

APPENDIX No. 2.

No. 2. Letter from Assistant on deputation to Collector of Bhauglepore; August 1790.

Letter from the Assistant on deputation to the Collector of Bhauglepore; dated 11th August 1790.

Sir,—I was yesterday favoured with your letter, under date the 9th instant.

As introductory to the Report which I have now to submit of my proceedings on deputation in pergunnah Monghyr, I beg leave to insert here, a general historical account of the zemindars and zemindariies therein contained, extracted from a report made to the Board of Revenue by your predecessor Mr. Adair.

“The traditional account of this pergunnah (Monghyr) is, that it was formerly inhabited only by Thudgarkus of the class denominated rich, also chiefly resided in the woods, at the foot of the hills. One of those whose habitation was upon a rock in the river Ganges, is said, with the assistance of Vishkarna, the God and patron of artists, to have built, a girt, and to have named it Monghyr. Also that although the adjacent Country was at that time, a wild jungle, without the smallest vestige of cultivation; yet it was much frequently, owing to the distribution of large sums of money made by the Rajah Curhun, (a descendant of Raama) among the Brahmins, who frequented a temple of the Goddess Chundy and to his residing in Curran Chowrt, a spot still recognized by that name.

“That in the process of time when the country has fallen under the dominion of the Moguls an army of the emperor Heirnaion being at Monghyr, Heerorama Rajaput, and Raam Roy, of the caste (or rather profession) named Baud Corath, attendants in the camp Scubatthan, and afterwards, through the means of the emperor’s mutseddies became chaudries and obtained sunnuds for the tract of land which many years later, when the Subah Sujah Shah repaired the foot and built a palace in it, first acquired the name Havelly Monghyr.

“This account (fanciful as it appears and wholly traditional) is collected from the oldest of the persons, inhabitants; canongoes registers extending only twenty-four years back to the time of Cossim Ally in whose war their papers, it is said, were either plundered, or lost; and the following genealogical tables of the present zemindars, who all deduce their descent from one or other of the two above mentioned Chowdries, are formed on the credit of their own declarations respectively.

“Havelly Monghyr is divided into eleven turfs, or small

zemindaries, of which the first five are the possession of the posterity of Heeroram ; as follows :—

- 1st Turf Moheydepore Maha Sing.
- 2nd Turf Moheydepore Bheekam... Assaram Nirly Sing.
- 3rd Turf Bunwara ... Bundoo
- 4th Turf Tajepore ... Jowrawon
- 5th Turf Jamaelpore ... Mungram

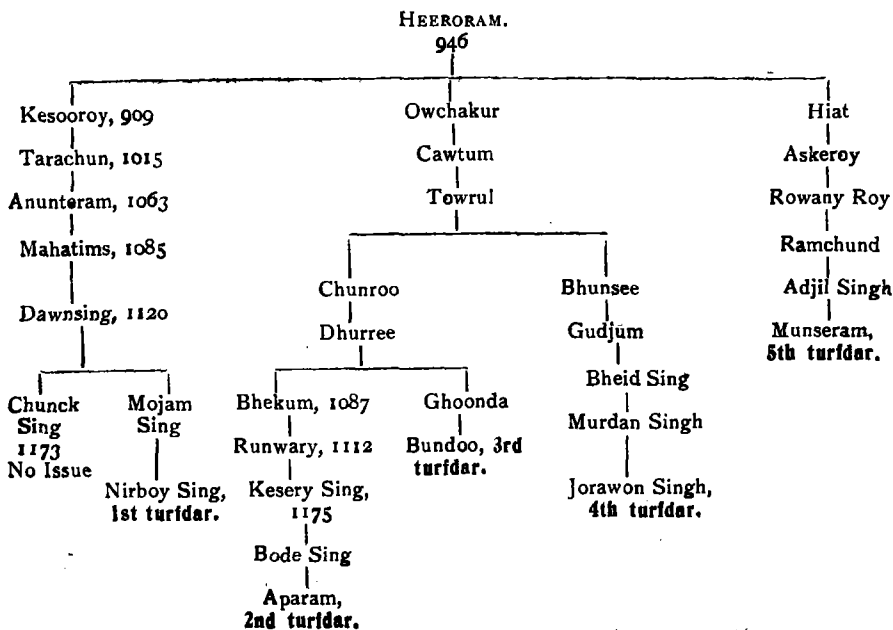
Each Turf is sub-divided into talooks among the relations of the zemindars, and whose names are inserted in the list lately transmitted to the Board of Revenue.

