

VOL X

DOCUMENTS ON TANJORE - 1770- 1820

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May 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. ON ANCIENT CHATRAMS IN THANJAVUR REGION TILL c. 1800.....	4
2. NAWAB OF ARCOT'S ASIATIC AVARICE SUPPORTED BY EUROPEAN ARTS AND DISCIPLINE - AN ENQUIRY INTO THE POLICY OF MAKING CONQUESTS FOR THE MAHOMETANS in INDIA, BY THE BRITISH ARMS in ANSWER to a PAMPHLET, ENTITLED "CONSIDERATIONS ON THE CONQUEST OF TANJORE."	8
3. ESTIMATES OF TANJOUR'S PROSPERITY - COL. W. ROSS TO MR. HENRY DUNDAS: 11th March 1790.....	11
4. MADRAS GOVERNMENT APPOINTS COMMISSION ON TANJOUR.....	14
(i) INSTRUCTIONS.....	14
(ii) UNIFORM SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE AND RESISTANCE OF THE PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH HABITS OF TYRANNY AND CORRUPTION - COMMISSIONERS' REPORT ON TANJOUR: 31.1.1799.....	16
5. WANTS PEOPLE TO BE EFFECTUALLY PUT UNDER GOVERNMENT LASH - F.A. GRANT, COLLECTOR MAYAVARAM TO BOARD OF REVENUE:12.7.1799	23
6. ESTABLISH RESPECTIVE RIGHTS OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS SUBJECTS, AND REMOVE PEOPLE'S EVASIONS AND CONCEALMENTS - BOARD OF REVENUE TO COLLECTORS AT MAYAVERAM AND MANNARGOODY: 28.12.1799	25
7. PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF TANJORE THAT THEY WOULD SUMMARILY BE PUT TO DEATH IF FOUND OPPOSING BRITISH AUTHORITY	27
8. PUNISHMENT WITH DEATH IN A SUMMARY MANNER BY MILITARY PROCESS OF THOSE OPPOSED TO BRITISH AUTHORITY - LETTER FROM GOVERNMENT TO LT. COL A. DYCE ON TANJORE: 3.6.1800.....	28
9. A NEW SYSTEM TO SECURE TANJOUR AGAINST THE INVASION OF THE PEOPLE - 60% FOR GOVERNMENT, 40% FOR THE PEOPLE - C. HARRIS, COLLECTOR, MANARGOODY TO BOARD OF REVENUE: 23.6.1800	30
10. C.HARRIS TO BOARD OF REVENUE ON "MARAUMUT" IN TANJORE: 29.6.1800.....	46
11. CHARLES HARRIS, COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD TO REVENUE: 13.7.1800.....	48
12. INDIANS NOT TO BE ALLOWED TO ACQUIRE ANY SUPERIORITY OVER ONE ANOTHER TO PROMOTE PROSPERITY OF GOVERNMENT - CHARLES HARRIS, COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE: 3.8.1800.....	51
13. MINUTE OF MADRAS BOARD OF REVENUE ON TANJORE AFFAIRS: 14.8.1800.....	59
14. GOVERNMENT TO BOARD OF REVENUE ON TANJORE - APPROVAL FOR COLLECTOR'S VARIOUS STEPS : 27.12.1800	62
15. ON PLANTATIONS FOR WOOD AND ON FORCED LABOUR AND SUPPLIES - COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE: 27.12.1800.....	66
16. COLLECTOR TANJORE ON HARVESTING SWATANTRAMS (CHARGES) - FIXES 7% FOR NANJAH AND 9% FOR PUNJAH : 8.1.1801	69

17. COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE ON DAILY ALLOWANCES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS : 1.5.1801.....	73
18. COLLECTOR TANJORE, C. HARRIS, TO BOARD OF REVENUE - BAD EFFECTS OF SIMILARITY OF CASTE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND INHABITANTS; SEARCH FOR SERVANTS FROM MALABAR ; CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS ON GOVERNMENT SERVANTS : 4.8.1801.....	76
19. C. HARRIS, COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE ON PEOPLE'S COMPLAINTS: 26.2.1803	79
20. BOARD OF REVENUE MINUTE ON TANJORE COMPLAINTS: 8.3.1803.....	82
21. THREE CATEGORIES : YAICKBOGUM (1,807), PALBOGUM (2,202) AND SAMUDAYAM (1,774) OF VILLAGES; 62,048 MIRASDARS AND PITCHARI MARAH TO FEED THE POOR IN TANJORE TILL 1805 - J. WALLACE COLLECTOR, TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE: 1.5.1805.....	83

Note: The bold text (*) in this document is the emphasis added by the Editor-Compiler and is not part of the original document.

1. ON ANCIENT CHATRAMS IN THANJAVUR REGION TILL c. 1800

IOR: P/286/ : Proceedings Madras Board of Revenue: 2.2.1801: Enclosed with letter dated 28.1.1801 from collector, Tanjore to Board of revenue

A letter from His Excellency Serfojee Rajah of Tanjore to British Government: Jan 1801

From the first of my ancestors, regular grants, with the seal attached to them were made of the lands whether in Servamanium or Srotrium which were assigned to individuals for charitable purposes, except when Chatrams or other donations for charitable uses have been given to the queens of the royal family. In these cases grants have not been made. The reason appears to be that the reigning Rajah was very certain that none of his own ministers or those of his sons or successors, would require to see the grant by which the queens possessed the land which has been assigned to them for charitable purposes, and consequently these possession (s) have been held by *perwangy* alone.

The ground along the sea shore where these charitable institutions are the most numerous, is of a very inferior quality. But it is also the road to Ramiserum and forty thousand persons from all parts of India, from Banares, and, Delhe, Aurangabad and Poona pass and repass every year. For the accomodation of these travellers principally, the Chetrum have been established, and to each of them pagodas, choultries, and schools are annexed. I will now explain to you the nature and extent of the charities dispensed by them. All travellers from the Bramin to the Pariar inclusive, pilgrims of every description including jogues, jungums, ateets and byragies are fed with boiled rice. Those who do not chuse to eat the boiled rice receive it unboiled with spices &c. These distributions continue till midnight when a bell is rung and proclamation made requiring all those who have not been fed to appear and take the rice prepared for them.

The travellers who may be unable to proceed in their journey are fed as long as they remain at the Chetrum. In each chetrum a teacher to each of the four vedums is appointed, and a school-master and doctors, skillful in the care of diseases, swellings, and the poison of reptiles; all the orphans of strangers who may come to the chetrum are placed under the care of the school-master. They are also fed three times a day, and once in four days they are annointed with oil. They receive medicine when they require it; cloths also are given to them and the utmost attention paid to them. They are instructed in the sciences to which they may express a preference, and after having obtained a competent knowledge of them the expences of their marriage are defrayed.

Travellers who fall sick at the chetrum or before their arrival, receive medicine, and the diet proper for them, and are attended with respect and kindness untill their recovery.

The obsequies of those who die during their residence at the chetrum are performed according to the rites of their cast.

Milk is provided for infants; pregnant women are entertained with *kindness*, and if they happen to be delivered at the chetrum, their expenses are defrayed, medicines are given to them and they are permitted to remain in the chetrum three months after their delivery.

Those who apply to the chetrum and state their inability to defray the expence of receiving the Braminical thread, of their marriage, or of the performance of the ceremonies, subsequent to their father's death, receive a sum of money proportionate to the occasion.

As the lands annexed to the chetrums is in general very poor, it happens frequently from a deficiency of rain, that they do not produce sufficient for the expences. When this is the case my anxiety to prevent any diminution of these excellent charities, which I consider as the most honourable appendage of my dignity, has always induced me to send to them from the circuar both grain and money sufficient to make up the deficiency. After Mr. Harris was appointed to the management of that soubah, he must remember that I applied to him for a considerable quantity of paddy at different times for the use of the chetrums.

The chetrums are not of recent foundation. The chetrum of Munmaligoody and some others were founded by my ancestor Pretaupsing above forty years ago, and have continued to distribute their charities ever since. My father the late Tulsagee Rajah, twenty five or thirty years ago founded the chetrums of Minmushale, Salutehnaoapoor, and Rajyamul. None of these chetrums were founded in the reign of Amersing or by me since my accession. Although these charitable institutions did not originate with me, I consider them as attached to my house, and essential to my reputation and happiness. The Tanjore country is celebrated over all world for its charities, it is called Dhermraje, and I consider the reputation which reverts upon me through all countries from this appellation, as the most honorable distinction of my rank. The revenues appropriated to the support of the charities of my ancestors, and my Tulsajee Rajah, have never been included in the public revenue of the country. They invariably cherished and supported the charities. It is my earnest wish to do the same. The superintendence of them has always descended from the older to the younger queen. It has remained in the hands of the senior until her death and then descended to the wife of the reigning Rajah. I have a perfect confidence that this custom of my ancestors will not be deviated from, and that I shall not suffer the disgrace of seeing it abolished in my reign.

The *perwangys* issued by Pretaupsing and Tulsajee previous to the capture of the fort cannot be found. After the capture of the fort the Nabob plundered the place, and carried off all the records, in the the dufter. From this circumstance no records prior to that date remain. After the restoration of the fort, the late Tulsajee Rajah issued new *perwangee* for all the ancient charitable institutions as well those established by himself. These are in my possession.

There is a regular grant also for Chetoobaba chetrum.

What can I write more.

20th January 1801

**GOVERNMENT TO BOARD OF REVENUE IN REPLY, 21.2.1801 AND NOTE OF
COLLECTOR, 7.7.1800**

IOR:P/275/45/: Madras Revenue proceedings; also IOR: p 286\40pp, 6395-8,9) This note was not legible in the original record

NOTE OF COLLECTOR 7.7.1800 : The enquiry about these ports commenced with a letter dated 12th March 1800 from the the Board of Revenue requiring the collector to report the list of the various ports etc. in this division. To this the collector replied on 7th July.

7. We are happy that the collector apprehends no difficulty in forming an arrangement for the resumption of the Maunium ports by the grant of an equivalent in land for the support of these useful institutions to which it appears the revenues of these ports had been appropriated.

9. You will observe that every port pays revenue, but that sum are separated from those of the circar, in charities and manunium. He listed 28 ports, along with the revenue, but that some went to Government, and listed the following as Maunium:

1. Gopaulaputnam ? (from Poottoocodah town distant 4 ½ Malabar miles) Maunium to the charity choultry called Meenamoseel of the Tanjore queen in the Puttacottah soubah.

2. Cottaputnum (from Jugadaputnum distant 1 Malabar mile), in the Puttacottah soubah but granted by the Rajah Pretaub Sing to the Rajah of Ramnad.

3. Terkummahpunum (from Anyaputnam distant 1 Malabar Mile).

4. Vadacamahputnum, Maunium to the charity choultry of Manargoody of the Tanjore queen in the Puttacottah soubah.

5. Auvidyaputnum (from Terkummahpunum distant 1 Malabar mile): Manium to the Avidour church in the Puttacottah soubah.

6. Kistnayeepunum (from Moonpautyputnam distant 1 ½ Malabar mile), belonging to the Poligar of the Singinaoud Poliapet in the Puttacottah soubah, not accounted for by any sunnud.

7. Cutmauvadyputnum (from Somnaudaputnum distant 3 Malabar miles). Manium to the charity choultry of Valumcolum of the Tanjore queen in the Puttacottah soubah.

8. Sambiputnum or Satoobavan (from Sambiputnum distant 2 Malabar miles). Manium to the charity choultry of Satubauva minister to the Rajah Pretaub Sing, in the Puttacottah soubah.

9. Saulvanaickenputnum (from Sambiputnum distant 3 Malabar Miles). As above.

10. Gopaulaputnum (from Poodooputnum district 1 Malabar mile).
11. Adramputnum (from 10, 1 Malabar mile) Both 10 and 11 Manumium to the charity choultry of Rajah Naddum of the Tanjore queen.
12. Topetvry (from Codiacaud distant 3 Malabar mile) Manuium to the Vada.

2. NAWAB OF ARCOT'S ASIATIC AVARICE SUPPORTED BY EUROPEAN ARTS AND DISCIPLINE - AN ENQUIRY INTO THE POLICY OF MAKING CONQUESTS FOR THE MAHOMETANS in INDIA, BY THE BRITISH ARMS in ANSWER to a PAMPHLET, ENTITLED "CONSIDERATIONS ON THE CONQUEST OF TANJORE."

LONDON: PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, PALL MALL MDCCLXXIX; I.O.L : T670(2) Extracts pp 116-119, 128-9

(p.116)

...the worst treatment that the worst humours of the Company's servants can mortify him with, to the tender mercies of a Mahometan master, however the partizans of Mahomet Ali may applaud and magnify the benevolence of his nature.

The author ridicules the idea of the King of Tanjore being in reality restored, whilst English garrisons possess his forts; yet he is not ashamed to propose this very same thing on the delivery of the country to the Nabob (whom he is pleased to consider as the lawful owner.) He proposes the very same arrangements¹ as to the garrison of the places by English, but he proposes it with great caution; for he knows that the Nabob having once had English garrisons in all his fortresses, found means to remove them all, and to form a great standing army of his own, trained in the European manner, in the hopes of supporting his new scheme of independence, recommended to him by English friends and partisans.

This gentleman, (the author of the Considerations) and all those who engage in the cause of Mahomet Ali, in proposing schemes of government, and supporting rights of government in the East, are pleased to confine their attention solely to Princes, and to the rights of Princes. The wretched people are no part whatsoever of their consideration. Every man who knows anything of India must know the utter (p.117) detestation those people entertain (I think with very good reason) but whether with good reason or not, they do most certainly entertain, of Mahometan government. To say nothing of the genius of the government in general, and in particular of the government of Mahomet Ali, it will be hardly believed, that all men do not infinitely prefer a subjection to Princes of their own blood, manners, and religion; that they will not be more obedient to such Princes; and that such Princes will not be reciprocally more tender of them. This natural and reciprocal partiality, is matter of great consideration in all governments; but it is peculiarly so among those nations where there is no settled law or constitution, either to fix allegiance, or to restrain power.

If the Company, who under the name of alliance, or under even the name of subjection to a Mogul, are in reality now the actual Sovereigns and Lords paramount of India, still choose, as hitherto they have done, and as in wisdom perhaps they ought to do, to have a dependent government interposed between them and the native people, it is both their

¹ Consideration, P. 69. "Be it agreed, **for the general safety, that the Company shall garrison the principal forts in Tanjore***, and keep up such a force as "the Nabob may deem competent to the defence of that kingdom"

* Emphasis added by Editor-compiler

interest and duty that it should be such as is congenial to the native inhabitants, correspondent to their manners, and soothing to their prejudices. The native Indians, under their own native government, are, to speak without prejudice, a far better people than the Mahometans;* or than those who by living under Mahometans, became the depressed subjects, or the corrupted instruments of their tyranny; they are of far (p.118) milder manners, more industrious, more tractable, and less enterprising.

The Arabians, and Tartars, and Persians, and their Clans of Mussulmen, are full as rapacious, and infinitely more fierce and cruel, than the English who are sent to make their fortunes in India in a civil or military capacity.* The English have neither the same disposition, nor the same degree of boldness, nor in many cases, even the same means of oppression. **Without however disputing which is the more intolerable weight, it is certain, that the people cannot bear two such riders.*** It was our business to respect session as the only title that can be valid, where a great empire is broken up; and the rather, as it is the title on which we ourselves stand. It was our business, that no antiquated claims should be revived; and no disturbances raised on such dangerous pretences. **It was our duty, in order to make some sort of compensation for the mischiefs inseparable from a foreign and commercial superiority, to keep a ballance of justice and proportion in the several powers that were subordinate to us;*** and the last thing in the world which we were justified in doing, was to encourage arbitrary and boundless pecuniary demands, under the barbarous names of Nazirs, Crores, & c. &c. and least of all ought we to support such demands in favour of any person whose own strength was not sufficient to enforce his own injustice. When we did this, then it became not the robbery of another, but our own. **Extortion, always the endemial (p.119) distemper of that part of the world, began to be aggravated in all its symptoms, when Asiatic avarice was supported by European arts and discipline.*** Whereas our evident duty, and our clearest interest, was to employ those arts and that discipline, and the power that grew out of them, to meliorate the condition of the subject and the dependent, rather than to enforce the wild claims of a pretender, or to enforce the intolerable despotism even of the lawful possessors of power. All this we might have done, and in a great measure may still do, without any sort of diminution (to speak within compass) of revenue; and with an infinite increase of our reputation. **But fatally, we have suffered, for a long time, a contrary course to prevail, to the ruin of the fine country that has fallen into our hands; and England has thought proper to look on unconcerned, whilst the English arms have been employed by a ferocious and insatiable Mahometan, to exterminate near twenty native hereditary princes, of very ancient, and in that part of the world, illustrious families.*** But though this depredation and ruin, and in many instances this total extinction, of noble houses be itself a matter which commonly excites no small degree of commiseration in all liberal minds; yet it is a consideration infinitely inferior to that of such multitudes of the native people, once under the dominion of these deposed Princes, but who are now subjected to the intolerable burden of the Mahometan yoke.

(p.128) If we had conquered for ourselves, if we had reserved in the provinces, which have been subdued by our arms, any means of protection to the inhabitants; if we had put any sort of check on the new despotism which we had set up, something might be said in favour of that series of wars, which have brought such destruction on our species. **European oppression has, in its worst form, some traits of mildness in it; but we sold both our virtues and vices to the Mahometans, and made the miserable Indians pay the purchase.***

It is not however enough, it seems, that many great and originally independent Indian Provinces, formerly kingdoms, have been subjected to the Mahometans. Tanjore alone (among many to whom the same justice is due) is rescued, half ruined as it is; and this escape of an unhappy Prince and country, is represented to a British Parliament, and a Christian people, as the greatest of all subjects of sorrow and lamentation.

One would really imagine, from the piteous complaints of the books before us, that the Nabob had been deprived of all his original territories; had been despoiled of all his private possessions; his women cruelly stripped of all the ornaments of their persons; his house robbed to the bare walls; and his person mercilessly imprisoned. - These indeed are the (p.129) miseries - not which the Nabob has himself suffered, but those which he has inflicted on the King of Tanjore, and upon many other unredressed and helpless men, of great rank and distinction. - But when you hear him, or his advocates for him, talking to you² of the "good old Prince, humbled into the dust before the servants of the Company"; -entreating Lord Pigot "to shew mercy to his old age and white hairs;" - that "his dignity yielded to "his friendship;"- that "**a participation with his friends*** was his greatest pleasure;"- "to leave him in possession in **name only***, to preserve his honour and character, and not to disgrace him in the eyes of Asia" - It is surely impossible for the hardest heart not to be touched - If after this pathetic peroration, you come to examine into the nature of the grievance which gives rise to so rueful a complaint, it will, I believe, excite some other passion rather than pity, when you find that the **distress of the "good old Prince" is no more or less than this - That he has been helped by the English arms, to destroy not above twenty considerable Princes, a thousand times better men and better born than himself; that he has been enabled only to waste, rob, and oppress a vast tract of country, once the most populous and flourishing upon earth; that he has been able to engage us to make for him, no more than two cruel and unprovoked wars on the King of Tanjore; and in two years to rob him of no more than five millions of his money and effects.***

² Considerations, p. 55 and 57
Archival Compilations – Vol 10

3. ESTIMATES OF TANJOUR'S PROSPERITY - COL. W. ROSS TO MR. HENRY DUNDAS: 11th March 1790

Edinburgh: SRO : H Dundas papers (?) ff 80r-85 : Extract; also NLS: Melville Papers Acc 2549

Upper Wimpole Street
11th March 1790

Sir,

Permit me to lay before you some remarks respecting the Tanjore country in addition to those which accompanied my letter of the 24th February.

I took the liberty of mentioning to you that I am in possession of a copy of the letter and the statements sent by Col. Stuart of the 72nd Regt. to Sir Archibald Campbell in January 1788, and which I was given to understand Sir Archibald most liberally forwarded to you; and as these statements are the result of enquiry into the state of the Tanjore country and come through a channel which precluded suspicion, and from a man of a comprehensive, benevolent mind, I hope I shall be excused for recalling them to your remembrance, and for bringing forward such additional remarks as arise from the subject.

