

Minto (NLS) typed

W. Hartings to Elliot 12.2.1777

Duplicate  
My dear Elliot

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Fort William 12 January  
1777.

This Letter will comprize one connected Subject, and to render this intelligible I shall take it up from a very early Period.

After the famous Defeat of the Marattas at Purnipett, Sudaba, the second Officer in command, and the first Cousin of Ragonaut Bhow the late Peshwa and Competitor of the Ministers of Poona, was missing, and supposed to have been slain. About three Years after a Man disfigured with wounds made his appearance under the Name of Sudaba, with a small Force, was attacked, and defeated, made Prisoner and exposed as an Impostor by the ruling Peshwa. Soon that Time he continued a Prisoner till the Month of April last, when he escaped from his confinement, collected a considerable Army, and even made himself Master of all the Country called Cacan, which lies between the Hills and the Sea. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October he ventured on an Engagement with the Forces of the actual Government, was totally routed, put to sea in a small Kiffel and sailed to the Island of Bombay, where he demanded Protection. Unfortunately for him the Governor and second in command were both absent at Salsett, and Mr Droper who had charge of the Fort sending two Persons of inferior Rank to receive him, the devoted Fugitive considered this into an Insult, and in a fit of ill timed Pride instantly departed, threw himself into the Hands of a Maratta Chief named Rajajee Angria, who delivered him up a Prisoner to the Ministers at Poona. Ragonaut Bhow more fortunate escaped to Bombay where he was received, and probably continues there. — It is said that Mr Hornby on the first news of Sudaba's Confinement, sent a Deputation to Rajajee Angria to demand him with a



a Declaration of War in case of Refusal. Such at least is the Representation of this Affair which we have received from Poona, where both this Measure, and the Asylum granted to Pragoona are treated as acts of Hostility against the Maratta State, and direct Infringements of the Treaty. We too have taken up the Charges as such, and sent peremptory Orders to the Presidency of Bombay to dismiss Pragoona at Poona. In the mean Time Col. Winton continues, notwithstanding our repeated Orders for his recall, at Poona, whether by his free consent or by constraint is uncertain. The Style both of his Letters and those of the Peshwa, seems to confirm the <sup>common</sup> Report of his being detained by Force. This is not the only suspicious Circumstance. All the Letters from Poona both before and since the Ratification of the Treaty are filled with reproaches for the hostile Acts which preceded it, and even strong Indications that the Authors of them did not regard the Treaty as binding but on the Persons only who signed it. Their last Letters which were written immediately after the overthrow of Indabaer contain a Demand in behalf of the King of Tanjore, whose Name never before appeared in any Papers of their Correspondence or the Negotiation with Colonel Winton. — These are at best but doubtful Symptoms, and added to the Indisposition which the Presidency of Bombay have all along shewn to the late Treaty, portend but

a short duration. By which have so long so far appeared as remote Undertakings the news of this had set on foot other Channels of Blood and invited and this occasion of this great Evil, immediately in a degree of Blige to alarm the Pro- vances shall we formade myself any of the part (Pragoona) for and extending will tell you between the P. plundered the and the Chief of



a short duration to the Peace concluded by it.

By the overthrow of Indaba, the intestine Troubles which have so long disturbed the Maratta State appear to have been so far appeased, as to leave them at full Leisure to prosecute remote Undertakings. — The same Letter that brought us the news of this Event, also informed us that the Ministers had set on Foot an Expedition against Hyderabad. By other Channels we learn that Nizam Ally Khan and Muddajee Boorda the Raja of Berar have been invited and have agreed to join their Forces on this occasion.

So sudden a Revival and Reunion of the Powers of this great Empire, and so sudden an application of them immediately on the close of a long civil War, indicate a degree of Vigor in its Constitution, which cannot fail to alarm the Friends of the Company, if the subsequent Appearances shall warrant this Conclusion. I think they will not, but I persuade myself that the present Conjuncture is not so favorable than any of the past (always excepting the ill-fated Treaty with Prajoba) for advancing the Interests of the Company, and extending their Influence and Connections. — I will tell you why.

In the first place a Confederacy formed between the Peshwa, the Subadar of ~~the~~ Decan, who has plundered the Marattas of a great Part of the Purna State, and the Chief of Berar its nominal Vassal; all possessing mutual



mutual Claims on each other, and swayed by opposite Interests, cannot hold long together. — In the 2<sup>d</sup>. The Government of Poona is weak in itself by the want of constitutional Authority in those who possess the Rule of it, and by want of unanimity among themselves. — Marata Turnees one of their principal Members has openly separated himself from the rest. — Their Chief, Iccaram Babboo is old and infirm, and both he and Mana Turnees, who are the only Parties to the Treaty lately concluded with us in the Name of the Mysalla State, lately demanded and received Support from the Government to retire to Benaris, with the avowed Design of passing the remainder of their Lives there in Devotion. — This Design though probably suggested only by the personal Dangers to which they were exposed by the rapid Success of Sindaba, must diminish the Confidence and Respect which are the natural attendants of a fixed and regular Authority. And 3<sup>d</sup>ly The Government of Berar possesses in it the seeds of Civil Discord, which are at this Time ready to spring up on the first Occasion that can favor their growth. This is a Subject which requires me to be more explicit than I have been on others, and this too I must take up at Once.

Ragojee Boorda the Rajah of Berar, the same Person who invaded Bengal, and subjected it to the Chour in the Time of the Nabob Aliverdy Cawn, dying left 4 Sons, Jannojee, Shabajee, Moodajee and Binbijee. — Jannojee succeeded him. He having no Child adopted the son of Moodajee who was called by the Name of his Grandfather Ragojee. On the Death of Jannojee, Shabajee the 2<sup>d</sup> Brother succeeded to the Government, but held it in the Name of his Nephew, Shabegal Meer. This was the Cause of continual Disensions between  
between



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between the two Brothers. — Shabajee holding the Government in right of Primogeniture, Moodjee claiming it on the behalf of his own Son, though the legal affinity between them was changed by his elder Brother's adoption. — In the late Disputations between Pragmat Bore, and the Ministers of Poona, Shabajee took part with the former, and Moodjee with the latter, but their own affairs calling them home before these were decided, they came to an open Rupture. Shabajee was slain, and his Brother assumed the Government in his stead.

Here I must go back to relate another Transaction more immediately connected with the purpose of this Letter.

Shabajee, a little time before his return to Berar, sent a Vakeel named Beneram Pundit to Calcutta with a Letter containing Propositions of Friendship, and a Desire to be on Terms of Alliance with this Government. I thought this an Occasion not to be slighted, and returned such an Answer as was most proper to encourage the Wishes of Shabajee without expressing too interested a Solitude to meet them, and I sent the Vakeel back viz with the Project of uniting the Province of Berar to this Government on Terms similar to those which had been formed with Sujah Dowla by the Treaty concluded at Benares, and which I imagined to say were such as afforded the Company every Advantage that could be derived from such an Alliance without derogating from the Dignity or Credit of our Ally.

