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Elberling.
Description of
Serampore.
1874.

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No. 169, dated Burdwan, the 14th July 1874.

From—C. T. BUCKLAND, Esq., Commissioner of the Burdwan Division,

To—The Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith a manuscript copy of an account of the Government estate Serampore, in the district of Hooghly, and to recommend, at the instance of the Collector of that district, that 100 copies of it may be printed.

2. The account was drawn up in 1845, and it appears to contain not only a very accurate description of Serampore as it existed at the time of its being made over to the British, but of institutions and charities which the Collector found to be very useful.

3. Mr. Pellew states that he will be glad to correct the proofs if sent to him.

*Description of Serampore, its Population, Revenues, and Administration
under the Danish Government.*

I.—EXTENT.

THE Danish Settlement Frederiksnagore or Serampore contains the town of Serampore and the village of Pearapore.

The town called Serampore consisted formerly of two divisions—Ackna and Serampore. Of these two divisions, the Danes bought in the year 1755 sixty beeghas of ground, for the purpose of establishing a factory, for Sicca Rs. 50,000, which they called Frederiksnagore. Afterwards, in the year 1759, they rented the remainder of the division, together with the village of Pearapore, from the zemindars of Sewraphully for the annual sum of Sicca Rs. 1,601.

The sixty beeghas called Frederiksnagore are situated on the bank of the river, and extend from the vicinity of the Catholic Church to Joogul Addy's Ghât. The division Ackna is the western part, Serampore the eastern, separated nearly, though not quite exactly, by the Cusbytollah Road.

Frederiksnagore, or the sixty beeghas, contains 72½, Ackna 1,144, and Serampore 463 beeghas, at 80 cubits square to each beegha. The whole town thus contains 1,679 beeghas, of which 1,095 beeghas 10 chittacks pay rent, 414-5-5 are rent-free, and the rest consists of roads and drains.

The village of Pearapore is situated about a mile and a half from Serampore towards the west, and is separated from the town by the village of Nogan and Chattra, within the British territories. It contains altogether 2,643 beeghas of the same measurement, of which 217 beeghas 18 cottahs 15 chittacks are dwelling-ground, and 2,243-10-1 paddy-lands; the rest consists of roads and drains.

II.—POPULATION.

The population of the settlement was for the first time correctly ascertained in the year 1832. A second census was taken in 1835, and a third in 1840, when the whole population was reported to consist of 2,753 families containing 11,955 individuals, viz. 2,420 families in Serampore, containing 10,258 individuals, and 333 families in Pearapore, containing 1,697 individuals.

The population of Serampore was in 1832—males 5,994, females 5,929; total 11,923. In 1835—males 5,642, females 5,545; total, 11,187. In 1840—males 5,197, females 5,061; total 10,258. Since that time 2,035 are reported to have died and 1,520 to have been born, which would give a decrease of 515 persons, and the population would then stand at 9,743. But many of those who died in Serampore were strangers who came to seek assistance in or from the hospital, and there are annually a number of new arrivals. The population has apparently during the last years rather increased than decreased.

Of the population in Serampore, there were—

	Hindus.	Mussulmans.	Christians.
In 1832	9,219	2,216	488
„ 1835	8,861	1,880	446
„ 1840	8,111	1,748	399

Of the 446 Christians in 1835, 207 were Protestants, 234 Catholics, and 5 Armenians.

Number of Christians.

In 1840, of the 399 Christians, 180 were Protestants, 218 Catholics, and 1 Armenian. Only 41 of the Christians are

natives. The greater part of the converts reside in Johnnagore, a village about a quarter of a mile from Serampore.

Population in Pearapore.

The population in Pearapore was—

In 1832	...	{	Males	...	783
			Females	...	715
					1,498
In 1835	...			...	1,350
In 1840	...	{	Males	...	860
			Females	...	837
					1,697

The whole population consists of Hindus.

In 1840 there were in Serampore 481 brick-built houses and 2,644 mud houses. During the last five years 78 new brick houses have been built, 10 upper-roomed and 68 lower-roomed; and only 2 upper-roomed and 22 lower-roomed have during the same period been broken down. (Appendix 1 and 2.) The increase has thus been 56, and the present number will be 537.

Number of houses.

III.—TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

Trades and Professions.

There is little worth observing as to the trades of the town and the profession of the inhabitants.

According to the last census the distribution of the inhabitants according to trade and profession was as follows:—

Gold and silversmiths	...	66	Banias and shopkeepers	...	1,458
Blacksmiths	...	89	Sircars	...	603
Braziers	...	28	Potters	...	60
Carpenters	...	146	Dyers	...	24
Shoemakers	...	119	Masons	...	226
Painters	...	16	Printers	...	71
Oilmen	...	101	Bookbinders	...	34
Chooreewallas	...	15	Gardeners	...	1,076
Bakers	...	22	Boatmen and fishermen	...	267
Butchers	...	47	Thatchers	...	125
Tailors	...	360	Sweetmeat-makers	...	67
Weavers	...	1,061	Water-carriers	...	36
Ropemakers	...	622	Day-labourers	...	1,715
Cotton-teazers	...	73	Of all others	...	1,246
Barbers	...	117			
Washermen	...	206			10,258
Women of ill fame	...	162			

The trade, with the sole exception of dealings in silk cloth, consists of petty dealings in articles of consumption for the town and the adjoining villages.

Trade, &c.

The manufacture and sale of silk cloth is rather considerable, and the improved looms have been very generally introduced.

Number of looms.

There are at present in actual work 293 patent and 139

country looms. All the patent looms and 35 of the country looms are used for silk, and the rest for cotton cloth. Besides these there are 27 looms employed in weaving gunny cloth.

The only large establishments are Mr. Marshman's paper-mills and printing-office.

The paper-mills, &c., were originally established in 1813, soon after the fire which destroyed the printing-office, and in it more than a thousand

The paper-mills.

reams of English paper, which, in consequence of the war then

raging, the little intercourse with Europe, and the high rate of insurance, was three times as dear as at present. The Serampore Missionaries therefore made an effort to manufacture their own paper, and set up some rude machinery, which, though gradually improved, was very imperfect. In 1818 they determined to try steam-power, then unknown in India, and the next



year imported the first steam-engine which was ever set up in the country. They successively adopted all the improvements which were made in England for the manufacture of paper. The present establishment belonging to Mr. Marshman consists of three steam-engines and a paper-machine, and is capable of turning off about fifty reams of demy paper daily when the machinery is in full work. It is the only mill of the kind in India now in operation, every other attempt having proved abortive.

The printing-office, &c., was established under the auspices of the Danish Government in 1800, Lord Wellesley having positively refused to allow of the establishment of a press beyond the limits of Calcutta. During the palmy days of the Serampore Mission it was extensively employed in printing editions of the scriptures in the various languages of India, and it contains punches of no fewer than twelve of the characters used in India. Here the first movable metallic characters of the Chinese language were fabricated to print Dr. Marshman's translation of the Chinese scriptures. From this press issued the first copy of the New Testament in any Indian language, the first religious tract, and the first school-books, and here in 1818 the first native newspaper which had ever appeared in India was printed. Since the transfer of the Missionary stations in the interior of the country, which were supported by the Serampore Missionaries, and of the translations they conducted, to the Baptist Missionary Society in 1838, the operations of the press have been limited to the publication of the *Friend of India* and the *Bengalee Government Gazette*, and an occasional work or two under Mr. Marshman's own editorship.