Clonel Stuart states that the Tanjore country,

before the war, contained Villages	4,476
That during the war were completely destroyed	<u>185</u>
remained in 1787 & 8 Villages	<u>4,291</u>
That the number of villages above mentioned,	
previous to the war, contained Houses	242,065
That during the war were destroyed	<u>155,684</u>
And that there only remained in the year 1787&8	<u>86,381</u>
That before the war the country contained Inhabitants,	1,058,424
of that number died during the war	235,491
carried off and left the country	<u>167,662</u>
remained in the years 1787 &8	<u>655,271</u>
That before the war 70,000 Vellies of ground, each vellie	
containing about nine acres were under	
cultivation with Paddy	70,000
During the years 1787&8, no more than	<u>47,241</u>
difference Vellies	<u>22,759</u>
That the produce in Paddy before the war was	
Cullums of Paddy	
12,800,000	
That the expected produce in the year 1788	<u>8,369,981</u>

difference Cullums

4,430,019

Colonel Stuart states the above produce of Paddy at 2 ½fanams per cullum, and the total ostensible revenue for the year as follows

Expected produce of Paddy	Chucrums 1,352,720
Customs	179,000
Putcut i.e., rent of dry ground	<u>318,304</u>
Total Chackrams	<u>1,850,024</u>

(80v)

but upon this subject he says, "the cullum I have estimated at 2 ½fanams which I am well assured is the highest price which can this year be expected unless some accident should greatly diminish the expected produce. The Car crop already cut has not fetched more at an average than two fanams. Indeed 2 ½is a good price at all times, and probably has not in general been exceeded: at least it appears that in the three last years of the reign of Putaab Sing, and in the several years of Tulzagee (of which the produce and Revenue are stated in Governor Rumbold's minute cited in the appendix to the 4th India Report) had the price of Paddy been as it is there supposed 3 ½fanams per cullum, the produce of the Circar share alone would have exceeded the whole revenue, without reckoning the customs, Putcut &c which are known to make a considerable part of it. I think there is reason to apprehend that the price on the table will exceed rather than fall short of the real one for the present year." Taking therefore the above good authority, and valuing the Paddy at 2 fanams per Cullum, the price for which the Car crop sold, at an average, there will be a deduction of the fifth from the valuation of the governmental share of Paddy,

amounting to Chukrums	270,544
and the account of revenue will diminish from	1,850,024
to Chukrums	<u>1,579,480</u>
or Pagodas	789,740

which corroborates the account given by Mr Swartz, that the country could not produce more than eight lacks.

After several judicious remarks upon the statement, Coll Stuart writes, "It appears then that this country lost during the war at least 2/5ths of its inhabitants, and that its cultivation is diminished 2/5ths; and as its wealth more than any other country in the world depends upon its people and cultivation, it is obvious that it has lost at least 2/7ths of its capacity to yield a revenue.

"It has lost more if we take into account the circumstances attending its calamities, for a plague might have destroyed as many people, but it would have taken away no gold, silver or cattle. A humane invader might have carried off these last without destroying the people; but the late war swept away not only the people, but the accumulated stock of the country and as there remains nothing to counterbalance the effects either of mismanagement or accidental failure of crops, a deduction should be made from its remaining incapacity. Another deduction ought (ff 81r) to be made in consideration of the quality of the inhabitants, which are said to have been chiefly husbandmen, manufacturers, and boys and girls of the age of 10 or 12; in consequence of which the proportion of Bramins seems to have increased in the

country, and of the returning people that continue to drop in 2/3rds are reported to be Bramins, who tho not useless, are the least useful class of inhabitants".

"As far as the means of the country depended upon trade and manufactures, they are still further reduced. I have not been able to learn the exact amount of the exported manufactures during the war. It probably was not very great, but whatever it might be I am well assured it is not now one sixth of what it was. The taking of Negapatam from the Dutch is a severe stroke on Tanjore, and indeed is the chief cause of the extreme reduction of its manufactures. Of 350 weavers families reported to me to have been in five or six villages in its neighborhood only about 300 remain and these unemployed and in the utmost poverty. The village of Vaudrance, seven coss south of Negapatam which was a sort of mart for the traffic betwixt the Dutch and the Tanjoreans, and was inhabited by 650 families of industrious Lubbies has remaining only 30; of 145 wealthy Buzars, and the same has been the fate of Adrraptam, and in general of all the towns upon the coast or near it."

"A considerable part of the export trade of paddy remains, which is indeed the only external resource of the country to supply itself with specie and with the foreign commodities it requires. I have mentioned that the quantity of grain formerly exported might be put at an average of 10 lacks of cullums; and this though a much smaller quantity than is usually imagined to have been sent out, is probably as much as the country could well afford, without raising the price too much for the inhabitants. At present I believe it could be more easily afforded than before; but markets are not to be found for so much; the Carnatick is shut against it, and Bengal now supplies a large share of what Ceylon requires and used to take from this country.".....

4. MADRAS GOVERNMENT APPOINTS COMMISSION ON TANJOUR (i) INSTRUCTIONS

TNSA:(MRO: BR Misc Records: Misc Vols : No. 183 A)

I. Government to Benjamin Torrin constituting Commission: 31.7.1798

1. Benjamin Torrin, 2. Charles Harris, 3. George Stratton, member-secretary; W. R. Irwin, Assistant (secretary).

II. Government Instructions to Commission: 25.9.1798 (5pp)

3. As the object of your appointment is to establish a permanent basis by which to regulate the future subsidy from the Tanjour country it will be necessary for you to obtain the most exact information of its present state and resources.

4. For this purpose you will endeavour to ascertain with all possible precision the produce of the country, the number of inhabitants, the state of the manufactures, the gross amount of the revenues, the articles from which they are collected, the charges of collection, the specified proportion usually received by the Rajah, the proportion engaged by the cultivator, and the principles upon which the division between (p.) the Circar and the Ryots is made and upon which the price of the Circar share of the produce is fixed in money.

5. You will endeavour to ascertain with as much exactness as possible the nature of the power or influence exercised by the Puttucdars, whether they derive any legitimate authority from the Government, or whether the influence they possess results from the weakness of the administration. If the former should be the case you will ascertain the precise duties which they are bound to perform, if the latter, you will endeavour to develop the exact predicament in which they stand at present.

6. You are to make a particular enquiry into the state of all maniums, enaums, and shrotriums, as well as of all alienations of lands granted for charitable or religious purposes; you are to report as far as may be practicable the history of such alienations, with their dates, nominal extent under the grant and real value at present.

7. You are particularly to enquire what security the native has for his property, and what is the (p.) authority, mode or usage by which the administration of justice is now conducted.

8. **In ascertaining these points*** the Governor in council conceives that **no information can be useful unless it may be drawn from the authentic records of the country, and as there is reason from past experience to apprehend attempts to substitute and impose upon you fictitious accounts, notwithstanding the assistance you may derive from the Rajah, or the collectors, I am directed to enjoin in the most particular manner a scrupulous examination of the documents upon which your opinions may be formed.***

9. Upon grounds of sufficient authority it will be of great importance to ascertain the quantity of land under cultivation, the quantity remaining uncultivated, and the additional quantity which in the present state of population could be brought under cultivation.

10to investigate personal branches of the customs and duties....(p.)....

11. Having thus obtained the most exact information of the present state and resources of the country your attention is to be directed to lay a foundation for its future improvement.

12. For this purpose you will endeavour to recall the inhabitants who are supposed to have emigrated from Tanjour during the administration of Ameer Sing, by offers of pecuniary aid, or by such other measures as you may deem most likely to prove effectual, but above all you will pay the most particular attention to the repair of the annicut, the mounds water courses, and the works of a similar nature.

13. All oppressive taxes and exactions, and other abuses which may have been introduced under the administration of Ameer Sing, should be abolished, and such arrangements as local circumstances will (p.) admit should be made for defining as far as may be practicable the rights of the cultivators of the lands, and all other persons, from whom the revenues of the country of whatsoever nature may be collected.

14. With a view of securing to the people the benefit of such arrangements as I have stated, and the advantages of effectual protection in their persons and properties, you will direct your attention to the speedy establishment of courts for the administration of justice in civil and criminal cases. Upon this subject, which is deemed to be one of the most important branches of the powers delegated to you, it does not at present appear, proper, or, indeed practicable to give you any detailed orders. But it will be necessary that it should be treated with the utmost care in your report upon which such a system for the better administration of justice in Tanjour will be founded as may appear suitable to the circumstances of that country, and to the manners and customs of the inhabitants.

Fort St George
25 September 1798.

Jos. Webbe,
Secretary to Government

**(ii) UNIFORM SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE AND RESISTANCE OF THE PEOPLE
CONNECTED WITH HABITS OF TYRANNY AND CORRUPTION -
COMMISSIONERS' REPORT ON TANJOUR: 31.1.1799**

MRO: BR Misc Records: MISC Vols.: 183 A: text 53 paras, 66 pages; Annexures) Extracts.

1. The little attention paid by the natives of India to tradition, and the general policy of the prince and the people to adopt and be satisfied with the expedient of the day, render it difficult to acquire any information which may add to the civil history of the Tanjour country beyond a very limited period.

2. The usurpation of the Tanjour country from the ancient Gentoo Rajahs, in 1674, by Eckojee, a Maratta of the military tribe, is an epoch well known. It might reasonably be expected, that in a long succession of princes for more than a century past the government would have assumed some regular form by which the revenues and resources of the country might be estimated, and that at this we should not have to question the origin, justice, or policy of almost every existing engagement between the prince and the people.

3. Sahajee, the immediate successor to the usurper Eckojee, is said to have held his power complete during a reign for 28, or 30 years, and at this time (p.) the inhabitants were in perfect obedience and paid a very large proportion of the produce to the Circar. Serfojee, and Tuckojee succeeded their brother Sahajee, and benefited by the good order he had established without appearing to have contributed anything to the power, or advantage of the Musnud. The short space of five years comprised the three succeeding reigns of Baba Sail of Suja, his queen and regent, and lastly of the pretender Katoo Rajah. We may easily infer that the sovereign power lost ground considerably under such rapid transitions, and also at the time the Marattas deposed the pretender, and placed Pertaub Sing, the natural son of Tuckojee on the throne.

4. It is to this period we attribute the origin of great part of the present evils, for we think it may very reasonably be presumed, that the revolution could not fail of transferring a great portion of privileges, and advantages into the hands of the people, whose joint suffrages and personal (p.) exertions were the means of affording Pertaub Sing the authority he was in future to exercise over them.*

5. When we consider the circumstances that attended Pertaub Sing's accession to the Musnud we think it probable he did not venture to compel the landholders to a just settlement.* His son Tuljajee, though a more enlightened prince, succeeded with ideas of government very little improved and during the days of his prosperity, **as the revenues of Tanjour at all times ample, were more than enough, the dues of the Circar were so long neglected, as to be at length unattainable.***

6. We, therefore, conclude that the present tenure of the inhabitants has subsisted, ever since the revolution which placed Pertaub Sing on the Musnud, and we may add for five years before, on a system of collusion and extortion, as bribery and force were formed successively to prevail.* We are strengthened in this opinion as we proceed in our enquiries

from Pertaub Sing having departed from (p.) the custom of his predecessors in the personal government of the country by introducing the office of the Sirkeel, whom we may safely believe. He selected from the party whose influence brought him forward - a minister appointed under such terms as was likely to govern with less attention to the internal vicissitudes of the kingdom, than to the private interests of his friends. **The opportunity thus offered to many landholders to increase their Warum, and establish encroachments on the Circar power, was too favorable to be neglected, and the non-existence throughout the whole province of the public officers employed in other provinces of India on the part of the Circar, called Canoongos and Nautcurnums, allowed them to effect their purpose without much risk of detection. This we think accounts for the present underfined state of the revenues, for the great inequality in the rates of assessment, and for the uniform spirit of independence (p.) and resistance in the landholders.***

7. As the cultivators formerly enjoyed but a small and inadequate portion of the Nunjah crop we are not surprised at any attempt on their part to increase their share. In proportion however as they were able to encroach upon the Circar dues, we have shown that the Circar servants imposed taxes, as a drawback upon their advantages. Hence we are confirmed in the belief the abuses we are required to investigate and reform, are of a very early date, and that they arise out of the most inveterate habits of tyranny and corruption.*

(Margin Note: vide app.p 2; vide app. p 32-76)

8. In the course of our enquiry we learnt that Lord Pigot had directed during his residence at Tanjour some statements to be made of the revenues, on which His Lordship regulated the first treaty with the Rajah; we have required a search to be made for them in the Dufter, but without effect. Although we were not sure these documents would lead us (p.) to the object of our investigation yet we were desirous to refer to them from learning that we can with no degree of certainty go back into any of the accounts of the palace previous to the conquest of Tanjour, and the Nabob's temporary government from 1773 to 1776. This is owing to the little regularity that seems to have prevailed in the preservation of the Circar records, a great part of which were destroyed on the Nabob's assumption of the country, and the rest scattered about the different apartments of the palace. On being collected together, from the loss of many accounts, and the decay of the few remaining, they were considered as a heap of useless unconnected rubbish, and removed from the Dufter to the Zeraut Kanna; so confused are the accounts even of the last reign from the total change in the mode of management and the neglect of Ameer Sing's ministers, that the officers of the Dufter declare themselves frequently at a loss to furnish the statements required of them.

9. Precluded therefore from all official information in the villages for want of Canoongos (p.) and Nautcurnums, and baffled by the little regularity that appears to have prevailed in the preservation of the Circar records, we feel ourselves in a similar predicament with the Nabob in 1773. After His Highness had possessed himself of this country, being at a loss to ascertain the revenues, he had recourse to a person named Naro Pundit, styled the Dobbeen, to renew a previous attempt in Tuljajee's time to form a village settlement, for which purpose he called on the inhabitants for their own accounts of the produce, in order to compleat a settlement from such partial statements upon the average of ten years past. In the meantime

His Highness appointed village accountants and other officers, and placed the country under aumany management.

10. It does not appear that this effort under a Mahomedan government, and in the full tide of the Nabob's power was able to accomplish the object with the aid of such servants as His Highness was able to bring from the Carnatic in order to introduce his new mode of (p.) management in the Tanjour country. Settlement was however formed by the Dubbeer, but with various success, and though the settlement is the standard of the present day, it was considered so far from the end proposed that the Rajah Tuljajee, no sooner had his country restored in 1776-7 than he put it under aumany a second time, in hope of completing what the Nabob had left undone, particularly in the Soubahs of Manargoody and Maivaram, but **encountered the same opposition and resistance from the inhabitants, and after a struggle of two years His Excellency was obliged to relinquish the attempt, from the conviction that his power, when opposed to the general interests of his people was unequal to the undertaking,*** and that the very servants he appointed as checks upon the landholders were individually interested against him. **The failure of these two powerful attempts to obtain a defined knowledge of the revenues, left them in the undisturbed possession of their lands, and to account little more than the accustomed reputed (p.) produce.***

11. Having given the outline of the former state of the country, we proceed to report the result of our enquiries into its actual internal state, and to show by a comparison with the mode of management formerly in use, the imperfect system observed of late under Ameer Sing, **a system that has operated for nearly twelve years and tended to favour the collusive and self-interested view of the people while it gradually destroyed every shadow of Circar authority throughout the kingdom.***

12. It was the misfortune of Ameer Sing to be raised to the Musnud from life of perfect seclusion, to be wholly unfit for the charge,...

13.-17. (Puttuckdars, etc.)

18. But this was not the extent of the evil arising from the negligence and inability of Ameer Sing's government. **Aware of the objections to be made to his elevation to the Musnud, he seems to have sought conciliation with the inhabitants by yielding still more to their inordinate views, and to have cherished this spirit of encroachment in them. By a very considerable injudicious remission in the division of the crops, as well as by a lavish prodigality in the distribution of maniums, Enaums, Shortriums etc., an abstract of which is here sub-joined.*** In amount they are of serious importance though of little weight in our opinion when compared with the political effect such concessions must have on the inhabitants, concessions which it is now ten years since they have been confirmed in the enjoyment of.

ABSTRACT OF MANIUMS, etc, etc.

(Vide account particulars B)

	Chucks	Fanam	Cash
Survamaniums	22,028 -	0 -	4 ½
Choterium, or favourable fixed rent	5,395 -	6 -	21
Land, etc, also on favourable rent but not fixed	3,584 -	0 -	21
Enams, or grants in money and land	9,854 -	0 -	0
Jaghires	11,248 -	5 -	0
Remissions in Warum, etc.	1,25,557 -	6 -	12
Lands bestowed on a Polygar newly constituted	2,560 -	0 -	0
	1,80,227 -	9 -	10 ½
Star Pags	75,094 -	41 -	1

19. With these instances before us of extraordinary advantages derived, first by the general class of landholders from the hidden resources of the country, secondly by the head landholders in their capacity of Puttuckdars, and thirdly by so many and various descriptions of people from the above mentioned lavish alienations and improvident indulgences we have been lead to contrast this view of prosperity exclusively enjoyed by the inhabitants of Tanjour, with the prevalent opinion of their oppressed state,* and have given our attention to that part of your instructions directing us, "to recall the inhabitants who are supposed to have emigrated from Tanjour during the administrations of Ameer Sing by offer of pecuniary aid," etc. We have the satisfaction to learn from every channel of information, and in particular from many of the people themselves, that **the instances of emigration are very few, if any, and on the other hand, owing to the too easy government of Ameer Sing, and the rigorous proceedings exercised for some (p.) years past in the neighbouring districts of the Nabob, together with the insurrections at Warriopollam, and the scarcity at Ramnad that a very considerable number of inhabitants of the inferior classes have of late taken refuge in the Tanjour country, and that its present fertility is greatly to be ascribed to this increase in the population.*** But they can be considered as only new-comers, not new settlers, from the natural propensity of the natives to return to the land of their fathers. Therefore we do not reckon on this acquisition to the Tanjour country longer than the present destructive system of government shall exist in the Carnatic.

20. As it has not been customary with the palace officers to keep registers of their inhabitants, so we feel it difficult to state minutely the progress in population, or improvement in the country since the war with Hyder and the peace in 1783. But the following abstract (p.) of the increase in the produce may serve as a very satisfactory guide and proves, during the first five years, the benefits of the village puttuckums in restoring the cultivation, and **subsequently that Ameer Sing's reign however deficient in the administration of his government, was not oppressive to the people, or unfavourable to the returning prosperity of the country, so far as prosperity depends on increasing fertility.*** We are sensible that this statement although consonant to the spirit does not accord with the exact letter "of our instructions directing us to state the number of inhabitants." For to discriminate with accuracy the number of weavers and other classes of inhabitants would involve much time and we conceive be found impracticable in the present state of the country (p.)

21. As we have already stated the condition of the people to be so much the reverse of the idea generally entertained of them. **We have only further to add on the score of injustice and oppression that the evil does not appear to have been carried to any excess by the Government.*** We have traced its effect to the condition of the individuals, who, being given up to the mercy of the Puttuckdar in the first instance, from the dissolute conduct of Ameer Sing's ministers, and little hope of redress in the second by an appeal to the Palace. However, **we must observe that from the puttuckdars being for the most part the principal landholders, the inhabitants are thought to have derived a security from their equals, which it is strongly suspected they would have implored in vain at the palace gate.***

22. We will now adduce another general argument to prove that the evils of the late reign have not fallen upon the inhabitants by showing the plan adopted by Sheverow to procure resources, either to discharge the kists of the Hon'ble Company's treaty, or for Ameer Sing, and himself to lavish away in pleasure, or dissipation in marriages, or religious ceremonies. He uniformly applied to Soucars and money-lenders for cash, which being then in great plenty at Madras and Tanjour. He found it a readier way of providing for the disbursement of the palace, than by replenishing his treasury from the usual means of extortion, a mode which ignorance of the country and the independence of the landholders would have surely frustrated the late Rajah's load of debt, both public and private during his reign, confirms the justness of this conclusion. (Margin Note: Tuncahs)

23. As the necessity of borrowing money by the native princes generally implies the operation of a mortgage of the country, and the destructive interference of unfeeling and rapacious (p.) usurers in the revenue, we think it necessary to state our information on this head. We find that the practice has not obtained to any great extent in Tanjour, and only in the latter part of the reign of Ameer Sing. Indeed it would amount to almost to a contradiction of what we have asserted of the turbulent spirit of the landholders to admit the facility of a soucar, or merchant assuming a power which the Circar exercises with infinite difficulty.

24. The money lenders appear not to have held any authority in the soubahs, but to have received a bond from the Rajah, and a collateral security by an order, or Tunka, on the soubah to be appropriated for the discharge of the debt. The Vilaydar of the soubah, or Circar officer is sent for and after being desired to state his probable receipts, and all demands existing against the amount, he is informed the balance is to be paid to the holder of the Tuncaw (p.) which is made out accordingly. The money is, in consequence collected by the Circar officers, and made over to the agent appointed to reside on the spot to receive it.

25. **A different mode, we believe is observed in the Carnatic, where the Tuncaw is generally granted for more than the actual revenue, and the agents of tunca-holders are allowed to assume the Circar power and employ their sibbendy and peons in imprisoning the persons and distraining the property of the inhabitants until the debt is discharged. We do not learn of this assumed power being exercised by any in the Tanjour country, except Chinniah,*** who long enjoyed the friendship, favour, and service of the late Rajah Ameer Sing in the character of agent, soucar, etc., and whose influence in Tanjour is well known to have extended almost to the power of the Rajah's government. And to make him an exception to the point we are now speaking of (p.) viz., the simple operation of a tunca, **and even this**

person we learn forebore to press the inhabitants for more than they were willing, or able, to pay, and in the event of deficiency sought his resource, not in extortion, but in a renewed demand upon the Rajah.*

26. **Under these circumstances the inhabitants of Tanjour appear to be a favoured people, and from the various causes above related to be exempted in a great degree from the usual oppressions that prevail in other country governments.*** But still their situation is not without its troubles, and we find that the same relaxation of government, which has allowed them to transgress to such an alarming extent on the rights of the Circar, has favoured at the same time the oppressions and irresistible encroachments of their turbulent neighbours, the Polygars, Cowlcarras, and Collieries. But it is not only in Tanjour that the wise and politic institution of district and village watchers has become the scourge and pest of those rich and (p.) happy provinces of which it was formerly the greatest blessing..

33. **For us to hope to seize the offenders [ie, Polygars, Cowlcarras, Collieries, etc.] in the act of plundering, or under circumstances of proof to warrant the regular execution of capital punishment, is almost in vain *....**

34. Whatever measures may be adopted they should be introduced in a manner to convince the people of every description, that they are not merely the expedient of the day, but the foundation stones of a regular and permanent reform for years to come. For it would (p.) be unreasonable to expect the Brahmins and other landholders to run the hazard of breaking their present connection with the Cowlcarras, until they are certain of protection from the Circar.

