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THE GENERAL
EAST INDIA GUIDE

AND
VADE MECUM;

FOR THE
PUBLIC FUNCTIONARY, GOVERNMENT OFFICER,
PRIVATE AGENT,
TRADER OR FOREIGN SOJOURNER,
IN BRITISH INDIA,

And the Adjacent Parts of Asia

IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED WITH
THE HONOURABLE THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

BEING
A DIGEST
OF THE WORK OF THE LATE CAPT. WILLIAMSON,

With many Improvements and Additions;

EMBRACING
THE MOST VALUABLE PARTS OF SIMILAR PUBLICATIONS ON THE
STATISTICS, LITERATURE, OFFICIAL DUTIES, AND SOCIAL
ECONOMY OF LIFE AND CONDUCT IN THAT IN-
TERESTING QUARTER OF THE WORLD.

BY
J. B. GILCHRIST, LL.D.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY KINGSBURY, PARBURY, & ALLEN,
BOOKSELLERS TO THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY,
LEADENHALL STREET.

1825.

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LADYMAN'S WALK, S.W.

1882

P R E F A C E .

THE Volume now offered to the public is chiefly designed to communicate the information supplied by a residence of 22 years at Bombay and Bengal. During that period, many opportunities of visiting the districts under those presidencies, have afforded a considerable acquaintance with topics, the correct knowledge of which must be highly important, not only to the military or naval officer, but to those engaged in the civil departments of every description; who may thus be assisted justly to appreciate the character of the natives, and also of the European society in British India.

In order to render this Volume more acceptable to those readers for whose information it has been compiled, a familiar rather than a didactic style has been generally adopted. The same intention has precluded a rigid arrangement, under abstract heads and chapters, or any attempt to render the contents at large too philosophically diffuse.

From the commencement of the present century, and

even since the first appearance of this Vade-Mecum, the knowledge of Eastern literature has been assiduously cultivated, both in Europe and Asia. It has, therefore, been designed in this Digest of the former work by Captain Williamson, generally to avoid the introduction of those topics, which later writers have amply considered. Those readers, therefore, whose pursuits or inclination may lead them to seek very detailed information respecting the religious tenets of the various sects, the languages and literature of the East, &c. should consult those authors to whom the world is so much indebted. The following publications are peculiarly suited for students intent on applying themselves to the most valuable sources of oriental learning.

The Philological Publications of Gilchrist, those also of Wilkins, are equally indispensable for attaining a proficiency in the Persian language, and in the literature of the Hindoos—accomplishments essential for officers of every rank. To cadets who would incur a less expense, the Persian Vocabulary, by Hopkins, is particularly recommended. Richardson's, Jones's, and Gladwin's Oriental publications should not be omitted, nor Ouseley's Essay towards facilitating the reading of Persian manuscripts; which will materially assist those who would become adepts in the art of deciphering the most difficult Persi-Arabic writings, which abound in the East. Balfour's Forms of Herkern should also be provided; together with Sale's Koran, which supplies the fullest information respecting the origin of the Mahometan religion. Reynell's Memoir, united with his Atlas and Map, or the Map of India lately compiled by Walker, will prove the best guides in the geography of the East, and especially afford correct topographical information as to those provinces of Hindoostan which now belong

to Great Britain, or are placed under her paramount sway.

It would be endless to enumerate minutely the requisite contents of a well-chosen oriental library, the extent of which, after all, must often be regulated rather by the pecuniary ability than the literary inclination of a purchaser, especially as new publications, in periodical succession, frequently supersede their immediate predecessors in every branch of Eastern intelligence, acquisitions, and accomplishments. And here I take the liberty of suggesting, that commanders of vessels bound for India, might, to good purpose, carry out an assortment of oriental works, either for circulation or sale, during the outward voyage, among the studious part of the passengers, who could thus imbibe, *en passant*, beneficial instruction.

It is proper to inform or remind the adventurer to British India, that by inspecting the Court Guide, in conjunction with the India Register, for the current year, he will easily learn who are the patrons, to whom he can apply with the most probability of success. As to the published regulations for the control or guidance of persons proceeding to India, there must be frequent fluctuations. These will be easily ascertained by consulting the Directory, published yearly under the immediate sanction of the Court of Directors.

I cannot conclude without soliciting the reader's indulgence as to any typographical errors which he may notice; nor will he be disinclined, I trust, to excuse any misarrangements which may occasionally appear, even after the greatest attention in preparing numerous extracts for the press. And now, anxiously hoping that the following pages may amuse, while they convey instruction, they are consigned, by the compiler, to the mature considera-

tion of a discriminating, just, and liberal public; trusting that his motives, at least, will be thought to deserve the approbation of all his countrymen, who are more or less interested in the durable prosperity of the British Indian Empire, as the most estimable appendage of the parent state.

J. B. G.

London, Clarges Street, No. 11.

1st June, 1825.

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THE UNIVERSAL

EAST INDIA VADE-MECUM.

GREAT numbers of respectable persons annually proceed to India utterly unacquainted with the customs, &c. peculiar to that country; and thus are subjected to the greatest inconveniences. Owing to the absence of an experienced friend, or to the impossibility of obtaining some publication suited to guide under a case of no small difficulty, not only many a pound, which could perhaps be ill spared, has been thrown away, but much lasting injury has been entailed. Little apology then is needful for recommending this volume, chiefly the result of a long residence in Bengal and other provinces of the Peninsula, to the attention, not only of those who are about to emigrate to the East, but of such also as have relatives or friends in that remote quarter.

The channels for promotion and employment in the King's civil, military, and naval service, in all parts of the world, are so much alike that no particular hints can easily be given respecting those of India, which are not common to the whole. A reference therefore to the Occidental and Oriental Redbooks of every current year, will immediately exhibit the

number and nature of the various offices in the Eastern hemisphere at the sole disposal of the crown. Having thus briefly settled this prominent division of local intelligence, the first enquiry is, whether an appointment be required in the Company's service, either in a civil, military, religious, legal, or naval capacity; or, whether the party is about to adventure as a merchant, free-mariner, or simply as a licensed resident within their dominions. If the Company's service be in question, it will be necessary to follow implicitly the regulations of the Court of Directors. From them alone can any nomination be obtained; and they have, from time to time, judged it expedient to promulgate these regulations for the better management of their affairs, and for obviating misconception on the part of every candidate, as well as to shield him from imposition. As they are subject to much fluctuation, and are too numerous to be embodied in this work, those topics have been excluded altogether; because the 'EAST INDIA DIRECTORY,' published annually, as edited by gentlemen holding offices at the India-House, will be found the best guide in all such matters, from its containing the code in force at the time of publication.

Many persons formerly received commissions in the military and medical departments in India, from the Governor-general. For this, urgent necessity was the usual plea; but that practice was severely censured, and has been, for a series of years, with a few fruitless exceptions, completely exploded. The hope, consequently, of thus obtaining any employment in India, as a regular Company's servant, should never be entertained; none being permanently bestowed but by the Directors. It is true, indeed, that to the recommendations of their governments abroad, in behalf of peculiarly meritorious indivi-

duals, they have, in very numerous instances, attended, especially when these did not encroach too far upon the legitimate patronage of that supreme executive court at home, which alone, with the tacit approbation of their immediate constituents, can annul and confirm all deviations from the ordinary rules of the service.

Little argument is required to demonstrate the superior policy, or rather the imperious necessity, of sending young men from England in such a state of improvement as may enable them to become eminently useful, immediately on their arrival at the presidencies to which they may be nominated. This, to a certain extent, is effected by the institution of a college, and of a military academy, under the auspices of the Directors. At the former, those intended for the civil service should be duly grounded in the most useful languages, &c., of the East; while, at the latter, young gentlemen are instructed in whatever may be essential towards their military career; including, of course, a competent rudimental acquaintance with the Hindoostanee tongue. Thus the natives are induced to entertain more respect for the junior civil and military servants, than could possibly be expected, while a want of every local requisite, and even of the very rudiments of professional science, was too conspicuous. The DIRECTORY, already spoken of, will be found to contain whatever relates to the proper qualifications of young men seeking employment under the Company. It should, however, be fairly stated here, that whenever any undue influence is exerted, by pecuniary means, to obtain an appointment, in whatever branch, expulsion, disgrace, or eventually heavy fines, &c., in all probability will be the result. As the risk of subsequent detection is very serious, great pains have been taken and heavy expenses incurred to com-

municate all the requisite preliminary instructions to youths in the medical, civil, engineer, and artillery branches of the service. Both cavalry and infantry cadets have, on the contrary, been so entirely overlooked, that they may all proceed to British India without possessing a particle of local intelligence, or any portion of those ordinary acquirements that every gentleman, educated for the army, should carry with him from home to the place of his destination abroad, as becomes an efficient officer, able and willing from the first to perform his duty profitably for his employers. At least, no regular examination precedes a nomination to the rank of cadet in the infantry line, or cavalry; though the numbers belonging to those two corps alone are in the proportion of four to one. Thus the ignorance annually exported in these departments may be three-fourths more than attaches to the rest, even whose relative rank depends on their respective talents, finally adjusted after repeated trials; while all the infantry and cavalry candidates escape to India, in this respect, scot free, whatever may be their fate afterwards.

Were certain qualifications declared essential, previous to admission, after a fair examination, there would soon be no lack of expectants well versed in the usual branches of useful learning, including an accurate knowledge of English grammar, and the rudiments also of the Hindoostanee tongue. A regulation founded on such principles would subject the Company to little or no expense; and so far from being injurious to the future prospects of any patron's individual protégé it must infallibly promote them, by seasonably stimulating a boy to an early habit of mental exertion, from the natural fear of being rejected as quite unfit for the Company's service in any military capacity.

The one thing most needful for every situation of importance and responsibility, undoubtedly is, a colloquial facility in the popular speech of India; for no man, who is not a practical linguist, can execute the duties of his office with safety, unless it be a mere sinecure; but there are so few in the East, that he is a lucky fellow indeed who can secure so snug a birth in any one of the public departments there; for it is dangerous in the extreme to act through the medium of native agency, on any occasion, where malversation can possibly exist, as in the commissariat or such confidential branches of the service.

The Madras Government has done much more to excite a general emulation among their junior subalterns to become proficient orientalists, than the two other presidencies, where the interpretership and quartermastership only, are held by the same person, to whom, on the former establishment, the paymastership of the battalion has recently been added; and if this additional stimulus could be conveniently adopted at Bengal and Bombay, likewise, the result, in course of time, would speak for itself, by creating a very general competition in studying every useful provincial dialect, over and above the Hindoostanee or military tongue,—this being, in fact, *ab initio* a *sine qua non* to every British officer in Hindoostan.

The soundest policy dictates the propriety of convincing the natives of India, that justice will be impartially executed in all our civil and military tribunals, and as far as possible through the colloquial medium best known to those persons who are most interested in the pending decision of the particular court, whatever it may be.

Nothing so effectually counteracts the prejudices which invariably possess the minds of subdued nations against their conquerors, as conciliatory treatment, and the equitable judgments of the ruling powers for the time being.

This single object, therefore, merits the immediate appointment of thirty or forty additional interpreters among the King's and Company's troops; for such a plan would greatly counterbalance any extra charge, and moreover establish on the spot, a universal nursery for oriental proficients, through the whole of the British Indian army, at an expense hardly perceptible, when compared with other disbursements in behalf of eastern learning for a very inferior number of emigrant students from this country to Hindoostan.

Were the King's officers mere sojourners in the Company's territories for two, or three seasons, at farthest, their total ignorance of eastern dialects at present would be of little moment; but since a great majority of them become stationary for a long period of time, surely this portion of local knowledge may soon be made to produce much good, besides preventing a great deal of harm; though its evident advantages, in a military point of view, be left here entirely out of the question.

The office of a faithful interpreter being one which no unqualified candidate would venture to discharge, it cannot safely be prostituted to favour or influence alone, and necessarily becomes the legitimate prize of juvenile merit. It has been recently asserted, however, that instances of unworthy incumbents are occasionally discovered, where their brother officers, as members of the court-martial, gratuitously perform the duties of such sinecurists; leaving the individual non-effective subaltern to pocket his allowances, with the exposure of his own incapacity, until some trial of an extraordinary complexion force him to resign a honourable post to a better man, on whose fidelity alone the life and character of an innocent person may sometimes depend.

The annual savings which a proficient in the country

tongues may effect in all confidential transactions, by his skill and integrity, are inconceivable; and the loss through inexperience, dishonesty, and ignorance of the popular, or local speech, must be equally enormous: public agents, commissaries, paymasters, &c., can never, therefore, be sufficiently on the watch to prevent speculation, deception, and embezzlement by their inferior Indian assistants in those departments of the service.

It is difficult to account, on rational principles, for the existing want of regular interpreters in all the European artillery, and other corps; to say nothing yet of the whole King's troops in that quarter of the globe; because, it must be admitted, there can hardly one month, a week, or even a day elapse, without continual intercourse with hundreds of Hindoostanees, intimately connected with each regiment as subordinates, domestics, or followers, who must necessarily be often summoned to attend courts-martial, as culprits, or witnesses for examination, in their own several dialects: but in these cases no official linguist is to be found, whose duty it would be to act faithfully as interpreter before each of the regimental courts, when these are assembled for the due administration of justice, within the precincts of a garrison, cantonments, or camp.

The opportunity for the selection of civil servants duly qualified to fill offices of considerable importance, to which either large salaries, or handsome fees, &c. are attached, affords the ready means of rewarding the labours of meritorious individuals; and, with few exceptions, of enabling them, after a fair term of servitude, to return to Europe with competent fortunes. Hence, the Company have not found it necessary to stipulate for their granting any pensions to civil servants. Yet, whenever the pressure of infirmity, or misfortune, has exhibited to the

Directors an object justly entitled to their consideration, such civil servants, and, on many occasions, their widows and children also, have experienced that attention to their distresses which served to elevate them beyond the reach of adversity, independent of the fund. This has been established by voluntary contributions, in aid of the subscribers, their wives or children, in conformity with the rules of the several societies at each presidency, and in various departments of the service; as will be found minutely detailed in the India Register, &c.

In the military branch, a marked level prescribes the rise of every individual, beyond which, except in a few instances of staff-appointments, the utmost merit may unhappily remain unrewarded. Also, in a climate so destructive, the discharge even of ordinary duties is frequently attended with results most injurious to the constitution. It has, therefore, been judged necessary to make some provision for those who may either be compelled to seek the re-establishment of health in their native country, under the indulgence of a furlough, or who, having passed the prime of their days in that quarter, may choose to withdraw from the effective strength of the army, passing their latter years in retirement, and making way for the more active, to supply their places in the performance of the more arduous duties of the camp and field of laborious warfare.

In consideration of the important services rendered by their military and naval officers and surgeons, as also by their chaplains, the Company have established certain rates of income, under the general terms of full-pay, half-pay, and pension, for such as may retire from their service: those rates, together with all the regulations in force, will be found in the before-mentioned DIRECTORY.

No British subject, unless born in India, can claim the

right of residing within the Company's jurisdiction. This, including St. Helena, extends from the Cape of Good Hope, easterly, towards Cape Horn; comprehending all the Indian Seas and the great Peninsula of Asia, so far as the British flag is displayed, with the exception, however, of the Island of Ceylon. On that island the whole establishment appertains to the Crown, though generally some of the Madras troops, or even a portion of the Bengal army, may be seen doing duty there, as auxiliaries. Even here, also, either office or licence is requisite to establish the right of residence in any pursuit.

Necessity has imposed very arbitrary rules on the conduct of government abroad. None but persons whose political conduct and opinions are decidedly unexceptionable are permitted to reside within the Company's territories. Every European inhabitant is, or at least ought to be, registered, and furnished with a licence, renewable at times, or subject to be cancelled by the Supreme Council. This regulation is maintained against whatever may tend, however obliquely, towards colonization. Thus, in Calcutta, (*kalkutta*,) though purchases may be made of landed property, secured by *puttas*,* which correspond, generally, with our title-deeds, yet there does not appear to be any actual claim to the soil. Nor does this create any diffidence on the part of the purchaser, who, provided there be no latent mortgage, &c. always holds the property as a fee-simple. This rule does not, indeed, properly extend beyond the Muharutta Ditch, which formerly circumscribed the town on the land side, making nearly a semi-circle, whose radius exceeded a mile and a half. Beyond

* The Hindee, or general language of India, has thousands of words in common with the provincial Bungalowee, which differ in the sound of the short vowels *u* and *o* only—thus, *kalkotta*, *potta*, *gonga jol*, is the latter modification, and *kalkutta*, *putta*, *gunga jul*, (*ganges water*,) the former of the selfsame vocables.

that ancient barrier, (in old times, the protection against the incursions of the Muharutta horse,) though puttas may perhaps exist, their validity would not bear the test of litigation. The Company, it is true, have in various instances made grants of lands, but always under such terms as precluded any claim to property in the soil, as a permanent, independent, and paramount tenure.

The free merchant, free mariner, or licensed sojourner, proceeding to India with the view of purchasing landed property, or becoming a renter in his own name, will find himself in an awkward, or even a hazardous, situation, should he lay out his money in supposed purchases, or in buildings, *et cetera*, beyond the ascertained limits of the town of Calcutta. People should therefore correct, in due time, erroneous impressions arising from misrepresentation or from misconception. They must, indeed, alienate themselves from British opinions, and conform to local considerations; divested of every prepossession, and viewing our Indian possessions, not as colonies, but as conquests of a peculiar description, to which many of our laws and privileges are every way either unsuitable, or unwelcome.

Of late years the competition for Indian passengers, as the most lucrative cargo to the East Indies, has been so multiplied, that great changes have occurred in the price and medium of conveyance to that distant country. Should, indeed, the projected voyages in steam vessels be found to answer expectation, it is impossible to conjecture what may yet become the shortest, cheapest, safest, and most pleasant vehicles of transition. In the interim, however, it would be rather unfair, in a work of this kind, to award the palm of superiority to the regular Company's ships or private traders. Each class has its peculiar advantages and drawbacks; and every individual commander is now strongly impressed with the idea, that upon his

general good character for nautical skill and hospitable treatment, of his passengers, must ultimately depend his chance of making either a fortune or a comfortable subsistence, amidst a host of enterprising rivals.

An honest fame once established in the course of a few trips to the East, with a common share of successful escape from the dangers of the deep, will prove the best stock in this trade for a beginner, so long as a live bill of lading shall form an item of great moment, as at present, on both the outward and homeward passages.

The reader will by this time be fully apprised of the impracticability of getting by sea to India, from any British port. No captain can lawfully receive him, unless furnished with documentary authority; without which, a similar ordeal may be expected to be encountered the moment the vessel reaches her destination in Hindoostan, or the eastern settlements beyond the Cape. Every attempt, therefore, to elude those precautions may prove hazardous, or at best nugatory, by subjecting the intruder, sooner or later, as accidents or caprice may dictate, to instant retromission to Europe, agreeably to the Act of Parliament to that effect.

Such a variety of concurrent circumstances regulate *pro tempore* the amount of passage-money, that it is difficult to draw any middle line, where the extremes occasionally fluctuate from sixty to three hundred pounds a-head, conformably with the accommodations required, and the table or mess which will be most suitable to the rank, taste, and means of the particular guest, who is expected to pay more or less, accordingly, for all extraordinary conveniencies. Though a decided preference of regular Indiamen, to those termed private traders, may not be adviseable, still, compared with both classes, the general prejudice against foreign bottoms is too well founded in

justice, to admit of dispute. For, whatever a passenger may thus save in purse, he will assuredly lose in time and personal comfort : a remark, perhaps, applicable also in some degree to vessels from every port except London.

Among an increasing body of celebrated dealers in those articles, which every adventurer must carry along with him to the East, the lists are so numerous and appropriate as to enable any youth to judge and select for himself, on liberal or economical grounds, in proportion to the pecuniary abilities of the parties connected with his final equipment, and to the style of life he may have previously enjoyed with regard to clothes, accoutrements, and every thing else. Few young men reach London wholly destitute of experienced monitors on the spot for their pending transactions with long-established tradesmen, &c. engaged in providing every necessary for an Indian voyage, of the best quality, and at the most reasonable charge.

The ordinary out-fit of passengers will necessarily differ in a similar ratio with their relative wants *en passant*, or after their arrival. Whatever may be the case, it will be found least expensive to lay in the whole supplies of clothing, so far as may be practicable, from the stock on hand ; obtaining any additional articles from those tradesmen, by whom the family may have been usually furnished. One cannot too forcibly deprecate the common practice of burthening young folks with a variety of useless apparel, &c. ; the greater part of which becomes the perquisite of servants, or, being found a burthen rather than a convenience, is generally thrown about in the most negligent manner. The grand object should be to provide what may be truly efficient after an arrival in India.*

* For a list of articles required in an out-fit, according to the latest information, see Appendix, No. 1.

Hats are so very subject to be injured on board-ship, and, indeed, to be blown overboard, that little attention need be paid to appearance in that article. In this, as well as in every other item of dress, a large portion may be supplied from the stock in use previous to embarkation. The old saying, of "going to sea to wear out one's old clothes," has so far sense on its side, that whatever can be decently worn will be found full good enough for that purpose. Growing youths should observe the precaution of having every article of apparel made full large; else, by the time they have been some months at sea, they will be put to serious inconvenience. It is true, that few ships sail without a tailor on board, but he is not always to be had; being generally employed by the purser; or he may be in the sick list, &c.

Military persons, whose apparel and accoutrements cannot be ascertained previous to quitting England, should confine their attention to a supply of those materials which cannot fail to be useful on their arrival. Thus an officer of infantry may find it his interest to purchase a few yards of the best *superfine* scarlet broad cloth, or kerseymere, for making up his regimentals; an officer of artillery or of engineers, blue, &c. The most prudent plan, however, on the whole is, to consult intelligent officers just returned from India on matters of this sort, as they may always be found, and will, of course, be equally willing as able to afford the safest counsel to every cadet. The several corps, regiments, &c. not being exactly uniform in particular points, such as the colours of the facings, the patterns of the swords, &c. nothing can be done, with propriety, in those instances. Some regiments of the line have gold, and others have silver lace; hence these regiments cannot ascertain their dress, as is sometimes to be done by the cadets for artillery, engineers, and cavalry. The

infantry cadet, therefore, should equip himself in India with the uniform of the corps to which he may be appointed, on arrival: the additional expense of providing his uniform in the country will be but a trifle more than its prime cost in England. Moreover, the metal parts of it are apt to receive damage from sea air; and young men become mortified to find, on unfolding their uniform coat, upon reaching their destination, that the gold or silver lace is tarnished, and the coat rendered too shabby to be worn.

A small telescope, that may be easily carried in the pocket, will prove amusing on many occasions, and to a military man must ever be ranked among absolute necessities.

From the very limited space allowed for baggage to each passenger, it is indispensable that every article should be packed close. Many prefer a large sea-chest; but it is the worst receptacle that could be devised; especially as it becomes useless on arrival in India, and should in every instance be superseded by four boxes, well covered with leather, and clamped with brass, measuring about 26 or 28 inches in length, 18 in breadth, and 18 in depth. Within each box should be a lifter, so that half the contents may be taken out at pleasure, and the lower tier remain undisturbed. The contents of each part should be noted on a piece of stiff paper, pasted within the lid. A copy should also be written in a memorandum-book, so that the contents of the several boxes (numbered and lettered with the proprietor's initials, thus, $A.B. \frac{A.B.}{2} \frac{A.B.}{3} \frac{A.B.}{4}$) may be known without opening them. Only one of these need be in use at a time; the rest being sent down into the after-hold; which is usually opened once or twice a week, on stated days, for the convenience of those who may wish to examine their packages.

Very considerable convenience ensues from sorting all linen into sets: for instance, a shirt, an under-shirt, a pair of stockings, two neck-handkerchiefs, and a pocket ditto. These should be rolled up as tight as can be effected by manual force, and surrounded with a towel, which, being pinned, keeps all fast and clean. In this form may linen be packed in a very small space. Foul linen should always be put up in the same manner. One box, containing articles in reserve (hats, silk stockings, best coats, linen, waistcoats, &c.) should be separated from such as may be occasionally wanted. As each will occupy about five cubic feet, the whole may be comprised in half a ton of measurement.

Blankets, &c. not in use, may be put under the mattress, and, for a standing bed-place, about four yards of coarse woollen, such as serge, perpet, shalloon, or baize, may be taken on board, to make a set of curtains. This in some situations, such as the steerage, will be found not only comfortable, but necessary. Those who have been on board any coasting-vessel, fitted up for the accommodation of passengers, will instantly approve this advice, and comprehend how desirable it is that every box, &c. not in immediate use, should be consigned to the after-hold. Should more than four trunks be deemed necessary, they may generally be had ready made at most of the manufacturers. The size above described ought not to be exceeded, on account of the facility with which such may be suspended in slings made of canvass, and be carried on bullocks, one trunk on each side. This may become necessary during a march or campaign in the East, perhaps immediately after landing there. Too much cannot be said on this point; since the degree of compactness an officer is able to attain, will generally determine the quantity he may be able to carry on a journey, and ensure

its early, as well as its safe, arrival both in peace and war.

The Company, some years ago, issued their orders, that only certain stated sums should be taken by the commanders of ships in their employ, according to the rank of passengers, respectively. A reference to the DIRECTORY will shew what were prescribed, any trespass on which was declared tantamount to an *ipso facto* dismissal from the service. The regulations formerly included only as far as majors, under the supposition that all above that rank would indulge in the hire of cabins; for which they must, of course, pay extra. The specified sums were what the Company paid on all occasions where the passage-money was receivable from their own treasury.

It is probable enough that the recent competition for procuring passengers of every class, has reduced the operation of these rules within a very narrow compass. At all events, it is generally better to leave things of this nature to self-adjustment; the rise or fall in price being settled by the actual state of the market. In this instance, as it is daily growing more favourable to the purchaser than to the disposer of a passage to India, the difficulty of fixing any specific sum is greatly increased.

It needs no argument to prove, that a ship containing a great number of cadets, under the limited rates, would by no means be a gaining concern to the commander. Hence, formerly, the outward voyage was not his grand object in this point of view, because, even under the most favourable circumstances, he could not then make any great profit by his passengers. Yet, by his liberal treatment of them, he used to obtain that character which must still ensure a choice of rich persons returning to Europe, who, in the aggregate, rarely fail to make up for former trouble, and deficiency of pecuniary benefit, when this was actually the case.

It is usual to enquire of the commanders their probable number of passengers, and to ascertain the dates at which their ships are, according to the arrangements made at the India House, to be despatched. Very serious complaints have been made against the uncertainty of final departure by the private India ships. The additional expence to their passengers, besides other disappointments, has been so great, that the evil will speedily produce its own remedy by becoming insufferable. The experience of a season or two will alone induce the owners and captains in this line of business, to commence effectual improvements, on private and public grounds.

The pursers are commonly employed to adjust the rates of passage, and to dispose of cabins intended for the accommodation of passengers. Matters being settled, it is necessary to apply to the secretary for an order to be received on board the vessel in question. This order, soon as obtained, is delivered to the commander, or to his purser. The secretary likewise furnishes every Company's servant with a certificate of his appointment; and to each free-mariner, &c. he gives a licence to proceed to India. These papers must be carefully preserved, and are therefore best consigned to the keeping of the purser, for delivery at the office of the secretary under that presidency to which the party may be destined. When certificates have been lost, much difficulty has arisen, and all the parties have been obliged to depose to that effect on oath.

Those who are about to embark, will do well to cultivate an acquaintance with the respective commanders, and, when practicable, with their intended shipmates. Experience fully proves that civility rarely fails to be beneficial. It is reasonable to conclude, that previous acquaintance must engender some good will. The captains navigating under the auspices of the India Com-

pany, are men who have seen much of the world, and they rarely fail justly to appreciate marks of attention and respect, which flow voluntarily from persons with whom they have dealings. On the other hand, it must be rather uncomfortable to go on board a ship where all are total strangers; or, at the best, where, perhaps, the purser alone, and that with some hesitation and difficulty, acknowledges ever to have seen your face. Common sense points out that such a state of things is both impolitic and uncomfortable.

The truth is, that in the Company's ships, we find most of those good points established in the Royal navy, added to much desire in their commanders to be on a friendly footing with the passengers; while there is no doubt that their terms are as moderate as those of any competitors, whether British or foreign. To all these, (Americans, every thing considered, excepted,) there exist many objections.