While



While Benoram was on his Return the Revolution took Place, which I have mentioned above, and as he was known to be the confidential Servant of Nabajee, some time elapsed before he ventured to return to his new Master. Being at length however invited to come, he went and was well received; Moodajee read the Letters and answered them as addressed to him self, and after some time thought proper to send him back in his former Character, with handsome Professions but general, and with no declared Object or Instructions. A very friendly and in some sort confidential Correspondence however has continued between <sup>us</sup> ever since. From Benoram Pundit I learn that the same Feuds which formerly divided the two Brothers, while Shambajee was living are now likely to break out between Moodajee and his son, who is now about 19 Years of age, and begins to look upon his Father as the Usurper of his Rights. In these Sentiments he has been confirmed by a Man, who has been the successive Minister of the three Brothers, named Dewa Wajus Pundit, who finds himself of too little Consequence with his present Master, and naturally concludes that he shall acquire a greater Ascendant on the Mind of his young Pupil, if he should succeed in obtaining his advancement to the Possession of the Government. By the Intrigues of this Man, Nizam Ally has been induced to invite Moodajee Boosla to his Court, for the purpose of concerting Measures

for their common should be proposed that I have lately seen proposed that a Design of gain of the Projects of these Measures they arise, might were it duly managed of the Company Hazard of their stationed on the added to it was for which the in which one it could be anticipated with the general to establish in the British remote from the Circle of



for their common Interest, or to send his Dewan if he should be prevented from attending himself. To the last Proposition Moodajee has consented, as he mentions in a Letter which I have lately received from him, and I understand that it is proposed that Pragojee shall accompany him, with the secret Design of gaining the support of Nizam Ally in the prosecution of the Projects against Moodajee. Whatever may be the issue of these Measures, a proper attention to the Circumstances as they arise, might put it nearly in the Power of this Government, were it duly authorized to convert them to the advantage of the Company without any sacrifice of their Faith, or Hazard of their Interests.

We have a Battalion of Sepoys already stationed in the Districts bordering on Berar, and another added to it would be sufficient to answer any purpose for which they might be wanted.

It is impossible to foresee the Circumstances in which our Interposition may be demanded, or on which it could be honorably given, and therefore impossible to anticipate the mode of it.

We are already well acquainted however with the general System which I wish to be empowered to establish in India, namely to extend the Influence of <sup>the</sup> British Nation to every part of India not too remote from their Possessions, without enlarging the Circle of their Defences, or involving them in



in hazardous Wars or indefinite Engagements, and to accept of the Allegiance of such of your Neighbours as shall see to be enlisted among the Friends and Allies of the King of Great Britain. The late Nabob Shujah Dowla, who wanted neither Pride nor Understanding, would have thought it an Honor to be called the Vizier of the King of England, and offered at one Time to coin Siccas in his Majesty's Name. Nor was this a mere visionary Project. The credit of such a Connection with the Sovereign of a Power which has for a long Time past made so considerable a Figure in Mindolstan, would of itself be a great Advantage. But I am afraid that his chief Inducement arose from a great Defect in our political Constitution of which he had severely felt the bad Effects, I mean the rapid Inception of Persons entrusted (under whatever Name or Character) with the Rule and Administration of the British Affairs in this Part of our Indian Possessions. The consequent want of consistency in their Measures, and even in their Attachments and Engagements; and the Caprices to which he was often exposed on the same Account. Had he possessed the Spirit of Foresight, he would have had severe Cause for these Reflections in the miserable State of Penury and Servitude to which his Son has been since reduced, ineffectually to our Interests, as every Excess of Power beyond its proper Bounds



Bounds will ever defeat its own Purposes; Nor indeed has the son much Cause to complain of an Injury which he has scarce sense or sensibility to discover; although it must be redressed whenever that State has a more worthy Ruler, and <sup>the</sup> Sovereignty restored with all its Rights unimpair'd to the lawful Proprietor. — But I wander from my Subject — My Intention in this Digression is to shew the Advantages which would be deriv'd both by Government and its Allies from a direct Engagement with them, made with the Sanction of the King's Name, which would secure it from ~~the~~ wanton and licentious Violation, and render the Objects of it more certain and durable.

On this footing I would replace the Subaship of ~~Bar~~ Berar. On this footing I would establish an Alliance with Berar. These Countries are of more Importance to us than any others from their contiguity to ours, and therefore it is of Consequence to settle their Connection with us before that of any other. But the same System might be rendered more extensive by Time, and the observance of a steady Principle of Conduct, and an inviolable attachment to formal Engagements. —

I will not here enumerate all the Advantages which may be deriv'd from this Plan, to you especially to whom I have long ago explain'd personally my Views and Sentiments upon this Subject. Indeed, except a short and rather obscure



obscure Intimation of it in one of my Letters to Lord North, it will be  
I have communicated it to no Person but Colonel Mauleane and yourself, and that is my principal  
Reason among others for having written to you  
rather than to any one else, upon the various  
Points contained in this Letter. To enable me  
to carry it into Execution, I must be released from the  
Restrictions which I at present lie under; I must have  
discretionary Powers, and a fixed channel of Correspondence.  
I shall follow the Subject no further, but  
leave it here to your Discretion to make such use of  
it as you shall judge most likely to prove effectual  
to its Execution — or to suppress it. I am aware that  
I tread on dangerous Ground, exposed to the ill will  
of the Company if they look to the renewal of their Charter,  
and to all the popular and rooted prejudices which are  
entertained against the expensive Projects of  
Military Enterprize, and the injustice of  
disturbing the Peace of our quiet Neighbours,  
for this Objection will be given to it:  
To answer these and the other Objections to this  
Plan would require much Time and Argument,  
but though this might be necessary to the support  
of a Proposition calculated for the public Eye,  
it will not be wanted on this Occasion, as I hope  
it

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to Lord North, it will be only seen by those who are to adopt it,  
but Colonel Elliot's obvious Consequences will need little  
is my principle explanation. I trust it to you in Confidence, and  
to you various devices that you will impart it with the same Caution,  
various that I may not suffer by the Attempt to raise the  
enable me Power of my Country, and to extend the Influence  
of the King's Name, among Nations to which it  
is yet unknown, if the means which I have  
of Correspondence recommended should be judged inadequate  
to further, but much laudable Ends, or impolitic with  
such use of respect to other Circumstances. Of their  
one effectual Justice and moral propriety I have no  
doubt.  
I am ever, my dear Elliot,  
your most affectionate Friend.  
Walter Hartney

to the ill will of their Charter, which are objects of notice of neighbours, objections to his argument, to the support of public Eye, and as I hope it

I am ever, my dear Elliot,  
your most affectionate Friend.

Walter Hartney



Warren Hastings to Elliot 10.2.1777

B-27/2

Duplicate

Fort William 10<sup>th</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 1777.

