

Revenue letter from Madras: 22.1.1800
(Extract)

49. The measures, founded on the success of the detachment, (e) have produced the most extensive and entire change in the condition of the Polygars: from a horde of armed and independent chieftains, powerful enough to resist the authority of the state, they are become landholders, incapable, at present, of offence: from a lawless banditti, carrying war and depredation into the neighbouring provinces, they are become a disarmed peasantry dependent on the power of the Company for the protection of their lives and property, against the resentment and force of their former enemies.

50. Under these circumstances and a continuation of the measures, which have produced this change, we trust that the foundation is established for introducing that reform in the Government of the Polygars, which has so long been judged necessary to the due realization of the Poishoush and to the preservation of permanent tranquility in that province, by commutating their military service for a fixed assessment on their (p) territorial possessions.

hon'ble

51. This reform your/court will observe is materially connected with the general improvement of the revenue and judicial system under this Presidency, and provision has accordingly been made for it in the able report of the Board of Revenue, which we have already pointed out to your notice.

52. For this purpose we have made application to the Governor General in Council for the immediate establishment of a power to administer civil and criminal justice; for not only the former imperfect means of executing these essential duties of Government has been fundamentally subverted; but it is indispensable to the future establishment of order that the power should not for a day revert to the hands of the Polygars. In the meanwhile the presence of the detachment will be necessary in the province; and in a state of full equipment; because it is the only efficient instrument by which the superior powers of Government can be exercised; and because its protection is necessary to secure the Polygars against the depredations of the bordering Collieries of the Nabob's territories. (p)

53. Previously to the introduction of courts into the Polygar countries for the administration of civil and criminal justice under the authority of the Company's Government, for which we wait the sanction of the Governor General in Council we have resolved to establish the following principles, founded on the reports of the Board of Revenue, dated 23 October 1797 and Aug 1799.

1st That the Polygars shall be relieved from all the military and police duties attached to the terms of their tenures and that the Company charge themselves, as well with the military protection of the country, as with the administration of the police.

2nd That the Polygars shall be divested of all interference whatever in the circar lands.

3rd That the Bask-dawel fees, due from the circar lands to the Polygars, and all other established collections, arising therefrom, shall for the present be collected by the immediate officers of the Company's Government. (p)

4th That the principal Polygars shall no longer be allowed the office of Tallum-Gawel-Carraha.

5th That the Tallum Gawel shall be restored to the intention of its first institution, by limiting the enjoyment of the fee to the executors of the duty.

6th That the Pollams which have been sequestered, shall be declared forfeit and made Havelly.

IOR: E/4/327

(e) Refers to Major Bannerman's exploits in Tinnevely etc.

(Revenue Letter from Madras: 22.1.1800)

54. On these principles we have directed that means shall be taken for obtaining the most accurate information of the remaining resources of the Polygars, in order that a correspondent assessment may be fixed on their respective Pollams, founded on principles similar to those of the zemindari assessment, and that the most minute enquiries shall be made into local circumstances, and usages, by which the future laws may be tempered.

23.2

Madras Government to Board of Revenue on Military Law in Kimmedy: 23.11.1799.
(Extract)

Until the courts for the administration of criminal justice can be introduced under the authority of the civil Government, we have judged it indispensable to the maintenance of order and government, that Col Vigors should be vested with powers to try (p 3015) before a military tribunal all offenders who shall be found in arms against the Company's Government authority, and we desire, that this power may be included in the proposed draft of the proclamation.

Government to Col Urban Vigors: 23.11.1799
(Extract)

His lordship hereby authorises and empowers you to bring to trial by a summary process and to punish capitally all persons, who shall be found in arms in opposition to the Company's orders.

IOR: P/275/37: Madras Revenue Proceedings: pp 3011-6, and 3017-9

(GOVERNMENT ASTONISHMENT AND DISAPPROBATION OF SERVANTS CONDUCT)

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Board of Revenue to Government: 28.3.1800
(Extract)

10. We have the honour to lay before your lordship copy of a correspondence with the late and present collector at Nagore on the subject of a complaint addressed to us by Mr Waddell of Madras, in consequence of fees having been demanded by, and paid, to the register of Nagore on the sale of a vessel at that place by public auction.

11. Having no information of any such fees being authorized at Nagore, we called upon Mr Grant for an explanation on the subject, who stated that the office of register, has always been considered attached to the general department, and consequently devolved upon him, and the sanction under which the fees were collected was long prescription and established usage of the place.

12. Nagore having been transferred (p 1309) to Mr Harris we directed him to state to us the amount and by whom the fees were enjoyed and by his report it appears, that various fees, estimated at a monthly amount of Star Pagodas 107 have been established, some by the judicial court of Nagore, and others by prescription, and that they have been enjoyed by the Resident and Collector carrying on the duties of the port and town.

13. We do not know whether the collection of these fees has been reported to any other department, and it is our intention with your lordship's sanction, to order their immediate abolition, but as the collection of the fees $6\frac{1}{2}$ percent on the sale of the vessel P.N.Pagodas 115-12-65 appears to have been made by Mr Grant under the authority of the court (p 1310) of Nagore and as we are uninformed of the powers delegated to that court by Government, we request your lordship's orders on the claim to restitution made by Mr Waddell.

Government to Board of Revenue: 28.3.1800
(Extract of Minute)

The board are much astonished and most seriously concerned at the correspondence with the collectors of Nagore on the subject of the fees and emoluments which appear to have been levied without being brought to the Company's account contrary to the intent and meaning of the act of the 33rd year of the king, as well as to the letter of the Revenue oath prescribed by that act, and administered to all Revenue servants. No fees or emoluments (p 1315) of the nature described by the collector having been authorized by the Board; they can ascribe the countenance to levy them by the public officers in trust at Nagore, to nothing but a deplorable laxity of principle in the interpretation of the law, and of the moral and religious obligations, contained in the oath. If therefore the fact shall be established to the extent which the Board apprehend, it will be their indispensable duty to institute a criminal process in the court of law against the offending parties. As however they observe that the practice of levying these fees has in some measure been sanctioned to the late collector by the example of his predecessors they are not without some hope that the offence may be ascribed more to a negligent adherence to established custom, than to a deliberate disregard of the obligations (p 1316) of an oath.

Until this point can be ascertained the Board would be extremely averse to stigmatize the general character of the revenue officers, under this presidency, by instituting a criminal prosecution

IOR: Madras Revenue Proceedings: P/275/40 (14.2 to 28.3.1800, pp 805-1320): Proceedings 28th March. Note: The date of the letter from B Of R is sometime before the 28th.

on so delicate a point affecting in the deepest manner the foundations on which the internal constitution of this Government is about to be raised. Resolved accordingly, that Mr Grant be required to make a solemn declaration of the motives under which he has been loose enough to support these abuses which it was the express intention of the legislature to eradicate.

Ordered also, that the present collector of Nagore may be directed to furnish a statement of the fees and emoluments, which have been received by the collectors on this account since (p 1317) the year 1793 in order that the whole may be brought to the account of the Company.