35. **The same conviction must be impressed upon the minds of all the landholders before we can look for any material reform of the other abuses, or hope to recover anything for the Circar under the head of remissions of Warum, alienations, encroachments, etc, etc. They are in the habit at present on the slightest dissatisfaction from the Circar to throw themselves under the protection of Cowlcarras, and not only through the means of their peons to impede the progress of cultivation in their own villages, but to annoy their neighbours, till they also desist and bring the Circar (p.) revenues into danger. There is no extremity to which the landholders would not resort in open defiance to the Circar, to support their imaginary rights, even to preserve the encroachments they have made, and to keep the Circar from a more accurate knowledge of their resources.*** The attempt to recover the prodigal remissions of Ameer Sing it is supposed would call forth their utmost resistance. To try to develop their reservations by an exposure of the whole produce, by the measurement of their lands, under the operation of an amauni management would probably endanger the peace of the country for a year, and in the opinion of many, sacrifice its revenues. Even then it would be difficult to define the real produce of the nunjah and punjah lands. (p.) To ascertain the nunjah by measurement would subject us to the necessity of dividing the crops, and taking the Circar share in kind, and that for a period of years. **Or the inhabitants would defeat our experiment of one, or two years by stinting the growth of their paddy, and this is too easily accomplished by only depriving it for a night, or two of its usual supply of water.*** To receive the revenues in kind would also prove a most hazardous undertaking. Much would be plundered before it could be disposed of, and we fear more would be left unsold, a burthen upon the Circar. For, it has long been perceived by the Princes

of Tanjour, that no arrangement but that of compelling every landholder to dispose of his portion of the Circar grain could possibly relieve the country from (p.) the superabundance of its produce.

41. We conceive that the Dubeer's settlement, although the result of so many (p.) laborious and powerful attempts at the true knowledge of the Tanjour revenues is still very short of the object proposed to us in our instructions; and we are sensible how very desirable it is to remedy the defect of former Tanjour governments, and for the benefit of all parties to have the revenues more accurately defined by the unequivocal test of a village berez. But as nothing of the kind ever existed in Tanjour, the work is yet to be begun. We acknowledge to have had this desirable end continually in view and to have left no means unsought that might lead to it. We have studied the present state of the country and the disproportion of the inhabitants and find nothing there to encourage the attempt. We are satisfied such an undertaking if attainable, can only be accomplished by a strict scrutiny of every village under a regular aumani, and as they amount to 5,217 we conceive the time required for the proceeding may greatly exceed the period reckoned upon for the existence (p.) of our Commission, and have therefore resolved to submit the subject to the consideration of Government in order that they may determine upon its expediency.

5. WANTS PEOPLE TO BE EFFECTUALLY PUT UNDER GOVERNMENT LASH - F.A. GRANT, COLLECTOR MAYAVARAM TO BOARD OF REVENUE:12.7.1799

IOR : Board's Collections : Vol 81: No 1774B: The above is entered on the proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 18.7.1799 and was in reply to an enquiry on the subject required by Government in its letter dated 11.5.1799 and the Board's letter to collectors dated 23.5.1799. The above extract is preceded by an account of the 'cavalcarrahs', and is followed by a description of the British created judicial system in areas of Tanjore. The last two paras are marked in pencil in the margin. (Extract)

It must be evident to every person who turns attention to, and maturely considers the ways and means by which the people of the Tanjore country contrive thus successfully to resist and trample under foot the authority of Government, that the cavilcarrahs are the chief engines by which they are enabled to effect these purposes. And I am of opinion, if they were to be completely disarmed, - made to respect the circar - and brought effectually under its lash, that the grand source from whence springs all the evils with which this beautiful and fertile country is so unhappily affected, would in a great degree be removed.* But this measure must be a general, not a partial one. To extirpate them altogether, if it were practicable, I should by no means consider a politic measure. For that would be withdrawing from the inhabitants all kinds of protection, and exposing them and their property to the mercy of banditti equally lawless that infest the neighboring districts belonging to his highness the Nabob. But it is very necessary indeed that this important branch of the police should undergo a complete and thorough reform, and its officers be reduced to an unconditional and suitable dependence upon the will and pleasure of the circar. I am well aware that such a reform could not be effected without instituting the most determined and vigorous measures, and pursuing then with them utmost severity and decision, if circumstances should render it necessary. **The parties might previously be informed of what is expected from them, and a suitable time be allowed to give it operation; but if that should fail of the desired effect capital punishment, inflicted in the most public and summary manner, ought to be resorted to as the only expedient that appears to suggest itself whereby the circar can possibly retrieve that respectable efficiency, which the people, owing to the negligence or corruption of the native government or perhaps partly to both, have long and so effectually wrested from the hands of administration, the effects whereof are now so much felt, and so justly to be deplored.***

I have now endeavoured to point out and explain to the Board the actual state of affairs in this soubah, from which it appears that **the form and constitution of the Government is founded entirely upon Dundacum or ancient usage or in other words upon the will of the people, in as much, as it is utterly impracticable to effect any change therein, other wise than by the exercise of severity and compulsion.*** That is to say the placing of every head-man under close and rigid confinement I consider as an indispenable preliminary measure, and actually keeping them in that state, until they shall be disposed to accede to a reasonable reform of the present system, and have given the most unexceptionable security for their peaceable conduct under it. I am really unable to suggest any other method for accomplishing this desirable object, because experience assures me that no other method could possibly succeed. How far such harsh procedure might be justifiable or politic, it is for the

wisdom of your Board to decide. But whatever may be your determination thereon, I beg leave to repeat, that the measure must be a general not a partial one.

Having said this much with respect to the general system of government, and suggested such measures as in my humble opinion are alone capable of leading to any salutary reform therein, I shall now beg leave to proceed by giving a sketch of the existing police in force throughout this soubah.

**6. ESTABLISH RESPECTIVE RIGHTS OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS SUBJECTS,
AND REMOVE PEOPLE'S EVASIONS AND CONCEALMENTS - BOARD OF
REVENUE TO COLLECTORS AT MAYAVERAM AND MANNARGOODY: 28.12.1799**

IOR : P/275/39 : pp 579-84, and 584-89. The portion omitted is somewhat different in both letters and deals with their respective area.

28.12.1799

Sir,

Government having transmitted to us their resolution on a treaty recently concluded between the Hon'ble Company and His Excellency the Rajah of Tanjour, by which it is stipulated that the whole territorial revenues of the entire country of Tanjour, with the right of establishing courts for the administration of civil and criminal justice, has been for ever transferred to the sole and undivided authority of the Hon'ble Company and that His Excellency the Rajah has formally relinquished all right of interference in the collection of the revenue, or in the administration of justice, we transmit for your guidance and information a copy of their letter as also a proclamation published by the Resident at Tanjour, apprising the Polygars, Cavilgars, Puttuckdars and inhabitants of the entire and permanent change of authority in that province. (p 580)

You will observe Government have decided, that the whole province of Tanjour, with the district of Nagore shall be divided, and formed into two collectorships, without reference to the former divisions...

(p.581) ... You will observe Government have intimated their intention to introduce and establish with all practicable expedition the rights of property, with a view to a permanent settlement of the revenue of Tanjour under the protection of courts of justice, and you are already in possession of our instructions as to the intended change of system and the formation of estates; they will however hereafter be made more applicable, if necessary to your districts, (p.582) when we receive from you a full report as to the state and resources of the country which being now solely under the authority of Government, we expect will be obtained by you in the completest manner. The division of authority that before opposed your exertions for the attainment of the information now required no longer existing, you will therefore impress upon the minds of the inhabitants, that the Government of the country is now vested in the Company for ever, and that it is their wish to ascertain and to secure to all ranks their just and proper rights. For the purpose of aiding this enquiry and of perpetuating them when ascertained we particularly direct your attention to the introduction of village curnums, and you will submit to us your sentiments as to **the best mode to be pursued for effecting these important reforms, so immediately necessary for establishing the respective rights of Government and its subjects, who have hitherto been compelled to oppose evasion to oppression, and resisted every attempt which has been made to discover their (p.583) improper concealments in the apprehension that no reliance could be placed on the Rajah's fluctuating Government for a just division of the actual produce, if its whole extent was discovered.*** You will also fully report on the measure to be pursued for reusing the irregular alienations of the revenue of the circar both in lands and

Warum which it appears, by the report of the commission, have taken place in particular during Ameer Sing's Government.

The report of the late Tanjore Commissioners, appointed to investigate the resources and actual state of the Tanjour province, referred to by Government, we conclude, is in the possession of the Resident from whom you will no doubt on application obtain a copy; and we particularly call your attention to what Government has directed that the proposed change should be introduced with as little violence to established usage as may be practicable, but, at the same time, with sufficient energy and effect to secure its success, and that (p.584) no active measures may be taken for altering the condition of the Cavilgars, Poligars or Puttuckdars without their previous sanction.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants
R. Petrie, and Members.

Fort St. George, 28 Dec 1799

7. PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF TANJORE THAT THEY WOULD SUMMARILY BE PUT TO DEATH IF FOUND OPPOSING BRITISH AUTHORITY

IOR: p/286/37: Proceedings 1. 6.1800

Whereas it was proclaimed to the people of Tanjour by a proclamation, bearing date the 17th December 1799, that the whole civil and military Government of that country had been for ever transferred to the English Company Bahadur, by virtue of a treaty concluded for that purpose between the said Company and His Excellency Maharaj Rajah Sherfojee Bahadur, and whereas in consequence of the said treaty and proclamation obedience is due from the people of Tanjour to the Company Bahadur, now farther proclamation is hereby made that the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council has transmitted His Lordship's orders to Mr Charles Harris, Collector of Mannargoody and Mr Frances Alexander Grant, Collector of Mayaveram for establishing the administration of the revenue, and the internal government of the country, upon a lasting and permanent (p.4758) foundation. Wherefore all Puttuckdars, Polygars, Cavilgars, Talookdars and ryots of every description are hereby required and ordered to obey the directions and to complete the arrangements, which the said Collectors have been instructed to carry into execution.

But lest any Puttuckdars, Poligars, Cavilgars, or other person should be disposed (which God Forbid) to oppose the introduction and establishment of the internal government of Tanjour on the principles described in the proclamation of 17th December 1799, it is hereby proclaimed, and all persons concerned are required to take notice accordingly, that the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council has assembled a sufficient body of troops, under the command of Lt Colonel Alexander Dyce, to support the authority vested in the Collectors, and to enforce obedience and respect to their orders, and it is hereby farther proclaimed and published, that, for the more effectual execution of these orders, **the said Lt Colonel Alexander Dyce has been furnished*** by the Right Hon'ble the Governor (p.4760) in Council **with full and sufficient power and authority to bring to summary trial by military process, and to punish with death, all persons who shall be found acting in arms, or otherwise opposing the Company's authority and dignity of the British Government.***

In testimony whereof the Right Hon'ble Lord Clive, President in Council of Fort St George, hath on the part of the Hon'ble Company signed this proclamation, and hath caused the seal of the said Company to be affixed thereunto in Fort St. George this thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred.

(signed) Clive

A True Copy

(signed) George Garrow
Deputy secretary.

8. PUNISHMENT WITH DEATH IN A SUMMARY MANNER BY MILITARY PROCESS OF THOSE OPPOSED TO BRITISH AUTHORITY - LETTER FROM GOVERNMENT TO LT. COL A. DYCE ON TANJORE: 3.6.1800

IOR: P/286/37; Extract, pp 4755-4758

4. The immediate object of the detachment is to support the civil authority of the Company throughout the Tanjore country, in the establishment of a new system of Government founded on the late treaty with His Excellency the Rajah Sherfogee, by which the administration of the civil and military Government of Tanjour (with the exception of the fort of Tanjour) is for ever transferred to the hands of the Company.

5. The collectors Mr Charles Harris, and Mr Francis Alexander Grant, have been furnished with the instructions of the Governor in council for the reformation of the abuses which prevailed under the late administration, and for the introduction of the system of Government, which is about to be established on a permanent foundation.

6. The Governor in council does not expect serious opposition to these necessary measures, but, as they will materially interfere with the independence of the Polygars, and Cavilgars, and with the influence of the Puttuckdars (which have exercised to an inconvenient extent (p.4756) under the relaxation and corruption of the late Government) it will be expedient that the detachment should be kept in a state of constant preparation to move in any direction which the service may require.

7. It will not be less necessary to the efficient discharge of the duties now entrusted to you, that you should be armed with power to assist the authority of the Company's Government, and to punish with promptitude any opposition to its establishment. **The Right Hon'ble the Governor in council therefore authorizes and directs you to try in a summary manner by military process any person, or persons, who may be found acting in arms against the Company's authority, and upon due establishment of the fact to punish all such offenders with death.***

8. The collectors will be furnished with a proclamation for the purpose of communicating to the people of Tanjour, the powers now vested in you by the Governor in council and I enclose a copy of it for your information. (p.4757)

9. The employment of your detachment will probably be first required in the districts under the charge of Mr.Harris; you will therefore give that Gentleman timely notice of your approach, and probable arrival, within his Division. After your arrival in the Tanjour country, you are to comply with such applications for the service of the troops under your command as you may receive from either, or both, of the collectors, for the purpose herein described.

10. In the execution of the duties, now entrusted to you, the success of the public service will in a great measure depend on the degree of cordiality and union which may be preserved between the civil, and military authorities, and I am directed to express to you his lordship's expectation that you will be no less disposed to promote this harmony, by every degree of conciliation, than prepared to enforce the most exemplary discipline of the detachment by the firmness and integrity of your command. (p.4758)

Fort St George
3rd June 1800.

I am Sir, your most obedient servant,
J. Obbo,
Secretary to Government.

9. A NEW SYSTEM TO SECURE TANJOUR AGAINST THE INVASION OF THE PEOPLE - 60% FOR GOVERNMENT, 40% FOR THE PEOPLE - C. HARRIS, COLLECTOR, MANARGOODY TO BOARD OF REVENUE: 23.6.1800

IOR : P/286/41 : Pro 7.8.1800: pp 6875-6916

Read the following letter from the collector at Manargoody:

To

William Petrie Esq, President and to the Members of the Board of Revenue, Fort St George

Gentlemen

In my letter dated the 4th of April I stated the mode customary in settling a grain produce on the cultivated lands and of fixing the price of the Government's share. I detailed the many expedients used by the Puttucdars to enrich (p.6876) themselves by lowering both the produce and the price of Government and by drawing upon the share of the inhabitants. You were pleased to sanction my proposed measure of abolishing the small Puttucums and dividing the country into large districts, of dismissing the Puttucdars and appointing Tahsildars; the execution of it I reported in my letter of the 7th instant.

2. The whole country being now open to the English power, the remaining work is to regulate the demand of Government on the revenue, and for ever hereafter alike to **secure it against the invasion of the people*** and to restrain it from its own encroachment. This object, being the substance of my present report, I trust will be attained by the following arrangements which, I earnestly recommend may be the standard of future management in the districts under my authority.

3. I will first describe the Mahratta (p.6877) system hitherto practised in collecting the revenue and the internal sources from which it has been drawn. You will then be struck with the evident necessity of reformation, and be able, immediately, either to approve or condemn the measures I propose for effecting it. I will distinguish the Mahratta system by the appellation of the "Old Form", and the system I recommend, by the appellation of the "New Form". The particular sources of revenue I will class under three general heads, Nunjah, Punjah and Sornaudayam.

4. The sources of revenue and the modes of collection and disbursement, differing in rates, are in nature the same throughout Tanjore. I therefore shall instance the revenue of Fuslee 1209 in the Puttucums of the soubah of Manargoody. The demand of Government being determined upon it, can be fixed in the same degree on the other soubahs and districts. (p.6878).

NANJAH REVENUE : OLD FORM

Statement I : Putacums of the Manargoody Soubah / Fuslee 1209

	Culls	Mer
Wodawaurum or Gross settled Produce of the car and Cuddapah Sumbah and Peshanum crops	25,97,985	- 9 $\frac{3}{4}$
ALLOWANCES out of the Gross Produce		
Deduction		
1 st Kovil or church Mauniums	3,868	- 2
2 nd Bramin Mauniums	5,617	- 8
3 rd Yaralee, fees to Cowlgars	9,241	- 9 $\frac{3}{4}$
TOTAL	18,727	- 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ³
4 th Sotuntrums to Artificers	23,409	- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁴
5 th Sotuntrums to Government	15,653	- 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ⁵
Total allowances out of the Gross Produce		57,790 - 1
NET PRODUCE		25,40,195 - 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
The Coodeewaurum or Inhabitants share is taken at rates varying in every Puttacum between 40 and 60 per cent. It amounts to (I recommend a general and invariable rate of 40 per cent for the Coodeewaurum)	11,21,649	- 4
Sotuntarums to Government out of the Coodeewaurum undefined and varying (of this I propose the abolition)	14,304	- 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
NET COODEEWAURUM	11,07,344	- 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
The Gross COODEEWAURUM above is		11,21,649 - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
(p.6879) MAILWAURUM or Government Share		14,18,546 - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
ALLOWANCES out of the MAILWAURUM		
Deduction		
1 st Kovil or church Mauniums	361	- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 nd BraminMauniums	4,080	- 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 rd Yaralee or Cowlgars fees	543	- 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
TOTAL out of the Mailwaurum (These allowances should be deducted at once from the Gross Produce)		4,986 - $\frac{1}{4}$
REMAINDER		14,13,560 - 3 $\frac{4}{3}$

³ This total being undefined I propose fixing it at 1% of the gross produce.

⁴ This likewise I propose fixing at 1%

⁵ Of this I propose the abolition.

JAMMA BOB or Additions to Government

1st Sotuntrums the 5th Deduction from the Gross Produce	15,635 - 2 ¾		
2nd Sotuntrums out of the Coodeewaurus	14,304 - 11 1/3	29,958 - 2 ¼	
NET MAILWAURUM or Government Share		<u>14,43,518 - 6 ½</u>	
of which the Car and Cuddapah is:		2,94,439 - 4	
The Remaining Sumbau and Poshanum is:		11,49,079 - 2 ½	

		Chs	Fs	C
The Car and Cuddapah Revenue at 3 2/3 G.Fs per Cullum is:		99,373 -	2 -	24
The Sumbah and Pishanum Revenue at 3-17/32 per cullum is		<u>4,05,768 -</u>	<u>6 -</u>	<u>00</u>
REVENUE from both crops to Government		5,05,141 -	8 -	24

		Cul	Mer
NET COODAWAURUM or Inhabitants Share is	11,07,344 -	5 ½	
of which Car and Cuddapah crop is	2,85,485 -	5 ½	
The Remaining Sumbau and Peshanum is	8,21,858 -	11	

		Chs	F	C
The Car and Cuddapah Revenue at 3 3/8 G.Fs	96,351 -	3 -	14	
The Sumbah and Peshanum at 3-17/32 G.Fs	<u>2,90,218 -</u>	<u>9 -</u>	<u>14</u>	
Revenue from both crops to the Inhatitants	3,86,570 -	2 -	2	

5. (p.6880) Notwithstanding the foregoing⁶ large amounts of Government revenue from the settled Nunjah produce, in comparison with the revenue from the same enjoyed by the inhabitants, further deductions are made from the revenue of the inhabitants as additions to the revenue of Government. It has been shown that the inhabitants, out of their share of settled produce, pay to Government fees in grain. It will now be shown that out of the revenue arising from their remaining share of settled produce they pay to Government fees in money, heavily oppressive, under the denomination of Chillary Coodutul and Cajanna Tagareer.⁷

⁶ from pp 6878-80, given at end as a table

⁷ from 6880-3, given at end as a table

(A) CHILIARI COODUTUL

Statement II

	Chs	Fs	C
<u>1st</u> Putty Bob : A tax varying in every Puttacum and collected from 4 to 10 Gold Fanams per 100 Cullums of the settled gross produce amounting to	12,003 -	9 -	24
<u>2nd</u> Magama: A tax formerly collected for the religious places, now taken by Government from 1 1/4 to 5 CFs per 100 Cullums of the Gross settled produce amounting to	2,994 -	1 -	2
<u>3rd</u> Caunspetty : A tax collected in lieu of the value of the Government Share, in some villages at the rate of 1 GF and in others at the rate of 1 1/2 GF per 1000 Cullums of the Gross settled produce	1,845 -	1 -	30
(p.6881)	16,843 -	2 -	24
<u>4th</u> Alayda : A tax added during the Government of the Nabob at the rate of 1 GF per 100 Cullums of the Produce	4,574 -	0 -	0
<u>5th</u> Sadiwad : A tax collected in a few villages formely as a Cutcheree expence, undefined	6 -	0 -	0
<u>6th</u> Nusser Beuty : A tax collected in a few villages formerly as a Musser, undefined	24 -	0 -	0
<u>7th</u> Sumpredy & Masmadar Wurree : An exaction of the Sumpredy and Musmadar detected by an ancient Rajah who converted it into a Government tax at 5 GFs per 100 cullums of the Cross settled Produce	12,902 -	7 -	6
<u>8th</u> Nautkurah: While the Nabob had possession of the country, a part of the amount of Nautsellavoo (or Nautkurch) collected by the Aumils for the village expences was taken by him for the palace expences. This amount, besides the full Nautsellavoo has since been colected at 2 GFs per 100 Cullums of the Gross settled produce.	5,182 -	4 -	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	39,533 -	2 -	2
(p.6882)			
<u>9th</u> Roosee Vettah : A tax collected only in three villages which were formerly a Mocausa or Jaghire to a relation of the then reigning Rajah; since the reversion of them to the circar, the tax has continued.	6 -	8 -	4
TOTAL CHILLARY COODUTUL	39,540 -	0 -	6

Of the above taxes I recommed the entire abolition. Besides being in their nature oppressive as they are undefined they open a way to the more destruction exactions of the circar servants.