My dear Elliot

The accompanying Letter was written and intended for the last Dispatch. It contains the particular Application of a System with which you are already well acquainted. Whatever my own Conviction may be of its Expediency, I am tied down from acting directly, nor can I employ even Influence with the Rod of Authority hanging over my Head.

Nor is this my only Difficulty. I cannot communicate a Subject of this Nature through any official Channel. If I write to the Secret Committee, they are too many to be entrusted with it: They may not all be disposed to receive a Proposition from one with Candor; and Bodies of Men, however small, are always indifferent to the Business which is brought regularly before them. I cannot write to the Chairman, because in the first Place I know not who he is, and in the second because both the Gentlemen who hold the first Stations in the Direction at this Time, are as I understand my professed Enemies, and would therefore be more likely to draw Conclusions from what I write to my Disadvantage than to adopt my Recommendations. Neither can I approach the King's Minister on such an Occasion without some preparatory Caution, in which his

h. Elliot Esq. Leivire



Leisure, his Inclinations, and the Ability of the Times should be consulted.

It is impossible for me to foresee what may be the Dispositions in England when this Letter shall arrive. It is equally impossible to reconcile the different Orders which the Court of Directors last Year gave us for our Conduct towards the Powers of India. — They desire us upon no account to enter into any Wars however advantageous to the Company, and they at the same Time direct us to cooperate with the Presidency of Bombay in keeping Possession of the Lands which Rajah ceded to them by Treaty. The first is an absolute Prohibition to interfere in the Politics of India. — The last is a positive Order to interfere, and to engage in a War with the first Power in India.

Being thus at a loss to judge of the Views of the Court of Directors, I am still more so to judge of those of the King, to the Knowledge of which I have no access. I must therefore leave it to you to consider well the Dispositions of the Times, and of the Ministers. If you have

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Times should have Reason to believe that such a System as I  
have recommended will be approved, I must  
advise you to make use of such Means as you shall  
judge most likely to promote it. — If on the contrary  
Men's Minds are adverse to the Retention of our In-  
fluence, you had best say nothing about it, as  
it can serve no good Purpose, and may be  
turned to my Disadvantage.

These Dispatches I shall entrust  
to Captain Toone. You know his worth, and  
my affection for him. I have earnestly recom-  
mended his return, if he can recover his Consti-  
tution, and if your Interest can promote his  
Views you will oblige me by serving him.

I am ever, my dear Elliot,

Your most affectionate Friend  
Warren Hastings

P.S.  
... Indaba who is mentioned in the accompanying Letter has  
been put to death, having been beaten with Clubs till he expired.  
This you know is not murder but simple Manslaughter by the  
Doctrine of Abbi Manafa; but seems to have been done by these Hindoos  
to avoid the shedding of sacred blood; an Argument in favor of Indaba's  
Cause. For a fuller Explanation of the Design which is  
contained



contained in my letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ultimo I have drawn it up  
with as much Accuracy as my Time would allow in  
a Methodical Form in the enclosed Sheets, which I trust  
to your Discretion to make such use of it as you think  
proper. — It is yet incomplete, as I could only venture  
to propose what I saw a moral certainty of accomplishing.  
— In the natural Operation of such an Influence once establish-  
ed many important Objects will start up which it is im-  
possible to foresee, and many which though within  
the reach of Conjecture would <sup>appear</sup> visionary if formally  
detailed. I have no Fear of its failing to produce the  
good Effects which I have described, nor even much  
greater. The only Danger which I should apprehend  
would be from the attempt to make the most of it that  
could be made. The Rapacity of Individuals, and  
the Emulation of those in actual Power to surpass  
their Predecessors, will ever prove the greatest  
Evil of our political System. — Our Alliance with  
the Nabob of Awd is a striking Illustration of this. It  
was in the Beginning an unprofitable Charge to the Co-  
It was placed on a footing of mutual Advantage  
to both. — It is now become an oppressive Burden  
on that Province, which must soon fall with increased  
Weight



2

incisive on the Company. — The late Vizier paid to the Co. a  
Tribute of 25,20,000 Rs. and cheerfully paid it. It was  
optional because he was at liberty to dismiss the Brigade  
when the exigency of his Affairs no longer required  
it; and he could safely dispense with it. — The  
present Nabob has yielded up a Revenue of 23 Lacks  
in the Region of Benaris; — He pays or rather ought to pay,  
31,20,000 Rs. a Year for the Subsidy; — and we have added  
to his Expences an extravagant military Establishment  
which at its estimated Amount is an annual Charge  
of above 40 Lacks. — So that we are in Fact the Distributors  
of a Crore of Rupees drawn from his Treasury, which  
is already exhausted, and that part of his Army which  
still remains under his own Direction is rendered an  
useless and even a dangerous Incumbrance, because  
he cannot pay it. Our Brigade therefore must con-  
-tinue a Lixture to that Province, which would  
be a Prey to the meanest Invader the Instant that  
it was deprived of its Support. — This State of the  
Province of Oudh bad as it is, must necessarily  
continue



continue so while the present Nabob lives. Perhaps it would be a wiser Policy to go even further, and to place able Ministers in the Charge of his Affairs which he chuses to entrust only to the most detestable Wretches of his Dominion, and to restore the Administration to his Successor precisely on the Footing on which it was left by the Nabob Muzja Daula. This last Proposition I most heartily wish to see executed for the Credit of our Faith, and (as it might easily be proved) for the Advancement of our real Interest.

Many of the Propositions in this Scheme require Explanation. This you can give, but I have not Time, and I have already made it too long. Nizam's Pension is due in Justice to him, as he quitted us unwillingly, and followed the King at the express Solicitation of the Commander in Chief of our Army. He has ever proved faithful to us, and possesses such Resources in his military Talents, and in the Credit of them, that while he lives he will be our best Shield against the only Enemy which we have to dread in that Quarter, the Marattas. He has no Money, and can therefore pay no Subsidy, and whenever he dies, we must look to other

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If Peace is to be our Object, I cannot devise a  
more likely way to procure it than to command all the  
Means of War, and this is the only one I would wish  
ever to make of the Plan which I have proposed,  
if it is adopted while I remain here. This I suppose  
will not be long. I wish it not, unless I suspect Power  
and Confidence, and shall be better pleased  
to be recalled at once than to remain with a doubtful  
Authority till the short Time is passed which has been  
allotted me by Parliament, and then go out of  
Course. I would not accept of an Empire on  
such Terms. - If I must give place to General  
Clavering he will revenge the Injustice done me by  
it, if I could seek such a revenge; and if a new  
Member is added in the room of Mr. Mordaunt  
I shall expect the renewal of the same Violence  
which I have already experienced, for  
I



I cannot hope that the Choice will fall on a Friend  
of mine. — Besides it is not in Nature for five Men  
to share the same Power, and not to divide into Factions,  
when one Man can always make a Majority.

I shall not write to you on other Subjects,  
in the first Place because I most ardently wish  
that you may not be in England to receive even  
this: In the second because Bogle has charged  
himself with this duty.

Adieu, once more.

MM.

