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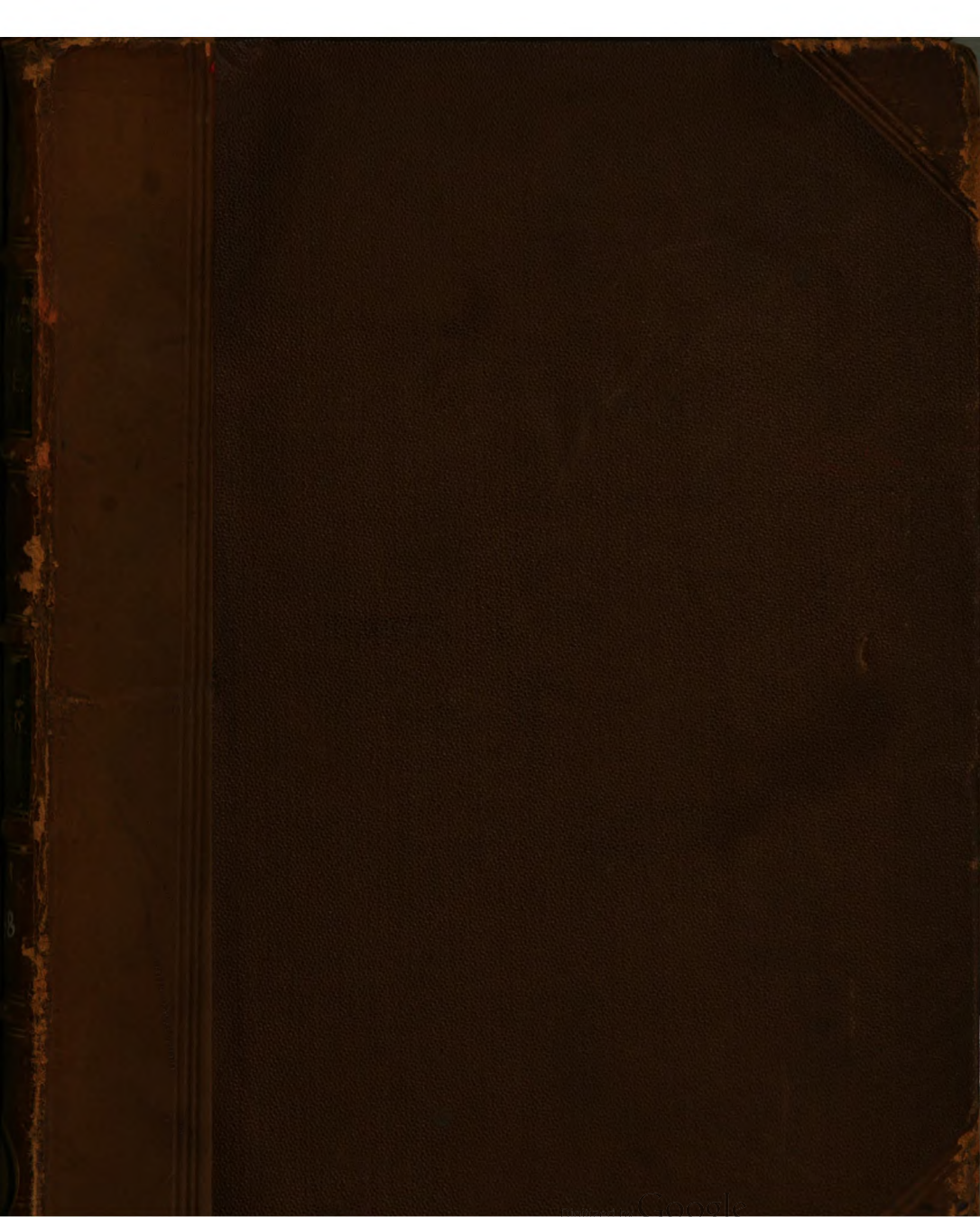
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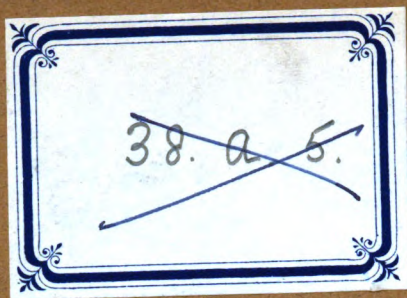
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ANNALS
OF
JAMES MACRAE, ESQ.,
GOVERNOR OF MADRAS,
1725—1731.

COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS.

BY
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MADRAS PRESIDENCY COLLEGE.

MADRAS:
PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY,
BY GRAVES AND CO., SCOTTISH PRESS.
1862.

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P R E F A C E.

The accompanying annals of James Macrae, Governor of Madras, form a portion of the annals of Madras, which have recently been published by the Author in three volumes small quarto under the title of “Madras in the Olden Time.”

A few copies of the present Memoir have been struck off for private circulation only.

J. T. W.

MADRAS, }
1st *January*, 1862. }

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HISTORY OF GOVERNOR MACRAE.

CHAPTER I.

1725—26.

Mr. James Macrae, Governor of Fort St. George and all the English Settlements on the Coast of Coromandel from 1725 to 1730, was one of those remarkable men who rose from poverty to affluence at the time when large fortunes were still a novelty in the commercial world. The annals of his Government will thus derive additional interest from his extraordinary career, especially in the eyes of those of our readers who come from those parts of Scotland where his name and memory are still preserved in local traditions. Accordingly, before entering upon the records of his government, it may be interesting to glance at such particulars respecting his origin as may be gathered from stories which are still current in Glasgow and Ayr.

Mr. James Macrae was born in Ayrshire about the latter part of the reign of merry king Charles. His parents were of the very lowest class, and he himself whilst a boy is said to have been employed in looking after cattle. His father however died whilst James Macrae was still very young; and his

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mother then removed with her son to the town of Ayr; where they lived in a little thatched cottage in the suburbs, and where the poor widow gained her living as a washerwoman. Here young Macrae added something to his mother's earnings by running messages; but at the same time seems to have picked up some little education by means only known to Scotchmen. He appears however to have grown tired of this monotonous life whilst still a boy. Ayr was a seaport, and it is easy to understand how a young man, endowed with the energy which Macrae subsequently proved himself to possess, should have imbibed a keen desire to embark in the adventurous trading of the time, and finally have turned his back upon the poverty of home and run off to sea.

Forty years passed away before Macrae returned to his native land; and it is generally believed that throughout the whole of that period he held no communication whatever with his relations or his home. Meantime his sister married a carpenter named MacGuire, who was also in great request as a violin player at kirns and weddings, and was consequently known as "Fiddler MacGuire." The poverty of these people may be gathered from the fact that the children of MacGuire were on one occasion seen crying for bread, whilst their mother had left the house to try and borrow a loaf. But we shall have more particulars of this family to relate hereafter. For the present we must confine ourselves to the career of Mr. Macrae.

The early events in the seafaring life of the young runaway must we fear for ever remain un-

known. We can learn nothing of him till about 1720, when he must already have been thirty years in India, and is simply alluded to as Captain Macrae. Most probably he had risen to the command of a vessel in the country trade, and had undertaken voyages to Sumatra, Pegu, and China. It appears however that he had been successful in gaining the confidence of his Honorable Masters, for he was subsequently sent on a special mission to the English settlement on the West Coast of Sumatra, to reform the many abuses which prevailed at that settlement. Here he acquitted himself in such a manner as to ensure his appointment to a high post. He effected savings to the extent of nearly 60,000 pagodas, or about £25,000 per annum; and at the same time carried out such reforms as promised a very large increase in the supply of pepper. Accordingly the Directors ordered that on leaving the West Coast he should be appointed Deputy Governor of Fort St. David, and thus stand next in succession to the Government of Fort St. George. The retirement of Mr. Elwick led to Mr. Macrae's advancement to the latter post sooner than could have been expected. He returned from the West Coast towards the end of 1724, and without proceeding to Fort St. David, at once took his seat as second Member of Council at Fort St. George. At last on the 18th of January, 1725, the son of the poor washerwoman of Ayr took his place as Governor of the Madras Presidency. The proceedings on that occasion are thus recorded in the consultations.

“ Monday, 18th January, 1725. The Presi-

dent (James Macrae, Esq.,) opened this consultation by telling the Board that, as this was the first time of their meeting since his taking the chair, he thought it would not be improper to acquaint them of his resolutions; of which the principal was, that he would prosecute the Company's interest to the utmost, and endeavour to retrieve the abuses that had crept into the management of their affairs. He added that he was determined not to interrupt in any manner the commerce of the place, but that all the inhabitants both Whites and Blacks, the Free Merchants as well as the Company's Servants, should have free liberty of trade, and that he should expect the same freedom from interruptions in what he should undertake; that he would endeavour to be as agreeable to the Gentlemen as any of his predecessors, but that he was determined to maintain the privileges and immunities belonging to the President; and he concluded by saying, that he expected a ready assistance from them in the pursuit of the above resolutions, which was accordingly promised."

Before proceeding with the annals of Mr. Macrae's administration, it may be as well to remark that he was emphatically a commercial Governor and a most laborious administrative reformer. The relations with the Nabob of Arcot remained unaltered, and what may be called the domestic incidents of the Presidency are few in number. But in all matters connected with the trade of the place, the reduction of the expenditure, the improvement of the revenues, the supervision of the mint, and the administration of

justice, his proceedings are distinguished by an indefatigable industry, a display of strong sense, and above all by a fullness of record far beyond those of any of his predecessors. Nothing appeared too large or too small for Governor Macrae. Everything received his attention in turn, from such matters of detail as the sorting of cloths and the better preparation of the consultation books, up to the most difficult and complicated questions connected with the coinage, the customs, the quit rent, or the very doubtful cases of appeal from the Mayor's Court. Like most men who have risen from nothing, he was arbitrary and occasionally harsh towards his subordinates; but he proved himself a valuable servant to the Company, whose orders he rigidly respected; and no records which have as yet fallen into our hands throw more light upon the internal administration of Fort Saint George.

Our first extract seems to illustrate the determination of the new Governor to support his own dignity.

"Monday, 22nd February, 1725. The President acquainted the Board that Pondy Chetty Kistna, a person who was formerly whipped out of Fort St. David for practices against the Government, and afterwards banished from hence for the same crime; but who had lately ventured again without leave, and had wrote a letter into the country, wherein he tells his correspondent several things of the President very much to his dishonour; which coming to his knowledge had occasioned him to confine the said Pondy Chetty

Kistna. The letter was produced, and the Board unanimously agreed that he ought to suffer very severely and his imprisonment was confirmed." This letter is unfortunately not entered in the records; otherwise it might have thrown some light upon the assumed faults of the Governor.

The first important matter which received the attention of Governor Macrae was that of the coinage of rupees at the Madras mint. It seems that the Native chiefs had awakened to the profit derived by the Madras Government from the coinage of rupees; and accordingly they had not only set up mints of their own, but about this time they contrived to make more rupees out of the same quantity of silver, than were made by the Company. For instance out of every hundred ounces of silver, the mints at St. Thomé and Arcot turned out to the merchant Rupees 266, annas 14; whilst the mint in Fort St. George only turned out Rupees 257, annas 7. Thus the merchant obtained nine rupees seven annas more for his hundred ounces of silver at St. Thomé and Arcot than he could obtain at Fort St. George. In other words the Madras rupee was two per cent dearer than the rupee of Arcot or of St. Thomé. The consequence was that the merchants preferred coining their silver at the latter mints; and the Company found its customs decreasing. Accordingly Governor Macrae directed Messrs. Pitt, Benyon, and Emmerson, to enquire into the whole matter. Their report is accordingly entered in the consultations, but it is not only intricate but devoid of interest to the general reader. The substance of it, ren-

dered as clear as we can make it, appears to be as follows.

At St. Thomé, Arcot, and Covelong the charge of custom and coinage had formerly been 35 rupees per thousand; viz. 15 rupees custom to the Nabob and 20 rupees for mint charges. Both however had been recently reduced, the Nabob's custom to 10 rupees and the mint charges to 11 rupees: thus the custom and coinage were only 21 rupees per thousand, instead of 35 rupees as heretofore. It seems however that the mint charges were only nominally 11 rupees per thousand; and that actually they were 14 rupees, as may be seen from the following table.

	Rs.
Charcoal for making the powder.....	1½
Waste in melting.....	8¾
Pots.....	½
Flatting the bullets.....	¾
Chopping.....	½
	<hr/> 11½

To which was added

	Rs.
Brahmins for their care.....	¾
Goldsmiths.....	¾
Gold washers.....	1½
	<hr/> 2¾

Rs. 14 per thousand.

This amount was made up thus. Every 300 ounces of silver ought to have made 974 rupees, whereas these mints only paid out 971 rupees; the difference of three rupees being about the same as the difference between 11 rupees and 14

rupees per thousand. Again there was a depreciation of weight of one rupee eleven annas per thousand, and another depreciation of standard of nine rupees per thousand; making an additional profit of ten rupees eleven annas per thousand. This fraud had been introduced ever since the reduction of custom and charges from 35 rupees to 21 per thousand; and it had proved successful, inasmuch as these native mints paid out their rupees by tale and not by weight, and the difference was so slight as to render their rupee as good in the market as the rupee of Fort St. George.

The custom and charges on the Madras rupee were as follows, two per cent. or 20 per thousand to the Company, and two per cent or 20 per thousand to the mint. Thus making 40 rupees per thousand.

The 20 per thousand mint charges were distributed as follows. First $11\frac{1}{4}$ per thousand for charcoal, waste, pots, flatting, and chopping, as in the St. Thomé and Arcot mints; and the remaining $8\frac{3}{4}$ as follows:—

	Rupees.
Brahmins for their care	$3\frac{1}{8}$
Goldsmiths	$3\frac{1}{8}$
Gold washers	$2\frac{1}{4}$
	<hr/>
	$8\frac{3}{4}$
Other mint charges as above	$11\frac{1}{4}$
	<hr/>

Rupees...20 per thousand.

It will be seen by the following resolution that Governor Macrae endeavoured to put matters to rights,— 1st, By prohibiting the export of silver from

the Company's bounds, and thus compelling the merchants to coin their silver at Fort St. George; 2ndly, By lowering the Company's custom $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and the mint charges $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, or altogether 10 rupees per thousand. Henceforth then the custom and charges at Madras would be 30 rupees per thousand; whilst the custom and charges at St. Thomé, Arcot, and Covelong would be nominally 21 rupees per thousand, but actually 31 rupees 11 annas per thousand. The original entry will serve to render the subject more intelligible.

"Monday, 8th March, 1725. Messrs. Pitt, Benyon, and Emmerson deliver in a report of the coinage, together with an account of the charges and customs collected at our Mint, and those in the country; as likewise an account of the produce of a hundred ounces of silver of the fineness of the Rupee in our and St. Thomé Mints.

"This matter being fully debated it was upon the whole agreed, that no silver except rupees shall be permitted to be exported to any part of the coast of Coromandel under penalty of confiscation, half to the informer and half to the Company; and the Secretary do give notice hereof at all the public places in the town.

"As by the calculates and reports abovementioned, it appears that our rupee is two per cent. dearer to the merchants than the St. Thomé and Arcot rupee; it was further argued that we ought to find out some method to lessen the charge of coinage, that so we may bring it nearer to a par with the country coin; and it appearing that the Brahmins actually indisburse $11\frac{1}{4}$ rupees per thou-

sand, and that they must have something besides for their trouble, it was plain their custom could not be reduced above a $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; which not being sufficient it was agreed to strike off a half per cent likewise from the custom paid the Company; which it is hoped will be approved by the Honorable Court of Directors for the following reasons.

“First, that the present charge of coinage being 4 per cent in our Mint, and but 21 per thousand in the St. Thomé Mint, nobody will bring any silver to us, but on the contrary carry it away thither; but that when our custom is reduced to three per cent, the difference will be so much less that probably we may have the greatest part of the coinage return to us, especially since our rupee is in greater esteem in the country than theirs.

“Secondly, that we shall receive orders from Europe in two years; and if our Honorable Masters shall disapprove hereof, which we cannot believe they will, it may be laid on again.

“Thirdly, that at present the revenue is sunk to almost nothing, so that should no more silver be coined here than has been for sometime past, the difference will be very inconsiderable; whereas should we hereby regain the coinage it will be very apparently advantageous to the Company.

“Lastly, that the Company will save $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in the coinage of their own silver; which as we coin one-third generally of what goes down to the Bay, will very near if not over compensate for the reduction of the custom on other silver.

“These being the causes why it is thought ne-

cessary to lessen the charge of the coinage, it was recommended to the President to talk with the Mint Brahmins, and bring them to an agreement for lowering the charge agreeable to the above resolve, which he accordingly promised."

How far the Government order respecting the exportation of silver was regarded by the Madras merchants may be gathered from the following entry.

"Tuesday, 30th March, 1725. 'Two parcels of silver having been seized last night upon some shroffs, who were carrying it out of the bounds, contrary to the late order affixed at all the gates and in all the languages, so that the proprietors could not pretend ignorance:—agreed that it be confiscated; and Mr. Hubban offering to take it at 15½ dollars for ten pagodas, the Secretary was ordered to weigh it off to him and receive the money, which is to be divided agreeably to the said order at the gates, half to the Company and half to the informer."

The following petition is interesting from illustrating the mode in which private property was originally acquired in the Madras Presidency. It was received by the Government on the 30th of March, 1725.

"To the Honorable James Macrae, Esq.

President and Governor of Fort St. George.

"The humble petition of Maria Pois, Widow, sheweth, That a few years after the Honorable Company's settlement here, a great many inhabitants, and your petitioner's grand father, planted gardens without any title thereto from the ther

President and Council. Some of their posterity have sold this ground and gardens as their own, some part to the inhabitants to build on, and some still enjoy it themselves; several have also since his Honor Harrison's time planted gardens without any title, and enjoy them as their own. But your petitioner's grand father, believing it proper to have a title to his garden, and having then an interest with the Honorable the President, Council, and Gentlemen in the place was promised the title; but in the interim he died, and his son his successor, being soft and illiterate, lost his father's interest, but got a cowle from the Honorable the President and Council for thirty-one years, contrary to his father's request and desire; and if he had not troubled the Honorable President and Council for a cowle, might have enjoyed it as the rest have done, him and his heirs for ever. All this your petitioner was unacquainted with till the time was expired. Your poor petitioner having built a house, planted trees, and brought the garden to a vast perfection, this your petitioner laid before the then President, how simply the son of the deceased managed it; to insist on a cowle but for 31 years, when the rest have ever since enjoyed the same as their own and heirs for ever.

"Now the Honorable President and Council compassionately took this, your petitioner's case, into consideration; and rented said house and Garden to your petitioner; it being extremely hard, after having built the house and brought the garden into perfection, to lose all, your petitioner having no other subsistence. This Garden

your petitioner has rented of the Honorable Company ever since the expiration of the cowl.

"Your petitioner is now informed that said house and garden is to be put up at outcry to rent; if so it is an immediate ruin to your poor petitioner, it being your petitioner's only subsistence; she, having no habitation or place of abode, most humbly begs your Honor will, out of your abundant clemency and goodness, look upon this your petitioners case with compassion, and suffer her to rent said house and garden as usual, as she answers yearly the income of the garden to the Honorable Company. If not your petitioner will be reduced to extreme want and misery. Therefore humbly begs your Honor will continue your poor petitioner to rent said house and garden, and as in duty bound shall ever pray."

Governor Macrae however showed himself to be a stern man, not easily moved by petitions whether from widows or from any one else. Accordingly the prayer of Maria Pois was rejected, and it was agreed that her farm should be put up to public outcry.

Our next extract shows that the arbitrary order for prohibiting the exportation of silver was now extended to gold.

"Tuesday, 6th April. The President acquainted the Board that several shoes of gold* had been lately carried out of the bounds, which he believed was to be coined at St. Thomé; and therefore he proposed that an order should be made prohibiting

* A "shoe of gold" was ten thousand pagodas.

any gold, except what is wrought or ready coined, shall be carried out of the bounds under penalty of confiscation, the one half to the Company and the other to the informer; which is agreed to and the Secretary ordered to affix a note at the gates accordingly."

It will be seen from the following entry how the occupations of the Governors in the olden time differed from those of the more aristocratic Presidents of modern times.

"Monday, 21st June. The President and Council met in the Sorting Godown, and examined the Fort St. David Cloth, which proved pretty good. They also examined several parcels of what was brought to be sorted here, which they found for the generality amended in the number of threads, but so thin that it was not fit for the Company's use."

The following extract shows that Governor Macrae was learning a lesson in free trade.

"Saturday, 3rd July, 1725. The prohibition some time since laid on the exportation of silver and gold into the country, which was then thought for the benefit of our Honorable Masters, having been now found to occasion a general stagnation of trade, and likewise to have fallen the price of silver very considerably, which will in the main vastly overbalance the gain by the coinage.

"Agreed that the said prohibition be taken off, and that the Secretary do give public notice thereof at the gates."

Our next extracts, referring to the renting of the three out villages, will explain themselves.

"Saturday, 3rd July, 1725. The Lease of the Farms of Egmore, Persewauk, and Tandore being expired, the President informed the Board that he had received proposals from the present Renters, who had agreed to take them at the rent of 14,000 pagodas, provided they might have them for ten years. But that if they could not have them for longer time than the former lease, they would give but one thousand pagodas per annum, because that they actually lost in the last three years, though very plentiful ones, six hundred pagodas; but that having a long lease, they might have some encouragement to improve the lands, which they shall not have in taking them only for three years, which being considered, it was agreed that they be let on the above terms."

"Monday, 12th July. The President informed the Board that he had got the old Renters of Egmore, Persewauk, and Tandore, to give 1,450 pagodas per annum for the rent of those villages for ten years next ensuing; and that Poncala Kishna, the tobacco farmer, was security for the performance of agreements; which being the utmost he could raise the rent to, the Cowle was produced and signed to Kishna Reddee Chandra Seaca, and Chittombe." "

The following extract refers to almost the only difference which ever arose between Governor Macrae and the native powers.

"Monday, 23rd August, 1725. Sometime since eight bales of goods being brought hither on one of our ships belonging to a Moorman, were attached for a debt due to Mr. Sitwell from the said

Moorman, who is since run away to Covelong; and the goods have been claimed by the Nabob as his, and bought for his account; which demand being now again repeated, it is agreed that since the Nabob declares the goods are his, it is better to let them go, than make any dispute thereupon. Wherefore the President is desired to write him that upon giving up the Moorman, and paying the Company's customs, the goods shall be delivered to his order."

The Nabob however seems to have refused to deliver up the Moorman, or to pay the Company's customs. A correspondence accordingly ensued which spread over the greater part of a year; and was at length brought to a conclusion on the 21st July, 1726. We give the extract from the consultations of that day.

"The President represents to the Board that he had been long importuned by Nabob Sadutalla Khan, by pressing letters and frequent messages, to deliver up the eight bales of goods mentioned in Consultation held the 23rd August 1725, to have been attached here by the creditors of Shaak Bonlaki for the payment of his debts, as belonging to the said Shaak Bonlaki; but that the Nabob continues to claim them as belonging to himself, and insists peremptorily upon their being delivered to him; and that without his demand is complied with, he, the President apprehends a breach with him unavoidable; which in our present circumstances would be of very great prejudice to the Company's affairs.

"This matter having been considered by the

Board, and the consequences a breach at this time with the Nabob might produce having been duly weighed ; and it having likewise been admitted that the creditors of Shaak Bonlaki might have had reasons to believe that the eight bales in question did belong to him, yet the Nabob's right to them could not be disproved ; and he continuing to insist so very peremptorily upon having them delivered to him, notwithstanding the President endeavours by repeated messages and many letters to prevail with him to suffer them to be sold for account of Shaak Bonlaki's creditors. There being no prospect of prevailing with the Nabob, it is ordered that Mr. Turner do deliver to Nabob's order the said eight bales of goods in dispute."

The following perjury cases are worthy of being preserved, as showing how false witnesses were punished in the olden time.

"Friday, 10th September, 1725. In the examination of Anconah's affair one Magdulla Kistna confessed himself perjured, by a declaration under his own hand, whereupon he was ordered into confinement ; and it is now ordered that he be Pilloried to-morrow at the usual hours, and afterwards whipped at the Choultry, and then released from his imprisonment."

A year afterwards we find Governor Macrae still determined to put down perjury with a strong hand. He had been engaged upon deciding upon a long list of appeals from the Mayor's Court, chiefly equity cases connected of course with wills, bonds, and disputes about property of all kinds. These interminable and complicated cases may

have been interesting to the parties concerned, but present not a particle of interest now, beyond the fact that they are marked by contradictions, palpable perjuries, forgeries, and oppressions of all kinds. Many of the cases were reversed by Governor Macrae, whilst others were sent home to be adjudicated on by the Directors, and even to be tried in Westminster Hall; from which we may infer that the old stories of corruption in the Mayor's Court, so frequent in the narratives of old travellers, were not without some foundation in truth. How far Governor Macrae was exasperated at this state of things may be gathered from the following punishment ordered upon another perjurer.

"Monday, 29th August, 1726. Ordered that Arnagery for punishment of his crime of perjury, and for terror to all such abandoned villains, be remanded to the Choultry prison, and be thence conveyed to the Pillory every first day of the month for the next six months, and set upon it from ten to twelve o'clock; and immediately after he is taken down from the Pillory to receive thirty-nine lashes each time at the whipping post, and be afterwards turned out of the bounds with order never to return again under severe punishment."

The following extract respecting the circulation of false pagodas will explain itself.

"Monday, 27th September, 1725. The President informed the Board of a complaint the Shroffs had made to him, that vast quantities of pagodas had been brought into the place lately, which were worse than Pagodamatt, and bore the Negapatam stamp so nicely counterfeited, that it

was almost impossible to distinguish them ; and therefore he proposed that some method should be taken to stop this evil, which being for some time debated, it was agreed that the Secretary do affix a note at the gates to give notice, that whosoever should be found bringing in such bad pagodas, or offering them in payment, should be punished at the discretion of the Governor and Council, and the money be forfeited, one half to the informer and one half to the Company ; and that whatever shroff should find such pagodas should be obliged to carry them to some one of the Justices of the Choultry to be defaced, or if he did not, he should be pilloried and whipped out of the bounds."

Governor Macrae was far too fond of Committees of inquiry to let such a matter pass without the most searching investigation. Accordingly about three weeks afterwards we find the following report entered in the consultations, which will be found interesting as illustrating the condition of the country generally.

"Monday, 18th October, 1725. The following report was presented to the Honorable James Macrae, Esq., the President and Governor of Fort St. George and Council.