(B) GAJANNA TAGAREER

A tax paid by the inhabitants of 5 GFs on every 100 Chuckrums they pay into the treasury.

<u>1st</u> The Government Nunjah revenue at 5 GFs per 100 chs yields Cajannah Tagreer amounting to	2,325 - 7 - 1
<u>2nd</u> The Chillary Coodutul above yields, at 5GFs per 100 chs Cajanna Tagareer amounting to	197 - 7 - 0
	<hr/>
	2,723 - 4 - 1 ½

<u>TOTAL</u> Chillary Coodutul and Cajanna Tagreer to be deducted from the revenue of the Inhabitants and added to that of the Government	42,263 - 4 - 7 ½
REVENUE from both crops to the inhabitants (St I)	<hr/> 3,86,570 - 2 - 28
<u>Deduct</u> Chillary Coodutul & Cajanna Tagreer	42,263 - 4 - 7
NETT Nunjah Revenue to the Inhabitants	3,44,306 - 8 - 24
REVENUE from both crops to GOVERNMENT (St.I)	5,05,141 - 8 - 24
 NETT NUNJAH REVENUE TO GOVERNMENT BY OLD FORM	 5,47,405 - 2 - 31 ½

6. Such is the old form, Gentlemen, which has subsisted, through every change, until this day and by which the demand of Government is made on the country. Before the dismissal of the Puttacdars in my soubahs their extortions were also to be borne by the people, among which, as already reported, was the necessity of paying Nautsellavoo at 10 or 15 gold Fanams per 100 cullums of the settled gross produce. This last suffering and every other inflicted by the Puttucdars having ceased with their authority, the principles of the Government itself, which suppress the growth and envenom every root of the revenue, remain to be corrected. It will be interesting to you to perceive that the following new form which I propose, contains every alteration and abolition I have recommended in the old one, and that the demand of Government thus justly regulated, will have an inconsiderable decrease.⁸

⁸ p.6883-5, given at end as a table
Archival Compilations – Vol 10

Statements 3 & 4

**NUNJAH REVENUE : NEW FORM
PUTTACUMS OF THE MANARGOODY SOUBAH: FUZLEE 1200**

	<u>Cul</u>	<u>Mer</u>	<u>Cullums</u>	<u>Mer</u>
Codawaurum or Gross Settled Produce			25,97,985 -	9 ¾
<u>Deduct</u> Covil Mauniums, Bramin Mauniums, Cawlgars Yaralee fixed at 1 percent	25,979 -	10 ¼		
Sotuntrums to Artificers fixed at 1 per cent	25,979 -	10 ¼	51,959 -	8 ½
NETT PRODUCE			25,46,026 -	1 ½
<u>(p 6884)</u> COODEEWAURUM or Inhabitants Share fixed at 40 per cent			10,18,410 -	5 ½
REMAINDER MAILWAURUM or Government Share fixed at 60 percent			15,27,615 -	8 ½
of which the proportioned Car and Cuddapah is			3,11,593 -	0
The Remaining Sumbah and Peshanum is			12,16,022 -	8 ½

	<u>Chs</u>	<u>Fs</u>	<u>S</u>
The Car and Cuddapah at the price of GFs 3-3/8 per cullum	1,05,162 -	6 -	12
The Sumbau and Peshanaum at GFs 3-17/32	4,29,408 -	0 -	1
NET NUNJAH REVENUE TO GOVERNMENT BY THE NEW FORM	5,34,570 -	6 -	13

	<u>Cul</u>	<u>Mer</u>
The Coodeewaraum or Inhabitants share above is	10,18,410 -	5 ¼
Of which the proportioned Car and Cuddappah is	2,62,557 -	0
The remaining Sumbau and Peshanaum is	7,55,853 -	5 ¼

	<u>Chs</u>	<u>Fs</u>	<u>C</u>
The Car and Cuddapah at the price of GFs 3-3/8 per Cullum	88,612 -	9 -	28
The Sumbau and Peshanum at 3-17/32 per cullum	2,66,910 -	7 -	13
NET NUNJAH REVENUE TO INHABITANTS BY THE NEW FORM	3,55,523 -	7 -	9

(p.6885)

OLD AND NEW FORMS COMPARED

NET Nunjah Revenue to Inhabitants by the OLD Form	3,44,306 -	8 -	20 5/8
NEW Form	3,55,523 -	7 -	9
INCREASE to the Inhabitants by the NEW Form	11,216 -	8 -	20 5/8

NET Nunjah Revenue to Government by the OLD Form	5,47,405 - 2 - 31 5/8
NEW Form	5,34,570 - 6 - 13
Decrease to Government by the New Form	12,834 - 6 - 18 5/8

7. (p.6885) The difference between the increase of the inhabitants and the decrease of Government arises from the larger amount allowed out of the gross produce to pagodas, Bramins, and Cowlgars and the larger amount allowed to artificers, each of which amounts I fixed at 1 per cent.

8. It here appears that Government can make a surrender to the people of the taxes, under the old form, of Chillary Coodutul and Cajjanna Tagareer amounting to (p 6886) 42,263, and have a decrease in their revenue according to the new form only of Chuckrums 12,834. It appears too that the inhabitants, retaining that part of their right, have an increase in their revenue only of Chuckrums 11,216. **What Government relinquish by the above sacrifice they almost regain by their Waurum of 60 percent and what the inhabitants acquire by that sacrifice, they in their collective body nearly lose by their Warum of 40 per cent.*** But the people are divided into two classes- perfectly distinct, the poor and the rich. The acquisition goes as a blessing to the poor. The loss falls as a justice on the rich. The repeal of the Chillary Coodutul and the equalisation of the Waurum at 40 per cent will be a restoration of the means of life to those who pay these taxes out of an inferior Waurum, and will be no hardship to those who pay the same taxes out of a superior Waurum.

9. The custom peculiar to native Government, of conferring private favour by the alienation of (p 6887) the public revenue, seems to have largely prevailed in Tanjore during the reign of Amer Sing to have been at its height. His extensive grants of land in Mauniums are I believe unprecedented. Yet his superstitious temper was not to be satisfied without lavishing his produce in indulgent gifts of Warum or increase of share to the higher part of the Bramin landholders. **An opinion has prevailed that this prince although he diminished his own revenue, increased the prosperity of his people.*** This great error the internal state of the province betrays. He did it generally no good but partially a lasting harm. He seems on a survey of his tenantrys carefully to have separated the powerful and the rich, from the oppressed and the poor and with preposterous and senseless policy, to have taken a portion of the slender means of the latter to add it to the evergrown substance of the former.

10. **This character is I believe conspicuous more or less in every native administration but appears particularly to have distinguished that of Tanjore where (p.6888) in every village are consequently to be seen the extremes of opulence and want. One inhabitant has all the enjoyments to be procured from a fertile country, while another, cultivating the same rich soil, obtains little more than he would were he the cultivator of a desert. That wealth which by circulation ought to give life to the whole, lies dormant in one part and leaves the other to languish and to perish.***

11. Security of property is the great object of the permanent system about to be established. That security consists in the equalisation of the fruit of labour, and may I think be provided for by two measures both calculated to raise the poor and deprive the rich to a natural and happy level. The first I have already described in my new form which encumbers the

produce and the revenue of the people from heavy exactions and **fixes the Waurum at the equal, just, and general rate of 40 per cent.*** The next measure is to abolish the principle on which the produce itself is fixed, namely the Poora Mooree (p.6889) or Dubbeers settlement.

12. I mentioned in the 17th and 18th paragraphs of my address dated the 13th ultimo, that Narro Punt the Dubbeer obtained accounts of the extent and produce of each village from the inhabitants, and that his settlement thereby, by himself acknowledged defective and presented to the Nabob as temporary. I also mentioned his intention of correcting it by measurement and investigation, and that his plan was frustrated by the accession of Tulsajee to the Musnud and has ever since been neglected and forgotten.

13. The Puttucdars, as mentioned in the 8th paragraph of my letter dated the 9th instant, have had the ruinous privilege of making at their discretion the disbursements for Muraumut, Warricum and Curricut. They took care of their own lands and those of their adherents the head tenants and retained the best part of the remainder of these allowances as a perquisites. The lower tenants, neglected and stinted, (p.6890) have often sold their lands to their oppressors to pay the Poora Mooree, Yaick Saul or Daumausha settlements or retaining them have seen them every year diminish in value. The consequences are that the villages of the higher classes without exception yield more than the Poora Mooree and some of them double that settlement, while the villages (under the same demand) of the lower classes with few exceptions yield less, many of them by one half. This truth has been confirmed to me by the acknowledgements of several of the former and by the perpetual complaints of the latter. Daily practice has likewise discovered to me that the Yaick Sall and Daumausha tenures, being settlements below the Poora Mooree the first for one year and the other generally for three years; are indulgences which, like others, have been converted by abuse into evils. Lands of the first fertility have been held under Yaick Saal by the higher classes, and uninterrupted security having added intrepid type fraud (p.6891) these lands have been enjoyed even by the Puttucdars, while the inferior people whom attachment to a family estate has detained from flight or deterred from the sale of it have been compelled to pay from an impoverished soil and surrounding ruin, the Poora Mooree. Many have prayed for the indulgence of an aumanie division of their actual crops, and this their half grown and scanty produce, has been liable to the cruelty of the Nunjah taxes just described and to the hard and inexorable extortion of every petty cirar servant sent among them.

14. Thus the Poora Mooree has become in itself effects similar with the Waurum. It is favorable to the people collectively, but separately adds to the riches of the rich and the poverty of the poor. Although aware how accessible the mind is to error on such a subject, as I strongly feel conviction I hope I shall be excused in confidently expressing it. On a consideration of the numerous abuses, which have torn this naturally favored country, I combine the consequences (p 6892) into what I am firmly of opinion is the brief and true case of Tanjore.

15. I decidedly think that the supposed advantages of this province over others, are real, yet that since the reign of Pertaub Sing they have been felt neither by the Government nor by the lower or most useful and numerous class of people, but have been absorbed or anticipated by the head landholders including the Puttucdars whose art has concealed the capacity of the soil from Government and whose ignorance has concealed it from themselves. I say absorbed

or anticipated because the advantages which they have actually enjoyed rise in no proportion to an equality with those which they have prevented from existence. Not satiated by plundering the branches of the revenue, they had fed upon the root. **On the other side the Rajahs of Tanjore perceiving the drain on their income caused by their superstitious favour to the superior Bramins as well as by the weakness, indolence and corruption which disabled them from a (p.6893) spirited conduct against fraud and turbulence, have sought indemnification in a quiet and unresisted depredation likewise on the vitals of their country, the lower classes.*** The revenue which they gave up in Waurum or which was forced from them by the defects of the Poora Mooree, they tried to regain by the taxes of Chillary Coodutul and Cajannah Tagareer. The aggravation of all these accumulated calamities is, that a general ignorance has been a seal to them. **With the power to feel but without knowledge to estimate, the injured have suffered, and the plunderers have enjoyed, what they know not the value of.*** Not only have the Rajahs remained uninformed of the actual produce of their whole country but the Puttucdars have remained in the same manner uninformed of their respective portions of it. That the revenue has been greater in one year than in another has been sufficient for the Rajahs and that the fields have yielded more than the Poora Mooree has been sufficient for the Puttucdars, in (p.6894) so much that a Vayly of land and a Cullum of paddy are imaginary measures that convey to the judgement no distinct idea either of extent or quantity.

16. The obstacles which have hitherto protracted the division of the country into estates are now, Gentlemen, explained. Part are done away, as the others may be, immediately, so that the new year may commence without one of the old abuses. The inadequate settlements of produce and price, the undue remissions, the exactions on the people, the misapplication of the Muraumut, the lavish and useless expenses of Warricum and Curricut, evils attending the superintendence of the Puttucdars, are removed with them; **the insecurity of an undefined land measure is provided against by the one authorized by you and the equally undefined mode of measuring grain may be corrected by establishing agreeably to your suggestion the (p.6895) Madras Mercal:*** If I am permitted as I requested in my letter dated the 16th instant to prohibit the excess which the inhabitants call Neringee or full measure. By this heaping of the Mercal which seems intended to counteract every endeavour at true measure and to destroy the use of any measure at all, a skilful measurer may if he pleases defraud the people of 15 per cent, a profit which goes to himself or to the circar servants who employ him.

17. I have been particular in detaining the injustice of the Poora Mooree as ground for recommending, as I do for Fuslee 1210, an Aumaunie management throughout the country, and according to my proposed new form, a division of the actual produce of it. Without reference to extent the only agreement necessary to be entered into with the inhabitants is (p.6896) that they shall cultivate, and that the entire produce of the lands, whatever it may amount to, shall be justly shared. The sudden circulation of property and the revival of labour which such a change will occasion will bring forth the natural prosperity of these districts. The large increase of revenue it will yield to Government by laying open the concealment and restoring the validity of every resource, and the early introduction it will afford to the permanent system I will state in a general remark after the short information required under the heads of Punjah and Sornaudayam.

(Margin Note: Punjah Revenue)

18. There are three sorts of Punjah land, the 1st watered only by rain and bearing the Aumanie division alone comes under this head and has a produce partly settled by the Dubbeer and partly reduced from that rate to Yaick saal and Daumausha. The 2nd called Punjah Putcut is watered by (p.6897) Pucotahs and wells, produces vegetables, fruit and grain, and yields a tax. The 3rd called Warasha Putcut is watered only by rain but being of a high situation and inferior quality has to bear also only a favourable tax. The two latter will appear under the head of Sornaudayam.

Puttacums of the Manargoody Soubah : Fuslee 1209

	<u>Vaylies</u>	<u>Mows</u>
A. Extent cultivated in the Car Season	33 -	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<u>Culls</u>	<u>Mer</u>
Settled Gross Produce	961 -	3
Maunium	1 -	0
NETT PRODUCE	960 -	3
Coodeewaurum varying from 50 to 60 per cent	554 -	9
REMAINDER Mailwaurum	405 -	6
Maunium	3 -	2
NETT MAILWAURUM as per account particulars No 1 annexed	402 -	4

	<u>Chucks</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>Cash</u>
Value according to prices settled by me	177	-	4-6
add Cajanna Tagaureer at 5 GFs per 100 Chks	0	-	8-26
REVENUE from the CAR	178	-	3-0

(p.6898)

	<u>Vaylies</u>	<u>Mows</u>
B. Extent cultivated in the Peshanum Season	37 -	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>Cullums</u>	<u>Mer</u>
Settled Gross Produce	942 -	10
Maunium	3 -	10
	939 -	10
Coodeewaurum varying from 50 to 66 per cent	593 -	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
REMAINDER Mailwaurum	345 -	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maunium	9 -	0
NETT MAILWAURUM as per account particulars No 2 annexed	336 -	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

	<u>Chucks</u>	<u>Fs</u>	<u>Cash</u>
Value according to prices settled by me	114 -	3 -	4
Add Cajannah Tagareer at 5 GFs per 100 Chks	0 -	5 -	22
REVENUE from the Peshanum	114 -	8 -	26
REVENUE from the CAR (before stated)	178 -	3 -	0
TOTAL PUNJAH REVENUES TO GOVERNMENT	293 -	1 -	26

19. The remarks necessary to this head having affinity to those required by the Sornaundayam will be made with them.

(Margin Note: Sornaundayam Revenue)

20. This head comprises the following taxes: (p.6899)

	Chucks	FS	C
<u>1st</u> Nucky Bob : A fixed tax paid by the landholders of each village on the following articles Viz, the fishery of tanks, house rent to Succawausees or strangers, who are so considered until they obtain landed property on the spot, taxes on Mangoes,Coconut and Tamarind topes	3,304	7	4
<u>2nd</u> Punjah Putcut : A fixed tax paid by the landholders of each village for Punjah land watered by Puccotas and wells and producing fruit, vegetables and dry grain. Much of this land is inclosed as back-yards to houses.	17,628	3	4
<u>3rd</u> Koda Punjah Benty: An addition in some villages to the Punjah Putcut on account of a second crop at from 5 to 8 per cent on the Punjah Putout	744	0	14
<u>4th</u> Warsha Putcut: A fixed tax on Punjah land watered only by rain and of an inferior quality	49	4	8
	21,726	4	30
<u>5th</u> Punjah Wurtency: In the time of an ancient Rajah a Monigar whose employ was to estimate the produce of a Magannum was detected in receiving a bribe above the Punjah revenue. In every village where the bribe was taken, it was established as a Punjah tax and has continued ever since	65	4	10
<u>6th</u> Post Wurry: An ancient tax first imposed to defray the expence of the Caumunpundagy Feast and after- wards tken as the profit of Government	263	3	16
<u>7th</u> Adody Putty: In the time of Pertaub Sing his manager the Dubbeer established this tax in lieu of materials required from the country for making rockets for the Dessrau Feast. In subsequent reigns and to this day, those articles are required and the tax is levied.	51	7	
<u>8th</u> Cauvil Putout: A fixed tax paid by every Cauvil-gar for the backyard of his house where he cultivates various dry grains	109	3	
<u>9th</u> Cauvil Porapoo : This is a yearly tax paid by every Cauvilgar who has succeeded on the dismissal of another for an offence against the Government paid not only by him but his heirs for ever so that the descendants of the original Cauvilgars only are exempt.	91	4	2
<u>10th</u> Tambettagaur Burty: This is paid by Brass-smiths who carry their goods through the country for sale at different feasts or fares.	10	0	

Junoan is never levied on brass furniture. This tax is instead of it.

(p.6901)

<u>11th</u>	Shotrium Wurry: This is a tax on Shotrium lands both Nunjah and Punjah whether cultivated or not. It varies from 4 to 12 chks per vayly	8,270 - 2 - 22
<u>12th</u>	Nocca Guttagy: This is a rent unalterable and fixed from time immemorial on certain lands of which some were granted to religious places, some on account of their having been long uncultivated and some from favour. Some of the holders (who are of all casts) have sunnads and some have not; reform is here necessary	1,681 - 8 - 0
<u>13th</u>	Coodycaul Putout: A tax on beetle gardens paid by villages on which it was formerly levied, whether there be in them now beetle or not and also by villages in which that article now grows	433 - 8 - 28
<u>14th</u>	Sunserantee Wurry: This tax has been established in lieu of certain articles required for the Purgunnah Feast. These articles are still required and the tax is levied	166 - 8 - 14
(p.6902)		
<u>15th</u>	Tomaula Wurry: This tax has been established in lieu of the Tomaul, a white flower furnished by the villages for feasts and ceremonies. These supplies are still required and the tax is levied	46 - 5 - 16
<u>16th</u>	Puddee Vittalay: A present of beetle was formerly given to the Monigars of certain vilages. This present has been converted into a tax	11 - - -
<u>17th</u>	Dessarau Wurree: This tax was established in lieu of articles required for the Dasserau Feast. These articles and the tax have been demanded	5 - - -
<u>18th</u>	Shargootagy : A tax on the Fishery of rivers	30 - - -
<u>19th</u>	Shatypugady: A tax on the shops of merchants	25 - - -
<u>20th</u>	Mercal Sodenay: A tax on Mercals in two villages	1 - - -
<u>21st</u>	Palapatada : A general tax on all merchants and artificers	1,280 - 8 - 2
<u>22nd</u>	Verel Goolagy : A tax paid by an inhabitant of the Sholicoodun village for grass	11 - 6 - 6
<u>23rd</u>	Pulliar Tope: An ancient tax on a Tamarind tope in Manargoody. No such tope now stands	0 - 6 - 20
TOTAL SORNAUDAUAYAM REVENUE TO GOVERNMENT		<hr/> 34,282 - - -

(p.6903)

(Margin Note: Remarks on the Pubjah and Sornaudauyam lands: Advantage of the higher classes in the Punjah and Sornauayam lands.)

21. There cannot be a doubt but that a considerable profit arises to the inhabitants from the Punjah and Sornaudayam lands but that profit is unequal, and not felt by many of the lower class. The total ignorance of their extent and produce has occasioned the careless irregularity with which the revenue from them has been plundered rather than collected. From the foregoing statements it appears that the circar has been so lenient as to lay aside inquiry and afterwards so severe as to resort to extortion.

(Margin Note: Reform Easy)

22. Such disorders, old as they are, can be corrected, like those of the Nunjah revenue, into a system of justice and judgement. If it be an indulgence due to the people to fix a low demand on the Punjah and Sornaudayam lands, it can be done by rule with knowledge and with impartiality. I with deference recommend that both these descriptions of land be made subject to the following (p 6904) regulations.

(Margin Note: The Means)

23. That all circar land of whatever quality, **producing Punjah grain*** be placed under the head of Punjah and be liable to an Aumanie division of produce of which **the inhabitants shall have 55 per cent.** *

24. That all land producing vegetables and fruit to be termed Punjah Putoum be placed under the head of Sornauduyam, and taxed at the rates stated in the annexed account.