EEP 41/14/26



B-2713

Duplicate

The Superiority which the English possess over the other Powers of India is derived from two Causes, the Authority of their Government, and their military Discipline. It is by these Advantages only that they can improve or maintain it.

Every political Measure ought to be carefully avoided that may have a Tendency to weaken either

An Extension of Territory beyond certain Bounds is dangerous, & must in the Course of time prove fatal to both.

Remote military Expeditions are liable to the same Effects; but there may be objected to a certain Extent by proper Regulations, and by an undeviating Adherence to them

The Province of Bengal (in which I include Behar) though nearly equal in Dimensions to Great Britain itself, is capable of being defended against any Power which may invade it, so long as it can be supplied with Recruits sufficient to preserve the Superiority of its European Soldiering to the Number of Native Troops which must be necessarily joined to them for its Protection. That Proportion seems to be well ascertained in its present Military Establishment, which, if such a Conclusion may be drawn from past Experience is equal to any Occasion which is again likely to call it forth to Action. Nature herself has furnished the best Defences of this Country, in the unmitigated Genius of the People, the absolute Security of its North and Eastern Frontiers, the Difficulty of Access on the other Borders, and the Multitude of Rivers,

which



which intersect the most valuable parts of it. These altogether form a powerful protection against foreign Invasion and a complete Security against internal Danger.

But I presume that a mere provision made for the common Vicissitudes of political Affairs will not be deemed sufficient to ensure Permanency to the British Dominion, which we have twice seen near the Edge of Ruin; although it had no European Enemy opposed to it. Let the Case be put that the French joined with a numerous Indian Army, and strengthened by other Alliances were to enter Bengal, such a Case is not unlikely for it is scarce to be conceived that they will ever make the Attempt without such a Support. Will three Brigades be sufficient to encounter such an Armament, to repel other Invaders, & to maintain the Dominions of our Ally the Nabob of Oude. I believe that with good Conduct, and that Fortune, which has hitherto supported us in all our greatest Emergencies, it may. Yet it will be impolitic to trust our whole Stake to an equal Hazard, if a more ample Security can be obtained. To effect this purpose on the Principles already laid down, the following Plan is suggested.

1<sup>st</sup> Let one complete Brigade (including the Garrison of Chunar) be appropriated to the Defense of the Province of Oud, the Districts of Corah & Mahabud, and the Division of Rohilund belonging to the Government of Oude. Let the British Officers be recalled from the Nabob's Service whenever it can be done with Safety.

2<sup>d</sup>

While Nedjif Cawn lives let his Pension be confirmed to him, on the Condition of his



his furnishing this Government with a Body of 5000 Horse  
whenever demanded.

3.<sup>d</sup>

Let a Treaty of defensive Alliance be  
formed with the Rajah of Berar. Let such a Number of  
our Battalions of Sepoys, but without any European Infan-  
try or Artillery, as shall be necessary for his Protection,  
be stationed with him, and annually relieved. Let him  
pay a fixed Monthly Subsidy for these of Rupees  
for each Battalion.

4.<sup>th</sup>

Let the Alliance with the Nabob of  
Arcot be confirmed by Treaty, and on the Conditions recom-  
mended in my letter to Lord North of the 5<sup>th</sup> September.  
and let the Nabob be put in full possession of the Terri-  
tory of Tanjore. Let him pay a Monthly Subsidy for  
the British Troops of Sepoys on that Establishment.

5.<sup>th</sup>

The political Connections of the Presidency  
of Bombay cannot be prescribed under the present Uncertain  
State of their Affairs. The Treaty lately ratified with the  
Poonah Government, is not formed for long Duration, and  
the Breach of it, whenever it happens, will either produce  
a State of lasting Hostility, or lead the Government of Bombay  
to new and severe Engagements.

6.<sup>th</sup>

Let every Treaty be executed in the Name  
of the King of Great Britain, expressing the reciprocal  
Conditions of Protection & Fidelity, and with his express  
Sanction.

7.<sup>th</sup>

Let it be lawful for the Governor General  
and Council of Bengal, and for the Presidents & Councils  
of Fort St. George & Bombay, with the Consent of the  
Governor General & Council of Bengal, to enter into  
temporary Agreements, with any other Princes or States  
for a term of Two or three Years only, and renewable  
after the Expiration of that Term.



8.<sup>th</sup> If amongst these any should desire to be bound by perpetual Ties with the King of Great Britain, and their Situation & Consequence shall be such as ~~the~~ will admit of it, such may be received into his Alliance & Protection, on Terms similar to those <sup>of the</sup> Treaties already prescribed, varying only as their Wants and Means may proportionably require it.

9.<sup>th</sup> Let three complete Brigades on the present Establishment be kept up for the Defence of the Provinces of Bengal, and the Dependancies of the Province of Oud, as above described, two of which shall always remain in the former, and relieve that stationed in the latter once in two years.

10.<sup>th</sup> Let an additional Number of Battalions be added to the Brigades for the purpose of furnishing the Aids required in the other Nations beyond our own Provinces.

This System will be attended with the following Advantages

1.<sup>st</sup> It will provide an Encrease of our Military and political Strength without an addition of Expence, which may be employed to cooperate in all its parts to the Defence of our own Possessions, and whenever the Occasion shall be so urgent as to demand it, may be united for the same End.

2.<sup>nd</sup> It will prove an immediate Security to our own Borders.

3.<sup>rd</sup> It will be the means of securing the Friendship and Support of those Powers, who might otherwise be won to the French Interest, if that Nation should ever attempt the Invasion of Bengal, or of the other Presidencies, and be a Check upon others whose Territories lie contiguous to them.

4.<sup>th</sup> It will afford the commanding



Government of Bengal a complete Knowledge of the Strength Connections and Designs of all the Powers of Hindostan, and may enable it to prevent Connections against any of the British Possessions, or those of its Allies.

5<sup>th</sup> It may eventually draw a portion of the Wealth of India into Bengal, not only by the Means of Subsidies paid by the States in Alliance with it, but by opening new Channels of Commerce.

6 It will afford Employment of Support to the Middle Class of the Subjects of Great Britain, whose Services are less required at home than those of the lower Rank of Life.

7<sup>th</sup> To these may be added, though but as negative Advantages, that it will require no Addition of Recruits from England, and that the Eternal Influence of the British Power in India will be extended without any Diminution of its internal Strength, or the Dangers usually attendant on distant military Operations.

8 I foresee many Objections which may be urged against this System, but none which may not be obviated by the Establishment of an active, and permanent Form of Government here, and a fixed Channel of Correspondence at home. The present Constitution is in its Nature incapable of Vigor or Uniformity. It is loaded with Business in Detail, and it wants both Confidence, Authority and Consistency, because the primary Orders under which it acts, are dictated by a variable Body of Men, who have neither Power to reward or punish, who possess no Interest and can derive no Credit from the Success of the Affairs which they superintend, who are charged with no Responsibility, and are subject to a continual fluctuation of Measures both from the Want of progressive Knowledge, & the Change of



of Opinions inseparable from ~~the~~ a Change of Persons.