“The 4 turfs appertaining to the posterity of Raam Roy are as follows :—

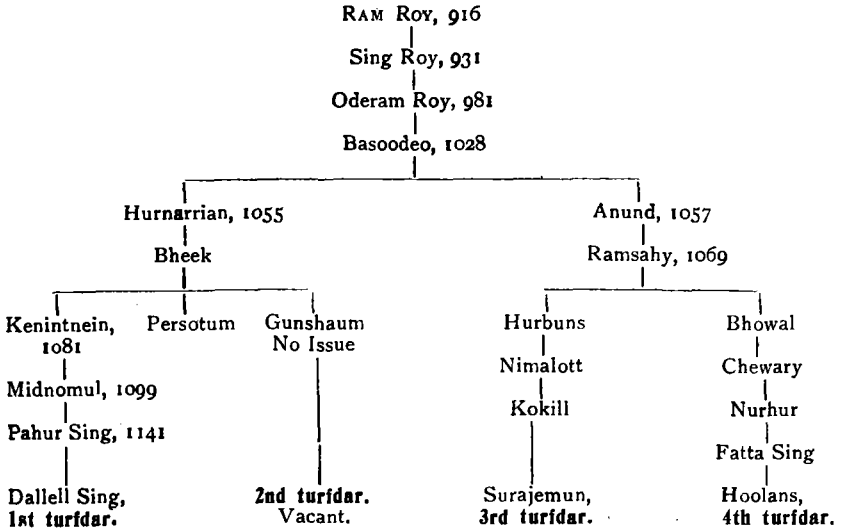
- 1st Turf Moholey, etc.—Dallel Sing.
- 2nd Turf Sultanpore Coltoo, etc.—has not been claimed since the death of Gunsham without issue in 1120 Fusly, but has remained in charge of the Mockuddums.
- 3rd Turf Bansdespore, etc.—Surajemun.
- 4th Turf Bahaderpore Gwmes—Holans [239]

“Genealogical Tables of the Zemindars descended from Heeroram and Ram Roy.”

1st TABLE.



2nd TABLE.



"The two remaining Turfs of Havilly Monghyr yet undescribed, are,

- 1st. Truf Indiruk.
- 2nd. Truf Ibrahimapore.

The first may be considered as a defalcation from the original zemindary, left by Raam Roy to his posterity. It is said to have been abandoned by *Bheek Roy* (*vide* his name in the foregoing table) by reason of his being unable to defend it against the savages of the Bunnikpore people; whereupon *Lochmun* a Bramin, in 1061, applied for and obtained a sunnud for it from the emperor Alumgyre; and *Munhower Singh*, the fourth heir in descent from Lochmun, is now in the possession.

"Truf Ibrahimapore was when waste land, granted, with the consent of the Chowdries of Monghyr, to *Benode Chowdry*, whose grandson Harry Kishen, is now in possession of it; but the sunnud is said to have been lost or destroyed, in the troubles occasioned by Mustafa Cawn in 1152.

"Besides these divisions of purgannah Havilly Monghyr, there are comprehended in it, certain small talooksana, magas, denominated muskoory and husb-ul-nossoly, which pay their rents immediately to Government. These may possibly be defalcations from the foregoing zemindaries, although the separations cannot now be ascertained, neither do the present incumbents hold them, by any other title than that of long possession. These having been particularized in the list of zemindaries, &c., already transmitted to the Board, it seems

unnecessary to recapitulate them here. The history of Bazar of Monghyr, held independent of the zemindars, has also been furnished to the Board.