Should a passenger's circumstances enable him to hire a cabin, his comfort will be very greatly increased, even with barely room enough to swing a cot, or to put up a standing bed. But, lest he deceive himself as to the accommodation he may derive from such a retirement, he should pay a visit to the vessel, lying in the river, probably at Gravesend, or the Hope, and there ascertain the exact dimensions he is to occupy. Should he use a swinging cot, it is an object, that the breadth of the cabin allow of its being triced up between the beams during the daytime, to be out of the way, and to give more space in the cabin. When suspended, it should be lengthwise; so that, as the ship rolls, or lays down on either side, the cot should swing even. If hung athwartships, unless the cabin be very broad, it will be perpetually knocking against the bulk-head (or partition), and

the ship's side. Hence it is advisable, wherever the space admits, to make a standing bed-place fore and aft, furnished with rails, to keep the occupant from rolling out. Else, if it be made athwart-ships, and the vessel be working against an adverse wind, he must, whenever the ship goes about, change the position of his pillow, from head to foot, alternately.

In peaceable times, cabins are ordinarily constructed of wooden partitions, and have a door, with lock, &c. very complete; but, during war-time, they are usually made of canvass, fixed to the beams above, and rolling up thereto, whenever the vessel may be cleared for action. Some cabins include a port-hole, which, in large ships, is peculiarly comfortable; especially under the Line, when a current of air is invaluable. In bad weather, however, when the port is shut, cabins that have only skuttles, about one-fourth the size of a port-hole, become preferable; especially if provided with glass shutters; which, if not previously attached, can be made at any time by the ship's carpenter. The skuttles, usually placed at intervals between the ports, being higher up in the side of the vessel, and nearer to the deck above the cabin, are well calculated for allowing the escape of rarefied air, which would float above the level of a port-hole. When a cabin is built so as to include a port, the gun appertaining to it is commonly sent forward, and lashed up to the ship's side, the muzzle pointing forward; but, on emergency, the cabin is knocked down, and the gun is run into its place. Hence, each kind of cabin has its advantages, and disadvantages.

The right side of the ship, from stem to stern, is called the *starboard*, and the left the *larboard*. The line on which the masts stand, *i. e.* straight over the keel, divides them. The starboard, in most modes of applying the

term, implies superiority over the larboard. Thus, the chief mate has his cabin usually about 12 or 14 feet long, by 10 or 12 in breadth, next to the great cabin, on the starboard side of the gun-deck. The second mate has one rather smaller, on the opposite, or larboard side. Then, again, the third mate on the starboard side, immediately before the chief mate's. Next before him is the fourth mate; while the surgeon and purser usually have their cabins on the larboard side, next before the second mate's.

What is called the "great cabin," is a slip taken off across the stern of a ship, on the gun-deck, about 14 feet deep, leaving a passage on the larboard side for passengers and officers to have access to the quarter-gallery, or privy, on that quarter. The great-cabin, including all the stern windows, is extremely light and airy; but its situation rather disadvantageous to those troubled with habitual sea-sickness. The bows and stern partake, in an accumulated ratio, of the ship's motion, as she pitches; that is, as she rises and sinks, alternately, at the head and stern. Thus, the centre of every vessel is the part least subject to agitation.

The captain occupies, in general, a cabin called the "state-room," situated under the fore part of the poop, on the starboard side, with a glass door towards the quarter-deck. Its dimensions, as well as those of all the cabins already described, vary according to the ship's tonnage, but may be taken at about 15 or 16 feet square. The space including it, and the larboard side under the same parallel, is called "the cuddy;" (from the Persian *kudu*, a room, or house.) All behind is designated "the round-house;" and has a row of glass windows in the stern part, with two doors opening into "the stern-gallery." A flight of steps, rather confined, serves as a communication, by

means of the starboard quarter-gallery, with the great cabin. These steps, under which is a water-clóset, are particularly convenient to ladies, who usually have the starboard side of the great-cabin allotted to their accommodation. When the passengers are very numerous, especially when many families are on board, the round-house is partitioned off into three or more cabins; the larboard quarter-gallery, on the upper deck, having also a water-closet. In such case, the dinner-table is laid in the cuddy, instead of the round-house; but, as it is rarely spacious enough to allow the whole to sit down at the same time, the company are, commonly, divided into two parties, succeeding each other every day alternately.

The sums paid for cabins entirely depend upon the demand, their size, the ship's destination, and the circumstances of the person selling his accommodations. The several portions of the round-house and great-cabin, both of which are considered as the captain's property, of course are paid for in proportion to their respective dimensions. It may, however, be taken as some guide, that, outward bound, a slip, including one window, may produce from £200. to £300.; and that the several mates' cabins may be averaged at from £3. to £5. for every square foot of the enclosed area.

There being an essential difference in comfort between a cot and a fixed bed-place, it may be acceptable to all readers to be informed of some minutiae attached to those conveniences respectively. A cot is an oblong case of canvass, having a deal frame at the bottom, with a canvass sacking well strained. The ends are furnished with small cords, called nettles, which pass round an iron thimble, or *grummet*; and those again are passed over two strong hooks, placed about seven feet asunder, fore and aft, whereby the cot is suspended. During the day-time, it is

commonly taken down, and disposed of in some part, where it may, so far as the means allow, be out of the way. The best mode is to trice it up between the beams that support the superior deck. In this kind of bed, the cot always preserving its level, the motion of the ship is scarcely felt, unless when she is acted upon by a very short, broken sea. Hence, those who are much troubled with sea-sickness should always provide a swinging cot; taking care to hang it in such a place as may preclude the danger of its being bumped against the ship's sides, or the bulk-head, (a boarded partition,) than which nothing can be more unpleasant. In very bad weather, when the ship has rolled many streaks of her deck under water, the frame of a cot has been forcibly dashed against the beams. At such times, should the width of the space admit, it is proper to lengthen the nettles to their utmost, and thus the inconvenience may, generally, be avoided.

A standing bed-place is convenient, as obviating the necessity for removing in the morning, and affixing at night. Thus, the bed-furniture is greatly preserved from injury by filth and vermin; while its occupant can "turn in" when he pleases, with the satisfaction of knowing that his trunk, by being under him, is secured from damage, as well as depredation; whereas persons who sleep in cots often experience considerable inconvenience in these particulars. Those who have fixed bed-places in the larboard division of the great-cabin, are by far more privately, and more comfortably, situated than such as have them in the steerage, ranging along the bulk-head of the chief mate's cabin. In either case, there are always two tiers, or ranges, of bed-places, one above the other. The lower are certainly most convenient.

As priority of embarkation, or at least of adjustment, gives a right to selection, it is advisable to visit the ship

soon as an order for being taken on board is obtained ; when a choice should be made of the situation for a bed-place. Those of the lower tier, nearest the stern windows in the great-cabin, are to be preferred, as more airy and light. The latter circumstance will be important to those who are studious, and partial to reading in bed, which, on board-ship, is considered as a favourite recreation.

In bargaining with the captain, or his purser, it is proper to be very exact in stipulating for a berth in the great-cabin, and to notice the conveniences to be afforded, in the body of the receipt given for the passage-money. This caveat does not in itself lead to the suspicion of intentional deceptions ; but, in the hurry of business of considerable importance, such lesser items will occasionally slip the memory, giving birth to disagreements not only attended with future distrust, but perhaps beyond the possibility of remedy. It should, however, be considered that a bed-place in the great-cabin, generally fitted up for eight, or, at the utmost, for twelve, will be charged somewhat higher than one in the steerage ; the latter being an open passage, totally devoid of privacy, exposed to violent currents of air, not always of the sweetest odour, and subject to many obvious inconveniences.

Among the ship's company, two or three men, or boys, are usually excused the general duty of the ship, that they may attend the passengers. When other matters are settling on board, care should be taken to engage one of these attendants to do all the work in the cabin, if one is hired ; namely, to clean boots and shoes, brush clothes, clean the basons, provide hot and cold water, attend to the boxes in the hold ; with a variety of *et-cetera* which will soon obtrude into notice. For such good offices, about three or four guineas will be expected ; but it must not be supposed that, for such a compensation, a man

will devote his whole time to one passenger. Nor, indeed, is this necessary, since an active, intelligent fellow, used to such menial offices, may easily give satisfaction to at least four or five. When, from the scarcity of hands on board, such an aid cannot be obtained, a *douceur* to any of the officers' servants, with their master's approbation, will serve every purpose, with the probable advantage of being attended by one perfectly conversant with ship affairs, and possessing some influence with the captain's steward. With him all prudent passengers will keep on good terms; as he is no small man in his way, and has the power to afford many conveniences. These, in the estimation of people on shore, may appear insignificant, but are of considerable value to those unaccustomed to a sea-life, who are cooped up for months within such narrow limits.

This reflection naturally leads to the consideration of that conduct on all occasions to be maintained by those who wish to pass their time as agreeably as circumstances will admit, and to appear respectable. In the first place, the captain will exact from every one on board, of whatever class, a perfect attention to the regulations of his ship. Were he to allow any deviation, the whole would be aiming at the same indulgence, and subordination would be annihilated. It is customary, whenever a person ascends from the gun-deck to the quarter-deck, or goes upon it from the cuddy, &c. to touch his hat, even though no one should appear there. A breach of this rule would be considered as grossly insulting, and might cause a rebuke, by no means pleasant to the feelings, or adding to the credit, of a gentleman. When it is considered with what a high hand officers of ships are obliged to uphold their authority, over a numerous crew composed of all nations, and often including the most hardened and

daring culprits, one cannot but applaud every practice tending to preserve order, regularity, politeness, and decorum.

The hour for breakfast is, generally, eight, for dinner, two, for tea, six, and for supper, nine. The first is announced by the great bell on the fore-castle, which always rings a sonorous peal when the watch, or guard, is to be relieved. Tea-time is known by the same signal. As the dinner hour does not correspond with the relief of the watch, it is usual to warn the passengers and officers by beat of drum: the tune of "Roast-beef" being daily heard, though it rarely leads to a participation of that viand whence its designation is derived. Very little notice is required to call together those who are disposed to partake of supper. For the most part, the company amuse themselves with cards, music, &c. during the evenings; or, when the weather admits, they walk the quarter-deck; observing to keep on the windward side; which is held to be reserved for the captain, the three senior mates, the purser, the surgeon, and those passengers who board at the captain's table.

Although nothing very sumptuous is to be expected on board ship, yet there will be little or no cause to complain of deficiency. The breakfast usually consists of good tea and coffee, with excellent biscuit, and, at times, rolls. The butter cannot be highly praised; it being utterly impossible, in warm latitudes, to prevent its melting, so as to resemble liquid honey.

As much fresh meat as possible being taken on board at the time of sailing, some joints of good beef and mutton may be served up for the first week; after which corned (or slightly salted) meat comes into use. An ample supply of poultry, of all descriptions, fed in coops on the poop, and a small flock of sheep, perhaps from twenty-five

to forty in number, maintained there on hay, &c. enable the captain, for the most part, to exhibit fresh meat, of some sort, every day. This, added to abundance of prime beef and pork, salted for his use, together with tongues, pickles, sauces of all kinds, potatoes, rice, pastry, olives, &c. &c. form a *tout ensemble*, where even the most dainty may find something acceptable to the palate.

It cannot be supposed, that wine is so freely dispensed as when on shore. The ladies, however, are generally supplied with as much as they may require during the repast. After the cloth is removed, the bottle is put round two or three times, according to the liberality of the commander. The last tour it makes being accompanied with "good afternoon," serves as a hint for the gentlemen to withdraw, till the hour for tea; when, as already observed, they frequently amuse themselves till supper is ready.

This last meal is little more than a matter of form; it consists chiefly of cheese and biscuits, rasped beef, sago-soup, lobs kous, which is a curious medley of various ingredients, forming something midway between water-gruel and peas-soup. One tour of the bottle, attended with "good night," closes the operations of the day.

When one or two unruly youths happen to be passengers, they are too prone to disregard the usual signal for retreat, without having an extra glass or two, often from a false notion that such pertinacity is a sign of manly conduct, but sometimes from the grovelling idea of taking their pennyworth out of the captain, if the notion is once put into their heads by any evil spirit in the vessel, that they are on board a floating hotel, and may use their freedom with the commander as a personage merely on a level with "mine host of the garter," bound to provide as much as

can be eaten or drank at a protracted meal, the bill of fare having previously been discharged in advance.

Nothing can be more delusive or unjust than such sentiments, and their adoption commonly terminates in partial or general discord. This, idlers, gourmands, and sots, will naturally foment, to gratify, if practicable, their own inordinate desires, from the beginning to the end of the voyage, however ruinous too such hospitality might prove to the health and morality of such guests, or to the pocket of their purveyor, who certainly had no idea of triflers constantly keeping their grinders going, and their throats wet, from a lack of every other employment. From the hour of a young man's embarkation, his future fame, at his destined port, is in great measure begun, and he becomes a sound character or a black sheep, from the ordinary hue of his behaviour *en passant* by sea to the establishment, on which he must soon commence the career of active life, with a good or bad name, according to his deserts since his departure from home.

This consideration alone is enough to put every rational adventurer to the East completely on his guard against furnishing the master of any vessel with a fair occasion for branding him with an indelible stigma of intemperance, insubordination, gambling, or any other vicious propensity, when interrogated respecting the prominent dispositions of his juvenile passengers, by competent authority, or parties most interested in hearing the truth. This report will pave the way for free admission to genteel society, or consign a new comer to Coventry at once, in a country where every body is immediately recognised under their genuine colours, whatever these may be, and treated accordingly.

The periodical appearance of a fatal epidemic, *cholera*

morbis, within the last ten years, all over India, has produced no small alarm for the safety of adventurers to that fertile region of the globe, increased by the want hitherto of some satisfactory theory and judicious treatment of this terrible disease: in which it has often been found that an antidote in one case has proved so perfectly the bane in another, as to frighten the best practitioners from adopting any rational method of cure for general use, and the common weal of their fellow creatures.

In the absence of all other assignable causes for this new calamity in the East, can the extensive introduction of vaccination have the smallest effect, or have any similar visitations in other parts of the world been traced to this apparent improvement on inoculation, and the natural small pox? Be this conjecture what it may, every thinking person will grant that a mind seasonably fortified against unreasonable apprehension on this score, with a body kept in the most healthy state by moderation and care, bids fairest to escape all such perils in every country which, like Hindoostan, is on the whole rather salubrious than the reverse.

In the absence of all hereditary tendency to bodily complaints, there exist a few very ordinary predisposing causes to a great variety of subsequent evils, which might be easily prevented at first, in lieu of being cured with no small risk and expense afterwards. Excess in eating, drinking, exercise, and in every corporeal indulgence or mental function, may be stated as the first grand stumbling block of juvenile health and spirits, however buoyant or robust. It, of course, should be constantly avoided, as the rock whereon the best constitution may be irrecoverably shattered to pieces during the outward passage, leaving a miserable wreck behind, ill fitted to brave the storms of any foreign clime. Constipation is the next

latent impediment in the way of well doing. Induced, chiefly, by the transition from a landman's to a seafarer's life, it steals insensibly upon the heedless lads on board ship, especially when bashfulness prevents all idea of consultation, either with a medical man, or with considerate shipmates, more experienced than the patient's self. Thus may he prematurely cherish the dangerous seeds of hepatic affections long before his arrival in British India, unless he is forewarned of this danger in due time. The safest remedy is undoubtedly some innocent but efficient diet, in the form of a light supper, regularly taken, say stewed prunes, thin sago, or flummery, with spruce or other beer; in short, any simple food which creates a periodical summons to the water-closet, at least once a day, and, if practicable, very early in the morning, as that is the hour least liable to interruption of any sort. All the natives of the Asiatic peninsula, from habit alone, become, as long as they live, a species of machines, whose clock-work, in this lower department, never almost goes wrong, and consequently needs no extraneous aid from the apothecary's shop, till some unforeseen morbid state of the bowels forces them also to take advice and physic from their doctors, though much more rarely than among Europeans, who are seldom so regular and abstemious as the Asiatics in matters of this description. There, customs, which become a second nature, give the natives a better chance of good health than ordinary sojourners can well enjoy, until they imitate such salutary examples, including those partial ablutions and cleanly expedients, which are soon deemed indispensable by every British Indian.

No person who ventures on so long a salt-water excursion as Hindoostan, should omit carrying with him a few boxes of aperient pills, that he may take one or two every

night *pro re nata*. Among a long list of such nostrums, those prepared by Hume, of Long Acre, the king's chemist, at two shillings per box of 48 pills, are probably the safest, and best, as many respectable persons have experienced, by taking one only every day immediately before dinner, whence they are denominated dinner pills, and enjoy an extensive sale commensurate with their acknowledged efficacy in obviating all costive tendency and stomachic disorders from that source, without inducing the smallest inconveniences in the shape of piles or any other local affection. That the vulgar prejudices at what are termed quack medicines are frequently too well founded, nobody will dispute, till a fair trial has fully established their reputation, as in the instance of James's Powders, and some others of the same sterling worth, among which the dinner pill may most beneficially be included.

One objection still remains, more plausible in appearance, though not in reality, as the sequel will demonstrate. A person, solicitous to ward off as long as he can, indigestion, constipations, head-achs, &c. with their endless train of familiar ills and habitual miseries of even a temperate life, proposes to commence a daily preventative in the form of a pill, taken previous to his principal meal, in a spoonful of plain water; but some sapient friend jeers poor Pill Garlic on the idea of learning a bad practice, by swallowing a nauseous substance ephemerally, which, without farther discussion, perhaps, is deemed conclusive logic, and the specific is rejected at once, however harmless in taste, smell, and every such property it may be. Yet, what are salt, pepper, mustard, vinegar, and a whole string of culinary ingredients, but medicines in a more customary form? And should man or beast entirely renounce the use of salt, on the simple plea that it is

found essential in nearly every dish we eat, at all hours of the day or night?

An adequate supply of Hume's dinner pills may enable certain constitutions to weather an Indian climate effectually for many years, which would otherwise have required renovation at home. One remarkable example has actually occurred of a gentleman whom stubborn costiveness drove from Hindoostan in his youth, but whose malady has so happily yielded to the prescription in question which he carried out with him at a more advanced period of his age, that he is now enabled to bid perfect defiance to the whole catalogue of his quondam ailments.

The water taken on board being strongly impregnated with filth, of various kinds and colours, soon becomes too nauseous for the use of delicate persons. The quantity of animalculæ it contains could not be credited by a person who had not seen it! On this account, several filtering-stones are used, through which it finds a passage, leaving the impurities behind. This percolation is, however, extremely tedious, and does not entirely remove the taint; though it assuredly so far sweetens it as to render the water very drinkable. The *fecula* left in the hollow of the drip-stone, are perfectly putrid.

The ordinary beverage is table beer, or perhaps porter. In warm weather excellent spruce beer abounds; sometimes, indeed, the whole crew are supplied with from one to two quarts daily. Nor is the punch-bowl suspended for empty shew! By means of prepared lemon-juice, aided by a good stock of the fresh fruit, carefully suspended in nets in the stern-gallery, &c. good punch, lemonade, and negus, are often served to the company.

Young persons should embark at Gravesend, or the Nore, rather than at Portsmouth. Thus they become settled before the generality of passengers arrive, and

escape that indescribable confusion attendant upon the sudden influx of whole hoys full of dead and live lumber ! For such they appear when interrupting the several operations attendant upon a vessel's getting under weigh. Those who purpose delaying, from unavoidable business, to the last moment, should leave their cards of address with the purser, taking care not to be far from home, that, when proceeding to the India House to receive the packets, he may send notice of his being about to quit town. No time must then be lost in repairing to that port where the vessel may be ; it being customary to sail soon as the purser gets on board. Half an hour's delay has proved the loss of many a passage, and subjected the loiterer to such inexpressible anguish, that no man in his senses should run the risk of so terrible a disappointment on any consideration short of inevitable necessity.

The great number of ships employed in the India Trade, occasions such frequent intercourse, that two months scarcely ever elapse without one or more being despatched to some part of India. Unless under very peculiar and pressing circumstances, it is unadvisable to proceed in any not bound to that part whither the passenger is destined. Though it appear, on paper, very easy to get from Madras, (*Mudraj*.) for instance, to Bengal, such a passage is not always practicable ; and such a delay may elapse as will allow a vessel bound to Bengal, sailing perhaps a month or two subsequent to that proceeding to Madras, to arrive at her port before the means might offer of getting on from Madras. Besides, freight and passage-money are much higher in India than in Europe. This, combined with the heavy expense attendant upon long detention on shore, would prove the economy, as well as the speed, to be on the other side of the question.

The time of sailing will, under common circumstances, decide the time of arrival. Ships leaving England, that is, the Land's End, in all April, may be expected to arrive at Madras in all September; when, if not delayed, they may with great ease run up the Bay in a week more. As the northerly monsoon often begins to prevail in October, occasioning ships to stretch over towards Acheen-head, whereby from four to six weeks will be lost in getting to Balasore Roads, it is rather advisable, if at liberty to choose the season, not to sail later than March. Thus the arrival will take place at a time when the great heats are over, and the cold weather is approaching: two points equally eligible for health and society. The early, or late arrivals of covenanted servants, appointed for the same year, make no difference whatever in the rank they are relatively to bear; that being now determined by the priority of embarking, modified in a certain degree by the rank of their several nominees in the Direction, or by their academic proficiency at the civil and military colleges. The pay, however, of all functionaries is calculated from the date of presenting the requisite certificate, before spoken of, at the proper office, after reaching the settlement for which they are bound.

The period of sailing will generally indicate the weather to be expected during the whole passage. Such as leave the pilot in the spring will round the Cape of Good Hope about Whitsuntide or Midsummer, when winter prevails in that quarter; it being in 34° south latitude. Advancing to the northward, they will meet with the trade-winds from the Tropic towards the Line, where, in all probability, light and variable winds may cause some delay. Ships leaving England in our autumn, round the Cape at their Midsummer, and reach Madras generally in from eighteen to twenty weeks; carrying fair, but warm, weather all the

way. If they arrive about the middle, or latter end of March, they may, by remaining for a few days till the southerly monsoon is fairly established, sometimes reach the sand-heads in Balasore Roads in three or four days. This is obviously preferable to running over to the eastward.

Nothing can happen more unpleasant than being wind-bound. Nor, indeed, can there be well conceived a more certain recipe for draining the purse. Every passenger must not suppose that, after having repaired to that port where the ship rides, he is at liberty to go on board instantly, and to remain till she sails. On the contrary, though he should not fail to intimate his arrival, and to leave his card of address, he must put up at some inn, or lodging-house, at his own expense, till the signal be made for sailing, by firing a gun, and loosening the fore-top-sail, by that ship under whose convoy a fleet is to sail; or, if there be no convoy, by the senior captain; who is, by courtesy, designated Commodore. In peaceable times the hardship to either party is not so severe as in time of war, and there are instances of commanders stipulating for an extra sum to take all such risks upon their own shoulders,—a precaution very desirable occasionally, especially when an inexperienced youth has very little cash, and much less discretion than his fellow passengers.

The Directors, considering the inability of their junior servants to pay the heavy charges to which they are subject while in port, have given an extra sum to the commanders of their ships for each cadet's diet in such situations. This was no less necessary than considerate. It will have been seen, that persons going out in the civil service have fewer stipulations in their favour; for which the presumptive reason is, that they are commonly the sons of gentlemen possessing large property. The sum of

£3000, in days of yore, having been so often given for writer-ships, seems to indicate that very little occasion could exist for such solicitous interference in their behalf. Yet as all general rules admit of exceptions, there can be no doubt of various cases of distress even in this more fortunate department of the service.

When a ship arrives at any regular port, where accommodations can be procured, the passengers are, in like manner, expected to reside on shore, at their own charge. This, to many, may appear unreasonable, or strange; but, considering what heavy losses a commander might else incur, which, divided among a number, appear trifling, and, at all events, may not prove ruinous, the propriety of such a rule will not be disputed. This explanation may serve as a hint to parents and guardians not to ship young folks *in forma pauperis*, under the prudent, but here inapplicable, precaution of taking away the means of being extravagant. Emergencies often arise, wherein a few pounds are indispensably necessary; and, as few go to sea with more cash than ordinary expenses may demand, it is not easy to remedy the error.

Where a young man has established his character for imprudence, the only recourse is to place from twenty to thirty pounds in the hands of the captain, officers, purser, surgeon, &c. when known to his friends, with directions to supply what may be absolutely required, rather in form of a loan; keeping the youth in ignorance, if possible, of his having a banker on board, and giving him, at taking leave, perhaps five or six sovereigns, in order so far to carry on the deception. In the list of passengers some respectable characters may be found, who, on proper application, may be induced to perform this kind office to a stripling in such a manner as not to wound his feelings

or expose him to unnecessary hardships during any period of the outward voyage.

As no shop of any kind exists in a ship, (excepting the purser's slop-shop,) there can be little opportunity for extravagance. The principal danger to be apprehended is from gaming, which in some ships reaches to a dreadful extent; always creating difficulty, and rarely terminating without bloodshed. This, added to emulation for the favourable opinion of the ladies, may be considered as the usual causes of discord. The latter is, in a great measure, restrained by that custom which fixes every passenger to the same seat at table during the whole voyage; whereby daily contests for vicinity are avoided. During the passage out, the cadet should be circumspect in his conduct, complaisant to all, and careful with whom he forms an intimacy: he should wait till he has studied the characters of the persons on board, before he selects his companions. This may always be done without appearing unmeaningly open to some, or particularly reserved with others. The officers and midshipmen on board the Company's ships are gentlemen, with whom the cadet may freely associate, if he finds them agreeable; but with the petty officers of a ship, as master-at-arms, carpenter, or boatswain, he must avoid all intimacy: for though these persons may be as morally worthy as those above them, yet in the naval as well as the military service there is a certain gradation of rank, which must be properly attended to by every officer. The ensign and cadet are allowed to associate with the general, and must not harbour among the petty officers. These observations are not intended to sanction pride or assumed consequence, than which nothing is more contemptible; on the contrary, they recommend a pleasant condescending civility as due to every man.

Besides the causes already enumerated that might break up the harmony of society on the long voyage to India, may be noticed the casual introduction of politics or national reflections, than which no topics can well occur so objectionable in a mixed company, where the private history of individuals or their connexions must be imperfectly known to each other.

This consideration should impose a salutary restraint even respecting the injudicious mention of crimes, punishments, calamities, &c. which affect particular persons, and consequently their families or relatives, who are thus subjected to the most painful sensations, by people who had no intention to wound the feelings of any man, far less of an estimable shipmate, innocent of all blame, beyond the misfortune of having been connected by blood or marriage with some worthless being, whose misdeeds have previously been trumpeted through every newspaper.

Humiliating hints about black blood and blue casts ought sedulously to be discountenanced, lest they raise a blush in animated faces, which otherwise would never have betrayed the smallest affinity with the obtrusive remarks.

The most practical antidote to many evils of a tiresome passage to the East, would be due encouragement of scientific pursuits, useful employment, and harmless pastime, from first to last: which might occupy as many hours every day as would not prove detrimental to health, nor encroach too far upon the social enjoyments of a ship.

Those who have separate cabins can be at no loss to follow the bent of their inclinations, to cultivate favourite and beneficial studies with considerable success during a period of five months, and they who act thus will commonly be found the most agreeable portion of the captain's

temporary guests. Their conversation will be enlightened, their manners engaging, and their moderation in eating, drinking, speaking, and every thing else altogether exemplary. In short, the individual possessed of a rational inoffensive hobby, may ride it the whole way to India with safety to himself, and advantage likewise to all who cannot singly mount so desirable a horse.

Among a great variety of indispensable objects for local accomplishments, not one can claim precedence of colloquial knowledge in the two languages of greatest utility in British India, namely, the Hindoostanee and Persian tongues; which, combined, form the common high-way to every one of the rest, either as classical or aboriginal monuments of speech, partially or generally, over the whole Asiatic peninsula.