These Defects obviously point out their own Remedies. It would lead me into too wide a Field, nor is it within the Sphere of my Province, to prescribe them.

I shall conclude with one Observation which I think necessary to obviate the Charge either of Levity or Artifice, which may be imputed to me, for the Multitude of Plans, which I have at different times recommended (should this ever go beyond the hands to which it is immediately directed) for the various Departments & Operations of this Government. In this Attempt I have only trod the Path, which it was equally the Duty of my Predecessors to trace; but which they left unnoticed. On my Arrival in Bengal I found this Government in possession of a great and rich Dominion, and a wide political System, which has been since greatly extended, without one Rule of Government, but what descended to it from its ancient commercial Institutions, or any principle of policy, but such as Accident, or the desultory Judgement of those in actual Power recommended. It was necessary to restore the Authority of Government, to the Source from which its Powers originated, to assume the direct Controul instead of allowing it to act by a concealed & weakened Influence, to constitute an uniform & effectual Mode for the Management & Collection of the public Revenue; to establish regular Courts for the administration of civil and criminal Justice; to give Strength and Utility to its political Connections, and to transfer a Share of its Wealth to Great Britain, without exhausting its Circulation. This, aided by the Abilities and superior Knowledge of my Associates in the

Government



Government, I attempted, because it was essentially necessary  
in itself; because it was my particular Province, and because  
I was expressly enjoined to do it; and, if I may judge by  
the present State of Bengal, notwithstanding the Distractions  
which have prevailed in it for more than two years past,  
the Measures which were adopted for those Ends, were as  
effectual as the Means with which we were supplied  
could enable us to make them. To render them more  
so, to render the Changes which were introduced by the  
late Act of Parliament, more subservient to the  
Purposes for which they were ordained, and to sup-  
-ply the radical Defects which it either created or  
left unremedied I have recommended an additional  
Plan for the Administration of Justice. I have pro-  
-posed Rules for arranging the Powers of Government,  
and both particular & general Systems for our external  
Policy. The same Duty which prompted and com-  
-pelled me to point out the Means of Reformation in one  
Instance, equally enjoined it in all where it was wanting.  
And whether I have erred in my Endeavours, or they shall  
be judged deserving of the public Attention, still they  
were such as appertained to my Trust & Station, &  
such as I could not have withheld without a Crime,  
and whatever part I may leave deficient, my Successors  
must supply, or they will prove themselves unfaithful  
Ministers, and the State which they serve will suffer  
through their Neglect.

I am far from supposing that  
any general Measure of Government, however  
formed, will completely answer all the Ends for which  
it was projected, much less do I presume to aim  
at that degree of Perfection in those which I have  
ventured to recommend. The Dominion exercised by  
the



by the British Empire in India is fraught with many radical and incurable Defects, besides those to which all human Institutions are liable, arising from the Distance of its Scene of operations, The Impossibility of furnishing it at all times with those Aids which it requires from home, and the Difficulty of reconciling its primary Exigencies with those which in all States ought to take place of every other Concern, the Interests of the People who are subjected to its Authority. All that the wisest Institutions can effect in such a System can only be to improve the Advantages of a temporary Possession, and to protract that Decay, which sooner or later must end it.

John R.

EFP 41/14/25.



Ragobah's women, who had no other place to retire to than the serjeant's house; it was impossible to avoid pitying their distress, and condemning the pride and state of the Eastern princes, in exposing their women to the severe trials and dangers of war - These girls followed him on horseback thro' all his forced marches on his retreat, from the plains of Arras - I saw seven at Domus, none of them remarkably handsome, or fairer than the generality of the Hindoo women - They were richly adorned with pearls and jewels, and not very shy, tho' observed by Europeans - a sight perhaps they had never met with before, and were willing to indulge their curiosity, at the same time affording us a fine opportunity of gratifying our own - but the eunuchs to whose care they were entrusted, soon deprived us of our mutual satisfaction, and conducted them to a Pagoda at some distance in the village -

It being too late when Ragobah arrived at Domus to pay him the complimentary visit intended, it was deferred until tomorrow morning, and he retired to a Pagoda to perform his devotions. - We all supped and slept at the serjeant's house at Domus -

13 Anni:  
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MSS. EUR. B. 3.  
Observations on Gujarat (1775)

Domus, March 11<sup>th</sup> 1775.

At sun rise I walked out in the village and adjacent country, but met with nothing meriting a description -

At eleven o'clock Ragobah and his son came to the Chief's tent, pitched under a large Banyan tree; where he was received by the Chief, Colonel Keating, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Stratton and Day - After a short conference, M<sup>r</sup> Cambier presented him in the Company's name, with two handsome horses for himself, and one for his son; also several pieces of linens, muslins and shawls; with a few bales of superfine broad cloth - The gentlemen then took leave, and he remained with his son in the tent, until the tide served for embarking -

At two in the afternoon Ragobah and his family went on board the yacht; the chief & other gentlemen attending him to the water side - before he was carried on board, he stepped on the bank of the river, looked steadfastly at the sun for a few minutes, then prostrated himself on the ground, and uttered a short ejaculation - The Colonel embarked soon after, but the boats grounding several times, we did not get over the bar until midnight, and then came to an anchor -



The Officers on the present service, are.  
 Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Keating Commander in Chief.

Artillery	Infantry & Sepoys	Infantry & Sepoys
Major Gaspard Lagons -	Captains Charles West	Ensigns William Hudson
Captains John Westchall	Michael Smith	Philip England
John Nugent -	James Hartley	Seniors Gethwick
Lieutenants. James Macneal	James Stewart	John Clift
John Sam <sup>l</sup> . Terriano	Robert Scott	Edward Denom
Thomas Dighton	Lieutenants William Cuthbert	Charles Brauns
John Hallamby.	Robert Morris	John Brown
Lieut. Fireworkers	Abraham Henry	George Gunn
John Bellaf	Alexander Cadjan	Thomas Williams
John Wilkinson	Zachariah Cook	William Boyd
George S <sup>th</sup> Le Thomas	Thomas Dawson	Roger Brunrigg
Alc <sup>o</sup> . Mac <sup>r</sup> . Richardson	William Hayes	John Riddell.
Infantry & Sepoys	Thomas Kelly	Cadets & Volunteers
Major Robert Hapard	Charles Yonge	Charles Stuart
Captain John H. Perkins	Thomas Cheek	Henry Oakes
	Alexander Jans	Thomas Marshall
	William Puffer	George Clancy
	Thomas Anderson	----- Bartlett
		Fuldeni Dagon.
Staff - Double appointments &c:		
Mr. John Forlepe	Commissionary	
Mr. James Forbes	Chaplain	
Mr. George Livibond	Judge Advocate	
Mr. Thomas Helwen	Paymaster & Secretary	
Capt. James Stewart	Major of Brigade	
Capt. James Hartley	Quarter Master General	
Lieut. J. S. Terriano	Captain of Pioneers	
Lieut. John Bellaf	Aid du Camp	
Mr. Samuel Richardson	Surgeon Major	
Peter Fraser	Surgeon	
John Blakeman	Ditto -	
John Blakeman	Ditto -	

Cambray, 22<sup>d</sup> March 1775.