"Honorable Sir and Sirs,

"The committee you were pleased to appoint, to enquire into the business of the present current pagodas, and put a stop to an abuse which will at last be attended with such dangerous consequences, do now humbly lay before you their proceedings and opinion of the most proper remedy

effectually to prevent this mischief without giving a shock to commerce.

“ We find upon examining the shroffs that this has been a growing evil, introduced by the corruption of the country Government in conniving at the circulation of any sort of pagodas, provided their profits from those who have the liberty of coining them are answerable; and as this is so considerable an advantage to them it is not from the Nabob we are to expect any relief. Therefore we thought it most proper to have the opinion of the merchants in general which method we should pursue; who on a meeting came to this resolution, which we offer to your honors as what we likewise think sufficient to answer the design, without risking a stagnation in the circulation.

“ That five shops shall be appointed in the most convenient parts of the town, for the exchanging of all money which is necessary for the currency of the Bazar; in each of which must be placed, two shroffs, a gold smith, and a Company’s peon, whose stations are to be changed every day with power to cut or deface all such pagodas as are found to be bad. As to payments of large sums the merchants themselves will undoubtedly be cautious for their own security, and take such care as not to be imposed upon in what they receive, by employing such shroffs in whose fidelity they may confide.

“ George Mortan Pitt.

“ Nathaniel Turner.

“ Richard Benyon.

“ John Emmerson.”

"The most convenient places for the shops are Jappa Chetty's Street, Choultry Street, Mutala Pettah, Pedda Naick's Pettah, Jaga Mulla Street."

Another point which attracted the attention of Governor Macrae at this time is also worthy of some notice. For some years past different sums of money had been lodged in the Company's cash chest at Fort St. George on account of the Jesuit Missionaries in China ; for which the Government of Fort St. George, under orders from the Court of Directors, had allowed interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum. In September 1725, Father Moriset at Fort St. David wrote to Governor Macrae respecting a further deposit of cash, on the same terms ; but the economical President, having plenty of money in hand, considered that this would be a favorable moment for reducing the yearly interest from six per cent. to five. The matter led to a Committee of inquiry into all the monies lodged in the Company's chest at various times by the Jesuit Missionaries in China. The following extracts from their report will be sufficient to explain the state of affairs. It will be seen that the sums deposited were not to be returned ; the yearly interest paid being supposed to be a sufficient return, without any repayment of the principal. We must therefore suppose that the sums lodged at Fort St. George were of the nature of an endowment to provide for the perpetual support of the Jesuit Missionaries in China. Our report from whence the following extracts are taken is dated 21st July 1726.

“ To the Honorable James Macrae, Esq.,
President and Governor and Council of
Fort St. George.

“ Honorable Sir and Sirs,

“ In pursuance of an order of Council, we lay before your Honors what orders have been received from the Honorable Court of Directors, relating to the receiving into the Company's cash money from the Jesuit Missionaries in China at interest ; together with an account of the several sums that have been hitherto received into cash for their account, and what has been writ by this Board to the Honorable Court of Directors on that subject.

“ We find that the sum of 10,000 pagodas was received into cash for their account the 31st August 1721, but no interest to be paid them thereupon till the Company's order should be had for that effect.

“ The Honorable Court of Directors in their general letter dated 26th April 1722 say as follows.

“ We have had application made us by Monsr. Labbe, agent for the French Jesuit Missionaries in China, to receive 10,000 pagodas of theirs into our cash at Fort St. George ; that President Hastings had received the money conditionally to await our orders, though he had no occasion for any having a flowing cash ; that said agent desires the money may remain in our cash and the proprietors to be for ever dispossessed of the property thereof, on the Company's yearly allowing them a reasonable interest. We have considered of the whole,

and in regard we sometimes have and at other times have not occasion to borrow money at Fort St. George ; therefore we are willing to allow them a certain interest of six per cent. though it is one more than we pay here per annum, and hope it will be to their satisfaction."

"In consequence of which general letter a bond was executed by the Governor and Council, and delivered to the Agent to the said Missionaries, to pay them interest 600 pagodas per annum upon the sum of 10,000 pagodas received.

"The 25th February 1724 their agent paid into cash the further sum of 2,000 pagodas ; and the same day the Governor and Council delivered him a bond for six per cent. interest per annum upon it.

The receipt of this sum was advised to England, to which the Honorable Court answered as follows :

"Your letter advises that the Jesuits in China have by their attorney offered to deposit in our cash with you a sum of money, which you intend to receive and give bond to pay six per cent. per annum for it. Padre de Goville, lately returned to Europe, has by writing requested of us to receive 10,000 pagodas into our cash, and to pay the Missionaries for it 600 pagodas a year, which we have agreed to."

It would thus appear that at this time the Company had agreed to receive in all the sum of 20,000 pagodas on behalf of the Jesuit Missionaries in China, for which they were to pay a perpetual interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, the principal not to be returned. Accord-

ingly it would seem that the China Missionaries paid in that amount, and derived from the Company alone a yearly income of twelve hundred pagodas, or about five hundred pounds sterling.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. JAMES MACRAE.

1726—27.

The commercial character of the administration of Mr. James Macrae has been already noticed, and the very lucid manner in which commercial transactions are recorded in the consultation books of the period, induces us to pay more attention to such extracts as serve to illustrate the mode in which the Company carried on their business with Native merchants, either for providing a sufficient number of bales of Native cloth for exportation to Europe, or for disposing of broadcloth, iron, and other articles of home produce which had been imported from England. These extracts however we shall not group by themselves, but simply arrange them, together with other selections, in strict chronological order ; by which means the reader will be enabled to form a better idea of the miscellaneous character and general scope of the records themselves, than by any other method.

Our first extract refers to the supervision of native goods maintained in old time by the Government of Fort St. George.

“ Thursday, 6th January, 1826. The Warehouse-keeper reported to the Board, that the chintzes being brought from painting (dyeing) had

been examined at the Sorting Godown, and that it was the general opinion of the Sorters that both the cloth and paintings were worse than the musters ; wherefore they had resolved, if the Board approved thereof, to allow the merchants only 35 pagodas per corge, instead of 40 for the cloth ; and the painter $47\frac{1}{2}$ pagodas per corge, instead of 60, which they used to have. This being approved, the merchants were called in and told the resolution of the Board."

" At the same time the Warehouse-keeper reported that the Puicat Betillas, brought in by the merchants upon the muster, for which in the contract we were to give 120 pagodas per corge, were vastly inferior to the muster ; and that it had been agreed in the Sorting Godown that 100 pagodas per corge was the value of them ; so that he (the President) desired the order of the Board for bringing them to account at that price, which was agreed to, and the merchants accordingly told these resolutions."

The Native merchants appeared to have submitted to the reductions very quietly, for no demur on their part is entered in the proceedings. When however the Board desired to make a contract with the same merchants, as to the quantity of Europe cloth they should purchase, or the quantity of native cloth they should supply, it was not always found so easy to deal with them, as will be seen by the following extract.

" Thursday, 3d March 1726. Our Merchants were called in, and a proposal made, to them as follows.

" That they shall engage in a contract at Fort

St. George for 2000 bales of cloth, to be delivered to us one half in August, and the remainder by the last of January next."

"That they shall take all the broad cloth (from Europe) at the usual advance, to be kept under two keys, one of which to be left with themselves and the other with the Warehouse-keeper; that before they take any out of the warehouses, it shall be paid for in ready money; and that the whole amount shall be paid off by the 1st of April 1727. In consideration of which the Board (they were told) would abate the penalty of 30,000 pagodas, to be inflicted for breach of the last contract, to 10,000 pagodas; but if they would not do this they must expect to pay the whole amount of the penalty.

"Upon the hearing these proposals, the Merchants immediately declared they could not engage by any means, either to take the broad cloth, or contract for above 800 bales; and to this they adhered for a considerable time, but at last after near two hours debate, finding the Board determined to exact the whole penalty if they did not agree to the terms proposed, and being excused from any contract at Fort St. David, they consented; having first obtained a promise of the Board that if they complied within 300 bales, no penalty should be exacted."

Our next extract refers to a forged bond, found amongst the papers of a deceased Company's servant named Woolley.

"Thursday, 30th June, 1726. Captain Richard Upton, representing that a forged note, men-

tioning that he had received of Robert Woolley deceased 1000 ounces of Silver, for which he was to be accountable, having been found amongst said Woolley's papers, whereof payment had been demanded, signed as by him and witnessed as by Messrs. Samuel Harrison, and Richard Stephens; and that he and the said pretended witnesses were ready to make solemn oath, that neither he nor they ever had any knowledge of any such note, nor ever signed the same. Therefore craving that he and they might be sworn to the truth of what he affirmed, in order to prevent any demand being made upon him for the said 1000 ounces of Silver.

"Captain Upton and Messrs. Harrison and Stephens being called in, were interrogated as to the signing and witnessing the said note; and affirmed each of them that it was forged and without their knowledge; that there was no similitude of hand writing, and severally made oath to what they affirmed. Whereupon it was ordered that the said note appearing to be forged be cancelled; which was done."

The next entries which we consider worthy of preservation are still more curious. It has been seen that the revenues of Trivatore, and of the other out villages belonging to the Company, were farmed out to some of the Company's Merchants, on their engaging to pay a certain sum (1450 pagodas) per annum. The Merchants in their turn rented the villages to a man named Mahadin, and this Renter appears to have treated the inhabitants in a barbarous and oppressive manner. Accordingly two of the villagers sent in the follow-

ing petition to Governor Macrae in which all their grievances are specified. The petition will be found to form an admirable illustration of Native administration in the olden time.

" To the Honourable James Macrae, Esq. President and Governor of Fort St. George, The humble petition of the inhabitants of Vessa Caward,

" Showeth,—That the Company has let out Trivatore and the other out villages to the Company's merchants, who during five years that they kept them in their own hands, allowed your petitioners all their privileges and allowances as usual, and they lived very happily. Then one Mahadin took these villages of these merchants, and promised to allow your petitioners the same privileges and allowances as the said merchants had done ; but he has acted contrary, and not given them any privilege or allowance. Upon which they asked him the reason ; and he replied that the Company had sold those villages to him, and he could do what he pleased. The said privileges and allowances due to your petitioners for these six years amounts to about 100 pagodas. Besides this he has distressed your petitioners and laid many hardships on them. He set one of their Pariahs half way in the ground, where he kept him three hours and fined him. Another Pariah he chaubucked 25 blows, put him into the stocks, and kept him there an hour. He tied one of their shepherd's neck and heels, for four or five days, an hour each day, and beat him very much and fined him. He broke a Talliar's back, and turned him out of the village. He tied a shopkeeper of the village, neck and heels,

putting a heavy stone on his back, and kept him so an hour and then fined him. He served another shopkeeper in the same manner. He has done too many other barbarous actions to your petitioners to give your Honor in writing an account of. Therefore they humbly implore to take their case into consideration, and order them satisfaction. They cannot go on with their business if he be continued the Renter. Your petitioners hope your Honor will do them justice, and they as in duty bound shall ever pray."

To this petition, a Native named Chandarasaha, who seems to have been the steward of Mahardin, sent in a counter-petition, denying or explaining away the charges. This also is a gem in its way.

"The petition of Chandarasaha.

"Humbly sheweth,—Whereas your petitioner has been falsely accused that he has punished the inhabitants beyond reason, and as to his burying the man half under ground is utterly false; for the man having, contrary to order, let the water run the wrong course, was punished according to custom; that is by laying his hand in the water course, which filled with sand and the Company's chop put thereon. And as for your petitioner's forcing of unreasonable forfeits from the inhabitants, it is also false; for the inhabitants having complained to your petitioner that a milkman's measure was less than it should be, which your petitioner by examining found true; therefore fined him 6 fanams; and to a seller of tobacco and betel, for selling contrary to the renter's order, was fined 6 fanams. As to the Talliar, he stole away

above three pagodas worth of Mangoes, for which he paid 48 fanams ; and when the Talliar had found the thief, your petitioner told him that he might do what he would. Also the said Talliar (i. e. the Talliar who was the thief not the Talliar who had arrested him) took more than his right of the paddy, and took it away without leave ; for which fault he was tied neck and heels two hours. And as for your petitioner's putting any body in irons, it is false ; but a Pariah being taken stealing paddy, was by your petitioner's order put in the stocks. That the three persons before mentioned have sold the Company's ground, which when the Buyer came to take possession, your petitioner refused to let him take it without your Honors leave. That your petitioner for the good of the inhabitants did lend them money, and let them have paddy to the value of pagodas 260 ; and when your petitioner demands his money then they begin to make a disturbance. Now three of the inhabitants being come to this place, they have taken opportunity to say that all the inhabitants will leave the place. The Pedda Naik's allowance of ground in the said village is 4440 yards, but now he has taken 14,400 yards, which is more than his due by near 10,000 yards ; which for these four years he has not sown, nor would he let any body else, to the loss of about pagodas 229 ; and now about a thousand yards which he sowed, the paddy now lies there and he refuses to divide it. Therefore your poor petitioner most humbly requests your Honor to give him justice, and as in duty bound shall ever pray."

Governor Macrae's action upon these two petitions will be gathered from the following extract.

"Friday, 26th August, 1726. The President delivers into the Board two petitions which had been presented to him ; one from some inhabitant of Vessa Cawarda, against Mahadin the present Renter ; the other from Chandarasaha, who acted as steward to the said Mahadin, and put his orders in execution. Which being read, the President acquaints the Board that both parties had been before him ; that he had heard them separately and also given then a joint hearing ; that he had examined witnesses to the truth of the facts charged against Mahadin, and heard the Company's Merchants upon the affair. That from the whole, it appeared to him, that the said Mahadin had been guilty, and was fully convicted by evidence, of the charge delivered against him in the first petition ; which is even acknowledged by the said Chandarasah in his petition, who acted by order and authority from Mahadin in all these matters, as is by Mahadin owned.

"This affair being taken into consideration, particularly the presumption of Mahadin in taking upon him to levy fines and inflict corporal punishments upon the Honorable Company's subjects without authority ; which had actually frightened several inhabitants out of the bounds, as the President further informs us had been proved before him, and would deter others from coming out of the country to secure themselves and properties under the protection of English Law as usual. To prevent any such violences and extortions in

time to come, it is resolved that no Renters or Farmers of Villages have authority to levy fines, or inflict corporal punishment upon the inhabitants ; and that for an example Mahadin be ordered to resign his Cowle of Trivatore and the other villages into the hands of the Company's Merchants ; having forfeited the same by his unwarrantable actions ; and for a further punishment to him and example for others, he be fined in the sum of 50 pagodas, to be paid into the Company's Cash, and that the Secretary do demand the same."

This decision was rigidly carried out, for three days afterwards we find an entry to the effect that Mahadin had given up the Cowle and paid the fine of fifty pagodas.

Perhaps few entries are more illustrative of the character of Governor Macrae, than the following attempt at reduction in the matter of Hospital charges. The decision of the canny Scot is wonderfully suggestive. How far it contributed to the comfort of the sick we leave to the judgment of our readers.

" Saturday, 17th September, 1726. The President represents to the Board that, upon reading the particulars of the article of Hospital charges, he apprehends there are several of them too large, and others unnecessary, and ought to be reduced and discontinued ; which being taken into consideration, and the several particulars again read and enquired into, it was represented that the Surgeon, who has the immediate direction of the Hospital, always insists that the present charge is

necessary for entertaining and recovering the sick, and that no reduction can be made of it.

“ Ordered, that whereas it hath been for some time the custom for one of the Surgeons to have the immediate care of the Hospital solely, they do in future act each six months by turns ; that by their acting thus interchangeably, we may make the experiment whether the one cannot reduce the charge of the Hospital lower than the other, which it is believed out of emulation to recommend themselves, they may do.”

Next follows a curious entry respecting the horses sanctioned by the Company for the use of the President.

“ Monday, 7th November, 1726. The President represents to the Board, that their being now remaining alive only two Chaise horses belonging to the Company, and these so weak that to save them he had been obliged for above a twelve month to make use of a pair of Manilla horses of his own for his Chaise ; that the Honorable Company had allowed his predecessor three horses for his Chaise, one of which had been dead some time, and the other two so much wore that they are not now fit to do the service of one ; that the Company's piebald horse was lately dead, and that the horses for his guards were very old, and some of them quite worn out, that he was now obliged to allow two Pegu horses of his own for that service. Wherefore he proposed to the Board to purchase the said two Pegu horses for the use of his guards, and the two Manilla Chaise horses for his Chaise,

on the Company's account ; being all of them young, well broke, and seasoned to the country.

" Resolved that the foresaid four horses be purchased for the Company for the service above mentioned, at 150 pagodas each ; and that the Paymaster do pay for the same ; and that one of the worst of the guard horses be sold at public outcry as soon as the season permits the usual concourse of people at the sea gate."

Whilst Governor Macrae was thus attentive to his own interests, he was by no means unmindful of the interests of the younger servants of the Company, as will be seen by the following extract, which is well worthy not only of preservation but of more general imitation.

" Tuesday, 15th November, 1726. The President represents further to the Board, that he thinks it a great discouragement to the subordinate servants, and inconsistent with that emulation we ought to excite amongst them to distinguish themselves by merit in order to their advancement, that some should be continued so long in laborious stations without any profit, while others enjoyed places of profit and that required little application. Particularly that Paul Foxley had served under the Export Ware housekeeper above five years, and discharged that trust faithfully to the approbation of his superiors ; and that Edward Croke, had continued several years Writer at the Sea gate, in which station he had had but very little opportunity of exerting himself in the Service. Therefore moved that Mr. Foxley be appointed in Mr. Croke's room Writer at the Sea gate."

“ Resolved that Paul Foxley do enter upon the employ of Writer at the Sea gate the first of January next, and that Ralph Mansell do succeed him in the Export Warehouse at the same time. Edward Croke being Senior in standing to all the Servants under the Council, it was judged reasonable that he should be advanced to a station of a higher trust in the Service. Wherefore resolved that he be employed in the station of Receiver of the Honorable Company’s customs, and that he do enter upon the same the first of January next.”

The following petition is simply an illustration of the times.

“ The humble petition of Hirdaram.

“ Sheweth,—That your petitioner’s brother, Nundaram, brought 2773 rupees from Arcot, and procured therewith a Bill of Exchange on Bengal from Governor Collet. Your petitioner’s brother being murdered by robbers on his way to Bengal, the Bill has not yet been paid ; which your Petitioner hearing came to Madras with the Nabob’s perwanna to demand the repayment of the said money from Governor Elwick and Mr. Benyon, attorneys to Governor Collet ; who told your petitioner that if he could bring a sufficient security to indemnify them they would pay him. Your petitioner has now brought an attestation, signed by many great Gentlemen at Arcot, witnessing that your petitioner is the next heir to the said deceased Nundaram ; which your petitioner hopes is a sufficient authority for receiving the said money ; and that your Honor would please to give

such orders therein as your Honor shall think meet."

It will be sufficient to say that the security offered by the gentlemen of Arcot, some of whom stood high in the favour of the Nabob, was deemed sufficient, and the money was accordingly paid.

Our next extract is another curious illustration of the times ; like the previous one it will explain itself.

"Tuesday, 6th December, 1726. Mr Emmerson, Chief Justice of the Choultry, reports to the Board a late instance of a woman slave having attempted to poison a whole family ; that the poison had actually been given, but operating very violently quickly discovered itself, and the effect was prevented by immediately administering proper emetics, and that the criminal had confessed the fact. That in order to strike terror into such abandoned mind's and for securing the lives of the inhabitants in future from atrocious attempts, the Justices of the Choultry were come to a resolution to punish the said criminal in the most public and exemplary manner, the approbation of this Board being first had ; and that he was further empowered from the Justices of the Choultry to represent to the Board that, considering how easily poisons are procurable here, as in the late instance by low miscreants, even Sublimate Mercury, it will be highly necessary to publish a prohibition of selling or delivering poisons of any sort, but under a proper regulation ; that therefore they were of opinion that no person should be permitted to sell or deliver poison, with-

out first acquainting one of the Justices of it, under the penalty of confiscation of half of their estate, and being further liable to corporal punishment at the discretion of the said Justice.

“Approved the proceedings of the Justices in their affair, and agreed with them to prohibit the selling or delivering poison without the consent of one of the Justices, and under the penalty above mentioned, and that a prohibition be forthwith published accordingly.”

Strange to say we can see no entry of the punishment which was inflicted on the woman. She was probably treated in such a fashion that the Government did not care to place it upon record.

Our next extracts will be found interesting, as exhibiting the amount of expenditure and revenue at Fort St. George and the other settlements on the Coast of Coromandel. We give an extract from the consultation first, and the Accountants' report afterwards.

“Tuesday, 6th December, 1726. Nathaniel Turner, Accountant, delivers into the Board a Report of the state of the Honorable Company's expenses and customs at their settlements upon this coast, at the balancing and closing the general books ending April last; which is read and ordered to be entered after this consultation.

“The said Report being maturely examined and considered, the Board are agreed that the reduction of the charges of their settlement, and of Fort St. David, has been carried as far as it has been hitherto practicable.

“That the increase of the expense of Vizagu-

patam last year, was owing to the additional number of soldiers we were obliged to send and continued there, for the security of that factory, while the country round it was ravaged and they threatened by contending armies; that after the reduction made as advised by Mr. Symonds and Council in their letter to us dated 7th May last, the charge of that settlement will appear to have been considerably diminished upon the next years books.

“ That we must likewise refer to next years books for the reduction of expense at Masulipatam and Madapallum.

“ That the decrease of the Sea Customs, and the increase of the Land Customs here at Madras last year, are owing to one and the same cause;— they having ordered the whole 5 per cent custom to be paid at the Choultry upon goods imported from the country; whereas formerly only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent was accounted for there and the other $2\frac{1}{2}$ at the Sea gate upon exportation of said goods.”

“ That the decrease of the Customs is general last year, here and at Fort St. David, and from there account of the proceedings, seems indeed totally owing at Fort St. David to the five per cent charged in said preceding year upon so large a quantity of turned out cloths, that had been brought in there upon former investments; and here in part to the like five per cent custom having been charged our Merchants upon a considerable quantity of turned out cloths. Besides which the customs have been considerably lessened in this fort last year, and will more considerably this, by the great decay in the trade to Manilla, and the almost total loss of

the trade of the Patans from Bengal ; both which trades being principally in fine goods, and formerly to a great value, were very considerable branches of the Sea Customs."

Here follows the report of the Accountant to the Governor and Council.

"Honorable Sir and Sirs,

"The General Books of this settlement ending April, 1726 being balanced and closed, and the subordinate Factory's Books, ending April 1726 beng sent up, I am to lay before your Honors the last years expense of this settlement and its subordinates on the coast, that you may please to consider whether any part of the charges can be saved to the Honorable Company.

"The Expense of this settlement of Fort St. George on the balance of our Books ending April 1725 amounted to Pagodas.....		 39034 34 28
"The expense as per our Books ending April 1726 is as follows :			
"Charges Garrison.. ..	Pagodas..	15779 36 77	
"Presents.. ..		174 18 20	
"Charges cattle.. ..		800 0 0	
"Charges Extraordinary.. ..		178 21 10	
"Fortifications and repairs.. ..		1495 29 70	
"Charges Diet.. ..		7000 0 0	
"Account Salary.. ..		3265 34 67	
"Charges Hospital.. ..		769 35 29	
"Charges General.. ..		6086 22 44	
			<hr/> 35546 8 68
"Lessened the expense of this place this year.. ..			
"The expense of Fort St. David on the balance of their Books ending April 1725 amounted to Pagodas.. ..		29268 28 15	3488 25 40
"The expense as per their Books ending April 1726 is as follows :			
"Charges Garrison.. ..		13082 7 52	
"Charges Extraordinary.. ..		342 26 35	
"Peons and Servants wages.. ..		3285 6 0	
"Charges cattle.. ..		600 0 0	
"Fortifications and repairs.. ..		96 34 10	
"Charges Diet.. ..		2966 4 0	
"Account Salary.. ..		941 30 40	
"Presents.. ..		12 33 0	
"Charges Hospital.. ..		219 28 26	
"Charges General.. ..		2668 3 68	
			<hr/> 94215 99 61
Lessened the expense of that place this year.. Pagodas...			
			5062 34 24

" The Expense of Vizagapatam on the Balance of their Books ending April 1725 amounted to.		Pagodas. 5338	1	61
" The expense as per their Books ending April 1726 is as follows.				
" Charges Garrison.	2103	6	0	
" Presents	480	6	69	
" Charges Diet	578	30	0	
" Charges Extraordinary	151	33	35	
" Fortifications and repairs	336	33	3	
" Account Salary	422	34	19	
" Account Gardens	35	19	41	
" Account Wax	46	34	64	
" Servants' wages	1492	25	77	
" Factors' provisions	25	1	16	
" Account repairs	18	6	68	
" Charges General	373	13	39	
	<hr/> 6065 29 31			
" Increased the Expense of that place this year		Pagodas.	227	27 50
" Which is occasioned by 20 European Soldiers being sent down to that settlement on account of the troubles in the country in the beginning of the year; ten (10) of which soldiers are still continued there, and adds to the expense of that place; but since Mr. Symonds going down he writes us that he has in pursuance to your Honors' orders made a considerable reduction in the Peons' and servants' wages, which reduction will appear in their next general Books ending April 1727.				<hr/> 8313 32 24
" The Expense of Ingeram for one year ending April 1726, was		Pagodas.	1315	19 18
" The Expense of Ingeram from April 1725 to May 1726 is			<hr/> 1182	13 63
" Lessened the Expense of that place this year.			233	5 35
" The Expense of Masulipatam and Madapollum was last year		Pagodas.	628	34 40
Do. this year ending April 1726			<hr/> 623	28 43
" Decreased this year in their expenses			6	5 77
" The Expenses of these two factories will next year be considerably decreased by the regulation your Honors have lately made therein.				
" Lessened this year in the expenses of this settlement and its subordinates		Pagodas.	8553	7 56

"Thus having given your Honors account of the Honorable Company's annual expenses on this coast, I shall proceed to lay before you an account of the

produce of their customs in this place and at Fort St. David ending April 1726.

" The Sea Customs of Fort St. George.		
" On the balance of our Books ending April 1725 amounted to..	36061	8 29
" The amount Ditto for one year ending April 1726..	23560	7 46
Decrease in this revenue..	..	7491 0 63
" The amount of the Land Customs of Fort St. George.		
" On the Balance of their Books ending April 1725 was..	4455	8 23
Do. .. April 1726 was	10185	33 76
Increase in this revenue..	..	5730 25 48
" Less this year in the Customs of Fort St. George than last..	..	1760 11 15
" The Revenue of Fort St. David ending April 1726 amounted to ..	11941	24 75
Do. 1725..	9877	0 38
" Less this year in the Customs of Fort St. David than last	2064 24 37
" The Customs of Forts St. George and St. David have on the balance of our general books ending April 1726 Decreased ..		
Pagodas.	3834	35 52

I am with respect,
 Honorable Sir and Sirs,
 Your most obedient humble servant,
 FORT ST. GEORGE, } NATHANIEL TURNER,
 6th December 1726. } Accountant.