IV.—PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS.

1. THE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Lutheran Church was built by private subscription through the exertions of the late Governor, Colonel Bie, in the year 1803. It stands on 1 beegha $15\frac{3}{4}$ cottahs of ground, is $108\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and $34\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad, and has cost about Rs. 18,500. The Marquis of Wellesley gave Rs. 1,000, Rs. 8,000 were collected in Calcutta, and the rest in Serampore and Denmark.

The church has never been consecrated, nor has the service ever been performed by any Danish clergyman; the occupation of Serampore in 1808 by the British Government, and after its restoration the small number of resident Danes, having prevented this. As soon as, however, the church was ready, the Baptist Missionaries residing at Serampore offered to perform the service, and their offer being gratefully accepted, the Rev. Messrs. Carey, Ward, Marshman, Mack, and Denham, have for the last 39 years regularly performed service every Sunday and holy day.

The only income of the church arises from a fee of Rs. 20 for every grave in the burial-ground and Rs. 50 for permission to erect any monument thereon; but as the burial-ground is small and overfilled, few burials take place, persons being of late chiefly buried in the Mission burial-ground.

The annual repairs are defrayed by the Government. The only regular expense is Company's Rs. 6-6-0 monthly to an overseer. It has no funds or property, merely a pair of silver candlesticks, which were given by Mr. Schow for the service of the church in the year 1803.

2. THE MISSION CHAPEL.

The Mission Chapel was opened in 1800 on Dr. Carey's joining his brethren at Serampore, and they continued successively to perform divine service in it every Sunday and Thursday evening till the death of the last of their number, the Rev. John Mack, in April of the present year, when the Rev. Mr. Denham, of the Baptist Missionary Society's establishment, was appointed minister. It has recently undergone a thorough repair, almost equal to a rebuilding, at Mr. Marshman's private expense. By a deed registered in the Serampore Court in September 1845, it has been vested in the Council of Serampore College for the time being in trust for the church and congregation meeting there. It is capable of accommodating about 125 persons.

3. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

A bungalow was in the year 1761 erected by a French Carmelite, Padre Anselmo, for the performance of Roman Catholic service. In 1764, when the community increased, a small church was built; but this was broken down in 1776, when the present handsome building was erected on the same spot. It has cost Rs. 13,386, which were collected partly in Calcutta and partly in Serampore.

The Catholic community formerly recognised the Prior of Bandel and the Bishop of Goa as their superiors, but in the year 1837 they separated and joined the establishment of the Vicar Apostolic of Bengal. The present priest, the Rev. McGin, is, with the approval of the Danish Government, appointed by him.

The repairs of the buildings and the expenses of the service, &c., are defrayed from the income of the church, which is derived from marriages, funerals, &c., with some addition from the funds at the Bishop's disposal.

The Danish Government has at times given some assistance towards the repairs of the church.

4. BURIAL-GROUNDS.

There are four different burial-grounds in the town—the Danish, the Roman Catholic, the Mission, and the Mahomedan burial-ground. The Danish and the Roman Catholic burial-grounds are separated from each other merely by a brick wall, and contain together one beegha 18 cottahs of rent-free ground. The Roman Catholics do not permit any other than those of their own communion to be buried in their part, but no sectarian distinction is made with regard to the Danish burial-ground.

The Mission burial-ground contains 3 beeghas 3½ cottahs; Christians of all denominations are buried here. The ground was purchased by the Mission, and an annual ground-rent of Company's Rs. 10-6-5 is paid to Government. The charge for a grave is usually Rs. 10.

The Mahomedan burial-ground contains 6 beeghas of rent-free ground; it was given for that purpose by the Government in the year 1774 to Mahomed Haniff, whose son, Janady Ali, is the manager at present.

5. PAGODAS, &c.

There are 15 public Hindu pagodas in the town—1 Dhurmo Takoor, 8 Sib Takoors, 3 Punganundo Takoors, 1 Ackrabary Takoor, and 1 Ramsita Takoor, but none of them are remarkable.

There are 13 buildings for Mahomedan worship—6 Emahomed Dharoghas, 2 Dhurga Dharogahs, 2 Manick Peers, 1 Burko Gazeer, 1 Borro Bebee, and 1 Bebee Fatma, all small and unimportant.

6. SCHOOLS.

(a) *Serampore College.*

Serampore College was established by the Serampore Missionaries, the Rev. Drs. Carey, Marshman, and W. Ward, in the year 1818, for the promotion of piety and learning particularly among the Native Christian population of India. The institution received the sanction of His Majesty the King of Denmark on the 19th January 1820, and was incorporated by a Royal Charter dated the 23rd February 1827. The buildings stand upon 25 beeghas and 9 cottahs of ground. The ground was purchased for about Rs. 20,000 from public subscriptions. The buildings were erected at the private expense of the three founders at an expense of about Rs. 1,25,000. The library contains about 3,000 volumes. In consequence of the loss of the funds of the College and the death of the Serampore Missionaries, the institution has latterly dwindled down, there being only one European tutor employed in instructing a hundred students; but the Baptist Missionary Society in London have engaged to send out suitable persons to carry on the system of instruction laid down originally by the Serampore Missionaries, and Mr. Marshman has engaged to provide the funds necessary for putting the building in a state of complete repair. The library, which is 72 by 27, has just been covered with an iron roof, and it is hoped that the repairs will be completed at the farthest in six months.

(b) *Serampore Seminary.*

The Rev. Dr. Marshman was the first who established a seminary for the board and education of the children of Europeans and Indo-Britons. He had at one time as many as a hundred pupils. The number decreased considerably in the last years of his life, when the infirmities of age pressed on him; but when the Rev. Mr. Mack returned from Europe and took charge of it, the number soon increased to about 60. Since Mr. Mack's death in April last, it has been transferred to Mr. Montague, who conducts it with considerable spirit. There are now 50 boarders and 14 day-scholars. There are 5 teachers in Latin, Greek, French, Oordoo, Bengalee, English Literature and Composition, Natural Philosophy, History and Geography, Algebra, Arithmetic, &c.

Mrs. Prussia has a seminary for the boarding and education of girls, but she has as yet only very few scholars.

(c) *The Convent.*

In the year 1780 a piece of ground adjoining the Catholic Church was bought, and a rather commodious lower-roomed house was erected for the resident Catholic priest. Little or nothing was done for education during the time the priests of the Roman Catholic community stood under the prior of Bandel; but as soon as the community joined the establishment of the Vicar Apostolic of Bengal, a boys' school was instantly established by the Rev. Mr. Rabascall.



The buildings were extended in 1841, and a second story added to it. He had about 50 scholars. A convent was in the following year established for the education of girls in a house rented for this purpose, but was afterwards removed to the Padre's house, and another was rented for him and the boys' school.

The education in the Convent is managed by two nuns, with two assistants; there are 11 boarders and 10 day-scholars. The expenses are defrayed by the income of the school, with assistance from the funds at the disposal of the Vicar Apostolic at Calcutta.

The boys' school was in the beginning of this year removed to Howrah, and there is not at present any establishment for the education of boys.