These few days past I have spent in viewing the city; which is situated at the head of the gulf of Cambray, twenty miles from Surat, in the Latitude of 22 Deg. North - It is now only three miles in circumference, surrounded with a brick wall about five feet thick, flanked with fifty two round towers, but the greatest part of the fortifications are out of repair: there are cannons mounted in several of the towers, but the Asiatics are not famed for good gunners - The curtains are filled with loop holes for musketry, but the rampart is too narrow for cannon - Cambray is built on uneven ground, tho' on the whole it may be said to be on an eminence - there is no ditch round it, but houses, mosques and tombs close to the very walls - the suburbs to the north are surrounded by a wall & towers, and included as part of the town - But these are all modern works in comparison to the city itself, which was founded near twelve hundred years ago, and was then of great extent -

Cambray once so famous, so renowned a city, is now entirely changed, and all its grandeur buried in ruins! cast your eyes around, and you meet with nothing but desolation; uninhabited streets.



of the Most-High - This is a reason I heard for not rebuilding this fallen Minaret -

There is also a curious Gentoo Pagoda in this city, where, for a small present to the Brahmens, strangers of any religion are admitted. I went there, and being desirous of drawing some of the images, was permitted to remain there for four hours - I was first conducted into a court almost square; with a skylight at the top; and the walls adorned with images, niches and mosaic-work in stucco - on the east side was an inner temple, the whole length of the outer court, and about six feet broad - In this were placed several deities in the Hindu mythology, carved in marble, nearly of the human size - most of them were white, one of a glossy black, and another small one of a yellow marble, or some composition in imitation - numbers of their divinities of an inferior size, and cast in silver, brass and other metals were ranged below them - After seeing all that was curious here, the Brahmens lighted candles, and descended about thirty feet underground, desiring me to follow them - I went down a tolerable stair case, which led into a temple nearly

thirty feet square, without light, and forming a dome at the top - on three sides of this subterraneous temple were niches, or separate cells, capable of holding one person each, a step higher than the floor - on the east, as above was an inner temple, five or six feet broad, the whole length of the larger one - In this sanctum-sanctorum were five images cut in white marble; the deity in the center (called Parionaut) is sitting in the eastern manner; but if upright would measure thirteen feet in height - I cannot say much for the sculpture, tho' by far the best I have seen in India - the face expresses no character; and tho' the limbs are not inelegantly turned, no vein or muscle appears throughout - This is a general fault of the statues in the Gentoo Pagodas; the caves at the islands Salette and Elephanta are the same - and here I cannot help remarking the great similitude between the baso-reliefs in those caves, and the images in this Pagoda - the same flat faces in the Egyptian taste; the head dresses much alike; and the Cobra-capelle so often met with there, is here carved in the most conspicuous place, among the Sanscrit characters below the principal deity - The small images, pillars and other ornamental



works surrounding this statue are highly finished - but what appears disagreeable is the gold plates on the pit of the stomach, round the eyes, and on the breasts. The eyes are jewels, or perhaps a composition in imitation, and the eye brows on all painted black - such ornament would spoil the most beautiful sculpture; and of course add no beauty to this; which in comparison to the admired statues in Europe is indifferent - The figures on each side of the principal image are much smaller, two entirely plain; the others ornamented exactly as the above is described -

In the suburbs are still some beautiful monuments in the form of small temples; and the remains of others that in the Indian style are elegant in ruins - An inscription on one of them mentions its having been erected to the memory of a rich Mogul, who died of hunger in the time of a most grievous famine, that almost desolated the Guzerat provinces - so great was the scarcity, that this tomb records the deceased offered a measure of the most precious pearl, for an equal quantity of grain, but not being able to procure it, he perished thro' want -

Furne

From the quantity of mafey stones and scattered reliques of marble sculptures now lying about this town, one may judge of its former magnificence and wealth - since the charges of bringing them hither must have been immense; being conveyed by land carriage some hundred miles from hence - So fine in the Asiatic taste, in some of the workmanship, that I have been credibly informed the dust of the marble, worked out from the mosaic figures, was weighed against an equal quantity of gold, as a compensation for the artificer's trouble - Indeed the ancient splendour of Cambay, and the trade carried on, must have been prodigious; since the customs on so trifling an article as tamarinds, alone amounted to twenty thousand Rupees  $\text{₹}$  annuums -

The trees growing among the houses in this city, are filled with parrots, doves, and other beautiful birds; and squirrels innumerable jumping from spray to spray; it struck me as something very remarkable in so large a town; but it was the case when much more populous than at present; for neither the Moguls or Gontors ever destroy them; as they are never molested, they are not at all shy, and



I have often sat for hours together under a tree filled with cooing doves, and chattering parrots, that took not the smallest notice of me -

The manufactures of chintz and fine piece goods, for which in more prosperous days this city was famed, are dwindled to nothing - the weavers are few, and those very poor - hardly a merchant of eminence or credit to be met with - many reasons may be ascribed for this decline of commerce; a principal one, the oppressive government of the Nabs - another the retreating of the sea, which once flowed within a few yards of the city walls, but now the boats anchor two miles off -

Indigo was formerly a staple commodity here, and is still manufactured in large quantities - great pains is taken in the cultivation of this plant, and many extensive grounds near the city entirely filled with it - I have annexed a drawing of the Indigo plant, by which you may form a better idea of it than from a dry description - the Indigo blue as it used in England, is made from the leaves of the plant; which they cut just as the leaves begin to fall off; & after stripping them from the stalks, they expose them in a certain quantity of water, with a small proportion of sweet oil, for thirty or forty hours - after which they pour off the water, then enclosing it in a cloth to hue; afterwards the leaves are taken out and dried in the sun to separate them entirely from the water; when it is pressed out to dry in the sun; & made into small cakes for use -

Cornelians, Agates, Arrangoes, and those beautiful variegated stones, generally known by the name of Mocha-stones, are manufactured in Cambay - the Gemers are produced in a peculiar spot a days journey to the south, nearer Barocke than Cambay - they are dug out of the ground about thirty feet deep, and when cleansed from the dirt, are exposed to the sun for two years - they are then boiled for the space of forty eight hours, and brought to Cambay to be cut and polished - Their being found in Mylio river near Cambay is a mistake; they are dug out of the earth as above described, and if exposed to the sun only a few months are of little value; the longer they remain in the heat, the brighter and deeper is the color - fire will not do; the stones crack, have but little lustre, and will not receive so fine a polish - The Agates are of various colors; those more generally understood by the name of Cornelians are red, white, and black - Those pretty variegated stones for rings bracelets and snuff-boxes, with the trees and landscapes so beautifully delineated, are brought from Ephenwange and other places adjacent - forty or fifty cups from hence.