The following record of an enterprising project in the olden time is very curious.

" Monday, 26th December, 1726. Petition read of Stephen Newcome, requesting leave to build a Sawmill, and a lease for a space of ground to the northward of the White Tower along the sea side, for building the said mill and proper sheds upon. And he being called before the Board, and heard to the benefit he proposes his mill will prove to be to the Company and the Corporation, gave sufficient

reasons to believe that it will be of public advantage, and affirmed that he would saw timbers and planks 50 per cent. cheaper upon the cooly hire now usually paid. Besides that he could saw blocks of timber to much greater advantage, and prevent the waste occasioned by the unskillfulness of the present sawers."

"Granted his petition for the space of ground therein mentioned, and ordered a lease to be prepared for the same for 21 years; he paying before signing it 20 pagodas fine into the Company's cash, and annually one pagoda Quit rent during the term of his lease; and in consideration of the expence of preparing the ground, and building the mill and necessary conveniences, and the benefit it will prove to be to the Company and the place,—it is resolved that the sole privilege of sawing timber and plank by a mill be vested in him for 21 years next ensuing, and no other person have that liberty but upon an agreement with him during that time."

We hope that we shall find in future records that this Sawmill proved a successful speculation.

That Mr. Macrae was a most vigilant Governor is further proved by the following entry.

"Monday, 9th January, 1727. The President represents to the Board, that he had observed in the Sorting Godown that a great deal of cloth had been turned out this year, which he was persuaded would upon a re-examination be found as good as muster; that as he would never countenance the taking in bad cloth, so he thought it was not serving the Honorable Company well

to turn out any that was as good as their musters ; that all he proposed or desired was, that justice might be done our Masters and the Merchants likewise, that they may not be discouraged from contracting with us again. He therefore moves that in order to do justice both to our Masters and to their Merchants the cloth turned out this year may be restored." This was of course agreed to.

The following consultation respecting the best mode of improving the declining trade of Madras, is very interesting.

"Tuesday, 31st January, 1727. The Board having taken into consideration the declining state of the trade of this place, which appears by the customs to be greatly diminished ; and if expedients are not found for its support must in consequence affect every other branch of the Honorable Company's Revenue, and utterly ruin the inhabitants ;—It principally appears to be owing to the following causes.

"That whereas heretofore the trade was entirely carried on by the shipping of this port, it is now in part in the possession of the French, Armenians, and Moors, who traffic on other bottoms and import their Cargoes into other Settlements ; which they are enabled to do by the money taken up here by Respondentia bonds, and without which they could not carry on so extensive a trade. It seems most probable that the preventing this evil will most conduce to the recovery of the customs, and make all other ports on this coast dependent on us, though

the duties are less elsewhere ; and whereas several of our English Supra-Cargoes take up large sums of our inhabitants at Respondentia, and afterwards proceed to Bengal, where they take up as much more of persons who are ignorant of their engagements here ; so by thrusting into their private adventures greater quantities of goods than the markets where they are bound can possibly consume, they are forced to be in those ports two seasons to dispose of their own private effects ; to the great prejudice of those concerned in the stock, and puts a stop to the quick circulation ; which will effectually be prevented by letting the Gentlemen in the Bay know what engagements those Supra-Cargoes lie under here, and by degrees reduce trade to its proper bounds, which by this licentious practice has been quite overdone.

“ In order therefore, to support the Honorable Company’s Revenue, and to prevent the injuries this place receives from these clandestine practices ;—it is resolved that in future all Respondentia bonds, notes, or writings at Respondentia for money lent by the inhabitants of this place,—Company’s servants as well as others,—upon all ships trading from this or any other port in India, shall be duly and regularly registered in a book to be kept for that purpose.

“ That in case of any Supra-Cargo, Merchant, Commander, Mariner, or other, shall have borrowed money at Respondentia of any of the said inhabitants proving Insolvent, all such bonds so registered shall be accounted and deemed a preferable claim to such as are not.

“ That the Sub-Secretary do keep the said Book of Register, and that he shall receive 9 fanams for registering each Respondentia bond or note under 100 pagodas principal, or 18 fanams for each such bond or note for 100 pagodas or upward; that after having registered the said Bonds or notes he shall sign them registered, the day of the month and year; and that the Secretary do put up at the Sea Gate a publication of this resolution in writing in the usual languages for the notice and observation of all the inhabitants.”

Our next extracts are curious, as clearly showing how the business between the Government and the Native Merchants was transacted in the Olden Time.

“ Saturday, 11th February, 1727. The President acquaints the Board that, after a great deal of management with the Company’s Merchants, he had engaged them to agree to a contract for taking off the woollen goods expected upon the next ship from Great Britain, and for providing goods for Europe this season; and delivers in the Contract and the counterpart to the Board. Which being read are approved, and the said Merchants being called in, were interchangeably signed and delivered; and they promise their utmost endeavours to comply with their engagements.

“ The President represents to the Board, that the Merchants having received no tasharief according to custom at signing the contract with the Company the two preceding years, and that they now insisted upon their being now tashariefed for the three contracts:—it is ordered that the Ware-

housekeeper deliver seven pieces fine scarlet cloth for that use. Ordered also that 10,000 pagodas be advanced them out of the 20,000 promised them in the terms of the present contract."

The following is a copy of the contract as entered in the Consultation Book.

"Saturday, 11th February, 1727. A contract made, concluded, and agreed upon this 11th day of February 1727, between James Macrae, Esq. President and Council of Fort St. George in behalf of the English East India Company on the one part, and Sunca Ramah and Tomby Chetty etc. Joint Stock Merchants on the other part.

"The said Merchants do hereby covenant, promise and agree, that they will buy of the said President and Council all the Woollen goods that they shall receive upon the next expected shipping from Great Britain, for the said Company's account, at thirty per cent. advance upon the European price; that it shall be deposited in a Warehouse under two keys, one of which to be kept by the Warehousekeeper and another by the said Merchants; that before they receive any Woollen-goods out of the Warehouse they will pay the amount thereof to the Warehousekeeper, and further that they will so receive and pay for the whole quantity on or before the 1st day of October 1728.

"The above said Merchants do further promise, covenant and agree, to and with the said President and Council, that they will provide 3000 bales of cloth of the sortments; to be delivered at least 1,500 bales thereof on or before the 20th

day of September next, and the remainder on or before the last day of January following. All the cloths now remaining in the Company's godown unmeasured to be counted in part of the said 3000 bales now contracted for ; and the said President and Council do promise to receive the same, provided it be agreeable to our musters.

" The said Merchants do further covenant and agree that they will not demand any money upon account of this contract until the goods are delivered to the Company and embaled ; excepting only the sum of 20,000 pagodas which the said President and Council do hereby promise and are obliged to advance to the said Merchants upon this contract ; which said sum shall not be by them accounted for until the conclusion hereof, and the closing their accounts with the Company.

" The said Merchants do likewise covenant, and are hereby obliged in case they shall fail in complying with the terms of this contract, to pay a penalty of 20 per cent. for all the bales that they shall deliver short of the number agreed upon ; unless it shall be manifestly made appear that troubles in the country have hindered them ; provided always, and it is hereby agreed that in case the merchants shall comply with this contract within 500 bales of the whole 3000, that then the President and Council will remit the penalty for the said 500 bales.

" In witness whereof the said President and Council have to one part hereof set their hands, and caused the Company's seal to be affixed ; and to the other part the said Merchants have set their

hands and seals the day and year first above written."

"SUNCA RAMAH.

"NAIRO BALL CHETTY.

"TOMBY CHETTY.

"COLLASTRI CHETTY.

"MOODU VENKATA CHETTY."

The following story of attempted fraud will explain itself.

"Monday, 3rd April, 1727. Goodapilla Rangappah, having brought a large diamond from the mines to be sold here, and being a stranger, and recommended to Gruapah a goldsmith, to assist him in disposing of the said diamond, he had trusted him with the sale of it. But the said Gruapah, with intentions to defraud Goodapilla of the real value of the diamond, persuaded him upon several delusory pretexts to retire to Conjeveram. In the mean time, that he might carry on the fraud with the greatest security, he possessed the ignorant stranger with several groundless calumnies, to the prejudice of the President's character and to the trade of the place. Goodapilla being thus removed, Gruapah applied himself to Gopaul, a Diamond Merchant; and they entered into an agreement to have the Diamond cut without the owner's knowledge or consent, and afterwards sold it likewise without acquainting him to Mr. Parkes for 4150 pagodas, of which Gopaul and Gruapah received each one half; though Gruapah had been to Conjeveram, and affirmed to Goodapilla that the President had taken the stone from him, and had

given him only 1500 pagodas for it ; and told him that he must not come to Madras, that if he did he would be in danger. But Goodapilla suspecting the fraud, came at last to Madras ; and having information that his diamond had been sold as above, made his complaint thereupon to the President, and craved that justice might be done him. Whereupon the President had ordered the said Gopaul and Gruapah to be committed to prison ; of all which he now acquaints the Board ; and they and Goodapilla being called before the Board, and the whole affair being particularly enquired into, it appears evident that Gruapah had imposed upon, and defrauded Goodapilla Rungapah, and aspersed the President very grossly as above narrated. Mr. Parkes being called, declared he paid so much for the diamond. Gopal and Gruapah acknowledge that it was the same diamond that Goodapilla had trusted Gruapah with to sell for him, and that they had received each one half of the money. Gruapah affirms he had paid Goodapilla 17,000 pagodas ; but the other persists to affirm that he had received only 15,000 pagodas for his diamond. It being likewise evident that Gopaul was concurring with Gruapah in this cheat, and that he knew the diamond was Goodapilla's, and had treated with Mr. Parkes about the sale of it, the Board came to the following resolution.

“ That, after deducting the charge of cutting the said Diamond, and the sum already paid by Gruapah to Goodapilla, Gopaul and Gruapah do make up to him the sum it was sold for, each one

half; that Gruapah being in low circumstances, the Secretary do. make an inventory of his effects and sell them at the Sea Gate by public outcry, for payment of his half of the said money; and that if the amount of all his effects shall not prove sufficient, that Gopaul shall make up the sum that shall be wanting; and that he shall recover of Gruapah the sum so made good if ever he shall be found to have effects; that both be remanded to prison until the judgment is complied with, and that Gruapah be exemplarily punished for groundlessly aspersing the President's character in so gross a manner."

Here the matter ended, and we can only presume that the money was subsequently paid. It is however a significant fact that Goodapilla should be so easily induced to believe in the oppression charged against the Governor. Mr. Macrae's proceedings as regards interlopers may be gathered from the following extract.

"Tuesday, 25th April, 1727. The President represents to the Board that several persons, without indentures or license to trade as free Merchants, thrusting themselves into the several branches of the trade of India, are a great prejudice to the trade in general, and to the Company's Covenanted Servants and others that have license particularly in Pegu. That we are directed by the Honorable Court of Directors in their letter dated 7th January 1726, to send home all such Traders, Wherefore the President moves that Miles Barne and Thomas Pritchard, both now here and intended to return to Pegu, and Lewis Tornery and James

Lander, who are now there trading (though none of the four has the Company's Indentures) may be served with an order to return to Great Britain, conformably to our Honorable Masters' directions in that respect.

"Resolved that the orders for Lewis Tornery and James Lander be sent in a general letter to Captain Bereyman, Resident at Syrian, by a conveyance that now offers; with directions to him to serve the said orders and see them complied with; and that the Secretary do serve Miles Barne and Thomas Pritchard who are on the place, with the like orders."

These orders were evaded. Miles Barne and Thomas Pritchard obtained to go to Pegu for one year to recover their effects, promising faithfully to return and embark for England at the expiration of that time. However they broke their word and stayed at Pegu; and the resident at Pegu appears to have avoided taking any action in the matter.

We close the present chapter and the present volume with the following entry, which serves to illustrate the nature of the trade with China carried on by the Company's servants at Madras, and at the same time indicates the state of existing relations between Fort St. George and Pondicherry.

"Wednesday, 1st June, 1727. The President represents to the Board, that he proposes to send a ship to China this year, and is on that account in want of some silver to send on her; that as the French at Pondicherry have lately sold their silver

at fourteen and three eights dollars weight per ten pagodas, he is willing to take the Company's at that price, with the allowance of a quarter more as usual for ships that go for China. Agreed to deliver the President thirty Chests of silver at those rates."

CHAPTER III.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. JAMES MACRAE.

1727.

The present chapter comprises extracts from the records of six months only, namely the consultation books of the latter half of the year 1727, yet we believe that the selections we have made will be found as interesting as those which have gone before. They are almost entirely confined to three subjects. First, to the general survey of the houses, gardens, and other tenements within the Company's territories, which was carried out this year by a Committee acting in three divisions. Secondly, to the case of a Mr. Colin Campbell, who having lost large sums by speculating in the South Sea Company and other bubbles of the day, had betaken himself to Madras to retrieve his fallen fortunes ; and who, being called upon to give his reasons for not paying the sums he owed in England, delivered in such a singularly well written explanation of his circumstances, that we have thought proper to preserve his narrative entire. Thirdly, to the remodelling of the Mayor's

Court, which was granted by the Royal Charter of 1726, and was carried out this year in the Madras Presidency.

Governor Macrae's survey of the town and suburbs of Madras, as they were some hundred and thirty years ago, may be best understood by reference to the consultation of 19th December, 1726, in which the following entry appears.

"Monday, 19th December, 1726. The President moves that a general survey may be made of all houses, tenements, gardens and grounds, within the extent of the Honorable Company's bounds, that are not formed and comprehended under a cowl from them, in order to a better proportioned assessment, and for improving and making more effectual in future the revenue of Quit rent and Scavenger's duty; which is agreed to as the most effectual expedient, and most conducive to the ends proposed. And it be an instruction to the Gentlemen appointed to make this survey, that they do make inquiry into the present value of houses, gardens, and other tenements; what quit rent or scavenger's duty they now pay; and what those that are not assessed ought to pay in proportion to the value or produce. Also to inquire into the circumstances of the inhabitants, in order that an additional sum may be raised, if practicable to the Company; and that the poor may be released by easing them, and assessing the wealthy who are able to bear it higher.

"Resolved that Messrs. Turner, Emmerson, Fowke, Hubbard, Houghton, and Pyot do make the said survey; that they act two and two toge-

ther, dividing the whole extent of the bounds in three divisions ; and that they report the same the 5th of April next, because the Company's immediate service will not permit them to perfect it sooner."

The reports of the three several Committees were not delivered in till the 27th of June, 1727. These reports we shall give at length, as they throw considerable light upon the condition of the Native inhabitants generally, and especially upon the state of sanitary reform in the olden time. It will be seen that the Committee of six was required to act in three divisions of two members each ; each division taking up a particular part of the Company's territory. At the conclusion of their labours each division sent in a book of assessment which does not appear to have been preserved ; accompanied by a separate report already mentioned. Of the three reports it will be remarked that the third and last is by far the best, and a sort of story belongs to it. The two Committee men appointed in that particular survey were both carried away by death ; and Mr. Samuel Hyde was appointed to undertake their duty singly. Mr. Hyde was strongly recommended to the Madras Government by the Court of Directors when first sent out to India ; both on account of his superior qualifications and the very high family to which he belonged. Mr. Hyde appears to have been a member of the great Clarendon family, which presented vicissitudes as extraordinary as those in the life of Governor Macrae. Anne Hyde, daughter of the great Chancellor, had been the

first wife of James II ; and if we mistake not, her grandmother was a village girl who many years before had gone to London to seek her fortune as a domestic servant. But we have no space to dwell upon the general vicissitudes of families, and at once proceed to extract the reports of the Committee of Survey.

The report of the South and Eastern division was as follows.

“ To the Honorable James Macrae, Esq., and Council.

“ Honorable Sirs,

“ In pursuance to your orders of Council of the 19th of last December, we now lay before your Honors our Book of Assessment on the division which fell to our lot ; which were all the Company’s bound to the southward of the White Town, one side of the Choultry Street, and all the Black Town within the walls to the eastward of the Choultry Street.

“ Our foresaid Book of Assessment will show your Honors the sums the several houses and gardens were rated as in the last Rent Roll ; and in the said Book you will likewise observe what sums we have now put on the said houses and gardens, both for Quit rent and Scavenger’s duty.

“ In going through the several streets of the Black Town we had the cries of many poor widows and decayed people, which obliged us out of charity and compassion to ease them what we could ; and that the amount of the Company’s duty of Quit rent and Scavenger’s duty might be made more certain and not decrease, we were necessitat-

ed to put on the rich the small sums we took of the poor. Some were so poor that we were obliged to take all off ; others we eased by taking off a few fanams. These persons are described in one of the columns of our Book of Assessment by the words " very poor," being wrote over against the persons' names ; and those which we eased by only taking off a part of the duty, are described by the word " poor" being wrote over against their names.

" We once thought that calling in the Bills of sale for the Black inhabitants house, would have helped us in making a more proportionable assessment than formerly ; but upon their being brought us we found most of them to be old bills of a great many years standing, amounting to small sums of money ; so that on viewing the several houses, we found the greatest part of them had been made new and large houses long since the date of the bills of sale. Wherefore we were forced to proportion our assessment by the largeness and value of their houses, and ability of the possessors, as near as we could judge.

" Our new assessment within our division amount to 10 pagodas 6 fanams in the Quit rent more than in the last Rent Roll ; and in the Scavenger's duty it comes to 15 fanams less. We should have been willing to have made a greater increase in these branches of the Company's revenues, could we have judged the inhabitants in circumstances to bear it.

" In and about Triplicane we found 67 houses and gardens which had no Quit rent laid upon them ; so that we assessed each of them as near

as we could judge the value of them, and it amounts to 165 pagodas 31 fanams. These gardens have most of them been made out of sandy spots of ground, and are a great improvement to the place ; but are as near as we can learn more an expense to the owners than any real gain to their estates.

" We have gone through all the streets in Triplicane Town but could find very few houses to assess ; the inhabitants thereof being mostly Brahmins, maintained by the merchants, and poor painters, gardeners, and other labouring people.

" Thus having given your Honors an account of our transactions in obedience to your orders of Council, we hope for your favourable approval thereof as no pains or fatigue therein have been spared by

Honourable Sirs,
Your most obedient humble Servants,
NATHANIEL TURNER.
JOHN EMMERSON.

Fort St. George, 26th June, 1727."

The second report seems to have referred to the West and Northern division, and was as follows.

" Honorable Sirs,

" The division which fell to our lot was the western part of the Black Town within the walls from the Choultry Street ; also all the Mutteal pettah, and what gardens and grounds stretching out as far as the garden commonly called Addison's Garden, now Sunca Ramah's, on one side of the road, to Pulicat and Narrain's on the other. Through all which we have been, and shall give you a description thereof as we found them, and of the

methods we have taken to concur with your intentions.

"In the Black Town we find 638 houses; the former Quit rent and Scavenger's duty laid thereon, both amounted to 613 pagodas and 7 fanams, which we have now raised to 637 pagodas and 9 fanams, the difference is 24 pagodas and 2 fanams.

"In the Mutteal pettah are 1405 houses, and among them we believe there are not ten worth 300 pagodas each, and the inhabitants all miserably poor. Some are Carpenters, Peons, and Coolies, and great numbers of beggars and Brahmins, who live in straw huts on the sand upon charity. Others are poor widows and children, who threw themselves at our feet as we passed along. We took off these sort of people a few fanams, and shared it among those whom we thought, by the appearance of their houses and the information we could get of their circumstances, better able to bear it. The former Quit rent and Scavenger's duty together amounted to 410 pagodas and 3 fanams; the present amount to 457 pagodas and 29 fanams. So that we have raised here 47 pagodas and 26 fanams; and we humbly offer our opinion, it is as much as possible can be done without distressing the subjects.

"To the northward of this Mutteal pettah are 26 gardens, two whereof are under cowle; viz.

Maria Pois, which pays pagodas 70 per annum.

The Company's Garden..... 351 do.

Total... 421

by this no one thinks the renters can get any thing.

"The amount of the other three gardens was 28 pagodas and 9 fanams, which we have now raised to 51 pagodas and 27 fanams ; so that the increase is 23 pagodas and 18 fanams.

"One of our Chetty's gardens produces nothing, being at present but a heap of sand ; nevertheless we have laid on him but one pagoda per annum ; also the garden of Chiniah Muttiah.

"We are of opinion what part of this revenue has been every year wrote off to profit and loss, which commonly amounted to 200 or 300 pagodas, happened thus : That whereas the Rental general and Scavenger has always made up his roll in August for the year following ; before which is expired great numbers of people generally die in debt, and leave nothing but a poor widow and children, who are forced to suffer their pots and pans to be sold to pay 3 or 4 or half a dozen fanams Quit rent ; and some there are that have nothing but the bare mat they lie on ; that we cannot see how it can be avoided among such multitudes of poor people, and such a large sum of money to be collected in such small dribblets.

"The care and method we have taken in this affair we hope will meet your Honor's approbation ; having duly had at heart our Honorable Master's future interest whose we are, and

Your Honors

Most obedient humble servants,

RANDAL FOWKE,
JAMES HUBBARD."

The third, and most important report of all, referred to the Central division of Black Town, and

was written as before said by Mr. Samuel Hyde. It was as follows.

“Honorable Sir and Sirs,

“In compliance to your Honor’s order for finishing the survey of that part of the Black Town called the Pedda Naick Pettah, formerly under the direction of Messrs. Houghton and Pyot deceased, I herewith present a new Roll of rates for the same; whereby will appear such alterations as I have thought necessary for the relief of the poor and benefit to the Honorable Company: the whole amounting to 1329 pagodas 19 fanams; and the advance gained thereby 85 pagodas and 26 fanams; which I believe is the most the inhabitants can bear, and is submitted to your Honors for your approbation.

“As the annual and strenuous recommendation from the Honorable Court of Directors to this Presidency, for preventing of the bad debts yearly outstanding on the Scavenger’s account, have been the chief motives for your Honor’s appointing this survey; I have carefully examined how those debts have arose, and found the whole remains of the last years to be 174 pagodas, 17 fanams and 40 cash; of which above 60 pagodas arises from persons leaving their houses uninhabited; the humour of the people being such, that in cases of mortality or misfortunes they had rather go up the country, and suffer their houses to decay many years for want of repairs, than sell them out of the family. The Scavenger can have no defence against such loss, and though the said debts are wrote off for that year, yet the annual rates of these houses are

continued in the succeeding Rent Roll, though it is uncertain when the owners will return. The same I may say of the many places in the Black Town and Pettah, that have continued empty without houses or improvement thereon for many years, as may be observed in the Roll now presented ; all which were charged according to the old rates amounting to upwards of 35 pagodas, though the Scavenger had little probability of receiving any part of it. The reason that has been given for this custom is, that by continuing them on the Rent Roll they may the better remember the old tax that was laid on such grounds, and to endeavour a recovery of the same, when the owner shall return ; though I never yet knew or heard of such debts so recovered, and it is to be feared the multiplicity of such vacant places may in time lay waste great part of the Black Town. The owners of many of them are unknown, and out of memory ; and others nominally known, yet no one knows where to find them, or how to apply for the purchasing their grounds, and consequently the grounds must be useless. Whereas were these grounds publicly sold for the payment of the Company's Quit rent, and the overplus deposited in the Company's cash for the benefit of such as shall hereafter make good their claims ; such places would be rebuilt or improved, and the whole Town in a constant employ.

“ The rest of the bad debts arise from the poverty of the inhabitants, of whom thousands that pay the Company half a fanam and upwards per month, have no better means of supporting themselves and families than by beating rice, cooly hire, and such

low business. By which the most industrious cannot gain above 18 to 20 fanams per month, with rice from their friends and relations.

“The unfortunate death of Messrs. Houghton and Pyot, late Scavengers, having prevented their good intentions in representing many inconveniences arising from the evil customs now practiced in the Black Town, and the better management of that business for the future ; I therefore beg leave to mention what of them I can remember to have heard proposed, had they survived the report now made to this Honorable Board.

“It has been a frequent complaint to the Scavenger that, notwithstanding the great assessment with which the inhabitants are yearly charged, the streets are yet in a most abominable and filthy condition ; which I presume will be found to arise from the insufferable custom of the inhabitants—in the streets ; their perpetually throwing out of ashes and house dirt ; their hogs and buffaloes and horses in the streets, all which make a constant litter, which the small number of carts allowed by the Company cannot clear away. Wherefore I humbly propose that an order be issued that no person whatever be suffered to make free in the streets ; or keep any hogs, buffaloes or horses, but in their compounds ; and for the better and more easy carrying away the dirt and ashes which is the produce of every house, I should think it but a small trouble for the several inhabitants to carry their dirt to some one or more places that shall be appointed for a general dunghill in every street,

which the Scavenger can take care to have removed every morning.

"It is a most grievous custom for every house to have a sink hole to receive the house water; which are dug in the open street, and lie uncovered in the passages, or perhaps two or three long stones cast over them, but yet not sufficient to prevent the passengers and especially children from falling into them. Besides the intolerable stench that proceed from them is so very strong, that it is justly complained of as one of the greatest nuisances in the Black Town; and yet is easily remedied by obliging such persons to cover them, and that in such a manner as to be on a level with the foot path.

"The wells have not been publicly repaired since Governor Collet's time; and are now become dangerous to young persons that draw water, and by scattering the water make a dirty kennel in the street; encouraging the hogs to wallow and vermin to breed in them; all which were formerly remedied by repairing the wells, and to which I find the neighbours are willing to contribute according to their abilities.

"The frequent encroachments in the streets grow so general, that without care be timely taken the passages will become too narrow for passengers, and pernicious to the health of the Town in so warm a climate. Almost every house lately built has encroached further into the street, by enlarging the house, or by raising pials of two and a half feet high, and other parade before the doors, of stone or brick, from 10 to 20 inches higher

than the common path and from 6 to 9 feet into the street, which serve only for the makers' use and throw off the passengers. Whereas were the same stone or brick work on a level with the path (as in the White Town), they would be as a general pavement. There are innumerable Smiths, Cajan's shops and Sheds, Buttecas, and small brick houses, built against the front of other large houses which come six or eight feet into the street, and are from eight to sixteen feet long, which pay no Quit-rent to the Company. Likewise several parcels of large stones or timbers, planks and palmeiras, all which are so many encroachments upon the streets, and turn aside the passengers.

"Many persons expose to sale cloth, brass ware, and other goods, by spreading of matting &c, in the middle of the street, which pester the passage, and can be of no account but saving Butteca rent; while the Honorable Company's Buttecas remain neglected, to the loss of the Butteca farmer, and the lessening of that revenue to the Honorable Company.