(d) *Native Schools.*

There are no Government schools for the education of native boys, but several private ones in different parts of the town, in which every pupil pays from 2 annas to 8 annas monthly. All the public schools in the town are supported by the Ladies' Benevolent Society, namely, two boys' schools—one containing 239 boys and another 205, of whom a large proportion shall have made considerable progress in their reading; and two girls' schools—the native female asylum, in which 12 Native Christian children are boarded and educated, and the central female school, which is attended by 46 Christian and heathen girls.

7. SERAMPORE NATIVE HOSPITAL.

The Serampore Native Hospital was established on the 28th January 1836, being the anniversary of the birth-day of the late King of Denmark, chiefly through the exertions of the Rev. Dr. Marshman and the late Surgeon of the Settlement, Dr. Voigt, the great mortality in the years 1834 and 1835 having made the want of it more strongly felt than before.

The then Governor of the Settlement caused a meeting of the most influential inhabitants to be held, and Rs. 1,400 in donations and Rs. 1,800 in annual subscriptions were collected. A part of the vacant godowns on the riverside, then belonging to the Danish East Indian Company, were fitted up for the purpose, and an application was made to the Bengal Government for medicines and instruments from the Company's dispensary at prime cost, which application was instantly granted.

In the year 1838 the godowns were sold to a private individual, and the committee of the hospital were obliged to rent a private house; but its unfitness for the purpose being strongly felt, they succeeded in obtaining sufficient means to purchase an old house eminently adapted for the purpose. There was an old pagoda in the town established at the time the Settlement was formed by the Malabar servants of the then Governor. About 12 beeghas of free ground had been given to this pagoda by the zemindars of Sewraphully. As the buildings were in a very dilapidated state, the rent of the ground disputed and misapplied, and there were neither rightful priest nor worshippers, the council determined, on the 12th May 1842, to sell the buildings and to transfer the free ground to the tenants in ownership on the payment of a fixed sum and an annual rent. Of the proceeds, about Rs. 1,000 were applied to the thorough repair of the building at Joogul Addy's Ghât, used for the sick and the dying when brought to the riverside, and the remainder was given to the hospital, to which also the annual khazana fixed on the transferred free ground, amounting to Rs. 44-8-8, and collected by the Government in conjunction with its own khazana, was assigned.

By this sum and some additional donations amounting to Rs. 1,000, through Mr. Marshman, the present commodious building has been obtained and put in thorough repair. It is a most convenient and airy house, and will accommodate about 100 patients.

The number of in-door patients is annually from 250 to 300, and of out-door patients from 2 to 3,000. During the superintendence of Dr. Stevenson from Barrackpore, the number of both classes of patients decreased in consequence of his non-residence in the Settlement. The in-door patients had decreased to 221, and the out-door patients to 821. From the time the present Resident Surgeon, Dr. Abbot, took charge of the establishment, in November 1843, they have again considerably increased in 1844 respectively to 221 and 2,200, and for the past nine months of this year to 225 and 4,520. (Appendix 3 to 5.)

The whole of the expenditure amounts to about Rs. 1,800 annually, the Surgeon of the place superintending the institution gratis. This amount is raised by a donation from the Danish Government of Co.'s Rs. 533-5-4 annually, and by public subscriptions, which, though hitherto sufficient, has of late years been annually decreasing, the natives having as usual, with only two exceptions, withdrawn their support. The balance in hand on the 1st October is merely sufficient to cover the expenses of the month.

The establishment consists of a native doctor at Rs. 10, an assistant at Rs. 8, a durwan at Rs. 4, a bearer at Rs. 4, a masalchy at Rs. 4, a cook at Rs. 5, a mehter at Rs. 4, a metranee at Rs. 4, a leechman at Rs. 3, and a washerman at Rs. 3; altogether Rs. 49 monthly. But the native doctor has

besides Rs. 17 from Government, and Rs. 5 from the police-fund for attending on the convicts.

8. THE COURT-HOUSE, JAIL, &C.

The present court-house was built in the year 1803. It stands about in the centre of 4 beeghas of ground, and is surrounded by a brick wall 12 feet high, but built with mud and adjoining to a pretty large tank. The court-house building consists of a middle hall 21 feet by 30, with two rooms on each side and two verandahs, one in the front and one behind.

There are 7 rooms on the northern side for prisoners, 12 small rooms for single prisoners, and 2 rooms for female prisoners, separated from the others by a wall. In the middle of the compound there is a brick building 9 feet by 60, in which the convicts are kept at night. On the southern side there are 4 rooms for civil debtors.

The ground has cost Rs. 3,000, and the building Rs. 7,900.

The establishment in the jail is one jemadar at Rs. 8-8 per month, and four burkundazes at Rs. 4-4.

9. THE BAZAR AND THE ROYAL GODOWNS.

The bazar stands on a square piece of ground behind the Government-house, and contains 6 beeghas and 13 cottahs. The ground belongs to Government, but the shops to private individuals, who have erected them on the condition that they are to be used for the sale of articles and are not to be broken down. The tenants pay an annual rent, which amounts on the whole to Co.'s Rs. 253-11-3.

The Royal Godowns stand on the bazar ground and contain 15 godowns, 12 of which pay at present a monthly rent of Rs. 19-4, one is empty, and one is used for the sudder thana.

The bazar ground is valued in the books at Rs. 12,840, and the godown at Rs. 3,500. In 1842 both were estimated at Rs. 4,000, which, however, is less than their real value.

10. BRIDGES, GHATS, ROADS, &C.

There are 3 bridges in Serampore and two in the British territory—one on the main road and one near the riverside at Buddybatty, over the so-called Pearapore Creek.

To improve the paddy-field at Pearapore the Danish authorities applied to the British Government for permission to cut a canal from the fields to the riverside about 9,000 feet in length. This was allowed, Commissioners were appointed, and in December 1781 the adjoining proprietors transferred the necessary ground to the Danish Government for about Rs. 2,500.

The bridge on the main road over the canal was built in 1786, and that at Buddybatty in 1793. The latter has cost Rs. 3,050. The fishing in the creek is farmed out by the Danish Government. In 1844 and 1845 it yielded Co.'s Rs. 476 annually.

There are 13 public and private ghâts or landing-places in the town, several of them very substantial.

On one of them, Joogul Addy's Ghât, there is a building consisting of 2 rooms and a verandah erected by one Joogul Addy in the year 1757 for the benefit of the sick and the dying when carried to the riverside. The descendants of the erector having left the Settlement many years ago, the building had become very dilapidated, when the Government, in the year 1844, gave it a thorough repair from the funds obtained by the disposal of the property belonging to the Malabar pagoda, called Mudun Mohun Takoor. (See ad. hospital.)

Of roads there are in the town 43,155 feet *pucka* roads of from 8 to 20 feet in breadth and 42,326 feet *kutchu* road of from 8 to 30 feet. (Appendix 6 and 7.)

11. THE GOVERNMENT-HOUSE AND THE SECRETARY'S HOUSE.

The Government-house compound contains 16 beeghas 14 cottahs of ground, and is surrounded with a brick wall. The Governor's house is situated in the centre. It is a large lower-roomed house containing three large halls and eight side-rooms; two upper-rooms were built in 1842 and 1843 for sleeping apartments.

The house has been erected at different times, and some parts of it are very old.

The Secretary's house and the guard-house, situated at the entrance of the Government compound, is a two-storied house; the under story is used for the guard, and the upper story for the office and dwelling of the Secretary. It contains two large and five small rooms.