With respect to the sub-divisions of the zemindaries of this purgunnah, mentioned in the foregoing extract, into small talooks among the collateral descendants of the original zemindars, and the discrimination of the right of property thereon depending, by the rules established by Government;— as the discussion of those points, make no part of my instructions, but appear to appertain rather to the business of the approaching settlement, I shall only mention here, that, in order to prevent the ryot suffering inconvenience from the new pottahs being signed by the zemindars for land, whereof the malik or talook due might hereafter be found with the proprietor, or *vice versa*, I proposed that the signatures of both parties should be affixed, which being readily agreed to, the measure was accordingly adopted.

I proceed now to explain the rules of assessment, and mode of collecting the rent, by an investigation of truf Dallel Sing, including the mozas Moholey, &c. For information of these particulars, I had recourse to the putwarrey accounts, (there being few or no pownahs extant) and to the Canongoe's registers, which agree in stating the rules of assessment to be as follows:—

Nuckdy Land.

			Rs.	A.	
Assul	...	2 Fussala, per bega,	1st sort	...	5 8
			2nd	...	5 0
			3rd	...	4 12
			4th	...	4 8
			5th	...	4 0
			6th	...	3 12
			7th	...	3 8
			8th	...	3 4
			9th	...	3 1
			10th	...	2 12
			11th	...	2 8
			12th	...	2 4
			13th	...	2 1
			14th	...	1 15
			15th	...	1 12
			16th	...	1 8
			17th	...	1 6
			18th	...	1 4

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Assul ...	2 Fussala, per bega,	19th	...	1	0
		20th	...	0	14
		21st	...	0	12
		22nd	...	0	8
1 Fussala, neemsaly, per bega,	1st sort	...	1	2	
	2nd	...	0	12	
	3rd	...	0	10	
	4th	...	0	9	
	5th	...	0	8	

Abwabs:	Ps.	As.	Crds.
Kussoor...per rupee on the assil	0	2	5
Dechdary—on land capable of being watered in the dry season	4	baloos	per bega.
on other land	...	2	baloos.
on neemsaly land...	1	baloos.	[240]

Mechmany ... Assessed on land capable of being watered at the rate last year of 7As in the rupee on the assul.

Neakdarry:	R.	A.	Gds.
Mockuddum—per rupee on the assul	...	0	0 20
Chowderahy	...	0	0 5
Putwarry	...	0	0 5
Gorayt	...	0	0 2½
Deh Curcha	...	0	4 0

BHOWLEY LAND; KHEEL: Seers. Chat.

Malguzarry	...	Assul	...	12	12
					12
					13 8
Neakdarry—Malik, or	}	Mockuddum	...	...	1 0
Putwarry		...	...	0 8	
Kyall		...	...	0 4	
Dehdar		...	...	0 4	
Gorayt		...	...	0 4	

Ryots share remains	...	...	2 4
			24 4
		Md	1 0 0

KUNHULL: Seers. Chat.

Malguzary	...	Assul	...	15	4
					12
					16 0
Neakdarry (as above)	...	...	...	2	4
Ryots share	...	...	...	21	12
		Md	1	0	0

BHOWLEY LAND; PAH.

Malguzarry	...	Assul ... 19	19	0	
			1	0	
			20		0
Neakdars (as above)	...		2	4	
Ryots share	...	...	17	12	
			Md 1		0 0

Abwabs :

Kussoor ... Calculated upon the estimated value of the **malguzarry** share at 10 gundas per rupee.

Kyally ... Paid upon do at 10 gds. per rupee.

Dehdarry ... In kind upon both the **malguzarry** and **government** shares, at 6 **chattaüks** per maund.

Russour Chowdery ... 4 **chattaüks** per maund.

Deh Curcha ... Upon **beeta**, or the *main* land, assessed on the amount of the **government** share at 4 **annas** per rupee. Upon **dewra**, or islands, per maund, on **Kheil** 5 gundas. **Kunkul**, 7. 2.—**Pah**, 10.

The division of the assessment into *assul*, *abwab* and *neakdarry*, is a mode which has prevailed from time immemorial in this **pergunnah**, as in other parts of **Behar**, whereby the rent or produce of the land became appropriated in distinct shares, to **government**, to its officers, and to the cultivator; the two first, being considered as the right of **government**; and the last, or **neakdarry**, of the several persons particularized, whose contingent expenses of collection, together with some further charges, which will be mentioned, were defrayed by the *deh curcha*. It may be necessary further to explain the several articles of taxation contained in each division, or separate head.

