt of its permanency was  
in the early stage of its  
execution created in the  
Minds of the Natives of India,  
with whom these transactions  
are to be carried on, our  
doubts have subsided, and  
we rest confident in the  
Convention, that our Interests  
will be best secured, by giving  
to our Government, on the spot,  
the confidence which their  
Ability and Integrity so justly  
merit

In addition to this  
general confidence two

considerations

Considerations have naturally  
operated upon our Decision.  
In the first place the subject  
is not a new one. The leading  
principles of the measure have  
already received our most cordial  
sanction, in our letter to the  
Bengal Government of the 19<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>  
1892 when the Business with  
the luminous information which  
attended it was fully before  
us and maturely considered by  
us. The general principles &  
therefore being recognized, it is  
only the detail & execution  
of these principles which we  
leave in your hands, and  
there can be no doubt that  
such detail can with a  
infinitely more advantage  
be conducted on the spot  
than by the ablest  
investigation we can  
ever give to the  
subject at home

Yours

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In the second place  
it occurs to us, that however  
plausible it may appear  
in loose and general Statement  
to say, that the final  
decision should rest with  
your Superiors at home,  
this in reality could not  
have been the case for  
any beneficial purpose.  
The chief difficulty of the  
measure must lay in its  
detailed execution, and it  
is obvious that those  
employed in the conduct of  
the Business, could not be  
able to foresee or antici-  
pate the doubts that  
might occur at home, on  
any particular point of  
detail, and of course any  
defect in the expected  
Information must necessarily  
lead to a new reference  
to our Government abroad,  
and after many pernicious  
delays we would at last  
practically discover that  
the nature of the Business

rendered



rendered it absolutely necessary, that <sup>we</sup> must in the final decision rest on the Authority of our Governments abroad —

But although we have thus vested you with full power to proceed in the final execution of this permanent arrangement, there are a few general Precautions, which we deem it proper to recommend to your attention. —

The first which naturally presents itself is, that although we shall sincerely rejoice to see this Measure finally completed; we do not therefore expect, that you are to proceed <sup>with</sup> with a precipitancy, inconsistent with full and accurate Investigation. You will always bear in mind, that you are concluding a Settlement which good faith and the honor of our Government requires should be held for ever sacred

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sacred and inviolable. It is  
a measure on which is to  
rest forever, the extent of  
our Interest, in the extensive  
Landed property entrusted to  
the care of your Government  
- In proportion therefore as  
the decision you are to  
pass is permanent and  
irrevocable, in the same  
proportion ought your  
previous Inquiry to be  
accurate and your information  
to be complete. -

In the next place it  
behoves you to attend in a  
particular <sup>manner</sup> to the different  
situations of Landed property,  
not only of different Provinces  
and Districts, but of different  
Estates in the same Province  
and District. You will  
certainly see, if it is supposed  
to be necessary that whole  
Provinces & Districts should  
be settled with, at the same  
time. The Information  
respecting one Estate in a  
District may be so complete,  
while that of a neighbouring  
Estate was so imperfect  
as to create great inequality,  
if

if to save further trouble  
of Investigation, it should  
be thought material to  
arrange with both of them  
at the same time. - From  
the nature of the business  
the execution of it must  
be gradual and progressive,  
and not doubting that you  
will give to the subject  
your unremitting attention,  
we can only in general  
say, that we shall be  
much more satisfied, if  
you can report to us, that  
it is well done, than that  
it is quickly done. It is  
impossible to have perused  
the Report of the Revenue  
Board without being  
satisfied, that the Detail  
of this Business is of a most  
extensive and complicated  
nature, and impressed with  
that reflexion, it is impos-  
sible for us to indulge  
any Impatience, under the  
lengthened period, to which  
the necessary Investi-  
gation may extend. -

The

The mention we have just made of the Board of Revenue naturally leads us to advert to another observation, arising from what is stated in various parts of that Report. There is a material difference betwixt the state of several of the Provinces in the Carnatic and those of Bengal when the measure of a permanent Settlement was first taken into consideration. The Bengal Provinces were infinitely farther advanced in the habits of Order and Subordination to Government, than most places in the Carnatic, and certainly much

much more so than in the  
generality of the Poligar  
Provinces, or the Northern  
Circars. They are not  
equally ripe for the  
reception of those benefits  
and blessings intended for  
them, as if they were more  
accustomed to the habits  
and feelings of civilized  
Society. This is a  
material circumstance to  
be attended to in the  
conduct of this important  
measure. Any attempt  
to introduce a regular  
System of Order or just  
Sentiments respecting the  
value of permanent Rights  
would be idle & nugatory,  
till once their minds  
were

were, to a certain extent,  
prepared to feel the import-  
ance of the benefits they  
were about to receive.