Resolved entirely to reject the grounds on which the extraordinary fees have been demanded on the sale of Mr Waddell's vessel either for the Company, or for the collector, and to direct that every species of unauthorised fee or emoluments at Nagore, shall be immediately abrogated by a public proclamation under the authority of the present collector.

Agreed further to express the Board's most unqualified displeasure at the sentiments expressed by Mr Grant relative to the assertion of his rights by an individual under protection of the Company's Government, and their astonishment that the resistance made to this illegal and immoral demand, did not excite in the collector's mind a better sense (p 1318) of the duties, and obligations to which he had bound himself, before God and his country.

Sentiments of this description and a conduct founded on them are more than a sufficient disqualification for administering the ordinary duties of the Revenues but when their operation is extended to the system of law and government which are about to be established, the Board shudder at the consequences of so dormant a conscience.

These reflections give rise to the most alarming apprehensions lest the same laxity of interpretation should have been indulged in other provinces of these territories, and as nothing can be of more serious importance to the honor of the Government, or to the security of its subjects, than the integrity on (p 1319) which the office of judge and magistrate should be administered, it is ordered, that these sentiments shall be communicated to every covenanted subject in the Revenue Department, and a specific declaration obtained of the interpretation which has been given to the act of the 33rd of his present majesty. It is further resolved that every collector shall be required to state whether any adventitious emolument over and above the allowed public salary, has been derived from the obsolete periods of the Company's Government, in order that if any such abuses shall have been preserved by implied sanction they may be formally abolished by an act of the Governor in Council.

Ordered that instructions to the above effect be sent to the Board of Revenue.

NOTE: Till about 1786, when the British Parliamentary act of 1784 made most such emoluments unauthorised and thus led in most cases to the merging of such income in the salary by an appropriate increase in it, most British servants in India following the current British practice levied various fees etc and these were considered to be part of their total income. The 1793 act, wishing to make the servants wholly dependent on established authority, abolished such indirect emoluments. However the earlier practice of Revenue collectors receiving a small salary and a much larger commission on net collections gained greater importance in Madras from about 1780.

23.4

Salem Collector's Proposal on Temple Allowances &c : Oct-Nov 1800Extracts1. Collector, W. Macleod, to Board of Revenue: 2.10.1800 ①

6. The Pagoda and mosque allowances which were estimated last year for the districts south of the Cauvery were inadequate to the amount that ought reasonably to be allowed them, which I noticed in my letter of the 19th February accompanying the jummabundy. But as it ought generally be an invaluable rule, that revenue charges should not exceed the sum estimated, I did not think it would have been proper to apply for an increase before the end of the year. The sum now estimated for the districts south of the river exceeds the estimated and disbursed amount of last year by Page 3,320, conformably to a meyen sabitah made out for each separate pagoda and of which No.6 of the estimates is the abstract.

The lands which had been formerly allotted to these religious establishments were resumed by Tippee Sultaun. But his revenue was not increased thereby, as the lands were commonly returned as uncultivated - and the produce taken partly for the pagodas - and private individuals. The present mode of management being more regular, the rent of the lands which formerly belonged to the (p 8559) pagodas is collected with as much care as the rest of the revenue. For many reasons too tedious to mention on this occasion it is more systematic and defined to allow them money instead of land to support their ceremonies and establishments. The policy and justice of granting these allowances, is so evident, that it is unnecessary to adduce any arguments in favour of it.

There are still several pagodas not included in the meyen sabitah which have a fair claim on the Government for similar allowances, but for want of leisure to decide upon them, I have not inserted them. Hereafter it is probable a further increase of about 2,000 Pagodas may be required to make the amount of this charge limited for the whole of the districts south of the Cauvery. Even then the actual expence would be much less than the revenue derived from the lands they had.

The estimates for the districts north of the Cauvery are 400 Pagodas less for Fusly 1210 than they been for last year. This decrease is on account of an allowance for the choultry in the Tasseer Pass being included in last year's estimates but as the choultry is on the bounds of the Barramah collection, the disbursement of this charge is made by the collector (p 8560) of Barramah.

13. (p 8566) It is customary among the native governments to grant presents of cloths and turbands &c to headmen who may become settlers in new villages or streets whether they may be traders or manufacturers. For this pupose 60 Page are estimated.

15. (p 8567) The pagodas on the south side of the Cauvery were robbed by the late Tippee Sultaun of all the brass and copper furniture or ornaments they had. To replace them would probably require about 2,000 Pagodas.

The buildings of these pagodas being neglected, as to repairs, for the last 17 or 18 years, would require a considerable sum being laid out on them.

In the districts north of the Cauvery repairs only are wanted,

ICR: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings: @ P/286/44: dated 9.10.1800. @ P/286/45: dated 26.10.1800. @ P/286/46: 6.11 and 8.11.1800

as the pagodas were not plundered, and therefore 2,000 Pagodas it is supposed, would be sufficient. For the pagodas south of the river 4,500 would be required to repair them and replacing the ordinary furniture they formerly had. In the districts north of the Cauvery, no repairs were ever made or furniture purchased at the expense of our Government. I hope that my applying (p 8568) for the amount of 6,500 Pagodas for these purposes will be considered as consistent with the intentions and liberal policy of Government in not only tolerating, but in supporting, so far as may be justice, the religious establishments of its subjects. Although this sum may seem large, it is less than one percent on the gross revenue of the districts.

2. Board of Revenue to Government: 26.10.1800 ee

5. In the present estimate the village sibbendy (p 9148), NO. 5 in the statement, amount to 8Page 39,482-23-9 and the pagodas and mosque allowances to 22,556-33-63.

6. The former we understand to be merely the value of the lands appropriated to the use of the/village establishments debited /ee and credited in account for the purpose of showing the amount thereof, the parties retaining the possession of the lands and the produce; the latter however is to be paid to the pagodas &c in money in lieu of lands they held now included in the rent and the collector observes there are pagodas not included in his present statement which have a fair claim on Government for similar allowances but for want of leisure he has not been able to decide upon them; That an addition of 2,000 Page may be required to limit this demand for the whole of the districts south of the Cauvery, and even then the actual expense will be much less than the revenue derived from the lands they formerly enjoyed.

7. Your Lordship has fully admitted the good policy of liberally contributing to the maintenance of the religious establishments of the inhabitants of the Company's territories. But whether this indulgence should be granted in money payable from the treasury, or an equivalent in land is a question for determination. We are not like the (p 9149) collector fully impressed with the expediency of the former mode, and we enclose an extract of a letter to Col Read on this subject with his replies. We are of opinion it will be deemed a more permanent arrangement by the natives as it will be a more convenient one to the Government to revert to the ancient usage and to endow the several pagodas with a given extent of land secured for their exclusive use by the sanction of Government in like manner as the pagoda and Coliga maniums are directed to be arranged by your Lordship's late orders to the collector of Dindigul.

8. Should your Lordship concur on our sentiments, we shall direct the collector to ascertain what amount is required for the complete maintenance of the pagodas and mosques in his district and to appropriate lands accordingly, submitting such regulations as he may deem advisable for securing the object of Government in granting this indulgence.