It may here be not unsuitably added, that for several years past, every adventurer to India has been able easily to procure free access to Gilchrist's gratuitous lectures in London on those two languages, Hindoostanee and Persian. Thus by punctual attendance from the short space of a few weeks to six or twelve months, nearly one thousand students have acquired, not only enough to enable them to prosecute their philological labour successfully while at sea, but a number have auspiciously passed their examinations as linguists soon after landing, and are now in actual possession of two or three staff appointments, in consequence entirely of such laudable proficiency in this initiatory department of Oriental literature.*

Few ships, of any season, are entirely without some of the gentlemen who have profited by attendance on the

* Every particular concerning Gilchrist's numerous publications and lecture-rooms will be ascertained by calling on the Company's book-sellers, at No. 7, Leadenhall-street, London; where cards of admission, gratis, will be obtained, on which the place, time, and subjects of each day's discourse are distinctly inserted.

lectures in question, and they are, with hardly an exception, both qualified and desirous to communicate a very correct pronunciation, and often a large share of their own grammatical progress as practical Orientalists.

From the long lists, occasionally, of such applicants for the outward passage, some captains of Indiamen have been induced to accommodate them with an apartment for the sole purpose of an eastern class-room or floating school; whence, in divers instances, the most advantageous results have proceeded, which tend to make this indulgence a matter of the utmost importance to all concerned, and it would be still better were the practice to become general. When no convenience of this kind exists, the fools and knaves of each juvenile cargo, strive by every species of interruption either to annoy the studious or corrupt the minds of their youthful shipmates into frivolous and baneful pursuits, lest they should, immediately on landing at their respective places of destination, eclipse the whole flock of idlers, who may then learn, when too late, that the hour of comparative trial has come at last, which may for ever settle their several prospects of lucrative or barren appointments in different branches of the Company's service.

The number of accidents from trivial causes renders it necessary to be extremely cautious as to smoking; which in all men-of-war, and India-ships, is permitted only on the fore-castle. Thus danger is avoided, and the stench carried away. It is to be lamented that this proper regulation is not observed throughout the merchant service; in which so much carelessness prevails, that it appears almost miraculous that so many vessels arrive in safety. A gentleman once embarked at St. Helena on board a whaler, of which the captain had a strong predilection for his pipe, which was scarcely ever out of his mouth. His

practice was, to smoke in the dinner cabin, throwing his hot ashes down upon the deck, in which was a skuttle, or small hatch-way, under his own seat. Two lieutenants of the navy, who were also passengers, used to remonstrate very freely, but without the smallest effect, against a practice so improper.

It happened, one morning, as they were off the Azores, that a suspicious-looking vessel hove in sight, laying-to under close reefed top-sails. The course was altered, and immediately the whaler was chased. Having at least forty-five young fellows, and about a dozen six-pounders on board, the ship was cleared for action. The surprise of all on board is inconceivable, at finding, that under the identical hatchway, over which the captain had been perpetually smoking, was a magazine of about thirty barrels of gun-powder; some hooped in, and some having their chimes barely covering their contents, which proved to be ready-filled cartridges! Had the vessel in chase proved to be an enemy, and the whaler been compelled to defend herself, it would have been utterly impossible, to have avoided being blown up, before the action could have terminated in victory or defeat.

Many passengers are in the pernicious habit of reading in their beds by candle-light. This only requires to be known to the officers, to be completely over-ruled. Nor will they, unless in cases of indisposition, allow a candle to be burning after the passengers have generally retired to rest. Hence, only a few wax-tapers, or rushlights, can be requisite. Considering that a ship is composed of materials for the chief part highly combustible, and that in such a situation a fire spreads with astonishing rapidity, defying the exertions of all on board; also, that there is little chance of many lives being saved, unless other vessels

be in company, every means of guarding against so terrible a calamity ought assuredly to be adopted.

Most ships have a small fire-engine on board, which is not only an admirable safeguard, but facilitates the washing of decks; an operation usually performed once or twice a-week. At such times all the chests are sent below, and all the hammocks hauled upon deck, for the purpose of being aired. Seamen become habitually cleanly in their persons, and in their bedding; but recruits when on board, being less attentive to personal appearance and comfort, not only breed vermin, but sometimes propagate infectious diseases. Hence, a small quantity of vermin-ointment may prove an useful succedaneum.

When the decks are washed, it is customary to exercise the seamen in the use of the great guns. For this purpose the drum beats to quarters; when all repair to their several stations, and, under the instruction of the several officers, go through the ordinary operations attendant upon that branch of discipline. No persons, of whatever description, females excepted, are exempted from being appointed to some post, where their services may be efficient. The military officers are allotted to commands on the poop, fore-castle, waist, &c.; having under them such cadets and recruits as may be on board; the whole acting as marines. The surgeon, with his mates, those of the sick who are incapable of taking an active part, together with all females, descend to the cock-pit; which, being below the level of the water-line, is tolerably secure from danger; though sometimes a shot, between wind and water, will find its way even to that apparently safe retreat.

The crew are always portioned into two watches, except when very numerous. Then, and during the time a vessel

is in port, they divide them, including recruits, &c. into three watches. The chief mate commands the starboard-watch; the second mate commands the larboard-watch; and, when there are three, the other, called the mid-watch, is commanded by the third mate. It is customary to relieve the watch every four hours, except in the interval between four and eight o'clock in the evening, which is divided into two reliefs, of two hours each, called "dog-watches." But for the intervention of these, there would be no change in the times of coming upon duty; as each of the starboard and larboard watches would, respectively, come on at the same hours daily. This would be the same, even if a mid-watch existed: whereas, dividing the evening-watch, occasions an odd number, and changes the tour, or series, every day.

Where fresh supplies of provisions are not attainable, it necessarily follows that each person on board can receive only a stipulated allowance of meat, water, &c. This does not always affect those at the captain's table; though it is generally recommended to the passengers to be economical in their expenditure of water for washing, shaving, &c. In some ships they are restricted to a quart daily; and if the crew are upon short allowance, which is understood to be the case when each man receives less than two quarts, the passengers and officers have little or no fresh water allowed for the above purposes; but their beverage at table is rarely limited, except under the pressure of actual necessity.

All things considered, the privations experienced by passengers to India are by no means so numerous, or severe in their operation, as might at first view be apprehended. In many ships, ladies and gentlemen skilled in music are thus brought together, and by their united

talents afford a most pleasing recreation to all on board. Few vessels are totally destitute of some means to attract the parties towards the quarter-deck. There, in the cool of the evening, during fair weather, the merry dance for a while banishes *ennui*, and contributes to give a wholesome impetus to the circulation.

Ladies partial to music should be particularly careful that the piano-fortes they take with them, be so constructed as to exempt them from those wondrous effects produced by the climate of India. The instruments made for exportation can never be depended upon, unless clamped at every joint with plates of brass, and secured, in the more delicate parts, by means of battens well screwed and cemented to the sounding-board. Experience has fully proved, that the pianos most appropriate for hot climates were made by Clementi, Kirkman, and Tomkinson; but it is equally true, that other artists in this line are becoming not less celebrated, by imitating, or excelling, the instruments of their predecessors.

Ladies will derive considerable convenience and gratification from having an exterior case made to enclose the piano-forte, leaving a space of about an inch all around. This outward safeguard should be of planed deal, stained of a mahogany colour, or painted; and it should open in front, so as to admit of playing the instrument, while its lid should be fixed upon hinges, that it may be thrown back at pleasure. The lower part of the frame may be packed and laid by; a spare frame of deal being substituted during the voyage, with a set of shelves below, to contain music-books, &c.; all locked up by means of folding-doors. Both the exterior case and the frame should be furnished with lacquered iron handles, to lift them occasionally; but particularly to secure them to the

side of the ship, and to the deck. Without such a precaution the whole would be tumbled about, and shivered to atoms by the vessel's motion.

Gentlemen who perform on stringed instruments, should be careful to provide an ample supply of strings, firsts and fourths especially; they being not only very dear, and perhaps damaged, when procurable, but at times not procurable in any part of India, for love or money! Reeds for hautboys, clarionets, bassoons, &c. are similarly circumstanced. Nor would it be superfluous for a lady to take with her several sets of wires for her piano; they being very scarce. At all events, she ought to qualify herself to tune the instrument. This may be learned in a month, or six weeks, by attention to the instructions of a regular tuner, who will be well satisfied with a moderate compensation. This is a point whereon one should dwell rather particularly; because, even in Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay, a good tuner is not always to be found; and in all other situations, throughout the interior, there is scarcely a professional person. Besides, in a country whose climate deranges the most skilful adjustment of the wires, often in a few minutes, merely by a slight exposure to heat, or damp, the expense attendant upon such frequent tunings, as are indispensable, would speedily absorb the full value of the instrument itself;—the ordinary rates being a guinea for a grand-piano, and twelve shillings for a square one. Thus, whether for convenience, or economy, too much cannot be said to recommend that every lady, before she embarks, should be able to tune her piano.

It being impossible to say how soon, after leaving port, there may be rough weather, (indeed, sometimes ships get under weigh while the wind is blowing very fresh,) it is usual to lash the dinner-tables to the deck, placing

their feet in mortices cut into small blocks, called cleats, which, being strongly nailed down, generally keep the whole sufficiently firm. It is not easy to render the chairs equally secure; but they are tolerably steadied by nailing two rows of battens on each side of the table, so as to embrace the legs of the chairs, which, in this mode of securing them, ought all to be of equal compass from front to rear. It requires, after all, some management to preserve an equilibrium when a ship rolls much; as in a calm, or a gale of wind. In the former instance, the transitions of reclination from starboard to larboard, and *vice versâ*, are often very great, owing to the heavy swell which alternately raises the ship, and again sinks her into the trough made by two successive waves. However curious it may seem to persons unacquainted with sea affairs, it is nevertheless certain, that more masts are lost by rolling in a calm, than by stress of weather.

As to that most distressing malady, sea-sickness, it is not possible to lay down any specific mode of precaution, or of remedy. It usually commences with the agitation occasioned in the vessel's motion, by the wind's force, or the water's undulation. Few experience more than a few qualms, while the water is smooth: as in going through the Needles with a leading wind, in fine weather; but when upon a wind, with a chopping sea, and sudden or forcible gusts, all who are not accustomed to the motion, become most oppressively sick. However they may be affected by this customary derangement, those suffering under its influence are more frequently objects of derisive merriment than compassion. The prevalent opinion is, that, in a few days, the complaint will disappear. Hence it is regarded as a matter of course, and a seasoning, which, by its mode of operation, rather conduces to health, than to a dangerous issue. That such is the

usual result cannot be denied ; but there are some constitutions which cannot stand so forcible an attack. Women, in general, are most severely oppressed by it, and some few become its victims.

It would be endless to enumerate all the recipes which those who fancy themselves qualified to prescribe, tender on this occasion to the unhappy sufferers. Acids and laudanum, in repeated small doses, are most successfully administered ; though they must often fail. That unfeeling advice given to the unwary, "to drink a glass of spirits," invariably tends to aggravate all the symptoms, and with those not habituated to such strong remedies, produces all the inconveniences attendant upon super-added irritation. The fresh air upon deck will be found considerably to diminish the force of the complaint ; but the eyes should be kept shut, and the attention withdrawn from the sea, and from the rigging. Of both these, the motion is peculiarly calculated to increase that swimming in the head inseparably attendant on sea-sickness. If, notwithstanding these precautions, the nausea and derangement continue, it will be proper to retire to bed ; observing the precaution of lying on one side, and keeping the eyes closed.

There may, perhaps, be no harm in taking a small case of spirits on board ; but such is by no means indispensable. They do not come properly within the scope of a gentleman's own expenditure ; and, unless preserved with uncommon vigilance, will probably be drawn off by some adventuring fellow, provided with a pick-lock, while the owner is either asleep or absent. Every thing should be rigidly kept under lock and key. Ships, of every description, are infested with petty pilferers, and sometimes with more expert and daring thieves ; who purloin whatever can be

turned to use, without leading to discovery. The effects of careless passengers, especially, are considered to be fair booty. Blankets, sheets, &c. will all disappear towards the close of a voyage, or when in a port where they can be sold, or bartered away, if their owners confide too much in the honesty of their neighbours, and have apathy enough to permit such depredations to be committed with impunity.

The third mate generally has a mess, in the expenses of which the fourth, fifth, and sixth mates sometimes partake; the purser and surgeon being invariably at the captain's table. The captain's clerk, who is usually a midshipman, the surgeon's mate, when there is one, and such passengers as pecuniary or other circumstances may compel to economise while on board, all mess with the third mate, who is allowed a certain space before the officers' cabins. This being inclosed with canvass, makes a very tolerable birth, wherein the table is laid. Those of the mess who belong to the ship, subscribe to lay in such articles of provision, chandlery, &c. as may suffice for their own consumption; the sums paid by passengers, who associate with them, being applied, in due proportion, towards the maintenance of the latter; any balances arising therefrom becoming the perquisite of the third mate. With the exception of so large a proportion of live stock as is destined for the captain's table, the mate's mess, in some ships, has been known to claim the palm in many other respects. When so many passengers are on board as to render it impracticable for the captain to accommodate the whole at his table, the later applicants are consigned to the mate's mess during meals; but admitted, so far as convenient, to a participation of the amusements and society of the round-house. On some occasions the

mate's mess has, from the above cause, or motives of unavoidable economy, been able to boast of rather eminent characters.

Those who are fond of fishing, may sometimes derive much amusement from the possession of a stock of tackle suited to the occasion. In warm weather, especially towards the Line, when moderate weather and calms prevail, many sharks may be taken. The hook should be about a foot long in the shank, (the other parts bearing a just proportion,) which should be firmly attached to a stout piece of chain, from two to four feet in length, having at its other extremity a loop and swivel, to which the rope (such as is called inch and half rope, and ought to be full a hundred yards long) is tied; the bait, a piece of fat pork, of about three or four pounds weight. The weight of the chain and hook will suffice to sink the bait to about thirty feet below the surface, where it will soon be discerned by the sharks, which generally keep under the vessel's bottom, or play around her at a considerable depth; though they will occasionally range along the ship's side, or bask under the stern, so as to be easily shot with a musquet-ball, or struck with a harpoon.

Even at the depth of fifty feet the shark may be distinguished as he approaches the bait, by a luminous appearance, extending in an oval form, in that direction in which he swims. He generally seizes the bait with avidity, turning on his side at the moment; without which he could not get it into his mouth, owing to the excessive length of his upper jaw. Soon as the bait is in his mouth, the fish, on feeling the resistance of the rope, makes a sudden plunge downward, at the same moment recovering his former position. The hook, being extremely sharp, rarely fails to pierce the jaw, when, in an instant, the whole length of line will be run out. As no

human force could properly be relied on to check the fish's course, the end of the rope is either fastened to some timber-head, or to a tackle fall. The latter is preferable, because it adds to the length of the line, and does not check the fish so suddenly; otherwise the rope may be snapped, or the hook torn away from the shark's jaw. The quantity of heavy line, added to the weight of the hooks and chain, soon brings the fish under command, when he is towed up to the gang-way, and there, by means of a slip-knot passed over his fins, hoisted into the waist.

Few persons will taste of a blue shark, it being considered as unwholesome; but, of the brown shark, which rarely exceeds five feet in length, (while the former has been known to measure near thirty,) most of the seamen will solicit a steak. The average sizes of sharks may be from six to twelve feet in length. It is very common to collect a pailful of young ones, each about a foot long, that take refuge in the parent's maw. Behind the fins are usually several sucking-fishes, adhering to the shark's sides. These are supposed to live upon its blood; but some doubts may be entertained, at least whether that is their sole subsistence, since, by means of a hook and line put out for ground fishes, sucking-fish have at times been caught, measuring rather more than two feet.

Sharks are in general attended by what are called pilot-fishes. These are beautifully striped blue and white, in form much resembling the chub, and from ten to fifteen inches in length. When the shark displays himself, the pilot-fishes are seen playing about his head and sides; but when the ship is going fast, and the shark keeps under the bottom, or stern, at a considerable depth, the pilot-fishes often rise to the surface, assembling in the eddy

about the stern-post; but they are seldom, if ever, enticed to touch a bait.

In the higher latitudes, the albacore, boneta, dolphin, &c. are often seen playing about a ship, in great numbers; sometimes for scores of miles, as though intent on keeping company. Porpoises are yet more familiar, and delight in preceding the ship, at a few yards distance; affording, to the expert, excellent opportunities for striking them with harpoons. The liver of a porpoise is esteemed by many to be as good as that of a pig; to which it bears some resemblance. The body of the fish is unpalatable. The flesh of the dolphin is extremely dry, as is that of the boneta, which is commonly replete with small white animalculæ, not unlike short fat maggots. The albacore is inconceivably rapacious; often springing several yards out of the water, after the flying-fishes, as they skim above the surface, sometimes for full two hundred yards. Their great enemy darts along under their course with incredible velocity, and rarely fails to make a prey of one, or more, as they fall into the water in an exhausted state.

While bonetas and dolphins may be taken by almost any bait, the albacore can be rarely attracted by any device wherein there is not some resemblance to the flying-fish. Numbers are taken when the ship is going fast through the water, by securing a three-inch hook to a slip of bacon fat, cut into the form of a fish, and further disguised by a long white feather, taken from a goose's wing, and stuck on each side. The line for such a purpose should be stout laid-cord; for, though bonetas rarely exceed twenty, and dolphins forty pounds, albacores have been often found to weigh from one to two hundred: nay, to three hundred weight. Their flesh may be compared to carrion; being coarse, tough, and very strong-tasted;

but, though not pleasing to the human palate, it is a very choice bait, attracting all fishes of prey. The Albacores sometimes snap at the log, a small piece of triangular board, loaded at one corner with lead, and fastened to a long line wound on a reel. The log being lowered into the sea, will remain stationary; drawing the line off the reel in proportion to the velocity with which the ship is then passing through the water: the number of yards run off, while a minute glass is emptying, shows the number of knots (miles) sailed within the hour.

It is not uncommon, in the vicinity of islands, to see turtles lying on the surface of the sea, fast asleep. These may sometimes be taken, by two or three careful men, in the jolly-boat, paddling her along with an oar out at her stern. The turtle should be secured by one of the crew dropping gently into the water, and swimming very cautiously till he can pass a slip-knot over the hind fin, generally called the *fipper*; the other end of the line being fast to some part of the boat.

The work whence the present compilation has been greatly abbreviated, contained long descriptions of, and digressions upon, the successive places of resort for India-men, both on the outward and homeward voyages, including their natural and political history. Such statistical accounts are little calculated for a Vade-Mecum, however necessary in those several publications that are met with in every select library, whether by land or sea; and which almost every passenger, while on board ship, has an opportunity of consulting leisurely, in books entirely dedicated to the objects of research.

Even an ordinary geographical dictionary will be found to contain from the commencement to the termination of the journey enough upon the Cape de Verds, Canary Islands, Ascension, St. Helena, &c. to satisfy the wants and wishes

ing every civility and attention; but, when insulted, none are more irascible or vindictive: the offender is sure to fall a victim to their unrelenting vengeance! At either of these islands, but especially at St. Jago, fresh provisions may be obtained in abundance. In all of them the tropical fruits abound, but should not be immoderately eaten; lest a dysentery ensue, which in those latitudes is peculiarly fatal.

Many vessels proceed down the Atlantic in a mid direction, between the Azores and the Canaries, till they catch the trade-winds, which in that part blow constantly from the north-east, or nearly so. They then stretch over to the coast of Brazil, along which they run, to about 30° south, to avoid the south-east trade-wind prevailing to the southward of the line. Being now in the way of variable winds, they shape their course towards the Cape of Good Hope. Few quit this coast without putting into some port for a supply of wood, water, and a variety of fresh provisions. Rio Janeiro is most frequented by British Indiamen, for its safe harbour, and abundant supplies. Being in latitude 23°, it will be requisite to guard against the great heats, and carefully to avoid the nightly dews, which are here extremely heavy, and produce the most dangerous species of fever.

The custom of the inhabitants throughout this coast being nearly alike, a description of one portion may suffice for the whole.

The natives of this part of South America appear to be of a middling stature, and well-proportioned; their complexions dark, and their hair lank and black. At Pernambuco and Olinda, which lie in about 7° south, the houses of the better class seem well calculated to counteract the powerful influence of the sun; which, for six months, is nearly vertical, and does not form a very acute angle with the northern horizon at any time of the year.

Notwithstanding the intense heat of the climate, the Portuguese inhabitants omit no religious duties. Nor do they ever appear in that dishabille we should expect to prevail among an effeminate people, under such local circumstances. It must prove highly amusing to behold boys, of about six or seven years of age, full dressed according to court etiquette, with bags, ruffles, swords, &c. representing the more ancient part of their population, in miniature. These young gentlemen, as well as their seniors, and especially the ladies, are seen every where, riding in vehicles very strongly resembling the chair-palanquins of India, but carried by only two men; one before and one behind.

The profusion of compliments, and of real civilities, experienced on these hospitable shores, become absolutely burthensome. Strangers are every where welcomed in the most kind and liberal manner; barges, rowing from twelve to thirty oars, being always at command, to take them to and from the ships, which cannot pass the Bar of Pernambuco, but may lie full four miles from the shore, in seven fathoms. Fruits, fish, vegetables, and poultry, may be had to any amount, of the first quality. Their beef and mutton are not, however, much to be praised, and their pork, without being firm, is intolerably fat. This in every quarter of the globe, is one of the principal viands at the tables of the Portuguese, and is dressed in various ways, all equally offensive to a delicate stomach. In serene weather the acquisition of a supply of excellent water is rendered very easy; the casks being floated to and from the shore; all fastened to ropes, and towed by large boats.

The land lying low towards the beach, though backed at some distance by hills, brings vessels within a few leagues before their proximity to the continent is discovered; and they would probably often run into shallow water, were not large floating objects generally seen at some distance

from land. Glasses will speedily distinguish persons moving on low frames, that might readily be taken for nothing less than some great fragment of a wreck. This may ultimately prove to be an Indian catamaran, stowed with a variety of fine fishes, chiefly rock-cod, taken by the industrious Indians, whose floating raft will often be mistaken for the remains of some unfortunate vessel.

A few days before an arrival on this coast, when it comes within the scope of the voyage, the usual ceremonies attendant upon crossing the Line are duly observed. Those who have never sailed so far to the southward, are impressed with the belief that sundry operations, by no means pleasant, are to take place. Among other things, they may expect to be suspended from the fore-yard-arm, and thoroughly ducked by frequent dips into the sea. However unreasonable this may appear, there exists no doubt of such a practice having been perfectly common about sixty years ago. It was then regarded as an excellent *joke*, affording wondrous merriment to the veteran part of the crew. In time, the practice ceased; either from the interposition of good sense, or owing to the judicious distribution of some liquor among the chiefs of the *dramatis personæ*.

The Sabbath is always observed on board every Indian with perfect decorum. Having no chaplain on board, unless perchance as a passenger, the captain, or one of the officers, reads the morning service, succeeded by a short lecture suited to the audience, who consist of all on board not confined by illness. The decency prevailing on such occasions is exemplary; the whole standing bare-headed on the quarter-deck, and refraining from every act, or look, that might trespass on propriety.

Funerals at sea can rarely boast of much display, but their attendants are often sincere mourners. Confined

within a narrow space, the loss of a companion is not easily forgotten, while every object reminds us of his fate.

It has already been stated, that, in rounding the Cape, the weather may be expected to correspond with the season of the year. This is so well understood, that only during the summer season in that quarter, are vessels considered safe in Table Bay, situated to the north of a low, flat, sandy isthmus, over which the sea appears to have flowed formerly into False Bay, lying a few miles to the southward. The mouths of the two bays have different aspects. Thus when that channel existed, the Table Mountain, whence the northerly bay derives its designation, together with Cape Town, which stands between the mountain and that bay, together with Wineburg, Wittiboom, Constantia, &c. &c. including a length of about forty-five miles, by four, on an average, in breadth, must have been insulated.

When a ship is to touch at the Cape, it is very desirable, on every account, that her arrival should take place during the summer season; so that she may come to anchor in Table Bay, about half a mile distant from the wharf. The convenience, thus afforded, of going immediately into comfortable lodgings, where nothing is wanting which can tend to the refreshment of persons fatigued by a confinement within such narrow limits, probably for ten or twelve weeks, is not to be calculated.

Few of those who take lodgers will admit such as do not board with them. The rates are not fixed, but the average may be taken at from three to four rix-dollars for each lady or gentleman, half-price for young children, and one dollar for each servant, per diem. Thus, a single gentleman must be an economist, to pay his expenses of board, washing, horse-hire, &c. under thirty

shillings daily.—The rix-dollar is fixed at four shillings ; but is an imaginary sum. Notes of any value may be had ; but gold and silver currency are scarcely ever seen ; the Dutch being extremely eager to obtain guineas at twenty-one shillings currency, and re-sell them at the rate generally of six and a half, or seven rix-dollars. Persons visiting the Cape should be careful to reserve their cash till about to pay their bills, and then to account their gold coin at its current value, as above shewn. Such is the estimation in which bullion is held, that no small coins are any where to be seen ; even shillings and stivers are paid in paper currency. Passengers from India ought to take a bag of rupees of the worst description ; for, whether (sikku) sicca or (trisoolee) tersooly, each will be gladly received, without distinction, at two shillings and sixpence.

The cookery of the Dutch is nearly on a par with their flesh-meats. Their beef, mutton, veal, and pork, is rarely of tolerable quality, and invariably made to float in strong sauce, of which butter and spices are the chief ingredients. The table is, in most houses, laid in a central hall, looking into a garden. The floors are all painted, that they may not absorb the damp when washed, as they are almost daily ; the beds tolerably good, and the apartments of a moderate size. Before every house is an elevated terrace, on a level with the ground-floor, having at each end a seat, usually of masonry also. On this terrace, called the *steupe*, the Dutch promenade half the day in fair weather, enjoying their pipes, and occasionally taking their *sopkies*. These are small glasses of raw spirits, for the most part hollands, which their servants tender, at intervals, as a matter of course.

The extensive gardens of the late Dutch Company,

through the centre of which is a broad gravel-walk, full half a mile in length, are crowded, on Sunday evenings, and on all festive days, by a promiscuous group, walking under the shade of the oaks and other trees planted on either side. There is also an institution, but of a more private nature, and frequented, with few exceptions, by the Dutch only. It is held at a neat house, where wines, &c. are sold, having attached to it a spacious garden; not unlike some of our tea-drinking places in the vicinity of London, and is called *Concordia*.

Many of the farms, within a morning's ride, are well worth seeing; not as objects of imitation, but as displaying much novelty, and affording a just idea of the character of a Dutch agriculturist in that quarter. The vineyards, and depôts of wine at Constantia, are remarkable; especially considering, that the soil which produces that luscious wine is confined to a very few acres, probably not more than forty; beyond which, sets from the same vines, under circumstances of perfect equality, in regard to site and culture, produce a very different liquor, little superior to that sold at the several wine-houses at six-pence per quart, and possessing a peculiar terraceous flavour, which does not diminish by keeping. The stranger not habituated to the use of the Cape wines, either white or red, should be extremely cautious on his first arrival to avoid them; and to drink port. A neglect of this precaution will produce considerable inconvenience, and may be attended with habitual diarrhœa.

Many whalers frequent the coast to the eastward of the Cape, where they kill numbers of the white species, which supply spermaceti, and the oil bearing that name. In False Bay, including a space at least equal to two hundred square miles, black whales may often be seen

sporting about; as, indeed, they may in Table Bay, close in among the rocks, about half a mile below the fort. A few are killed by the crews of such ships as have not been so fortunate as to be filled with the former kind; but this seems almost as much for pastime as profit: the oil extracted from black whales being very low in price; as neither burning well, nor making so good soap as the spermaceti kind.

Although the winter months are held to be very dangerous for vessels riding in Table Bay, from the dreadful swell sometimes setting in from the north-west, towards which it is much exposed, it is, however, rare that vessels are lost therein during that season. This may, no doubt, be attributed to their very short stay, as they usually proceed to Seamon's Bay, the inhabited part of which is about twenty-five miles from Cape Town. The Sceptre, of 64 guns, together with a Danish 74, and about ten or twelve other vessels, were wrecked in Table Bay on the 5th of November 1799; a period when a gale of wind from the north-west is never expected. To make up for the deficiency, that part of the year is attended with very stiff breezes from the south-east, which drive up the small gravel against one's face with such force as to give most acute pain. These south-easters, as they are called, certainly produce excellent effects; cooling the air, and destroying a vast number of insects.