25. That Shotriums, being inferior land, be invariably taxed per Vayly if Nunjah at the rate of 10 Chuckrums and if Punjah at the rate of 5 Chuckrums, and that both kinds come under the head of Sornaudayam.

26. That the Rooca Cuttagy being for the most part rich land be taxed per Vayly if Nunjah at the rate of 20 Chuckrums and if Punjah at the rate of 5 Chuckrums, (p.6905) that both kinds come under the head of Sornaudayam, and that all for which a sunnad is not produced, be resumed.

27. That the Cudicaul Putcut or tax on Nunjah Beetle garden (that on the Punjah being included in the Punjah Putcut) be fixed at 20 Chuckrums per Vayly.

28. That enclosures of ground as back-yards to houses be exonerated from all demand.

29. That all the remaining taxes under the head of Sornaudayam be abolished.

30. The measurement of the Punjah and Sornaudayam lands will be an easy duty to the Tassildars in their respective Talooks, and the foregoing moderate assessments will give to the inhabitants an interest in obedience and regularity.

(p.6906)

31. If after modifying it with your judgement you should be pleased to approve of this mode of fixing the demand of Government, it can be established generally in my Division. I have

instanced only the late Puttacums of the Manargoody Soubah, but recommend that my new form extend also not only to the lands that were under Puttacom in the Trivady Soubah but to the rented and Aumanie lands in both Soubahs, to the whole Soubah, now rented, of Puttaccottah, and to the districts of Nagore and Negapatam.

32. I take the liberty here of intruding my opinion, which I submit to your experience, on the systems of rent and Aumanis as they operate on districts unexplored. I conceive that Aumanie management can alone expose the worth of lands unknown, and that the moment the resources of a country are rented they are concealed, that a man incharge of an Aumanie district is on the (p.6907) side of Government and a man in possession of a rented district is on the side of the inhabitants or of himself. That an Amildar may be either bad or good as he is treated with either neglect or notice: that impunity of fraud and careless of service will harden even the best against the importance of his duty, and that well timed punishment and judicious praise will in a great measure frighten and flatter even the worst into zeal and integrity; but that a renter paying his kists is independent and holds close possession of his district and of knowledge of it, as exclusively his own.

33. Knowledge being now the great and urgently desired object, I have taken steps for an Aumanie management in Fuslee 1210 which will not prevent the formation and disposal of estates at any period of it, and which, if you disapprove of them, can be restricted. I have entered into engagements with all the landholders, merely binding (p.6908) them to cultivate and promising them, whatever be your determination on this report, a just return for their labour. A very considerable rise of the revenue must in any event take place from my having brought forward the numerous class of impoverished tenantry, mostly Malabars, whom I have particularly attended to by a repair to the banks and beds of rivers which for many years have poured destruction instead of benefit to their lands, and by the advance to them in my presence at the cutcheree of the proportion of Tucoavee mentioned in my letter dated the 13th instant. The Car cultivation has commenced with the western monsoon and every thing is ready for the progress of it with the gradual descent of the waters.

34. The Tassildars are directed to see the cultivation carried on agreeably to the Muhalkas and I will take care to furnish them with instructions to ascertain by your authorised standard measure the (p.6909) extent of the different lands. A rigid attention to their conduct and the presence of my cutcheree which shall move into the neighborhood of every Talook will I trust secure a faithful accomplishment of this valuable duty. **Being divided between fourteen Tasildars, it will no longer occasion difficulty or delay but be performed with ease, and expedition. By means of it and of the reform, the whole country will be thrown open. All the abuses that have sprung up during days of revolution and contest will fall before the virtue of the Company's undivided power, and leave a way, through the channel of established subordination, for the spirit of the orders of Government to penetrate into every village.***

35. **The country being thus opened and cleared for the reception of the permanent system, a lot of land, as its value is estimated, can be put up to sale and be disposed of,* in any month of the year, as an estate. The purchaser will (p.6910) become the proprietor of the circar rights in its produce, and its inhabitants will continue to enjoy their Meerassee or right in its produce as the proprietors of its soil. ***

36. I will now give my opinion on the mode of managing the lower tenants which ought to be observed by the Zemindar or proprietor as best adapted to the character and most conducive to the peace of the country under my authority.

37. Perpetual altercations between the renters and inhabitants of my districts have taken place from an unsteadiness natural I believe to the native. For instance, they make at the beginning of the year an agreement for an Aumanie division of crops, which a mutual hope of convenience afterwards induces them to alter to a rent. The party likely to be injured by the change always attempts to retract. If it be the renter, he contrives to get a third Mochulka from the inhabitants who rather than (p.6911) lose their supposed advantage engage to give him a small increase. Which of these agreements, or whether either is to be precisely fulfilled, depends upon the weather. A reference to the cutcheree is inevitable. Both complainant and defendant produce respectively the Mochulka most favorable. The one insisted upon by the renter is perhaps neither date nor signed or if signed by the head inhabitants is objected to by them as forcibly obtained and by the rest as not acceded to. If it happen by evidence or any accidental disclosure that they gain their cause, inhabitants of other villages under the same renter without the smallest ground of reason, will make a similar complaint and equal time is lost in detecting against these falsehoods as in discovering in favour of the others, the truth. Punishment can seldom be inflicted as the longest investigation can hardly ever produce a thorough knowledge whether the complaint was (p.6912) made with the consciousness of right or wrong. If the renter happen to prevail, immediately conceiving himself licensed to tyrannise, he will renew obsolete and illegal claims, and the inhabitants, conceiving themselves condemned to suffer will submit to them. **Thus, by a people yet untaught in the principles of freedom, justice is enjoyed as a favour and suffered as an oppression.***

38. Two parties, after departing from an agreement and making it up into a confused mass of irregular concessions and inconsistent retractions will bring it to the cutcheree to be put into order by the collector and without the smallest consideration for his occupation, or consciousness of their imprudence and folly; they will think it a greater cause than any other, and deserving of the first attention.

39. **Considering the inveterate determination of the natives by every method they (p.6913) can devise to undermine and destroy every thing in the shape of a standard I take the liberty of mentioning the expediency in my opinion, before a zeemendar enters upon his estate, not only to limit the amount but to prescribe the mode of his demand upon it, whether that mode be a rent or Aumanie.*** Supposing both to be made as perfect as possible, I am inclined to prefer the latter. The Aumanie is a system by which the inhabitants are sure to obtain an exact return to their labour. A rent may yield them more or less. What they get by Aumanie, is the reward of nature. What they acquire or do not acquire by a rent, is the gain or loss of speculation. Their right in the Aumanie produce can be secured by the Company's measurement. Their payments of a rented jumma can be limited only by their own agreements, which if made regular for them at the cutcheree, (p.6914) their enmity to form and order will certainly afterwards confuse.

40. If these observations be congenial with the general system, and if the new form recommended in this report, for the division of the Nunjah and Punjah produce and for the tax

of the Sornaundayam, meet your approval, it can be established as the demand of the Zemeendars on the estates under my authority.

41. **That the revenue may ascend entire and defined to Government, it will be necessary, with constant care to guard its origin.*** For such preservation, as every future alienation of land, carrying away attached to it a portion of the Government right, will be prohibited, so should be every future alienation, similar in its effect, of produce. **Beyond what are stated in the Aumanie account the inhabitants should be restrained from separating any charitable (p.6915) and religious gifts from the public store, and be allowed to make them only from their private shares after fulfilling their duty to the Zemeendar.*** The form delivered for the division of the crops should be declared the unalterable foundation of the public rights. So long as it is preserved, upon it will stand constructed the prosperity that is to rise from the base to the head of the state. The revenue paid by the under-tenants to the Zameedar, though in grain, will then be limited, and as infallible as the season, from which they and he will alike enjoy or suffer. After the barrenness of a bad year, as no injustice will take away the fruit of a good one, nature will provide for them. Hence the revenue paid by the Zemeendar to Government will be in money and at a rate fixed for ever.

42. My further progress in the execution of your orders for the establishment of the permanent system, will be regulated by the instructions which on a review of this report, may appear to you (p.6916) necessary.

43. I shall in a few days have the satisfaction of laying before you an account of the Talooks and Magauns and villages alphabetically arranged with a statement of the increase of produce promised by my engagements with the landholders. I will also submit to you regulations for the conduct of the Tasildars and point out some alterations necessary in the head and sub establishments.

I have the honour of being, Gentlemen
Your obedient and humble servant
C. Harris, Collector.

Manargoody, 23 June 1800

**10. C.HARRIS TO BOARD OF REVENUE ON "MARAUMUT" IN TANJORE:
29.6.1800**

IOR : P/286/63: Pro 9.7.1801; pp 7725-54, 7755; B.M 7757-8 Extract

First 10. Anicut protecting the Cauvery from the draught of the Colleroon. This great work is the preservation of all Tanjore.

Second 14. The other two principal works are - the bank at Cuppestallum, 30 English miles below the anicut and protecting here (p.7739) again the Cauvery against the draught of the Arselar; and the

Third Bank at Tembaramboor, 18 English miles below the head of the Vennar and protecting it from the draught of the Vettar (?). These two structures may be called smaller anicuts because performing the same office as the large one in a less degree according to the necessity of the respective districts.

15. (p.7740) It is necessary here to remark that these three important works are situated in the higher or eastern soobahs of Trivady and Combaconum, which were never under the late collectors Mr Grant and Mr Balmain, but were managed by the Rajah. Those gentlemen were entirely dependent on the cooperation of natives not subject to their orders, and consequently could carry no point. And even if they had the assistance of the palace it could have (p.7741) availed them nothing against the opposition of its servants who like all Indians showed an inveterate opposition to a power not over them and that could not hurt them. It may be concluded therefore when the palace during the reign of Ameer Sing threw every obstacle in the way of the collector that the insolence and activity of its people in counteraction had no bounds, and that not only the works of Tembaraboor and Cappestallum within their limits, but all the resources conveying fertility to the assumed soubahs were, by a most detestable policy, injured or destroyed.

16. The foregoing detail will account for the gradual defalcation that had taken place up to the period of the last Fuslee in the eastern districts particularly in Mayaveram. Annual losses created exaggerated and unjust claims to remission, and inflamed a spirit of depredation, which perhaps (p.7742) originally prevailed among the landholders of Mayaveram and Manargoody because furthest removed from superintendence and which continued in this year's aummanie management to attack the revenue of Government almost exclusively in these soobahs. Comparatively in Trivady and Coumbaconum there occurred during the late management but little mischief and during the Company's aummanis but few thefts. The former fall of the revenue in these districts having been less, so is its present rise.

22. (p 7748)...The regulation under which the work has been carried on are shown in my diaries of March and April. I fully instructed the tasildars on the nature of the work I meant, separating every article. I fixed the pay of coolies, and the hours during the day of their labour and repose. I limited the expense for the sluices by allowing the proportion necessary for the repair of the old and the construction of the new. I ordered daily accounts of the

number of men employed and materials used, to be made out equally by the monigars and nautconicopies.

...(The estimated expence is 36,827; already actually expended 22,839: remainder not yet expended 13,188).

**11. CHARLES HARRIS, COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD TO REVENUE:
13.7.1800**

IOR : p/286/41 : Pre 7.8.1800. The report dated 23.6.1800 is also in this vol on pp 6875-6916. Board Minutes are 6925-6, 7055-61.

To
William Petrie Req, President and Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

In the 8th and 9th paragraphs of my report dated the 23rd ultimo I stated the (p 6917) inequality of the Coodewaurum enjoyed by the people of Tanjore, and that the causes of it have been the partiality and corruption of the Mahratta Governments. I recommended 40 per cent as a just general share.

2. I omitted to state how far 40 per cent of produce will yield a due profit to the tenants of the poorest soil in the late Puttacums. This explanation I will first give, and afterwards proceed to supply another deficiency of my report which has not noticed whether the same rate of warum be suitable to the rented districts. The late puttacums are watered by the rivers, the rented districts only by rain.

3. Of the late Puttacums the Lutchanur (?) talook has the most impoverished land because the most distant from the rivers and the last supplied, but its inhabitants who were at my cutcherrie when I publicly mentioned by intention to recommend the fixing of the waurum at 40 per cent made (p.6918) not the least objection to it. They received their tucavie in a greater proportion than the inhabitants of other talooks, and with this just attention to their more pressing poverty, and with the certainty of being relieved from the Nunjah taxes, they departed in seeming cheerfulness to their cultivation.

4. I am inclined to believe in Tanjore a country so generally fertile, that to the inhabitants of the least productive puttacum districts an effectual and constant care of the rivers is sufficient and pregnant with no abuse, whereas local remission of waurum can not be made with precision and if made without it, will be an irrevocable sacrifice of part of the rights of Government. If precaution be taken that the owners of the worst soil are enabled to draw from it a return of their labour, I conceive that they should regard better land as well as any other article of greater value in the possession of their neighbours as an instance of superior fortune of which it would be unreasonable in them to utter a compliant, and (p.6919) to which it would be dangerous, superfluous, and vain in Government to bestow an equivalent.

5. Although I did not take upon myself formally to publish the proposed rate of waurum, I can not believe there is a landholder ignorant of it, as I have often mentioned it in the presence of the people and as I have heard from no one a complaint against it, but from many quarters acknowledgements of its justice.

6. As open enquiry and an appearance of doubt on such a subject would immediately draw forth the most unreasonable claims, I avoided discussion with the inhabitants and spoke of the regulation as decided upon.

7. The districts out of the reach of the rivers, and therefore under a money rent, are Anyancaurambalum and Chatypolam in the Manargoody Soubah, the nine nauds and Velsingaunaud in the Trivady Soubah, and the whole cirar land in the Futtaccttan soubah. When the agreement have been aumanie between the renter and inhabitants of Anyancaurumbalum and Chatypolam, the waurum has been partly 40 and partly 45 per cent; between (p.6920) the renter and inhabitants of the nine nauds it has been invariably 50 per cent; and between the renter and inhabitants of Puttacottah it has varied between 50 and 60 per cent. Velsingaunaud never has been under aumanie.

The inhabitants are the boldest cast of celleries. They are an armed banditti and have never been required by the weak Tanjore Governments to unfold a resource or to pay other revenue than a village rent or tribute. Since the assignment, they have committed no irregularity, and have discharged their kists punctually. I have taken every opportunity of enforcing the prohibition, passed by Government, of arms and have declared the use of a sword or musket to be a disqualification for agricultural privileges and the inevitable consequence of it to be the forfeiture of landed property. I shall further inform you of the Vessinganud after seeing the inhabitants whom I have summoned.

8. Of Anyancaurumbalum, Chatypolam, the nine nauds and Puttacottah I recommend an aumanie (p.6921) management as affording absolutely the only means of investigation. To rent any part of Tanjore would be to close up the resources which now for the first time there is power radically to search, and which are unknown to every man in the country. New knowledge to Government, I am convinced, will be new knowledge to the people and must I conceive for the sake of mutual justice precede the sale of estates.

9. Anyancaurumbalum and Chatypolam among the rented districts contain the best land. Puttacottah and the nine nauds are nearly equal. Putacottah being to the south and on the confines of an unproductive country, its cultivation should be encouraged by the utmost power of Government not only that it may supply the eventual distresses of inhabitants from Ramnad and Shivagunga but that it may supply them cheaply.

10. Considering the relative advantages of the divisions herein named I submit to your judgement the following regulation, which may at (p.6922) least be allowed to exist until it is seen really to bear hard upon the people, viz:

11. That the invariable waurum, of the late puttacum districts or those watered by the rivers be, as proposed in my report, 40 per cent; of Anyancaurambalum and Chatypolam; 45 per cent; of the nine nauds; 50 per cent; and of Puttacottah 55 per cent.

12. Foreseeing the infallible confusion of claims that would follow any apparent disposition in Government to investigate the exact value of land, and dreading a far more evil consequence is the suppression of the growth of the crops which the inhabitants to depreciate their property in our estimate so fatally resort to, I earnestly beg that you will for

the present give to the above regulation the appearance of permanency. For should any representation here after be made against it, the propriety of further indulgence can be ascertained by examining the situation of those villages which claim it.

13. How far the present waurum of the (p 6923) people has resulted from favour and how far from justice, the Mahratta records do not point out. If then this internal particular knowledge be required, it must be obtained by direct labour, by a judgement on the situation of every village. Should this duty, after all, be inevitable I will endeavour to perform it but I think it generally unnecessary. In the districts which have been watered by rivers the waurum of 40 per cent even if it happens to bear hard at first on any particular village will soon become lenient and before that time arrives, can inflict no suffering so severe as the oppressions which have been removed. In a constant repair of the rivers, an impartial care of the entire country lately under puttacum will improve and equalize the advantages of soil in the different divisions of it. The destructive system of the Mahratta princes it is which has broke down (p.6924) the state of the country into inequalities of ruin. The Company's power having a contrary operation will raise the validity of the several variously injured districts to a common and natural height and I think you will concur with me in opinion that to Government it would be a premature and injurious sacrifice of revenue to seek out the present exact degree of decay in each of the villages to adapt to it a demand which is to last for ever; when a careful management in a single year may revive and bring them all on a level which will make the undiminished assessment moderate, and the partition of the public revenue permanently just.

Manargoody
13th July 1800.

I have the honour of being, Gentlemen
Your most obedient and humble servant
Charles Harris, Collector.

12. INDIANS NOT TO BE ALLOWED TO ACQUIRE ANY SUPERIORITY OVER ONE ANOTHER TO PROMOTE PROSPERITY OF GOVERNMENT - CHARLES HARRIS, COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE: 3.8.1800

IOR: P/286/41: Proceeding 14.8.1800.

Read the following letter from the collector at Manargoody.

William Petrie Esq, President and Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen

1. In my letter of the 23rd of June I noticed the inequality not only in the actual wealth of Tanjore, but in the means under any part of the old system of obtaining the return of labour. Such in my opinion is the mischief equally of more or less than moderate (p.7030) property in the hands of native cultivators that although it may be evident on theoretic consideration, in my practical employ over this particular tract where it has risen to a great height I regard myself as exercising a solemn duty in exposing it, by every occurring light of truth and justice, to your attention.

2. Not to mention the superstitious indulgence of the Rajahs in their grants of Waurum, the actual government of the head people appears to have been the cause of the inequality of property, and the Dubeer's settlements to have been, both a contributory cause of it, and the instrument by which it has been effected. **How far this assessment which, exercised by tyranny, has been the means of the most cruel abuses, can in the hands of the English, be employed to do them away,*** I will state my sentiments, but first that you may decide on the safety of the trial, I will use my efforts to force into open day the effects of this monopoly of property felt by every family in the country and in a serious manner enmical to the prosperity of Government. I will then humbly add to those opinions now before you, the steps I recommend as likely to strike a last and effectual blow to so much real evil.

3. The Puttucdars and head landholders in their extensive possessions of land and money have means of securing to their own disposal the largest proportions of the produce except what falls into the hands of paddy merchants as avaricious and as anxious as themselves. They have been entire masters of the bazars which in the early months of the year to lower the Kundenny price they will supply, and which unduly to enhance the value of their stores they will afterwards starve. The quantity necessary to raise a kist, if no art or subterfuge can delay the payment of it, they will sell. The space between the close of the Fuslee and the period for reaping the Car crop is the time when paddy is dearest. To hoard up and conceal it to this season is the object of the great landholders. They then sell it at their own price in whatever quantity, and to (p.7032) whom they please, according to the forwardness or backwardness of the Car cultivation which they carefully watch, and no emptiness of the bazars or cries of the people will induce them, contrary to an expected advantage, to bring forth and relinquish a grain.

4. In the districts under me immediately after the end of April the period of setting the Kundenny price which determines the revenue of Government, the bazars ceased to be supplied with any other than the circar Aumanie paddy and the small, precarious, and mercenary combinations of the merchants who furnished them not when the circar paddy was selling; but when by accident or the dilatory conduct of my servants I could not obtain it from the villages I at first thought the scarcity real and owing to exportation encouraged by some great demand in the neighboring provinces. Lately only I discovered the monopoly and saw the necessity of calling upon the inhabitants to contribute to the supply of the market. (p.7033).

5. At the town of Manargoody after setting the Kundenny price at the end of last April, paddy in the Bazar diminished daily until about a month ago when the import ceased and none remained. In this alarm I was relieved by discovering that while not a measure of paddy, was to be bought in the bazar, there were, even in the town, large stores kept up by the Puttucdars. I instantly assembled them and insisted upon their disposing of the required quantity. They used every expedient to evade compliance and such is their determined avarice, that I have had as much difficulty in obtaining from them food for the common people as money for the revenue of Government and I was a fortnight ago obliged to seize on their granaries and bring forth by force a necessary portion into the bazar.

6. Immediately to oppose these practices and others of a most mischievous nature prevailing in the different bazars of my Division, I find a Cutwals department under strict regulations to be indispensable and will in my now Moyen Zabithah, now in forwardness propose to you an establishment. But (p.7034) this step even if successful can be a remedy only to evil perpetually rising from it since the inequality of property. The most powerful efforts to execute your intentions in those districts must be never ceasing while there is no competition among the people, and while latitude is left to the intrigues, the vices, and crimes of men who (as I may comparatively say) have all the land, all the grain, and all the money in the country.