The country in the vicinity of Cambay is very fertile and pleasant; abounding in the most luxuriant crops of wheat, and several other valuable



destroying the treaty, where Mr. Lombard some days ago was sent to his camp to procure a ratification, and his having openly fought against us in every engagement, plainly evinces that he was only deceiving us - which indeed is entirely of a piece with Sultan Sing's general character.

Neriad 12<sup>th</sup> May 1775.

We have remained encamped under these walls since the 8<sup>th</sup> without any molestation from the confederate army - The reason of remaining here so long, is owing to Ragobah having imposed a tax of sixty one thousand Rupees, on the inhabitants of Neriad - This is customary among the Indians on an enemies town - and is indeed at present a piece of good policy in Ragobah, whose distress for money is very great, without any prospect of a supply from his southern territories, or expectations from the English - his army in long arrears, is very discontented, & his principal officers all as needy as himself -

The inhabitants of Neriad at first refused to submit to this imposition, but being threatened with the worst consequences, most of the casts at last thought proper to comply; and the money has been hitherto

recovering by slow degrees - each cast is taxed according to its wealth and numbers - The Brahmins and Bhauts claim a privilege from time immemorial, of being exempted from paying impositions of any kind - As the latter have something very singular in their manners and customs, I shall here just give a short account of them.

The **Bhauts** are a set of people, chiefly employed in repeating verses in the Gento, Thastar; many of them pretend to be poets, and make verses themselves, which they chant in a particular method; modulating their voices in a manner they think adds to the strength or beauty of their poetry, and peculiar to this set of people. These verses they generally make in praise of some great man, or in commemoration of a particular battle - The Rajahs and Princes of the East have generally a Bhaut belonging to their house, whom they pay well; he always attends them in public, particularly on a visit, and in loud notes, (disagreeable to a European ear) sounds forth their praises - This tribe among the Hindoos in every respect much resemble our ancient bards and minstrels; like them repeat their legendary tales, and are in a manner the oral historians of the country -

These Bhauts also stand security



for debts of the villagers to the government; from one government to another; or even between private persons. No security is looked upon so sacred or so certain, as upon failure of the bond or obligation between the parties, they certainly would destroy either themselves, or one of the tribe, and spill the blood before the face of that person who backs the engagement or refused the payment. This is looked upon as the most unfortunate circumstance, & the Hindus are taught to believe that the blood of the Bhatt thus spilt, will most assuredly be demanded at their hands from Heaven - so that one seldom hears of an instance of a debt not being paid where a Bhatt stands security.

Many of this tribe hold & cultivate lands, but pay no kind of taxes; and an attempt to lay any on them would most assuredly be attended with no other consequences than their being guilty of the Tarakaw, a most horrid method of murdering either themselves or one another - This they say it is absolutely incumbent on them to do: as were they voluntarily to submit to pay any tax or imposition, those of their own cast, in other towns and countries, would refuse eating or drinking with them, or giving their children

in marriage - they therefore prefer a voluntary death to such a state of ignominy and disgrace. - This I thought not unnecessary to premise to the following circumstance.

The town of Neriad has been no less than twice taxed and plundered within these few months by Tuttee Sing and Canda Row - The tax now levied by Ragobass, reduces the inhabitants to the most cruel distress indeed - the most shocking scenes hourly present in every quarter of the town, of ruined families delivering up their last mite - which if insufficient to answer their quota of the tax, their houses are instantly stripped of every moveable, every necessary of life; and the poor creatures left to the severity of poverty and want - nay, under pretence of their having buried valuables, which perhaps they never possessed, tortures are inflicted, and with no sparing hands - Sorry I am that an English army has even the appearance of being concerned in such measures: if the master has offended, let him suffer, not his innocent subjects: at least let not the British sword be drawn in behalf of such Asiatic cruelties and compulsions!

In Neriad reside a number of Bhattas, who sooner than pay the share of the tax



demanding from them, rushed out men, women, & children, armed with swords and scimitars, and threatened to put themselves and one another to death. - The tax was not remitted - when several cut themselves to pieces, and died in the most cruel tortures, before they could be disarmed - One man in particular, brought out his family before Captain West, consisting of two brothers, and a most beautiful girl his sister - all under eighteen years of age; sooner than submit to the imposition, he murdered his sister and one of his brothers, and desperately wounded the other, before he could be seized - With this tribe a Parricide is a hero of the first stamp; I myself saw a man, who boasted, as of a feat of the highest glory, that he had a few months before murdered his father in the like cause -

The Brahmins, something wiser than the Bhucts, bought two old women of their cast for forty Rupees a piece from their daughters, and brought them before the English troops to shed their blood - there they murdered them, calling aloud for vengeance; and after this sacrifice at the shrine of liberty and independence, they hold it not so much disgrace to submit to their fate, exacted indeed by one of their own tribes -

The city of Neriad is the capital of Condar Row Guicawar, where he usually resides; the his Durbar is by no means a magnificent building - This town is near three miles in circumference, fortified in the Eastern manner with a wall flanked by round towers - this wall is at present mostly mud; but some parts lately built are composed of brick and chunam, very strong; and I soon apprehend the whole town will soon be surrounded with a wall of this kind. - Neriad has nine gates, most of them strong and neatly finished, seemingly just built - there is a small ditch round great part of the town, not many yards over, but from ten to fifteen feet deep, at present dry - Neriad contains twelve thousand houses; several manufactures are carried on here, particularly Fine Baglan; and the spring stones from Copsiwange, mentioned at Cambay, are cut and polished here - Contrary to most other large towns I have seen in India, Neriad appears in a flourishing condition, whilst the others are on the decline - Its revenues are about three lacks of Rupees of annuities -

Adjoining Neriad, are several groves of Santal-wood; of an inferior kind to that produced in the Pednare country; but still might be turned to some account - its smell, tho' not so powerful, exactly resembled the true Santal-wood, nor was it of a bad color -



are now encumbered with a large hospital - We have no  
battering cannon with us, and the season is too far advanced  
to wait for any from Broach, or our other settlements -  
Lastly it is a measure that at present has no relation to  
our grand object, conducting Rajabah in the most expeditious  
manner to Pennah - For which purpose alone the lives  
of our Europeans should be risked, and our ammunition  
and stores expended -

### Padrah 23<sup>d</sup> May 1775.

The siege of Brodera being dropped for the present, we  
started from Coelic at sun rise - After travelling three  
miles thro a fine country, we halted a short time at a  
village called Sevasee-Contrav, which was large, with  
liberal houses, and a small neat Pagoda; a good tank  
and plenty of wells - One of them highly deserving a  
particular description -