"These are what have fallen under my observation, and though they may seem in themselves trifling, yet as I do not doubt but they will contribute very much to the wholesomeness, beauty, and good order of the city, I hope your Honors will excuse the presentation from

Honorable Sir and Sirs,
Your most faithful and
obedient humble Servant,
SAMUEL HYDE."

No immediate action seems to have resulted from these reports, beyond the sale by public outcry of some lands where the ownership was doubtful; but the reports themselves will no doubt be found very interesting, especially to those of our readers who are familiar with the present state of Black Town, or who have taken an active part in sanitary reform.

Our next extracts, referring to the peculiar case of Mr. Colin Campbell, will explain themselves. The name is certainly a remarkable one, at the present moment, though we believe not uncommon in Scotland; and would seem to indicate that the gentleman in question belonged to the same family as the present Lord Clyde. The circumstances of the case are best explained by the following entry in the consultations.

"Monday, 3rd July, 1727. The Honorable the "Court of Directors, having in their letters by the Princess of Wales" ordered us to assist Captain John Haye and others in the recovery of debts from Mr. Colin Campbell to a very considerable amount, the said Colin Campbell was called before us and payment demanded. Whereupon he delivered in writing an answer, importing in substance that the said Captain John Haye had no reason to treat him the said Colin Campbell in so scurv'y a manner; that the whole of what he brought out with him was less than £300; that he spent a part thereof for payment of his disbursements at Deal and other places, and part for his passage money; that the remainder was most of it expended here before he could get an employ, and

that when he had one, the small adventure and little advantage he made thereon did but barely pay his table expenses in the voyage ; so that he hath now left scarce any thing more than to pay his passage to Europe, whither he says he proposes to go.

“ The answer of Mr. Campbell was ordered to be entered ; and it was agreed, that as every one of us are fully convinced of the truth thereof, that we so allow Mr. Campbell to go to Europe if he please ; and that he be not molested here on account of the said demand, since he is desirous of returning to England where the claims may be demanded the same.”

The letter of Mr. Colin Campbell to Governor Macrae and Council was as follows. The reader will scarcely fail to remark upon the superiority of the diction over most of the extracts we have made from the records.

“ Honorable Sirs,

“ Being commanded to deliver in writing an answer to some charges and demands laid against me from England, and lately transmitted hither ; I shall here give as true a state of those affairs as the distance of time and remoteness from my books and papers will allow ; being the same in substance with what I informed the Honorable the President and Council by word of mouth upon examination. I therefore declare to the best of my knowledge as follows.

“ Captain John Haye, having presented a petition to the Honorable the Court of Directors for the affairs of the East India Company against me, wherein he has stated the affair between him and

me in the basest manner, and has represented me in a very unjust and odious character ; I am obliged in my own vindication to be somewhat more particular in relation to him than I ever intended. In the general I might safely appeal for a character before my misfortunes to all the Gentlemen who knew me in this army in Spain, the latter end of the late Queen's reign, and to all those of the garrisons in Minorca after that time ; to the highest of whom I had the honour to be well known, and served in many different stations both in Catalonia and Port Mahon without blemish or reproach ; and my character is sufficiently known in London, not to have ever given any room for such base and malicious reflections as have been thrown upon me by that Gentleman ; and had I been guilty during the general infatuation in South Sea time, and in time of my greatest necessities, of contributing to the hurt of others, knowingly and wilfully, I should be the first to condemn myself, and could not find fault with such as would join in the same accusation against me. But I cannot help thinking it the severest of all calamities, to have my reputation in danger of being destroyed, by drawing me in so very bad colours ; and that my misfortunes, a fate almost universal and common to thousands besides me at that time, should be charged upon me as a crime. The far greater part of persons engaged in dealings at that unlucky juncture were involved in the same ruin, and consequently proved the unhappy occasion of making many others share in their sufferings, which was also my most unfortunate case.

“ A great many years are past since Captain Haye and I were first acquainted, having served together in the same Regiment for sometime at Port Mahon, where it was well known what offices of friendship I did him ; but more particularly by venturing my whole fortune by my credit with Mr. Neale, then Pay Master General, to raise him from an Ensign to Captain, at a time when not one person would give him the least assistance either by their money or credit. Many years after that, I having sold out of the army and settled in London, Captain Haye arrived there in the South Sea year 1720 ; and hearing that I was in very flourishing circumstances, he came to me to ask advice how to employ a small sum of money, not exceeding as I can remember £600. My opinion was to put it into South Sea stock, then upon the rise ; but he chose rather to put it into my hands, begging me to allow him good interest for it. To serve him I complied with his request, paying him for some months 10 per cent per month. He having gained considerably by these means, I thought it unreasonable for him to expect that I should always keep it at so high a premium, and so very much above what any body else would allow, and therefore made him take his money back again. Upon which he bought a bargain in York Buildings Stock for time ; but it happening to fall considerably before the term of payment came, he complained to me that he and his family were ruined if I did not help him ; and did by his importunity prevail upon me to deliver him from that bargain and to take it upon myself, which

was an actual loss to me of £400 ; that being the difference between the price of the Stock at the time he purchased it and the time I paid for it. After this he teased me till I took his money a second time, being about £800, but at lower usury, being at the rate of 3 or 4 per cent per mensem. If I remember right, sometime afterwards he, having raised some money by taking in subscriptions from sundry persons to a Bubble called the North Sea ; which he did by giving notes promising so much North Sea Stock for money received, at the same time sinking six pence on every half crown, for his notes run only two shillings for a half crown paid him ;—with money raised in this manner, he bought £330 in South Sea Stock. This happening soon to fall in a very precipitant manner, he came to me about the beginning of September, complaining in his wonted style, that he and his family would be ruined if I did not help him in this distress, by taking that Stock off his hands. I refused it on account of being too deeply concerned in Stocks already. He then proposed that I should buy it of him at time, allowing him an advance ; to which he pressed me with great earnestness, and prevailed upon me to give a bond for said £330 Stock, to pay him £2600 in three months ; being a very extravagant advance. Stocks falling soon after to a very low rate, involved me in utter ruin, and put it absolutely out of my power to comply with that or other bargains I had then depending. As to the sum of £800 which I had taken at the abovementioned usury, I did all that was in my

power, even after I was ruined, to clear it ; which my wife and I did to near £400, as by his receipts appears. She out of compassion to his family sold some of her jewels to raise him money ; and sometime after, when I had no way to find more, I gave him pictures and other things to the value of the remainder of my note. But he, not waiting for a proper time to dispose of them, sold for five and twenty pounds, as he acquainted me, what cost me about four hundred pounds some years before. By all which it appears, that of all my creditors, Captain Haye has the least reason to persecute me, though the only one that has done it, and though since my misfortunes, I having often reduced myself to the last necessities to supply him. His troubles, which he maliciously imputes to me, are chiefly owing to his fraudulent management in the North Sea Bubble, as above related.

“ As to his charge of my carrying large sums of money with me to India, nothing can be more ridiculous and inconsistent. Can it be supposed that any man in his senses would part with his family, country, and friends, and at my age, to live in India under dependance on strangers, and enjoy so large a fortune as £30,000, as he used to give out in all places when I was at home. Had I been possessed of so much money, could I not have retired to many parts in Europe, where I might have lived more at my ease and satisfaction, in case my creditors would not have suffered me to do so in England. But what shows the falsehood as well as malice of that charge to a demonstration is this. Had I been possessed of any sums of money,

the law would certainly have given him as well as others a right to them ; and sure I am he left no methods untried to find out and seize all he could of mine while he was in England. But it is very easy for any person concerned to know, if they please, what money I brought abroad with me. All I had was delivered into Captain Charles Small's hands, with whom I came out hither ; which was a very small sum, and was lessened before I got to this place by my expences at Deal, Portsmouth, and aboard ship ; and my living out of business for above a twelve month after my arrival here exhausted the little money I brought out with me. When by favour of the Honorable Governor I went to China last year, I carried but a small sum with me, which I took up at 16 per cent Respondentia, and which produced not much more than defrayed the expence of my table and other charges to and from China. So that at present I have not more than will enable me to pay my passage back to England, and answer my expences here, till I can meet with a favourable opportunity to return.

“ As to Mr. Wordsworth's and Mr. Heathcote's demands, I am very sensible that they would not have given me any trouble had not Captain Haye raised such false and malicious reports of my flying to India with large sums of money ; they having never given me any disturbance the four years I was in England from the time of my misfortunes, for which I reckon myself extremely obliged to them. I believe they were then convinced of the badness of my circumstances, as well as of my in-

clination to do all that was in my power ; having given them for a further security all the stock I had left. There were many sums of money due to me ; upon account of bargains in stocks and otherwise ; but I was not able to recover above £200 of all that was owing me, and my circumstances did not permit me to carry on law suits to endeavour to recover any more. I gave those Gentlemen such securities for their money as they judged very good at that time, and which then sold above the value of the sum borrowed ; and by the contracts and defeazances passed between us, they had full power and authority without my consent, to sell said securities and pay themselves at what time they pleased. But it was a great misfortune to them and me that they did not sell those securities, as they were empowered to do. I came to India with no other view than to try my last and utmost endeavour to get money, in order to give some satisfaction to those gentlemen and others ; being unwilling to have any reason to reproach myself with having neglected any means, or the least probability of any that might put it in my power to do justice to those that suffer by my misfortunes. To this view I sacrificed all the ease and happiness I was possessed of, and submitted to a voluntary banishment, and to the greatest distance from my family, friends and country. It is unfortunate for my creditors as well as me that my design has miscarried ; there remaining nothing now to do in these parts ; so that I propose to return in some months, and shall very willingly give all my creditors a fair state of my

circumstances as soon as it pleases God to bring me safe back to England.

"All the above related particulars, I declare to be true to the best of my memory and knowledge.

COLIN CAMPBELL."

Fort St. George, July 8th 1777."

We now turn to the third and last subject in the present chapter, namely the reorganisation of the Mayor's Court. A detailed account of the establishment of a municipality by the Charter of 1687, has already been given in a preceding chapter. The exercise of judicial powers however had never been based on a satisfactory foundation, but, "in 1726," says Mr. Mill, "a Charter was granted, by which the Company were permitted to establish a Mayor's Court at each of their three presidencies, Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta; consisting of a Mayor and nine Aldermen, empowered to decide in civil cases of all descriptions. From this jurisdiction, the President and Council were erected into a Court of Appeal. They were also vested with the power of holding Courts of Quarter Session for the exercise of penal judicature in all cases, excepting those of high treason. And a Court of Requests, or Court of Conscience, was instituted, for the decision by summary procedure of pecuniary questions of inconsiderable amount." With this introduction we place the extracts from the records referring to these new arrangements.

"Monday, 14th August, 1727. The President represented to the Board, that the time for putting in execution the Royal Charter was very near; and that therefore it would be necessary to come to

some resolutions agreeable thereto. That the death and absence of Messrs. Higginson, Woolley, Way and Munro, having occasioned four vacancies, it was necessary to supply them according to the rules of the Charter ; which was accordingly done by appointing Messrs. Thomas Weston, William Monson, John Bulkelay, and Edward Bracstone, Aldermen in the room of the said four persons.

“ Mr. Higginson having been by the said Charter appointed Mayor, and it being provided therein that the President and Council should in case of his death nominate the first Mayor,—It was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. John Powney to that station.

“ Ordered that Thursday next be appointed for swearing the Mayor and Aldermen, and putting in execution His Majesty’s Charter for so far as relates to the Mayor’s Court.”

“ Thursday, 17th August, 1727. This being the day that the Honorable President and Council had appointed for putting in execution the new Charter, and the Town having received notice accordingly ; the Gentlemen appeared on the parade on horse back with the Guards, Peons and country music ; and about nine in the morning proceeded to the Company’s Garden house in the following manner.

Major John Roach on horseback at the head of a Company of Foot Soldiers, with Kettle drum, Trumpet, and other music.

The Dancing Girls with the Country music.

The Pedda Naik on horse back at the head of his Peons.

The Marshall with his staff on horse back.

The Court Attorneys on horse back.

The Registrar carrying the old Charter on horse back.

The Serjeants with their Maces on horse back.

The old Mayor on the right hand

and the new on the left.

The Aldermen two and two all on } Six halberdiers.
horse back.

The Company's Chief Peon on horse back, with his Peons.

The Sheriff with a White Wand on horse back.

The Chief Gentry in the Town on horse back.

" In this manner they proceeded from the parade through Middle gate street into the Black Town, and so out at Armenian bridge gate, through the Pedda Naik pettah to the Company's Garden, where the President and Council were met to receive them."

" The old and new Mayors being come to the Company's Garden house in the form mentioned, they were admitted ; where the President administered the oath of allegiance and the Mayor's oath to John Powney Esq., and the oath of allegiance and the Alderman's oath to Messieurs Abraham Wessel, Francis Rous, Luis de Medeiros, Thomas Weston, William Monson, and Edward Bracstone, being all the Aldermen that could attend on this occasion. After which the President having received the old Charter from Mr. Francis Rous, returned him thanks in the name of himself and the rest of the Council, for his careful and faithful discharge of the trust that had been reposed in him ; and expressed the great satisfaction he promised himself from the known abilities and integrity of the present Mayor John Powney, Esq., to whom he delivered the new Charter."

Our next extracts refer to the institution of the other Courts, and will explain themselves.

“ Tuesday, 22nd August, 1727. It being appointed by the Charter, that the President and the five Senior Counsellors, should in thirty days after the receipt of the same, be and constitute a Court of Oyer and Terminer, and Goal delivery ; the said President with George Morton Pitt, Esq., Messrs. John Roach, Randal Fowke, and Samuel Hyde, accordingly took the oaths of allegiance and of office. Mr. Robert Symonds one of the Seniors being absent will be sworn on his arrival.”

“ Monday, 11th September, 1727. It being necessary that there be a Court of Justice for deciding small debts ; for the relief of the poor who cannot afford the charges necessarily attending the forms of proceedings in the Mayor’s Court, and would therefore otherwise be defrauded of their just dues. It was agreed that the five Justices of the Peace appointed by the Royal Charter, be also appointed Justices of the Choultry, and to decide causes of that kind as far as 20 pagodas value.”

“ Monday, 27th November, 1727. The Committee nominated to inspect the list of fees appointed to be paid in the Mayor’s Court, reporting that they think them moderate and just, it is ordered that they be copied after this Consultation, and that our approval of them be signified to the Court. Also that the same list be translated into the several languages, and hung up in the Town Hall ; and that a note be affixed at the several gates of the Town, giving notice to the inhabitants of this new regulation of the fees, and that they

are hung up in the Town Hall ; that every one who has business in the Court may thereby be enabled to avoid being imposed on.

“ The Board having on the 11th of September last ordered that the Justices of the Peace should decide petty causes of Meum and Tuum at their Sessions at the Choultry ; and that method being found to occasion some inconveniences, particularly the subjecting the members of the Superior Court to an appeal to the Mayor’s Court :—It was unanimously agreed that for the future all petty causes shall be decided in the Sheriff’s Court ; and that the Sheriff shall and may decide ultimately without appeal as far as five pagodas, and that he may likewise decide further as far as 20 pagodas, allowing the parties a liberty of applying to the Mayor’s Court in case they are not satisfied with the Sheriff’s award. Also that the Register of Slaves, which formerly was kept by the Justice of the Choultry, be now kept by the Sheriff, with the former fees ; and also that he do keep a Register of sales and mortgages of houses as far as 100 pagodas value, as was formerly done at the Choultry ; only that the fees for so doing be no more than 18 fanams for 100 pagodas value, and in the same proportion for lesser sums :—of which regulations it is ordered that the Secretary do give notice by affixing papers at the gates.

“ Ordered that the Justices of the Peace do take cognisance of all breaches of the Peace, petty Larcenies, and other crimes properly belonging to their office ; that for the lesser faults they do order corporal punishment to the offenders ; for

those of a very high nature, they bind over to the Sessions ; and that for others they do commit the offenders to the Choultry, and report their crimes to the Board the next Consultation. And that the Secretary do affix papers at the gates in the several languages ; giving notice to the inhabitants that all murders, breaking open of houses, or robberies by night will be punished with death, and all other thefts with the utmost severity of the law, and that all receivers of stolen goods will be punished as the thieves ;—as also that all persons on whom it shall be proved that they have bought any thing from Gentlemen's servants, such as Candles, Damars, Bottles, &c., or things of greater value, shall be fined agreeable to the value of the things so purchased, and punished in the same manner as receivers of stolen goods ; and in order for the better and more effectual finding out thereof, that whoever will inform against such purchasers or receivers, shall have the one half of the value of the goods, which he shall make appear to have been so purchased or received.

“ A List of Fees read and approved of by the Honorable the Mayor's Court of Madraspatanam the 29th August 1727.

“ REGISTER'S FEES.

For every precept, warrant of arrest and warrant of execution 18 fanams to be paid out of that to the Sheriff's Serjeants for serving the same, four fanams. For any petition that is read or any other paper he is to charge six fanams each and for filing any petition or any other necessary paper nine fanams. For attesting any paper, not exceeding one side twelve fanams if it exceeds nine fanams each side.

For summoning any person six fanams, to be paid out of that two fanams to the Sheriff's Serjeant.
 For copying any paper not exceeding one side eighteen fanams if it exceeds, twelve fanams each side.
 For affixing the Court seal to any paper ten fanams.
 For every entry of Court three fanams.
 For every order or judgment of Court six fanams ; for a copy of the same six fanams.
 For the taking of Bail six fanams.
 For affixing a note at the sea gate eighteen fanams, to be paid out of that six fanams to the Translator.
 For every affidavit four fanams.
 For registering any paper not exceeding one side eighteen fanams.
 For drawing out a letter of Attorney one pagoda.
 For every letter of administration eighteen fanams.
 For protesting Bills of exchange one pagoda—registering do. and protest one pagoda.
 For writing and registering bills of sale or mortgage bonds without the White Town eighteen fanams per cent ; the same in the White Town if the amount exceed not 500 pagodas, if exceeding 500 pagodas the Registrar to take no more than two pagodas eighteen fanams.
 Upon all deposited estates and money paid with Court a half per cent.

ON WILLS.

Reading wills twenty fanams.
 Registering will if not exceeding one side eighteen fanams.
 Probate with the seal of Court twenty-eight fanams.
 Summoning the witnesses twenty-four fanams.
 Swearing each witness three fanams.

EXAMINER'S FEES.

For swearing every witness three fanams.
 For examining and taking depositions for every one nine fanams.
 For all copies of depositions six fanams.
 For a summons to any person to appear at the Exami-

ner's office twelve fanams ; to be paid out of that four fanams to the Court Serjeant.
For a note to be delivered the Defendant's attorney before he is examined, two fanams.

ATTORNEY'S FEES.

All persons that employ an Attorney to act for them in any cause is first to deposit in his hands 3 pagodas, of which he is to give an account when the cause is ended.

Attorney fee one pagoda.

For writing petition eighteen fanams each side of a sheet of paper.

Pleading each Court day and attendance nine fanams.

Translating any paper eighteen fanams a side ; to be paid out of that to the Translator six fanams.

Attendance on a Client in the White Town nine fanams.

Attendance on a Client in the Black Town twelve fanams.

For drawing out the interrogatories in the whole cause eighteen fanams.

SHERIFF'S FEES.

Commission upon all Levys and Executions 5 per cent. under 200 pagodas and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on all above.

For executing all warrants and summons ten fanams.

N. B.—The Mayor and two cash keepers to draw $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon all deposited estates and money paid into Court upon every cause that is decided ; the interpreter to have nine fanams.

Upon all summons to the Blacks he is to have one fanam.

CHAPTER IV.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. JAMES MACRAE.

1728—29.

The concluding years of Mr. Macrae's government, like those whose history has been recorded, are marked by events of a purely domestic nature. One little difficulty occurred with the French at the Mauritius, and another one with the Rajah of Travancore, but both were of a trivial nature. The remainder of the entries we have preserved refer almost entirely to the administration of Governor Macrae within the Company's bounds; and to such little incidents as serve to illustrate the internal condition of the settlement at Fort St. George.

Our first extract refers to Major Roach, who had distinguished himself both at Fort St. David, and in the defence of Trivatore. As a reward for his services, the Directors at home appointed him to a seat in Council. The entry in the consultation book will explain itself.

"Monday, 21st August, 1727. Major Roach having taken his place at the Board, after returning thanks for the honor conferred upon him, desired that he might still continue in his employ of Major of the Forces; declaring his resolution rather to sacrifice all that was dear and valuable to

him, than to have it thought he had, by accepting a mercantile employ, entered into an asylum. He added that as he had for near twenty-five years faithfully served the Honorable Company in the field, he could not think of quitting that post ; but should believe himself undeserving of any regard, should he not, by this additional mark of esteem conferred on him, be the more encouraged to venture his life for the defence of the Honorable Company, should an enemy come down upon us ; that as for the pay he had formerly been entitled to, he had no thoughts of receiving it longer, but quitted that, though he was still desirous of the employ.

“ Upon which it was immediately resolved, that Major Roach, having shown himself upon many occasions an experienced and good officer, he be continued Major ; and the President expressed his satisfaction in observing the zeal the Major showed for the Company’s interest, and the neglect of his own ease, in desiring to serve in a double capacity, and to take the trouble of two employs on him at once.”

The subject was referred home to the Court of Directors, who decided that Major Roach could not continue a Member of Council, and a Commander of the Forces at the same time. Two years passed away before this decision was fairly acted on at Fort St. George ; but for the sake of a connected narrative we insert the result here.

“ Monday, 14th July, 1729. The President, agreeable to the General letter of February last,

called upon Major Roach to declare which employ he would accept, whether he would continue Member of Council or Major of the Garrison ;—to which he made answer as follows.

“That as he had served the Honorable Company upwards of twenty-five years in a Military capacity, and received distinguishing marks of their favour for his service in that way, he could not without some reluctance quit an employment that had given him a title to so much of their esteem ; but as it has pleased them to put it to his choice, whether he will resign his title to the Military service, or have the honor of sitting at the Council Board, the late decay of his constitution, occasioned by a long fit of illness, induces him to accept of the latter ; which, though it deprives him of any immediate command of Military, yet it no ways lessens his inclination to venture his life whenever he shall be commanded, and his Honorable Master’s occasions call for his sword to assert their just rights and privilèges. At the same time, returning his most humble thanks for this particular favour shown him, he begs leave to assure this Board that it shall be his whole study to merit his Master’s esteem, by a faithful discharge of his duty in whatever station he shall be called to.”

Whilst Major Roach was obtaining such an honourable recognition of his public services, his private character suffered some injury from his being concerned in the elopement of a Portuguese young lady from St. Thomé. The story will be found further on.

We have now to draw the attention of our readers to one of those documents which serve to throw a light upon the inner domestic life of the English settlers in the olden time. Most of our readers, and especially those of the fair sex, are no doubt alive to the fact that a rigid examination of all the property of an individual, including a peep into all his or her boxes, drawers, and other private receptacles, will enable us to draw a tolerably accurate conception of his or her habits and modes of life. Accordingly we here present them with a tolerably minute inventory of the effects of an Englishman who lived some hundred and thirty years ago, in the days when men wore wigs, breeches, and swords, and indulged in strong waters unknown to the present temperate generation. We print the list in full, exactly as we find it entered in the consultation book of 15th January 1728.

*Inventory of the Effects of Mr. John Blunt deceased,
December 1727.*

In the First Drawer.	Cash found in his escritoire. 21½	2 Silver Salvers.
	rupees and 124 pagodas.	1 Silver Tankard.
	2 Gold watches.	1 Small silver mug.
	1 Gold seal and 1 silver seal.	7 Silver spoons.
	1 Pair of gold buckles.	1 do. for tea.
	1 Pair of silver gilt buckles.	1 Case with 12 silver spoons
	1 Emerald ring.	And 12 knives and forks
	1 Stone seal.	tipped with silver.
	1 Pair of silver garter buckles.	13 Horse tassels.
	1 Ring with Elephants hair.	14 Silver buttons.
	1 do Tombac.	1 Silver Betel plate (the Com-
	1 Pair of sleeve buttons.	pany's.)
	1 Tweezer case and Memo-	1 Silver rose water Bottle (the
	randum Book.	Company's.)
	2 Silver Cuspidores.	1 Silver hand for a fan.
In the First Drawer.	24 Gold buttons and Silver	2 Goggles with silver.
	Chain.	2 Silver hilted swords.
	2 Gold headed canes.	1 Pair of silver spurs.
		1 Moor's Dagger.