Nature has been truly liberal in the profusion of flowers she has scattered throughout this part of Africa. The plains are covered with heaths, or hethers, of an exquisite fragrance, of boundless variety, and of the most delicate colouring and formation. The whole country, where the soil is not absolutely barren, teems with all that could enrich a pleasure-garden. Among these, the

wild geraniums bear a large proportion: the plain beyond the camp at Wineburg absolutely resembling a rich carpet!

Few ships remain long enough to allow of passengers proceeding to the interior; where, however, they would find much to admire. At some of the farms they may be well accommodated, with the great advantage of finding their purses far less burthensome on their return. The famous vineyards of Stellenbosch are well worth seeing, as is the Salt Lake, which annually dries, leaving a bed of muriate of soda many miles in diameter, and of unknown depth. Surely, in parts accounted sterile, such a depôt of manure ought not to be overlooked. The hot baths, situate in a most romantic valley, about forty miles from the Cape, demand the traveller's attention. Whether he proceed on horseback, or in a waggon, a gun will be useful, on account of the prodigious quantity of game, of every description, and as a defence against the numerous wild beasts which infest all the woody country beyond Hottentot Holland.

A few vessels touch at St. Augustine's Bay, on the west coast of Madagascar. The treacherous disposition of the natives is however a great objection, so that the generality pass on to Johanna, the only island of the Comora cluster which the English have been in the habit of visiting. On account of the strong current setting round its southern extremity, vessels keep close to the shore as they approach Saddle Island, which, at low water, is connected with Johanna by a ridge of sand. On this, the Huntingdon Indiaman was lost about fifty years ago, in attempting to pass, without going round Saddle Island; which derives its name from the appearance it bears, when viewed at a certain distance. The whole coast, from the southern point to the bay where the town is situated, presents, with

very little exception, a bold shore, divested of those dangerous reefs which render Mohillah, and others of its neighbours, difficult of access. The country is extremely mountainous; in some parts abounding with cocoa and other trees. Wild goats are numerous; but, being much in request among the natives, are very shy, and, in general, retire to the most rugged eminences. To the left of the town, about two miles distant, a long reef of black rocks encloses a bay, of which the beach is covered with a fine sand, shelving very gradually, and bearing a strong resemblance to that of Weymouth.

The houses in the villages on the coast are rather mean, though appertaining to persons who have ridiculously assumed European titles of eminence. The island swarms with "Prince Ruperts," "Prince Eugenes," Dukes, Marquises, and Lords, all of whom are mean and knavish to an extreme. The common form of building consists of a long barn-like apartment, entered by a low door, in the middle of its length; and having another, opposite, at the back, which leads to the most dirty out-offices that can be imagined, wherein the culinary operations, &c. are carried on. In the dwellings of those who admit lodgers, which may be said to include half the town, the places for sleeping, for one cannot call them bed-places, are raised, towards the two gable-ends, to the height of full six feet; and, in some, are parted off by a curtain of coarse chintz, or other cloth. These recesses are from three to five feet wide, and about ten or twelve feet long; according to the breadth of the house. The ascent to them is formed by several very broad stairs, covered with matting made of cocoa-tree leaves, or, in a few, with carpets. Each step is considered as accommodation for two persons to repose upon, feet to feet: in most instances, however, the steps are not long enough

to allow more than one person to lie down. This arrangement is by no means displeasing, nor is it attended with so much inconvenience as would be the case were the whole upon a level. The middle of the room is set apart for meals, usually served on tables of a wretched construction. The guests sit, as well as they can, upon little stools, or recline on the matted floor against the lower steps; which, indeed, is not only the most comfortable, but, among the natives, is considered as the most decorous, mode.

Not a horse is to be seen on the island; but plenty of excellent cattle thrive uncommonly on the rich pastures of the valleys. Through most of these, streams of the purest water, every where broken by rocks, or gliding over shallow beds of gravelly sand, pursue their eager course. It is remarkable, that, among other poultry, the Guinea fowl should abound. Thousands may be seen in a wild state, if they may be so termed, when, by throwing a handful of grain at your feet, all will instantly approach to participate of the bounty.

By referring to the India Register, at the proper place, it will be distinctly seen, that the island of Ceylon has been adopted as a royal possession, in the government of which the Company have no share. The whole of the civil establishment are appointed by the king; and the military receive their commissions from the secretary at war, independent of the Company's chartered establishment. It generally happened, in former times, that some of the Madras battalions were on duty in the island; which has always been in a most perturbed state, till now, when sanguine hopes are entertained of peace and plenty reigning there for years to come. It is rather unusual for the Company's ships to touch here, except when sent to Columbo with stores, or calling there on their way home,

for cargoes and passengers. Only very small vessels can pass between Ceylon and the Main, notwithstanding the great width of the channel, on account of that immense reef, intermixed with shoals, stretching across its northern part. This reef, called 'Adam's Bridge,' is supposed to be formed by the summits of mountains, that, by some dreadful convulsion, were sunk below those waters, between which they originally formed a stupendous isthmus, like that of Darien, connecting Ceylon with the continent.

Madras Roads being exempt from shoals, for some miles on either side, are entered without a pilot; ships in general anchoring off the fort, in from six to ten fathoms; the bottom a firm sand. The surf is here, at all times, rather high; but when a south-west, or westerly wind, prevails, becomes so tremendous as to debar all communication with the shipping. From the beginning of October to the middle of January, the flag-staff is struck, as a signal to vessels that no insurance is payable on account of such losses as may happen during that period, which is held to be replete with danger. So great is the apprehension entertained of the perils attendant upon a continuance on the Coromandel coast during that monsoon, that even our ships of war retire from the protection of such trade as may be carried on by adventurous individuals, and seek an asylum in some well-sheltered port, such as Trincomalee.

The country, or masoolah boats employed here carry from forty to sixty tons. They are made of plank, about two inches in thickness above, and three, below, fastened together by means of coir (the fibres of cocoa-nut rinds); passed through small holes pierced along the edges of the several planks, all around each. These planks appear as though sewed together with twine of the above descrip-

tion, and are fastened to battens and sleepers, answering for ribs and floor timbers. At the bottom, planks are laid in the opposite direction of these, which form the vessel, and near the gun-wales, several thwarts are secured across; they passing through the sides, and being firmly pinned in. There is no deck, and the rudder consists of a large kind of oar, rigged out at the stern.

At a little distance, the masoolah-boats appear like rude imitations of English coal-barges. They row from ten to sixteen oars, and, when unladen, make more speed than persons accustomed to wherries, or to ships' pinnaces, would expect, passing through the surf, both coming and going, with amazing facility. Sometimes, indeed, owing to letting them swing round, instead of steering head-on, they fill, or overset. This, however, very rarely happens; and the mere act of swamping, unless in the first, or outward surf, is not attended with any imminent danger; the next wave generally impelling the boat, and all that it contains, high (but not *dry*) upon the beach, where it is soon run up out of the water's way.

The masoolah-boats are, very properly, under the sole management of the master-attendant, or the beach-master. None can put off without licence; and no one is admitted to serve on board, but an expert and bold swimmer. Instances of individuals of any description being lost are extremely rare. Such accidents have happened chiefly at the outer surf, (there being usually three following waves to pass, or to accompany,) where the water is very deep, and immense numbers of ground-sharks are ever on the watch for what accident may throw in their way. It will readily be supposed that the shore is tolerably bold, when it is mentioned, that our Indiamen, deeply laden, have been several times necessitated to warp to the very edge of the outer surf, in consequence

of an enemy's fleet having entered the roads, with the view to cut them out.

In the first boat which approaches a ship, a number of *debashes* or *dobhashiyas* (interpreters) are sure to arrive, bringing with them various articles of provision, fruits, &c. as presents to the captain and officers; whose favour each of them courts, under the hope to be employed as agent for the ship, or to supply necessaries, and provide lodgings for individuals.

These *debashes* are generally men of property, and of some consequence among the natives, from having at times so many purchases to make for those who arrive at Madras; but especially where the supplies necessary for a whole ship, or sometimes for a whole fleet, are in question. They all speak broken English, understanding far beyond what they can express in our language. They are servile to an extreme, and most completely trained in every money-making device.

Few people, taking all things into consideration, are more hospitable than the Europeans residing at Madras. Any defect in that respect supposed to exist, may, by due consideration of peculiar circumstances, relating to person or place, always find some sufficient apology. Madras being so much frequented, and the number of European gentlemen resident there being comparatively trifling, it cannot be expected they should keep open house, or indulge their friendly dispositions in the exercise of unlimited kindness. In fact, the expectations of those who visit Madras, on their way from Europe to India, are, for the most part, rather too sanguine. They have heard much of Indian hospitality, and wonder at that disappointment which is purely the offspring of their own unreasonable anticipations. There cannot be any situation where a letter of introduction is of more avail, or indeed more

necessary, than this. Such letter should be addressed to some person resident at Madras; or it may be perfectly nugatory, from the immense expanse over which the civil servants, as well as the military, are scattered. A young gentleman taking out a dozen letters, may, on his arrival, find them entirely useless, the parties being absent from the presidency.

The passengers of every class are expected to reside on shore during the ship's detention in the roads. Few, indeed, neglect to avail themselves of the opportunity offered of seeing one of our principal fortresses, and of observing the customs of a country so celebrated in history, and forming so essential a branch of the British empire. If an introduction be obtained, by any means, the usual result will be an invitation to reside with the gentleman, if he keeps house. Otherwise, every attention will be paid in seeing the stranger accommodated, at the best house of that description which admits boarders; and which are commonly called "Punch-Houses." This designation doubtless arose from the habits of those who first settled in India, and who, finding spirits, sugar, and limes, (a small species of lemon,) every where abundant, indulged in copious draughts of punch. That beverage is now completely obsolete, unless among sea-faring persons, who rarely fail to experience its deleterious effects. In all sea-ports, taverns or punch-houses are more frequented than in places where shipping lie in some distant road, or harbour. This occasions them to be more respectable in the opinions of those who keep them, but nothing could reconcile a gentleman, long resident in the country, to seek an accommodation among them. It would imply a total want of respectable connexions; and, in itself, appear a sufficient cause for avoiding his acquaintance.

Totally ignorant of the language, and without any guide,

it is by no means surprising that so many impositions are practised on our countrymen soon as they arrive in India. A debash of the lowest order, and of the most crafty disposition, perfectly experienced in all the ordinary requisitions of Europeans, and prompt to gratify their desires so long as profit attends the speculation, is ever at the elbow of the novice, serving as banker, purveyor, pimp, and interpreter. What more can be requisite to ruin an helpless, inconsiderate youth?

Most of the gentlemen in the Company's service reside in the fort, or at houses a few miles off, in the country, or at St. Thomas's Mount, about six miles from Madras, where the artillery are usually quartered, together with the troops destined to defend the works, in case of attack. The Black-Town is not an enviable site for residence; but the situation, being subject to the land and sea breezes, the latter of which are as refreshing as the former are debilitating, reconciles the older inhabitants to many inconveniences, among which, smoke is by no means the least obnoxious. The musquitoes are here tolerably numerous, as are also rats of all sizes, cock-roaches, and scorpions. The latter grow to an immense size, and are peculiarly venomous. That most loathsome companion, the bug, is to be found here in such swarms, that it is by no means uncommon to see them crawling about at all hours, and in all places.

St. Thomas's Mount is certainly the more pleasant station, and may be fairly put in competition with any of those rural retreats, called "Garden Houses," scattered every where in the vicinity of the capital. At these, many families reside all the year round; the gentlemen who have offices to attend, being conveyed to them in the mornings, either in palanquins, or in their carriages; the climate by no means favouring much exercise on horseback.

It being indispensable that every person should be conversant with the several coins, or currency, in which payments are made, or accounts kept, people arriving at this settlement should make themselves acquainted with the tables of coins, weights, and measures, in use at Madras: observing, that, throughout the dependent provinces, an endless variety in the two last are to be found; and that, consequently, all dealings must be regulated in proportion to the increased, or diminished, variations, wherever situated. The EAST INDIA DIRECTORY will be found to contain whatever may relate to this subject, including the three presidencies.

It has been already stated, that the voyage from Madras to Bengal will depend, as to duration, entirely upon the season. Should the southerly monsoon prevail, Point Palmiras, at the southern boundary of Balasore Roads, may be made in from three to seven days. During the northerly monsoon, it is usual, experience having confirmed what accident probably first suggested, to stretch over to the opposite side of the bay upon a wind, and then to run obliquely across on the other tack, so as to arrive in soundings off the mouth of the Hooghly, where the tides will speedily convey a vessel up to any place on the river, whatever may be the wind's direction. During the passage, under the former prevalence, the land is not, in general, seen till the water becomes obviously discoloured with sand. In the first instance, the course is made directly from Madras Roads, to gain a good offing, whereby the dangerous shoals of Pulicat, about five miles north of Madras, may be avoided. The land all along the coast being invariably low, and the shallows projecting, in some places, full ten miles seaward, it is prudent to keep rather towards the middle of the bay, and, from a N. N. E. course, to change latterly to a N. N. W.; rounding in,

when the latitude directs, till Point Palmiras is from four to six leagues distant.

It is of very great importance to be correct in making that point, which is best regulated by a perfect knowledge of the latitude, there being a promontory very similar, thence designated "False Point;" by mistaking which many vessels have been lost. When in sight of Point Palmiras, it is usual to await the arrival of some pilot-vessel, of which one or more are always on the look-out below the Sand-Heads, and to proceed into the river under her guidance.

The country all along the sea-coast, on both sides of the river's mouth, being extremely low, and no hills of sufficient altitude to be distinguished at sea, especially on the right bank, very little gratification is offered to the eye by the surrounding scenery. The shelving beach, on either hand, is overgrown, in most parts, with trees rarely exceeding twenty feet in height, whose stems are surrounded with underwood, or grass jungle, in which deer are found in abundance. The sport must, however, be invariably declined, as an immense number of tigers occupy the same covers. It rarely happens that a party land for the purpose of shooting deer, or wild hogs, (which are equally abundant,) without meeting with some accident; or, at least, being frightened, so as to produce the most salutary forbearance.

All the way, from Balasore (*Baleswur**) up to Kedge-

* The English corruptions of Hindoostanee names of persons, places, &c. are so numerous, that I cannot but recommend a reference to a list in the Hindoostanee Dialogues, where I have endeavoured to rectify these misnomers, along with many equally bad, which the natives of India have on their side introduced; both forming as curious an assemblage of *kacoepey* and *kacography*, as any country can well produce from the colloquial intercourse of strangers and inhabitants, where all

ree, the prospect, if we except those agreeable sensations arising from the display of vegetation, and from arriving at the ultimate *thule* of destination, rather wearies than pleases. Nothing is to be seen but a series of wilderness, perhaps here and there enclosing a few huts, or, in the broken intervals, displaying some insignificant village, of which the inhabitants are as poor as they are idle.

The purser, for the most part, avails himself of the attendance of the *chuokee-boats*, which are always plying about the mouth of the rivers for the express purpose of receiving packets. In favourable seasons, these boats have been known to reach Calcutta, a distance of sixty miles, in one tide. Should a schooner be proceeding up the river, let there be no hesitation to embark in her. An equal accommodation cannot generally be found; while the whole risk, trouble, and delay, attendant on a passage in any of the common country boats, are at once avoided. The pilot may possibly expect some return for his good offices; but, if he likes his company, he will, in all probability, set them ashore at Calcutta free of all expense.

The purser's trip is not enviable when in a *chuokee-boat*, with no other than a very small semicircular covering of mats, under which it is impossible to sit upright, except exactly under its centre. In tempestuous seasons, and idea of grammatical propriety is mutually sacrificed to mere momentary convenience.

A new comer, talking of *Balasure*, merely as an Englishman, would never be understood, except from the context, which might lead the hearer to know he meant *Baleswur*; but this, on the other hand, could not readily be recognized by an ignorant European as the *Balasure*, according to his vicious pronunciation, from reading occidental works, or learning it from those jargonists who murder all such words with impunity during the whole of their lives, on the spot,—sans ears, sans tongues, sans heads, sans every thing, connected with the faculty of speech.

such are generally the periods in which the Indiamen arrive, there is often a high swell between Kedgerree and Fulta, the river being in some parts from three to six miles across, and running to the southward, from which quarter the wind blows very forcibly for at least five months. Therefore, though very few accidents happen, the voyages between the ship and the capital cannot be considered safe. The chuokee-boats are all under the master-attendant, and bear the Company's colours, on a small staff, or, sometimes at the head of the mast, made of a single bamboo, nearly as long as the boat; which commonly rows ten or twelve oars. Being of a light construction, and divested of all superfluous apparatus, they proceed at a prodigious rate. On an emergency, even when opposed by the tide, they gain from two to six miles hourly; according as they may be able to row along the slack water; to pole up against the more rapid streams; or to track up against wind and tide.

When relatives, or particular friends, are on board any ship whose arrival is expected, it is customary to send a stout pinnace-budgrow to meet her at Kedgerree. In paying this kind attention, all the necessary provision,—a bed, table, chairs, &c. are put on board, together with such servants as are generally needful on the water. Few, who have any feeling for their novice companions on board, especially those who have been in India, quit the ship without taking with them as many as the pinnace can, without great inconvenience, receive. This accommodation does not happen every day. Though few ships return to India without conveying one or more old standards, either civil or military: it is not always that notice can be received of a ship's being about to import; and when such notice has been received, it is not always recollected, or perhaps practicable, to send a pinnace to receive an old friend.

Many heedless youths, from sheer impatience, after a long voyage, to reach their destined abode with all possible speed, have fallen premature victims to the scorching rays of the sun in open boats. It is, therefore, highly probable that some improvements and salutary regulations have been latterly introduced, as to the medium of conveyance from the ship to Calcutta, which may render certain observations here superfluous; yet, if things still continue on the old footing, they cannot be too soon rectified, if the preservation of valuable lives be a consideration worthy of the smallest solicitude.

Persons in a delicate state of health should, if possible, wait for some safe and comfortable conveyance. It is the most certain method, to commission the purser to hire a vessel, the moment he reaches Calcutta, and to send her off, under the charge of a servant, to prevent delay by the boatmen; which, otherwise, if paid by the day, would be inevitable. The misfortune is, that very few can endure to be so much longer confined on board, and thus impatiently reject this proposal. Here it may be expected that the greatest haste will make the worst speed; at the same time that the expenses are increased greatly, while the accommodations are proportionably deteriorated.

Now and then, an adventurous manjhee, (or boat-master,) who knows how to make a good bargain, will linger about Diamond Harbour, or lay up in Culpee Creek, ready to go down, wind and tide permitting, to the first ship which arrives from Europe. These men are certain of a good fare, it being very common to give from fifty rupees (about six guineas) to one hundred for the trip. Such an opportunity, however extravagant the terms may appear, ought not to be lost; it being a great chance whether a second vessel of the same description may proceed to the ship. As to

small boats, rowing four or six oars, and having either a thatched cabin, or a semicircular awning of mats, several of them may come alongside; but they yield not the smallest accommodation beyond shelter from the sun; while their manjhees will not fail to take every advantage of the distress, or difficulty, under which a passenger labours.

It would be unjust to infer, from what has been said, respecting the readiness with which the boatmen avail themselves of the necessities of persons desirous to leave a ship, that they are peculiarly covetous, or prone to imposition. One need only look at home, to find that little mercy is shewn to such unfortunates as become the prey of watermen, along the whole extent of the English coast. With what hard-hearted, callous apathy does the boatman view the distress of the unthinking youth, who either by neglect, or accident, remains on shore after the boats that frequent his own ship, then under weigh, have put off! What prayers, or arguments, short of those issuing from the purse, can urge him to relieve the anxiety of one, whose whole hope, whose only resource, lies in that voyage for which every preparation has been made, and for which expenses, often nearly ruinous to friends and connexions, have been defrayed! These remarks do not apply to impatient people, who are in a hurry to quit their ships before they come to an anchor. If they will have their way, they must pay for such intemperate haste; it is an expense they have the option of avoiding.

Really, when we come fairly to compute the risks incurred by the master of a vessel, built expressly for accommodation, and not intended to meet the rude surges of, what may be called, an arm of the sea; that from twelve to eighteen men are engaged; that much time is lost in waiting arrivals; that full sixty miles are to be passed

over; and that, perhaps, four of five gentlemen, with all their luggage that is at hand, are conveyed; when all these circumstances are considered, even fifty rupees cannot well be deemed exorbitant, at least, there appears far less reason to charge extortion on the Indian, than there is to condemn the cruel rapacity of the English boatman.

Whatever may be the rate at which the boat, supposing it to be a pinnace-budgrow, is engaged, no apparatus of any description should be expected; for none will be found. There will usually be an open veranda in the front, having three or four steps below the deck, and on the same level with the front, or dining-room. The after-room narrows considerably towards the stern; and, on account of the vessel's form, its floor is usually raised one or two steps. This is the sleeping apartment; and at the stern is a small slip, serving for a quarter-gallery. The roofs of these boats are usually flat; and some have side-rails above, to prevent luggage, or those who sleep there, from falling overboard. The sides are furnished, for their whole length, with Venetian blinds, in frames which lift up by means of hinges at their tops; and a long curtain, made either of tarpaulin, or of painted or white canvass, is nailed on the outside; letting down at pleasure, to keep out wind, rain, dust, &c. The baling-place is ordinarily about the centre of the front room; that being the deepest part of the boat's bottom. Baggage may be put under the deck; but that part is generally occupied by the dandies, (or rowers,) if permitted to sleep there; or perhaps the manjhee may think it worth his while to make it a trading voyage, and lay in salt, rice, &c. to be disposed of to advantage on his arrival at the presidency.

From this concise detail it will be seen, that some pen-

ance must be undergone, even in this kind of boat, and supposing it to be perfectly fitted up, as will rarely be the case, with the above defences against bad weather. The sea-cot is now of singular use; its hooks being withdrawn from the ship's beams, and inserted in those of the budgrow. Those who had standing bed-places, must spread their mattresses, &c. on the floor. All must sit upon their trunks, or on whatever may be at hand; and, now, every little article of convenience brought from the ship will become useful. Candles, candlesticks, tin-ware, glasses, &c. are invaluable. As to table-cloths, there being no table, they may be dispensed with; as also knives and forks, there being no plates: and probably curry and rice, prepared by the boatmen, will form the bill of fare. Those who are fond of savoury dishes, may here gratify themselves with a repast in high estimation among the gentlemen of India: viz. a dandy's curry. Those, however, who have been in the habit of eating made-dishes, at a distance from the culinary operations, may not altogether relish the manner of preparation, nor be invariably pleased with the appearance of the cook. His habiliments will probably consist of a cloth wrapped round his waist, then passed between his thighs, and a small cap, if the party be a Mussulman. If a Hindu, the entire dress may be composed of a small cord tied round his waist, for the purpose of supporting a narrow piece of cloth passed between his thighs. Herpetic eruptions, in large patches, all over the back, breast, and arms, together with obvious symptoms of a more troublesome cutaneous complaint, about the fingers, &c. are by no means rare, yet never disqualify the scratching sufferer from officiating as cook to the crew! Were such *trifles* to be objectionable, the dressing of a dinner might be somewhat difficult.

a little English. These will invariably encourage the purchase of many things of no use whatever, but which become perquisites to the manjhee, on his passengers quitting the vessel. Abundance of poultry may be seen; but, with the exception of a curry, there will be no mode of dressing them; unless accidentally some person be on board who can trim a fowl and roast it. If fish are to be had, they will come under the same difficulty; so that, like Sancho, in the midst of plenty, a man may be next door to starvation, if he cannot make up his mind to partake of the dandies' curry; or is quite ignorant, *in propria persona*, of the culinary art.

It is proper to add a caution against eating much fruit, though perfectly ripe. Unseasonable avidity in this way has proved fatal to many, on their arrival. A few bananas will not incommode; but the cocoa-nut, however pleasant and refreshing, should be very sparingly used; as it is extremely apt to affect the bowels, so also is the jack.

Those who have never had an opportunity of seeing the fire-fly, will be agreeably surprised at the millions of those little luminaries, which at night bespangle every bush; displaying themselves in the most vivid manner. The hind parts of these insects, which may be about the size of common house-flies, are replete with a brilliant substance, similar to that contained in the glow-worm, and, like it, equally innocent. By placing a few of these living lamps under the glass of a watch, the hour can be distinctly perceived in the darkest night, so long as they *live*; but the story told of a bird, called the buya, illuminating its pendant close nest, by sticking the inside full of these insects, must be false, for death entirely destroys their phosphoric power. It is very remarkable that, in many parts of the ocean, immense shoals of the luminous

sea-maggot, each about the size of a man's finger, are seen at night, causing the water to assume a phosphoric appearance. In sailing through these living shoals, abundance may be drawn up in buckets. At the same time, innumerable fishes of prey may be heard, or seen, rushing among them, and, no doubt, making many a hearty meal.

Persons arriving from Europe, "have rarely any but British coins; in the disbursing of which many impositions will be practised. The best mode is to tender the whole, without delay, to some of the English agency-houses, who will readily pay their full value; as they, indeed, often find it difficult to obtain a few guineas for their friends about to embark for England, without paying an exorbitant sum to the *shroffs*, (*surrafs*,) or native bankers. Nor can these acquire them only from such persons as arrive with the *Indiamen*, and they are rarely acquainted with their real value.

All goods being landed under the inspection of custom-house officers, the passenger will have little opportunity of interfering, as to his baggage, or merchandize. Nor should he attempt, personally, to transact any business before he delivers his letters of credit, or introduction. That should be his first step; as it will afford the means of more easily managing his concerns, and, probably, of being comfortably situated, without the necessity of resorting to a tavern.

Here it becomes an indispensable duty, to warn the young adventurer not to dissipate his money, ruin his health, and injure his reputation, by frequenting taverns. In England, where persons who do not keep house must occasionally sit down to a meal in public, custom has not only connived at, but sanctioned, the resort to coffee-houses, &c. These afford conveniences to thousands, who

could never provide so comfortably at home, at the same expense. The coffee-houses in Europe may likewise be considered as the rendezvous of persons in the same line of business, and offering opportunities for adjusting numerous affairs, which, either from remote residence, or the pressure of other concerns, could not else be brought to immediate conclusion.

The taverns in India are upon a very different plan. They are either of the first rate, at which public dinners are occasionally given, or of that mean description which receive all who have a rupee to spend, under the determination of extracting that rupee, in some shape or other. The former class is very confined in numbers, but the latter are abundant, and may be readily distinguished by the promiscuous company, the shabbiness of the treatment, and the excess of imposition, especially on novices. It is easy to avoid the necessity for running into the mouths of these leviathans. All that is requisite, is to call at the first office, or shop, to learn the residence of the gentleman to whom the letter of introduction is addressed. No ceremony should be used in explaining the circumstances, and in soliciting the aid of a servant to lead the way. No one ever yet heard of a want of civility on such occasions.

In speaking thus confidently respecting a letter of introduction, the case of course alludes to a person not appointed to the service of the Company. It cannot, indeed, be conceived what could induce any man of respectability to visit India, without a substantial recommendation; or, indeed, unless under some agreement, or sufficient assurance of being employed in such a manner as might tend to certain advantage. Nothing can be more forlorn than the situation of a mere adventurer, on his arrival in India. With money in his pocket, he may

assuredly subsist; but, without some friend to introduce him into society, he may remain for years unnoticed; for, throughout the East, and especially at the several presidencies, he who knows nobody, him will nobody know. Residence at a tavern is, in itself, a perfect disqualification among persons of repute; as implying either a total want of respectable acquaintance, an addiction to liquor, or a predilection for low company.

In saying this, there is no denying that some worthy characters have been rescued from perpetual degradation, by accidental intercourse with persons of peculiar sensibility. Such nice feelings, however, and that unqualified liberality, which have been occasionally discovered in a few individuals, are rarely united. When they are, it too often happens that the power to render them effectively beneficial is altogether wanting. A man may be thoroughly convinced of the worthiness of his protégé, but it will not always follow that society will sanction his opinion. In considering the state of society in India, this will be evident. Strongly therefore to inculcate the sentiment may prove serviceable to many, who have misconceived the subject in general, or have been led by a too sanguine disposition, to deem the whole toil, risk, and solicitude as being over, soon as their feet can rest on the terra firma of Hindoostan.