Adjoining to the Secretary's house is a small building consisting of two rooms built in 1832 for a jail for Europeans.

The European Jail. The whole of the ground, 16 beeghas 14 cottahs, is valued in the books at Rs. 33,400,—the Government-house at Rs. 29,540, the Secretary's house and guard-room at Rs. 6,840, the European Jail at Rs. 1,150, and the surrounding wall at Rs. 6,200; altogether Rs. 77,130. But in 1842 the whole was valued at only Rs. 18,807. (Appendix 8.)

V.—THE REVENUES.

The gross revenue of Serampore, according to the statement given to the British Government, was on an average Rs. 17,699 annually. In 1844 it amounted to Rs. 18,790, viz.—

Amount of the revenue.

1. THE LAND-TAX.

The net amount of this tax was in 1844 Co.'s Rs. 6,615. The gross amount is Rs. 9,131-3-8, from which the sum of Rs. 650-7-7 is paid to different persons for free ground transferred to Government (called company ticka), and Rs. 1,707-11-8 to the zemindars of Sewraphully for the districts transferred by them.

Amount of the land-tax.

In the year 1787, and subsequently in the year 1797, a towjee or rent-roll was drawn up in Bengalee by the order of Government containing the names of the owners, the quantity of ground, and the amount of the rent. Regular pottahs were granted to the owners, who were entitled to sell and mortgage their ground. A salamee of Rs. 2 to the farmer of the land-tax was to be paid for every transfer. The annual rent is considered fixed for ever. It varies in its rate; some pay as low as Rs. 1-8 per beegha for dwelling-ground in Serampore, others as high as Rs. 30 and even more, the rent having been fixed with reference to the quality and situation of the ground when first given by the Government.

Rent-roll.

In the years 1787 and 1797 an investigation was made of the free grounds, and a corrected list was made out, according to which there were in Serampore and Ackna 489 beeghas 8 cottahs, and in Pearapore 478-3-8. The sunnuds, or rather the char-chittys, which the possessors produced, were after examination passed and signed by the Royal Council. These char-chittys have been granted by the zemindars of Sewraphully for lands situated in different parts of their zemindaries, including the districts transferred to the Danish Government. Some of them are signed by British functionaries (Messrs. Lushington and Graham), but many of them are evidently not genuine, and some of the lands situated out of Serampore have lately been resumed. In the village of Pearapore the ground is partly elevated and used for dwellings, partly paddy-lands. There are 217 beeghas 18 cottahs 15 chittacks elevated or dwelling-ground, and 2,243-10-1 paddy-ground. For the dwelling-ground pottahs have been granted, and the owners are entitled to sell and mortgage it, and the rent is fixed for ever; but with regard to the paddy-grounds no pottahs have been granted, the cultivators being considered as mere annual tenants. The rent per beegha was formerly Sicca Rs. 1-8, but in 1824 it was raised to Sicca Rs. 2; and in 1842 the rent on some of the ground was increased to Sicca Rs. 3 and 4, while on others it was reduced to Re. 1 and 1-8. The Government has a preference over all other creditors in the dwelling-grounds at Pearapore, not only for the payment of the annual khazana of the ground itself, but also for the rent of the paddy-lands cultivated by the owner of the high ground.

Rent-roll of 1787 and 1797.

Appendix 9.

Lands in Pearapore.

The land-tax was formerly farmed out, and the annual changes of proprietors, divisions, and alterations, were not kept in order at all. It was therefore considered necessary to undertake a new examination of the present state of the grounds and to make a new rent-roll, not only with the view of having a correct statement of the annual khazana, but also to have an accurate register of the titles of the owners to the ground, whether it paid rent or not; and for the last purpose it was deemed proper to draw up the rent-roll in the English language.

New rent-roll of 1837.

This examination was undertaken in 1837 and finished in 1839. Every parcel of ground was examined according to its present state, whether it was paying rent or not. Where one piece of ground had been divided off into several separate lots, the rent was also divided, and a new number given to each lot. Where several parcels had been united into one lot, only a single pottah was granted for the whole quantity; where free ground had been joined with that which paid rent, a pottah was granted for the whole parcel, stating the quantity of both kinds; and if the whole piece of ground was free, a document was granted for it, with this proviso "that the ground had been stated, but not proved, to be free ground, and paid no rent for the present."

At the time the rent-roll was drawn up it was not deemed proper to determine whether the possessors of the free grounds should continue exempt from the payment of all rent. The settlement of the question was deferred till a full and clear statement of particulars could be obtained, but it was

Free grounds were not then resumed.

afterwards postponed *sine die*. There being no assessment of houses, the possessors of free grounds contribute nothing direct towards the expenses of the administration. The grounds are of course transferred by sale, gift, &c.; the deeds are nearly always registered. The fees for registry stand thus:—

If the ground is of less value

				Rs	A.
than	Rs. 30	...	...	...	0 8
from	„ 30 to 100	...	...	...	1 0
„	„ 100 to 500	...	...	...	2 0
above	„ 500	...	...	...	4 0

To complete the transfer it is requisite to apply for and obtain a new pottah. An ishtahar is then issued calling upon all claimants to appear and prove their rights, and if no objection is brought forward a new pottah is issued.

The fees for a new pottah are—

If the value of the ground is less than

				Rs.	A.
	Rs. 30	...	...	...	0 8
If from	Rs. 30 to 100	...	...	...	1 0
„	„ „ 100 to 300	...	...	...	2 0
„	„ „ 300 to 500	...	...	...	3 0
„	„ „ 500 to 1,000	...	...	...	4 0

and one rupee more for each additional thousand.

Half the amount of the pottah-fees are paid to Government as part of the land-tax, the other half goes to the Magistrate.

When in 1838 the new rent-roll was made up and new pottahs were issued to every proprietor, it was the intention of the public authorities to have every piece of ground correctly measured and described, the quantity of ground stated in the old pottahs being larger than it was in reality. It was, however, soon discovered that this could not be done properly with the assistance at the command of the Collector, nor was the greater part of the grounds of such a value as to warrant the expenses and trouble it would necessarily occasion. Only part of the grounds were therefore measured, and the greater part of the new pottahs were made out in accordance with the old documents.

When, however, in 1839 the rent-roll and the collection of the khazana was transferred to the Magistrate, it was ordered that before issuing new pottahs he should cause the ground to be measured and its length and breadth stated correctly. It seems that the additional expense hereby imposed on the new owner for measurement, viz. Rs. 1-4 for a parcel of ground of less value than Rs. 100, and Rs. 2-8 if above that value, has caused some disinclination to apply for new pottahs, and thus made the rent-roll incomplete with regard to the transfers that have taken place since 1839.

The free ground amounted in 1797 to 4,893*-8 in Serampore and Ackna, 478-3-8 in Pearapore; but according to the rent-roll of 1839 they are respectively 414-5-5 and 437-1-8. The decrease in the quantity of free ground is caused partly by the transfer of some parcels to the condition of ticka land (for an explanation of which see above), and partly by assessing other parcels for want of any proofs whatever of its being free ground.

Free grounds have been taken on the payment of an annual rent by the Government at different times; thus (1) some, and the greatest part, have been taken for making straight roads, drains, &c. The owners being unwilling to part with a small part of a piece of ground, the Government took over the whole piece on the condition of a fixed annual payment, used part of it for the road, and transferred the remainder to tenants on a stipulated annual khazana, generally of a higher amount than the sum paid by the Government to the former owner.