7. If extensive landed estate be hurtful to the public in Europe where trade, manufactures, and various modes of subsistence may be resorted to, they must be much more so in India where agriculture is the chief occupation, and cannot be abandoned for any other by men under the restraint of their casts and attached to the professions of their ancestors. The great landholder who draws land from the small one draws it also from Government. By this monopoly, the condition of Tanjore appears to be the same as that of any other country where the controlling power has been lodged in the head people. Since the appointment of (p.7035) Puttucdars their estates and those of the head landholders have been gradually extending and absorbing those of the lower class. Invested with the controul of the heavy disbursements annually poured from the treasury, they have by retaining the whole benefit of Muraumut and Wauricum fertilised their own lands and impoverished all the remainder. Entrusted also with the receipts they have indulged themselves with remissions from the Dubeer's settlement and inflicted all its severity on every other proprietor by exercising the utmost rigor of the circar demand on a scantiness of crops created by themselves. They have taken the whole produce of an estate and left to the holder no other means of complying with the settlement than to part to them with the estate itself. These truths have been confirmed to me by the practice of every day, and I have had the mortification of being obliged to dismiss complaining of this effect of the settlement and of the Government, because their rates have

had the regular sanction of their signatures and have (p 7036) proceeded from abuses antecedent to the operation of the Company's power.

8. A few of these fields lying neglected or injured in the village of a rich owner, and a small portion of that wealth lying buried in his house, would in the hands of a poor man create an adequate addition to the gross produce of the country. The cultivation of the poor has been reared as far as constant labour could rear it, while that of the rich has either languished for want of care, or been stinted and suppressed to diminish the revenues.

9. **In all districts temporarily assumed by the Company, I will venture to affirm that the produce has been destroyed in its growth in proportion as they have been rich cultivators able to make the sacrifice particularly in Pollams, or other provinces paying Peshoush and under investigation.*** I regard this as a predominant practice with the head landholders who rather than expose the capacity of the soil which would regulate the future just demand upon them, **will weaken it at the expense of their own immediate profit and by a self defeating cunning cause it to yield perhaps less than the fixed tribute to the Company.***

10. As a knowledge of this process, a counteraction to the bounty of providence, may not have been conveyed to you I will describe it as far as I have been able to obtain information on it. The principle is to treat Nunjah the same as Punjah land. At the season for commencing the Nunjah cultivation, a quantity of water ought to be admitted on the fields. **After it has stood three weeks so as to soften the earth, and while it is yet not quite absorbed, the ploughs should be set to work. The water then penetrates and nourishes, and the soil being kept constantly moist becomes productive. But the mode of suppression is to overflow the land; and after its first saturation to let the water flow from it, and when it is parched and cracked by the sun, to plough and sow it. Its (p.7038) prolific strength thus impaired and unasserted will yield no longer a produce than Punjah lands. Because Punjah temporarily watered by the falling rain must be as fruitful as Punjah temporarily watered by the tank or river.***

11. **The next step is in the transplantation. The proper distance between two paddy plants in the best ground is eight inches, in less good ground six inches.*** If placed nearer, as may be observed in two trees unduly close, their shoots will not spread out because the power of the earth is over-burdened. As this power is exhausted by a too crowded plantation it is left useless by a two wide one. To diminish the produce the inhabitants use both extremes. By the latter they can place their plants at such a distance as inevitably to reduce their crops to any given quantity, and the beauty and excellent quality usual to a wide plantation cannot be looked for in the weak sapling brought from its original injured soil. A certain width ought to be adopted to each degree of quality (p.7039) from the lowest to the highest Nunjah. Sometimes there may be an advantage in not transplanting from the very high Nunjah but in thinly sowing it and allowing its crops to come to maturity upon it as in Punjah land. The many opportunities the inhabitants have of suppressing the revenue are here evident. And they will take advantage of them to destroy the right of the circar which investigation will not allow them to retain. In Tanjore I conceive a part of the Government share will be inevitably relinquished by a continuation of the Dubeer's settlement and that a smaller part will be eventually destroyed or not in Aumanie as the Aumildare cannot or can be made

vigilant and faithful, or as the landholders cannot or can be persuaded that the Dubeer's settlement is for ever abolished.

12. **Another method of suppression is when the crops are half grown to withhold from them the necessary supply of water. Here as well as at the commencement of the cultivation the most particular attention is required.*** If possible, peons should be chosen (p.7040) that will not league with the landholders, and cutcheree Hircarrahs should be kept constantly on the look out.

13. At the opening of the present season aware of the necessity of extreme caution, I hastened the appointment of Tasildars, and without mentioning particulars bade them watch the commencement of the cultivation and to send into me regular reports on the conduct of the landholders and on the quantity of land ploughed and sown. It was not long before I heard that intrigues and deceptions such as I have described were taking birth in different parts of my Division; that landholders in order to defy investigation and measurement had in view the reduction of the actual produce to the Poora Mooree, and that the Puttucdars of Manargoody in particular had formed the design of diminishing the produce in expectation of depreciating and removing the management of the Tasildars and of vindicating and re-establishing their own. From the principal conspirers a conversation was conveyed (p.7041) to me in which they complained of the disclosures that threatened their profits, and agreed to the necessity of endeavouring to retain (?) them of these designs. Although I was convinced I would obtain no positive proof, some plausible excuse was always found, but I could not submit to listen to a people against whom a full and satisfactory evidence can rarely be obtained and who if permitted to speak have art to account, favorably to themselves, even for detected crimes. **Moved by a consideration of the many evils they had brought on the country, I instantly seized all the Puttucdars who were at my cutcheree and put into irons the two head men.*** In the span of a few hours proclamations were dispatched to all the Talooks with information of what had happened. I stated to the inhabitants in necessary length the practices I had discovered. I warned them that the guilty, to the prejudice of themselves and heirs for ever, would forfeit their lands, and that their lives would be at your mercy. That the Dubeer's settlement, and the controul of the Puttucdars never would be restored, that the power (p.7042) of the Company would never change or pass away, that those who most improved the produce of the country would enjoy most and live happily, and that those who destroyed the produce of the country destroyed their own share of it, besides subjecting themselves to persecution and ruin.

14. I lost no time in securing the persons of all the Puttucdars. I dispatched people to superintment their cultivation; I engaged some additional Hircarrahs and distributed between the Talooks a small increase to my establishment of Mauvillians. I have enjoined particular observation of the lands of the rich, and by repeated orders, I have encouraged the exertions of the Tasildars. I have not only prescribed their attention to the conduct of the servants under them but insisted on their personally moving into every village under their authority. I have sent different Hircarrahs at different times into the same parts of the country. By these steps I am disposed to believe that the mischief had not time to spread, and from the daily intelligence brought in of the abundance of the water in the rivers, of the state of (p.7043) the growing crops on the Car lands and of the continued extension of the cultivation of the Peshanum, I am led to hope for a prosperous year.

15. Should my mention in the proclamation of the abolition of the Poora Kooree not meet your approbation I can revoke it by your authority. I judged it my duty discretionarily to act in an hour of danger.

16. In my opinion, which I offer with deference, **the best that can be said towards proving the Dubeer's settlement favorable to the people is that the accounts of it were furnished by them, and here is in the first place firm ground for assurance that it is in its origin injurious to the individual right of Government;*** in its consequence, namely, its liability to mutilation by the remissions of Yaick Saul and Daumausha, it is far more so. In the next place it cannot be supposed that the assessment, acceded to in haste by the Nabob, and made up as the prey of a transient conquest, was at first, or is now, impartial towards (p.7044) all the landholders. I have a thorough persuasion that it is not. I found that persuasion on the report of several aged and apparently uninterested men of Tanjore, that one village produces double the Poora Mooree while the adjoining one under every advantage cannot yield three-fourths. I further found my persuasion on the express authority of several of the Puttuccars themselves who when closely questioned could not evade the confession that the lands of which they seem to have chosen the possession produced more than the Poora Mooree and those of other tenants considerably less. In fine I found my sentiments on the contest of two parties of whom one desires the settlement and the other the Aumanie. The former is composed of the idle who have lived in riches by plundering the country, and the latter of the industrious who have starved in poverty by cultivating it.

17. Towards the people would the supposed inequality of the settlement be real (p.7045) or should it not, towards Government it must altogether be unfavorable. Of its injury to Government and of its benefit to the head landholders there cannot be a doubt. Its only remaining absolute recommendation then is the chance, against the testimonies I have stated, of its being favorable to the poor, and it has a comparative merit in the possibility that its deficiency of Government revenue may be less than the deprecation of an Aumanie management.

18. If I am right in the belief that the settlement is an injury to the poor, all the paddy will continue to be bought up from them and monopolised by the rich to the cost of the whole country. And another consideration occurs that the poor by art and falsehood will make the suffering appear more than it is. Perpetual investigation of claims to remission will take place and in the compliance of the circar, so that the favour of the settlement will quietly be enjoyed by the head (p.7046) landholders, and its severity will be rejected by the lower. The excess of actual produce above it and the deficiency below it, both, will be a loss to the Government, and a greater one in my opinion, far more than any thing to be feared from a well regulated Aumanie management, so eligible besides for the success of investigation.

19. I cannot but apprehend that while the Dubeer's settlement has a name in the country that it will bear down what is now so much desirous a knowledge of the actual capacity of the soil which the depravity of the landholders compels me to distinguish from the actual produce. So long as this settlement lasts they will contrive to mould to it the result of every year's enquiry. They will destroy a part to make the remainder equal to the reputed revenue. But when an Aumanie division is established for ever between them and Government or a

permanent holder of an estate, they will see interest in (p.7047) a full and fair cultivation. No time can conquer their persevering and patient expectation of a revolution in their favour. They will believe that the native government of the Rajahs, and the controul of the Puttucdars are to be restored, and continue to conduct themselves accordingly until the force or reality weighs heavily upon them, and until the efficacy of resolute reform clears away the last remains of this deceitful system.

20. It appears to me that this is the time for forming between Government and the proprietors of the soil the mode of management which is permanently to subsist between those proprietors and the holder of an estate and I think that among a people whom no engagement can bind and in whom education has fixed no moral quality to fit them for any agreement whatever, the evils of a rent are many and certain, and the evil of Aumanie is single and accidental. I will not repeat remarks on the preliminary sacrifice of revenue necessary to induce the people to engage in (p.7048) a rent and on the unconquerable irregularities, frauds and artifices by which they depart from the best arrangements, evade the most just stipulations, and claim and obtain the most unreasonable remissions, on the plea of losses exaggerated ten-fold to deceive the bounty desirous of relieving them. But I will proceed to (the) remaining remark on the Aumanie system. This is liable to one abuse, the dishonesty of circar servants, which I think may be checked by good regulations and a well chosen establishment. It is liable to another, not inherent in itself but preceeding from the expectation of a rent or the renewal of an old settlement, viz, the suppression of the produce by the landholders or proprietors of the soil, and this can be effectually guarded against by a declaration that no rent or settlement will ever take place but that the crops will be for ever divided and that he who rears most will enjoy most.

21. I have on this subject so strong (p.7049) an opinion, that erroneous as it may be I cannot forbear uttering it. I believe had there, between Government and the proprietors of Nunjah land, never been a rent there would have been no material oppression of the poor and no destruction of the produce on the part of the rich. And had the management always been Aumanie that all classes of cultivators would have found an interest in persevering labour. The actual capacity of the soil would have been discovered because no expected rent would have induced injury to it and because embezzlements of actual produce being variable and temporary would have been easily detected. But supposing that some loss might have happened from the plunder of the crops then growth would not have been suppressed, the face of the country would have been embellished, and scarcities and monopolies would have been rare.

22. If these sentiments do not accord to your judgment and experience, and shared circumstances and the opinions of the several (p.7050) Gentlemen who have had authority in Tanjore induce to prefer the rented revenue, I beg leave to recommend the following measure which in any event I deem of use against the several evils stated in this address.

23. As the inequality of property including in its effects the monopoly of grain and the dreadful suppression of the produce, is to be attributed to the present extensive possessions of land, these, in order that the natural state of the country be restored and preserved, should be reduced and limited.

24. A vayley of land is 6-27/36 acres. Some cultivators live on half a vayley, many on from five to ten vaylies, and those are thought to have a large possession who have fifteen or twenty. The rich landholders including the Puttucdars have from twenty to eighty, and the principal of the latter have encroached to the vast extent of one hundred and fifty, and two hundred vaylies. (p 7051).

25. That no inhabitant by the monopoly of a market be able to starve a district or by the overgrowth of his lands be in a capacity to afford the suppression of any part of his cultivation, that all the people may in due proportion enjoy under the new system a share in the blessings of a fruitful soil, and that from this equal labour Government may derive a full revenue, I think that **the utmost extent to be held by a single proprietor of land under Government or the purchaser of the Government right, might be fixed at thirty vaylies, equal to two hundred and two acres and a half.** *

26. There will be difficulties in the way of such a reform, but the difficulties will be surmountable and the reform will be radical. The poor may not have means to purchase immediately but the more substantial may, and the bulk of property when it once begins to move will soon descend further and at last be brought to circulate through the whole body of the people. The limitation of the estates to be held by a purchaser of the (p.7052) circar right in the soil may be a subject of after consideration.

27. **That the natives of India, should not be allowed to acquire any superiority that can be avoided over one another but that property should be kept as nearly as possible balanced between them, there cannot I think be a more striking proof any where than in Tanjore.** *

The Puttucdars in their astonishing influence have, not only plundered the Government and all the under-tenantry, but have drawn to themselves the fortunes of many private families. Having borrowed large sums without intending repayment, they are at once rich and loaded with debt. A high interest I believe was the inducement of those who have put out their money and could not perhaps be censured when under the Mahratta Government recovery was precarious. But as your orders to me restricting the interest of all bonds and notes to 12 per cent (to) secure the borrower from usury, it will I conceive be your desire (p.7053) equally to protect the lender from heavy losses such as have hitherto prevailed. Several natives are now at my cutcherree waiting anxiously the success of their applications. On account of the amount, reasonable as the demands are, I do not consider myself at liberty to attend to them without your sanction, which that you be pleased to pass I beg leave to recommend thinking it will exhibit, as I shall proceed to show, equally the bounty, severity, and policy of justice.

28. I have reason to believe, from the past duration of the controul of the Puttucdars and from their practice, observable in all other natives however rich of borrowing, that the sums due by them exceed the value of their lands and I think, from their extreme avarice which will not allow them to take from their hoard what they have once deposited in it, that they will rather part with their lands than their money. In this case their cultivation might be taken possession of, (p.7054) their creditors might revive from expected ruin, their crimes would be punished, and their evil burden on the country might at once be raised and borne away, with perfect safety - **because the influence by which they used to draw off into emigration the inhabitants of whole districts, is at an end.** * Their connexion is completely broken and

what they suffer will be suffered by them only. **I have them now in confinement, and this example which will make a lasting impression on the public mind, may be immediate.*** If they afterwards depart from the country, they will go alone carrying away every vestige of a vicious and unprecedented power, and leaving unmolested and uncounteracted the operation of the Company's Government.

Manargoody
3rd August 1800

I have the honour of being Gentlemen
Your most obedient and humble servant

Charles Harris, Collector.

13. MINUTE OF MADRAS BOARD OF REVENUE ON TANJORE AFFAIRS: 14.8.1800

IOR : P/286/41: Proceedings 14.8.1800, pp 7055 - 7061

Agreed to inform Mr Harris that the Board approve the measure to which he has been under the necessity of resorting to break through the monopoly of grain established by the late Puttucdars, as it appears to have been a measure of immediate necessity for the relief of the suffering inhabit

The prevention of direct monopoly is the duty of a collector but the Board think it very desirable to avoid as much as possible interference with the markets and the price of grain which ought in general to be left to find its own value especially in times of actual scarcity when attempts to limit the price have been productive of the most distressing consequences, not only by enabling the people to purchase more than positive necessity requires thereby sooner consuming the stocks in hand but also by discouraging importation; individuals will make extraordinary efforts to procure supplies in proportion only as they see a prospect of extraordinary profit and that can only be realised from a certainty (p.7056) of a free market. The evil happily comes with its own remedy, for exertion thus stimulated almost invariably produces the required relief.

The Board highly approve the vigilance and ability exerted by the collector at the opening of the cultivation and the energy of his measures on discovering the combinations to frustrate the success of the arrangements adopted by him for executing the orders of Government with a view to a permanent settlement of the country. The power so long exercised by the Puttucdars with uncontrouled sway it was to be expected they would reluctantly part with, open resistance they know to be fruitless and therefore trusted to the more secure and secret means of willful deterioration and counteraction. In this the Board are happy to observe they have completely failed; and tho the remedy was severe they are convinced of the policy and necessity of the object intended by it and that the ultimate happiness of the people and future prosperity of (p.7057) the country depends on the entire annihilation of the Puttucdars' influence and the firm establishment of the authority of Government.

The arguments urged by the collector to prove the injustice of the Poora Mooree, to the greater portion of the inhabitants and to the state, are perfectly satisfactory, and the crisis at which affairs had arrived called for prompt decision. The Board therefore approve Mr Harris's proclamation annulling the Dubeer's settlement and declaring it and the controul of the Puttucdars abolished for ever.

In all measures of great importance to the people and the Government the collector is no doubt aware of the superior efficacy of orders promulgated with the previous sanction of that power which alone can give them permanency. And though in the present instance delay would have been injurious to both, the Board recommend that in all practicable cases the collector wait their orders before finally adopting and publishing any measure affecting the (p.7058) general interests. *

The evils which the collector states to have resulted to the poorer classes of inhabitants, and to the interests of the circar, by the inequality of property and the extensive tracts of land engrossed by the rich landholders including the Puttucdars, the Board must ascribe to be defects of the former Government. To establish a limit to the extent of landed property which a man should enjoy, would be to strike at the root of industry which is uniformly impelled by the hope of accumulation and to offer to land such a value as to make it the most desirable property to the holder is the fundamental principle of the system the Board have in view thereby to give a spur to agriculture and the general prosperity of the country. But this would be delusive without regulations for the protection of property when acquired and courts of justice to administer and enforce the law will in due time be established and prevent those irregularities and individual oppressions that have heretofore grown out of the system of the Government of Tanjore. (p.7059).

In regard to the ryots and subordinate tenantry they hold the right of cultivation of certain spots of land, under the express obligation of cultivating to the extent of their power and rendering to the state its share of the produce. A failure in these either from perversion, intrigue or fraud subjects the holder to forfeiture of his privilege and the circar or proprietor is authorised to call in Payakarries to cultivate such neglected lands or to make them over to another. Without such inherent right in the Government the country might in time become in great measure waste, by the very mode pointed out by the collector.

This right, more properly privilege of cultivation is transferred and sold; but invariably under the acknowledged obligations to Government; the sirkar alone having the power to make a positive sale of the soil and its whole produce; but it is equally understood as an obligation binding on the sirkar that so long as an husbandman cultivates fairly and gives to the sirkar (p.7060) its just share of the produce, he is to be protected in the enjoyment of his land.

The lands possessed by the great landholders and the Puttucdars of Tanjore, and which they have progressively purchased from the ryots, are expressly subject to this obligation. If from misfortune, mismanagement or other causes a landholder cannot or will not cultivate the whole extent himself, he has it in his power to sell the privilege he paid for to another, or he may call in Payacarries to cultivate for him still retaining the lands. If he obstinately persist in doing neither, the sirkar must exercise its unquestionable right and give the lands to others but of course not however before the holder has been formally and explicitly warned of the consequence of perseverance in his perverse conduct. This power sufficiently guards the interests of the sirkar, and those of individuals so long as they act honestly and when exercised with discretion it will correct the evils which would (p.7061) otherwise result from extended possession of land in the hands of profligate or dishonest cultivators.

As to the debts due by the Puttucdars to the inhabitants whose property they withhold the courts of justice when established, and the collector till they are established, must take cognisance of them agreeably to the rules laid down in the general regulations for the conduct of collectors and when these debts are proved against the parties they must be called upon to pay them which of course they will be allowed to do in the manner most advantageous to

themselves. But if after due warning they decline to render satisfaction on the decree their property whether in land or otherwise, must be attached and advertised for sale and if not redeemed by the payment of the debt within one month from the date of the advertisement, the property must be sold.

14. GOVERNMENT TO BOARD OF REVENUE ON TANJORE - APPROVAL FOR COLLECTOR'S VARIOUS STEPS : 27.12.1800

IOR: P/275/44: Madras Revenue Consultations

To

William Petrie Esq., President And Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

1. We have your letter of the 15th ultimo with the extracts from your proceedings on the several reports from the collector at Tanjour.

2. The collector has fully exposed the weakness of the late Government of Tanjour, and demonstrated the incapacity of it either to support its authority trampled on by the Puttucdars or to secure the revenue from their powerful combinations. Through abolition of the Puttucum system so injurious to the welfare of the body of the people having been succeeded by the complete establishment of the Company's Government Mr Harris has very judiciously turned his attention to the produce of the country, and the division of that produce between the Government and the cultivator. Having ascertained that the scale of division fluctuated and varied from (p.3319) 40 per cent, the lowest to 60 percent, the highest, that Gentleman has recommended and your Board have seconded his recommendation that a general and uniform reduction to 40 per cent should take place in the low Puttucum lands to 45 per cent in the higher districts of Ayancaunumbolum, and Chatypollam; to 50 in the nine Nauds, and to 55 in the Puttucotah district.