Mutatis mutandis at each of the three presidencies, most of the subsequent animadversions and hints will apply, subject nevertheless to the local peculiarities of those settlements, all however agreeing in their general features of intercourse between the natives and new comers, on whom the former will invariably prey as long as they can. Few ships on their outward voyage are wholly destitute of some old Indian passengers. From these, partial customs and occurrences may be completely

ascertained before the vessel reaches her destined port. No youth, therefore, need arrive in a state of profound ignorance, unless too lazy to learn those things most requisite for his immediate comfort and welfare.

The ordinary mode in which a European is accosted on his first arrival at Calcutta, is by the tender of a bearer, carrying a large umbrella, to shelter him from the sun or rain. There is something about a stranger, in that quarter, which instantly announces him to all the predatory tribe, who wait at the wharfs in expectation of living booty: but, otherwise, his total ignorance of the language would be sufficient to determine their conduct. The bearer, who is in league with that numerous horde of miscreants, called *sircars*, abounding, not only at Calcutta, but throughout the lower provinces, speedily conveys the hint to his associates. A smooth-faced chap, who speaks English well enough to be understood, and who comprehends more than he will acknowledge, now advances, and making a respectful obeisance, called a *salaam*, by bending his head downwards, and placing the palm of his right hand to his forehead, makes an offer of his services to the stray Briton.

However a youth may be prepared, by the cautious injunctions of friends, and the detail of knaveries practised by such characters, still it is by no means easy to avoid the snare. Reflecting on the anxiety inseparably attendant on arrival in a country where every thing is new, every thing strange, and where, in case of disappointment, all must be misery; it is not surprising that so much confidence should be placed on those who cheer the novice, by speaking to him in his native tongue. But, admitting the folly of confiding in any stranger, how is the case to be ameliorated? Ignorant of the language, as well as of the customs; totally unacquainted with any soul on the spot;

and eager to obtain a shelter from the oppressive heats ; what is the poor adventurer to do ? He cannot remain in the boat ! He cannot take root, and vegetate, at the water side ! Nor can he perambulate the public roads, till fatigue sink him to the dust, or some benevolent European, on perceiving his distress, shall offer him an asylum ! What then is to be done ?—Why, the *sircar* must lead him to some paltry tavern, in which he is either interested, or from whose keeper he receives a *douceur* for introducing a guest. In the meantime, his baggage, with the exception of such minutiae as may adhere to the fingers of the boat-men, or of those who have the handling them on shore, will follow, and there will be no want of attention to immediate accommodation.

The tavern-keeper, under the plausible pretext of aiding towards the completion of the youth's wishes, never fails to enquire whether the gentleman has any friends in town, or even in the country ? If affirmatively answered, "mine host" feels himself tolerably secure of his money : but will probably assert, that the friend in town is out of the way, and will not be back for some days. Should the gentleman be totally destitute of friends, then comes the rich harvest. Imposition following imposition, swells the bill ; which, if appearances warrant forbearance, is kept back as long as possible, under the pleasing assurance of perfect confidence. In the end, however, a catalogue of items is produced, which never fails to alarm, if not to ruin, the unsuspecting victim !

Should, unhappily, the guest so far lower himself as to associate with the ordinary company of the common drinking-room, he is irretrievably gone. Quarrels, riots, and inebriety follow ; till, in all probability, he becomes subject to the notice of the police. Should his face ever be seen at that office, his admission into any respectable

circle would be next to impossible. What with lodging, dinners, wines, &c. of the worst description, but all rated at the highest prices, he must be fortunate who escapes under a gold mohur (two guineas) per day. Double that sum is generally charged; so that a person starts at the rate of £1000 per annum, at least; while, in all probability, no established, or even apparent, provision exists, whereby he may be maintained.

Add the allurements held out by the sable beauties, who will contrive means to retail their charms so long as they think money is to be had, and no trifling expense will be incurred. Some fellow who can speak English, and thoroughly understands whatever relates to the interest of the concern, which, among other things, includes thieving, lying, cheating, pimping, &c. is employed to delude the unwary stranger. The first essay is ordinarily made by describing the elegance of the native women, and their great perfection as singers and dancers; and rarely fails, especially with youths under such circumstances, to excite something more than curiosity. The dancing-girls are introduced, and so many fatal consequences follow, that nothing can be more dangerous than this irregular indulgence; it never failing, first to drain the purse, and, in a few days or weeks, the constitution also.

Those servants who usually ply at the wharfs, and endeavour to obtain employment, either among the officers of ships, or among persons fresh from Europe, for the most part speak broken English with sufficient fluency. This renders them particularly serviceable to both those classes, by enabling them to provide, and to act, when, without such assistance, they would be in distress, and at a stand. It is a very general custom among the Moossulmans of low condition, to give such of their male children as are born during their Lent, (or *Ramzaun*), the name of

Ramzauny: meaning "born during the *Ramzaun*." There being so many thus designated, renders the name extremely common; and, as an infinity of rogueries have been practised by persons so called, it has rather got into disgrace. Hence, the adventurers above described are, by a slight, but ludicrous corruption, termed *Rum-Johnnies*, which after all, may be only a slighter change from *ram-juna*, a Hindoo dancing-boy.

That a servant thus enabled to act as the medium of intercourse, must prove on many occasions highly convenient, may be confessed; but, like a two-edged sword, he may operate either way, as to himself may appear expedient; and while pretending to serve, may be pillaging his employer. It is to be lamented, that the stranger has no immediate resource; and, in case of injury, little redress. The mischief is not owing to any deficiency in the police, but arises from that invariable precaution with which *Rum-Johnnies* carry on their manœuvres. They never fail to have a third person in the way, who is to disappear with the purloined articles, and to bear all the blame; while the principal affects great resentment at the villain's audacity, and sorrow for his master's loss. This is often so dexterously managed as to occasion serious quarrels, when friends, who see through the deception, endeavour to convince the infatuated party, that his confidential menial is at the bottom of the roguery. The disreputable circumstance of having a thief at his elbow, does not sit very easy on the stranger's mind: deriving so much convenience from *Rum-Johnny's* aid, and, having only the fair side of the knave's conduct in view, he is unwilling to give credit to what appears a gross misrepresentation, founded on prejudice. By this means, he sinks deeper into the mire, and renders it dangerous for his well-wisher to attempt his extrication.

Captain Williamson says, " I recollect an instance of a young gentleman's joining a regiment, about a hundred miles up the country, who had among his servants a *khedmutgar*, (or table-attendant,) of whom I never could get a sight. The fellow was always sick, or busy; or some excuse was invariably made. At length, one of my own domestics informed me, that he was a *Rum-Johnny* who had been discharged for theft from my service, in which he held the office of *mosaulchy*, (or link-boy.) I found out, that he had been employed in the barracks at Fort-William, where he picked up a little English, and had fastened on the gentleman, no doubt with the intention to avail himself of the first good prize wherewith to decamp. Finding, to his great discomfiture, that I had been removed to that station, where he found me, the scoundrel kept aloof, under the hope of carrying his project into execution. Strange to say, it was with extreme difficulty I could convince my young friend that he was the dupe of a downright thief; who, if I had not been improperly lenient, would have had the certificate of his crime noted on his back, by the drummers of the regiment!"

To state the evil, without pointing out the remedy, would be next to useless. When, however, the means are suggested of avoiding all, or any of the difficulties, attendant on arrival in a foreign land, the stranger must be understood to possess pecuniary resources; that is, to be able to pay his way. Otherwise, he can do nothing; and must undergo all the afflictions and miseries every where attendant upon despised poverty. It must not be forgotten, that what may appear in England to be liberal calculations, will be otherwise in the East; where every article of European manufacture bears an enormous price, and house-rent is very expensive; while it is indispensably

necessary to retain many servants. The first thing to be done, (setting a letter of recommendation out of the question,) is to report arrival at the secretary's office, depositing the certificate of the Directors' licence to proceed to India. Without this, the party is treated as an alien, not entitled to British protection. Nor does this arise from ill-will on the part of government, or the inhabitants; but from that strict attention which the politics of the country imperiously require to be paid to the several characters, and descriptions, of persons residing within the territory of British India.

All persons in the civil or military branches are equally required to produce the certificate granted at the India House, in order to identify the party. Should this have been lost, he himself, together with the commander who received the order for taking him on board, must attend, to make affidavit to that effect, before the appointment can be admitted upon the registers in India.

Such as appertain to the civil service, being always strongly recommended, and often finding many old acquaintances of their families on the spot, require but little advice. Nor does the cadet stand much in need of instruction, for providing himself with a home. He is only to wait upon the town-major, at his office in Fort-William, when he will receive the necessary order for admission into the barracks and mess appointed for his reception.

He who has not these advantages, must do the best his circumstances allow. He will find temperance not only cheap, but indispensable; for, should he at the outset indiscreetly injure his health, there would follow a thousand privations, and a certain increase of difficulties. As the first point he must get under cover. Nor will this be found so easy, as those may suppose who have never

quitted England. It will require some research, to procure a small house with only bare walls; for a furnished house to be let is unknown in India; and lodgings are, if possible, still more out of the question. Fortunately, among the European shopkeepers in Calcutta, are some most respectable characters; men distinguished for their urbanity, philanthropy, and generosity. Application should be instantly made to one of these firms, for aid, and advice. The case should be candidly stated; and, to insure confidence, there should be a deposit of money either with them, or at one of the banks. Thus, in a few hours, some small tenement will be obtained, either hired, or granted as a temporary accommodation, and all the articles really necessary will be provided, at one of the auctions daily occurring within the central parts of the town.

The appointment of proper servants will now be important; but, under the directions of any old resident, by no means difficult. Such will be not only the most expeditious, but the safest, way of proceeding; since those who recommend will, in all probability, be expected, according to the custom of the place, to become sureties for the honesty of all persons hired on their recommendation. One servant who can speak English, or at least, an underling *sircar*, deputed from the warehouse, will prove a very agreeable resource, on all occasions of difficulty; but the good policy, or rather the absolute necessity, of immediately studying the language, is so apparent, that he who runs may read. Till that is acquired, to such an extent as may preclude the necessity for an interpreter on ordinary occasions, no person can be deemed independent; far less, capable of acting with effect, in any civil, military, or commercial capacity.

Strange to say, many gentlemen reside from ten to

thirty years in India, without ever being able to summon resolution to acquire sufficient of the Hindee language even to take their accounts! With such, the *sircar* is every thing. The consequences are, invariably, that he grows rich, and his master continues to the last in distress, unless fortune or patronage fill his coffers so fast, that neither domestic peculation nor extravagance can keep them empty.

Without pretending to make a very accurate estimate, an outline may be sketched of those expenses which every person must incur when keeping house, though in the most retired manner, and on the most economical plan. In doing this, it is considered that the instructions given for the outfit have been duly observed; and, that wearing apparel, some plate, bedding, blankets, sheets, and pillow-cases, have been provided. If they have not, those articles may be rated at from fifty to a hundred per cent. more than they would cost in England. The following brief catalogue will be found to contain only those conveniences which are indispensable. As prices, however, fluctuate greatly, those given here and in the following pages, should be considered more as certain data on which to calculate, than as *bona fide* prices:—

	Rupees.
One dozen of chairs; say at four rupees each	48
One dining-table for six, say	25
Two tepoys (tripods) 3½ each	7
One writing-table, with drawers	25
One bedstead of 6 feet 4 in. by 4 feet 6 in.	30
Curtains to ditto; those for the exterior of chintz	20
Inside ditto, of gauze, to keep out musquitoes	10
Bookcase upon chest of drawers	100
China and glass ware, say	100
Shades to put over candles, one pair, say	40
(Those with wooden pedestals to be preferred.)	
Carried forward	405

	Brought forward	405
A chillumchee (or metal bason) for washing hands, with its tripod, &c.		25
A palanquin and bedding		100
Table cloths and towels		50
One large and one small satringe (cotton carpet) 25 and 10		35
Various culinary articles, say		40
A variety of small articles in cutlery, &c. say		45
		<hr/>
Making in all on a rough estimate		700
		<hr/>

In this estimate a horse is not included, because not indispensable; but, both as a convenience, and as tending to health, a cheap, safe, and quiet poney should be provided. Numbers are sold every week, at all prices; but one, including the saddle and bridle, from 250 to 300 rupees would be going far enough. Suppose the whole expense amounts to 1000 sicca rupees, or £125; this will be as little as any person can expend, so as to secure his credit or comfort. The common stock of wines, spirits, wax-candles, sauces, sugar-candy, tea, coffee, saltpetre, and a number of lesser items, would require full 600 rupees more; supposing that a year's supply were immediately provided. Thus, £200 will be necessary to establish a gentleman in his residence, supposing it to be fixed. Travelling alters the case, and will be found considerably to increase the disbursements.

A comparison between the before-mentioned prices and those in Europe, will shew that Calcutta is by no means a favourable market for the purchase of furniture, wines, cattle, &c.; and should at once satisfy every free-mariner, free-merchant, &c. proceeding to India on speculation, that he must be provided with at least six hundred pounds to answer the demands of his outset. House rent cannot well be taken at less than £150 per annum; servants will

amount to about as much more ; and his table expenses, pocket-money, &c., on the most moderate scale, will demand one hundred, after laying in his stock of wines, tea, &c. So that, in all, he may be said to do very well on the £600. Should he, indeed, be so fortunate as to make numerous respectable acquaintances, and become a frequent guest at their tables, a considerable portion of the expenses, stated at £100, may be retrenched. Such good luck, however, does not generally happen ; and, at any rate, rarely comes at once, as it requires time to gain that footing which may relieve the pressure of table charges. This, too, may be attended only with common civility, without affording the smallest prospect of further beneficial countenance from such hospitality.

So much has been said on this subject, with a view to correct a prevalent opinion, that it is easy to get into society in India ; and that then a gentleman may put his hands in his pockets, while his friends forward him rapidly. Such, assuredly, was the case in days of yore ; but, within the last thirty years or more, there have been numerous retrenchments in all the public offices, so that the prospects of many young men who proceeded to India with the hope of being engaged in merchants' houses, have sadly failed. It should never be forgotten how far all persons, ignorant of the language spoken in common, namely, the Hindee, (vulgarly called the *Moors*'), are incompetent to any duty, beyond that of making out copies of accounts-current, and registering correspondence. Even these, to be performed with correctness, demand some local knowledge. This may serve to prove, that full one year must be provided for before any employment, which may ensure a livelihood, and afford the prospect of future advancement, can be reasonably expected.

Of such importance does this appear, that, were one to

advise a young friend, about to proceed to India, as to the manner in which he should pass his first year, it would be nearly in the following terms: "Rise at daybreak, and ride gently for one hour in the hot, and two hours in the cold season. Make a moderate breakfast, avoiding melted butter, salt meats, salt fish, sweetmeats, &c.; good tea or coffee being assuredly the most wholesome. Study the language for an hour or two, and attend some office gratuitously, in order to become acquainted with the accounts, price-currents, markets, provisions, commodities, &c. About two o'clock retire to rest, and about an hour before sunset, bathe, by means of three or four large pots of water poured over the head. Put on clean linen, and dine moderately upon plain viands, taking care never to exceed two or three glasses of the best Madeira. Proceed for two hours with studying the language, and, after taking a cup or two of tea, or of coffee, or a crust of bread and a glass of Madeira, go supperless to bed, avoiding to sleep in a strong current of air."

Possibly, it may be urged, that a person intent on learning the Hindée, so as to be competent to transact business in the course of twelve months, would not attain that object by four hours only of daily assiduity. Nevertheless, such a portion of time, appropriated under the guidance of an intelligent linguist, will certainly enable the student to make a wonderful progress; especially when combined with the resolution to enter as much as possible into familiar colloquy in that language, and to put it in practice among the natives on all occasions.

A gentleman determined to learn the language, began the study of Persian at rather an advanced age; which caused many to rally him on the new turn he had taken. He, however, persevered, and, in the course of two years, became more than commonly proficient. The explanation

he gave, as to the plan he had laid down, must convince any one, that a person, with a tolerable memory, may, in a moderate time, acquire any regular language. His mode was, for the first month, never to retire to bed until he had perfectly learned by heart twenty words, so as to explain them with promptitude, however catechized. After that first month, he was master of no less than six hundred words. During the next month, finding that former acquirements greatly facilitated his progress, he made a point of gaining twenty-five words daily; thus acquiring in that month seven hundred and fifty words; making a total of thirteen hundred and fifty.

In this way he added five words every day, till he found that, by the aid of derivations and compounds, he was well grounded in the language. His computation was, that, as few languages contain more than forty thousand words in common use, whenever he should be able to learn fifty words daily, he might, to use his own terms, "make the language fall before him in two years."

This is an arithmetical demonstration of the powers annexed to persevering regularity, and ought to induce every youth, for that is the season for acquirements, to adopt such a system as may insure the great object in view. So steady a mode of carrying on a pursuit cannot, however, be expected in young persons, many of whom have just escaped from the trammels of parental vigilance; and who, having passed so many years at their studies, rarely feel much disposition to prolong academic labours; while, at the same time, the pleasures of society are open to their participation. Still, it is to be hoped that this volume may prove intrinsically beneficial to a large portion, by pointing out the means whereby preferment may be obtained, and by shewing with what facility, as to all in-

tellectual pursuits, the foundation may be laid for a most superb superstructure.

The number of servants, and the amount of wages, forming so conspicuous an item in domestic economy, cannot fail to attract the attention, not only of persons proceeding to India, but of their parents and friends, who often express much surprise at the apparent extravagance of the young *débutants* in this particular. Such notions of improper indulgence in retinue, though perfectly natural, as resulting from long habits, and the little necessity felt in Europe for keeping many servants, even in large families, by no means find a sanction when transplanted beyond the narrow limits of our own island. In many parts of Europe, custom has rendered permanent various practices which, no doubt, had their origin in the purest motives, and did not, in the first instance, appear likely to serve as the basis of future excesses and encroachments.

The multiplicity of menials employed in the houses of European gentlemen in Bengal, results from the tenets of religion, especially among the Hindoos; a cause by no means likely to be soon removed. Yet what may be effected by a relaxation of their present rigid principles, and the further extension of our customs, cannot be foretold.

Of the religious tenets and institutions, both of the Moossulmans and of the Hindoos, little need be said in this place. The division of the latter into sects, called by us *casts*, renders the occupations of all perfectly distinct. Thus a necessity exists of hiring such of each *cast* as can attend to those duties they undertake, without being subject to the animadversions of their priesthood, or to those penalties attendant upon even the most trifling deviation from the prescribed path. The climate, too, arbitrarily

imposes the necessity for retaining some classes of servants, unknown in England; or, at least, supposed to be exclusively attached to the convenience of ladies, and sick persons. When all matters are considered, it will be found, that the host of domestics appertaining to the establishment of a gentleman in Bengal, proves, in the aggregate, little, if at all, more expensive than the ordinary number retained by families of respectability in most parts of England. What with wages, liveries, lodging, board, washing, waste, negligence, and pilfering, we probably shall find the one man-servant and the two maids fully a match, in point of expense, with the whole body of those in the pay of one of our countrymen abroad.

A gentleman in Europe can never well guess the ultimate amount of his disbursements, where his domestics are concerned either in the appropriation, or in the expenditure. In India, the uttermost farthing is known; each servant receiving a certain sum monthly, for which he is in attendance during the whole day, provides his own clothes and victuals, and pays for whatever cabin he may build or occupy. As to purloining victuals, there is little danger; for, with the exception of some of the lower *casts*, which are held in a state of utter abomination, no native of India, either Moossulman or Hindoo, will so much as touch those viands of which an European has partaken; or which have even been served up to his table.

This must be understood as speaking generally, and without any reference to those few deviations which have occasionally been discovered; for certainly there have been instances of servants, particularly Mahomedans, who so far trespassed against the doctrines of their religion, as, in secret, absolutely to eat of *ham*, and other

viands. Such anomalies must be abstracted from the main position,—which is well known, by all who have resided in India, to be perfectly correct ; though many have suspected that their stocks of liquors have been occasionally subjected to depredations by menial thieves, or tiplers, without being able to substantiate this charge on such rather rare occurrences.

However one *cast* may be below the other in a religious point of view, yet they strictly regard the preservation of that conspicuous distinction laid down by their sacred code. Thus, though they may worship the same deities, under the same forms, and with the same ceremonies, yet will they not allow of participation at meals ; nor even of contact, at such times. The stranger will, no doubt, on his arrival, see with surprise during the evenings, about sunset, each individual, or perhaps, here and there, two or three, if of the same *cast*, squatting on the bare ground, within a small space levelled for the purpose, of which the limits are marked out by the line of dust, or rubbish, moved from the centre towards the exterior. In such an area, each man, or woman, cooks, and afterwards eats, the principal meal of the day. In fair weather, these areas are made under the canopy of heaven ; but during the rainy season, and perhaps in winter, they are made within the huts of the persons respectively, and, by the Hindoos at least, are in general neatly plastered over with cow-dung, which lays the dust, and is, moreover, considered as a sacred compost.

So extremely scrupulous are the natives in the preparation of their victuals, and their consumption, that, if any person not of the very same *cast*, (with the reservation of the brahmans, or priests,) should touch their bodies or their clothes, or any one article within the area, or even the surface of the area itself, the whole meal, together

with any earthen-ware, standing within the circumvallation, (if it may be so called,) would be instantly thrown away, as being polluted. Nay, any portion in the mouth must be ejected; nor, till the party had performed an ablution, could he attempt to resume his culinary labours, or join in society with his compeers. No Moossulman, or Hindoo, will drink water out of any vessel touched, while in a state of repletion, by a person of inferior cast, or by an European. Earthen-ware of every kind, though new or empty, becomes defiled by such contact, so as to be utterly useless to the proprietor.

Knowing these things, it must be both cruel and impolitic to trespass on a prejudice in itself perfectly innocent, and by no means interfering with the rights, or the convenience, of others. It is true, the patient Hindoo, even while suffering under privations from the destruction, or at least the disqualification, of his meal, will rarely proceed to extremity against any European who may occasion such a loss and inconvenience. Under a supposition of the trespasser's ignorance, he rather, in his mind, finds an excuse for, and pardons, what he mildly terms the accident. But, let a native offend in a similar manner, and a war of words exhibits the irritation of the Hindoo's mind. Nor would he be passive should one of his countrymen step over him while asleep; that being considered as not only indelicate, but productive of serious mischiefs; inducing the visitations of evil spirits, inflicting disease, and, at no very remote period, death. This strange infatuation appears perfectly ridiculous in any civilized being, but especially among a people who are all predestinarians. The European should be careful not to stride over any of his domestics, who may occasionally lay themselves down in the veranda, &c. of his house: such an act on the part of an unclean

master, being considered as doubly mischievous; for all those who are without the pale of their peculiar creed are deemed impure.*

The servants, whether of Europeans, or of opulent natives, are divided into two classes, indiscriminately called *Nuokur*, or *Chakur*. The first list below are judged exempt from all menial duties, which more properly belong to the last division, as their respective designations will at once testify.

Baniayn, (*buniya*) merchant, banker, or money agent.

Darogah, (*daroghu*) or *Gomastah*, (*gomashtu*) factor, or superintendent.

Moonshy, (*moonshee*) secretary, or linguist.

Jummadar, chief of the retinue.

Chob-dar, silver-pole bearer.

Soonta-burdar, silver-baton bearer.

Khansaman, butler, steward.

Sirkar, government, head of a house; agent for receipts and payments, as cash-keeper.

Kranee, clerk, or writer in the office.

The second class comprises—

Khidmutgar, valet, table-attendant.

Mushuulchee, flambeau-bearer, link-boy.

Hookull-burdar, pipe-bearer.

Bihishtee, water-carrier, lit. *heavenly*.

Bawur-chee, cook.

Durzee, tailor.

* I beg leave here to refer the reader to "Dialogues English and Hindoostanee," designed "to promote the colloquial intercourse of Europeans with the natives of India, immediately on their arrival in Hindoostan." These Dialogues I shall quote more largely, as they are not likely to be republished in their present form.—See Appendix, No. II.

- Doby*, (*Djohbee*) washerman.
- Mohote*, or *Mohout*, (*Muhawut*) elephant driver.
- Surwan*, camel-driver.
- Su,ees*, *Sa,ees*, groom.
- G,husiyara*, grass-cutter, dependant on the former.
- Chabook-war*, horse-breaker.
- Malee*, gardener.
- Ab-dar*, water-cooler, butler.
- Khursh burdar*, purveyor.
- Hurkaru*, messenger, guide, spy, &c.
- Piyadu*, (*Peon*) nearly the same as the *hurkaru*.
- Hujam*, or *Nace*, barber.
- Dufturee*, office-keeper.
- Furrash*, carpet-spreader, or furniture-keeper.
- Mihtur*, sweeper; a female for the same duties being termed *mihturancee*.
- Dorigh*, dog-keeper.
- Khulasee*, camp-equipage-keeper.
- Berriarah*, shepherd.
- Chuoceedar*, watchman.
- Durwan*, gate-keeper, or porter.
- Kuhar*, palkee-bearer.
- Aya*, or *Da,ee*, a female attendant on a lady, in charge of children, a nurse.

The *Baniayns* being, without doubt, the first in fortune, as well as in rank, claim priority of description.—These are, invariably, Hindoos, possessing in general very large property, with most extensive credit and influence.

A *baniayn* invariably rides in his palkee, attended by several underling *sirkars*, *hurkarus*, &c. He, to a certain degree, rules the office, entering it generally with little ceremony, making a slight obeisance, and never putting off his slippers: a privilege which, in the eyes of the na-

tives, at once places him on a footing of equality with his employer. Under such a system, it was easy for the *baniayns* to effect the ruin of any individual; while it was impossible for any man in distress to conceal his circumstances, so as to obtain a loan, or to extend his credit. Hence, the courts of law were full of causes in which *baniayns* were plaintiffs. Of late years, the case has greatly altered; for, if we except a few large concerns, such as banking-houses, and the principal merchants, who, having valuable cargoes on hand, are each under the necessity of retaining one of this gang, for the purpose of obtaining cash to make up payments, or to advance for investments, *baniayns* are become obsolete.

There was, formerly, little opportunity for securing money, except on mortgage, or in the Company's treasury. Few, however, now think of lending money at less than twelve per cent. which is the legal interest; and, as the Company never receive loans at that rate, except when pressed by exigency; and the great agency-houses continue to make such an immense profit as enables them to pay so high for money accommodation; the floating property belonging to individuals, with little exception, falls into their hands. Thus there is little occasion for *baniayns*; whose former extensive influence is now confined to the above concerns, and to the management of elephant, bullock, or other contracts. Those animals they often buy of the contractor, either for a specific sum, or an annual contingent; so as entirely to exempt him from the responsibility and the management.

This description of persons may be classed with the superior *debashes* of the Carnatic; and though there certainly have been found some individuals who might fairly claim exemption from the accusation, yet, generally speaking, the present *baniayns*, who attach themselves to the

captains of European ships, may, without the least hazard of controversion, be considered as nothing more or less than *Rum-Johnnies* of a larger growth. Some usurp the designation of *dewan*, which implies an extensive delegated power; that office, under the emperors of Hindostan, and even now in the courts of Lucknow, Hyderabad, &c. being confidential, and never bestowed but on persons in high favour.

The *Darogah*, *Gomashtu*, (factor, or superintendant,) is an office rarely held under Europeans, though extremely common in the services of native princes, and of men of opulence. Some of our merchants appoint persons to attend to their concerns in remote parts; such as the timber-dealers in the Morungs, and the iron-smelters in various parts. The contractors for elephants, camels, bullocks, horses, &c. have also their agents at the various stations. In general, these are common *sirkars*, who assume the title of *darogah* by way of pre-eminence, without any authority from their employers, and often without their knowledge. They, however, are rarely averse to such an assumption; which, while it gratifies their vanity, costs nothing. The *darogahs*, or, more properly, the *sirkars*, frequently call themselves *naibs*, or deputies. This seems a more modest term; but, among the natives it is considered as equally consequential; especially when the principal never eclipses the self-created deputy, by personal attendance to his own affairs. Many of this class are considered as approaching to menials.

The *Moonshee*, or linguist, is ordinarily a teacher of some language, particularly the Persian and Hinduwee, though numbers are employed only as interpreters, or scribes. Learning is their sole pursuit; and, so far as that can be attained in a country where little is under-

stood of philosophy and mathematics, some of them make considerable advances. But, in general, it will be found, that a few volumes of tales, the lives of great men who have either invaded, or ruled, the empire, some moral tracts, and the Koran, (for *moonshees* are Moossulmans) constitute the acquirements of this very haughty class of servants. A *moonshee* is never so well pleased, as when the payment of the domestic establishment is confided to his charge. Here he is sure to create an influence very injurious to his employer's interests: the whole tribe of menials, considering him to have full command of the whole concern, and viewing their master as a mere cypher, dread the *moonshee's* authority, and crouch before him in the most submissive manner.