- In the Second Drawer.
- 1 Remnant of Chintz.
 - 2 Pair of Bengal taffaty white.
 - 2 Pairs of double thread betillas
 - 2 Pairs of single thread betillas, white.
 - 1 Pair of Bengal stuff, 1 Pair of issareea white.
 - 1 Pair of Salampores.
 - 1 Pair of Handkerchief Fulicat.
 - 1 Remnant of taffaty.
 - 1 Silver saah, 2 small looking glasses.
 - 2 Pairs of brown betillas, 1 velvet Cap.
 - 2 Pairs of Masulipatam handkerchiefs.
 - 3 Remnants of Chintz.
 - 16 Gold striped handkerchiefs.
- In the 3rd Drawer.
- 2 Pairs of Madras Gingham.
 - 13 Moor's cloaks.
 - 11 Turbans.
 - 10 Sashes.
 - 3 Pairs of flowered custanees.
 - 11 Pairs of drawers of sundry sorts.
- In the 4th Drawer.
- 1 Silver sword knot.
 - 1 Bag sundry trifles.
 - 2 Pairs of embroidered slippers.
 - 1 Pair of Gingham Sheets.
 - 1 Palampore.
 - 11 White waistcoats.
 - 1 Brass lock.
 - 40 Pillow cases.
 - 13 Handkerchiefs.
 - 18 Shirts and 20 Caps.
 - 24 Turnovers and 8 stocks.
 - 11 Pairs of white stockings.
 - 3 Pairs of drawers.
 - 1 Red cloth waistcoat.
 - 1 Pair of brass seals.
 - 4 Razors, hoan and strop.
 - 2 Pairs of pistols.
 - 1 Parcel of gloves.
 - 9 Coats and 5 waistcoats.
 - 11 Pairs of breeches.
 - 1 Remnant of Grogam.
 - 2 Silver Lions for a palanqueen bamboo.
 - 1 Velvet Cap.
 - 9 Valances for a cott.
 - 10 Pairs of silk stockings.
 - 5 Silver tassels for a palanqueen.
 - 11 Panian coats.
 - 3 Palanqueen Pillow cases.
 - 2 Remnant of Brampore Chintz.
 - 1 Escritoire.
 - 3 Pairs of blue betillas and one piece of red.
- In the large Chest.
- 3 Hats and 1 Bag Empty.
 - 2 Pairs of sail cloth.
 - 4 Pairs of Sandal wood curtains, for a cott.
 - 1 Remnant of coloured betillas
 - 1 Brass mounted Sword and 2 Sword blades.
 - 2 Silver hilted swords.
 - 1 Catty tea and 2 sword belts.
 - 2 Bandaja's some old gold buttons.
 - 1 Pair of holster and 1 remnant of gold thread.
 - Tasels for a palanqueen.
 - 1 Saddle and furniture.
 - 2 Hangers.
 - 1 Bulker for a palanquin
 - Some old brass.
 - 2 Small pillows.
 - 1 Palampore.
 - 1 Clock.
 - 1 Quilt and curtains.
 - 1 Telescope 2 Pillows.
 - 5 Elbow and 22 other chairs.
 - 1 Couch and 3 round tables.
 - 1 Close stool.
 - 1 Palanquin with silver.
 - 1 Standing Escritoire.
 - 1 China Screen.
 - 1 Old Book press.
 - 1 Bamboo Screen.
 - 3 Cotton Carpets.
 - 1 do.
 - Palanquin flags.
 - Covers of red cloth for planquin bedding.
 - 1 Pillow.
 - 1 Quiver and arrows.
 - 1 China Escritoire with 18 Bottles of Bitters and 7 Bottles of Hungary water.
 - 1 Little Box with empty bottles.
 - 1 do. with wine glasses.
 - 1 Basket of China ware.
 - 4 Pairs of Irons.
 - 2 Empty dram cases.
 - 2 Large glasses for lamps.
 - 1 do. for candle.
 - 1 Box with some pipes.
 - 4 Pairs of Sandal wood.
 - 10 Small iron guns 1 Pair of lead.
 - 3 Glass lanterns, 1 basket of shoes,
 - 1 Jar of Sugar candy.
 - 12 do. of Sugar.
 - 3 Small Jar of Sweetmeats.
 - Some Empty Jars &c.
 - 4 Cots, 1 stool.
- In the large Chest.
- 2 Pairs of Madras Gingham.
 - 13 Moor's cloaks.
 - 11 Turbans.
 - 10 Sashes.
 - 3 Pairs of flowered custanees.
 - 11 Pairs of drawers of sundry sorts.
- In the Europe Chest.
- 1 Silver sword knot.
 - 1 Bag sundry trifles.
 - 2 Pairs of embroidered slippers.
 - 1 Pair of Gingham Sheets.
 - 1 Palampore.
 - 11 White waistcoats.
 - 1 Brass lock.
 - 40 Pillow cases.
 - 13 Handkerchiefs.
 - 18 Shirts and 20 Caps.
 - 24 Turnovers and 8 stocks.
 - 11 Pairs of white stockings.
 - 3 Pairs of drawers.
 - 1 Red cloth waistcoat.
 - 1 Pair of brass seals.
 - 4 Razors, hoan and strop.
 - 2 Pairs of pistols.
 - 1 Parcel of gloves.
 - 9 Coats and 5 waistcoats.
 - 11 Pairs of breeches.
 - 1 Remnant of Grogam.
 - 2 Silver Lions for a palanqueen bamboo.
 - 1 Velvet Cap.
 - 9 Valances for a cott.
 - 10 Pairs of silk stockings.
 - 5 Silver tassels for a palanqueen.
 - 11 Panian coats.
 - 3 Palanqueen Pillow cases.
 - 2 Remnant of Brampore Chintz.
 - 1 Escritoire.
 - 3 Pairs of blue betillas and one piece of red.
- In the Godown.
- 3 Hats and 1 Bag Empty.
 - 2 Pairs of sail cloth.
 - 4 Pairs of Sandal wood curtains, for a cott.
 - 1 Remnant of coloured betillas
 - 1 Brass mounted Sword and 2 Sword blades.
 - 2 Silver hilted swords.
 - 1 Catty tea and 2 sword belts.
 - 2 Bandaja's some old gold buttons.
 - 1 Pair of holster and 1 remnant of gold thread.
 - Tasels for a palanqueen.
 - 1 Saddle and furniture.
 - 2 Hangers.
 - 1 Bulker for a palanquin
 - Some old brass.
 - 2 Small pillows.
 - 1 Palampore.
 - 1 Clock.
 - 1 Quilt and curtains.
 - 1 Telescope 2 Pillows.
 - 5 Elbow and 22 other chairs.
 - 1 Couch and 3 round tables.
 - 1 Close stool.
 - 1 Palanquin with silver.
 - 1 Standing Escritoire.
 - 1 China Screen.
 - 1 Old Book press.
 - 1 Bamboo Screen.
 - 3 Cotton Carpets.
 - 1 do.
 - Palanquin flags.
 - Covers of red cloth for planquin bedding.
 - 1 Pillow.
 - 1 Quiver and arrows.
 - 1 China Escritoire with 18 Bottles of Bitters and 7 Bottles of Hungary water.
 - 1 Little Box with empty bottles.
 - 1 do. with wine glasses.
 - 1 Basket of China ware.
 - 4 Pairs of Irons.
 - 2 Empty dram cases.
 - 2 Large glasses for lamps.
 - 1 do. for candle.
 - 1 Box with some pipes.
 - 4 Pairs of Sandal wood.
 - 10 Small iron guns 1 Pair of lead.
 - 3 Glass lanterns, 1 basket of shoes,
 - 1 Jar of Sugar candy.
 - 12 do. of Sugar.
 - 3 Small Jar of Sweetmeats.
 - Some Empty Jars &c.
 - 4 Cots, 1 stool.

In the Godown.	3 strip's colours.	2 Boxes to carry liquors &c.
	1 Tent marquee, and Tent walls.	2 Painted boxes.
	5 Bengal Mats.	1 Hand Escritoire.
	Boatsail.	1 Old Palanquin and Bamboo.
	2 Roundells.	1 Pennace and oars.
	Palanquin bedding and Pingeree.	1 Teak Timber and 72 Spars.
	1 Small Bundle of Bengal Candles.	2 Horses.
	Iron anning for a Boat.	19 Geese.
	1 Old Iron Saw.	32 Ducks.
	2 Large Looking glasses.	8 Turkeys.
	1 Paper press.	17 Hogs and pigs.
	1 Wig box with 3 Wigs.	65 Goats and kids.
	1 Brass dutie.	44 Cows, calves and Oxen.
	10 Brass dish covers.	6 Guns.
	8 Candlesticks and 1 Pair of Snuffers.	3 Bales Longcloth ordinary No. 3. qt. 4-10 F.
	6 Piepans 3 Copper Pots.	2 Chest Goa Arrack.
	1 Frying pan.	20 Bottles of Claret.
	3 Brass Lamps for the Ship.	20 do of Palm wine in pints.
	1 Library of Books.	40 do of Madeira.
	2 Travelling boxes.	30 do of Keniah.
In the Godown.	1 Small Chest.	4 do of Soye.
	1 Cash Chest.	52 do of Small beer.
	1 Physic box.	2 of carboy of double distilled Arrack.
	2 Small dram cases 1 with white flint bottles.	2 Empty Arrack cases.

Our next extract is very striking and suggestive. It seems that on the death of the Chaplain, two lay servants of the Company were appointed to perform his office, and divided the salary between them. The following entry fully illustrates the practice.

"Monday, 12th February, 1728. Upon the occasion of the death of the Rev. Mr. Wm. Leeke our Chaplain, who died on Friday last, it was agreed in order for keeping up the worship of Almighty God, that Messrs. Randall Fowke, and George Torriano, do perform Divine Service in the Church; and that prayers be read twice on Sundays, with a sermon in the morning, and also prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays in the forenoon; for which they are to receive £50 a piece salary, being equivalent to what is allowed one Chaplain."

The following entry, refers to home news.

“Saturday, 9th March, 1728. General letter from the President and Council of Bombay, dated the 23rd January, giving an account of the death of His late Majesty King George, and the accession of his son the Prince of Wales to the throne.

“Having immediately on receipt of these advices fired one hundred guns on account of the King’s death, and one hundred and one for his present Majesty’s accession :—It is agreed that we do on Saturday, the 16th instant, proclaim him with the greatest solemnity, by the name of George the Second ; and that on occasion of the death of King George the First, this Board will go in mourning for three months.”

An event occurred at this time which is curious as showing the relations between the Government of Madras and the Rajah of Travancore. The story occupies some space in the records, but can be told in a few words. Sunka Rama, one of the Company’s merchants, had presumed to trade for pepper within the kingdom of Attinga ; whereupon Mr. Alexander Orme, Chief of the English Factory at Anjengo, and father of Robert Orme the historian, seized a quantity of Cotton lying at Anjengo, which belonged to the said Sunka Rama. In this predicament Sunka Rama appealed to the Rajah of Travancore, and the Rajah in his behalf laid claim to the cotton. The proceedings of the Council of Anjengo were approved by the Government of Bombay ; but the Directors at home decided in favour of Sunka Rama. Accordingly, as it appeared that the Rajah was indebted

to the Company, the matter was settled by carrying the amount claimed by the Rajah to his credit in the accounts, and leaving Sunka Rama to obtain the same from the Rajah. Sunka Rama however was severely blamed for appealing to the justice of a country government in a matter entirely between himself and his employers.

Our next extract simply illustrates the character of Governor Macrae as a "canny Scot."

"Monday, 17th June, 1728. The President observing to the Board that the Company have several anchors and guns lying here, which are too large for the use of any of our shipping at this time, and which have lain for several years exposed to rust and spoil for want of demand; told them that he is willing to take a parcel of them to send to Manilla, provided he can have them at a reasonable rate, and that the company will take them back again, provided he cannot sell them their; which last condition he expected, because that not knowing whether they would sell or not at Manilla, he thought it was sufficient for him to risk the money without being obliged, in case they would not sell, to have the goods lie upon his hands; and that should the Company take them back, it would be only the same thing as if he had never received them, and they had laid here all the time.

"This proposal being considered, it was agreed that it tended manifestly to the Company's advantage, and therefore that it be accepted; and that the Store keeper do deliver the President as many of those large guns and anchors as he will take;

he paying for the same four pagodas for the achors and one Pagoda and seven-eighths for the guns.'

About this period a difficulty arose between the Government of Madras, and the French Government at the Mauritius, which is worthy of notice, though the original record is far too long for publication. On the 15th of October, 1727, the brigantine "Amity," under the command of Captain John Widdrington, left Madras on a trading voyage to the coast of Africa, having on board a proper pass signed by Governor Macrae. On the way Captain Widdrington touched at Port Louis in the Mauritius for a supply of provisions and water; and the French Governor M. St. Martin, having first examined his pass, permitted him to stay and obtain what he required, but strictly enjoined him not to dispose of any merchandize to the inhabitants of the Islands. At the same time a ship belonging to the French Company, called the "Expedition," under the command of Captain Marçay, was anchored at Port Louis; and this French Captain went on board the "Amity," and obtained a few trifles for himself and Officers, which could not come under the name of merchandize, and which only amounted to some thirty or forty dollars. It would seem however that this proceeding was only a ruse on the part of Captain Marçay of the "Expedition," to obtain possession of the "Amity." The story of the trading was carried to Governor St. Martin, who at once sent a guard on board the "Amity;" but Captain Widdrington explained the matter to his satisfaction, and he permitted the "Amity" to proceed

on her voyage. Captain Widdrington then weighed anchor and was steering out of the harbour, when the "Expedition" fired a shot at the "Amity." As the two nations were at peace, Captain Widdrington could not understand the reason of the shot, and sent a boat to enquire; but Captain Marçay not only detained the boat, but sent some of his officers in a long boat to the "Amity," ordering Captain Widdrington to accompany the "Expedition" in a voyage to Bourbon. The latter was compelled to submit, and on arriving at St. Paul in Bourbon, sent in his protest to the Governor M. Dumas. The Government of Bourbon however seized the vessel, on the ground that he had been trading; and even disputed Governor Macrae's pass, on the ground that it exhibited two different kinds of handwriting; the body of the pass having been written by the Secretary, whilst the name of the ship and the Captain, and the signature at the foot, were in the handwriting of Governor Macrae. The result was that the "Amity" was detained at Bourbon, and her goods taken out; but subsequently, on the arrival of the French ships from Pondicherry on their way to Europe, the whole matter was again made the subject of inquiry. The result was that Captain Marçay was dismissed from the command of the "Expedition," whilst the "Amity" was permitted to return to Madras. The owners of the "Amity" resident at Madras, then represented the affair to Governor Macrae, and the complaint was forwarded to the Governor of Pondicherry; but the matter was delayed for

some years, and appears to have been quietly suffered to drop.

About the same time an extraordinary outrage was perpetrated by an English Captain on board a ship belonging to one of the Company's servants. Some Patan merchants at Madras had freighted some goods on board the ship, and sent some of their servants in charge. The ship however was wrecked, and the Captain seems to have embezzled their goods, and endeavoured to get the servants out of the way. Accordingly the Patan merchants sent in their complaint to Governor Macrae. We give the petition at length. It is dated 22nd July, 1728.

"The humble petition of Sheik Mahmud Ameen, and merchants of Fort St. George,

"Sheweth,

"That your petitioners did freight on ship "James," belonging to Mr. George Torriano, a quantity of rupees, coral, rubies of different sorts, false pearl, chank, and other goods; which ship "James" on the 24th April 1728 struck on a sand bank. About two hours after the ship struck, the Captain, by name Charles Bissell, and the Chief Mate, with the Serang and Tindal, consulted together, and went under the decks and brought up some of our chests, with a design to take out the money; from which action, your petitioners' servants endeavouring to stop them, they wounded one of our people and took all the treasure, coral, pearl, &c., and put them in their own chests; at which your petitioners' servants being very discontented, and still persisting to hinder such prac-

tices, the Captain bid them not fear any thing, for that he would return their goods and money when he came ashore. The Captain went into his pinnace, with one servant and four Lascars, and carried with them a chest, two jars, and a compass, and was setting sail for Calcutta, when your petitioners' servants desired to go with him; to whom he answered he would send some sloops down as soon as possible. Three days after they made three rafts of timber, one of which was in bad case and very weak, on which the Chief Mate ordered our servants, who refused and desired to go with them; upon which they put our servants on that raft by force, and in their sight the Chief Mate, Serang, and some Lascars took the treasure and other goods, and put them in the pinnace; and put some Lascars in another small boat according to the Captain's direction, and went away with them to Hajeily in a small time; they being well provided with Oars. But your petitioners did not arrive off Sunderbund Wood till four in the evening, where they rowed backward and forward for six days; with which labour and want of provisions three of the people died; when it was their good fortune to find a vessel that was wood-ing, where they got some provisions and went on her to Calcutta; where hearing the Captain was arrived, your petitioners' servants went and demanded their goods and money; and received answers from the Captain that the pinnace was overset, and that all was lost. But after a long debate he brought out the rubies, which your petitioners' had packed in a chest of treasure, and

said that was all that was saved of ours ; when your petitioners' servants demanded to know where was the money that these stones were packed with ; when after a great deal of trouble the said Captain also produced the chest of false pearl, and bid your petitioners take that, and give him the bill of lading and a discharge, which he demanded with force and threatening. Therefore your petitioners' servants, not being able to argue with the Captain, they sent one of them here ; and as your petitioners have left the Moguls, which is their native country, we have now no other remedy, nor other justice to apply to but your Honors ; and as we have lived well under this Government for 30 years, and have never had reason to complain, but have always found its justice bright as the sun beams, so we hope still for justice from your Honor ; for that we with great confidence paid the freight of those goods, before we put them on board, to Mr. George Torriano, who is the owner of the said ship ; and we doubt not but when your Honors in justice shall examine this affair, we shall recover our money, when we shall go on happily, and for ever pray for your Honors' long life, great happiness and abundant riches."

The foregoing petition was forwarded by Governor Macrae to the English Government at Calcutta, with a request that the Governor and Council there would enquire into the affair. The result is not recorded.

Another petition delivered in at this time to Governor Macrae is interesting as illustrating the way in which the trade was carried on in the olden

time. It was presented by the Renter or farmer of the Paddy Fields, and complains that the inhabitants of Trivatore, Tandore, and neighbouring villages, make and export great quantities of salt, contrary to his supposed privileges. We give the petition at length.

“ The humble petition of Coolecherla Veahsum Brahmin,

“ Sheweth,

That a certain tract of land belonging to the Company, lying out from Tom Clark's Gate up to the Batteries, together with another tract lying along the river from Coomerapollum towards Trivatore, commonly known by the name of the Company's paddy fields, were formerly rented at 40 pagodas per annum. But when the cowl was out in Governor Harrison's time, he being desirous of raising the Company's revenue, put it up at out-cry, and promised that the highest bidder should be permitted to wear a Roundel as a mark of distinction for his endeavours to serve the Company. With which great honour, my Uncle, Paupar Brahmin, being extremely encouraged, gave as far as seven hundred and ten pagodas per annum for what formerly let at only 40 ; and this for only ten years, though he knew he must lose a great deal by it, and in fact he has lost every year near 300 pagodas per annum. For payment of his debts contracted by this means, I have mortgaged my houses, gardens, etc. ; and now all in me and my father's debts, contracted on this account, amount to upwards of 2,000 pagodas.

“ Now your petitioner humbly begs leave to re-

present to your Honors that, although the Cowlie is given for lands called paddy fields, yet a very small part thereof is fit for that use, and therefore the rest hath for many years been converted into Salt pans ; and by the profit arising therefrom, your petitioner and his father have hitherto been enabled to pay the annual rent ; till within this little time that several persons have presumed to make salt in the Company's Bounds, and bring it into Town, and also to ship it off, to the great prejudice of your petitioner, who by giving so large a rent cannot be supposed to be able to sell so cheap as those people who pay nothing for this liberty. Nor is this all, for they even buy salt from the Moors and import it into the Company's Bounds ; by which undue practices your petitioner is prevented selling his salt, and is therefore unable to pay his rent without your Honors will give him immediate redress.

“ Your Petitioner doth not pretend to infringe the liberty which the inhabitants of Tandoor, Trivatore, &c. have formerly, enjoyed ; but only hopes your Honors will restrain them from encroaching on his undoubted rights.

“ They formerly had five pits in those parts, where they made salt, and had the privilege of selling to the country people, who brought a few oxen to carry it away ; and sometimes, having first obtained leave from the Farmer of the paddy fields, would load five or ten garce of salt on board of boats ; but they were never permitted more. Of late they have neglected to ask leave of me, and by the great quantities of salt they have

shipped off to boats and ships, and by underselling me, they have been encouraged to increase the number of their salt pans, by which means I have now upwards of 600 garce of salt which I cannot dispose of.

"I am therefore humbly to request your Honors that you will please to order, that no body may be permitted to load any salt within the Company's Bounds, or bring it into town for sale, without leave from me; or else it will be impossible for me to continue to pay the large rent I now do.

"I am also to request that the Pedda Naick may be obliged to keep a watch over my salt, as he did in my father's time, but hath since neglected; and by that means I have lost great quantities, for which I humbly hope your Honors will please to oblige him to make satisfaction.

"And since the only inducement to my father's giving so large a rent for these grounds was the token of honour given him, I promise myself your Honors will allow me to wear the Roundel as he did, if I still pay the great rent he did.

"All these particulars are most humbly submitted to your Honor's clemency, on which your petitioner most humbly depends for ease in these his hard circumstances, and as in duty bound shall ever pray."

In reply to this petition Governor Macrae ordered "that a Committee, consisting of Major Roach, Mr. Hyde, and the Secretary, do enquire into the several allegations, and into the ancient privileges of the inhabitants of those towns." The result is thus recorded.

“Thursday, 28th September, 1728. The Committee appointed to inspect into the rights which the inhabitants of Tandore, Trivatore, etc. have to make salt, deliver in their report, by which it appears that they have equal rights with the farmers of the paddy fields. It was therefore agreed that we cannot take the liberty from them ; and as Veashum Brahmin without that cannot pay his rent, for which he is now considerably behind hand, and Poncola Kistna, the Renter of Tandore and the other villages, being willing to take the Cowle of the Paddy Fields at the old rent,—it was agreed to take it away from Veashum Brahmin, who is not able to pay the rent of it, and to grant it to Poncola Kistna.”

Our next extract explains itself.

“Thursday, 28th November, 1728. The tobacco and beetle Farmer, complaining that several persons have lately run into the Bounds great quantities of beetle and tobacco to his great prejudice, and praying some stop may be put thereto ;—It was agreed that we do publish an order at the sea gate, that whatsoever Conacopillay, Dubash, or other substantial person is found to run into the Bounds any quantity of tobacco or beetle, or to encourage others to do it, shall be fined one pagoda for every fanam’s worth so run, and to be in prison till it be paid : and that all coolies, and other poor people, who shall be convicted of the like practices, shall be publicly whipped at the choultry, and receive thirty nine lashes, and stand one hour in the pillory.”

CHAPTER V.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MR. JAMES MACRAE.

1729—30.

The Government of Mr. Macrae was now drawing to a close. In May 1730 he retired from the President's chair, and his place was taken by Mr. George Morton Pitt. Accordingly the present chapter will contain the annals of the last years of his administration; whilst the next chapter will contain a supplementary account of the events which transpired between Mr. Macrae's resignation and his departure from the Presidency; together with some particulars connected with his subsequent life in England which will be interesting as general illustrations of the time.

Our first extract is curious as showing how utterly unable our forefathers were to apprehend and appreciate the first principles of free trade. The entry speaks for itself.

"Monday, 3rd February, 1729. There having been imported this year pretty large quantities of grain from the Northward, notwithstanding which the price holds up at ten maracals per pagoda for paddy, and scarce any procurable even at that rate, especially for the poorer sort of people. The President proposed to the Board to take into their

consideration the settling of the prices of grain for the ensuing season ; and after some time spent in considering thereon, it was agreed and ordered that the prices of grain be as follow.

Paddy Coarse.....	13	Maracals for a pagoda.
Paddy Fine.....	12	do. do.
Natcheny.....	7	do. do.
Rice.....	1½	measure for a fanam.

“ Which prices the Secretary is ordered to affix at the gates with the following resolves, viz. That whoever shall sell at a dearer rate than above specified, shall upon proof thereof made be fined at the pleasure of the Governor and Council ; and that the person who shall make proof of his having paid more than the above prices, shall have his money returned him, and shall also keep the grain he has purchased to himself ; and that whoever has more rice or paddy that is necessary for his usual annual expense, shall be obliged to sell ; and whoever shall deny or conceal such overplus, upon proof thereof made, it shall be confiscated to the use of the Company. Ordered that the above be also signified by beating the tom tom.”

We now come to the mysterious affair which served to throw such discredit on Major Roach. We give the petitions to the Madras Government at full length as illustrations of the times ; and indeed the energetic language of the petitioners is well worthy of preservation as a combination of invective, indignation, threat, and argument which is rarely to be found even in the most impassioned novel. The petitions will explain themselves. The

first is from the ostensible father of the young lady.

“The humble petition of Sebastian Teixeira DeBritto.

“Showeth,

That your petitioner, who is an inhabitant of the city, did in the month of July last embark on ship “Arcot” for Manilla, and left a maiden daughter of the age of nineteen years in St. Thomé, under the care of Mrs. Maria Elveira, to remain with her till your petitioner’s return; as your petitioner hath often done when going on the like voyages. Being now returned, your petitioner received the melancholy notice that the aforesaid child was missing from the said house on Friday the 14th February last, at past twelve at night; and for her there was ready at the seaside a palanqueen and several peons, which conducted the same into this city, as was found in about eight days after this insult done. Whereupon the Rev. Padre Thomas went to the house of Major John Roach, as one of the Justices of Peace in this city, and represented to him the said insult and dishonor done to the people in general; and craved that for his sake and credit he would cause enquiry to be made where the said child was, and who it was that had done this injustice. To which the said Major Roach answered there was no occasion for so much trouble; that he knew where she was, and if he pleased could produce her; and further said that the said child was not the daughter of your petitioner, but of Mr. Robert

Raworth,* and that she is now under his protection, and that he will give her five or six hundred pagodas in marriage; and that it appertaineth unto him to do that justice, for that he hath a power of Attorney to that purpose from Mr. John Raworth, and that also the child requested it of him; and further told the said Padre Thomas that he might acquaint the gentlemen of St. Thomé with this answer; that it now belonged to him to take care of and maintain the said child, and that he would have them pretend no further in this affair.

“To consider the foregoing particulars, it will appear that Major Roach was the inducer and cause of taking away the said child from the house wherein your petitioner had placed her; and the following reason will prove that the said child is not the daughter of Mr. Robert Raworth. For that the mother of the said child left this city, and went to St. Thomé more than fifteen months before her delivery of this child; the said Mr. Raworth left India for France in the year 1714, and the said child was then aged five years; and to this time what care did the said Mr. Robert Raworth ever take of the said child? Did he ever demand her? did he ever give her any subsistence? or what charge hath he been at

* Mr. Raworth was the refractory Deputy Governor of Fort St. David, who gave so much trouble to Governor Harrison. If the young lady was his child at all, she was probably the offspring of an illicit amour. The only particulars recorded concerning her, are however to be found in the entries published above.

for her maintenance? which he might well have done in the posts and power he bore in India. The said Robert Raworth's brother, John Raworth, also arrived from Europe, and stayed in India some years. What did he ever do for the child? or did he once demand her? As neither of the brothers ever did in any manner lay claim to the child, nor do any thing for her when so young, and they in these parts, it seems very unlikely that at this distance there should now come a power and letter of Attorney, as is alleged, by Major Roach, to this end; and if it was so, before what justice did he present or show such letter or power, as he ought to have done, and not to have been a Judge in his own cause. Well might Major Roach say to the Rev. Padre Thomas that he knew where the said child was, and that he could produce her; for it is notorious that he received her at his house, when she came at that time of night from St. Thomé; and seems rather that he was the taker of her; for how is it possible that a child, brought up in the close manner as is customary to bring up children of the Portuguese in India, without any acquaintance or knowledge of the world, with so much resolution and courage to go out at that time of night, and directly to get a palanquien and peons to conduct her to Madras. It is plain, and evident to be seen, that some person might have seduced her by flattery or other means, to pass such an excess of shame and scandal. Neither is it to be believed that the child on her own head should so leave the house, and go directly to Major Roach, as a Justice of Peace, to complain

of oppression received. Neither at those hours does it seem good for any Justice of Peace, so much to prejudice the honour of a maiden, as to receive her in his house ; but rather for a good example, and to preserve her honour, would have sent her to some creditable house till the morning, or till he could have had an opportunity to acquaint the Governor of the affair ; who, as Chief Justice, ought to have been so acquainted. Instead of which, Major Roach kept, and still doth continue to keep the said child in his house, to her great scandal and dishonour, and without the fear of any man, under pretence of being under his protection, and that he will give her in marriage. All which makes it appear plainly that Major Roach had induced the girl to leave the house, where she was placed by your Petitioner ; and what man that hath any regard to his honour, and not lost to shame, will marry a woman after this scandal to her reputation never to be taken off. Lastly, to what Major Roach says, that the child is not your Petitioner's daughter. It is a thing not in the power of any man to prove. Though so many years as she is old, she has been known to all people as the child of your Petitioner ; and though if she actually denies that she is your Petitioner's child, and accompanies such denial with other scandalous and injurious language, who will believe a young woman lost in error, in fear of her reputation, and incited by others. Will she not say it, and will she not throw such scandal, and yet far greater, on those that gave her being. And if she was asked, if she ever heard her mother say that your Peti-

tioner was not the father of her, or of her brothers, or sisters, your petitioner believes she will even say that too. But that cannot hide it from all the inhabitants of Madras and St. Thomé ; for, as your Petitioner's children, they were baptized and educated ; and if she and they were not the children of your Petitioner, he would scarce have brought them up with so much care and love, and at these years to pass so much fatigue and trouble and risk of life, to get them fortunes to set them forward in the world, and to give them in marriage. And as your Petitioner is an inhabitant of this city, and is subject to the laws thereof, so it is but reasonable to hope for and expect their protection, and in what more than for our children.