9. For the present year this cannot however be effected. We therefore recommend that the charge proposed on this account, as well as the other disbursements recommended by Capt Macleod, for the advantage and improvement of his district, and on which he calculates an increase from the favourable (p 9150) appearance of the season of from 25 to 40,000 Page with former years may meet your Lordship's sanction.

Note: Amounts stated in collector's letter:

	Est.	F 1209		F 1210
		Disbursed	Est.	
North of Cauvery	11,636-38648	10,599-27-25	11,236-36-12	
South of Cauvery	8,000			

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3. Government to Board of Revenue: 1.11.1800 see

5. We are of opinion with you, that it will be more eligible to provide for the maintenance of the religious establishments of our newly acquired territories by specific endowments in land agreeably to the ancient institutions of the country; than by annual fixed payments. We direct therefore you will give the subject your serious consideration submitting to us with your deliberations, information from the districts under the collector of Salem, similar to that we required from the collector at Bindigul.

6. Until a final arrangement of this institution shall be made, we authorise eventually the disbursement of two thousand Star Pagodas, to support the religious ceremonies of such pagodas south of the cauvery as Major Macleod may find on further enquiry require pecuniary assistance.

(Clive, W. Petrie,
E. W. Fallefield)

4. Board of Revenue to Collector, Salem: 8.11.1800 see

The pagoda and mosque allowances for the present year the Board consent to your paying in money as you have proposed; they do not however coincide in your opinion for establishing this usage but deem it for the reasons they have assigned to Government and in their letter to Col read the late superintendent (copy of which is enclosed for your information) preferable to continue the ancient usage of appropriating lands for defraying the expences of the religious establishments of the country. They therefore direct you will lay before them a list of the pagodas and mosques throughout your district that have claims together with the amount and extent of land deemed sufficient for their support that register thereof may be instituted and distinct grants issued for such lands as may be appropriated to them. It would be desirable that the maneam of each pagoda should be compact.

Independently of the sum included in the meyen zabtah Government have further been pleased to authorise the eventual disbursement of 2,000 Pagodas in consequence of what you observe in the (p 9479) 6th para of your address for the pecuniary assistance of the pagodas south of the Cauvery that on further enquiry you may consider to require this indulgence.

As Government in thus liberally extending its assistance to these institutions has in view the happiness of the inhabitants you will submit such regulations and information as will tend to promote and preserve the benefits and comforts it is their wish may be secured to them.

23.5

Board of Revenue to Col A. Road, Superintendent BARAMAHALS: 4.10.1798
Extract

You will further reconsider the arrangement you propose for new modelling the system of remunerating village, and defraying the expences of religious establishments; by substituting money payments in lieu of lands and raseems on the crops, the immemorial practice of Hindestan. The amount payable from the treasury by your new arrangement, and which has of course been added to the jussa tax (p 2784):

For Village Charges is	Rs 37,000
For Pagoda Fees	Rs 15,023 Sps 52,023

The Board have not sufficient information before them to form a decided judgement on this important subject. If there be uncultivated circar lands in a village the inhabitants would it is presumed (with due encouragement) be equally ready to augment revenue by occupying them, as by cultivating the resumed manuss; the former would produce an actual increase to revenue. The resumption of the latter creates a certain established charge on the treasury while in war or bad seasons the produce from such resumptions may prove very deficient and (in)adequate thereto. It besides weakens the local attachment of the village servants a circumstance the Board observe particularly adverted to by one of your assistant collectors as likely to prove in its consequences inconvenient and prejudicial to the country. The principal object to be gained by the resumption seems the prevention of future surreptitious alienations of circar lands. This (p 2785) however the survey must have rendered very difficult. But if the villages are to be rented out at a fixed jussa and proprietary rights conferred, any check in this respect will be altogether unnecessary as there cannot be a doubt the farmers would in such case protect their property from all encroachments. The curram in particular will then become merely the village register to record every thing relating to the shares, agreements amongst individuals, and circumstances connected with change of property therein for the information of the courts of justice. The Board further remark you had another object in view that of ascertaining every charge to which revenue is subject. But this might, they conceive, have been equally attained by inserting the ascertained values of such alienated lands on both sides of your account without subjecting Government to the risk and charge of collection. It is, however, their wish to receive every argument for or against the change of system (p 2786) which your extensive local information so well enables you to furnish.

IOR: P/275/43: Madras Revenue Proceedings (26.9 to 1.11.1800; pp 2311-2849): Proceedings 31.10.1800
The above extract is sent by the Board of Revenue to Government with their letter of 26.10.1800 regarding the proposal of the Salem collector (Macleod, assistant collector under Road earlier on) to resume the Enam lands in the district and pay money allowances to the temples etc instead. This extract is not entered in the Board's own proceedings while dealing with the Salem proposal.
The Letter from Salem collector to Board of Revenue, dated 2.10.1800, is in P/286/44, on pages 8556-74; the Board Minute on pp 8571-3; the Board's letter to Govt in P/286/45 on pages 9147-50 dated 26.10.1800; and Govt's reply concurring in the opinion of the Board but suggesting further detailed consideration, in P/286/46, pp 9470, and is dated 1.11.1800.

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 Minute of Board of Revenue on Land Rights and Courts of Law: 20.8.1801

The Board also think it very desirable that some defined rule should be established in regard to lands, the disputes relative to which should be ~~made~~ declared cognizable by the court, in order to preclude interference with the revenue jurisdiction as prescribed by the letter (p 9809) and spirit of the charter which says "nor shall the said court have or exercise any jurisdiction in any matter of the said Governor and Council respectively either within or beyond the limit of the said town or the forts or factories subordinate thereto or concerning any act done according to the usage and practice of the country or the regulations of the Governor and Council. And we further will and declare that no person shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the said court for or by reason of being a land owner, landholders, or farmer of land or of land rent" &c &c.

It is not possible for the court to interfere in disputes regarding the sirkar lands without interfering with the revenue. If it be competent to take cognizance of disputes about the lands of Meerassdars who enjoy only the right of cultivation, under the lords paramount, the Company, it must equally have a right to interfere with the shares of the crops, boundary disputes &c &c (p 9810) in the villages and thereby contrary to the spirit of the act, exercise a jurisdiction over matters of revenue, as well as supercede the usages of the country and the regulations of the Governor in Council.

The right of the Company as lords of the soil, and the privileges of Meerassdars have been long clearly defined, and repeated publications have been made declaring all sales of sirkar lands without their sanction invalid. If when lands are neglected by their immediate occupiers, Government had not the right to call in Paykarries, that is to transfer the right of cultivation to others - what would become of the revenue? It would be imaginary, and for its better protection it does not even admit the sale or transfer, of the right of cultivation without its sanction.

By the antient as well as modern law of the country all lands are subject to (p 9811) the payment of revenue to the Government unless when it transfers its right thereto for a fixed term, or in perpetuity by grant. Agreed therefore to recommend that no lands within the limits of the court shall be considered subject to its jurisdiction. Government by proclamation dated the 1st December 1800 have already been pleased to declare that grants or certificates issued by or under their authority are to be considered the only documents by which lands are to be deemed legally alienated. It is also the intention of the Board that the permanent settlement of all the lands within the limits of the court shall be made by issuing certificates to every individual landholder, stating the measurement and fixing the revenue to be paid and holding the land responsible by sale for its due payment. Hence individual property will be (p 9812) conferred and clearly defined and the road to justice be cleared of innumerable destructions. The Board cannot, therefore, doubt that it must be equally desirable to the court as to Government that this simplification of tenure should take place. And by adopting the proposed measure of considering within the jurisdiction of the court only the lands so granted, this desirable object will soon be accomplished.