Assul—Is the general rate per **bega** on land, the rent of which is paid in coin; and which varies according to the quality of the soil, and the facility of procuring an artificial supply of water from tanks or wells, in the dry season. These rates, have existed beyond the date of any public record; and were certainly fixed, long before the Company acquired the **dewanny**.

Abwabs—1st. **Kussoor**. The term means *batta*: it was formerly levied as a part of the *deh curcha* (explained further on) to make up for any deficiency in the rupees collected in the **Mofussil**, which, under the **Mogul** government, were required to be paid into the treasury, at an equal standard. **Cossim**

Ally converted this contingent tax, into an uniform and permanent assessment throughout the pergunnah, as it has continued ever since. There is no objection now made to it by the ryots, whose advantages, in the increased price of grain and other articles, since its first imposition, may be supposed to have kept pace with the tax.

2d. *Dehdary*.—This was originally the appropriated share of the *dehdar*, an inferior officer of the police, whose office about 16 years ago being found unsupplied, and his service unnecessary, the assessment was, under the same name, shifted from the *neakdarry* to the *abwab*, where it now constitutes a part of the revenue. [241]

3d. *Mehemany*.—This is a partial exaction, which, during the residence of Cossim Ally at Monghyr, was first laid upon Mohoby and its dependent villages Sackerpore and Jummulketa, at the gross amount of 42 rupees on the first, 20 rupees on the second, and 12 Rs. 12A. on the last. The assessment of it, was apportioned on such land only as was capable of being watered in the dry season; by which mode, its operation became partial even among the ryots of the same village, whose assul rates of land became thereby increased 7 annas in the rupee. On the earnest entreaty of the ryots, and on their ready consent to my proposal of their taking waste land on an adjacent island (there being none on the continent) to such an amount as, in its rent, might be equivalent to the obnoxious exaction, I recommended the abolition of it to the zemindar, who readily acquiesced; and it is abolished accordingly. The quantity of land engaged for as an equivalent, with its rates and other particulars, are specified in the Persian register of *abwabs*, herewith to be transmitted.

Neakdary.—1st *Mockudmy*, or as it is also termed, *Malikannah*, is the proportion of the gross rent from time immemorial allotted, to the proprietor or officer of that name, whose relative situation, or particular duty, I conceive it unnecessary to explain.

2d. *Russoom Chowderahy*—is an allotment to the chowdery or zemindar, similar in its nature to the foregoing.

3d. *Patwarry*.—An allotment to the putwarry or village register.

4th. *Gorayt*.—An allotment to an inferior village officer acting under the zemindar or *tassaldar*; his office is somewhat similar to that of a peon.

5th. *Deh Curcha*.—This was formerly here, as it is still in

other parts of the district, an assessment variable in its rate, which could be determined only at the end of the year, agreeably to the amount of certain contingent expenses which were supposed to be incurred for the purposes implied in the literal meaning of the term, in the course of it, joined to the tussulana of the zemindars, of the canongoes, and other established allowances, the particulars of which, in the instance of Mohoby, accompany this; and the particulars of which, in the other parts of the purgunnah, will hereafter be furnished. The unfair mode however, of computing this assessment, being complained of about 16 years ago, an enquiry was then made into its actual amount in each village; and, in lieu of this variable assessment, a proportional rate was established, as a permanent tax, which has duly been collected ever since. By the operation of this measure, which seems to have given general satisfaction, I found one principal object of my deputation anticipated in this purgunnah; the only indefinite assessment being thereby reduced to a fixed rate, and the oppressive exaction of peons in particular, precluded: and I must do the zemindars the justice to observe, that on the most minute enquiry, I do not find them to have deviated from the rule in question. I have not therefore, as far as I have yet proceeded, found it necessary to alter either the amount or the mode of this assessment in any instance, excepting that of Selimpre dumduma, an equivalent for the remission on which village, you will observe by the accompanying Persian papers, is obtained by the cultivation of waste land on an adjacent island.