“ Your Petitioner, therefore, prays your Honors to examine of this great injustice done by Major Roach to your Petitioner, and dishonour to your Petitioner's child ; for as the said Major Roach is a Justice of the Peace of this city, and a member of the Council for the affairs of the Honorable Company, and Commander of the Military, he ought to suppress such proceedings ; and not himself to be the actor, and cause of scandal and dishonour, to the discredit of his nation and of his colony. No Government in the world sure will suffer such usage, thereby to give occasion for the like proceedings in others, to be the destruction of the Republic. And as you are or all may be fathers, your petitioner again prays you will take this affair in due consideration ; and reflect how severe a stroke this must be to a parent,

and also the scandal that will attend the place where such usage is suffered."

The second petition was signed by the Portuguese Padre and inhabitants of St. Thomé, and is equally forcible with that of Sebastian Texiera De Britto. We give it at length.

"The few inhabitants of the ruined and poor city of St. Thomé, send this their most just complaint on occasion of the scandalous affair of Sebastian Texeira De Britto's daughter; who privately in the night went out of an honest house standing in St. Thomé, where her father, according to his constant custom, had left her; and the same night she was conducted to Major Roach's house, where she has now been for a month past. Those cautions not being sufficient (which were such as a father could use when, according to the custom of the Portuguese in India, he leaves the shore) in order to secure his child. It is supposed that promises were the means that broke down the walls of her retreat and modesty. An example which these inhabitants, though poor, never met with from the Moors themselves, who rule and govern here without control; and in reality it is injurious to the community, for in future there will be no house secure, however honest it may be. This excess having opened a way to many others, as if there was not justice to be found to punish actions so pernicious to the good and quiet of the public.

"Wherefore we request of the Honorable Governor and his Council, that they will find out some

remedy for what is past, and to prevent such enormities in future ; and also that an authentic copy of this complaint, and of the determination which shall be made thereon, may be transmitted to the Supreme Court of the Honorable Company ; of which the said inhabitants of St. Thomé, where this injury was offered, will send another copy to be delivered them by the Envoy of Portugal in England ; to the end that the said court may be informed of the conclusion of the affair, and confirm the same, in order to prevent the like accidents in future."

The proceedings of Governor Macrae and Council upon this extraordinary charge are thus briefly recorded.

" Wednesday, 19th March, 1729. Major John Roach gives in answer to the charge delivered him about the daughter of Sebastian Texeira, wherein he denies the contents of it absolutely, except the receiving the woman ; which he confesses he did do, as believing it a part of his duty as a Justice of Peace ; she coming to him and claiming protection ; and he does acknowledge himself guilty of an indiscretion in not acquainting the Government of it, and submits himself to the censure of the Board for the same. Whereupon the Board came to the following resolution.

" That such actions manifestly tend to the disturbance of the public peace and good order of this settlement. Wherefore it was unanimously agreed that the Major, for his indiscreet conduct in this affair, be fined 300 pagodas into the Company's Cash ; and that the woman presuming to come

into this Government, under pretence of asking protection, without making her application in a regular manner, be advised by the Secretary, that she do not continue in our Bounds longer than Friday night next, under penalty of public punishment. This time is allowed her to try if she can be reconciled to her friends on account of her elopement."

The following notice closes the record of the transaction.

"Monday, 21st April, 1729. Major John Roach pays into cash three hundred pagodas, being the fine laid on him in consultation the nineteenth of last month."

A barbarous outrage committed about this period by the Arabs at Jedda, the seaport of Mecca, on the Red Sea, is worthy of record. Early in the year two ships, the "Margaret" and the "George," sailed from India for the Red Sea. The "Margaret" from Tellicherry arrived at Jedda after a voyage of sixty days on the 18th of March 1727. Mr. Hill, the Supercargo, was courteously received by the Bashaw, and met with all the encouragement he could expect in the sale of the cargo. About a month afterwards the "George" arrived at Jedda from Bengal, and a good understanding was preserved between the two ships. It so happened that the "George" had seven Arab Lascars on board, who managed to swim ashore at Jedda, but were arrested by the orders of the Bashaw, and put into prison; but were restored to the ship on the promise of the Captain not to punish them. On the sixth of June the

“Margaret” prepared to sail. Meantime several Lascars on both ships had died, and had been buried by their comrades according to the rites of the Mussulman religion in the little islands off Jedda. Unfortunately sufficient care had not been taken to cover the bodies with the earth ; and the fishermen of the islands reported at Jedda that the Captain of the “George” had broken his word to the Bashaw, and put to death the Arab sailors who had been restored to his ship. On the 5th of June the Bashaw sent a special messenger on board the “George” to make enquiries, but none of the crew had any complaint to make. On the sixth of June, being the following day, the same messenger then went on board the “Margaret,” and there found no complaints ; but chanced to espy the body of a Lascar who had died in the night, and who the crew were preparing to bury. He immediately left the ship and made threatening gestures from his boat. At this time Mr. Hill the Supercargo was ashore with a few other Europeans, whilst the Captain of the “Margaret” was on board preparing to set sail. Shortly afterwards Mr. Hill dispatched orders for the body of the Lascar to be sent on shore wrapped in cloth. The order was obeyed, but by some accident the corpse was exposed to the view of the people. The mob of fanatics, as excitable then as they are now, at once rose and massacred Mr. Hill and all the Europeans with him. Nothing of this was known on board the ships until some boats arrived from the Bashaw, ostensibly to preserve the ships from the fury of the mob. The matter terminated in

the detention of the two ships for a period of ten months, whilst the Captains were kept close prisoners on shore, and also were compelled to make large advances to their crews of Lascars. At length the dragoman of Mr. Staman, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, arrived at Jedda, and solicited their discharge; and though the Zerrif came from Mecca and did his utmost to oppose the departure of the English ships, the Bashaw finally gave way, and in July 1728, the "Margaret" reached Madras. A formal complaint was laid before the Madras Government, but it does not appear that any further steps were taken in the matter beyond a representation to the authorities at home.

Our next extract refers to a curious coinage of pagodas with an alloy of iron; also to the issuing of Governor Macrae's order against the exportation of silver.

"Monday, 17th March, 1729. The Assay Master attending the Board and being called in, produced a bag of Madras pagodas, just coined out of some gold dust brought from Manilla; which having a mixture of iron melted down with it, it had made the coin though exactly alloyed, look of a dirty pale colour, and had made likewise the gold so brittle that the pagodas were very much cracked, and consequently ill stamped; which he told the Board he thought proper to acquaint them of, that he might receive their orders thereon before he let the remainder be coined. The said pagodas being compared with others just stamped, the difference was so great that the

Board unanimously agreed it would be a very great discredit to our coin to let them pass ; and therefore resolved that the merchant should be obliged to refine the gold, and burn out the iron alloy before it was coined.

"The President reports a seizure of fifty-six and a half ($56\frac{1}{2}$) ounces of silver endeavoured to be run, which being produced was sold him at fourteen and a half dollars for ten pagodas, amounting to forty-three pagodas, twenty-eight fanams 43-28 the one-half of which is paid into the Company's cash and the other to the peon who seized it."

Governor Macrae appears to the last to have had considerable difficulty in dealing with the Company's Native merchants. The proceedings are so suggestive as to be worthy of record.

"Monday, 14th July, 1729. The President represented to the Board that, notwithstanding the indulgence given the merchants in February last, when it was agreed to give them till the first of September to complete the contract which should have been finished the 31st of January last : they had nevertheless been very backward in bringing cloth ; and that unless some further measures are taken to oblige them to bring in cloth, he feared we should be very much disappointed in the quantity necessary for the dispatch of our ships. Which being debated, it was thought that possibly the indulging them with the broad cloth this year come and coming from Europe, might be a means to induce them to bring in goods, and accordingly the following terms were agreed to be proposed to them, viz.

“ That they should provide and deliver seventeen hundred bales of calicoes on or before the 20th of January next ; in consequence of which they should have the broad cloth at thirty-five per cent. on the invoice price. But if they did not comply and deliver the said seventeen hundred bales, that then they should pay ten per cent. more for the broad cloth ; and that the old penalty should be forgiven them if they complied with this contract ; in order to do which the better they should be advanced fifteen thousand pagodas without interest till the 20th January next.

“ The merchants were hereupon called in, and the above proposals offered them ; which they refused alleging that the great drought in the country, and dearness of cotton, made it very difficult to provide cloth, and that therefore they could not comply therewith.

“ Whereupon they were told it was a favour to them that was designed thereby ; that they had incurred a penalty of near twenty thousand pagodas by their non-compliance with the last contract ; that there were now due on that contract fourteen hundred bales not yet delivered in by them ; so that the seventeen hundred now proposed to be provided by them was only three hundred more than they were obliged to by their old contract ; and that in consideration thereof, they were to be indulged with all the Company’s broad cloth :— but these arguments not prevailing, the Board came to no conclusion with them.”

“ Monday, 21st July, 1729. The Company’s merchants being again called in and asked whether

they had considered of the offers made them the last consultation day, and would sign a contract on those terms, still urged the difficulties of providing cloth, the scarcity and famine and dearness of cotton, which made the weavers turn their hands to other work and retire into other countries where grain was to be got. Which arguments they insisted on so strenuously, that the Board came to no agreement with them, and therefore dismissed them ; with an assurance that they would sell the broad cloth at outcry, and insist on the performance of the last contract, or penalty due for the breach thereof."

"Thursday, 31st July, 1729. This day the Company's Merchants being again called in; and a contract for seventeen hundred bales again proposed to them, it was at last agreed on the following terms.

"That they be advanced fifteen thousand pagodas without interest till the 30th January next; that the penalty of the last contract be wholly forgiven them, and nothing more demanded of them on that account; that they have all the Company's broad cloth at thirty five per cent; and that they shall pay twenty per cent, on the value of all the bales which they shall deliver short of seventeen hundred bales by the 20th of January. Accordingly a contract being drawn out on those conditions, was mutually signed, and the money ordered to be paid them to-morrow morning."

The following entries referring to the changes in the administration of justice are worthy of preservation.

"Monday, 21st July, 1729. Our Honorable Masters having disapproved of the Sheriff's Court, it is agreed that it be no longer continued, and that the Justices sit weekly at the Choultry for punishing of petty offences which are daily committed in the Town, and which are of too trivial a nature to be brought before the Quarter-Sessions, and that the Paymaster do make a pair of stocks.

"Thursday, 7th August, 1729. General letter from the Deputy Governor and Council of Fort St. David, read, desiring, we will give them instructions how to prevent the great inconveniences which will arise by their inhabitants being obliged to come up to Madras to get their disputes determined by our Mayor's Court.

Agreed that we write them, when such do arise to persuade their inhabitants to go to arbitration before the heads of their castes."

The one great fault of Governor Macrae, and a fault common with most men of his calibre, was an arbitrary mode of settling matters which by no means met with the approbation of the Directors. His violation of the principles of free trade were only so many instances of this arbitrary conduct; and were productive of evils, all of which will be unfolded in due time. The rule against the exportation of silver caused much dissatisfaction to the inhabitants, and was abrogated by an order from the Directors; whilst he himself found it necessary to repeal his own absurd regulations respecting a fixed price for grain. These events are duly recorded below; but in another chapter we

shall have occasion to allude to far greater evils which arose from the Governor's arbitrary measures.

"Monday, 25th August, 1729. The Board taking into consideration the purport of the last general letter,—it is agreed that the Secretary do give public notice, that the inhabitants and others are at liberty to carry their silver into the country uncoined, and that the prohibition be taken off.

"Upon this occasion the President remarked to the Board that there are several very severe aspersions thrown on him in this paragraph, as if the prohibition had been laid on for private advantage, and that he had connived at the breach of that order in such as made it worth his while ; and he solemnly averred that he had never, directly or indirectly, carried, or permitted others to carry, any silver out of the bounds during the prohibition, except in rupees ; and adding that it is necessary for him to clear his reputation, he demanded of them all to declare at the Board, whether they, directly or indirectly, know of any silver being carried out by him, or by others, by his authority and protection. To which every member of the Board answered, by declaring they knew, neither directly nor indirectly, of any such thing."

"Thursday, 25th September, 1729. Having in consultation of the 3rd February last, fixed the prices of paddy and rice, in order to relieve the poor ; it hath been found by experience that the said regulation had not its desired effect : and the season for importing of grain now coming on, and there being reason to believe that if that regulation be continued great quantities will be carried to

other places, which would else come hither, it is agreed to take off the said order and to permit every one to sell as they can."

Our next extract refer to the proving of the wills of Roman Catholics. It tells its own story.

"Friday, 16th October, 1729. There being some mistakes arisen from the orders this year received from our Honorable Masters, relating to proving wills in the Portuguese Church :—it is agreed that a note be affixed in the several languages at the Sea and Choultry Gates, and at the Portuguese Church, to explain the same ; and to give notice that any person of the Romish Communion is at liberty to take out Probates of wills, or letters of administration, in that church ; but that they are not compelled to do it. Also that by so doing they are not entitled to a right of using any subject of England, or other person who is not of that communion ; and that although the priests of that Church are allowed to grant such Probates, or letters of administration, to such as request the same of them ; yet that they have no authority to examine, or decide any controversy between man and man, or to do or execute any other judicial act whatsoever."

Our next extract is simply curious. It appears that the old Chaplains of the Company were generally bachelors, and that consequently the accommodation assigned them was sufficient perhaps for a single man, but insufficient for a family. The Rev. Thomas Consett, who came out about this time, proved to be a married man with a family ; and he accordingly prayed the Governor and

Council to allow him more accommodation. The letter is sufficiently quaint to be worth preservation.

"To the Honorable James Macrae, Esq.

"President and Governor, and the Council of Fort St. George.

"Honorable Sir and Sirs,

"The inconveniences of my habitation are too manifest to be represented, and your own apprehension of them at my first coming was the reason of the proposals you were then pleased to make of enlarging it. Time does not alter but lengthen the reason of doing this, and since it is my lot to come amongst you with a family, I entreat you will so far distinguish me from a bachelor, as to allow me a habitation somewhat larger for a number, than would strictly accommodate a single person. The consideration of our healths, besides the want of several necessary conveniences in these strait quarters, oblige me to make this request; otherwise would not presume to give you the trouble of this application and desire the necessity of it may excuse.

Your Honors,

Most obedient humble Servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE, } and Chaplain,
2nd December, 1789. } THOMAS CONSETT."

We are sorry to add that though Mr. Consett's family had increased since his arrival at Fort St. George, the Government was unable to give him larger accommodation.

The following petition to Governor Macrae and Council will explain itself.

“ The humble petition of the French Capuchin Missionaries.

“ Sheweth,

“ That your petitioners, who have the honour and happiness to be established in this city under the auspicious protection of the Honorable Company, and your most favourable Government, humbly request your Honors and the Gentlemen of Council's permission to rebuild the cells and apartments belonging to our church ; they being very old and ready to fall ; which we design to do after the model in Tuscany, answerable to that of your Hospital and Guard house. Your condescension to this will entail an everlasting obligation on

Honorable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient & obliged humble servants,

FORT ST. GEORGE, }	F. THOMAS.
14th February 1730. }	Cap. M. Assist.

The petition was granted.

The following entry is preserved, as it furnishes historical data, which may prove of importance.

“ Monday, 2nd March, 1730. A general letter from the President and Council of Bombay, dated the 11th December, was read ; advising that the British ambassador at Constantinople had sent to Bussorah an authentic copy of the capitulations betwixt England and the Port for regulating the commerce in the Turkish dominions ; that Persia is threatened with fresh troubles, which, with the cruelties committed by the Governor of Ispahan, has put an entire stop to all manner of trade, and

that Angria's son with his Grabs had taken "the William" an English ship belonging to Bombay."

We bring the two following entries together, for the sake of the illustrations they furnish of the mode of collecting the rent or revenue from the Company's out villages.

"Monday, 22nd December, 1729. The petition of the inhabitants and renters of Egmore and the other villages was read; setting forth that for want of rain the last year, they are unable to pay their rent; and request therefore to be charged no more than the paddy fields produce in that time.

"Ordered that as we think the cowle is let at a moderate rent, and will one year with another produce the renters a reasonable profit, that they comply with the conditions therein; but if they think the term of the cowle too hard that they have liberty to resign."

"Tuesday, 24th March, 1730. The petition of Poncola Kistna was read; setting forth that as he had been bound for the renters of Egmore and the other villages, he was obliged to see the payments duly made; and that the renters having made default for the last year's rent, he had accordingly paid the amount to the Company, and that one Ecambaram who had given him a bond of indemnity in behalf of the renters, now refuses to pay. Wherefore he desires the Board to do him justice in this particular, and oblige the said Ecambaram to pay him what he has already paid the Honorable Company on this account.

"As this money has now been due upwards of

nine months, and no satisfactory reason given for so long a delay,—ordered that Ecambaram and the renters be confined to the Choultry unless they will cause immediate payment. Mr. Peers (a member of Council) dissents to their being confined.

“The rent for Trivatore and the other villages having been also due several months,—ordered that the Secretary demand the same ; and in case the renters do not comply to acquaint the Governor that he may confine them or otherwise as he thinks most proper.”

Here the annals of Madras under the administration of Mr. James Macrae are brought to a close. Mr. Macrae however did not embark for England until the 21st of January 1731. During that interval some extraordinary charges of corruption and oppression were brought against his Dubash, Gooda Aneona, which will be duly discussed in our next chapter, and to which we shall add such particulars of the after life of Mr. Macrae in his native country which may prove interesting to the general reader.

CHAPTER VI.

LAST YEARS OF MR. JAMES MACRAE.

1730—31.

On Thursday the 14th May, 1730, George Morton Pitt, Esq., arrived from Fort St. David, and delivered a Commission which he had received from the Honorable Company, constituting him President and Governor of Fort St. George, and of all the Company's settlements on the coast of Coromandel, in the room of James Macrae, Esq.; and accordingly Mr. Macrae vacated the President's Chair, and Mr. Pitt was installed into his new Office with all respect and submission. On the following Tuesday the complaints against Gooda Anconah, the Chief Dubash of Mr. Macrae, were first taken into consideration by the Madras Government, as will be seen by the following entry in the consultations.

"Tuesday, 19th May, 1730. The President acquaints the Board that he has had several informations of complaint against Gooda Anconah, the late Governor's Chief Dubash; some of them of extortion, and other crimes of a very heinous nature; and as there is the greatest reason to believe that Gooda Anconah will seek protection of the Country Government, to avoid the course of jus-

tice, (as he did once before) if not immediately prevented by being taken into custody; he (the Governor) desires they will consult the properest measures to be taken on this occasion. Which being debated and considered, the Board are unanimously of opinion that, if Gooda Anconah should escape, it would be of the utmost ill consequence to the Company's affairs, a great disquiet and discouragement to the inhabitants of this place, and would unavoidably draw a censure on the vigilance and justice of this Board. Wherefore agree that the Justices immediately commit him to the custody of the Sheriff, to be kept in the Easign's room in the Fort, with permission to go where he pleases to eat, but under a guard to prevent his escaping, till the complaint can be more regularly heard and examined into."

A few days afterwards complaints and petitions against Gooda Anconah poured in upon the Madras Government in one continuous stream; and from the latter end of May until the beginning of July, appear to have absorbed public attention. We give a few extracts from the records of this period, which will be sufficient to indicate the progress of affairs.

"Monday, 25th May, 1730. A letter from Mr. Macrae was read, requesting that Gooda Anconah might be allowed to come to him at the Garden house to settle some accounts; which the Sheriff being acquainted with, he represents that he cannot be answerable for so important a prisoner in such a place. Wherefore agreed that Mr. Macrae may send his Accountant or any other to Anconah;

and if he desires to be with him, himself, that a convenient room in the Fort be appointed for their meeting.

“Sundry petitions of complaint against Gooda Anconah were delivered into the Board, and read as followeth, viz.

“From Sunkah Ramah and Tomby Chetty, Joint Stock Merchants, complaining that Gooda Anconah, Chief Dubash to the late Governor Mr. Macrae, having exercised an unlimited authority over the Black Town, had by force and other ill means extorted from them upwards of 8,700 pagodas at several times.

“From Muta Muten, Comra Collati, Mootepah Chinaan, and Andachetty, setting forth that Gooda Anconah having sent with peons several sorts of grain, and lodged the same in the petitioner's houses, did afterwards by threats, menaces and confinement oblige them to pay for at most extravagant and extortionable prices; that amongst the many instances, they set forth particularly that the complainants, having contracted and given earnest for upwards of 90 garce of oil seeds at 40 pagodas per garce, the said Gooda Anconah, against the consent of both parties, obliged them to withdraw the said earnest, and did afterwards compel these petitioners to receive the same oil seeds at the rate of 68 pagodas per garce; a great part of which they have paid at the extortionable rate, and are now vexed and distressed at his suit for the remainder.

“From Margaparam Rangapah and Mootal Mar Chetty, setting forth that they having received

12,000 Rupees from and on account of their correspondents at Arcot, the same was forcibly seized by Gooda Anconah and his peons, and carried to the Governor's Gardens ; and after keeping them sometime, he obliged these petitioners to sell them at 310 Rupees per hundred pagodas, although the current price was no more than 300 per hundred pagodas ; whereby these petitioners lost not only the difference of that exchange, but also suffered in their credit, and their further trade obstructed by the fear of such practices.

" From Nina Chetty, Razapa Chetty, etc. Shroffs, setting forth that they had delivered a quantity of gold into the mint to be coined into pagodas ; but that after some part had been coined, Gooda Anconah put a stop to the rest, giving for reason that Governor Macrae had a quantity of gold to dispose of, which these petitioners must buy before theirs should be coined. And notwithstanding they represented to him that they were then unable to buy so large a quantity, he continued with his peons to obstruct the mint servants for above a month, and at last obliged these petitioners to pay him 130 pagodas for his consent to have their gold coined.

" From the Brahmins, Goldsmiths, and Gold-washers of the mint, setting forth that Gooda Anconah, Chief Dubash to the late Governor, having exercised an illegal and arbitrary authority over the inhabitants of the Black Town, had greatly distressed them, and inflicted many grievous oppressions and hardships ; that these petitioners in particular complain that Gooda Anconah had extort-

ed from them upwards of 1,400 pagodas, to effect which he had punished them with long and painful imprisonments, and further inflicted many cruel and unnatural tortures, and by these means forced them to comply with other unfair demands to the ruin of themselves and families.

“From Nina Comra Chetty, Mooteapah, etc., Grain Merchants, setting forth that Mar Kistna Rao, a Brahmin and servant to Gooda Anconah, sent for Nina, one of these petitioners’ partners, and ordered him to buy and measure out a parcel of rice; which he refused to do, knowing it would be charged at an extravagant rate. Mar Kistna Rao, gave him very abusive language, and struck him in the face, and threatened him with the anger of his master, Anconah, and by these means did compel the petitioners to take and pay for the said rice; that Mar Kistna Rao had extorted from these petitioners, by threats and menaces at several times, upwards of 300 pagodas; that the said Mar Kistna Rao had sent a quantity of paddy to these petitioners’ houses, against their consent, and compelled them to pay 60 pagodas per garce for the same, when the market price was no more than 40 pagodas per garce, with other acts of cruelty and extortion.

“The complainants in the several petitions being called in, it was recommended to them first, to apply for justice to the Mayor’s Court; and if they should not be satisfied with the determination there, they might then apply to this Board and should have a rehearing.

“It being represented to the Board, that sun-

dry reports are industriously spread to intimidate the inhabitants from complaining of the injuries received from Anconah, and others concerned with him; insinuating that they have still influence enough to hinder their complaints being heard, or if heard and determined they will after be reversed to the prejudice of the complainer. Wherefore to prevent any ill impressions from such scandalous insinuations, and to give peace and quiet to the minds of the people;—it is ordered that public notice be put up at the Sea gate, to acquaint the inhabitants they may apply to the Courts of Justice without any fear or apprehension; and be assured of a fair and candid hearing and suitable redress for the wrongs they have suffered, and that such determinations will not be revoked hereafter, but remain in full force for ever.”

“ Tuesday, 2nd June, 1730. Seven petitions of complaint against Gooda Anconah were read containing in substance as followeth. (We publish one only as a specimen of the whole.)

“ From Gopal and Gruapah, Merchants, setting forth that they being entrusted with the sale of a diamond did accordingly dispose thereof to the best bidder; that Gooda Anconah hearing of this sale sent for these petitioners and demanded the diamond to be brought to him, but that not being in the power of these petitioners they were sent away under a guard of peons; that the next day they were carried to the Governor at his Garden house, where after a great many menaces and threats of the pillory, and being hanged, and such like punishments for daring to sell the stone to

any but the Governor, it was proposed that these petitioners should pay 3,000 pagodas as a fine for this heinous crime. But these petitioners representing their poor condition and inability to pay such a sum, it was at length brought down to 1,000 pagodas ; which sum they actually paid to the Governor. Besides which Anconah insisted on a gratuity for interposing with his good offices ; otherwise, as he told these petitioners, they had surely lost their ears ; that Gopal, one of these petitioners, carried 75 pagodas to Gooda Anconah on this account, but he not contented therewith ransacked his cloth and found about him a small diamond of more value, which he took from the said Gopal. That Gooda Anconah did also exact 50 pagodas on account of a diamond mortgaged to Ball Chetty, and by him to the Governor ; and that after this these petitioners did again fall under the Governor's displeasure, and were confined to the Choultry prison ; whence they could not be released till they had further paid to Gooda Anconah the sum of 150 pagodas, which sum he has within a few days past returned.