IOR: P/286/66; Pro 20.8.1801: Note The minute arose out of a petition of Bamboo Coolies regarding some land in Madras town. Petition is on pp 9800-3; the minute begins thereafter and ends as above.

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23.7

J. B. Travers, Collector Nellore issues a Proclamation: 15.3.1802

PROCLAMATION
Neroor, 15th March 1802.

In the month of September last the collector received from the inhabitants of the Pedalacoer Burgunnah their Meechilkas for the cultivation of the present year and he then held out to them as well as by former and subsequent proclamations the advantages they would derive under the Company's Government by an attention to the cultivation and a strict adherence to the promises made by them to the Government; that a breach of their engagements or any attempt they might make to deceive Government would meet with the severest punishment, as it was the determination of Government to act towards them with that correct faith, for which their management (is) proverbial and the collector therefore expected a proper discharge from the inhabitants of their duties towards the circar, having ensured to them the Masool Waarum resulting from their (p 7236) labours in the cultivation.

The extent of the promised cultivation in the Pedalacoer Talook amounted to Coortoo 4,226 of dry grain and of paddy seed to P 137-M 4- Ms 16 (?); of this amount it appears that Coortoo of dry grain 3,901½ and of paddy seed P 68-M 6-Ms 9 have been actually cultivated.

The deficiency in the inhabitants' engagements on the paddy cultivation the collector allows may be admitted from the failure of the season, and the dry grain cultivation to within 200 or 300 Coortoo of their promise has been fulfilled. But the produce resulting on the latter cultivation appears now, upon an examination of the resources of the Talook, to fall extremely short even admitting it to be the worst season, to what the circar had a right to expect; as it appears upon the whole not to be 87½ (?) Mercals upon the Coortoo, a produce very unequal to the acknowledged valuation of the soil.

This decrease the collector has convinced himself originates on a breach of (p 7237) the inhabitants engagements, either by neglecting sufficiently to plough the earth previous to sowing the seed or neglecting the necessary attention to the produce in its growth; under a foolish supposition that the cultivation of this year's produce was to determine the demands of Government in future years. This attempt to deceive Government is further confirmed in the collector's mind by the Anchanah accounts given in by the inhabitants themselves for not one inhabitant of all the villages in the Pedalacoer Talook had sufficient honesty to declare the correct produce of his lands, the whole to their shame be it said having given in the accounts at half the estimated value.

Such conduct the collector considers it his duty to punish, as an example to all the other inhabitants of his Talooks, that they may take warning from the fate of the inhabitants of Pedalacoer.

What makes the conduct of the Pedalacoer inhabitants worse is that they (p 738) acted in this way owing to the ill health and subsequent death of the amildar and the sickness and gross negligence of the other principal servants of his cutcherree and from their having corrupted the whole of the Turfdars with the exception of the Turfdar of Chincee Rajee supposing thereby to keep the collector ignorant of the state of their cultivation and of their inattention to it.

ICR: P/287/5: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings: 15.7.1802
Report from the Collector of Nellore dated 5.6.1802 is on pp 715-7207, annexures pp 7208-60. The above is Enolo No 12. The report has many village-wise charts, statements etc. pages 7164-9 refer to the above in the body of the report; pp 7141-9 (paras 119-28) is on Enams having reference to Enolo 16, which is not in the volume.

The accusation of having corrupted the Turfdars the collector found upon the coincidence of the information given in by the Turfdars with what was given by the inhabitants and their subsequent attempts to bribe those sent to ascertain the resources of their lands which has been proved from the attempt of Oblah Naik the inhabitant of Berdavele to corrupt the honesty of the Anchandars sent to his village and by the Curmum of that village attempting in an underhand manner to sound the correctness of the circar servants sent to estimate the crops. (p 7239)

As it is the wish of the collector never to punish without cause he has entered into these particulars that they may be published for the information of the whole of the inhabitants of the Nellore and Ongle Talooks by his several amildars to whom this proclamation is ordered to be sent, and he directs the following punishment to be inflicted upon those whose conduct he has herein complained of.

To the inhabitants in general of the Pedalacoer Talook he allows only 8 in 20 of the produce instead of the Mamool 9 in 20.

That the whole of the Pedalacoer Talook Cutcheres be dismissed with the exception of the Turfdar Chances Rajoo and that they forfeit their arrears of pay.

That Oblah Naik forfeit $\frac{2}{3}$ of his Cummatuz and that half of the Turfdars be flogged with 3 lashes each on the Cusbah of Calavey Mahemaloor Calagheri Pausaula Goodloor Juldinky and Cundecoor, and the other half with 7 lashes each in the Cusbah of the 3 Talooks of the Ongole district.

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Andrew Scott, Collector Guntur to Board of Revenue: 26.7.1802
(Extract)

2. The titles of the different columns will point out the sources from whence the revenue arose, and you will observe in one of the columns the amount of the sums said to have been taken from the ryots by force, that is of sums exacted from them over and above the jumrah which had previously been settled. In another column you will observe the amount (by no means inconsiderable) said to have been collected from the inhabitants under the name of Gram Gurch, and on pretence, as I understand, that the village charges as well as the expence of management would be paid by the circar. I mention these two in particular as sources of oppression now done away.

(p 8377) Collections Fusly 1204- 1210 (7 years)

(Total Gross collections, Land Revenue	1,10,572-27-77
	Maturfa	2,886-14-40
	Pullary (?) for Grazing Cattle	5,337-32-12
	Quit Rent for Gardens	250-34-70
	Beetle Gardens	175-20-20
	Tamarind Trees	326-20-20
	Cattle pound	18- 1-55
	Sutty Pu....(from Low Caste people)	1-14- 5
	Dustcaroda (by force)	5,258- 5- 2
	Gram Khurch (village expences)	14,959- 9- 9
	TOTAL GROSS COLLECTIONS (7 years)	1,39,786-35-70
	Average per year	19,969-20-45
	SETTLEMENT for Fusli 1211 (exclusive of Village Charges)	16,761-17-46
	Less than the average amount	3,208- 3-79)

IOR: P/287/10; Pro 9.8.1802; pp 8368-84. The above is from pages 8369 and an abstract from the statement on page 8377. About this time Mr Scott is replaced by Mr Mainwaring.