3. General rules may sometimes from partial operation produce inconvenience and even injustice and although a general average Warum in the districts above enumerated may be very desirable in point of order and regularity yet it would have been more satisfactory to us, to have seen at greater length the reasons of the collector in favour of this general average, and to have had it explained more fully, whether the excess of Warum enjoyed by the inhabitants of Tanjour had been wholly derived from surreptitious assumptions and the bigotted prejudices of the native Governments to perpetuate this memory by concessions to particular sects; or from a consideration as (p.3320) in other countries to the abundance or sterility of the soil, and facility or difficulty of irrigation. Our knowledge of the uniform fertility of the lands in Tanjour may lead us to an assurance that either of the two first causes or both may be the origin of the high Warum which has prevailed. Yet we are also informed that the soil of villages contiguous to each other, and even the lands of the same village vary frequently in their productive powers to such an extent as to render necessary a higher Warum to induce the cultivation of the less prolific.

4. We have great confidence that the collector has not been inattentive to this variation in soil and situation, and we observe with satisfaction the able explanation which the collector has given of the rate of division of the produce between Government and the inhabitants, of the deduction from the share of the latter in kind, and of the vexatious exactions in money from the same share under th denomination of Chillary Coodootul and Cajanna Tagreer; his

recommendation that these items should be abolished is (p.3321) a proof of his consideration for the comfort of the ryots as his proposed arrangements demonstrate his attention to the interest of the Government. We therefore authorise the rates of Warum recommended by you for the current year in the course of which the collector adverting to our suggestion will be able to ascertain the adequacy or the inadequacy of the general rates of division he has proposed in all situations.

5. This principle and as the deductions out of the gross produce on account of pagodas and Bramin Mauniums and Cavilgars Yaralu appear to have been under than exceeded 1 per cent of the gross produce, we authorise the collector to establish that rate of deduction on the above accounts; the inferior sub-divisions will of course be made in the proportion that the former rates bear to the present.

6. The Sotuntarums to artificers for the same reasons we desire may be deducted at the same uniform rate of one per cent, and fully concurring in the reasoning of the collector and your recommendation (p.3322) we authorise the entire abolition of the Sotuntarums to Government.

7. The deductions from the gross produce being thus simplified and finally settled at 2 per cent leaves 98 per cent divisible between the Government and the ryot in the proportion in the Puttucum lands of 60 per cent and of 40 per cent to the latter undiminished by any exaction whatever under the denomination of Chillary Coodutul and Cajanna Tagreer, the abolition of which we direct may be formally proclaimed.*

8. The rules proposed by the collector for regulating the demand of Government on the Punjah lands appear to have been framed with judgement and moderation, and though Mr Harris has not stated what the scale of division on the Punjah land has hitherto been we are of opinion that the proportions assigned to the inhabitants of 55 per cent is ample, provided that variation in soil and situation which is to be found in other (p.3323) provinces does not exist in Tanjour. The rates recommended for the assessment of Shotrium land, on the Roocaguttagy, on the beetle gardens, and on garden productions appear equitable. We accordingly authorise their being established and we confirm the abolition of the numerous oppressive and undefined taxes enumerated by the collector to have been collected and classed under the head of Sornaudaayam.

9. We approve under the explanation you have afforded, your having sanctioned the measure adopted by the collector in a moment of danger firmly to establish the authority of Government and to discourage the hopes of the Puttucdars, that their authority might yet be re-established by a combination and uniform counteraction of the collector's measures. We accordingly confirm the abolition of the Pooree Mooree settlement which having operated partially was in many instances unjust, and declare the abrogation of the Yauksaul and Daumasha tenures, indulgences which the collector has satisfactorily demonstrated (p.3324) have been perverted from their original intention to gross abuse.

10. We highly approve of the proposed arrangement for the security of a defined extent of backyard to all classes of inhabitants, the issue of regular sunnuds appears a measure likely

to ensure the poor equally from the oppression of the rich, and from the imposition of the circar servants. We desire therefore that it may be carried into immediate execution.

11. We are led to entertain the most sanguine hopes from the defined rates of assessment now regulated. The uniformity introduced in the weights and measures, and in the measurement of the land and from the many able arrangements which have from time to time been submitted by the collector for the better government of the Tanjour country, that a system of order and good government will take place instead of undefined exaction on the one part and evasion, concealment, and fraud on the other which will pave the way to an easy and early introduction of the permanent system of revenue and judicature.

12. (p.3325) We have perused with attention Mr Harris's arguments in favour of an Aumanie management compared with a system of large rents, and although it has been an established principle, to resist the introduction of this mode of management from an acknowledged preference due at all times to a village settlement (formed either upon an examination of documents where they exist, or in default of them upon estimate of the produce) yet as this recommendation of the collector does not proceed from an ignorance of the abuses to which this mode of management is liable but from an avowed desire to obtain a thorough knowledge of the real value of the country, and the conviction that it cannot otherwise be procured as well as confidence in himself to resist collusion, we authorise him to undertake it relying on his vigilance and energy to secure from fraud and speculation the revenue of Government.

13. We trust that the introduction of the permanent system of revenue and judicature will eradicate most of the malpractices and frauds (p.3326) which owing to the demand of Government being unlimited have hitherto proved the means of enabling the inhabitants to meet that demand. It is to be hoped that as the share they are to render to Government is now fixed and will be secured to them on the utmost extent of their cultivation, they will have no inducement to suppress the amount of it or to diminish the produce by the artifices which the collector has described. As no hope of rent is held out either to the Puttucdars or inhabitant no prospect of advantage is apparent to the latter from the concealment of the real cultivation and produce, except by practices of gross collusion in between these people and the circar servants which we must look to the vigilance of the Collector to prevent. **The chain of connexion is entirely broken between the Puttucdar and ryot, and their interests are separated.*** The latter may now be expected to decline listening to advice which if followed would be to his own injury. We are therefore sanguine in our expectations that the continued exertion of the collector's vigilance (p.3327) and energy with the immediate application of such local remedies as particular circumstances may render necessary, will enable us in the course of a short period of time, to lay the foundations of the permanent government of Tanjour.

14. We are well pleased to observe the favorable prospect of increased resources this year which the province of Tanjour holds out in an extended cultivation already secured by an impartial distribution of Waricum in the repairs of the banks of the rivers and the assurances which the collector has given to the cultivator of a full enjoyment of the produce of their labor.

15. We observe that the collector has formed some erroneous conceptions on, and has not fully understood the principles of the new system about to be introduced. The explanations afforded to him by your minutes will correct his ideas on these points. We shall not therefore notice them here, but desire that our approbation of the zeal and ability which the collector has shown by the able arrangements now before us, may be communicated (p.3328) to that Gentleman.

Fort St George
27th December 1800

We are &c
Clive & council.

15. ON PLANTATIONS FOR WOOD AND ON FORCED LABOUR AND SUPPLIES - COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE: 27.12.1800

IOR : Board's Collections: vol 114 (NO 2135) PP 171-6, 177-83.

Note: The first on plantations is on pp 177-80, and the second on Paragoodies etc on pp 181-3. The Board's reply dated 9.1.1801 is on pp 192-4. the Board approve of all the measures except that relating to cowle, gift etc to Naut Conicoplies. Board Minute precedes the reply on pp 183-5. The letter is entered on proceedings of 2.1.1801.

Read the following letter from the collector of Tanjore.

To

William Petrie Esq President and Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

1. I enclose draft No 1 and 2 of orders I propose issuing in Tanjore but which appear to me to require your previous sanction.

2. The first has for an object the production of timber and an increase of articles of consumption useful to the inhabitants: although Tanjore abounds with gardens, they are alienations and the owners, even for a high price will not of their own accord relieve the exigence of the circar, however pressingly felt in the season of Maramut and of other useful works. In almost every village there are spots of high waste land which, whether the service of Government or the comfort of the lower classes be considered, cannot be brought to produce any thing so truly valuable as wood. In the paper containing the proposed order, I have stated the fees which (p 172) I think most wanted and have noted down under a head of remarks the uses to which they are applied. The largest part of the expected benefit will not be felt for six, eight or ten years but much may be derived immediately from the strength that will be given by plantations to the banks not only of the rivers but of the paddy fields. You will observe that the new plantations will be considered as belonging to the circar, although almost the entire benefit will fall to the people equally of the higher and lower classes. Among the trees mentioned the cocoa will cause a small expence to Government, the others will be of none. The immediate freedom from tax of dry grain and vegetables produced among the topes will be to the inhabitants an inducement to the small labour of planting, if the prospect of future good however essential should not. I am of opinion a moderate degree of attention in the Tasildars to the laying out of tracts of high land unfit for regular cultivation and hitherto unused in these talooks would bring forth materials and a revenue together sufficient to cover the large annual expence (p.173) of maramut, and timber, fruits, and medicines conducive to the welfare and convenience of the people. I take the liberty of recommending to you this object attainable as it is without an injury or sacrifice of any kind. It has been neglected by the inhabitants because they have never had their attention directed and encouraged towards it.

3. The order No 2 is intended to suppress the licentious demands of the Sirkar servants on the property and labour of the inhabitants. The servants of the head cutcherri and those of the district and village establishments will exercise, and the people will submit to any power sanctioned by ancient practice, and through this inveterate attachment to custom the circar servants instead of purchasing the articles and hiring the coolies they require on just prices in the principal towns where they reside, send into distant villages for provisions and for men, and are furnished with both the proprietors of the villages who though they receive no equivalent and sometimes have their houses plundered of every article and their fields at the most busy times deprived of every hand, never think of asking indemnification or of uttering a complaint. The mischief is felt not only by the Government and the proprietor in a diminution of the revenue but by the labourers, who are (p.174) paid for their journey neither by their masters nor by those to whom they are sent, and these men are not common coolies but Paragoodies (called at Madras Poycarrahs) who being owners of the ploughs and bearing the whole of expence and labour of cultivation, actually uphold the agriculture of the country. For the security of the country against the circar's servants, I think the office of Naut Conicoply who is always on the side of the inhabitants, may be made highly important by placing it in an avowed opposition to that of the Tasildar and by distinguishing the holder with a Government cowle and an annual gift if he be faithful to his trust. There are Naut Conicoplies in all the villages, and if according to the order which I submit to you, they send in monthly an account of every article (paid for or not) which is issued from the villages to the circar servants, and I have permission to provide for payment, the evil I think will be remedied. The most desirable result of this reform will be a fair return to the extra labour of the Paragoodies whose condition I trust will soon be healed from the wounds inflicted during the Mahratta (p 175) management by the united cruelties of the meerassdars and circar servants. The two orders require no other mention except a request of your authority to circulate the... Another circumstance however affecting the paragoodies appears to me worthy of your attention.

4. There are in Tanjore very few men of the description of common coolies so that the toil belonging to the lot of these people is thrown on the Paragoodies. They are of the Malabar and Choliar casts, born on the spot, and experiencing the least indulgence would remain to die there too; but they suffer many severities which require your correction. The means I have proposed will I trust secure them against being drawn from their important labour at the plough to perform the most menial services as exacted by every petty circar servant. But there is a duty heavier than all charged upon them by the Government itself. **It is they who at periods of festivals are summoned to drag the religious coaches around the principal towns of Tanjore and in a number double to that which is necessary.*** There is a place record which for this service assesses the different districts with a certain number but which with the characteristic partiality and impolicy of every other old (p.176) Mahratta regulation exempted entirely by cowle some villages and leaves others in these times of ceremony wholly deserted.

5. The Pooragoodies thus drawn away to the injury of the public and the private interest are never paid at all by the church managers who require them, and seldom and scantily by the meerassdars who with reason evade as much as possible an expence which ought to be defrayed by the extensive grants in land and money bestowed on the church, but enjoyed by the superintending Bramins who receive the revenue and by apportioning the largest part of

it, suppress many of the festivals of the country and in order to supply the rest, burden the church with debt.

6. I cannot but propose that I be permitted to make immediately a new regulation **limiting the demand of peragoodiee to the number really necessary for the coach ceremonies, that they be summoned equally from all the villages so as to injure none, that they be allowed out of mohins of the pagoda but requires them half a gold (p.177) fanam each for every day of their absence from home,*** and that the amount be accordingly deducted and paid by me in the name of Government, as the measure will not oppose but favour the religion and original usages of the country and be popular even among the Bramins, I recommend it with confidence to your adoption.

Combaconam
27th December 1800

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen
Your obedient and humble servant
Charles Harris, collector.

**16. COLLECTOR TANJORE ON HARVESTING SWATANTRAMS (CHARGES) -
FIXES 7% FOR NANJAH AND 9% FOR PUNJAH : 8.1.1801**

IOR : P/266/51: Pro 19.1.1801

Read the following letter from the collector of Tanjore.

To

William Petrie Esq. President and to the Members of the Board of Revenue, Fort St George

Gentlemen

1. I transmit the diary of Tanjore (p.485) for November during which month the principal part of the harvest and division of the Cuddapah and our crops took place.
2. The order issued by me on the 5th of November requires some remarks. It relates to the grain allowances out of the actual produce made to the men who reap and thresh, to the women who transplant and go through other labour of the year, to the district cowlgar, and to the village conicoply, washerman and barber.
3. In Tanjore these allowances have the general denomination of Coolysotuntarums. Being enjoyed as daily wages by the lowest of the inhabitants who cannot wait for the grand division they are issued on the threshing floor during the measurement of everyday's work. A set of labourers bring in the heap of gross product which they have reaped and threshed during the day. After 100 cullums are measured off from it the Coolysotuntarums at a certain rate on that 100 cullums are (p.486) taken from the remainder. This process continues until the heap is exhausted. The coolysotuntarums are immediately carried away by the parties entitled to them, and the public grain is stacked as so much gross produce realised that day. When the harvest of a village is complete the quantity thus stacked, clear of the coolysotuntarums is regarded as the gross produce, and sent as such to the cutcheree in an account which is immediately recorded as exhibiting the actual produce of the land.
4. The produce of which in my letter of the 23rd of June I described the old and proposed a new division was clear of the coolysotuntarums. Adhering consequently to this usage of Tanjore which I believe prevails in the Jaghire and other districts, I sent to the tasildars a form for the division of the crops as it is marked down in my proceedings of the 5th of November. It directs the coolysotuntarums to be separated from the gross produce and the gross produce to be divided into the grain mauniums, (p.487) the Coodywaurum and Mailwaurum according to the new form I recommended to you on the 23rd of June.
5. During the late Government when the proprietors of the land paid a fixed produce the coolysotuntarums were very inequally made. Some villages enjoyed exorbitant rates, others low ones and so unsettled was the principle which prescribed them that no account of it to be depended upon and to be of use, can be obtained: the coolysotuntarums on the Punjah crops appearing to me to require less time for inquiring I began an examination of them which were allowed last year, but a statement of these in a very inconsiderable portion of

the country filled a section, and I abandoned the attempt on considering that the province having been under two hundred and forty six independent Puttucdars almost every part of it had its peculiar customs and that a just equality in the profit of that labour which is the source of the revenue was essential to the (p.488) public good besides being indispensable to the single and general management of the Company now established for the first time in Tanjore.

6. On judging of the duties of the several men composing the village establishment, I fixed the coolysotuntarums of each. You will perceive that the amount is 7 cullums 2 marcalls on 100 culums of gross nunjah and 9 cullums 3 marcalls on 100 cullums of gross punjah.* It was my desire previously to propose these rates to you but I had not formed then in my own opinion before the cuddapah and car harvest came on and then it was necessary to issue them as the pay of daily labour, which could not be delayed. Yet I think on comparing them with those of other districts, they will appear to you reasonable and have your sanction, which I request for the approaching sumbau and peshanum crops. Variable and unequal as they were I consider the defining of them to one general standard acceptable to the body of the people, a great point gained, (p.489) and being the result of some discussion with the inhabitants, I recommend them to you as just.

I have the honour of being, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant

Combaconum
8th January 1801

Charles Harris
Collector, Tanjore.

Extract from Tanjore Diary for the month of November 5th

Sent the following order No 2.

To

All the Tassildars of Tanjore on aumanie account showing how you are to (divide) the nunjah and punjah crops as hereunder stated.

NUNJAH

The actual Nunjah produce measured is supposed to be cullum m m
2,000-00-00

Your account is not to contain this total according to custom; before you send your account to the cutcheree you are authorised to make during the following allowances which having been before undefined (p.490) are now fixed.

	C. M.
Cooly hire at	4 - 2 per 100 cullums
Calavuddy to women sweepers and planters	2 - 0 "
Maray to the Cawlgar	0 - 8 "
Pechay to the Taliar	0 - 2 "
Pechay to the Conicoply	0 - 1 "
Pechay to the Washerman and barber	0 - 1 "
TOTAL	7 - 2 per 100 cullums <u>143-4-00</u>

REMAINDER to be brought in the account of the cutcheree as the gross produce		1,856-8-00
The following allowances out of it are likewise to be stated in the account of the cutcheree:		
Deduct : Kovil Mauniums, Bramin Mauniums and Cawlgars yaralee at 1 cullum per cent	18 - 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Deduct Sotuntarums to the carpenter, smiths, measurers at 1 per cent	18 - 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	37-1 1/2-00
(p.491)		
Net Produce		1,819-6 1/2-00
Deduct Coodeewaurum 40%		727- 9 3/4-00
MAIL Waurum 60%		1,091-8 3/4-00

PUNJAH

The actual produce meared is supposed to be 200-00-00

From this as from the nunjah produce before sending your account to the cutcheree, you are authorised to make the following fixed allowances:

Cooly hire at	6 - 3 per 100 cullums	
Calavuddy to women sweepers and planters	2 - 0 "	
Maray to the Cowlgars	0 - 8 "	
Pichay to the Taliar	0 - 2	
Pichay to the Conicoply	0 - 1 "	
	<hr/>	
	9 - 2	200-00-00
Pichay to the washerman and barber to be divided equally	0 - 1 "	
TOTAL	<hr/>	
	9 - 3 "	18-6-00
REMAINDER to be brought into the account of the cutcheree as gross produce		181-6-00
Deduct (p.492) Coodlewaurum at 55 per cent		99-9 7/8-0
MAILwaurum at 45%		81-8 1/8 -0

Not a grain more, nor a grain less than the before stated allowance is to be made and no other person than the before mentioned are to enjoy them. Each is to have, fully, his fixed proportion, according to this rule from which you are to beware of any deviation.

You are immediately to make the division of the crops that the inhabitants may be enabled to enjoy their just share and that the whole cuddapah harvest may be cleared away from the villages and brought to market before the reaping of the car.

(Minute of Board of Revenue) thereon:

The Board approves the standard proposed by Mr Harris for Coolysotuntarums on the punjah crops 9 cullums 5 marcalls on 100 cullums of gross produce, and 7 cullums and 2 maracalls on (100) cullums of gross nunjah produce as also of the division which they confirm. AGREED to direct the collector to publish his regulations for general (p.493) information throughout the Tanjore province the Board coinciding with him that one general standard for the purpose will be beneficial and acceptable to the inhabitants.

17. COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE ON DAILY ALLOWANCES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS : 1.5.1801

IOR: Board's collections, vo. 115 (No. 2136), pp 383-393

NOTE : pages - 395-407 of this volume contain a letter on Marummut (dated 11.5.1801) with Board's decision to refer to Government for sanction on p 408, pp 417-36 is concerned with a settlement of 400 persons at Puttacottah, B.M. p.436-7; pp 441-56 with Tuccavi (7.6.1801), with BM on p 458 and letter to Govt on 459-60.

Read the following letter from the collector at Tanjore.

To

William Petric Esq. President and Members of the Board of Revenue

Gentlemen,

1. I have the honour of transmitting to you my diary of last month; my proceedings on the 1st require remark, because a change is produced in my moyenzabitah. The difference being in the servants, and not in the pay, did not appear to me to require your previous sanction.
2. (p 384) The demand on the inhabitants of Bretta urged by the Hircarrahs according to long and established custom, whenever sent from the cutcherry on duty; I have used, since the beginning of my management, every endeavor to repress; though I was unable to abolish it, because the fixed pay to these servants, owing to their numbers, could not be increased; and because, according to the usual appreciation of the services of this class of men, it was not sufficient. I found however, that the admission of the smallest demand, opened a way to the greatest, that the Hircarrahs accustomed to practice every kind of injustice, could not be (p.385) restrained; in bearing it neither could nor would be taught. I experienced that to this authorised claim of the Hircarrahs, not only the property of the people, but the revenue of Government fell a frequent sacrifice.
3. The regulation I made, and which is recorded on the 10th day of my diary, of march 1800, was that any one of Hircarrahs dispatched by the circar to an inhabitant, should receive a gold fanam daily, as long as he remained; but the person to whom they were sent, has not alone suffered. Every village, through which they have passed, has felt the burden of their visit. Their avarice excited by the practice of making such collection at length (p.386) stimulated them to treachery. Hardly a trust, which I was compelled for Government to place in them, went unbetrayed. The inhabitants in their idea, perhaps, gained more by the connivance of the Hircarrahs in frauds against the circar, than they lost by exertion; and therefore did not complain. The detections made by the active part of my establishment confirm this opinion, and convince me that a district thought under evils, affecting both Government and the people, may wear a destructive veil of contentment, and be pervaded (?) by a pernicious tranquilly I have found that the inhabitants suffering a trifling injury to their persons will (p.387) make the loudest representations, but that, when through a breach of the regulations established for the security of the public revenue, they are deprived of a large part of their annual income, they will remain silent. They are ready enough to expose the

frauds of the circar servants, when they can conceal their own; but they carefully extinguish every light by which we can see at once their sufferings and their vices; both, however difficult to conquer, it is to be believed, will give way to a continued operation of a just Government.