The *baniayn* rarely receives wages, or any immediate remuneration for his services; he knows full well, that no money can pass the files on his fingers without leaving some dust. The *darogah* is sometimes paid by centage on the quantity of goods he transmits, or on the amount of his account; but the *moonshee* is ever in the receipt of wages, which vary according to his own talents and reputation, or to the rank of his employer. Perhaps a few may be found who receive more, but two gold mohurs, (equal to four guineas) per month, may be taken as rather a liberal, than an ordinary, rate. Some receive no more than eight or ten rupees; but, whatever the learning of such men may amount to, their conduct is generally influenced by motives wide from purity. Many of this class were formerly seen attached to those young officers, and civil servants, who found an easy mode of gratifying their ostentation by a display of study which they never realized, and who employed these pretended tutors in all the drudgery of expenditure; not forgetting those meaner

offices, which, while they disgraced themselves, levelled all distinction between the man of letters and the common pander.

The private habits of *moonshees*, in general, by no means correspond with the respectability of their profession. Attending their employers only at stated hours, and the residue of their time being wholly unoccupied, it is not surprising, that, with liberal salaries, they should rather court pleasure than shun it. Hence, with very few exceptions, we find them debauched and unhealthy.

The *Jummadars* are considered as the most confidential servants of a person of distinction, and through them the despatches, and consultations of the various members of the council, are usually conveyed. Some are retained merely to superintend buildings and commercial operations: but such cannot be classed, strictly speaking, with those who are merely state servants; though the wages of each may be nearly on a par. The *jummadar* bears no insignia of office, but, generally imitates the appearance of a *moonshee* of a respectable class. He may, however, be often distinguished by the ornamental dagger, worn in his *cummer-band*, or waist-cloth: whereas the *moonshee* never wears any weapon whatever.

The *Chob-dar*, or silver-pole bearer, is retained only by persons of consequence; usually two are employed, and even four, in the retinue of very exalted characters. The pole, (or *chob*,) is about four feet and a half in length, tapering gradually, from the metal ferule at the base, to the top, which is about four inches in diameter, and generally embossed with some figure, such as a tiger's head, &c.; while the rest, for the whole length, is of some pattern, such as volutes, scales, flowers, &c. The pole consists of a staff, about three quarters of an inch in diameter, spreading towards the top, so as to as-

similate to the form of the exterior case. This is of solid wrought silver, often weighing 150 rupees or more, into which, the staff being placed centrally, melted rosin is poured to fill up the intermediate space; thereby rendering the whole sufficiently substantial, without adding too much to the weight.

The *chob-dar* is versed in all the ceremonies of court etiquette. He stands at the inner door of the audience chamber, announcing the approach of visitors, and conducting them to the presence. The *chob* being in itself of some value, and the office frequently of considerable trust, it is usual for *chob-dars* to give the security of creditable persons who vouch for their good conduct. Their average wages are from eight to twelve rupees. They attend early in the morning; and, besides announcing visitors, run before the palanquin, or, if there be no *jummadar*, by the side, to receive orders. They likewise carry messages, or letters, on formal occasions; especially to superiors.

On these occasions, the rank of the servant bearing a message, or letter, implies the degree of respect which the master designs to express. So well is this understood, that the precursors of a great man always arrange themselves on this principle of gradation. The *hurkarus* and *peons* are the foremost; next the *soonta-bardars*, then the *chob-dars*, and, lastly, the *jummadar*, who runs by the side of the palanquin, unless when occasionally replaced by a *chob-dar*, and thus throughout. In India, the retinue always precede the employer; a custom little suited to the climate, as appears by the clouds of dust which annoy the person seated in the palanquin.

In the dresses of the *jummadar*, and the *chob-dars*, there is no characteristic difference, though the former usually make their *jammās*, or robes, of white calico;

unless where coloured broad-cloth is given them for liveries; which, however, is not usual; and they consider white as more dignified; nor are they partial to coloured turbans, or waistbands.

The *Soonta-burdar* bears a baton about thirty inches long, generally curved at the top, so as to resemble an ordinary bludgeon. These batons are made of the same materials as the *chob*, or pole; but, while the latter are borne, when the bearers are proceeding with a palanquin, by a suitable balance near their centres, like trailed arms, the former are held by their lower extremities; which, since they are never rested on the ground, as the *chobs* are, require no ferules; the crooked end of the *soonta* being carried over the shoulder.

Soonta-burdars are frequently employed by persons in a second or third rate of office, or opulence, where no *jummadar*, or *chob-dar*, is kept. The pay of these servants varies from six to ten rupees monthly: the dress differs from that of the superior class; being generally confined to a much shorter *jamma*, reaching only to the knees, or just below them, and they have less objection to coloured turbans, &c.

The *Khansaman* may be classed with the house-steward and butler; for in him both offices unite; and in his dress, he generally imitates the *jummadar*, or *chob-dar*. Those who have rarely seen a table set out in India, may wonder at the elegance and perfection displayed; especially when it is considered, that those concerned in the preparation of the viands, would, on no account, taste them during the course of preparation, any more than when returned from the table. The wages of the *khansaman* are supposed to correspond with his talents and the rank of his employer; though in a few instances, epicures, of very moderate income, have retained *khans-*

mans at very exorbitant rates. From twelve to fifteen rupees per month, may be taken for a common standard; from fifteen to twenty, in families of rank or opulence; and from twenty to forty among the first circle. A few cases might be adduced where not less than a *hundred rupees* have been given; a sum corresponding with £150. per annum of British currency.

The *Sirkar* is a servant whose whole study is to handle money, whether receivable or payable; to confuse accounts, when adverse to his views; or to render them most expressively intelligible, when suitable to his purpose. These are pretty nearly the same as the Madras *debashes*. As *peons* and *hurkarus* rise to be *chob-dars*, and *jummadars*, and as *khidmutgars* succeed to the appointment of *khansamans*, so may *sirkars* in time become *baniayns*, *dewans*, *darogahs*, *gomastahs*, &c. Many of them even set up as *shroffs*, or bankers, and establish a very extensive credit. There are *sirkars* of all ages, from twelve, to sixty, or seventy.

Nothing can more forcibly expose the characteristic traits of *sirkars*, than their usual tender of services to young men, under the declaration that *they seek no pay*, or remuneration in any form, beyond the *pleasure* of laying out their master's money to the best advantage. It should be noticed, that, on account of the immense variety of coins current in India, it is customary, when receiving a large sum, to employ an examiner, called a *podar*; who, having acquired an accurate skill in the valuation of these coins, at once decides upon the correctness of a payment. The precision, quickness, and touch of these persons are beyond description. It is said, that many of them can, even in the dark, distinguish between several kinds of money, whose size and weight are nearly similar. Besides, even coins of the

same value, and from the same mint, differ greatly in both particulars; some being broad and flat, like a shilling, though not defaced; while others are more dumpy, and, though of purer metal, not so ponderous.

Many of the *sirkars*, especially of late years, unite the office of *podar* with their own. This, it might be supposed, would enable them to secure their employer from loss, but it is rather made the means of injuring both his pocket and his credit, by passing inferior money at an unjust value into his chest, and issuing it at a *less* rate, if to a native colleague; but, if to an European, then at a *higher* value; the *sirkars* of each joining in the device: when circumstances fit, this operation is reversed. Here it may be objected—"If the master knew the rate at which the money was paid to him, how happens it, that, after entering it in his books, he allows it to be paid away at a different, or, at least, at a lower rate than that at which it was received?"

This query, though sufficient to stagger any other person, would not prove in the smallest degree difficult of solution to a *sirkar*. He immediately tells his master, that the *batta*, *i. e.* the exchange, is altered, and, in saying this, he may have truth on his side, from the fluctuations that take place in all coins, whether gold, silver, or copper, and which are so frequent, that no general rules can apply for any given long period. This fluctuation in the price of money is managed by the *shroffs*, or native bankers; who invariably, except on particular holidays, meet towards midnight, compare accounts, and settle the value of money for the succeeding day. Notice is then privately circulated; and, throughout the great town of Calcutta, covering perhaps three thousand acres, and well peopled, the whole of the parties concerned, nay, even the ordinary retail shopkeepers, are apprized of the

alteration. Sometimes the exchange is allowed to remain at the same rate for a few days in succession: this rarely takes place, except when a particular currency, say silver, is to be bought up at a low rate, to be sold again when the rate has been raised for that purpose. Soon as either purpose is accomplished, the exchange alters by the same invisible means.

The number of *pice* in a *rupee* constitutes its value; as the number of *rupees* and *annas* do that of a *gold mohur*; which, if *sicca*, from the Calcutta mint, ought invariably to pass at sixteen rupees. But the regulations of government have too often been openly and daringly disobeyed. Thus at one time the whole of the silver currency disappeared; the *shroffs* and *sirkars* had bought it up; so that persons in business were induced to offer premiums for silver; without which, mercantile concerns could not proceed. It is, indeed, well known, that, for several months, the troops at the presidency were paid in gold, issued to them at par; but which, owing to the infamous combinations above described, would not pass in any part of the market, unless a deduction of one-eighth was allowed. *Sirkars* contrive to defraud all parties with whom their masters have concerns; thereby disgracing them on many occasions, especially in payment of card-debts, which are soon distinguished by this *Argus* race.

Besides the advantages thus made, the *sirkars* derive a very considerable emolument from purchases of every description made in the markets. Whenever an European, even in person, buys goods of a native, his servants have, from time immemorial, a claim on the vendor of half an anna in every rupee the latter receives. This, which is called *dustooree*, or a customary gift, being a thirty-second of the disbursement, amounts to no less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.: it may therefore be imagined what im-

mense sums these *sirkars* must gain, when serving gentlemen who have large establishments: for even from the very domestics does the *sirkar* claim the above gratuity, when paying their wages.

Military persons have little occasion for such servants; therefore, unless in eligible circumstances, and of a very liberal disposition, a *sirkar* will not think it worth his while to serve an officer on a small salary; but it is quite different with a young civilian. Those *sirkars* who are employed by merchants, or manufacturers, derive the advantages attendant on the foregoing transactions, in a less degree than when serving other individuals; but they gradually acquire large property, and are often placed in situations of great trust; such as *darogahs* and *gomastahs*. In such establishments they are, for the major part, relatives to the *baniayn*, who assists with his purse on emergency; therefore, though they may feel the necessity of paying attention to their ostensible employer, they pay their court, under the rose, chiefly to the former. The rates of wages are, in this branch, progressive; some receiving a bare livelihood, such as from five to eight rupees monthly; while those of longer standing, or who are more in favour with the *baniayn*, sometimes receive from fifteen to thirty.

The dress of *sirkars* is extremely simple: their heads are shaved, excepting one lock, about two inches in diameter at the base, which is held sacred, and tied in a loose bow-knot. The turban is white, of fine muslin, wrapped perhaps fifteen or twenty times round the head, leaving the crown nearly bare, and the lock of hair protruding. Round the waist a piece of cloth is passed, so as to allow freedom of motion; then tucked in, in a peculiar manner, and one skirt, passing between the thighs, is, in like manner, secured behind. Unless in cold weather, the body and

arms are entirely bare; in moderate seasons, they are covered with a cloth sewed into two breadths, and thrown over the shoulders: a chintz quilt is likewise occasionally worn.

For the convenience of keeping accounts, and making payments, one *sirkar* is allowed by the Company to each battalion of sepoy. It is surprising how these men, whose legal receipts amount, at most, to only twenty rupees monthly, accumulate property. Much money, indeed, goes through their hands, and, as before observed, every finger is a file which takes off a trifle *en passant*. This class of servants rarely associate with the others, as they form a separate tribe of Hindoos, whose time is devoted to the sole object of making money. They generally read English well enough to know the contents of a bill; but, in giving receipts, usually sign their names in the Bengallee character. Few of them undertake to write English accounts; but, in their own way, which appears to us prolix, they are extremely regular. The superiors seldom touch a pen, leaving that office to confidential servants, and employing the less expert as collecting clerks. These are eminently punctual, as most young debtors throughout the East must acknowledge. It is a peculiar circumstance, that scarcely an instance has been known of a *sirkar* absconding with the money entrusted to him: from this, however, the tide waiters must be exempted, who are by no means scrupulous; though they prefer extracting the money from the novice's pocket, by means of extortion and fraudulent accounts.

Considering him as being at least attached to, if not of the very same species as the *sirkar*, I shall give a short description of the *Podar*, of whom mention has already been made. He is not always an attendant at an office, though, in great concerns, his presence is indispensable.

He either receives from four to ten rupees per month, or is paid, by a very small per centage, for whatever money he examines. We often admire the dexterity of our money-tellers; but the *podar*, who counts by fours, (i. e. *gundahs*,) finishes the detail of a thousand in so short a time, as would cause even those to stare with astonishment. It is only mixed money that is counted, when large sums are passing; most payments are first sorted, when, the several kinds of rupees being made into parcels, are weighed, fifty at a time: in this manner, a lac (i. e. 100,000) may be speedily ascertained; each parcel of fifty being kept separate, till a certain number is completed: when the whole are accounted, and removed into bags, to make way for further operations. Here it may be proper to remark, that no *sirkar* will take charge of money when his employer keeps the key; nor is it, on the other hand, customary for the *sirkar* to have the entire charge. So many tricks have been played by changing the coin, that it is now a general rule for every treasure-chest to have two large padlocks, of different construction; the *sirkar*, or *tusseel-dar*, (*cash-keeper*,) receiving one key, and the master retaining the other. This prevents aggression on either part, but is by no means pleasing to the *baniayns*, though they affect to be highly satisfied, because a command of specie will often enable them to make very advantageous purchases in Company's paper; but such a precaution inevitably debars their access to the master's cash.

The *Kranee*, or clerk, may be either a native Armenian, a native Portuguese, or a Bengallee; the former not very common; the second more numerous; but the third to be seen every where. It is curious to observe how well many of the latter can write, without understanding a word of what is written. They have a steady hand, a

keen eye, and an admirable readiness in casting up accounts. Those who are habituated to our mode of book-keeping, consider it greatly superior to their own; but it is not very easy to make them understand it. The multiplicity of fractions, in consequence of the perpetual fluctuation in their currency, accustoms them to the most correct calculations. The rates of wages vary according to the abilities of individuals. Thus, a clever *kranee* in a public office, such as the auditor general's, or the paymaster general's, or the assay and mint, receives from forty to a hundred rupees monthly, while, in mercantile houses, they rarely receive more than thirty, generally, indeed, from ten to twenty. Many are glad to serve gratis, merely for the purpose of an introduction to that line of employment; as well as to perfect themselves in book-keeping, and in a proper style of correspondence. The use they make of English words is often highly diverting: they study synonymes very industriously; poring over Johnson's dictionary, and carefully selecting such terms, as appear to them least in use; thinking that such must, of course, make finer language.

The dress of a Bengallee *kranee* is exactly the same as that of a *sirkar*, of which tribe he may be considered a relative. The Portuguese *kranees* assume the British dress; but the Armenian invariably retain that of their own country, which is truly becoming. They shave their heads, and wear black velvet bonnets, in form not unlike a mitre. Their vests are of white linen, reaching down to the knees, so as not to conceal the knee-bands of their small-clothes. Their coats, or tunics, are usually of coloured silk, for the most part purple, lilac, crimson, or brown, and flow loosely rather below their vests; the sleeves are loose, and there is no collar. They use also stockings and shoes; and, when within doors, lay aside

their black bonnets, wearing in their stead white skull-caps, round like a small bowl, and often neatly tamboured with coloured silks. They have pockets in their vests, and in their small-clothes: some wear girdles under their tunics; and some silken sashes.

Having disposed of those who pride themselves as appertaining to the *nuokur*, it remains to detail the services, &c. of such as come under the general designation of *chakur*.

The *Khidmutgar*, or, as he is often termed, the *kismutgar*, is, with very few exceptions, a Moosulman. He prepares all the apparatus, and waits at table. For this purpose, he repairs to the house of his employer shortly after daybreak; when, after seeing that the breakfast apartment has been swept, and that the bearers have put on a kettle, he lays the cloth, with small plates, knives, forks, spoons, &c. together with bread, butter, sweetmeats, &c. but reserving all the tea-things for a side-table; at which, if there be no *khausaman*, he officiates, making the tea, coffee, chocolate, cocoa, or whatever is ordered. Where there is an European lady in the family, she may perhaps have the cups, &c. set upon the breakfast-table; but, on account of the steam arising from the various preparations, this custom is by no means general; and often, after a while, it is relinquished in favour of the bachelor's mode, which is, in every respect, the most comfortable.

Every gentleman must have one *khidmutgar*; but the majority keep two, or even more; not only adding thereby to their own expense, but considerably incommoding every party in which they may dine. As every gentleman, when at table, is attended by his own servants, it may easily be conceived, that where two or more are posted behind each guest, a living enclosure is formed, tending by its exhalations, added to those from their masters, and from the

viands, to banish comfort, and to render all artificial means of cooling the apartment useless. Hence it is usual, at all public entertainments, to admit but one servant for each person invited: on some occasions a better plan is adopted, namely, that of employing only as many servants as may be deemed absolutely necessary. Gentlemen fixed at Calcutta, or at any other place, as residents, cause plates, knives, forks, spoons, napkins and glasses to be laid for the whole company; but at all military stations, each guest sends his servant with two plates, a soup plate, a small plate for bones, &c. a tumbler, a long glass for claret, and a smaller for Madeira, a table spoon, a dessert spoon, perhaps also a marrow spoon, two or three knives and forks, and a napkin: these are usually taken to the rendezvous by one of his *khidmutgars*, who accompanies the *ab-dar*; the latter causing a bearer with a *bangy*, or sling, to carry the apparatus for cooling water. However luxurious the latter custom may seem, yet there is none more gratifying, or conducive to health. A glass of cold water is at times invaluable.

When seated at table, the *khidmutgar* stands behind his master to change his plates, &c. which are cleaned by servants without; and, either to keep him cool by means of a small hand-fan, made of palm-tree; or to drive away the flies with a whisk, called a *chowry*, made of the hair from a wild ox's tail, or of peacocks' feathers, or of the roots of grass, called *kuss-kuss*, &c. Often, however, these offices are left to a bearer, who likewise stands behind his master's chair for that purpose. After dinner the *khidmutgars* retire to their own homes, and, about sunset, attend their respective masters, if they have remained; but should they sup where they dined, as is customary where suppers are laid, the attendance is repeated, the same as at dinner-time; after which the *khidmutgars*

go to their respective houses without ceremony. The pay of this menial varies from five, to perhaps ten, rupees monthly; but the generality receive from six to eight. Much depends on the rank of the employer, and whether the *khidmutgar* is ever expected to officiate as *khansaman*, such is, indeed, the case with the families of single gentlemen, not in possession of large receipts; but the officiating *khidmutgar* is honoured, almost invariably, by all the other servants, with the title of *khansaman*.

Nor is such distinction always ill-bestowed; many of those who serve under gentlemen of a liberal disposition, and who take pleasure in keeping a good table, may be fairly compared with, at least, half the servants actually entitled to that designation, as to all the knowledge requisite to support its character. Few, however, of those who become thus capable of managing all that appertains to domestic economy, refrain from making attempts to enter the superior circle. Nor are there wanting persons ready to seduce such good servants from the employ of their acquaintances. About forty years since, when it was the fashion for ladies and gentlemen to wear the hair full dressed, a good perquier was an indispensable part of the establishment. The great difficulty of procuring persons properly qualified, induced several gentlemen to have lads instructed under those who were known to be expert. This often cost from eighty to a hundred rupees (ten or twelve guineas); but, in many instances, the pupils had no sooner learned the business, than offers were made clandestinely from other quarters, sometimes by intimate friends of their master, when some little disagreement was contrived so as to give pretext for quitting their service.

Khidmutgars are, with few exceptions, the sons of *ayas daees*, &c. in the service of European, or native

ladies. Their first introduction to the table commonly takes place at eight, or nine, years of age; when they are usually smart, intelligent, and well-featured. At first they attend only at the house of their employers; receiving no wages, or barely sufficient for clothing: by degrees they become useful, and are allowed to attend him abroad. Their dresses are generally of the same form; but the quality of the cloth, the length of the skirts, and sleeves, and the trimmings, are matters of great consequence in the eyes of this vain tribe. All endeavour to obtain turbans and cummer-bunds (*i. e.* waist-cloths) of the same colour, and are not the less pleased if a tassel of silver fringe be added to the outer end of the former. They wear a *coortah*, or vest, reaching, at least, to the knees. During the hot season this is made of white calico, or of chintz; but, in the winter, one of perpet, or other woollen of European manufacture, is deemed more respectable. The long drawers are white, or of striped gingham.

The *Mushuulchee*, or flambeau-bearer, may be considered as serving an apprenticeship to the *Khidmutgar*. This lad should be agile, and attentive; having to run for miles as fast as the ordinary rate of a carriage. He will find abundance of work in cleaning boots, shoes, knives, dishes, &c. together with numerous *et cetera*; and the many valuable articles in glass-ware and crockery, given to his charge, for the purpose of being washed, require his diligent care. While a lad remains a *mushuulchee*, he may acquire much experience, as to the duties of a *khidmutgar*. Some, indeed, are to be seen in the service of inferior persons, acting in both capacities, and carrying the umbrella; which is properly the duty of a bearer: but, where the *mushuulchee* performs the *khidmutgar's* duties, bearers are rarely kept. Few *mushuulchees* are al-

lowed more than five rupees monthly, and for this they supply the flambeaux and oil, where such are used. The usual pay is about four rupees; the master, as is now the general custom, using a lantern instead of a *mushuul*, (or flambeau,) and supplying ends of wax candles, or whole tallow candles for that purpose. Many of this description of servants begin as *coolies*, or labourers, and gradually improve, so as to be admitted into the service of non-commissioned officers, &c.; whence they remove into the employ of gentlemen. A few come from the sepoy regiments, in which they have served as *goorgahs*, or fags, to some native officer, &c.; but, the generality of our sepoys are Hindoos, to whom various domestic operations occurring in the families of Europeans are obnoxious, on account of the nature of many aliments in use among us. The *mushuul*, or flambeau, consists of old rags, wrapped very closely round a small stick, about two feet long, and two inches and a half in diameter; to this an iron ring is fitted, so as to confine the fire within about an inch at the tip. Being refreshed, from time to time, with oil extracted from the sesamum, it burns with great fierceness, and as the cloth consumes, the ring is brought back, by means of an old fork, thereby renovating the flame. The oil is either carried in a glass bottle, to the embouchure of which a reed is fitted, to prevent spilling; or it is contained in a brass vessel, holding nearly a quart. It is made expressly for the purpose, and thence called a *tale daunny*, (*i. e.* oil-pot).

The dress of a *mushuulchee* consists of a turban, generally coloured; a short pair of drawers, reaching half-way down the thigh, nearly the same as the *jangheeahs* of the native soldiery; and a cloth wrapped round the waist.

But if he waits at table, he imitates the dress of the *khidmutgar*, so far as his pocket may allow. Persons of distinction, among both Europeans and natives, cause their *mushuulchees* to carry what are called branch-lights. These consist of a semicircular frame of iron, supported on a centre stem, to which the side ribs join; upon the circumference are five or seven spikes, on each of which a small *mushuul* is stuck. When they are all lighted, and raised above the head, by means of the stem, they make a great show. Two, or perhaps three branch-lights, may be seen borne before a great personage. Two or more ordinary *mushuuls*, or lanterns, are also carried near the palanquin, to prevent the bearers from stumbling.

The next upon our list is the *Hookull-burdar*, or preparer of the pipe; a domestic of great consequence with those gentlemen who give themselves up, almost wholly, to the enjoyment of smoking. Some begin before they have half breakfasted; and smoke, with little intermission till they retire to rest; nor is there any custom which becomes so habitual. To so great an extreme, indeed, is it carried, that there has been more than one instance of two *hookull-burdars* being retained; one for the day, the other for the night. The wages are, in most services, from ten, to fifteen rupees per month; occasionally less, but rarely exceeding; unless excessive partiality for his pipe should induce a gentleman to give more, under the common error of expecting satisfaction in proportion to the disbursement. To such an excess has this opinion prevailed, that I have heard of no less than one hundred rupees per month having been given to a *hookull burdar*. In some instances he contracts for the whole expense, receiving such a sum as may, besides his wages, include tobacco, *gools*, (or fire-balls,)

and *chillums*, (or sockets for receiving the *towah*, or tile,) on which the prepared tobacco is applied. Some even provide the *snakes*, or pliable conductors.

With respect to the tobacco used for smoking, few are to be found of the same opinion: and that opinion probably formed under the grossest deception. The little village of *Bilsah*, in the *Muharutta* country, has been long celebrated, and not without reason, for the fragrance of the tobacco there cultivated. But the quantity sold annually throughout Bengal, where it produces from thirty to sixty, and even eighty rupees per maund, (if ascertained to be genuine,) is known to exceed full an hundred fold the amount of any crop ever raised at *Bilsah*. The substitutes are various, but one kind, raised in the *Bundelcund* district, supplies the greater portion; many, indeed, are of opinion that it is not inferior. May not its excellence be owing to the practice, common in that quarter, of sprinkling the plants at harvest time with a solution of molasses? We know that many fruits, for instance, the raspberry, yield but little of their flavour, until excited by the saccharine acid. That very cheap tobacco, the *Cug-gareah*, which ordinarily sells for about four rupees per maund, (of 82 lb.) has been rendered so mellow, and so fragrant, by being worked up with molasses, and kept in close vessels for some months, as absolutely to be admired even by persons who prided themselves on never smoking any but the true *Bilsah*.

The usual mode of preparing tobacco for the *hookull*, is by first chopping it very small; then, adding ripe plantains, or apples, molasses, or raw sugar, together with some cinnamon, and other aromatics; keeping the mass, which resembles an electuary, in close vessels. When about to be used, it is again worked up well; adding a little tincture of musk, or a few grains of that perfume,

or else pouring a solution of it, or a little rose water, down the *snake*, at the moment the *hookull* is introduced. In either case, the fragrance of the tobacco is effectually superseded; giving ample scope for the *hookull-burdar* to serve up rank *mundungus*, (as bad tobacco is termed,) in lieu of the supposed, or perhaps the real, *Bilsah*.

The *hookull-burdar* rarely fails to smoke his master's best tobacco; which, however highly perfumed, will rarely be strong enough for his gratification. The deficiency is supplied by the admixture of *bang*; a preparation from the leaves of the *ganjah*, or hemp, (the *cannabis sativa*,) and is extremely intoxicating. The leaves of that plant, when triturated with water, compose a drink of the same tendency, known by the name of *subzy*, (*i. e.* green,) which is a constant beverage among the more luxurious, who rarely fail, towards night-fall, to take an ample dose, of either *bang*, *subzy*, or *majoom*. the latter being sweetmeats impregnated with a decoction of the *ganjah*, or hemp plant, much used by all debauchees, and too often admitted within the sacred area of the *zenanah*, (or haram.) The use of any preparations of the *ganjah*, or hemp plant, is attended with much opprobrium. Like most intoxicating drugs and spirits, they, in the first instance, excite to gaiety, but ultimately leave their victim in the most deplorable state of stupefaction; the recovery from which is attended with dreadful head-ache, irritation of spirits, and hypochondria. Some *hookull-burdars* indulge freely in the use of musk, which never fails, after a while, to produce considerable derangement of the nerves; and, not unfrequently, that complete debility which is ever attended with the greatest depression.

A very common species of debauchery, in which I have known only one or two gentlemen to indulge, is the incorporation of opium with the prepared tobacco, previous to

its being spread upon the *towah*; a custom so repugnant to discretion, as to leave little room for animadversion, the folly being usually of very short duration, and, intermediately, attended with the most abject degradation. Many native princes, who have been hurled from their thrones; and others who have been displaced from offices of trust, are said to have been treacherously overcome by means of opium thus administered.