Over a plain without the villages  
we observed a building of handsome masonry; the walls  
not very high, and domes at each end, which made it  
appear like a Mosque, or Mahometan tomb - This wall  
formed an oblong square of at least two hundred feet, by  
forty or fifty - I went to the entrance at the west end,  
which

which in the Asiatic taste was not indelicate - This entrance  
was a handsome porch or alcove, supported by strong well  
cut pillars, each of one solid stone, ten or twelve feet high.  
- From whence I descended by an hundred and sixteen  
stone steps, to a reservoir of exceeding fine water - Tho  
the steps I could plainly distinguish reached much lower  
under the water - Allowing each step to be half a foot  
high, which I believe to be nearly right, it makes the  
top of the well, equal with the surface of the plain, to be  
near sixty feet above the water - This space is filled by  
six heights of pillars of a singular order; but not all  
alike; supporting large cross stones the breadth of the well.  
- Each pillar is ten feet high, and each of one solid stone;  
with base, shaft, and capital, in due proportion - There  
are four rows of these colonades, two of pillars, two pilasters,  
forming three magnificent avenues down the stairs, to the  
water - a handsome, tho gloomy view from the top; but  
from the bottom, to cast ones eyes directly above, it  
inspires an idea awful and grand - There is sufficient  
light to observe all the beauties of this extraordinary  
place, even to the very bottom - There are several landing  
places, with niches on each side, and a small mosaic work  
well finished - On the first landing place, over the



cross stone is some curious sculpture, and an inscription in Indian characters - but our halt was too short for me to take them off, knowing the enemy were in the way.

When we consider that in this country for some hundred miles around there is not a stone of any kind to be met with, the price of this grand reservoir must have been immense - the expense of bringing the materials, exclusive of the workmanship was I doubt not a very considerable part - The Maharattas with us, who are judges of these things estimate the cost at fifteen Lacks of Rupees (or one hundred and eighty seven thousand, five hundred pounds sterling) - This sum to a European is almost incredible, and may perhaps be exaggerated, - but let us remember the antiquity of this work, and the former wealth of the Guzerat provinces - Let us recollect what has been before observed, how noble a charity it is to dig a well in these thirsty climates: what high encomiums have ever been bestowed on the memory of such public benefactors, both in scripture and profane authors; and what at this day gains a man the greatest credit throughout Hindostan - Trevenot, the famous French traveller, admired for his veracity, mentions a well of this kind at Ahmedabad, built by a nurse of a king

of Guzerat, which cost thirty millions -

About two o'clock we encamped under the walls of Padrah, a large town in the Broderas district, belonging to the Guicawar family - tolerably defended by a wall of mud and brick, and several strong towers - the houses were very good, and the inhabitants not deserted them, which was the case in most other places we passed. This town and villages under it yield a revenue of fifty thousand Rupees a year to Broderas - We marched this day in a south direction, without molestation -

The Broderas Pergunnah, and the districts belonging to Gondar Row near Seriad, are the richest plains that can be imagined - the land is laid out in extensive inclosures, all cultivated, and the hedges full of Mangoes and other Fruit trees - The groves of Tamarinds in this month, adorned with a new verdure, and also in full blossom, diffuse a most fragrant smell all around - These plains likewise abound with a variety of other kind of trees - one in particular of the size, and at a small distance exactly the appearance of the English Oak - it bears a small fruit called the Kermey, of a pale yellow, very sweet and luscious, in shape and taste much resembling a date -



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he fled from his capital into this loose country, where  
he shortly after died of a broken heart, and was buried  
far from the sepulchre of his forefathers — During the  
siege General Weddellburne lost his life; and a tomb  
is erected to his memory near the flag-staff tower, with  
a long inscription, setting forth his martial feats.

Near this city have been several  
magnificent mosques, and mahometan tombs, now going  
fast to decay, particularly that of Bourah, a mile from  
town — The Nabob's gardens are the best laid out, and  
most extensive of any I have seen in India; abounding  
with all kinds of India Fruits and vegetables; and con-  
taining several pleasure houses, fountains and tanks;  
the whole since the capture of Baroche, much out of  
repair, and going fast to ruin —

Situated in so fertile a province,  
it cannot be supposed that Baroche is in want of pro-  
visions — It abounds with fine beef, mutton, kid,  
and fowls — venison and wild fowl in their season;  
fruit and vegetables in plenty; and the river Nerbada  
which washes the southern walls, furnishes it with  
fine carp, and other fish —

Baroche has always been a place

of considerable Trade — very fine manufactures in cotton  
have been constantly carried on — and great part of  
the cotton from all the adjacent country, as also from  
Ahmed and Jambooscer is sent off from hence in  
boats to Surat, for the other parts of India — as from  
the difficult and dangerous navigation in the gulph of  
Cambay, few ships venture higher up than Surat —

The river Nerbada takes its rise in  
a mountain far to the eastward, near a place from  
whence a branch of the Ganges is supplied; if not from  
the very same source — It is esteemed by the Hindoos  
a most sacred stream; but little inferior to the Ganges.  
Throughout the whole day the Hindoo women of the  
highest casts in Baroche are bathing in this river;  
without paying the least attention, or being at all abashed  
by spectators, even Europeans — Indeed I must do  
them the justice to acknowledge that they stuff their  
garment, (which is only one long piece of drapery),  
hanging in negligent and easy folds) in the most  
expeditious manner imaginable, without giving the  
least offence to modesty — Custom reconciles every  
thing — a Persian husband is not in the least jea-  
lous, tho' he sees his wife, in the prime of life and



gleam of beauty, bathing in the same streams with a hundred of the opposite sex - I must here quote a remark of Mr. Pops, which I believe in describing the Malabars, I had once before occasion to mention -

" It is in manner, in some degree as in dress; if a  
 " fashion never so indecent prevails, yet no person  
 " is ridiculous because it is fashionable: so in  
 " manners, if a practice prevails universally, tho'  
 " not reconcileable to real modesty, yet no person  
 " can be said to be immodest who comes into it,  
 " because it is agreeable to the custom of the times  
 " and countries " -

I think I observed fairer and handsomer women in the Nertodak, than I have met with in any other part of India; and as to symmetry of shape and regularity of features, I fancy there are few but will allow that the Gentoo women of the high tribes equal any in the world while young - 'tis in point of complexion only they fall short of Europeans; I mean in external graces; for as to mental accomplishments they are so infinitely inferior to my fair countrywomen, that I draw no comparison; and must also add that after they attain the age of twenty,

all personal beauty and comeliness is lost -

Besides the daily sacrifices offered to the Nertodak, and other solemn rites at stated periods; there is once in forty five years, when some particular constellations meet, a very great festival at this river, near Barocher, called the Great Jattarak - a resort of pilgrims from all parts of India; high and low, rich and poor, in short every Hindoo that can travel, once in his life wishes to be present at this solemnity; as much as a zealous Musulman desires to visit the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina - This festival happened last year, when a sickness little less fatal than the plague, raged among them, and carried off thousands -

In the neighbourhood of Barocher are some fine wells - particularly one built by Lullatoy, a famous Banian in this city, and bearing his name; but all these wells are much inferior to that at Seasser Comhar; nor do I recollect any thing else meriting a description -