4. The Mahaldars, whom I have substituted, are in number the same as the Hircarrahs: they are of the Malabar, Rajahpoot and Gentoo casts, and therefore preferable to the Bramin Hircarrahs, for duty with (p.388) Bramin inhabitants. They have engaged for a monthly allowance each of one S Pagoda wages and half a S Pagoda batta, the whole being equal to the fixed pay entered in the moyenzabitah, of the Hircarrahs. I have laid the strongest injunctions on them against demanding or receiving, and enforced a general prohibition of offering or paying to them batta (tax) nuzzer or any article whatever beyond the Company's revenue.

5. Sibbendy sepoy, during the late Government, were often sent into the villages, and on those occasions also levied on the people. The sibbendy batta likewise in the (p 389) regulation, dated the 10th March 1800, I limited to half a gold fanam per diem; but this custom in regard both to the receipts of batta and to the employment of sepoy at all in the affairs of the cultivation, I have since abolished. A naig and twelve sibbendies are established at each talook cutcherry for the security of the office, and to guard, not collect the revenue.

6. The claim of batta is now, I have the satisfaction of informing you, extinct with all the servants of Government, except the Maurvilliers or Mahtadies; most of these are employed in the villages to superintend and hasten the labours of the year. They receive beyond their fixed pay, not being ever excepted during the harvest, when they enjoy their Hunjanmam (?). These (p 390) Mauvilliers who attend at the district cutcherries alone, receive bata, when sent into the villages. Each man, according to my regulation of the 10th March 1800, has either half a gold fanam or the value of it in paddy per diem. This allowance of half a fanam, if his business relate to one inhabitant, is paid by that individual; if to whole villages, it is contributed to by all the inhabitants, who desire the bazar-man to pay it.

7. I do not think the continuance of this demand hurtful, if it can be kept as it is. The only danger I am disposed to apprehend from its existence is, the abuse of it. Therefore you may perhaps judge (p 391) proper to strike it off, and thus at once to establish in the public mind, that no circar servant is to presume to urge on the people on his own account, any demand whatever.

8. If the above opinion accords to your experience, and to your regulations for other districts, the Tassildars may themselves pay the Mauvilliers they depute, and make the charge public. They now furnish my office with a monthly account of their village expenses set off against the Nautsollavee of 4 gold fanams on 100 cullums collected from the inhabitants. In these expenses I recommend that you permit them to include the batta of the Mauvilliers. Should it raise the disbursement beyond the receipts of the Nautsellavee, the balance (p.392) can be paid by the inhabitants on my demand alone. They will then at all events be effectually secured against every private claim whatever. If there be any excess of expenses in the villages, they will pay it with exactness, and if there be not, they will pay nothing.

9. My Assistants have been so fully occupied as to be unable to keep up the detailed daries. In this idea that my general proceedings as far as yesterday may give you sufficient information of the past, I have ventured in the hope of your approbation to request them to desist from bestowing their time on the arreare to that period. (p.393) From this day the state of the country will admit, I trust of uninterrupted regularity.

Combaconum
1 May 1801

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen
your obedient humble servant
Charles Harris, Collector.

18. COLLECTOR TANJORE, C. HARRIS, TO BOARD OF REVENUE - BAD EFFECTS OF SIMILARITY OF CASTE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND INHABITANTS; SEARCH FOR SERVANTS FROM MALABAR ; CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS ON GOVERNMENT SERVANTS : 4.8.1801

IOR : P/286/66: Proceedings 13.8.1801: pp 9504-33; No enclosures; Board Minute : 9533-4. Another letter from Tanjour dated 18.8.1801 is on 9888-9, Large statement of produce 9890 in proceedings 24.8.1801. Extracts

5. In my report on the Cuddapah (p.9506) and Car, I described the deficiency in the allowance of the Cowlgars, the poor condition of the Taliars and the steps I recommended for their relief. By the introduction of the Company's authority, they are deprived of the means of plunder, their usual resource and I found that an immediate extension of their former slender subsistence is essential to good order as well as conformable with the anxiety of Government for the welfare of all the classes of the people. Effectual precautions are taken to secure to the Taliars independently of the Cowlgars the full enjoyment of the allowance temporarily made them until your resolution be formed on the plan I have submitted. In the pressing necessity there was for relief to the Cowlgar Establishment I trust I shall be excused in issuing it in confidence of your sanction.

6. The Sumbaw and Peshanum Nunjah lands cultivated in Fuslee 1210 in the five soobahs of Tanjore you will perceive yielded the following produce.

	Garce	Mer	M
Gross Produce of Paddy	64,420 -	93 -	77
Circar Share	36,892 -	164 -	2

(p.9507)

7. For my sentiments and recommendations concerning the Punjah lands, I beg leave to refer you to my Cuddapah and Car report. The dry grain entered in the Cuddapah and Car statement is the produce between the 12th of July and the 31st of December 1800. The dry grain entered in the enclosed Sumbaw and Peshanum statement is the produce between the 31st of December 1800 and the 12th of July 1801.

Gross Produce of Dry Grain	3,460-40-6
Circar Share	1,390-134-2

8. My letter of the 12th of March described the bad effects of a similarity of cast between the circar servants and inhabitants.* The Tasildars I have been able well to select, but in my attempts to procure foreign Monigars of the Malabar cast I have been entirely unsuccessful, owing I believe to the aversion of the natives to leave their places of birth. I shall still continue my endeavors for the attainment of this object, which I think of great importance. For without servants of the Malabar cast and of characters as respectable as can be found, it will be impossible to introduce into (p.9508) Tanjour the useful appointment of Grama Curnums according to the orders of the Board of Revenue dated the 28th December 1799.

These officers so indispensable to the defining and security of public and private property, will be particularly useful in Tanjour where before the establishment of the Company's authority disorder was so prevalent.

16. During the first year of the Aumanie management and the Company's (p.9513) undivided authority loss must have also arisen from the yet uncorrected practices of the head tenants universally allowed to be more depraved than those of other provinces and whose inveterate principle it is in the idea of a future rent to counteract every effort after a knowledge of the true value of the lands. I do not believe that all the proclamations hitherto issued have yet convinced them that the Company's authority is permanent and although they enjoy the advantages of justice they adhere as closely as before to their system of fraud with a view not only to prevent undue profit but to a future reservation in case of a rent. This is the ground of the opinion I have given in former letters, that however desirable a rent may be others who have activity and goodwill to bring forth the full produce of the soil, the crops ought to be always divided with the inhabitants owning the land and who in the expectation of a rent will do their utmost to suppress, destroy and plunder the produce in every previous year of Aumanie trial. The troubles, anxieties and delays that have been caused by the Tanjore landholders, practice only can make known and their stubborn opposition (p.9514) through a perverse and malicious policy even to plan evidently for their own good, makes every act of justice towards them spring not from benevolence but a sense of duty.

17. The enclosures No 4,5 and 6 received from Messieurs Wallace, Irvin and Powney are statements for the thefts on the cirar produce committed by the landholders and are so completely drawn out as to need no description. The quantities stolen have been recovered and inserted in the cirar accounts. It will be seen that the Tasildars with only two exceptions were every where unconcerned and that the Monigars with only one exception were every where accessory to these disorders. **The papers alluded to powerfully prove the bad effects of their similarity of cast with the landholders and the expediency of placing if possible foreigners in their stead.***

18. **All the Monigars and the two Tasildars have suffered publicly corporal punishment. The Monigars I have released but the two Tasildars who I thought might have committed other mischief are in confinement.*** The landholders I allowed to return (p 9515) unpunished to their villages as their flight is not to be apprehended and as your sanction is required to the proceedings I am about to recommend against

19. I cannot but believe that mere corporal punishment however severe would fail to deter the guilty Meerassdars from committing the same trespass on the next crops, and that incapable as they are of disinterested repentance nothing can conquer the malignancy of their tempers on this and on every other similar occasion but the forfeiture of their produce. In this connection and in the hope of your concurrence I have, after relinquishing the Poragoody share, kept their Toondawaurum of which I recommend that 10 per cent be bestowed as a reward on the informers and the remainder be brought to account under the head of Sewy jumma.

20. I cannot conclude this subject without stating my supposition or its having occurred to you and Government as an urgent necessity that all rents whether temporary or permanent, of

lands, be denied to the owners and conferred on condition (p.9516) of dividing crops with the owners according to established rates. Hence I am humbly of opinion will arise both to Government and the people all the benefit of an Aumanie management; and to Government alone all the security of a rent. On this plan in a short time more, it is hoped the strict and just management so indispensable with the natives will open their minds to the advantages of order and industry.

19. C. HARRIS, COLLECTOR TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE ON PEOPLE'S COMPLAINTS: 26.2.1803

IOR:P/287/27: Pro 8.3.1803: pp 2382-2446, Encl. 2446-68, BM 2468-71 (Extracts)

26.2.1803.

89. In consequence of this confession Ayah Cooty being called in and, having heard it repeated, was asked whether he chose to be equally explicit, but altho he declared himself informed of the truth of the petition presented to your Board, he persevered in resisting the unobjectionable proofs of the guilt of his disposition to me.

90. Such criminal combinations may be less dangerous than troublesome from those which have come to the knowledge of your Board, and from others which have never reached a state fitting them for record. My ordinary revenue business has been heavily impeded and the work with respect to the permanent rent of Tanjore has lately been entirely at a stand. As all the marks distinguishing truth from falsehood must be obliterated among a people by whom shame and repentance are never felt, an attempt to lay open a conspiracy of this (p.2438) nature often fails, and when successful, absorbs more time than affairs of the utmost importance to the public. It is now a twelve month since Trivungada Iyengar commenced his proceedings here and from that period to the present day, my cutcherree has not been free from occupation occasioned by him. Like him and the six petitioners whom he has chosen as partners in iniquity, there are many evil characters, a kind of outlaws rejected even by the Mahratta Government, who without home or employ wander wildly about the country and acquire by the ease of depredation what they have not resolution to gain by the difficulty of labour. To effect their amendment or absence the desirable advantage of a lasting example and the few opportunities like the present one, of making any, induce me to recommend to your Board that Trivungada Iyengar, Toppo Moodely, Oppoo Iyengar, Iyavyah and Singiah who are now at Madras be apprehended and sent to Combaconum, and that they with Ayaccody and Ramalingum now in (p.2439) confinement there, suffer publicly corporal punishment and be banished from the Tanjore country.

91. The above report on the petitions, presented to your Board against the management of Fuslee 1211, I trust will not incur a wrong construction. Though I think I have exposed the falsehood of the accusations made to you it is far from my desire to infer, contrary to general and unchanging experience, that a single one of my servants, in his own mind is incapable of the extremes of tyranny, cruelty, robbery, corruption and indolence. But as they exercise their vice in proportion to their power and boldness, they must abandon it **according to the success of my endeavours to keep them in weakness and fear.*** This object has been constantly prescribed by Government and your Board, and perfectly concurs with my daily experience **which deters me from enduring the interference of a native for a moment.***

92. In every department, from (p.2440) my own cutcherree down to the villages I have made the forms for conduct, accounts, and correspondence. The length, confusion, and means of deceit of the native mode of business, have been exchanged for the brevity, clearness, and restraint of the European. No accusation against a servant of any rank, has

been left unnoticed; **soon after my appointment I detected my late Peshcar and interpreter and other servants of my cutcherree in embezzlement and extortion, and with the permission of Government publicly flogged and expelled them from Tanjore. Several Tasildars and numerous Monegars, Hircarrahs and Peons for similar offences have been punished on the spot where they have offended, and rejected from the service.*** Thus by regulations enabling myself and my assistants, with our own judgements thoroughly to see into and controul the affairs of the province, **it has been my endeavour to bereave my native servants of power, and (as repentance among them is unknown) by inflexible, (p.2441) severe, exemplary, and undistinguishing punishment for every fault, I have striven to subdue their boldness.***

93. How far I have been successful in this object, it is now indispensably expedient that I endeavour correctly to state my sentiments.

94. Under me there are three classes of native servants with their respective attendants. First, the Peshcars and interpreters of myself and of my assistants; secondly the Tasildars of the Talooks each of thirty, forty, or fifty Vuttums; and thirdly the Monigars of the Vuttums each of three, four or five villages. Power and boldness being the more difficult to conquer in one of these classes as it is more distant from me and more numerous than either of the others; **tyranny, cruelty, robbery, corruption and indolence are likewise to be practiced by the nine hundred Monigars in the villages, than by the seventeen Tasildars in the Talooks and than by the three Peshcars and three interpreters with myself and (p 2442) my assistants.***

95. The above mentioned large establishment of Monigars has been hitherto required by the actual and possible fertility of Tanjour. **Their number has impeded the good choice, the instruction and correction of them. In default of foreigners they have been necessarily Tanjour natives, bred in all the vices of the Mahratta Government.*** The laborious selection of them has been hitherto unavoidably left to their immediate superiors. The duty of teaching their ignorance and punishing their frauds has been urged incessantly on the Tasildars, and attended to with every practicable minuteness by myself and assistants. The 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32nd paragraphs of my letter dated the 12th of March 1801, described the hardened depravity I experienced from them in Fuslee 1210. The stronger regulations and heavier punishments of Fuslee 1211 abated, and I trust the improvements now made will entirely stop, the operation of their inherent vice. **It appears then certain that this class of servants (p.2443) have hitherto committed disorders because power and boldness have in some degree found an asylum in their numerous and sequestered stations.*** It is to be considered however that the depredation of a Monigar is exposed not only to the treachery of those who within his Vuttum are privy to it, but to the sight of those, attached to the offices of the Tasildars, my assistants and myself, and constantly on the watch for it. So long as embezzlement is confined within the narrow sphere of a Vattum it cannot without detection be considerable, or more than is admitted by the petty collusion of a landholder or Taliar. Discoveries of this small pillage have been made during every harvest and reported to your Board. But in future even that I hope will be effectually remedied.

96. The stations of the seventeen Talooks are sufficiently few and near to admit of my deliberate choice of Tasildars, and of my ready (p.2444) instruction, detection and correction of them. No one among them gets his appointment before acquiring at my Cutcherree a

knowledge of the regulations. All orders are written to them by me and my assistants. Error and delay in their accounts and correspondence are quickly noticed. An accusation against them has never been neglected, and they will know that any failure in their duty can scarcely escape detection, and if discovered, is followed by an ignominious punishment and irrevocable dismissal. It is therefore my opinion that since the examples made at the beginning of my management, the Tasildars have conformed with necessity, and earnestly devoted their portions of ability to the benefit of the country.

97. My Peshcar, the Carbars of my assistants and our interpreters, are six natives chosen for their capacity and knowledge, capacity to comprehend the views and rules of the English Government and knowledge to communicate to us any (p.2445) local information in which, as Europeans we may be deficient. Constantly in our attendance they are instructed in their duty not only by the Regulations but by our proceedings, and as they do in our Cutcherree nothing not seen and ordered by us and not belonging to them there appears no room for their deviations. After the corporal punishments I inflicted on their predecessors, while every allusion against them is scrupulously enquired into, and when no more respect is shown to their faults than to those of the lowest servants, it would be in them the height of temerity to venture on delinquency. The submission of the people to oppression would be a voluntary rejection of justice, and their general connivance at embezzlement appears impossible. I well know that there are natives whose degraded minds are ready to sacrifice every privilege that supports their families, and every duty which sustains their Government, to their hopes and fears of their superiors, but the Tanjore (p.2446) inhabitants, unprincipled as they may be, are safe from such debasement, because although they look up to native rank, they see in it no native power. If then (the Monigars excepted) I believe my native servants honest, it is in a manner which can convey to me no censure and to them no honor. It is because all the barriers afforded by the Indian institution, have been erected against their dishonesty do not appear to me, in any spot whatever to have given

I have the honour of being, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient and humble servant
Charles Harris
Collector.

Trivalore
26th February 1803

20. BOARD OF REVENUE MINUTE ON TANJORE COMPLAINTS: 8.3.1803

IOR: 3/287/27: Proceedings Madras Board of Revenue (3- 17.3.1803, pp 2231-2722) dated 8.3.1803. Mr. Charles Harris's report referred to above is dated Tanjore 26.2.1803, and is on pp 2383-2446. The complaint dated 6.1.1803 is forwarded by the Board of Revenue to the collector and is on pp.2383-6. The collector's reply is from pp.2386-2436, and his summing up on 2437-46; pages 2446-68 contain enclosures to the collector's report.

After an attentive perusal of the foregoing report, the Board are of opinion that the full confutation therein afforded of every specific charge which admitted of testimony and the clear exposition of the interested and criminal view of the parties, render a detail reply unnecessary. It is highly satisfactory to the Board to observe the attention shown by the collector to the representations originally made by Trivangada Iayengar and the patience and impartiality manifested in every stage of the enquiry. These they view as continued proofs of watchful regard for the public interests committed to his superintendence (p.2469) and of unbiassed zeal in the cause of truth to rescue the innocent from any stain of reproach and to bring punishment on the guilty.

That punishment will now be expedient to inflict on the persons whose groundless charges have created so much trouble and wasted so large a portion of the collector's time.

Trivangada Iayengar who since his departure from Tanjore, has repeatedly presented papers to the Board, is now called before them and the falsity of his accusations and his nefarious designs fully exposed to him by the acting president. He is then told to await a merited retribution.

This person disowns all knowledge of the place where the four delinquents who still remain at large (p.2470) are concealed. But it appears from a paper addressed to the Board that Oppoo Iayengar and Iyavyen returned to Tanjore with Iyacooty Iyer and Ramalinga Mudelear.

The two last having already received corporal punishment, the Board do not think it necessary that it should be repeated as suggested by the collector. They rely on his endeavours to apprehend the others, and with the exception just mentioned, approve the examples he has proposed to make of the offenders.

Ordered that Trivangada Iayengar be sent to Mr Harris's cutcherree under charge of delayets and that a letter be in consequence written to the collectors in the zillah of Chingleput and Southern Division of Arcot (p.2471) to provide the necessary reliefs.

Ordered that the foregoing instructions of the Board be communicated to Mr Harris.

21. THREE CATEGORIES : YAICKBOGUM (1,807), PALBOGUM (2,202) AND SAMUDAYAM (1,774) OF VILLAGES; 62,048 MIRASDARS AND PITCHARI MARAH TO FEED THE POOR IN TANJORE TILL 1805 - J. WALLACE COLLECTOR, TANJORE TO BOARD OF REVENUE: 1.5.1805

MRO: BRP: Vol. 407: Pro: 20.5.1805, pp. 3474-3545, 3545-68; Extract

21... **Of Brahmin meerasdars it is computed that there are in Tanjore 17,149; of Soodras including other Hindoos and native Christian meerasdars there are 43,442; and of Mohammedan meerasdars there are 1,457.*** The total of Meerasdars is computed at 62,048, but the number is of course liable to increase, or diminish with the division, or sale of their lands.

22. The villages of Tanjore are held by meerasdars in one, or other of the three following manners: First villages, the whole of the land of which are held by one individual meerasdar are termed **Yaickbogum**. (p.3489) **There are 1807 of this class.** Second, villages, each portion, or share of which is cultivated, and separately enjoyed by one, or more individual meerasdars are termed **Palbogum**; each meerasdar in these villages is responsible for the cultivation and revenue of his own share only. **There are 2,202 Palbogum villages.** Third, villages, the lands of which are held, and cultivated either conjointly by a number of meerasdars, or separately by an individual meerasdar, but the produce of which is always enjoyed conjointly by all the meerasdars of the villages, according to the respective shares which they hold the lands thereof, are termed **Samudayam**. As in these villages the whole produce is in general though not equally, by the meerasdars, without reference to the exact produce of the land of each individual, so the whole of the meerasdars are jointly responsible (p.3490) for the revenues thereof. **There are 1,774 Samudayam villages in Tanjore.**

23. The Yaickbogum, and Palbogum tenures appear well calculated in themselves to afford encouragement to industry by securing to each meerasdar the full return of his exertions to make his own lands as productive as possible. The Samudayam tenure appears, on the contrary to discourage all attempts at improvement, by not only not securing to the industrious and active the full fruits of their labour, but by extending to them the evil effects of idleness, and apathy in any one of their fellow meerasdars.

29. (p.3494).

1012 villages cultivated by meerasdars directly (without Pargoodies)

1898 villages cultivated by Pargoodies alone

1923 villages cultivated by partly meerasdars, partly Pargoodies.

Total Pargoodies: 47,312 of which with Brahmins: 28,323

with Soodras, etc: 18,989

(Pargoodies also use Pullers, etc.)

Grain Marahs and Sotuntrums in Tanjore

Receivers	Grain: Garce-M-M	Value: S. Pags
Pagodas & Bramins	520 – 365 – 5 1/8	12,814 - 2 - 67
Cavalgars Yaralee	1,355- 38- 4 11/32	33,330- 19-60
Curnum's Marah	143-171- 5/32	3,527- 16-69
Village Poor⁹	<u>430-107- 4 7/32</u>	<u>10,581- 32-54</u>
Total	2,449-280- 6 3/32	60,253- 30-10

In 12 talooks, annual 5 Pags 5,000 in each, but Pattucottah 1,403 and Keevalore, 6,527. Similar distribution for the poor.

⁹ Village poor, or Pitchary marah formerly distributed at the discretion of the Sirkar servants in each village. This opened the doors to much misappropriation of this charitable fund. I have therefore in the present year established a certain number of chuttrums in different talooks at which the poor of all descriptions who are in want of daily food may receive it. On the subject of the institutions, I shall hereafter address the Board.*