Other parcels were taken in order to improve the land and render it fit for dwelling-houses. Thus in 1817 and 1820 about 130 beeghas of paddy-ground, part of the district and adjoining the town, chiefly free ground, were thus dealt with. This free land was taken over from the owners at the rate of Rs. 2 per beegha, several large tanks were dug, the ground was raised and divided off into square lots of 10 cottahs, 15 cottahs, and 1 beegha, and it was transferred to new tenants at the rate of Rs. 4 per beegha. The districts of Churruckdanga and Chotungdunga were farmed in this manner.

Other parcels of ground again were taken for the benefit of certain institutions. Thus in 1842 the ground belonging to Mudun Mohun Takoor was taken by Government for the benefit of the hospital (see under Hospital). The khazana was increased by Rs. 44-8-8, and the payments with the same amount. These payments amounted in 1797 to Sicca Rs. 460-13-3; at present their

Amount of ticka payment.

* Sic in original, but obviously the 3 is an error. Cf. above, rent-roll of 1787 and 1797.

full amount is Rs. 650-7-7. Those entitled to payment hold certificates to the following effect signed by the Council:—

“This is to certify that A. B. is to receive from Government the annual sum of for grounds transferred to Government.”

According to the last rent-roll the number of parcels of ground in Serampore is 1,452, and they pay an annual rent of Rs. 4,101-6-7. The number of parcels of dwelling-grounds in Pearapore is 263, which pay an annual rent of Rs. 570-7-10. There are 568 patches of paddy-ground, containing 1,884 beeghas 3 cottahs 5 chittacks, which pay annually Rs. 4,154-7-2; and 359-6-12 of rent-free land. Besides these there are a number of fishing-stations, which pay annually Rs. 304-14-1, viz. in Serampore Rs. 24-13-4, bills in Pearapore Rs. 230-14-6, and battahs Rs. 49-2-3.

The land-tax, together with the fees on marriages and the duty on sales, were farmed out till the year 1836, when the collection was taken over by the Collector, and after the rent-roll had been finished the collection was transferred to the Magistrate, for which an additional monthly payment of Rs. 15 is allowed, viz. 7-8 to the daroga and Rs. 7-8 to a sircar under him.

The rent in Serampore, and of the high ground in Pearapore, is collected half-yearly; the rent of paddy-grounds at the time of the harvest, and that of fishing places in March and September. The official rent year begins on the 1st February. If the khazana is not paid within 15 days after it has fallen due, an ishtahar is affixed on the property with a notice of 15 days, and after that time the property may be sold by public auction. The charges for each such ishtahar is 8 annas. Grounds in Serampore, however, are rarely sold till the arrears of a year or two have accumulated. When the Director of Sales issues his notice of sale, another 15 days' notice is always given.

2. THE MARRIAGE-FEES.

The marriage-fees are paid according to ancient custom. They were formerly farmed out with the land-tax, but have been collected separately since 1837. The bridegroom according to custom pays Rs. 2-8, and the bride Rs. 2; the lower classes pay Re. 1 each; Boyragees, 4 annas; Brahmins and Kaysts are exempt. When the parties are tenants on the ground of a Brahmin, he claims the half of the fees payable by his tenant as his right. This has sometimes been granted as a favour, but always refused as a right.

Since 1836, when the collection was taken from the farmer, the fees have annually decreased: in fact every one pays now what he pleases. In 1844 the fees paid on 141 marriages amounted only to Rs. 147; this year on 157 marriages to Rs. 133.

3. THE AUCTION-DUTY.

Four per cent. is paid on the sale amount of all immovable property sold by public auction, but then the certificate of sale is granted on unstamped paper. There is no general duty on the transfer of property except the stamp-duty, which, however, with regard to conveyances, is scarcely more than one-third of the duty under Regulation X of 1829, nor is any duty raised on the transfer of property by inheritance.

In 1844 this duty amounted to Rs. 438, and to October 1845 to about Rs. 300.

4. THE BAZAR-DUTY.

The gross amount of this duty is about Rs. 3,200. It includes (1) the real bazar-duty, consisting of a small tax of from one to three per cent. levied on the sale of various articles in the bazar and all open shops, as well as on the sale of beef, pork, and mutton (see Appendix 10), amounting to Rs. 2,525 annually; (2) the rent of the bazar-ground, Rs. 253-11-3; (3) the rent of the Royal Godowns in the bazar, at present Rs. 19-4 monthly, or Rs. 221 annually. (See ad. bazar.)

The duty is collected by the clerk of the market, and the costs of collection are:—

					Rs.	A.	P.
1.	A clerk of the market	...	...	...	10	0	0
2.	Two sircars	...	...	...	9	8	0
3.	Three peons	...	...	...	9	0	0
	Monthly	...	...	...	<u>28</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>

5. THE STAMP-DUTY.

This duty is collected under a local regulation of 1824. (Appendix No. 11.) The duty on conveyances, &c., is scarcely more than one-third of the duty under Regulation X of 1829, but the duty on pleadings

is the same. Parties in cases of petty demands are not exempted from the use of stamps, but pay at a low rate, viz. for a plaint on sums not exceeding—

							Rs.	A.	P.
Rs. 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	0
Above Rs. 4,	not exceeding	8	...	...	...	...	0	4	0
" "	8,	" "	12	...	...	...	0	8	0
" "	12,	" "	16	...	...	...	1	0	0
" "	16,	" "	32	...	...	...	2	0	0
" "	32,	" "	64	...	...	...	4	0	0

The number of small cases under Rs. 50 exceeded 1,600 in the past nine months of this year.

The stamps are sold by the serishtadar of the court, who receives 2 per cent. on the collection.

6. ABKAREE SPIRITS.

The farm of European and country spirits is held by one individual as farmer of European liquors. He is entitled to keep one open shop for retail sale. As farmer of country spirits, he is at liberty to manufacture all kinds of country spirits and to dispose of them to the best advantage in three established shops in the town and in one at the village of Pearapore. He is also entitled to sell Bengal rum. The present farmer has engaged for the years 1845 and 1846 to pay Rs. 4,330 annually. Licenses for the sale of European liquor in quantities of not less than a dozen at the time are granted for Rs. 50 annually; only one license has been granted for the present year.

7. TODDY.

Toddy.

The farm of toddy is held by one individual for the years 1845 and 1846 at Co.'s Rs. 210 annually.

8. GANJA.

Ganja.

The farm of ganja is held by one individual for the years 1845 and 1846 at Co.'s Rs. 210 annually.

9. OPIUM.

The farm of opium, which includes the sale of *goolees*, is held by one individual for the years 1845 and 1846 for the annual sum of Co.'s Rs. 1,025. The farmer is at liberty to purchase the opium wherever obtainable, to keep any quantity he likes, and to sell it to the best advantage.

10. THE FARM OF THE SALE OF BETEL, BETEL-NUT, TOBACCO, AREK, AND ANELLAH.

This farm is also held by one individual for the years 1845 and 1846 for the annual sum of Co.'s Rs. 1,345; he has many under-farmers, with whom he makes his own arrangements.

Betel, betel-nut, tobacco, arek, and anellah.