23.9

W. Thackeray to Board of Revenue on Pollaveram Expences: 18.10.1802

(p 12667) in detail but in some villages I was obliged to dispense with the detail accounts specifying the payments of each ryot, and merely take a gross statement of the collections made in the village, the payments to the officers of the circar, the payments to Mungaputty Dee and the Gram Khirch or village expenditure. I then checked these accounts by the jummalchiroch of the zemindars, and when there were any doubts I examined the parties concerned and made them explain what was uncertain. The result of these enquiries is contained in the abstract No 28 and I have every reason to believe this account correct. The account of the collections is doubtless right but many of the sums said to have been disbursed have of course been peculated by the revenue servants and kurnums. This account contains many heads never introduced in the accounts transmitted to the Board, but I found it impossible to strike out (p 12668) any head and at the same time preserve the integrity of the statement:

<u>Col 40</u>	contains the total Demand for Fusly 1210 and Fusly 1211, Madras Pagodas	84,618-15-13
<u>Col 57</u>	contains the collections of Mhal revenue and Sair in Fusly 1210 and Fusly 1211	75,485- 4-13½
<u>Col 75</u>	contains total collections in Fusly 1211 including Extra revenue and Tukhari (?)	82,963- 3-14½
<u>Col 76</u>	contains sirkar's receipts or sums brought to the public account. This I fancy is the sum contained in the accounts transmitted to the Board	36,985- 4- 2
<u>Col 77</u>	contains the private disbursements, peculations &c of the Tanadars taken from their own accounts or proved against them	20,282-13- 1
<u>Col 104</u>	Contains private Disbursements, peculations &c of the Summudars chiefly with the knowledge and approbation of the Tanadars	4,416- 0- 1
<u>Col 125</u>	Contains Gram Kherch or expenditures and peculations of the Kurnums, village servants and diverse persons	19,659-15- 9½
(p 12669) <u>Col 159</u>	Contains private disbursements and peculations of the Sair Gomastahs	592- 7-10
<u>Col 170</u>	Contains total Basah Kherch or private Expenditure	44,951- 4-15½
<u>Col 171</u>	Contains total Basah Kherch and circar Receipts	81,936- 9- 1½
<u>Col 172</u>	Contains particulars of balances against the Tanadars and the districts. Ifear that these balances will not be received entirely	
<u>Col 179</u>	Contains total balances against the Tannadars and the districts	2,682- 6-11½
		<u>84,618-15-13</u>

It appears by this abstract of the total collections and disbursements that Madras Pagodas 44,951-4-13½ have been disbursed without the orders of the Government and most likely the knowledge of the collector. There are many items, with which he must have been acquainted, but the greatest part of this sum was evidently disbursed (p 12670) without his authority. There is no doubt but that the Tanadars and diverse persons connected with the sirkars have peculated great part of this sum and that many of the pretended disbursements never took place. But the

IOR: P/287/17:Proceedings 4.11.1802: Complete report is pp 12637-81, Enclosures 12681-810, Statement and details of revenue 12811-32.

revenue servants are so indigent that they generally spend their peculations as fast as they make them, and the people here know that I shall soon ~~th~~ leave the district. These causes have prevented my receiving any thing considerable altho a good deal should be refunded by the numerous host of revenue servants, who have for two years preyed upon the Pollaveram district. It does not appear that Venkatraz has received any thing very considerable from this district unless indeed he has received private presents from the Tanadars and made them include the amount in their disbursement. I have got most of the ^{ue}/servants/~~revenue~~ ~~in~~ confinement but I have not as yet succeeded in extracting any (p 12671) of the money they have embezzled. It may appear presumption in my attempting to point out any improvements in the revenue system which I should leave to the wisdom of the Board. However I think it neither impertinent nor unprofitable to mention that were the Gram Kherch abolished, the revenue officers allowed sufficient salaries from the public treasures and no sums collected or disbursed without the sanction of the superior authority a considerable sum would be saved to the state and the ryots relieved from a increasing tax. The Government would then see its real resources and know the real expences of the state and one grand avenue to peculation shut. If the ryot is accustomed to pay private assessment there is no end to the abuse and under a lax management the private assessment will amount to more than the public payments as the Board will observe by my statement of the revenues of Polaveram. I know that it is (p 12672) said that the Gram Khirch is a private expenditure of the ryots and that the Government rather gains by his defraying this charge. But every farthing which is assessed upon the ryot either for his kists to the sirkar or Gram Khirch is public ~~is~~ property and should be brought to account as such. It would be more advantageous to the sirkar and more commodious to the ryot to add the amount of the private assessment to his kists and to pay all public servants from the treasury. Had all collections and disbursements been brought to account and had a proper establishment of revenue and military servants been kept, the accounts would have stood as follows :

Total collections of Mhal Revenue and Sair	75,485- 4-13 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>Deduct</u> sums collected by Mungaputty deo from the village	<u>8,391- 0- 2</u>
Total collections to the circar in Fs 1210 & 1211	67,094- 4-11 $\frac{1}{2}$
(p 12673) <u>Deduct</u> pay to the Establishment of Revenue servants necessary for two years and 3 months at 200 Ps per mensem	5,400- 0- 0
<u>Deduct</u> pay to a body of military peons at 1,000 Ps per month for 2 years and 3 months	27,000- 0- 0
<u>Deduct</u> pensions to Musimha Puddy Deo Varia Gopal Deo at 200 per mensem for 2 years and 3 months	5,400- 0- 0
<u>Deduct</u> an allowance for charges Extra	2,200- 0- 0
Total Deduction	40,000- 0- 0
BALANCE clear revenue to the Sirkar	27,094- 4-11 $\frac{1}{2}$

In this estimate I have not included extra revenue amounting to Madras Pagodas 7,166-9-13 as appears in column 68 of the abstract. Besides this I do not think that Mungaputty Deo could have collected so much had there always been a body of good peons headed by a resolute amildar. The Board will observe that the revenue officers have paid considerable sums to (p 12673)

23.10

14
Board of Revenue on Thackeray Observations on Gram Khurch: 27.12.18
02.

In the disbursements made without authority Mr Thackeray says, he does not think, that Vencataraj participated to any considerable amount unless he received presents from the Tanadars, and made them enter the sums, as disbursements, in their accounts: It is precisely in this mode, the Board should expect accounts to be fabricated which can only be done in collusion with others, and subordinate servants are the fittest instruments in the hands of Peishcars at the expence of the sirkar. The suggestion, which follows in this part of Mr Thackeray's report, respecting Gram Kurch, evinces knowledge and arrangement very creditable to him, as a revenue servant. This subject in a particular manner engaged (p 114) the Board's attention, some months since, when the statements respecting the Palnaud district, came under consideration, shewing the enormous amount, under the head of Gram Khurch, compared with the gross collections. These oppressive exactions can be effectually prevented only, by abolishing private assessments, the sirkar bearing every necessary expenditure, and indemnifying itself by a proportionate increase of demand. In the view of this relief to the inhabitants of Palnaud, the Board directed the collector to proceed to a minute examination of the accounts of the curnums, specifically pointing out the causes, which had actually operated the great deterioration in the revenue, or whether its diminution might not in great part be (p 115) fictitious, and imputable to artifices and intrigues to suppress the real accounts of produce. No reply has as yet been received on the subject from Mr Mainwaring. Meanwhile, as concurring with their own sentiments, the Board resolve to recommend the general proposition that private collections of every kind be included in the kists, and that the public servants be paid from the treasury.