“ All which petitions are referred to the Honorable the Mayor's Court.”

The following petition with many others, are recorded in the consultations. It is impossible to publish the whole, but the following selections will suffice to illustrate the general character of the charges which were brought against this corrupt and tyrannical Native.

“ The humble petition of Muta Muten, Comra Collati, Mooteapah Chinaan, and Anda Chetty.

“ Sheweth,

That your petitioners have been sufferers upwards of 6,400 pagodas, by several parcels of rice, paddy, grain, natcheni, oil seeds, and other species of grain, which he the said Anconah, hath forcibly put upon your petitioners ; sometimes by abusive language and threatenings to go to the Honorable Governor, and by some charge and complaint against your petitioners, whereby as he said your petitioners should be put in the pillory, lose their ears, and be whipped out of the Company's Bounds ; sometimes harassing your petitioners with frequent messages and attendance upon him ; and in case your petitioners not coming upon such summons, frequently hath he sent his peons Pooteah, Kistnamah, Veraugo, Raganaculoo, Sangomiah and others to haul and drag your petitioners by force from their families ; and having expelled your petitioners, shut up their Shops and Warehouses, to prevent their trade and livelihood, till your petitioners should submit to his impositions. Many times have his servants compelled your petitioners to be in his Warehouses, wherein his grain was measuring, as if by consent ; commanding the coolies to carry such and such parcels to such and such godowns belonging to your petitioners, where the coolies would by his order set it down before the door, and leave it to rapine and the weather ; at the same time commanding your petitioners to take, buy and pay for such parcels thus forcibly thrown upon their hands ; and upon non-compliance, or even endeavouring to put off the payment, the said Anconah and Mar Kistna, have beat, bruised,

whipped, and confined your petitioners, not only within doors, but even uncovered in the sun till payment. Yea many times have they so done, even for refusing to receive some parcels of rice and oilseeds, though at the most exorbitant prices. If your petitioners scrupled to buy or take at such prices, giving for reason the order of consultation whereby all persons were forbid to buy or sell above such limited rates ; and your petitioners then saying they were afraid that the Governor should hear of such bargains, and they be most justly and severely punished, he the said Ancona would laugh and put a scorn and contempt on the said order of consultation, saying who could tell the Governor of what he does ? who dare to complain of the dearthness of his rice ? he always would stay by the Governor, and if your petitioners would take his rice at his price, they might sell it again without fear of persecution upon the said order of consultation.

“ If it should be asked why your petitioners submitted to such severities ? or wherefore did not your petitioners make a regular complaint of these things before ? your petitioners must appeal to the knowledge of all men, how often they have complained of these things in a private manner ; and should undoubtedly have been more ready to have done the same in the most public and solemn manner, had your petitioners any hopes of relief, or could they have been secure from the resentment and revenge of this great favorite of the then Governor's, whose authority and dread servitude were so deeply im-

planted in every man's heart, that your petitioner's complaints were only answered by a comparison of other the like facts upon other inhabitants. No one dared to council or advise your petitioners to complain; no one could flatter your petitioners with hopes of success. Many petitions have undoubted by this time convinced your Honors that the said Anconah hath so used the greatest of Merchants, that the best families in Town have occasion to murmur at his impositions. The Company's Covenanted Merchants confess they have felt his extortions and abuses; and so far were they from complaining, that they then thought it their interest to flatter the vanity, and soothe the licentious power of this favorite, by the most servile adulation and attendance upon him all hours in the day and night. The Company's sworn Measurers made their Court to him by false measurage and perjury. The Company's peons neglected their duty, and at his beck and word, harassed and watched over the confinement of such as were so unhappy as to be the objects of his passions. Every man in the street hath seen him publicly triumph over the sacred rights and distinctions of the Castes and sects; and made the very Churches his hoards to secrete grain under a pretence of charity, when in truth he brought forth the grain privily, and sold it at midnight for double the consultation price. These and many more public and private tokens are most convincing marks of his arbitrary sway over all men and all things in the Black Town,—your petitioners hope will be thought sufficient reasons for their

passive acquiescence, and non-prosecution against a torrent of power during the administration of his Master the late Governor Macrae."

"Tuesday, 9th June 1730.

"The humble petition of Moomadue Chetty Tommiah,

"Showeth,

"That your Petitioner hath for many years been a considerable trader to this port in grain and other goods from the Northward; and having duly paid the Honorable Company's customs, and other usual port charges, always met with good usage and encouragement, till sometime in the month of March 1729, when some of your Petitioner's concerns arrived at this port under the care of two Gomastas,—one named Maurolee Juggoo, the other Strepaudum Nersia,—whom Gooda Anconah of this place, servant to the late Governor James Macrae, Esq., sent for by his peon Jangomiah, and demanded of them to deliver to him two garce of rice and two of paddy; which they endeavoured to evade, and assured him they were not the owners thereof, but only employed as servants to your Petitioner to dispose of the said goods; besides which all the rice and paddy they had in their possession was already contracted for and they could not sell it to any other person. At which refusal the said Gooda Anconah was in a great passion with your petitioner's servants; and after having threatened and abused, bid them in particular take care of to-morrow. In the morning the said Gooda Anconah went to his Master, the then Governor, and framed some complaint of what your Peti-

tioner's servants knew not. But they were thereupon ordered to be beaten with a chawbuck five stripes at every Banksall ; at the hearing of which Strepaudum Nersia made his escape, but the other Maurolee Juggoo underwent that punishment ; of which when your Petitioner saw him a month after he was in great torment, and the pain thereof threw him into a flux and fever, of which he died the day after your Petitioner saw him. All the rest of your Petitioner's servants, whose duty it was to look after the Banksals, fled for fear ; and left your Petitioner's goods exposed to rapine ; by which your Petitioner lost near the value of one hundred and twenty pagodas, which was actually stole from your Petitioners Banksals at that time. The day after your Petitioner's servants had received the aforesaid punishment, Anconah sent for them again to his house, and asked them in an insulting manner, if they were not grown wiser, and whether they would comply with his demand. To which your Petitioner's servants could answer no other than that he might do his pleasure ; and he thereupon sent Marcasaya with a maracal, who after his way caused to be measured one garce and twenty maracal of rice, and three hundred and sixty maracal of paddy, which with the over-measurage, was then worth to your Petitioners Pagodas 150, fanams 14, and cash 58. For payment of which sum, your Petitioner's servants often attended on the said Anconah, and at last received from him sixty pagodas ; on the payment of which he insisted that they should sign a full discharge, which they accordingly did. By which matters

afore related, it doth appear that, together with the interest now due thereon, your Petitioner is a sufferer by the said Gooda Anconah to the amount of Pagodas 229, fanams 30, and cash 58 ; and therefore prays your Honors will please to grant a general relief and,

Your Petitioners as in duty bound shall
ever pray."

The following statements appear in the Consultations.

"Tuesday, 16th June, 1730. It being observed that in the petitions of the merchants dealing in grain, there is constant complaint made of undue measurage ; although there is an officer particularly appointed for that purpose, and sworn to do justice. Wherefore the Town Measurer was called for, and being examined on this head he acknowledges that of late there has not been justice done to the merchants in measuring their grain ; for that Gooda Anconah gave him orders always to take over measurage ; and that he represented to Anconah the ill-consequences of such a practice, but that he bid the Measurer do it, and Anconah would take the ill-consequences upon himself. That in pursuance to his orders he used sometimes to take more but never less than 40 maracals in every garce he measured for Anconah of grain, seeds, &c. ; the quantity of which he says to the best of his knowledge amounts to six or seven hundred garce ; but says when the same grain seeds, &c. were delivered again to others, he did not make any allowance but struck the mara-

eals to even measure. He further saith that Anconah's peons locked up the Company's maracals, so that none could measure but as he pleased ; and that they customarily measured the grain all the day, and in the night time carried it away ; that after the Company's order for selling 12 maracals of paddy for a pagoda, the poor people could get none in the bazar, it being all carried to Anconah's Godowns, and sold in the night sometimes for 90 pagodas per garce."

"Saturday, 20th June, 1730. Petition of Jellapilla Naugonah, setting forth that in the year 1720 Gooda Anconah, intending to go up in the country, delivered to this petitioner a considerable sum of money to remain with him at interest ; and also left with him a bond payable by Mar Kistnah. That during Gooda Anconah's absence, the petitioner paid to his order the whole amount of the money so entrusted ; and that the bond from Mar Kistnah was not nor could be recovered. That after Anconah was settled in the service of Governor Macrae, he sent for the petitioner and told him that what money had been paid to his order was of no signification, and that he should be further accountable for the bond of Mar Kistnah's for 1500 pagodas ; and that he did, by confining the petitioner and his whole family near 3 months, oblige him to give bonds to the amount of 3,500 pagodas. That sometime after, in consequence of these bonds being for 2000 pagodas, he was again kept a prisoner, till by selling his houses, and other means, he raised and paid the sum of 2,230 ; and that being again confined, Gooda Anconah obliged him to

give further bond for 2000 pagodas, in lieu of the other as forcibly obtained for 1500 pagodas."

"Friday, 10th July, 1730. Two petitions of complaint against Gooda Anconah were read viz. :

"From Poncola Kistnah and Com Chetty, late renters of the beetle and tobacco farm; setting forth that during the time these petitioners rented said farm, Gooda Anconah, servant to the late Governors James Macrae, Esq., did send for and demand of them several sums of money, as well as large quantities of beetle and tobacco, which were delivered according to his order, and amount in value to pagodas 3668 and fanams 5. For payment of which sum they have several times made application to Gooda Anconah, but without effect, and they now seek redress at this Board.

"From Juddooram, setting forth that Cosheram, a Guzerat Merchant, having adopted this petitioner for his son, did in his last will and testament bequeath his effects to this petitioner; and at his decease was put in possession thereof. That some time after, Gooda Anconah, servant to the late Governor, sent for this petition; and after many menaces and threats to disposses this petitioner, sent him to the Choultry prison, where he was confined for three days; and being released upon bail, Gooda Anconah demanded of him the sum of two thousand pagodas to let the petitioner enjoy the said effects, under pretence that he was not the lawful heir. Which sum being denied, he fell to one thousand five hundred and at last to seven hundred pagodas; which sum the petitioner paid him, being in dread of his power. But the same being

an unjust demand and illegally and arbitrarily extorted, humbly prays redress.

“Ordered that the petitioners be referred to the Honorable the Mayor's Court.”

Such was the general tenor of the petitions against Gooda Anconah, all of which were referred to the Mayor's Court. By the 16th of July, Gooda Anconah had been fined 20,000 Pagodas, whilst many demands against him still remained unsettled. How far Governor Macrae was implicated in these transactions, it is impossible to say ; but there does not appear to have been any direct charges brought against him personally, and there was no such investigation into his conduct of affairs, as had taken place after the retirement of previous Governors. The subsequent entries respecting Mr. Macrae are very meagre and unimportant. In August the same year (1730) we find that he was allowed a hundred and fifty pagodas a-month for his table expenses ; and in the following January we meet with the following entry, dated only two days before Mr. Macrae embarked for England.

“Tuesday, 19th January, 1731. A letter from James Macrae, Esq., acquainting that he could not invest his money in diamonds without a manifest loss ; and Bills not being procurable, he was obliged to carry it home in current pagodas ; 25,000 of which he desires to lade on the “Craggs,” and 25,000 more on the “Fordwich.” He also desired that the freight and custom may be left to the Company's determination :—which is agreed to, and a letter being wrote to the Honorable

Court of Directors to advise thereof, was read and signed."

On the 21st January, 1731, Governor Macrae set sail for England, after an absence of some forty years. Without a wife, and without of course any legitimate child, he appears to have returned to his native land, laden with a fortune popularly estimated at above a hundred thousand pounds. According to a tradition published a few years back in the "Ayrshire Observer," the vessel in which Mr. Macrae returned to England, was captured on its way by a privateer; and the shrewd ex-Governor, knowing the vessel to have on board a valuable cargo of diamonds, had the address to get the ship ransomed for a comparatively small sum. We are also told by the same authority that the East India Directors were so pleased with the Governor's conduct in India, that on his return they enquired how they could reward him. He is said to have replied that if he had done anything meritorious, he would leave the reward to them. We have not however succeeded in discovering what was the value of the reward conferred on the ex-Governor, or if indeed any pecuniary reward were conferred at all. The story in itself is quite in keeping with the character of Mr. Macrae. In the matter of his allowance for table expenses already noticed, it is recorded that Governor Pitt had frequently desired his predecessor to give in some account of his expenses, but that Mr. Macrae declined doing anything of the sort, and left the Board to allow him whatever they thought proper.

On Mr. Macrae's arrival in England, his first object appears to have been to enquire about the fortunes of his family. It seems that his mother had been dead some years, and that his cousin, who was still living at Ayr, had married a man named MacGuire, who gained a livelihood partly as a carpenter and partly as a fiddler at kirns and weddings. Mr. Macrae accordingly wrote to his cousin at Ayr, enclosing a large sum of money, and engaging to provide handsomely for herself and family. The surprise of Mr. and Mrs. MacGuire was of course unbounded; and they are said to have given way to their delight by indulging in a luxury which will serve to illustrate both their ideas of happiness, and the state of poverty in which they had been living. They procured a loaf of sugar and a bottle of brandy; and scooping out a hole in the sugar loaf, they poured in the brandy, and supped up the sweetened spirit with spoons, until the excess of felicity compelled them to close their eyes in peaceful slumber.

The grand object which Mr. Macrae appears to have had in view during the remaining years of his life, was the elevation of his sister's family, the four daughters of Mr. and Mrs. MacGuire.* The eldest daughter married William, the thirteenth Earl of Glencairn. In this match Governor Macrae took the liveliest interest, but it did not come off till the year 1744; and then the old Nabob was so seriously ill that the doctor could

* The information here given has been derived from descendants or connexions of the family who are still living.

not assure him of living until the solemnization of the nuptials. On this occasion Governor Macrae gave his niece as "tocher" the barony of Ochiltree, which had cost him £25,000, as well as diamonds to the value of £45,000. But the marriage did not prove a happy one, for the Earl had no real affection for his wife, however much he may have respected her wealth. The Earl however was not inclined to submit to any taunting allusions to his wife's family, for when Lord Cassilis reproached him at a ball with having so far forgotten his rank as to marry a fiddler's daughter, he at once replied,—“Yes, my Lord, and one of my father in law's favourite airs was “The Gipseys cam’ to Lord Cassilis’s yett,”—referring to the elopement of a Countess of Cassilis with the Gipseys, celebrated in the old song of “Johnny Faa.” The second son of this Earl of Glencairn by the niece of Governor Macrae, succeeded to his father’s title as James, fourteenth Earl of Glencairn, and is known as a benefactor of the Poet Burns. This Earl died in 1791, when Burns wrote his “Lament for James, Earl of Glencairn,” concluding with the following pathetic lines :—

“The bridegroom may forget the bride,
Was made his wedded wife yestreen ;
The monarch may forget the crown
That on his head an hour has been ;
The mither may forget the bairn
That smiles sae sweetly on her knee ;
But I’ll remember thee, Glencairn,
And a’ that thou hast done for me !”

The second daughter of the MacGuire's married

Mr. James Erskine, who received the estate of Alva; and was afterwards elevated to the Bench under the title of Lord Alva.

The third daughter married a young gentleman of suspicious origin, who went by the name of James Macrae. This young man was said to be the nephew of the old Governor, but he is generally supposed to have been a natural son. The barony of Houston was conferred upon the pair, but the subsequent career of this branch of the family was far from fortunate. A son known as Captain Macrae became a reputed bully and professed duellist at Edinburgh; and is represented in one of the caricatures of the time as practising with a pistol at a barber's block. In 1790 Captain Macrae fought a celebrated duel with Sir George Ramsay, in which the latter was mortally wounded. It seems that whilst both gentlemen were escorting some ladies out of the Theatre in Edinburgh, their servants quarrelled as to whose carriage should be drawn up at the door. Each of the gentlemen took his servant's part, and the result was the duel, which occasioned the death of Sir George Ramsay and the exile and outlawry of Captain Macrae.

The youngest married Mr. Charles Dalrymple, who was Sheriff Clerk of Ayr, and received the estate of Orangefield. The tradition is still preserved of a large box of tea, a great rarity at that time, having been presented to Mrs. Dalrymple by Governor Macrae; and this box proved so large that the doors at Orangfield would not admit it, and it became necessary to haul it up on the outside for

admission at a large window. This box strongly bound with brass is still in existence, and is used as a corn chest by Dr. Whiteside of Ayr.

In conclusion we must notice the very few recorded events which are still preserved of the last years of Governor Macrae. The old Anglo-Indian appears to have passed some fifteen years in his native country prior to his death in 1746. In 1733 he was admitted as a burgess of the old town of Ayr, when his name was entered as "James Macrae, late Governor of Madras." In 1734 he presented the citizens of Glasgow with the metallic equestrian statue of king William which still adorns that city. How he employed himself during the latter years of his life is no where stated, beyond the bare fact that he lived and died at Orangefield. We can easily however imagine the old man busy in promoting the advancement of his nieces, and in superintending the estates which he purchased from time to time. One of his last recorded acts occurred in December, 1745, when he lent £5000 to the community of Glasgow, to meet the sum which had been levied from them by Prince Charles. He died somewhere about the year 1746, and was buried in Prestwick Churchyard. Such is the eventful story of Governor Macrae, the son of a washerwoman of Ayr.

APPENDIX.*

The place of Governor Macrae's birth has not been ascertained with any certainty. Some would have it that he was born in *Saltcoats*, in the parish of Stevenston, in Ayrshire; and such must have been the report when Governor Macrae arrived in this country in the beginning of last century? for the indefatigable Wodrow, writing in his *Analecta*, in February, 1730, sets down the following remarks:—"There is one that was born in the parish of *Saltcoats* or *Stevenstoun*, that has been long in the East Indies, and has more than £100,000, and wants to have an heir and relations, and has writt down to Scotland; and one of them, a mason, *M'Crae*, *Cree*, or *Crevoch*, or some such name, has gone up. The event we knou not." (*Ana.*, iv., p. 109.)† Others are disposed to hold—being guided by tradition—that the Governor first saw the light in a cottage above Cartburn, near Greenock; and that he acted, while a boy, in the capacity of a herd to the tenant of Hillend, who at that time was the great-grandfather of the late Hugh Crawford, writer in Greenock. (*Weir's History of Greenock*, 1829.) According to other accounts, he was born at *Ochiltree*, in Ayrshire; and if not born, it may be supposed that he was at least *employed* at this place in early youth, if a story which prevails regarding him is to receive any credence. The incident is said to have occurred after his return to his native land, and after also, as it may be supposed, he had

* This Appendix is taken from two Articles on Governor Macrae and the M'Quires which appeared in the *Ayr Observer* of 17th November and 27th December 1853.

† Nothing more is heard of this Claimant—Possibly enough the name was Mc'Guire.

acquired the estate of Ochiltree. Being one day riding, as the story goes, near Ochiltree, in company with a party of gentlemen, he, on coming to an old thorn tree, desired them to proceed while he dismounted. The gentlemen, after waiting some time at a short distance, returned to the place where they had left Mr. Macrae, and found him sitting, leaning his back against the thorn. On inquiry as to the reason of his remaining so long in that position, he answered by stating that he remembered having often sat by that thorn in his early days. (Fowler's Sketches, 1832, p. 30.) It is the opinion, too, of the Rev. Mr. Guthrie, in a note with reference to Miller Samson and Lady Glencairn, appended to a Memoir, by him, of the Rev. Mr. Coutts of Brechin, that the Governor was born and brought up in the village of Ochiltree. (Scottish Journal, of 11th September, 1847, p. 17.)

However the fact may stand as to the *locality* of the Governor's *birth*, it is conceded that he was deprived of his father when very young ; but who he was, or if he had any near relations, are facts, so far as we are aware, nowhere mentioned except in the rumour already noticed, as commemorated by Mr. Wodrow. On the father's death, the tradition is, that his mother, who was of the name of *Bell Gairdner*, removed, along with her son, to the town of Ayr, where they lived in a little thatched cottage in the neighbourhood of the town, and where she acting, in the capacity of a washerwoman and laundress, conducted herself, although very poor, both honestly and with much propriety. She was able, as it would seem, to afford her boy *some little* education out of her scanty earnings ; and in this, it may be supposed, that she was assisted by the *M'Guire*s and others of her relations. The boy, being brought up at Ayr, a seaport, naturally imbibed inclinations for a seafaring life ; and as the story runs, he went to sea when very young ; but the time and circumstances of his doing so are not known. As reported, he, while at Ayr, was accustomed to run messages, for a small pittance, to any one who might employ him.

During his absence he seems to have held no communication with any of his relations in Scotland and until the appearance of the Notice of his life in "*Madras in the Olden Time*," nothing was known with any certainty of his career from the date of his going to sea till the 1st August 1733 when he was admitted a burgess of Ayr under the name and style of "*James Macrae, late Governor of Madras*."

The Governor's relations seem not to have been very near ; and doubts are entertained whether those who shared his fortune stood in any relationship to him at all. That fortune, or at least the bulk of it, was certainly conferred upon *Hugh M'Queir and his family*, Hugh being, in a legal writ, a charter of Resignation in 1742, designed as a "*Wright in Ayr*." The Governor had probable gone to his account before the month of February, 1747 ; and by the 20th of December, 1749, we find that Hugh M'Queir is designed "*of Drumdow*," for, of that date, and so designed, he is admitted, a burgess. In 1753, his son-in-law, Charles Dalrymple of Orangefield, the husband of his daughter, Macrae M'Queir, is also admitted a burgess of Ayr, when he is designed as "son-in-law to Hugh M'Queir of *Drumdow*." The difficulty, however, is to ascertain if any *relationship* existed between Hugh M'Queir or his family and the Governor ; and, if any, what it was. Very various are the ideas that have been entertained on this point. Some suppose that there was no relationship, and that the favour extended to Hugh M'Queir and his family arose only on account of his father, who was of the same name, and an *itinerant fiddler*, or *musician* in Ayr, having been very kind to the Governor when a boy and running about Ayr ; one of the acts of kindness condescended on being that he put him to school at his own expense for several years. By another account, M'Queir was a carpenter, and performed on the *violin*, but yet was no *itinerant musician* ; and that, having done various acts of kindness to the Governor's mother, *Bell Gairdner*, in her latter years and last illness, the Governor ac-

cordingly resolved to bestow his fortune upon his descendants. Another account (for they are numerous) is of this import : that, while M^cQueir was an itinerant musician, the relationship in which he stood to the Governor was that his wife, whose name was Macrae, was as closely connected as to be *his sister*. The account given by Mr. Guthrie, already referred to, is entirely different from all these and others ; but it is evidently an absolutely fictitious narrative, in the concoction of which the writer, *Reverend* as he is, derived much from the aberrations of his imagination, although greater veracity is generally expected in such quarters. According to his account, there lived in the village of Ochiltree a *weaver*, who had three daughters, side by side with a widow, who had an only son. The *weaver*, of course, is identical with Hugh M^cQueir, and the widow and her son has a pointed reference to Mr. Macrae and his mother. As the story is told, the son left his mother, not to go to sea, but to *enlist in the army*, and be sent abroad as a common soldier. The mother was left alone ; her infirmities in latter life were considerable ; and the *weaver* and his family not only showed her much kindness when in life, and during her last illness, but even laid her head in the grave. Years passed on, and brought about the return of the soldier-boy to the land of his nativity ; but then his circumstances were altered—he was the Governor of the Leeward Islands, and the possessor of an immense fortune. On inquiry into his mother's circumstances after the time of his desertion, he found that the *weaver* had proved *a son* to her ; and, accordingly he resolved that he who was the *soldier-boy* would be a *father* to the *weaver's* daughters. Hence, after rearing and educating them according to the *status* in which it was his design they should be placed, he bestowed upon them the amount of his great fortune.

All of these accounts are, in a great measure, fabulous ; and, the true notion of the matter is, as we conceive, to be formed by a consideration of the *destination* contained in the Disposition and Deed of Entail of the

Barony of Orangefield, which is granted by Governor Macrae, of date 12th August, 1742. That destination is taken in favour of "Miss Macrae M'Guire, daughter of Hugh M'Guire, *Wright in Ayr*, and Isabella "Gairdner, *cousin of the said James Macrae*, and the "heirs male of her body, whom failing, the heirs female of her body," &c. It will be observed that it is the wife of Hugh M'Guire, Isabella Gairdner, who is the Governor's relation. She is, as it is distinctly stated, his *cousin*; and accordingly, being of the name of Gairdner, and his mother being Bell Gairdner, she, in all probability, was the *daughter of a brother*, and named *after her aunt*, the Governor's mother.

The same description is given of both McGuire and his wife in the Deed of Entail of the Estate of Ochiltree which was executed by the Governor on the 12th of August, 1742 and registered in the Record of Entails on the 23d of July, 1745, and in the Books of Council and Session on the 31st of the same month. This entail was executed of even date with that of Orangefield, and both at Blackheath, near London, in the county of Kent, where it is supposed the Governor had a villa, either in property or possession. By the destination contained in this entail, the estate of Ochiltree was conferred upon Elizabeth Macquire, who is described as the *eldest* daughter of Hugh MacGuire and Isabella Gardner, and her heirs; whom failing, to James Macquire and his heirs; whom failing, to Margaret Macquire and her heirs; whom failing, to Macrae Macquire and her heirs; whom failing, to Jacobina Macrae and her heirs; whom failing, to Hugh Macquire, another son, and his heirs; and then the estate is destined to any other child of the marriage between Hugh Macquire and Isabella Gardner; and failing all these, it is to descend to Isabella Gardner, and, as we presume, for heirs whomsoever. It is supposed that Jacobina and Hugh Macquire, must have died young, without issue, and even previous to Governor Macrae, as it does not appear that he made *special* provision for either of them, or that they, or their

successors, came to receive any part of his property. They, as it would appear, were the two youngest children of the family.

Jacobina is probably the daughter who is said to have died in Lisbon where she had gone for her health under the care of Dr. Campbell a physician in Ayr—who, it is supposed, had been directed by the Governor to attend upon her.