11. THE FARM OF THE FERRY.

The farm of the ferry comprises only the crossing of passengers and cattle from Serampore to Barrackpore at a certain fixed rate. (See Appendix No. 12.) The rate is the same as at Pultah Ghât. The present farmer pays Rs. 90 annually, and has entered into engagements for 1845 and 1846.

The ferry.

12. THE FARM OF FISHING IN THE PEARAPORE CREEK.

The farm of fishing in the Pearapore Creek.

The present farmer has made an arrangement to the end of April 1846 and pays annually Co.'s Rs. 476.

13. THE FACTORY AT BALASORE.

The ground attached to the factory at Balasore is 18 beeghas, with a number of tenants. Some years ago they paid about Rs. 230 annually. The farmer pays Co.'s Rs. 53-2 annually, and has not engaged for any certain time.

VI.—THE ADMINISTRATION.

The present form of administration is based on a Royal Order of 1826. The supreme government is entrusted to a council consisting of three members and a secretary, who are under the superintendence of the Board of Customs and Trade in Copenhagen. The political functions are entrusted to the Governor alone, subject to the authority of the Governor of Tranquebar. Besides acting

The established form of administration.

jointly in their capacity as a council, every member has his separate functions, which he performs in subordination either to the Governor or the council, according to circumstances.

The Governor, who is the first member, has the superintendence and control of all the public officers. In cases of neglect of duty he is empowered to reprimand them, to report upon their conduct to the Board, to suspend them from their functions, and, in case of necessity, to send them to Denmark, reporting all circumstances for the decision of the higher authorities. He has the immediate superintendence of the military and the police; he looks to the due administration of estates of deceased persons, and appoints officers to officiate during vacancies.

The duties of the Governor.

The second member of council is also Judge and Magistrate and administrator of estates of deceased persons.

The duties of the second member.

Judge.

Appeal of civil cases.

As Judge he decides all civil and criminal cases brought before him in the regular way. All decrees in *civil* cases of the value of Rs. 50 and above are open to an appeal to the Governor, whose power, however, is limited to order the case to be resumed and retried for reasons stated. If the Judge adhere to his opinion, there is no further appeal, except when the value of the case amounts to Sicca Rs. 500, when an appeal lays to the Supreme Court at Copenhagen. From this rule are exempted—

1st.—All cases where the matter in dispute relates to the ceremonies of castes, in which the final decision rests with the Governor;

2nd.—All cases about inheritance, or the relation between persons belonging to one family, in which the Judge's decree is final.

Criminal cases.

The *criminal* cases which the Judge decides are the following:—

1st.—Cases remitted to the court with the sanction of the council by the Magistrate upon a preliminary investigation of the offence committed;

2nd.—Cases referring to criminal matters brought before the court by the injured party by way of complaint.

All decrees in *criminal* cases are appealable to the council, who is empowered to mitigate the sentence; but when the punishment adjudged exceeds imprisonment upon rice and cauchy or confinement for three months, punishment with the rattan, banishment from the Settlement, fines exceeding Sicca Rs. 500, or the like, an appeal lays to the Supreme Court in Copenhagen, except when the offender is a native of India and the punishment does not exceed two years' confinement with labour, when there is no appeal from the decision of the council.

Appeal of criminal cases.

All criminal cases appealed to the Supreme Court at Copenhagen are forwarded and brought before the court at the expense of Government.

As Magistrate he is required to keep the peace of the town, and to protect the life, the health, the comfort, and the property of the inhabitants.

Magistrate.

Form of arrest.

He is competent to arrest all offenders against the law, whether taken in the act or suspected on good and substantial reasons. He does not act upon the oath of any accuser or informer. If he deems the accusation or information reasonable, or considers it corroborated by other circumstances, he will issue his order for the apprehension of the accused party; otherwise not. He does not issue any written warrant, a verbal order being sufficient. As soon, however, as a person is apprehended, he is instantly to be brought before the Magistrate, who then decides whether he is to be confined, to give bail, or to be instantly released. He is not allowed to keep any person in durance beyond 24 hours without informing him of the offence for which he is accused, so as to enable him to defend himself.

Mode of proceedings.

On receiving information of a crime having been committed, he is bound to institute all possible inquiries to find out the true circumstances of the case and the guilty parties. He examines the informers, the neighbours, and all those who are supposed to be able to give information, as well as the suspected or accused party separately and commonly within closed doors; and when he has thus discovered, or believes he has found, the guilty party, he forwards his proceedings to the council, who decide whether the suspected or accused party shall be put on his trial or not. Neither the accuser, the informer, nor the witnesses, are sworn to their deposition before him,

Witnesses.

because they might afterwards be found interested parties, and because no oath is legally valid unless given in the presence of the accused party. In criminal cases the depositions of all persons are taken, whether husband, wife, children, parents, criminals or others, whenever circumstances require it; but their deposition is not sworn to unless it appears absolutely necessary, and then their connection with the accused party, or their trustworthiness, is taken into due consideration. It is not so in civil cases, where neither plaintiff nor any of his relatives and dependents are admitted as witnesses. When a criminal case is tried by the Judge the witnesses are again examined and sworn to their depositions; and if they be found prevaricating, or to have deposed falsely, they are punished, not for perjury, but for having given a false deposition.

Small thefts and minor police offences the Magistrate is empowered to punish with fines and a short period of imprisonment without appeal.

Small thefts and minor police offences. As Administrator to Estates of Deceased Persons, it is his duty, as soon as he receives information of the death of a European or Indo-Britain within the Settlement, to seal up and secure his property for the heirs or creditors. If the deceased has left a will and appointed an executor, the property is delivered over to the executor on payment of a fee of from Rs. 10 to 160, according to the value of the estate. If no will is found, a notice is issued and published in the court of Tranquebar and Serampore, and three times in the *Government Gazette* calling on the creditors to appear within a year, or, if the deceased has had no extensive dealings, within twelve weeks. The property is then usually sold, the outstanding claims are collected, and at the expiration of a year or twelve weeks the debts are paid and the balance delivered over to the heirs. The servants and the landlord, having priority of claims, are always paid instantly if there are sufficient assets.

Administrator to estates. The estates of natives are not interfered with unless on special application.

Estates of natives. The fee for the administration of estates is 4 per cent. of the gross amount on the first Rs. 500, and 2 per cent. of the remainder. No percentage is permitted to be charged till the estate is finally settled.

Fees. The third member of council is accountant, superintends the business of a Court of Wards, is Director of Sales, and Superintendent of Public Buildings and Roads.

Duties of the third member. As a Court of Wards he administers the property belonging to all minors, and pays the expenses for their maintenance and education. Even when the children are with their mother, he is bound to watch over their education.

Court of Wards. No fee is paid for administration, and regular accounts are forwarded to the Court of Wards in Denmark annually.

Fees. As Director for Sales he is bound to conduct all sales in the Settlement, public as well as private. Property sold under decrees of court, according to istahars for balance of khazana, or at the request of private individuals, are equally conducted by him, and are not allowed to be conducted by any one else. He is bound to issue due notice of the sale, and to see it properly published and conducted. His fees for conducting the sale are Rs. 3 for each notice, 4 per cent. on all movable property, and on immovable 2 per cent. of the first 1,000, 1½ per cent. of from 1,000 to 5,000; 1 per cent. of from 5,000 to 20,000, and ½ per cent. of any higher amount. For collecting the amount of sales an equal percentage is charged.