IOR: Board's Collections vol 172: No 3022A: pp 113-5.
Vols 170-2 are devoted to "Disturbances in the Polaveram Zemindary" (in 3rd Div Masulipatam under B. Branfill who is permitted to resign and proceed to Europe on 15.10.1802). Nos 3018-22B, 6 parts, are all on this subject. No. 3022A (vol 172) contains Thackeray's report of his enquiry on pp 7-61. The enclosures to the report however are not included along with it, though they are perhaps all there dispersed in the three volumes. The Board of Revenue's minute on the report is on pp 92-118, Board's letter to Govet on pp 125-37, Governor Lord Clive's Minute (Rev Cons 18.3.1803) on pp 163-98 in which he differs from the other members of council. Thackeray's report with enclosures is entered in the Board of Revenue Proceedings of 4.11.1802(P/287/17) on pp 12637-81, Enclo 12681-810; and the Board's Minute that it lie on the table on 12833. pages 12811-32 contain detailed accounts. The matter of the Brahmin's suicide is on pp 12650, 12730-5, and 12752. Gram Khurch is referred to on pp 12668-73 and in the accounts on pp 12811-32. Thackeray's view on policy are on pp 12679-80. These latter are used by Clive in his minute.

23.11

Board of Revenue to Government on Palnaud: 15.3.1803 @

1. We have the honour to lay before your lordship in council a letter from Mr Mainwaring submitting proposals made by the head inhabitants and curnums for renting the villages of the Palnaud district for the present and two following fusties.
2. This mode of management by (p 2677) throwing the whole influence and authority into the hands of a few individuals, exposes to oppressions the inferier ryots, who on the contrary, should be encouraged by conferring rents on each according to his means of cultivation assisted by advances of tuccavi. Attention thus friendly to their interest and the prospect it holds out of gain would excite a spirit of industry and unite, in its consequence, an improved condition of the inhabitants, with corresponding benefit to Government. It would also induce the return of these ryots to their villages, whom the collector represents to have been obliged to secede by the oppressions of the late government; and would generally raise the country from its present state of deterioration to its former wealth and prosperity.
3. Under these considerations we have directed the collector to form a settlement with each inhabitant to the extent of his means of cultivation giving him an agreement stating the sum he is to pay in commutation of the circar share, (p 2678) but should ~~this~~ this be impracticable in the present year or should the nature of the engagement, he appears to already to have concluded, not interfere, we have desired that the country be kept under aumanic management, which from the Guntoor circar having been permanently settled, and ~~Mr Mainwaring~~ therefore demanding, comparatively, but little of his attention, Mr Mainwaring will be able personally to superintend. We trust that the instructions we have given the collector on the subject will meet with your lordship's approbation.

23.12

Government to Board of Revenue: 26.3.1803 @@

15. The Governer in council approves the instructions you have issued to the collector of Guntoor, relative to the management of the Palnaud district, as they are calculated to draw the resources of the district into action by encouraging a spirit of industry amongst the cultivating ryots: they will lay the surest foundation of future prosperity and procure a certain datum on which to fix the rent to be assessed upon the lands in perpetuity.

23.13

Board of Revenue to Collector Guntoor: 14.8.1802 @@@

(Extract)

1. Since the ~~imparture~~ dispatch of my letter to you under date the 20th ultimo relative to Palnaud, the Board have received one from your predecessor respecting that district, which however does not afford that explicit information they wish to possess on the subject. ... (p 8778) ... the account which he has sent is too superficial to afford the requisite information. The Board therefore recommend a critical and minute examination of the accounts of the curnums.
4. The performance of this duty will enable you specifically to point out the causes which may have actually operated this great deterioration in the revenues of Palnaud or whether their diminution may not in great part be fictitious and imputed to the artifices and intrigues of curnums and inhabitants in suppressing the real accounts of/produce; Having accurately /the investigated these points you will report the present state of

(Contd)

the country and the situation of the inhabitants, and detail your opinion as to the best means of improving the condition of both.

IOR:

@ P/287/27: The complete letter, which deals with other matters also, is on pp 2676-81 in proceedings dated 15.3.1803. A Minute of the Board on the collectors report (dated 9.1.1803 in proceedings 1.2.1803, pp 1114-24, 1125-40; vol P/287/25) is on pp 2332-37 entered on the proceedings of 7.3.1803. The Board's letter to the collector is entered on the proceedings of 10.3.1803, pp 2476-81.

@@ P/287/30: The complete letter, mostly dealing with other matters, is on pp 4072-82

@@@ P/287/11: The complete letter is on pp 8776-80. The letter referred to above, sent to Mr Mainwaring after his appointment, is in P/287/9 pp 7664 and is very brief asking him to report on his investigation in Palnaud affairs.

23.14

Mr Thackeray On Gram Kherch:
(Mr Hobhouse's report on Polaveram Zemindafy)

The ryot, at the same time that he pays the sirkar share, which is public property, pays a sum for the use of the Dubash, which is called Gram Kurch. This custom should not in Mr Thackeray's judgement, be allowed to exist, because it leads to the greatest abuse. Under lax management the private assessment amounts to more than the public payments. (p 353) "It would be more advantageous", says he, "to the sirkar, and more commedious to the ryets, to add the amount of the private assessment to the kists, and to pay all public servants from the treasury. Thus no sum would be collected, or disbursed, without the sanction of the superior authority, and without appearing upon the face of the accounts. I am happy that in perceiving that such an arrangement had before occurred to the Board of Revenue, and that in one instance, (p 354) they had begun to reduce it to practice. A measure more wise, and judicious, and more conducive to the interests of the Company and can not be adapted. @

It is, above all, necessary, that the Governments in India should employ the greatest circumspection in the choice of collectors, who ought to be not only incorrupt, vigilant and active, but indulgent to the harmless superstitions of the natives. For want of obvious precautions on the part of Mr Branfill, a Bramin, by being forced into a boat with a Pariar (p 355) and thus degraded, was driven to commit the desperate act of suicide. In many parts of Mr Branfill's conduct, inattention is observable, but, in this instance, his remissness is the most deserving of censure,. To produce a willing submission, and lay the foundation of attachment to the British Government in the natives of Hindestan, as much regard should be paid to their usages and manners, and their religious prejudices, as is consistent with public safety, and sound morality.

IOR: Home Misc 258:

The report is on pages 309-55; has a pencilled note in the margin on pp 355 "India Board 23 March 1804"; refers to the Special Commission Report dated 27 September 1802. It was perhaps prepared for the internal use of the Board of Commissioners or the Company.

@ It is not indicated where Thackeray's quotation ends. Perhaps after "of the accounts!"

(BRITISH OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION OF BRAHMIN'S TRAGA)

23.15

Report by Mr W. Thackeray to Board of Revenue: 18.10.1802
(Extract)

vide letter from
Mr Deo
vide Encl
No 13
No 15, para 14

10. (p 12650) Whether Gundapetty Sunjevarow was invited to Rajahmundry and driven by insult and outrage to the desperate act of suicide? I enclose copy of the declaration given in by his gomastah who is by no means inclined to extenuate the ill treatment said to have been used towards his master. It appears that Sunjevarow was ordered on board a boat to Masulipatam, when he thought proper to slay himself. Venkataraj was not at that time present. Sunjevarow seems to have received no other usage than is customary towards prisoners and never had any cowle from the collector.