The above explanations apply equally to the bhowley and the nucky rates of taxation; but in the former, there is an additional article to be noticed, namely,

Khally.—This was formerly, it may be presumed, an allowance made to the kyall, who actually weighed out the respective shares of the crop; but as in process of time, instead of the produce in kind, the value of that produce at a certain rate in *money*, was paid by the ryot, the kyall became unnecessary, although the assessment was still continued under the same name, as a part of the revenue.

On computation made by the zemindars, the canongoes and myself, in the results of which we all agreed, it appeared that the net share to the ryot on the bhowley land in this turf, was on the

		Seers.	Chs.
Kheel	...	22	4
Kunhul	...	17	12
Pah	...	10	12

whereas in several other turfs, it appeared to be about

			Seers.	Chs.
Kheel	...	...	22	4
Kunhul	...	...	17	4
Pah	...	...	13	8

This great disproportion in the pah land between Mohoby and the adjacent zemindarries, the ryots of the former with reason complained of; and after some argument on the subject, the zemindars acquiesced in the propriety of its being reduced more nearly to an equality. The rates were accordingly paid on the

			Seers.	Chs.
Kheel	...	...	22	4
Kunhul	...	...	17	12
Pah	...	...	13	0

These rates will, still on comparison, be found heavier on the ryots of Monghyr, than those which prevail, in most other parts of the district; but I am inclined to believe, that the difference is amply compensated by the superior quality of the land in this pergunnah, and the vicinity of a ready market for its produce.

On the grounds of the above investigation of the rates of taxation in Turp Mohoby, and of a similar investigation in every other instance, as far as I have yet proceeded, the issue of Jenapaut pottahs, both nuckdy and bhowley, has been obtained, excepting only for land cultivated on some islands situated in the Ganges westward of Monghyr, which will be [242] mentioned hereafter. Those pottahs, you will please to observe, from the copy of one annexed, express the quantity of land, the several articles and rates of taxation, and also on nuckdy land, the same total or jumma.

The same particulars being stated in the register which will accompany my final report on this pergunnah, the plan of which register is herewith submitted for your consideration, you will thereby be furnished with the information you require, viz. "the most accurate and minute value of the lands "cultivated by nuckdy pottahs, as well as the exact amount of "bhowly kissa lands in cultivation," except in such instances as above mentioned of the islands west of Monghyr, where the obstacles to the accomplishment of this measure, stated, by the canongoe in his answer to my query which is annexed, seem to me at present to be insurmountable, and concerning which I request to be favoured with your instructions. In the mean time, permit me to observe, that the species of pottahs granted in similar cases in Furkeya appearing to me well

adapted to the particular local circumstances of those islands, in which is included the whole tuppah Dewra, I did not hesitate to adopt it, under the authority of the 4th article of the proclamations I am furnished with; and should it meet with your approbation, an adequate knowledge of the quantity and value of the lands in question, as the ground of a permanent settlement, may be obtained by other means, namely, an inspection of the village records; unless objection to this mode should arise, from the idea of its being a minute local scrutiny. If, on the contrary being the case, you will be pleased to point out in what manner the difficulties stated by the canongoe may be removed, and janajaut pottahs devised, including the particulars you desire to have inserted, those already granted in this tuppah may be easily recalled, and others substituted, conformable to your instructions.

I request also to be informed, whether it is your pleasure that the issue of pottahs be extended to the Mockurrey mahals in this and the other pergunnahs included in my deputation registers, which are, I believe, deposited in your cutcherry.

I trust you will think the accompanying Abstract of pottahs issued, sufficient for your present purpose, or until the register shall be complete for each village (which I expect to accomplish in the course of a few days); the transmission of the original, would at this time, greatly retard my progress; and a copy of a paper of such a magnitude, it would not be possible, with the assistance of the mohurrer I am furnished with, to prepare in time for this dispatch.

Not having with me the Orders alluded to in your letter from the board of revenue, dated the 4th December 1787, I shall be much obliged to you for a copy of them.

Sandarpore,
11th August 1790.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
S. Davis,
Asst. on Dep. in Monghyr.

APPENDIX, No. 3.

LETTER from Collector of Bhauglepore, dated 6th December 1787; on the constitution and duties of the office of Canongoe.

To John Shore, Esquire, President, &c., Members of the Board of Revenue, Fort William.