Director of Sales. As Superintendent of Public Buildings and Roads he is to see the public buildings and roads repaired. A sum of Rs. 1,640 is annually allowed by Government for the repairs of the buildings, and Rs. 1,260 for the repairs of the roads. The cleansing of the town is strictly under the Magistrate, as well as the employment of the convicts out of the jail; but this duty has for some years been conducted by the Superintendent of Roads.

Superintendent of Buildings and Roads. There is an overseer employed under him on a salary of Rs. 18-10-0, and another on Rs. 5-5-0.

Duties of the Secretary, notary public. The Secretary to Government is besides treasurer and notary public. In the last capacity he certifies the execution of wills and deeds, and translates officially all documents and papers at the request of the Government or private parties. All wills are, under the Danish law, required to be executed in the presence of the notary public and two witnesses.

Fees. His fees are—for certifying a deed, Rs. 5; for preparing deeds and documents, Rs. 15 per sheet; for copies Rs. 3 per sheet; for translating from Danish into a foreign language, Rs. 10 for the first sheet, and Rs. 5 for each of the remainder; and from a foreign language into Danish, Rs. 6 for the first sheet and Rs. 4 for each of the remainder.

Owing to the departure of some of the functionaries to Denmark, and the death of others, as well as to the intention of the Home Government to reduce the establishment, a different arrangement has for some years existed.

Present division of the official duties. The supreme Government of Tranquebar and Serampore is at present concentrated in the Governor of both Settlements, with his council consisting, in Tranquebar, of two members, and in Serampore of other two members; the first member at Serampore performing, during the Governor's absence at Tranquebar, such duties as call for immediate decision, subject however to an appeal to the Governor.

All the subordinate functions were divided between the two members. The first member continued Magistrate and Judge in all criminal cases, as well as in civil cases above the value of Rs. 50; and the second member officiated as Judge in all civil cases of not more than Rs. 50 value, and administrator to estates, and conducted besides all the duties of the third member and the Secretary.

All *civil* cases under Rs. 50 value are appealable within three months to the first member, and all cases above Rs. 50 are appealable within three months to the Governor; or if above Sicca Rs. 500, with the restrictions before mentioned, within one year and six weeks to the Supreme Court at Copenhagen.

Appeal of civil cases.

All decrees in *criminal* cases are appealable to the Governor, and are to be confirmed by him, unless the punishment does not exceed six months' imprisonment or a fine of Rs. 100, and the defendant does not wish to appeal.

Criminal cases.

TRIAL AND DECISION OF SUITS.

The form of proceedings in the court is substantially the same as in the mofussil courts under the British regulations. By a local regulation of 8th November 1824 (Appendix B), the former regulation for the administration of justice in the Settlement was rescinded, and it was ordered in section 7 that the forms of the proceedings shall be conformable with the rules prescribed by the British Government for the native courts in British Bengal, provided these regulations shall not have been altered, or shall not be altered with respect to the Settlement by any local order.

Form of proceedings in the court.

Under that regulation there were two courts—a European, for the decision of suits in which the defendant was a European, and a native court. The proceedings and decisions in that court were guided by the Danish laws; but by a local order of 1st February 1838, since approved by the Home Government, the European court was abolished and Europeans were made subject to the native court and the forms and rules there in force.

The European court since abolished.

The civil court is held three days in the week; cases of above Rs. 50 value are heard on Friday, and the smaller cases every Tuesday and Saturday. As soon as the complaint is filed, it is numbered and the summons is issued. Fourteen days' notice is given in the larger, and seven days in the smaller cases. The complaint is at the same time translated into English and entered into a protocol for the guidance of the Judge, who is not expected to understand the native language. If the notice is not served when the suit is called on, the summons is renewed till the next court-day; and if it is still not served, an ishtahar is fixed on the defendant's house, with 14 or 7 days' notice respectively.

The civil court when held.

Mode of proceedings.

With regard to the security demandable on serving the summons, there is a local regulation of 13th September 1832. The small extent of the Settlement, and the facility thereby afforded for debtors to escape legal process, made it necessary to modify the rules of Regulation II of 1806, so as to make it the rule that the defendant should, on receiving the summons, give security for appearance or suffer arrest; but in order to prevent, as far as possible, unnecessary or illegal arrests, the plaintiff was bound to give security for the consequences of the arrest: and if by the decree the defendant was acquitted, the plaintiff was by the same decree ordered to pay damages according to circumstances.

Security for appearance.

Civil summonses are served by the police in case the defendant is not a resident of the town. The summons is delivered at one of the thanas and kept for three months, within which time if the plaintiff can point out the defendant he will be taken up, and if unable to give security for his appearance, arrested.

Civil summons when served by the police.

As soon as the defendant appears in the court, the Judge endeavours to compromise the case; and whenever it originates less from dispute than from real or pretended inability to pay, an arrangement to liquidate the whole demand or part of it by instalments is very often effected. If the case refers to real disputable matter, the Judge endeavours to compromise the case as soon as the pleadings are completed, before any evidence is heard.

Compromises effected by the Judge.

The parties are required to appear in person or by their relatives (section 7), the use of mooktears being by the regulation deemed superfluous, and only permitted for special reasons on petition; but experience having proved the impropriety of this rule, the use of native mooktears has always been permitted. There are at present five authorized mooktears who are removable by the Judge on proof of misconduct.

Mooktears.

The Judge is bound to inform both parties what may be requisite for them to observe regarding the management of their cause. He is himself to examine the witnesses as well as the parties, and investigate the matter as minutely as possible to find the real merits of the case. He is to proceed with the investigation with the least possible delay, and not to allow more time for the parties to produce their proofs than is requisite.

Mode of proceedings.

In his decree, which is to be passed as soon as possible, and always within six weeks from the closing of the proceedings, he is to be guided by the rules of the Hindu and the Mahomedan law as modified and defined in the British regulations, but the Danish law is considered as a *jus*

Decrees.

subsidiarum. Cases of inheritance and caste are to be decided under the Hindu and Mahomedan law, as explained by the serishtadar of the court.

The language of the court is Bengalee, but interpreters are used. The daily proceedings are taken down in the usual manner on loose paper by the buxee of the court in the Bengalee language, and at the same time also by the Judge himself in a protocol, either in the Danish or the English language. The Judge's protocol contains the whole proceedings of all cases from day to day as they have been called on, with all the depositions of the witnesses and the contents of the documents that have been produced. The decrees are passed either in the Danish or English language, and entered either in the same protocol as the proceedings, or in a separate protocol, and signed by the Judge. Translations are given to the parties when required.

In *criminal* cases the proceedings are much of the same character. No prosecutor is required, no formal indictment is made out. The defendant is examined before the evidence against him is taken, and he *must* answer all the questions which the Judge may deem proper to put to him during the trial. If he refuses to answer such questions as he is able to answer, he is liable to solitary confinement or imprisonment on rice and cauchy until he gives a proper answer. If he should happen to be indicted for one crime and another crime be proved against him, he is not to be acquitted, but punished according to his guilt. Though the Judge is thus in some respect the prosecutor, he is equally bound to be the defender of the accused. He is bound to search for the truth, and equally bound to investigate such circumstances as are in favour of the accused as those that are against him.