The Muchilka of Putah Venkiah Gomastah to Gundapetty Sunjevarow, inhabitant of Rajahvrum, Fusly 1212. : (Encl 13 to above)

As I have been summoned to the Huzur, and directed to communicate what I know respecting the death of Gundapetty Sunjevarow, I declare:

That when the Bengal battalions marched against Polaveram, Sunjevarow was at Rajahmundry. After the flight of the Rajah, peons were placed over his (Sunjevarow's) house, and as Venkataraj ordered (by command of his master) that only a few of his attendants should remain with him, his people were turned out. After things had gone on thus for some dayson Venkataraz his coming to Polaveram, he brought Sunjevarow along with him, gave him bad language and put him in the guard, and ordered Pertah Atchia, to be also summoned. He was accordingly sent for and ordered to give personal security for the appearance of himself, and family; on which Shengavurpoo Oppana (p 12731) Yunimundra Vekkapah and Gotalah Verum Bhut became security for him. After this they were both carried to Rajahmundry, and ordered to remain quiet in their houses. They remained so. However some one hostile to Sunjevarow invented some falsehoods to his detriment, on which he was summoned, and some harsh ~~words~~ expressions used towards him without consideration. Things went on thus from Rowdre Chyter (1800) until the month Kartik () when Sunjevarow told Venkataraz, that his enemies told falsehoods respecting him, and that he Venkataraz without consideration used bad language towards him: that he was aman of character, and would relinquish his life: that no other remedy appeared: that he had no means to defray his expences there: that if he received permission he would go to his own country. As he spoke (p 12732) much to this effect he was told, that he might go, and two peons were sent with him across the river, and according to Kower, his sister were brought to bed; in consequence of which he staid there a couple of days. Venkataraz had gone to Tulapeody and in consequence of some information which he probably received there, he wrote a letter to the Jumnaudtar of the guards there, to carry Sunjevarow and Atchia from Kavor to Rajahmundry; and deliver them to the collector. In consequence of this a guard of sepoys seized him, and delivered him to the collector.

After that they were both kept two days without eating in the fort, and on the third day released on giving the security of Alikur Bapanah; on the next day the collector called (p 12733) Sunjevarow in the evening, and told him that he must go to Masulipatam. He answered what reason is there that I should

IOR: P/287/17: Madras Board of Revenue Proceedings 4.11.1802: Mr Thackeray's report on the affairs of Polaveram.

NOte: Sunjevarow was the Dewan of the Polaveram Raja, and Venkataraz was an assitant of the collector, Mr Branfill.

During the years 1793-1800 Mr Branfill was held in very high opinion by Madras particu

"malpractice" for his unearthing of indigenan

go to Masulipatam? What offence have I committed? If I have committed any offence, I enquire and punish me. I will not go to Masulipatam. On this he (the collector) answered why should I enquire into your faults? Venkataraz has enquired, and written everything. You must certainly go to Masulipatam and some treasure is just now going there on the boat. He replied I am a Bramin. There are a number of Pariars in the boat. ~~Maxrapiaz~~ But if you persist in making me go on the boat, I will quit life, but not go. On this he became angry, and using some harsh expressions, delivered (p 12734) him to the guard of sepoys and they carried him to the Godavery towards the boat. On enquiry and hearing what orders the collector had given, he (Sunjevarao) said, that the death of a Bramin was approaching. That he had already endured many indignities, and that he would submit to what was ordained, and he then descended into the Godavery, performed an ablution, and standing on the bank, stabbed himself and died. We all went our way. Besides this five or six days before the Bengal troops marched against Polaveram in (p 12735) consequence he remained at Rajahmundri: Besides this I know that, when Vizia Gopal Deo fled from the country and arrived at Muntoor, the Raja and Venkatanarain sent for Sunjevarao, and dispatched with him with a party to seize him. In consequence he went to Muntoor, but as an order came to return, he returned. I know nothing more. This paper is in the handwriting of Peral Venkiah.

15th September 1802.

A True Translation
(signed: W. Thackeray)

Statement of Kecherlaketta Venkatraz: 8.9.1802 (Enclo 15)
(Extract)

14. (p 12752) I was not at Rajahmundry when the Rajah's Dewan Sunjevarao was confined there, and when he died. I was then out on an excursion in the country. But I heard from Mr Branfill that he was intriguing and that the Board had ordered him to be confined and that he had been told that he should be sent under a guard to Masulipatam, and kept there on which I heard that he stabbed himself.

Board of Revenue to Government on Sunjevarao's Traga: 27.12.1802

9. The tenth charge states that Sunjevaram Gundarao was invited to Rajahmundry and there driven by insult and outrage to the desperate act of suicide. From the deposition of Peral Vekkia it should seem that many indignities had been offered to his master Sunjivarao and that whatever may have induced the measures of sending him to Masulipatam his conduct had not been such as to render it previously expedient upon any public ground. For it appears that he shortly before had obtained leave from Vencataraz to return to his country and that being furnished with two peons for the purpose, he had proceeded as far as known, where he remained two days out of attention to his sister who was brought to bed at that place and that a note from Vencataraz (then at Talapoody) to the Jemadar of the guard stationed at Kowoor overtaking him there he was made prisoner and delivered up to the collector. (p 14353) That after being kept two days without disturbance he was released on giving security. This was reversed on the day following by the collector who is stated to have told Sunjevarao that he must go to Masulipatam on the boat prepared to convey treasure thither. It is to be lamented that the collector should have disregarded his remonstrances, and threats of self of self destruction rather than be exposed to the degradation of which he complained (himself a Bramin) in being forced into the boat with Pariahs. The ceremony of ablution, if correctly stated accompanied by a solemn declaration that the death of a Bramin was approaching should have induced some precaution at least to take from him the means of perpetrating the desperate act of suicide. The ascendent influence of Vencataraz cannot be doubted nor is it unreasonable to suppose that his views and intrigues in the Polaveram district (p 14354) required the removal of Sunjevarao (the late Dewan) to a distance. Yet there is no proof on which the charge against Vencataraz can be substantiated.

At the time the transaction above alluded to took place the then Secretary to our Board required and received from Mr Branfill a statement to the circumstances attending it which though not entered on the record we have in consideration of that gentleman not being now in India thought right to subjoin an extract from it to countervail as far as it may appear entitled the statement of Venkiah, as follows:

pilly

"Gundamty Sunjevarao was formerly a Gomastah in Mungaputty Deo's service, and during last year Fusly 1209 paid me some money on his master's account he having managed or rather mismanaged his country for him. When the Zemindar (p 14355) fled on the approach of the Bengal troops, he did not accompany him, but remained at this place. About three or four months ago I learnt that he held an improper intercourse with his ~~late~~ old master and communicated to him, from time to time what was going on here. In consequence of this intelligence, I sent for him and taxed ~~it~~ him with it, but he denied having any intercourse with him. As I could not at that time prove the fact, altho I strongly suspected he was playing a foul part, I advised him for his own good and f safety to return to his family at Gundapilly in the Nundegama country, or Masulipatam and remain there until the disturbances should be at an end. He promised to do so and only asked a few days respite to make the necessary preparations for this journey. Instead however of performing his promise of departing early he made daily frivolous excuses and did not leave this until a month after I had ordered (p 14356) him. He then went to Covoor (a village on the western bank of the river opposite this place) Rajahmundry) and in lieu of pursuing his journey recommenced his intercourse with Mungaputty Deo and his adherents and had certainly laid plans to join them.