Governor Macrae acquired the estate of Ochiltree by a Disposition, granted by Charles Cochran, of date 12th October, 1739 ; but before this, namely on 27th of July, 1736, he had acquired the estate of Orangefield, as in the instrument of infestment, which followed upon the Disposition by Cochran, he is described as *James McCrae of Orangefield*. This Charles Cochran was the son of William Cochran of Ochiltree and Lady Mary Bruce, the eldest daughter of Alexander, Earl of Kincardine. William, his father, was the eldest son and heir of Sir John Cochran of Ochiltree, the second son of William, first Earl of Dundonald, who, having acquired the estate, conferred it upon his son. Sir John had a Crown Charter to the estate on 6th March, 1667 ; but by his forfeiture in 1685, the property fell to the Crown, although it was afterwards restored to his son, William, in 1686. He married Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas Strickland of Bonytoun, in Yorkshire, by whom he had William, already mentioned ; John Cochran, who is designed of *Waterside* ; and a daughter Grisel, who married John Kerr of Morriston, in Berwickshire. Charles Cochran, his grandson, died in 1752, and was succeeded by his immediate younger surviving brother, *James Cochran*, a Lieutenant-General in the British service, who had, by Miss Margaret Hawkison, two daughters, Mary-Anne and Elizabeth, who were both married. General Cochran died in 1758, and having no male issue, was succeeded in the male fees by his immediate younger brother, Thomas Cochran, who was at one time a Cornet in the army, but who, upon the death of William, seventh Earl of Dundonald, in

1758, succeeded as heir male to the estate and honours, and became eight Earl of Dundonald.

From one or more defects which existed in the entails executed by Governor Macrae, none of them proved to be altogether irrefragable, and in consequence, Elizabeth Macquire, who became Countess of Glencairn in 1744, taking advantage of the informalities, granted, as it is said, liferent or other long, leases of several of the farms on the estate of Ochiltree, upon payment of large *grassums*, for the purpose, it is also said, of disappointing her son's creditors. Some of these liferent lessees are still* alive, and possess their farms under the leases granted in their favour by Lady Glencairn. The estate was divided into parcels, and sold in 1818 by Sir Alexander Don, the son of Henrietta Cunningham, who was the daughter of Elizabeth Macquire, Countess of Glencairn. Sir Alexander succeeded his grandmother in the estate of Ochiltree on the failure of her sons, the brothers of his mother, without issue; and the entail being defective, the property was sold by him, as mentioned, to the Marquis of Bute, Sir Alexander Boswell of Auchenleck, Mr. Limond of Dalblair, and Mr. Tennant of Crooch. The present rental of the whole estate is believed to be about £5,500; and, if it was acquired by the Governor at £25,000, the price would seem to have been a very moderate one.

The estate of Orangefield, or Monkton, seems to have been acquired by the Governor from the Trustees of Dr. Hugh Bailie, namely, Hugh Roger, late Provost of Glasgow, Hugh M'Bride of Brideland, John Gemmell of Tourland, Chirurgeon-Apothecary in Irvine and D. Logan, Writer in Kilwinning; the disposition by them in his favour being dated 27th July, 1736, where the Governor is designed as "James Macrae of *Blackheath*, in the county of Kent, Esquire, late Governor of Fort St. George, in the East Indies."

The lands of Drumdow, which were, as it is supposed, conferred upon the father, Hugh Macquire, by

* December 1853.

Governor Macrae, are situated in the parish of Stair. Whether, however, they were entailed or not, and if entailed, after what manner, we have no information. Neither is it known from whom the Governor acquired the lands, if he did so at all. On the 16th of May, 1749, a period certainly *subsequent* to the Governor's death, a "Hugh Crawford of Drumdow, land-waiter in Lieth," occurs, as Mr. Paterson says, in the Town Records of Ayr. Drumdow, as this author adds, was "*afterwards purchased*" by Governor Macrae; but this must be a statement at random, and could not be the case, as he must have been at this time dead. Indeed, it is probable that his death took place as early as the year 1746; because, during that year, Charles Dalrymple, Sheriff-Clerk of Ayr, and the husband of Macrae Macquire, is styled "*of Orangefield*" on being admitted a Burgess of Prestwick. (Paterson's History of Ayrshire, vol. ii., p. 387.) It is not likely that he would be so designed, however, during the Governor's life, and while the latter remained undivested, which, as must be assumed, would not occur during his life; and, besides this circumstance, it is to be observed that Mrs. Macrae Macquire or Dalrymple, and the other heirs of tailzie, had a charter of Resignation of the estate of Orangefield, in virtue possibly of the procuratory contained in the deed of entail, as early as the 12th of February following. From this, there is ample evidence of the Governor's divestiture at that time. But if this Drumdow, of which Hugh Crawford seems to have been the owner in May, 1749, was the same property as that which Hugh Macquire came to be in right of, it could not be *acquired* by the Governor. It, therefore, may have been *purchased* by Hugh Macquire himself, because the first time he is designed *of Drumdow*, of which we have any notice, is on the 20th of December, 1749, when he is admitted a Burgess of Ayr. This property seems to have belonged, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, to Lady Margaret Montgomery, who at this time was served heir to Robert, *Master* of Eglington, in what are called the 50s

lands of Drumdow. Afterwards, the *dominium utile* of the property passed to a family of the name of Hunter, while the *superiority* remained with the Eglington family. The property seems to have remained with the Hunters till the end of the same century, the seventeenth, or beginning of the following, when it went, apparently, to a family named Crawford. In 1734, in a certain summons at the instance of Lord Eglington, a Hugh Crawford occurs, who is designed "*now of Drumdow*," and appears to have held what is called "the four-merk land of *Wrightshills and Drumdow*," which is said to lie, however, not in the parish of Stair, but in that of *Ochiltree*. It is very probable, in these circumstances, that Drumdow was acquired either by the Governor or by Hugh Macquire from this Hugh Crawford or some one of his descendants. Mr Hamilton of Sundrum is now proprietor, having purchased the estate a few years ago from Mr. Rankine of Drumdow.

The Governor also acquired the estate of *Alva*, which passed by Margaret, Hugh M'Queir's, second daughter, to her husband, James Erskine of Barjarg, an Advocate, and afterwards in succession a Baron of Exchequer, and Lord of Session.

The estate of *Houstoun*, in the parish of that name, Renfrewshire, was also acquired and transferred to the *only son* of Hugh M'Quier, by name James, but who, on taking the property, was obliged to assume the name and arms of *Macrae*. Accordingly, after being invested he was known as *James Macrae of Houstoun*. This property belonged to Sir John Houstoun of that ilk, but having no male heirs, it was carried by his daughter to Sir John Shaw of Greenock, her husband, from about the year 1730 to 1740. Shaw sold the estate to Sir James Campbell, whose representative, a Miss Campbell sold it to Governor Macrae. (Semple's Renfrew, 1782.)

James M'Guire or Macrae, the son, received, as we have mentioned, the barony of Houston. He married a daughter of the lady of the Swedish Ambassador, and by her had issue, two sons and a daughter. The eldest, James, succeeded to Houstoun upon his

father's death, and seems to have demolished the old manor place of Houstoun, excepting one square, in 1780-81, the stones of which were applied in the erection of a new village, which he had planned. This old baronial residence is represented as having been, as late as the year 1777, one of the strongest, and most elegant, and most ancient structures in the country. It consisted of no less than five (?) squares, having a court-yard within, and only one way for entrance, where hung a great iron gate, which, on being let down, secured the whole castle, as it had no windows in the exterior walls nearer the ground than twelve feet. At one time, there was a tower at the west end, part of which was standing about thirty or forty years before Semple wrote, (1782). The *whole* barony, it is said, except one house in Houstoun village, belonged to James Macrae in 1780: and in the year following, he planned the *new* village referred to a little way further up the rivulet than the old town of Houstoun.

But it was not long ere he disposed of the estate, for it was sold to Alexander Speirs of Ellerslie as early as April 1782; and out of the price obtained Macrae purchased, as it is understood, the estate of Holemains. After this he was styled James Macrae of Holemains, although better known about Edinburgh simply as Captain Macrae. He lived at Marionville near Restalrig—Edinburgh, a handsome villa which had been erected by the Misses Ramsay, and which was often called Lappet Ha' from these ladies having gained the money by which it was erected in keeping a shop, at which they retailed lappets on the north side of the High Street, east side of the Old Lyon Close, and opposite to the upper end of the City Guardhouse. At Marionville Captain Macrae had an apartment fitted up for private theatricals, a species of amusement at that time by no means common in Scotland and for his attachment to which he was greatly censured. The Edinburgh Evening Courant of Thursday 26th January 1790—has the following notice of one of the representations—"PRIVATE THEATRICALS. The performance of the tragedy of the Grecian

Daughter which took place at Marionville on Friday last (15th January 1790) was in every respect delightful. Mr. Macrae in the first part of *Dionysius* gave infinite satisfaction. His figure which is remarkably handsome and his countenance at once manly and expressive every way suited him for that character * * * But it is impossible to do justice to Mrs. Macrae in the character of *Euphrasia*; suffice it to say that the part was never better performed on any stage either by a Siddons or a Crawford. It is difficult to say whether her tragic or her comic powers are most excellent, as in both she gives equal satisfaction. Her performance of *Lady Racket* in Three weeks after Marriage, was superior to any thing we have ever seen of the kind."

Captain Macrae was by repute a Bully, and a professed duellist, and is caricatured by Kay as practising with a pistol at a Barber's Block. (Kay I. p. 37; Chambers' Traditions of Edinburgh.) On Wednesday, the 14th of April 1790 he fought a duel with Sir George Ramsay of Banff at the Frigate Whins near Musselburgh, in which Sir George received a wound of which he died on the 16th. Public sentiment ran against Macrae, and he was advised by his Counsel to fly, rather than take his trial before a Jury. He accordingly fled to Paris, where, on the 8th May following, he executed an absolute conveyance of his estate of Holemains in favour of Lord Glencairn and Alexander Young, W. S., and the survivors of them, their heirs and assignees. Sasine passed upon this deed in favour of these parties upon the 15th of the same month, and the instrument was afterwards duly registered. Upon the 26th of May the Captain was cited under *criminal* letters, at the instance both of the public prosecutor, and the representatives of Sir George Ramsay, namely, Dame Eleanor Fraser, his relict, and Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, his brother-german, to appear and take his trial before a jury of his countrymen, under a charge of murder, on the 26th of July following. At this diet, however, he failed to appear; and the Justiciary Court, being moved by the public pro-

secutor, decerned and adjudged him to be an *outlaw* and *fugitive*; and ordained him, in consequence, to be put to his Majesty's horn, and all his moveable goods escheated, and brought into his Majesty's use, on account of the contempt arising from his not appearing to underlye the law for the crime with which he was charged. On the following day, the 27th of July, letters of denunciation were obtained, in which the officers of the law were charged to denounce him as a rebel, and to escheat and bring in his moveable goods. These letters were duly executed upon the 28th, and recorded upon the 29th of the same month of July. Three years afterwards or so, namely, in April, 1793, Alexander Young, W. S., who, on account of Lord Glencairn's death, was then the only surviving disponent, executed a disposition of Holemain in favour of three parties, Messrs. Duncombe, Pettwood, and Le Maistre, and the survivor of them and there assignees. Infestment followed upon this conveyance; and, in June following, these three gentlemen executed a deed, in which it was declared that the conveyance to them by Young was *in trust* for behoof of Captain Macrae and his heirs, and for the proper support of his family; and they thereby bound themselves to denude when required by the Captain, and in such manner as he, his heirs, or disponents, might demand.

Before this duel took place, Captain Macrae had been married to a French lady named Maria Cecilia Le Maistre; but the first issue, apparently, was upon the 22d of January, 1791, when a son was born in London, who was called *James Charles Macrae*; and in 1800, a daughter was born of the same marriage, whose name was Maria Le Maistre Macrae, and who, in course of time, was married to Mr. John Hyndman, Advocate. In May, 1807, Captain Macrae executed a deed by which he directed his trustees, in whom the property continued to be vested, to alter and revoke the destination of the estate of Holemain; and, this being done, to execute a strict entail thereof in favour of James Macrae, whom he describes as "*my only son,*

and the heirs whomsoever of his body ; whom failing, the said Maria Le Maistre Macrae, my *only daughter*, and the heirs whomsoever of her body ; whom failing, my nearest heirs whatsoever." By the same deed, he directed his trustees to pay £700 annually for behoof of himself during his life ; and the remainder of the rents of Holemains were, as it was provided, to be applied towards the maintenance of his wife and children. Mrs. Macrae, his wife, and, failing her, other parties, were by this deed appointed to be tutors and curators to his children ; and a deed by the trustees, granted in 1805, was ratified, which burdened part of the estate of Holemains with a provision of £5000, to his daughter Maria, which was declared to be full payment of all her legal claims by or through his decease. The trustee, accordingly executed, in 1809, a strict entail of Holemains ; and, in the same year, James Charles Macrae, the institute, was infefted under the precept contained in the deed. He became of age in 1812 ; and his circumstances having, as it would appear, become embarrassed, he, in 1821, the year subsequent to his father's death—who died abroad on the 16th January, 1820, while he was unrelaxed from the sentence of outlawry and fugitation—conveyed all interest he had in the estate to a trustee for behoof of his creditors. In 1831, a reduction was instituted by him of all the deeds that had been executed by his father, or by his trustees, on the ground that the *former*, by the sentence of the Court of Justiciary referred to, was legally incapacitated from granting any deed which could affect his *heritable* estate. Judgment was pronounced in this action of reduction upon the 22d of November, 1836, after the opinions of the whole thirteen Judges were obtained, by which it was found that Captain Macrae was, notwithstanding of the peculiar circumstances in which he was placed, legally capable to dispose of his *heritable* estates ; although the Judges were far from being unanimous as to the grounds on which their opinions rested. The defenders in this action were his sister,

Mistress Maria Le Maistre Macrae or Hyndman, and her husband. (Dunlop's Reports, vol. xv., p. 54.)

James Charles Macrae, as well as his sister, the wife of Mr John Hyndman, are without descendants of their bodies; and the former, although unsuccessful, in 1836, in setting aside the entail of Holemain, yet effected a sale of this estate about 1851 after obtaining it *disentailed*, under the powers conferrd upon heirs of tailzie by the recent Act of Parliament.

The fatal duel referred to originated in a quarrel which arose between Captain Macrae and a footman of Sir George or Lady Ramsay, at the door of the Theatre in Edinburgh, on the evening of the 7th of April 1790. The Captain had received some abusive language from this servant, and took occasion to inflict some severe personal punishment upon him on the spot. For this, meeting Sir George on the street, he offered to apologise, when Sir George refused to receive it, saying that the servant was not his but Lady Ramsay's; on which, as it is believed, the Captain tendered an apology to that lady. Notwithstanding, the servant, whose name was James Merry, was advised to institute an action of damages against the Captain, in the Sheriff Court, which was served upon him on the 12th of April. Upon this, Captain Macrae addressed a letter to Sir George Ramsay, in the forenoon of the 13th, in which he insisted upon his either getting the action quashed, or if not, dismissing the servant. But to this, Sir George, in a written answer to the Captain, on the afternoon of the same day, would not agree, stating that he did not see sufficient reasons for adopting such a course. Then the Captain had recourse to the services of a Mr Amory for the purpose of waiting upon Sir George and explaining his intentions, failing his getting what he conceived proper satisfaction; and Mr. Amory was directed, if at this meeting he could not come to an arrangement with Sir George, to tell him that in the Captain's opinion he was not only *no gentleman*, but a *scoundrel*. No agreement having been come to, the Captain's views were communicated, and

a meeting was arranged to take place at Musselburgh next day, the 14th of April, when the duel ensued, after a lengthened but unsuccessful attempt between the parties' seconders to bring them to an arrangement. Sir George was mortally wounded, and died upon the second day afterwards, without leaving lawful issue, on which he was succeeded by his brother, William.

The action for damages at the servant's instance was followed out, and was not concluded until the month of February, 1792, when a judgment was pronounced by the Sheriff finding Captain Macrae liable in damages; and although it was carried for review into the Court of Session, the Judges affirmed the sentence, considering that, although the Captain had received considerable abuse, that did not warrant him, *in a legal point of view*, in inflicting the amount of personal punishment upon the servant which he did.

The second son of James Macrae, the son of Hugh M'Guire was living at Dumfries in 1850—but what became of him, or the daughter is not known.

ELIZABETH M'GUIRE, the eldest daughter of Hugh M'Guire and *Isabella* Gairdner, married William, the thirteenth Earl of Glencairn, on the 16th of August, 1744. In this match the Governor is said to have taken a deep interest. Of tocher he gave her, according to report, the barony of Ochiltree, which had cost him £25,000, and Diamonds to the value of £45,000. However, by another report, it was Lady Glencairn's money that was applied in the purchase of the estate of *Kilmarnock*. The parties did not consort happily together, it being said that the Earl, while he respected her wealth, had little for herself, and encouraged his infant son to give her abusive epithets, saying, "Lordie, ca' your mither a damn't bitch." She is reported to have been very penurious, but probably there was occasion for it; and her intentions may have been laudable, to retrieve, for the sake of her family, the waning fortunes of the house of Glencairn. There is a tradition that General Scott, of Scotstarvat, a noted gamester, fleeced the Earl of a large sum about

the year 1785, in consequence of which he was under the necessity of disposing of the estate of *Kilmarnock*, but, by some accounts, of that of *Kilmaurs*.

The issue of this marriage was—1. William, Lord Kilmaurs, born at Finlaystoun, 29th May, 1748. He was a cornet in the 3d Regiment of Dragoons, but died unmarried, at Coventry, on the 3d of February, 1768. 2. James, who became fourteenth Earl, and was born at Finlaystoun 1st June, 1749. He was captain of a company in the West Lowland Fencibles, and succeeded his father in the title in 1775. He died unmarried in 1791, and was a benefactor of the poet Burns. 3. John, who became fifteenth Earl, and succeeded to the title on his brother's death. At first he was an officer in the 14th Regiment of Dragoons, but afterwards took holy orders in the Church of England. He married, in 1785, Isabel Erskine, the daughter of Henry David, tenth Earl of Buchan, and relict of William Leslie Hamilton, but had no issue, and died at Coats, near Edinburgh, on the 24th of September, 1796, being at the time in the 47th year of his age. 4. Henrietta, who married Sir Alexander Don of Newtoun-Don, in Roxburghshire, and had the following issue :—Sir Alexander Don, who succeeded to the estate of Ochiltree on the death of his grandmother, the Countess of Glencairn, in 1801. Two daughters, who were drowned in the river Eden on the 7th of June, 1795, along with a daughter of Dr. Wilson of Kelso. The mother is said to have sunk under this sad bereavement. Alexander, who was born in June, 1754, but died young ; and Elizabeth, who died at Coats House, near Edinburgh, unmarried, on the 6th of August, 1804. Burns addressed a letter to her, which is noticed in Motherwell's edition of the Poet's Works, vol. iv. p. 247.

MARGARET M'GUIRE, who was born in 1729, married Mr. James Erskine of Barjarg, advocate, and a nephew of Charles Sharpe of Hoddam, on the 19th of June, 1749. He was one of the Barons of Exchequer in 1754, but was elevated to the bench of the Court of Session in 1761 by the title of Lord Barjarg, which he after-

wards changed to Lord Alva ; the report being that he obtained the estate of Alva—one of the acquirements of the Governor—through his wife. His Lordship died in 1761, and his wife in April, 1766, at the age of 37, leaving issue—1. Jean, married to — Carr, Esquire. 2. Isabella, who married Patrick Tytler, a brother of Lord Woodhouselee. 3. Charles, who was born in 1751, and died in 1760. 4. John Erskine of Alva, who was born in 1758, and admitted advocate in 1781. He was appointed clerk of the Commissary Court in 1790—married Christian, daughter of John Carruthers of Holmains in 1786, and died in 1793, leaving the following issue :—James Erskine of Cambus, who was born in 1787, admitted an advocate in 1808, and married a daughter of Patrick Tytler, Esquire. John Erskine, another son ; and Charlotte Erskine, a daughter.

MACRAE M'GUIRE the third, and, as it is supposed, the *youngest* daughter of Hugh M'Guire, married Charles Dalrymple, Sheriff-Clerk of Ayr, a brother of the Rev. William Dalrymple (one of the ministers of Ayr), and nephew to Charles Dalrymple of Langlands, who, as it is supposed, acted as Chamberlain for Lord Kilmarnock at the time when he was attainted on account of his concern in the Rebellion of 1745, and suffered death. James Dalrymple, Sheriff-Clerk of Ayr, was his father, and had preceded him in that office. Mistress Macrae M'Guire, designed as spouse of Charles Dalrymple, Sheriff-Clerk of Ayrshire, and the other heirs of tailzie, expedite a resignation of the Lands and Barony of Orangefield, as early as the 12th of February, 1747, a period at which the Governor was probably *dead*. Mrs. Dalrymple had, according to tradition, a large box of tea presented to her by the Governor, which was a great rarity in this country at that time. It was so large, that the doors at Orangefield would not admit it, and accordingly it became necessary to haul it up on the outside of the house for admission, by a window or some other large aperture. It was preserved until lately, if not still extant, by Dr. Whiteside of Ayr—being bound with brass, and made use of by him as a corn chest.

Mrs. Dalrymple was succeeded by her son, James Dalrymple, who was served heir of tailzie to her on the 20th of April, 1785. He was a warm friend of the Poet Burns, and became a subscriber for no less than 10 copies of his poems. It was he, too, who introduced the Poet to his cousin, James, the 14th Earl of Glencairn, whose death was commemorated by him in the well-known poem, entitled "The Lament." It is reported that he became extremely fond of hunting. In following out such pursuits, he of course lived expensively, and the result was, that his affairs became embarrassed. Upon the 3d of February, 1791, he executed a Disposition of the Barony of Orangefield, in favour of Trustees, for behoof, as we presume, of his Creditors. The Trustees were the Rev. William Dalrymple, of Ayr, John Ballantine, Banker there, William Paterson, Writer in Kilmarnock, and John Murdoch and Robert Aitken, Writers in Ayr, and although it was an entailed property, it came ultimately to be sold. James Dalrymple married and had a family; his eldest son, Captain Dalrymple, of the 71st Regiment, died at Coleraine, in Ireland, some years ago, in the 73d year of his age; and James Dalrymple, of the Royal Navy, youngest son of James Dalrymple of Orangefield, a retired commander, died at Newrow, Coleraine, upon the 22d of March, 1853.

The Governor himself lived and died at Orangefield; but the exact period of his death has not been ascertained. He was alive, however in 1744, being the year in which Lady Glencairn was married, although it has been discovered that he was so seriously ill about that time, that the medical attendant could not assure him of living until the solemnization of the nuptials. He was also alive in December, 1745; for, on the 17th of that month, he is found lending £1,500 to the community of Glasgow, to meet the sum which had been extorted from them by Prince Charles. Still, he had gone to his account by the year 1748, for, from Dickie of Loans' Memorandum-Book, it is discovered that the monument at Whiteside, near Monkton, was

begun to be erected during *that year in memoria* of him, who is there characterized as the *deceased Governor Macrae*. The monument is not finished until the following year, when, as it was approaching a completion, it fell ; and, in consequence, had to be re-erected in the following year, 1750. It is more than probable, even, that he was dead anterior to the 12th of February, 1747, as, of that date, Mrs. Dalrymple, as mentioned, expedite a Crown Charter of Resignation to the Lands of Orangefield, in virtue of the Procuratory, as may be assumed that was contained in the Disposition and Deed of Entail by Governor Macrae, of the 12th of August, 1742. Before his death, it is not to be presumed that he would allow himself to be dispossessed, and another invested in Orangefield, which was his usual place of residence, and where he even was living at the period of his death. It is as late as December, 1749, that we find Hugh M'Guire, for the first time, designed of *Drumdown* ; and the probability is, that the Governor was neither divested of this, nor of any of his other estates while in life.

When the Governor's death occurs, he is buried in the churchyard of Monkton ; and, although he was at that time engaged in erecting a private burial place, it was not adopted by his relations for the interment of his bones. No stone memorial marks his grave ; still it is said that an old man in Ochiltree can point out the exact position, having been accustomed, when a boy, to go to it when the grave-digger was upon the spot. The fine monument already referred to, however, was erected to his memory on grounds which belonged to him, and in such an elevated position as to attract observation, and be seen over a wide district of country. These grounds were originally called by the name of *Prestwick*, afterwards Monkton, and latterly Orangefield.

The Governor is said to have been a person of ability, and well acquainted with Indian affairs ; and from the success that attended his career in India, and the respect in which he was held by the East India

Board, there cannot be an opposite presumption. But it seems strange, on reflection, that, as asserted by the writer of the *Story of the Olden Time*, 16th July, 1850, "none of the vast property remains to any individual of the descendants of M'Guire." The Governor's personal appearance has nowhere been stated, neither has there been any reference to his employments or habits after his return from India. His age has not even been taken notice of; but, if he was forty years out of the country, returned home about 1730, and died in 1746 or 1747, it will be an approximation of the truth to assume that he would be of age from sixty-five to seventy-five. His walking cane is said by the writer "A." to have been "given to an old friend, and is still in the family as a relic. I believe (he adds) it is possessed by Dalrymple of Orangefield." But where is Dalrymple, or in what locality is the possession maintained? The same writer mentions having seen *three* of the largest and most beautiful china jars which he ever saw, "in the recess of the drawing-room at Newton-Don. Upon admiring them, (as it is added), Sir Alexander, (Don), laughing, said, 'these were the Countess of Glencairn's, from the old Governor.'"

The following references are made for the sake of those who may incline to investigate this curious, and romantic story. (1.) "Miller Samson," in a Note to the Memoir of Mr. Coutts of Brechin, by the Rev. Dr. Guthrie; also in the *Ayr Observer* of 27th July, 1847. (2.) Letter of a "Native of Ochiltree," in *Ayr Observer* of 3d August, 1847. It is an answer to some of Mr. Guthrie's views. (3.) Letter by "Senex," in the *Glasgow Herald* of 10th June, 1850. The communication also appeared in the *Ayr Observer* of the 13th of that month. (4.) Letter of "J. F. M.," in *Ayr Advertiser* of 24th June, 1850. It is in reply to the views of "Senex." (2.) (5.) Letter of "A.," in *Ayr Observer* of the 16th of July, 1850. It refers to previous newspaper communications, and states facts, "received (it is said) from an old gentleman, and other individuals well ac-

quainted with the astonishing history" of Governor Macrae, and "from the Countess of Glencairn." (6.) *Scottish Journal of Topography*, vol. i. (7.) Paterson's *History of Ayrshire*, vol. ii.; "Monktoun Parish." (8.) Fowler's *Sketches of Towns in Renfrewshire*, 1852. (9.) Wodrow's *Analecta*, vol. iv. February, 1730. (10.) Kay's *Portraits of Edinburgh Characters*, vol. i. (11.) Chambers' *Traditions of Edinburgh*, 2 vols., 12mo. (12.) M'Ure's *History of Glasgow*. (13.) Crawford's *Renfrewshire*, by Semple, 1782. (14.) Douglas *Peerage*, by Wood, 2 vols., fol. 1813.

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