However complicated the *hookull* may appear, it is, nevertheless, extremely easy of construction. It is said, that one has been made in England; and there are a few in use here which were brought from Bengal. The *kaleaun*, or small kind of *hookull*, used on the west coast of India, is certainly commodious: it has a larger bottom, in general, than the Bengal *hookull*; though some are very small, with beautiful imitations of flowers, and of coral, shells, &c. within them.

Some of the real Persian *kaleauns* exhibit considerable ingenuity, and taste, on the part of their manufacturers. In the centre of the interior, bunches of flowers, beautifully coloured, far too large, and too delicate, to have been introduced at the embouchures of the vessels, may be seen. Over these, the glass, which is rarely of the best quality, though probably far superior to any of Hindoostanee formation, has evidently been cast, or blown. Many of these artificial bouquets are, however, made piece-meal, as discovered by examining their construction, after their exterior cases had been accidentally broken. Such were found to consist of a cone of rosin firmly cemented by heat to the bottom of the *kaleaun*. It appeared that the several leaves, branches, flowers, birds, &c. were introduced one after the other, in a heated state, and applied to the rosin, in which they buried themselves sufficiently to retain a firm hold. It was likewise ascertained that

some models of Persian architecture were combined in the same manner; while, on the other hand, others, especially small figures of great personages, seated on thrones, elephants, &c. were never subjected to that device: in the latter instance, some grapes were, however, joined in the manner above described.

The *goorgoory* is a very small kind of *hookull*, intended to be conveyed in a palanquin, or to be carried about a house; the person who smokes, holding a vase-shaped bottom by its neck, and drawing through a stiff, instead of a pliant, pipe, formed of a reed, arched into such a shape as to conduct its end conveniently to the mouth. In this implement, very generally used by the middling classes of natives, and especially among the women in *harams*, the pipe is rarely more than a yard in length.

The *neriaul* is only a cocoa-nut, with the pipe-stem thrust through a hole at its top, and a piece of reed, about a cubit long, applied to another hole rather lower down. The nut-shell being half filled with water, we might suppose the air, or rather the smoke, would be cooled; but, from observation, it is doubtful whether any change take place in the temperament of either. These little *hookulls*, (for, however paltry, their owners do not omit to give them that designation) are often used without any reed to conduct the smoke; the lips being, in that case, applied to the small lateral aperture into which the reed should be fitted. One of these usually serves half a dozen men, who pass it round with great glee: it often forms an appendage about the feet of a palanquin, if the opportunity offers for securing it there, without the master's knowledge.

The dress of a *hookull-burdar*, in the service of a gentleman of rank, is like that of a *chob-dar*; a *jamma* being generally worn by such, but, in more humble situations,

the *courtah* of a *khidmutgar* is common. In the former situation, his office is confined entirely to the *hookull*; while, in the latter, he is generally expected to wait at table, at least, on occasion; but wherever the master, of whatever rank, may go, thither the *hookull-burdar* is expected to proceed, so as to furnish the pipe in due season after dinner, or at any other time it may be required. The ordinary periods for smoking, are, after breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper: such may be deemed regular, and, two or three charges at each time, are by no means considered exorbitant. It has been already stated, that some gentlemen smoke day and night.

In such a climate, water is, during four months, at least, the main spring of existence, both in the animal, and the vegetable, kingdom; consequently, its supply becomes a profession, giving subsistence to thousands. The water-carrier, if provided with a bullock for the purpose of conveying two large leather bags, each containing about twenty gallons, is called a *Puckaully*; but if he carries the water himself, in the skin of a goat, prepared for that purpose, he then receives the designation of *Bheesty*. The bags for a *puckaully* are made of strong hide, sewed very firmly at the front, which is at right angles with the bottom, where the leather doubles, and, consequently, has no seam; the back part is diagonal, forming a kind of spout behind, opposite the bullock's knee; while the top is left open, rather in a funnel form, for about a foot, that the water may be poured in: the spout is first rolled up, and then tied with a strong strip of leather.

Every *puckaully* carries also a small bag, that he may serve as an ordinary *hand-bheesty*, when required. This is made of the skin of a goat, taken off in a particular manner. Being put into a solution of lime, the hair soon

quits; when the inside fleshings are carefully scraped off. A tan is then made of the bark of *baubool*, (mimosa,) *khut*, (catechu,) and alum.

Bheesties are, with few exceptions, Moosulmans; it being contrary to the Hindoo code to touch either the carcases, or the skins, of animals killed in any way. Hence, a Hindoo of this profession is extremely rare, and will seldom be discovered; owing to the necessity for change of name, so as to pass for a Moosulman. Hindoos will, nevertheless, drink of the water supplied from the *mussock*, (or *bheesty-bag*); though they are extremely partial to such as they can draw themselves, by means of a line and metal pot, with which most travellers are provided. Some few are extravagantly scrupulous, and will undergo excessive thirst, rather than partake of the *bheesty's* supply. Dust, heat, and fatigue, however, rarely fail, after a while, to overcome their scruples. The *puckaulties*, or, as they are usually called, the *bullock-bheesties*, replenish their bags by driving their cattle into some *tank*, or pond, up to their knees, or even deeper, then baling in the water, by means of a small leather bucket, holding about two quarts, or more. The *hand-bheesty* usually sinks his bag under water, when it soon fills. When drawing water from the wells, the leather bucket, called a *dole*, is used by both the *puckaully* and the *hand-bheesty*.

The constant application of a wet skin to the clothes on the hip, necessarily disposes them to rot: on this account, most *bheesties* use a piece of cloth, called *karwah*, which having been dyed in grain with a composition, consisting chiefly of the solution of shell-lac, effectually resists the moisture. The wages of a *hand-bheesty* are from four to five rupees, according to the agreement, as, whether he is to furnish his own *mussock*, &c. which is the general mode. His duty, during the cold season, and in

the rains, is little more than to supply water for the horses, and to fill a few pots for culinary purposes, bathing, drinking, &c. all of which may employ half an hour. But in the summer months, his labours are severe. Exclusive of the above requisitions, which are multiplied tenfold, he has to water the *tatties*, (or frames filled with grass,) placed on the windward side of every house, to cool the air; which at that season is not only uncomfortably hot, but will absolutely parch the skin of a person not accustomed to it. By daybreak the *bheesty* must begin to fill the several tubs, or immense *nauds*, (pans) of earthenware, placed near the house; this being done, he brings the *tatties*, and after wetting each thoroughly, as it lays on the ground, he places it against its respective aperture, supporting it with props, and, during the whole day, indeed often till midnight, sprinkling it in every part; and occasionally replenishing the vessels. In some very dry seasons, the *bheesties* are obliged to continue their labour during the whole night. There was an instance, in the year 1793, when the winds were rather hotter at night than in the daytime; so that it became absolutely necessary to keep the *tatties* up for a full week, or more; and to procure additional *bheesties*, to perform the night duty.

All the houses in India are tarrased, not only on the basements, but on every floor; therefore, previous to sweeping, the *bheesty* sprinkles the tarras slightly; to prevent the rising of dust. He likewise waters the precincts of the house, several times daily, but especially towards sunset, when gentlemen usually take their tea in the open air. If persons of respectability go any distance, perhaps two or three miles, in their palanquins, during the prevalence of the hot winds, they are commonly accompanied by their *bheesties*, who carry a small quantity of water in their *mussocks*, to sprinkle the *tatties* applied to the sides

of the vehicle; and thus the interior, which would otherwise be insufferably hot, is rendered agreeably cool. Those who do not take *bheesties* with them, have their *gut-tatopes*, (or palanquin covers,) which are ordinarily made of the *karwah* before described, well soaked in water before they set out: this, though not so effectual, is no bad substitute.

Water, dashed out from the end of a *mussock*, or *bheesty-bag*, would be apt to penetrate into the interior of a palanquin; and as its expenditure, while proceeding any distance, should be economically managed, there is a very simple device, which effectually answers every purpose. A small rose-head, similar to those affixed to the spouts of garden watering-pots, being firmly secured within the neck of the *mussock*, by means of the leather thong always attached to that part, divides the water more minutely and equally, and checks its too abundant supply.

Tatties are made of the roots of that long grass found in most of the jungles in India, and corresponding exactly with the Guinea grass, once so ridiculously sent to the East as a great acquisition. The fibres are of a rusty brown colour, devious in their direction, and from ten to twenty inches long; of which, among us, clothes brushes, and carpet brooms, are made. The Hindoostanee name is *kuss-kuss*, and the general price may be about four rupees per maund, (of 82 lb.)

It is enclosed in a frame made of split bamboo, chequered into squares, of about four inches each way, and in the whole sufficiently extensive to overlap the exterior of the door, or window, to which it is to be applied, at least six inches, or perhaps, a foot, at the sides and above. The *kuss-kuss* is placed very regularly on the bamboo frame, as it lies on the ground, in the same man-

ner as tiles; each layer being bound down, under a thin slip of bamboo, extending the full breadth of the *tatty*. The great art is to make the *tatty* neither too thick, so as to exclude the wind; nor too thin, to let the dust pass through, without rendering the interior sufficiently cool. After many experiments, it has been found that a maund of *kuss-kuss*, applied so as to cover about a hundred square feet, answers extremely well. But it is best to have one or two *tatties* made rather thin; so as to apply in case of light winds: when it blows hard, these may be applied double; one at the back of the other. At such times, the interior of a house will be very cool; sometimes rather too much so; for the great evaporation caused by the heated air's passage through the cold medium, produces perfect refrigeration.

In the western provinces, and other parts of India, *tatties* are frequently made of a short, prickly bush, that thrives during the hottest months on sandy plains, especially in places inundated during the rainy season. This shrub is called *jewassah*; its leaves are not unlike those of rue, but not so numerous, nor of so deep a green. It is extremely prickly, being every where furnished with spines about the size of a pin. When fresh, the *jewassah* is most pleasing to the eye, and its scent equally agreeable; but, after the first day, the verdure disappears, and the whole house is filled with leaves and thorns. Hence, the *kuss-kuss*, which, when fresh, is rather fragrant, though the scent is somewhat terraceous, is usually preferred in making those *tatties* which roll up, so as to be particularly applicable to palanquins, and are called *checks*; wherein nothing but *kuss-kuss* is ever employed. Where this root cannot be procured, or when, in the early part of the hot season, little has come to market, common grass, pared from the soil, or even small boughs, straw, &c. are occa-

sionally used to fill the space between two frames of bamboo. These answer tolerably when well watered; but are objectionable on account of their disposition to rot. *Kuss-kuss* will keep for years.

Very few *puckaullies*, or *bullock-bheesties*, are retained in the service of individuals; but usually attached to the establishments of barrack-masters and quarter-masters. They answer admirably for the supply of water at the soldiers' quarters and hospitals; where *tatties* are allowed, at the public expense, during the hot season. In most cases, the bullocks that carry the water, as well as the leather bags, appertain to the establishment, and the driver receives only the pay of a *hand-bheesty*. Where he supplies the whole, his pay is from ten to twelve rupees per month.

The *Bawur-chee*, or cook, is an important servant, since he prepares most sumptuous dinners, although he never tastes any of the viands while in a state of preparation; and is, besides, often put to his wits to guard against the joint attacks of dust, wind, rain, sun, and birds of prey. In a regular, settled family, every convenience is afforded him; such as a substantial and spacious kitchen, with fire-place according to the Indian style; a range of stoves, a scullery, apparatus of all sorts, &c. &c. But on a march, he must dig a number of holes with a mattock, to receive his fuel; which is usually green wood, or dried cow-dung. He must make *choolahs*, or fire places, by placing three lumps of earth, kneaded into a stiff paste, for each *choolah*, so as to support the boiler. He must burn his wood to embers, over which the meat is roasted, by means of a small spit, perhaps made of slit bamboo, but if of iron, with a crank at one end, whereby to turn it, as it rests upon two *dogs*, or iron spikes, driven into the ground, a few feet asunder. He must, in all probability, kill and

flay a kid, or two or three fowls; some for curry, others for roasting, &c.; and, perhaps, after all, he may have to turn the spit himself; occasionally looking to the contents of the several boilers, &c.

In a permanent kitchen, the fixed roasting-place is generally made of two inclined bars of iron, four or five feet in length, set sloping against a wall, at an angle of perhaps forty degrees. Each of these bars has eight or ten hooks, in any suitable pair of which the spit is turned by a boy: the spaces under them, or the triangle on each side, are filled with masonry, so that the heat may be retained, and the embers kept within certain bounds.

For roasting in this manner, the embers are divided lengthwise, leaving a vacancy, or kind of trough, under the line of the spit, wherein a metal platter is sometimes set, to receive the dripping, which is returned to the meat by a bunch of feathers, (generally those from the wings of the fowls just killed,) tied to the end of a short stick. This little, neat, *cleanly*, and cheap dripping-ladle answers admirably; it being in the power of the *bawur-chee* to baste any part with great precision.

In the sauces, a number of flies are found, such as rarely fail to visit the purlieus of the *bawur-chee's* camp, where they assemble in swarms; settling on the meat, or visiting the stew-pots, &c. where they are overcome by the heat, or fixed by the dripping, &c. Flies may, however, be picked out; but those shoals of dust that skim during the middle of the day, often render the whole dinner absolutely unacceptable. Where a large table-cloth has been spread over the knives, forks, &c. as laid for dinner, there has been collected near a pound of sand underneath; while the upper cloth was really covered full a quarter of an inch in depth. This can never be altogether obviated in moveable camps; but, when fixed for a while,

it is usual to set up mats, or *konauts*, (which are walls of cloth, kept upright by ropes and sticks,) on the windward side; whereby the inconvenience may be considerably lessened: but sometimes a *b'hoot*, or whirlwind, comes suddenly, and not only be-grits the whole of the cookery, but whisks away the fences, embers, &c. in an instant.

The boilers are in general made in the country, of copper, tinned; in shape not unlike the common cast-iron pots used throughout the North, without feet, and with the addition of a flat rim projecting about an inch outward, serving both to keep steady a kind of inverted lid, and, as they have no handles, for the *bawur-chee* to apply two wet rags, wherewith to put the vessel off and on the *choolah*. Tinning is performed by persons who make it their livelihood; receiving from one to two rupees per score, for the several pieces, counting boilers, lids, &c., according to their size. The *kully-ghur*, or tinman, has the vessels well scoured, and then, by means of powdered rosin, gives the interior a coating, scarcely distinguishable to the sight or touch. Some use no rosin; others employ borax; but, whatever the medium may be, or whether there be none, the vessel is heated sufficiently and equally, over embers, when the tin, being thoroughly melted, is rubbed round the interior with a large piece of fine cotton-wool, so long as any will adhere: the vessel is then set to cool.

The above method prevails entirely for its cheapness and expedition; otherwise, for its want of durability, it would be exchanged for some more permanent, and less soluble, preparation. But tinning can be performed in almost every town; and it is rarely required more than once in two or three months; when a score of good-sized pieces may be done for as little as one of our artizans would charge for tinning a very moderate-sized

kettle. Some gentlemen use tin boilers, sent from England; but, though certainly devoid of the inconvenience and danger attendant upon a want of tinning, such are highly objectionable; being so soon burnt through, or rusted when laid by: though the *bawur-chees* generally adopt the precaution of smearing the bottoms of these vessels, in particular, with fine clay, sufficiently diluted to be laid on thin and smooth.

The *bawur-chee* has nothing characteristic in his apparel; he is generally a sloven, rather than a beau, and may often be mistaken for a *mushuulchee*. In some families, *mates*, or assistants, are allowed, who do the drudgery, and whose pay is often included in that of his superior; in which case, four rupees are the common allowance, though the poor mate seldom receives more than half that sum; the cook-major adding the residue, as a perquisite, to his own wages, which may be stated at from six to twelve rupees, according to ability. As in the case of *khansamans*, and *hookull-burdars*, a few instances may be adduced of exorbitant salaries; but we may generally take the single cook at eight rupees, and the mate at four. Where there is much work, as in taverns, &c., from fifteen to twenty rupees are sometimes given monthly to the head *bawur-chee*.

The *Durzee*, or tailor, is an indispensable domestic in every part of India. All such branches of service are there filled by males; except for the *zenanah*, or haram, where there may be from two to four females; all exclusively attached to the lady. These, knowing nothing of needlework, not so much as to hem a petticoat, the only alternative is, to employ a sempster, who understands cutting out and making waistcoats, small-clothes, pantaloons, shirts, &c.: many, indeed, can make a very tolerable coat, if furnished with a pattern. The *durzee*

is invariably expected to be a proficient in whatever relates to the apparel of native women, as well as to be a competent judge of the value of different kinds of cloths made in the country, and of the exact quantity of materials requisite for the several parts of dress. All this science is to be engaged at the average rate of seven or eight rupees monthly; the *durzee* finding his own needles and threads. *Durzees* capable of making gowns, &c. for European ladies being scarce, and, as it was said in speaking of *khansamans*, much in request, double the latter sum may always be earned by one of moderate skill in that branch. The inferior class of *durzees*, called *keemah-dozes*, who do no fine work, but are principally employed in tent-making, rarely earn more than four rupees monthly; or, if paid by the day, not more than three and a half.

The various pretexts under which the *durzee* obtains admission into the *zenanah*, added to the constancy of his attendance at the house, unless when any purchase is to be made, gives him an admirable opportunity for carrying on intrigue; for which the whole tribe are notorious: hence, if any cause of suspicion appears, the *durzee* is the first object of jealousy; when it generally turns out that, if not the principal, he is accessory, as a go-between.

The *durzee* is instantly ascertained by his gait. Some *durzees* are personable men, but speedily become emaciated by debauchery; in which their liberal wages enable them to indulge. Yet they are, on the whole, excellent workmen; finishing apparel of all sorts in a remarkably neat manner, and often fitting it with great exactness: but they are devoid of invention; mostly following old patterns, and rarely suggesting the smallest improvement. The dress of a *durzee* much resembles that of a *khidmutgar*:

but in the hot season, the former wear no coortahs, being bare from the waist upwards; sometimes substituting a small cap (worn only by Moossulmans) for the turban, which is usually compact and neat.

The *Doby*, or washerman, is also exclusively a domestic, not only washing his master's linen of every description, but the *zenanah* apparel is given to him to wash and to iron. Sometimes, however, the latter operation is performed by an *Istree-wallah*, or ironer; yet this is only in very large families, or in large towns, such as Calcutta, Madras, &c. None but box-irons are used; and of these a large portion are heated by means of embers shut up in their cavities. The *doby* who washes for a single gentleman, will sometimes, at the risk of severe punishment, or of being discharged, take in the linen of low Europeans, or Portuguese, clandestinely: many have, indeed, been detected in letting out the linen given to their charge. Hence it is needful to keep a watch over those who commonly take all the foul articles every week, bringing home at that time what they received at the former delivery. The wages vary according to the labour; but from six to ten rupees may be taken as the standard; the *doby* providing at his own expense soap, and every part of the apparatus. When an European lady is in the family, the pay is increased on account of the great additional labour,—nothing but white being worn at any time. In such a case, a small apartment should be appropriated, in which the finer articles may be got up by the lady's maid.

The usual process of washing in India is, first to boil all the clothes in a large earthen *naud*, mixing with the water, plenty of soap, or ley, or sudjee (fossile alkali), or wood ashes. This operation is called the *butteah*. The

clothes are then well rinsed, either in a large tank or a running stream, when they are again rubbed with soap, and laid in a heap to soak. After a few hours they are washed again, and being folded up into whisps, or bundles, of a convenient size, are beaten forcibly on a board, cut into deep transverse grooves, and placed aslant in the water; in which the *doby* stands immersed up to his knees. After dashing each bundle several times on the board, he opens and rinses it in the water; repeating the dashing, as though he were beating the board with a flail, till every part of the linen appears to be duly cleansed. If a board is not at hand, (though every *doby* has at least one, four feet long, two broad, and four inches thick, with a stout stick to prop it,) any smooth stone is made to answer. This appears to be a most destructive method; but experience proves, that the fine calicoes of India will, even under such apparently rough usage, wear longer than our stout linens washed in tubs, &c.

Every *doby* has drying lines, fixed at each end to pins driven into the ground, and then sustained by cross-sticks, on the forks of which the ropes rest. In the rainy season, the clothes are hung under shelter, where they soon dry; though not so quickly as in the summer months, when the heaviest articles are dried in a few minutes. The *doby's* wife (called the *dobin*), and his children who are of an age to be useful, usually assist in the process. This sect and that of the *comars*, or potters, are the only two privileged to ride, or even to carry burthens, upon asses, without suffering the most ignominious degradation: hence those animals are jocularly termed, "*dobies' palfreys*." The dress of the *doby* is generally very plain, consisting of a turban, a *dotee*, (or waist-cloth,) and a *chudder*, (or sheet,) worn loosely over the body in cold weather. When *dobies* are at work, their lungs aspirate strongly, like

those of paviors, which produces a very singular effect; especially if, as it frequently happens, several of these board-thrashers assemble at the same piece of water.

Dobies are very generally Hindoos; and ought, agreeably to the ordinary tenets of that religion, to refrain from touching any animal substance, except leather used in the construction of shoes, and implements of war; but a particular exception is made in favour of this cast, (or sect,) who could not otherwise use soap when made of suet; though by far the greater portion of that made in Hindostan, is manufactured with oil expressed from the sesamum.

When on a march, the *doby* in each gentleman's service loads his clothes, wet or dry, upon his camels, bullocks, cart, &c.: the servánt's own apparatus being conveyed on a donkey. This is generally burthened with the wife, or some young children, the washing-board, its prop, the drying-lines, the sticks, box-irons, &c. &c.; an abundant accumulation of movables for so small an animal as an Hindostanee jackass, which is seldom to be seen half the size of the common breed in England.

A *Mohout* is a person employed to feed and drive an elephant. Most of this profession are Moosulmans, and very dissipated in their conduct. Except at particular periods, on a long march for instance, the *mohout* has little to do; all the drudgery of bringing in fodder on the elephant, for its own use, as well as taking the animal to water, rubbing it down, oiling its forehead, painting its cheeks with vermilion or with ochre, putting on the pads, clearing away the dung, with a variety of such matters, being in general done by the *mate*, or deputy, who is often nothing more than a *cooly*, or common labourer, employed for this especial business, but who ultimately succeeds to the charge of an elephant. *Mohouts* receive

from three to six rupees monthly: the lowest rates of wages being confined to those countries where elephants are caught, and the highest attainable only in the service of gentlemen of rank; who require this, as well as all other of their domestics, to dress more correctly than such as serve persons less opulent or dignified.

The duty of a *mohout*, when actively employed, is to sit upon the neck of his elephant, barefooted, and furnished with an instrument, called a *haunkus*, (or driver,) wherewith to guide the animal. This is commonly about twenty, or twenty-four inches long, and generally made of iron, though some have wooden shafts; the tip is pointed, and about six inches below it is a hook, welded on to the stem, forming nearly a semicircle, whose diameter may be four or five inches. At the butt of the shaft a ring is let through, for the purpose of fastening the *haunkus* to a line; the other end of which is fastened to some soft cord, about half an inch in diameter, passing very loosely eight or ten times round the elephant's neck, and serving, in lieu of stirrups, to keep the *mohout* from falling over to the right or left on any sudden motion, as well as to retain his feet in their due direction.

When the elephant is to be urged forward, the point of the *haunkus* is pressed into the back of his head, while the *mohout's* toes press under both the animal's ears: when it is to be stopped, the *mohout* places the hook part against the elephant's forehead, and throwing his weight back, occasions considerable pain, which soon induces to obedience: when it is to turn to the left, the *mohout* presses the toes of his right foot under the right ear of the elephant, at the same time goading him about the tip of the right ear; thereby causing the animal to turn its head, and to change its direction: to turn to the right, *vice versâ*. When the elephant is to lie down, in order to

be laden, the *haunkus* is pressed perpendicularly upon the crown of the head: but most elephants, after a year or two, become well acquainted with the words of command; obeying them readily, without being mounted, or even approached.

Each *mate*, or *cooly*, is generally provided with a cutting bill, called a *d'how*, for the purpose of lopping off the lesser branches of *barghuts*, *pecpuls*, and other trees, in common use as fodder. An elephant will usually carry as much of these on his back as he can consume in two days; but it is not customary to load more than will last for one day, on a march. Boughs, as thick as a man's arm, are very easily chewed by this stupendous animal; which often uses one of full a hundred weight to drive the flies from its body.

Besides the *d'how*, each *mate* is furnished with a spear, about six or seven feet in length, having a long pyramidal blade, ornamented at its point with a tassel, and armed at its other extremity with a blunter's pike: the former is used to urge the animal to exertion, the *mate* goading his hind quarters; the latter serves to stick the implement upright in the ground, or to press upon the elephant's arm while the load is putting on, or the rider ascending into the howdah.

The dress of the *mohout* is, in most points, similar to that of the *khidmutgar*; and that of the *mate* is, if any thing, but little better than the ordinary costume of poor labourers, though their pay may be rated from three to four rupees per month. In those provinces where elephants are caught, provisions are extremely cheap; there, few *mates* receive more than a rupee and a half, or two rupees. The occupation of a *mohout* appears unfavourable to longevity, for a premature decrepitude generally disqualifies after a few years of service. This is attri-

buted to the motion of the elephant; but may, perhaps very justly, be ascribed to conviviality in the too great intervals of leisure.

The health of a *Surwan*, or camel-driver, is yet more subject to early decay, than that of a *mohout*,—the motion of this animal being oppressively severe; causing such a vibration of the loins as is attended with great pain, and often with suppression of urine, together with tenesmus, especially in tender persons not accustomed to the motion. It is said to be less severe when trotting, than when walking. The dress of this class resembles that of a *mushuulchee* of the superior order; the pay is from four to five rupees, if in charge of only two camels; but, if three, it is usual to allow a rupee more. The duty consists in seeing the camels properly fed, for which purpose the *surwan* proceeds, every second or third day, to some village, for chaff of various kinds. The usual quantity of *gram* (a kind of pulse wherewith labouring cattle are fed) is given, part in the morning, and part in the evening; or perhaps all at the latter time: three *seers*, equal to about six pounds, are considered good keep.

Camels, being rarely very tractable, must be approached with great caution. Their bite is dreadful, not only from the size of the mouth and the strength of the jaw, as well as the form of the tushes, but because they rarely quit their hold. It often happens that the same camel kills several *surwans*. The only mode hitherto ascertained of governing these vicious animals is, by boring a hole in the nostril, and passing through it, from within, a piece of tough wood, with a knob about as large as a nutmeg. A strong piece of line is then fastened to the outer extremity of the wood, that, on being pulled, causes the camel to lie down at pleasure. This contrivance, which is called a *naukell*, keeps him in tolerable order; though

it is prudent to have a stout bludgeon, in case of any attempt to seize. When camels are very vicious, it is common to cut off their noses so far as the gristle extends: this privation is supposed to do much good; but I have seen numberless instances wherein it totally failed; while, on the other hand, it greatly depreciated the animal.

A good *surwan* will always distinguish himself by the order of his cattle, by their freedom from injuries in consequence of galling under the saddle, and especially by the compact manner in which he places whatever burthen is to be carried. This should never exceed six maunds of 82lb. each; though the Company require, in all their contracts, that the camels furnished for their service should carry much more. Possibly, on a soil suited to the camel's foot, he may, on emergency, carry as far as eight maunds, equal to no less than 656lb.; but such must not be expected to last. If the soil is boggy, half that weight will be found sufficient, especially where slippery; for, when overladen, the animal will in such places be very subject to ruin; his hind legs sliding asunder, so as to bring the pelvis to the ground: this, which is termed splitting, renders him unable to rise, or, if raised, to proceed, in consequence of the violent injury sustained. On such an occasion the animal's throat is cut by some good Moossulman, who, as he performs that operation, and during the time the blood is flowing, recites a prayer and benediction, whereby the meat, which is esteemed a great delicacy, is sanctified and may be eaten.

The *Su,ee*, or groom, attends but one horse, and has attached to him an under-servant, whose business it is to provide grass for fodder, and to perform various services relating to cleanliness, &c. This may be looked upon as the extent of his duty while stationary; but, when marching, the assistant, or, as he is called, the *Gaus-kot*, (i. e.

grass-cutter,) carries the pickets, headstall, head and heel ropes, currycombs, clothing, &c. &c. to the next place of encampment. The labour, though certainly severe, is performed with tolerable alacrity, from the hope of one day succeeding to the post of *su,ee*.