IOR:P/287/20: Pro 27.12.1802: Complete letter on Polaveram is PP 14346-69 . Boards Minute pp 14293-315.

When I was informed of this circumstance and that two of his brothers were in the Bundrachellum country raising peons for the Zemindary, I hesitated not a moment to secure his person intending to send him to Masulipatam, and in consequence had given him in charge to a Naigue and six sepoy for that purpose. But just as he was stepping into the boat he drew a creese and stabbed himself, and died a few hours afterwards."

Revenue Despatch to Madras, on Sunjevarao's Traga: 15.5.1805 @

18. The Revenue Board (p 393) in their review of Mr Thackeray's reports, have very properly noticed another instance in the conduct of the late collector, Mr Branfill, respecting the shocking catastrophe which happened to a Bramin, supposed to be in the interest of, and intriguing with, the deposed zemindar, whom the collector incautiously insisted should embark in a boat with Pariars, thereby exposing him to degradation and loss of cast, in so much that (p 394) he was driven to the desperate act of suicide. We cannot upon this occasion too strongly and earnestly impress upon the minds of all our servants, that it is their indispensable duty to be careful not to afford any just cause of offence to the natives ~~and~~ of India in respect to their religious prejudices, to their ordinary customs and manners.

(Com) Corr 29.3.
Court 3.4.1805
Board 19.4.1805

IOR: E/4/894: Despatches to Madras

Note: This para was altered by the Board with regard to the last sentence. Before alteration the last sentence read: "We cannot upon this occasion too strongly and earnestly impress upon the minds of all our servants, that it is their indispensable duty to shew every possible degree of respect and attention to the religious prejudices of the natives of India, as well as to their ordinary customs and manners, and to direct that any wilful or negligent disregard of them be severely punished."

23.16

22

Collector Guntoor and Palnaud to Board of Revenue: 25.5.1803

Read the following letter from the collector in zillah Guntoor and Palnaud:

To
The Secretary Board of Revenue

Sir

I have received your letter of the 2nd instant and I request you will assure the Board that it was never my intention to quit this station without putting them in possession of the knowledge they naturally expect to obtain from me of the steps which have (p 5845) been taken in the Palnaud district since my last report on that head.

The Board's orders of the 7th March reached me on the 20th of the same month and when I thereby found that a different mode of collecting the revenue was preferred to that I had adopted I could not but regret that these orders did not reach me before as such arrangements had taken place in the interval of my letter of 9th January that no attempt could be made to conform the management of the revenues of the Palnaud district to the principles approved by the Board without the risk of throwing matters into very great if not irretrievable confusion at a time that the inhabitants were distracted by the extended outrages of a set of daring marauders and that it required all my endeavours to prevent them from leaving the country. The regret however I feel (p 5846) on the above accounts is considerably qualified by the full conviction that to the Company no loss would accrue /will from an adherence to the settlement which was effected for this year. But on the contrary that a greater revenue will be derived than if any other plan had been substituted or introduced. In the first instance let me not be understood to speak in disparagement of the mode recommended by the preference of the Board. There are members belonging to it compared with whose experience in revenue affairs mine is as nought and for whom I entertain the highest respect. But it was after the maturest and best consideration I could give the question including all circumstances either immediately or remotely connected with it that I ventured to so decided an opinion that in offering the proposals of the inhabitants to the acceptance of the Board I consulted the real interests of my employers and (p 5847) with every deference to the superior judgements of the Board I am still of the same way of thinking. Confidence is of slow growth in the breasts of those who have been injured and very rare I imagine are the instances of inhabitants possessing advantages which the inhabitants of the Palnaud district do not possess, consenting to a money rent without some degree of compulsion. And therefore however desirable the object a pause may reasonably be indulged to consider whether its attainment would not be too dearly purchased if effected at the loss of the goodwill of the subject. Some late political writer says that one ruppe obtained with goodwill and affection is better than, I forget the proportion he gives but for my own part I should be inclined to make the difference very considerable. Let a bad season come after a ryot has agreed to pay so much money for a piece of ground which (p 5848) has been measured out to him by the yard and he is received, whereas by a settlement founded on a computation of the quantity of produce he is sure even in the worst of seasons to receive some share, something to satisfy the cravings of a hungry family. (He is) ignorant as the cultivators are they know - they feel - and though notwithstanding what I have formerly urged (and now repeat) of the extreme poverty of that class of people in general in the Palnaud district I would not undertake to prove that they are more indigent than some who have been subjects of the Company infinitely longer

IGR: P/ 287/37: Pro 6.6.1803: pp 5844-61, 62. Board's Minute 63-4. Collector's point is not touched in minute. He is permitted to quit

(particularly where the vissabuddy system has obtained) yet am I thoroughly persuaded that they will never agree to a money rent but with extreme reluctance. The system would be altogether novel to them and in all parts of the world no classes of people are more averse (p 5849) to innovation than the cultivators of the soil. And simple too as the system may appear to us they would not immediately comprehend it but when they should the frequent deprivations their country has been exposed to would occur to them at the same time with redoubled force. Here I should explain myself and observe that they would not individually enter into such engagements. Otherwise I might appear to controvert my own proposition. According to the settlement of giving each village in rent to its inhabitants (making the head inhabitants responsible) every ryot would contribute in proportion only to the quantity of produce which the land he cultivated might yield and as I had provided that the circar Anchanadars should estimate the crops the Samutdars stationed in each Purgunnah could easily detect any unfairness (p 5850) in the distribution on the part of the head inhabitants. It became their chief duty in fact. Thus in a country like the Palnaud where a great diversity of grain is reared all the chances of the season was in a manner given to them: since what proved unfavourable to a field of paddy would turn out exactly the reverse to a plantation of cotton perhaps adjoining it and a common interest was moreover created to prevent any one making away with his produce. Not that I think Mahasoldars could have been safely dispensed with notwithstanding. For these therefore and other reasons formerly stated I strongly recommended the acceptance of the inhabitants' proposals for three years as combining in my opinion the prosperity of the inhabitants with the advantage of the Company.

I was much more concerned (p 5851) (under the qualification above adverted to) that I did not receive the Board's orders earlier because the season was at hand when it is hardly possible for a collector (or any one indeed) to be employed in surveying the lands of the Palnaud district allowing a good state of health and the country to be in a state of perfect tranquility neither of which was the case. ...

(p 5852) I did not fail to notice the Board's observations regarding the curmums, and was there only one, or two persons of the description in each village and they employed in the public duties of that office doubtless the permitting (p 5853) them to engage in any rent would be highly incompatible but I am to inform the Board that to almost every person who is related to a curmum is given that title, and if you exclude them from having any concern in cultivation you exclude, I will not say the greater body of the people, but certainly those who undertake for the largest quantity of land and who are the best able to pay the revenue. ...