The Mahomedan criminal law, as modified and altered by the British regulations, regulates the punishment of all crimes and misdemeanours; but the Danish law is the *jus subsidiarum*, and is generally applied whenever the punishment under the Danish law is less than under the British regulations.

The establishment of the court consists of the serishtadar on a monthly salary of Rs. 40, the buxee on Rs. 20, an assistant interpreter and English writer on Rs. 40, a native writer on Rs. 5, and a record-keeper on Rs. 5, and 4 serving peons, who are paid by fees only, viz. 2 annas for each time they are deputed to serve a summons, fix an ishtahar, serve a subpœna, execute a natuck, or attach any property. Thus if the defendant is not pointed out, the peon gets 2 annas on the issue of the summons, 2 annas on its renewal, and 2 annas for fixing the ishtahar. On serving a subpœna he receives only 2 annas for serving all the witnesses, whatever be their number.

Annual number of civil cases. The number of *civil* cases instituted in 1842 was 1,404; in 1843, 1,788; in 1844, 1,780; and to October 1845, 1,703. Of these 109 are still pending.

Of criminal cases. The number of fouzdari cases in 1842 was 119; in 1843, 138; in 1844, 143; and to October 1845, 150. Of these 12 are pending.

POLICE.

The executive police duties are performed, under the superintendence of the Magistrate, by the darogah, 5 thanadars, 39 burkundazes, and 15 payks.

There are four thanas in the town—three in the outskirts and one in the centre, viz. the *Tantyparah thana*, with 1 thanadar, 8 burkundazes, and 4 payks; *Cusbytolla thana*, with 1 thanadar, 6 burkundazes, and 2 payks; the *Braminparah thana*, with 1 thanadar, 7 burkundazes, and 4 payks, 4 of the burkundazes having a separate station (the Bengalee guard); and the *Sudder thana*, with 1 thanadar, 10 burkundazes, and 2 payks. Besides these there are 2 burkundazes stationed in the guard at the Flagstaff Ghât, and 2 at Surkee's Ghât.

There is a mehter employed in the bazar on Rs. 4-4 daily to remove all offal, and a murdafurash to remove all dead bodies and to kill stray dogs. For each dead body removed from the hospital he receives 8 annas, and for each dog killed 6 pice. More than 200 dogs are killed annually.

At Pearapore there is one thana, with 1 thanadar, 4 burkundazes, and 2 payks.

The salary of the darogah is Rs. 60, the salary of the thanadar in the Sudder thana is Rs. 8-8; of the other thanadars at Rs. 6-6, and 5 burkundazes at Rs. 4-8, and the remainder at Rs. 4-4; the payk at Rs. 3-3: altogether Co.'s Rs 308-13 monthly.

Number of police cases. The number of police cases was in 1842, 180; in 1843, 156; in 1844, 121; and to October 1845, 108. Of these 3 are pending.

There are some, but not many, local police regulations. The principal of these are that of the 7th June 1832 and 30th May 1844, relative to dilapidated houses, and of the 26th August 1830, relative to the cleansing of the town. By the first it is ordered that dilapidated houses (which include not only buildings that are dangerous for the public or have become public nuisances, but such as have become

Local police regulations.

Referring to dilapidated houses.

unfit for the use for which they are intended) may, after due notice to the owner, be repaired at his cost ; but this being found insufficient and inconvenient with regard to the larger houses, whose repairs required a large outlay, it was ordered by regulation of 30th May 1844 that the Magistrate in such cases might order the house to be sold by public auction, to be broken down, or repaired.

It may perhaps be proper with regard to this strict rule to observe that as the Settlement is of limited extent, and as nearly one-half part of the European dwelling-houses belong to one individual, who, though possessing ample means, had for years neglected to keep his houses in such repair as to make them fit for being occupied, it was an order which circumstances made necessary to prevent the town from being deserted by the European population for want of suitable dwellings.

The regulation of 1830 makes it imperative on the owner of every parcel of ground to keep it and the drains free from jungle and filth ; it orders him to cleanse the ground and the drains at the end of every month, and every fifteen days during the rains, under a fine of from Re. 1 to Rs. 20. A milder and more effective system he has followed for some years, and, as it is believed, more to the satisfaction of the inhabitants in general. The Superintendent of Roads has engaged a number of coolies, who, under the overseer of roads, has effectually cleansed the grounds and the drains. The actual expenses have been charged to the owner and collected by the police. In lieu of fining the parties at least a rupee, without sometimes effecting any cleansing at all, the ground is now actually cleansed and commonly at the cost to the owner of a few annas merely. Some of the large landholders, who formerly escaped with a fine of a few rupees, and are now made to pay sometimes Rs. 10 for keeping their houses and grounds clear, are of course dissatisfied, though even under the regulation of 1830 the police might, besides inflicting the fine, cause the ground to be cleansed at their expense.

Fines inflicted in the courts or by the Magistrate, unclaimed property, and the like, go to the police-fund, from which all the expenses for the convicts, the expenses for the keep of a bullock-cart (about Rs. 20 monthly), some extra salaries, remuneration to the police-officers and informers, the stationery of the court, and other incidental expenses, are paid.

The income and expenses are from Rs. 800 to 1,200 annually ; any surplus is at the end of the year paid into the treasury, and any deficit is charged to the general expenses of the administration.

SERAMPORE,
The 23rd October 1845.

F. E. ELBERLING.

...for the use for which they are intended) may, after due notice to the owner, be repaired at the cost; but this being found inefficient and inconvenient with regard to the larger houses, whose repairs required a large outlay, it was ordered by regulation of 1803, May 18th, that the materials in such cases might order the house to be sold by public auction, to be taken down, or repaired.

It may perhaps be proper, with regard to this strict rule to observe that as the settlement is of limited extent, and as nearly one half part of the European dwelling houses belong to one individual, who, though possessing ample means, had for years neglected to keep his houses in such repair as to make them fit for being occupied, it was an order which circumstances made necessary to prevent the town from being deserted by the European population for want of suitable dwellings.

The regulation of 1803 makes it imperative on the owner of every parcel of ground to keep it and the drains free from filth and dirt; it orders him to cleanse the ground and the drains at the end of every month, and every fifteen days during the rains, under a fine of from 1s. to 2s. A tender and more effective system has followed for some years, and as it is believed, more to the satisfaction of the inhabitants in general. The proprietors of houses have engaged a number of coolies, who, under the overseer of roads, have essentially cleansed the grounds and the drains. The actual expenses have been charged to the owner and collected by the police. In lieu of fixing the parties at least a rope, without sometimes obliging any cleaning at all, the ground is now actually cleaned and commonly at the cost to the owner of a few annas merely. Some of the large landholders, who formerly occupied with a line of a few rupees, and are now made to pay sometimes 100 for keeping their houses and grounds clear, are of course dissatisfied, though even under the regulation of 1803 the police might, besides inflicting the fine, cause the ground to be cleared at their expense.

It was intimated in the course of the Maristate, undraind property, and the like, no to the police fund, from which all the expenses for the coolies, the expenses for the keep of a bullock cart (about 120 monthly), some extra salaries, remuneration to the police-officers and informers, the salaries of the court, and other incidental expenses, are paid.

The income and expenses are from 500 to 1,000 annually; any surplus is at the end of the year paid into the treasury, and any deficit is charged to the general expenses of the administration.

E. D. HIPPENING.

22, Kent Street, 1810.

W. H. L.