The first object therefore is  
to establish the authority of  
Government itself in the  
different Zemindarries before  
you attempt to invite them  
to participate in the advantages  
you are authorized to confer  
upon them. This never  
can effectually be done  
till you have suppressed  
that spirit of rebellion  
& insubordination which  
is so conspicuous in many  
parts of the Northern  
Circars, and it is of the  
first importance to the  
attainment of that object,  
that

that all subordinate Military  
Establishments should be  
annihilated within the limits  
now subject to our dominion.

The Countries to which this  
observation applies must  
be brought to such a  
state of subjection as to  
acknowledge and submit to  
this principle. As they  
must be indebted to our  
beneficence & wisdom for  
every advantage they are  
to receive, so in like  
manner, they must feel  
indebted solely to our  
protection for the  
continuance & enjoyment  
of them. We hold these  
Truths to be, incontrovertible,  
as to preclude all  
expectation

expectation of any benefit to be expected from an attempt to introduce either a permanent system of land tenure, or the exercise of a regular judicial authority, till once this essential preliminary is secured.

Having laid before you these observations, to which your attention is specially directed, we think it further necessary to state, that although we have thought it proper for the reasons which have been stated, to vest you with the power of finally concluding with Zamindars and other land Proprietors for a permanent settlement of their respective rights & properties, it is not



not meant thereby to divest  
ourselves of our controlling  
authority in the other various  
collateral points connected  
with this business. And  
therefore, so far as concerns  
the regulations for the  
exercise of Judicial Authority,  
and in so far as concerns  
the nature of the Establishments  
to be formed & the Expenses  
attending them, we expect  
to be accurately informed,  
and to exercise our judgment  
as usual, on the suggestions  
You may have occasion  
to submit to us, and we  
must reserve to ourselves  
the final consideration of  
the excess or inadequacy  
of the pecuniary charges,  
which the execution of  
these measures may  
bring

bring on our Finances.

We do not mean, however, by this precaution to doubt your attention to a due economy so essentially necessary in the present state of our finances, neither do we desire to have it supposed, that it is our wish, that while so great and confidential trusts are to be committed to our servants, you should hold out rewards and compensations to them, other than what are liberal and corresponding to the trust reposed in them. — Our sentiments have often been expressed on that topic, and they are particularly applicable to the nature of these trusts, which

must

our Collectors and their officers,  
 subordinate to our Board of  
 Revenue. If any of these  
 now in these situations are,  
 from a defect of talents, or  
 any other circumstances,  
 unequal to the execution of  
 the duties they are called  
 upon to perform, there must  
 be no ceremony or exercise  
 of false delicacy on this  
 occasion. Inefficient men  
 must be removed and others  
 capable to do the duty must  
 be substituted in their room.  
 It is to you we look for  
 the accurate and successful  
 execution of this great work,  
 and with you therefore must  
 rest the responsibility which  
 belongs to you in the selection  
 of the instruments by which  
 you are to act. —

must arise out of the measures  
now in contemplation. In these  
trusts it is essentially requisite,  
that all Endowments should  
be open and avowed; they  
cannot be so, unless they  
are adequate and liberal.  
Although therefore we  
recommend economy, it is  
that rational economy which  
is applicable to the subject,  
but by no means a  
niggardly System, incompatible  
with the important objects  
in view.

It is only further necessary  
at present to add, that from  
the nature of the business to  
be executed, it is obvious, that  
the successful execution of it  
must ultimately rest on the  
accuracy & integrity of the  
Enquiries to be conducted by  
our

On the permanent Settlement  
of the Revenues of Madras.

Draft 31 of 1800/1801  
is founded on this  
paper

Originally drawn by  
W. Dundas and  
submitted to the  
Chairman by Mr  
Letter of 24 August 1801

Reg<sup>n</sup>: 2062

1<sup>st</sup>

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