A good groom is invaluable in India; the horses there being invariably high-spirited, from want of castration, and often becoming, under the least provocation or licence, incorrigibly vicious. There we see gentlemen, when mounted, afraid to approach each other within ten or twelve yards, lest their horses should begin fighting. Some few have, indeed, been tempted, by the supposed passiveness of their respective steeds, to ride boot to boot; but rarely without experiencing some dreadful misfortune; many legs having been thus broken. Although much may depend on the natural temper of a horse, still there will remain much in the power of the *su,ee*. If he be timid, and the animal spirited, the latter gains such an ascendancy as renders him ungovernable. Being once let loose, and a mare within sight or scent, away goes the steed, completely disqualified for future saddling.

It is inconceivable what control some *su,ees* obtain over their horses, which will allow the approach of no other groom. This is often attended with most ludicrous, or rather most distressing, circumstances; it being very common to see persons sitting on horses from which they dare not alight until their own *su,ees* arrive, and by securing the head with a *baug-door*, (or leading halter,) grant them leave to quit the saddle.

When a person falls from his horse, the whole troop separate, lest the stray animal should attack them. In such a case, two or three active *su,ees* may prevent mischief; but few will attempt to catch a horse whose character for gentleness is not established. Every *su,ee* is

provided with a strong cotton cord, rather thicker than a stout window-line, of several yards long, which he fastens to the left cheek of the bit when leading, and does not loosen till his master has mounted; when, by drawing a slip knot, the animal is liberated from the groom's control. In general the line (*baug-door*) is affixed before dismounting; otherwise, the horse will in all probability gallop away to his stable, which may be some miles distant, leaving his incautious rider to walk after him.

In consequence of the immense number of gad-flies to be seen at all times of the year, each *su,ee* carries a whisk, made by fastening horse hair to a short stick, commonly lacquered in rings of alternate colours. This implement, with which the flies are driven away, is called a *chowry*, and costs about six or eight pence. A small sheet of *karwah*, either double or single, is usually thrown over the *su,ee's* shoulder, or fastened round his waist, before he sets off to accompany his master. This is laid over the horse's back, when his master dismounts, to prevent the dry gripes; to which the animal, if much heated, would be subject, but for this precaution, and that of walking him about gently till perfectly cool. Thus, no gentleman ever rides without his groom. Many of these grooms run so fast as to keep up for many miles with a gig going at a smart pace; for, by habit, they become long-winded and capable of great fatigue. The dress of a *su,ee*, taken generally, is between that of a *khidmutgar* and a *mushuulchee*; while the dress of the *gaus-kot* rarely exceeds that of a common labourer. The former receives per month from four to six rupees; five being the general rate: the latter has usually three, when paid independently of the *su,ee*; who often makes a small deduction, resistance to which would incur a discharge, either peremptorily or by the imputation of some neglect, &c.

The grass-cutter should provide a net for carrying a large bundle of fodder, and a paring instrument, called a *koorpah*, to cut the grass, about half an inch under the surface of the soil: the upper part of the root being considered extremely nourishing. Hay is much less suited to India, nor is ever seen there, except that the Muharuttas make a coarse kind of hay, to feed, at certain seasons, their large bodies of horse; but their condition, in general, by no means recommends it for private studs. Yet that practice has advantages, for where our cavalry horses would starve for want of green, or succulent fodder, the less delicate Muharutta charger readily plucks at any old thatch, and even on such diet will perform wonders. The horses of our army appear, indeed, to be too highly pampered; at least, by such a mode of feeding, they are ill prepared for coarse foraging, such as may become necessary under the most ordinary circumstances of a campaign. The practice, too, of soaking *gram* for cavalry horses is peculiarly objectionable, for they not only require it at all times, even when water (much less soaking-pots) cannot be had in any quantity, but most horses swallow the grains whole, without mastication. The grain supplied to cavalry horses ought rather to be reduced to a coarse meal, mixed with hay and straw, in equal quantities, cut very fine in a chaff-trough.

When a camp has been settled only for a few days, on even the most luxuriant verdure, the whole will disappear. It is, however, speedily renewed after the first rain, presenting a beautiful light-coloured blade, very small, and of rapid growth. The proper grass for horses is the *doob*, or *sun-grass*, not unlike our fine creeping-bent. This, when well beat with a stick and washed, should be kept for a day or two in an airy place, and is thus more wholesome, than when used, as it commonly is, imme-

diately after being cut. The *doob* is not to be found every where; but in the low countries about Dacca, Mahomedpoor, &c. where the inundation is general during nearly three months in the year, it abounds, and attains to a prodigious luxuriance. It is often seen full two feet and a half high, and absolutely matting the ground. Cattle are turned into it promiscuously, and never fail to thrive. It is remarkable, that in a district where during the rains the soil is never visible, the little villages built on eminences, and the tops of large trees staring out of the water, being the only discernible objects, there should be no provision for the maintenance of cattle, except what can be drawn up by means of forked poles from, perhaps, a depth of twenty feet. This green food, highly impregnated with moisture, is scarcely wholesome, at such a season, for the poor animals, then cooped up in the hundreds of boats that surround every village. Whereas, if the *doob* were to be cut and stacked in February, when it is in high perfection, and the atmosphere moderately warm, it would be a more appropriate and less hazardous species of fodder. But the truth is, that cattle, in every part of India, are left as long as possible to shift for themselves: though a load of the finest hay in the world may be made in the low countries for about half-a-crown. In the Gentleman's Magazine for February 1809, there is a description of a grass discovered in Ireland, called the *fiorin*, which perfectly corresponds with the *doob* of Hindostan. This invaluable plant equally endures the severest cold of Iceland, and the scorching heats of tropical summers. During these, indeed, the verdure disappears; but the root is unimpaired, and abounds with succulence.

The *doob* is rarely sown in India; but after being cut below the surface by the *koorpah*, a tool in common use among grass-cutters, and chopped into pieces about two

or three inches long, it is mixed with mud, and plastered on the soil, which is previously saturated with water. In a very few days it will vegetate, especially if care be taken to moisten the mud. This grass is also well suited for transplanting, and thus very large plots are sometimes turfed. The stems throw out roots at every joint that is suffered to touch the ground; but when very thick and abundant it will tower and spindle, not unlike our pink and carnation plants. If set in small tufts, a foot asunder, they will soon cover the surface.

The *Malee*, or gardener, next claims attention. His dress, unless at the head of a large establishment, scarcely exceeds that of a common labourer, nor are his wages much higher; four rupees being a very common rate, though sometimes six or seven are given to men of superior ability, and acquainted with some particular culture, important to their employer. Those who serve under the *malee*, are generally *bildars*, hired by the day, probably at five or six pice, equal to about two rupees and a half monthly. These *bildars* use a kind of mattock, called a *phourah*, which consists of a blade about the size of a common garden-spade, with a very strong eye at the top, riveted to the blade, and so fixed as to give the handle a direction of about 70° from the plane of the blade, which is slightly curved inwards. The handle is about thirty inches long, and driven nearly through the eye, where it is occasionally wedged, to keep the blade from turning upon it. While working with a *phourah*, the *bildar* stands in the same position as if using a pick-axe, throwing up at each stroke whatever soil may accumulate. When the tool is new, much may thus be lifted; but when worn down nearly to the eye, the most active labourer cannot do much more than may be done by an ordinary bean-hoe. Those *malees*

who serve gentlemen are usually provided with rakes and hoes ; but, otherwise, they use only short iron spuds, set into wooden handles, the stem being cranked, and the whole length rarely exceeding eighteen inches. With these they beat to pieces the clods, and admirably level the surface ; but, of course, not so quickly as our gardeners. With the same tool, of a smaller size, they dig up weeds ; keeping the garden remarkably clean ; and, under proper observation, raising an immense quantity of vegetables.

It would surprise an European to see with what precision *malees* sow and cover their seeds ; the seasons for which they perfectly understand, even though the greater portion of their horticultural produce consists of exotics. This is the more remarkable, as there is no book of gardening extant in the Hindoo language ; and if there were, the chances would be at least a thousand to one that the *malce* could not read it.

The greater part of manure used in gardens is known by the name of *kallah-matty*, (black-earth,) collected from places set apart for the reception of filth of all sorts ; except horse and cow-dung, &c. which are generally too much valued to be so appropriated. These are formed into cakes, between the hands, about the size of a plate. These cakes while moist, are stuck up against a wall exposed to the sun, where, in a day or two, they become thoroughly dry, and make excellent fuel, burning like good peats. These *guttees*, as they are called, are generally prepared by the *su,ee's* wife, and stacked for culinary purposes.

The gardens of Europeans, in India, are, with few exceptions, laid out like our kitchen-gardens ; having one main walk, with a few ramifications and parallels. These walks are all covered with *soorkee*, or brick-dust ; though

where gravel, or rather shingle, can be found, it is generally preferred. The whole area is intersected by little earthen channels, sometimes lined with semicircular tiles, whereby water is easily conveyed to every part. The peculiar gratification to the eye, and indeed to the feelings, from the proximity of perpetual verdure, in a country where, for months together, a green spot is scarcely seen, induces most persons, when laying down a garden, to appropriate a piece of ground in view from the house for a grass-plot. This is refreshed, every third or fourth day, by laying on water from the well, which is always made on some more elevated spot, to command every part to which the irrigation extends. The *doob* is the grass invariably selected; though its numerous seeds, as well as the cool shelter it affords, attract ants in great numbers, and of various colours and sizes, which are a perfect nuisance throughout the East. Gentlemen who rear turkeys find, from experience, that few can be brought up except where such grass-plots exist, and where shade and water are at hand.

Most of our garden esculents thrive in India; cabbages, cauliflowers, lettuces, celery, beets, carrots, turnips, peas, cucumbers, French beans, radishes, potatoes, &c. are cultivated in abundance; together with capsicums, love-apples, egg-plants, gourds of various kinds, calavanses, yams, sweet potatoes, and hundreds of the indigenous tribe. The common fruits are guavas, peaches, nectarines, grapes, a few apples, but no pears, melons of various sorts, pine-apples, mangoes, oranges, citrons, limes, pomegranates, byres of a very large kind, comringahs, (or winged apples,) currindahs, and, in general, most of the tropical fruits. Within the last twenty years, very considerable additions have been made by the introduction of various trees, and also of gardeners, from

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China. The former have thriven admirably; while to the latter we are indebted for many valuable practices, common to that industrious people, and which promise to contribute greatly to the perfection of Asiatic horticulture.

The best of *malees* cannot be ranked with the least capable of the Chinese gardeners; though it is not to be denied, that they possess many strong recommendations; and are not a little proud of any improvements, or novelties, committed to their management. In the art of irrigation they cannot be surpassed. That indispensable operation is performed, in most instances, by drawing water from a narrow well, into a cistern, or hollow, at its edge; whence, by means of the channels before described, each bed receives the necessary supply of moisture. A pair of very small oxen, worth about twelve or fifteen shillings each, suffice to draw up a *moot*, or leather bag, containing from twenty-five to thirty gallons.

In general, a small hut is erected in the garden for the accommodation of the *malee*; most of whose operations are performed after sunset: especially that of laying on water, and the setting of plants. Rat-catching is also an object of importance, and most successfully followed by moonlight; when those large black rats, called *bandycoots*, equalling most cats in bulk, are often speared, as they ramble among the cucumber and melon beds, wherein they make prodigious havoc. Nor is there any deficiency of rats of other sorts or sizes; they are to be found both in immense numbers, and in every variety; but the large Norway rat is most abundant. Moles are unknown in this country: most probably the soil does not suit; as it becomes so hard and dry during the hot season.

The *Ab-dar*, or water-cooler, is scarcely less indispensable than the cook; for, without the exercise of his art, the delicacies of the table would be of no value. Hot

wine and hot water are by no means acceptable to those who inhale so rarefied an atmosphere, and who generally prefer such made dishes as abound in spice. It is true, that sometimes a *khidmutgar*, or a *bearer*, may be found capable of cooling liquors nearly as well as *ab-dars* of the lower class; but such are rare, and cannot always be depended on. Yet the success of even the best qualified *ab-dar* must not be attributed to any chemical knowledge, or to much comprehension of the manner, or moment, in which the refrigeration takes place. They are all mere imitators, and by keeping within certain parallels, wide enough asunder, they hit upon their object; though not without much loss of time and materials.

The apparatus of an *ab-dar* consists of a large pewter bason, nearly half an inch thick, and in form not unlike a very thick Cheshire cheese, of which the edges are rounded. At the top is a circular aperture, about a foot in diameter, for the introduction of two pewter flasks, (each containing about a pint and a half,) of a spherical form, with long narrow necks, nearly cylindrical, about ten inches long, and fitted with caps of the same metal, that come down about an inch and a half, every where close. This great bason is called a *taus*, and the flasks are called *soories*. To cool water, about a gallon is put into the *taus*, which is sloped by means of a small wooden frame, made for the purpose, or a few bricks, &c.: a handful or two of saltpetre is then put in, and the *soories*, being filled about two thirds with the water, are moved about in the *taus*, one in each hand, while the saltpetre is dissolving, which it usually does in two or three minutes. The *soories* are then laid at rest; their necks projecting out at the opposite side of the aperture, the sphere part being immersed, and a wet cloth laid over the whole of the opening. Thus the intense cold, generated by the

solution, acts upon the water within the *soories*; so effectually indeed, in many instances, as to be unpleasantly condensed. Cracking of glasses is extremely common, for being somewhat heated by the atmosphere, when the cold water is suddenly poured in, nine in ten, so acted upon, will fly. Wine is always cooled in the common glass bottle wherein it is drawn from the cask, and when taken from the *taus*, which may be in about five minutes after being left at rest, is covered with a petticoat made of *karwah*, or other cloth, well wetted. The bottle is then placed on the table, in a stand made of turned wood, to receive the drippings, and usually stopped with a silver-mounted cork. Decanters are rarely used in India; for, besides being extremely subject to crack, wine does not keep so cool in them as in common glass bottles.

The dress of the *ab-dar* generally resembles that of the *khidmutgar*, and his wages are like those of the superior classes serving in that capacity. He has, generally, some perquisites, such as charging for more saltpetre than is used, and disposing of the saltpetre water; which, in Calcutta and many other places, is carefully preserved in large jars, to be sold to those who boil it, to produce nitre in a more purified state. *Ab-dars* should not be allowed to cool water within the house, as the saltpetre greatly injures the walls, from which it can never be extracted.

Wherever a gentleman dines, his *ab-dar* attends in time to have water cooled as the dinner is served up. For a large party, it is curious to see perhaps two dozen of these servants labouring at their profession, under the shade of the house, and making a noise not unlike the quick motion of a stone-saw. Custom makes it pass unheeded, unless so as to anticipate a cool draught. As water is the common beverage, and as the smallest hole

in the bottom of a *soorie* utterly spoils it, the defect must be well closed with solder. All the wine used at the table is cooled by the host's own servant; unless some very noted *ab-dar* be in attendance, who is often asked and easily persuaded to exert his skill.

The *Compadore*, or *Kursh-burdar*, or *Butler-konnah-sirkar*, are all designations for the same servant, who acts as purveyor, sometimes under the orders of the master, but oftener of the *khansaman*, who never fails to share the profits made by over-charges, and by the *dustooree*, (or customary gift,) from the venders of all articles for domestic consumption. This servant may be considered as appertaining to the order of *sirkars*, of which he should possess all the cunning, the smooth tongue, the audacious and persevering effrontery, when maintaining a palpable falsehood, with obsequiousness to conciliate his master, and make him believe it. Without these, the *compadore* can never thrive. His pay is generally about four, or at the utmost five rupees per month; but that is comparatively no object, in a family where some hundreds are spent in housekeeping. To aid the deception, he invariably dresses so meanly, as to claim commiseration for his apparent poverty; while, at the same time, he probably contrives to retain, one way or other, about an eighth part of the money intrusted to his disbursement. The *khansaman* usually enquires, during the evening, what will be required in the culinary department on the succeeding day: if the family dine abroad, no directions are necessary; otherwise, fish, flesh, and fowl must be purchased. Between daylight and sunrise, after which all the prime articles in the market will have disappeared, the *compadore* proceeds, attended by one or two under-servants, (*mushuulchees*, *khulasees*, &c.) to purchase the required articles. No time must be lost in returning home,

at least during the hot months; for such is the rapid progress towards putrefaction, that veal, killed after midnight, has become perfectly offensive in ten hours, after every possible precaution to keep it cool.

A *compadore* must, of necessity, be a good accountant. Like the *sirkar*, he is well versed in fractions, and will compute down to a single *gundah* of *cowries*, (*i. e.* four *Blackamoor's teeth*.) This minuteness passes for honesty with many; who either put those very small parts out of the question, or satisfy themselves that the accounts are correctly taken, without even examining their contents. Every charge committed to paper, thus becomes sanctioned; therefore the *compadore* is anxious to have his items noted, that they may be beyond the probability, if not the possibility, of refutation. Not a *cowrie* can be expended without the *compadore's* knowledge. Under the plea of fidelity to his employer, he insists upon being privy to every disbursement; never failing to commend his own vigilance, and strictly attending every morning, with his hands full of papers, and his ink-pot, &c., in readiness to give a detail of the expenses of the preceding day; though he perfectly knows that detail is never regarded.

The *Hurkaru* was formerly a servant used solely for carrying expresses, or such letters, messages, &c. as were to be sent beyond the circle of ordinary, or daily, communication: he was, indeed, what is now commonly called a *coolid*. We have retained, however, the designation of *dawk-hurkarus* for those who convey the *dawks*, or posts. In every other instance, the duty of the *hurkaru*, as an attendant upon a gentleman in office, &c. is similar to that of the *peon*, or *piyadu*, or running footman. His pay is generally the same, but the former usually

bears a lacquered walking-stick, armed at its extremity with a square spike, the ferule of which is ornamented with dark-coloured fringe or tassels. This stick is carried over the shoulder, and is the only distinction between the *hurkaru* and the *peon*: but, though the latter has no such insignia, he frequently claims precedence, causing the *hurkaru* to precede him in the retinue, while attending their employer's palanquin.

Both these servants, whose capacities are now perfectly blended, receive, when serving Europeans, from four to five rupees monthly. In every respect, beyond the foregoing exceptions, they dress like *khidmutgars*, but generally with turbans and *cummer-bunds* of the same colour, as a livery; and when in the employ of great merchants, agents, and especially the principal officers of the government, they wear belts of coloured broad-cloth, with metal breast-plates; bearing either the initials or the arms of their employers, or inscriptions stating the offices to which they appertain. The generality of such inscriptions have the English designation in the centre, with a translation in Persian, or Bengallee, (perhaps both,) around, on the margin, or *vice versâ*.

Many most extraordinary journeys have been made by *hurkarus*; and instances have been adduced of their travelling full a hundred miles in the four and twenty hours.

The *Dufsturee*, or office-keeper, attends solely to those general matters in an office which come not within the notice of the *kranees*, or clerks; such, for instance, as making pens, keeping the ink-stands in order, ruling account-books, and perhaps binding them, preparing and trimming the lights, setting penknives, together with a great variety of trifling services. His pay is from four to six rupees monthly; though a very few receive more.

The dress depends on the *cast* of the individual: if a Moossulman, it corresponds, in some measure, with that of the *khidmutgar*; but if a Hindoo, of the *kraanee*.

The *Furrash*, or furniture-keeper, is generally a Moossulman, and receives about four or five rupees monthly: his dress corresponding with that of a first-rate *mushuulchee*, or an inferior *khidmutgar*. His duty, among Europeans, consists chiefly in cleaning the furniture, putting up, or taking down beds, (which, in India, is always done without the aid of a carpenter,) beating carpets, preparing and trimming the lights, opening and shutting the doors for guests, handing chairs, setting tables for meals, with a variety of minutiae of a similar description. Among the natives, the office comprehends far more laborious employments, such as the arrangement of tents: in which they aid the *khulasees*, or tent-men, reserving to themselves whatever relates to the interior. According to Abu Fazil, who describes the establishment of the Emperor Akber, that monarch retained no less than one thousand *furrashes*, to attend his encampments, or parties of pleasure. These, however numerous, were fully employed; for "the equipage, on such occasions, consisted of 1000 elephants, 500 camels, 400 carts, and 1000 men, escorted by 500 cavalry. There were employed in this service 1000 *furrashes*, 500 pioneers, 100 water-carriers, 50 carpenters, 50 tent-makers, 50 link-men, 30 workers in leather, and 150 sweepers." The number of large tents was so prodigious, that the royal precinct was enclosed by *konauts* (walls of cloth) eight feet high; and, in the whole, nearly two miles in length. Such a display in this country, would attract half the population to witness it.

The *Mihtur*, or sweeper, is the lowest menial in every family; and his *cast* is held in execration, on account of the filthiness of his occupations. There are, nevertheless,

various classes, even among these abhorred people; of which the *hullalcore* are the lowest, while the *loll-baygies* assume the upper rank of infamy. But, however much these may arrogate to themselves from such distinctions of *cast*, all are considered, by both Hindoos and Moossulmans, as alike impure, and polluting whatever they touch. Hence it would be considered the height of disrespect were a *mihtur*, in the service of a native gentleman, to handle any part of his master's raiment, or to step on the carpet intended for his master's seat. To touch his cooking utensils, &c. would be an unpardonable offence, and subject the delinquent both to private and public castigation.

Hair, or birch, brooms are never seen in India. The instrument for sweeping, called a *jarroo*, is made of bamboo, split to the size of a wheat straw, about thirty inches long, and tied together, very firmly, for about six or eight inches at one end; forming a bundle of about two inches and a half in diameter. This instrument is furnished by the *mihtur*, who generally receives three, or sometimes four rupees monthly. His dress corresponds in general with that of a decent *cooly*, (or labourer;) but some pride themselves in wearing a short *coortah*.

The *mihtur* is generally at little expense for provisions, as he is the only servant whose tenets allow him to partake of what has been served up at the table of any person, whether European or native, not of his own sect. In this privilege the *mihturanee*, or female sweeper, whose duties are exactly the same, but usually confined to the women's apartments, must be included. The latter is, however, in general far more sober, cleanly, and dainty, than the male sweeper. When a dog is kept where there is no occasion to retain a professed *doriya*, or dog-keeper, the *mihtur* is expected to dress its victuals, and to supply it

with such refuse from the table, as he may not deem worthy of his own acceptance.

The *Doriya*, though properly an out-door servant, residing at the *doriya-konnah*, or kennel, occasionally officiates as *mihtur*, performing all the duties of that menial; but this is rarely done with good will; *doriyas*, though of a *cast* held equally in abomination with the ordinary sweeper, by persons of a different persuasion, invariably considering themselves as far superior. Though confined to one occupation, in general, a *doriya* can have very little knowledge of its duties, beyond the mere mechanical routine of dressing rice and meat for the dogs, and taking them out for an airing. He is usually provided with a short whip, consisting of a thong or two of raw hide fastened to a piece of small bamboo; with this he corrects the animals, whose number varies according to their size. Thus, a brace of greyhounds, or at the most a leash, are considered as many as a *doriya* should lead out; while of small dogs, he is commonly surrounded by seven or eight. Each dog has a collar, to which a strong metal ring is very firmly sewed. To this is fastened a piece of stout cord, the other end of which is looped, so as to pass over the *doriya's* hand, and to be twisted round his wrist; the whole number are generally led by the left hand, the right exercising the whip. The dress of this servant and his pay mostly resemble that of the *mushuulchee*.

The manner of preparing victuals for dogs is simple. The *doriya* provides a large earthen pot, proportioned to the quantity of provision to be boiled, into which he puts meat, cut very small, rice, turmeric reduced to a pulp, *ghee*, or granulated butter, salt, and abundance of water. The pot is placed on a *choolah*, or stove, and the ingredients stirred till they are sufficiently boiled, when

the water is drained off into a vessel, and the more solid contents are spread upon a mat to cool. Each dog is tied to a separate picket, always in the ground for that purpose; so that he cannot quarrel with his neighbours. Old earthen vessels, every where abounding, are collected to receive each dog's mess: the meat and rice being first divided among them, according to bulk, and afterwards the gravy. Each then receives his portion; exhibiting, by vociferation and greediness, how eager he is to obtain his meal. In this manner dogs are usually fed, night and morning.

The business of a *Khulasee* is, properly speaking, confined either to the arrangement of camp equipage, or to the management of the sails and rigging on board a *budjrow*. In the former, he must be able to set up tents of every description; to pack and unpack; to load and unload; to make tent-pins; to sew the *taut*, (or canvass bags,) in which each part of a tent is generally enclosed, when on the elephant, camel, bullock, or cart, by which it is conveyed; to handle a *phourah*, or mattock, to level the interior; and, in short, to complete the whole preparation within and without.

Many *khulasees* are extremely expert in all these duties, and are, besides, excellent domestics; not hesitating to perform a variety of services about a house, such as swinging the *punkah*, (or great fan,) suspended in most dining-halls, rattaning the bottoms of chairs, helping to arrange and to clear furniture, and doing besides the duties of *hurkarus*, or *peons*. This variety of talent, no doubt, renders the *khulasee* a most useful servant: hence more are now retained than formerly.

As a public servant, whether attached to the train of artillery, or to a quarter-master's establishment, his merits are equally known. In the former he is enrolled in some

company, where rank may be obtained by continued good conduct. Though in a private capacity he rarely receives more than five rupees, in the latter instance, his average pay is six; which, with the chance of promotion to the several ranks of *cossoob*, *tindal*, and *serang*, with encrease of wages at each gradation, is considerable. His duty in the artillery is, however, by no means trifling. During the whole day he is employed generally in the arsenal, or the store-room, or the artillery shed; or, eventually, in drawing timbers, cannon, &c. on transport-carriages; mounting or dismounting great guns, cleaning arms, working in the laboratory, piling or serving out shot, with numerous *et cetera* in the various branches of that department. Whether attached to the train, or serving with a regiment of infantry or cavalry, the *khualasee*, (or, as he is often termed while in the public service, the *lascar*;) must be adroit in whatever respects camp-equipage, making up ammunition of all kinds, sorting stores, packing, loading, serving, and drawing field-pieces, limbering, yoking the cattle, marking out lines for a camp; and, in short, in whatever relates either to the ordnance, or to the quarter-master's duties. All attached to these services are clothed in woollens of English manufacture: those in the artillery wearing blue jackets with red trimmings, and such as are attached to regiments of cavalry or infantry, such colours as assimilate with the dress of the corps respectively; unless when a quantity of any particular colour is on hand in the Company's stores; when it is disposed of by varying the dress of regimental lascars, *pro tempore*, as far as it will go.

The whole of the *khualasees* wear blue turbans, of rather a flat form, having on their edges a red tape, about three-fourths of an inch in breadth; which greatly relieves the sombre appearance of their jackets.

The *khulasees* on board *budjrows*, which are generally of the pinnace or keeled kind, are nearly on a footing with those retained by individuals; allowing for a certain imitation of the public servant, and a smattering in what relates to the management of sails. This class is by no means numerous, being confined entirely to the aquatic equipages of great men. One of this description is by no means flattered when directed to handle an oar on board the *budjrow*, though he prides himself in rowing a jolly-boat furnished with oars on the European plan.

The *Manjy*, *Goleeah*, and *Dandy*, are the steersman, bowman, and common rower in a boat respectively. A gentleman who keeps a boat, must always retain the two first, and if it is constantly employed, the last also; or he may generally, by previous notice, obtain a crew of *teeka-dandies*, that is, job watermen, at any of the *ghauts* or wharfs along the river. The *manjy* is usually paid from five to seven rupees monthly; the *goleeah*, from four to five; and the *dandy*, from two and a half to three and a half, or even four; all according to the kind of boat, and the dignity of the employer. There is no established dress for either of the above classes; though the *manjy* will, in general, be found to adopt a mixed costume, between the *khulasee* and the *mushuulchee*. His business is to steer, and to give orders, which are very numerous in rivers perpetually changing their direction. Thus it is by no means uncommon to see a *budjrow* hoist and lower her sails, take to her oars, or to the trackrope, some scores of times during the course of a day's progress, just as the localities may render it necessary. Whatever authority be vested in a *manjy*, it is rare to see him able to enforce his orders: each of the crew has an opinion of his own, and knowing that his services cannot be dispensed with, he will in most cases adhere to his way

of thinking, till peremptorily compelled, by the master's interference, to submit to orders, or overcome by absolute force.

The *Goleeah* has particular charge of the bow, where he either rows the foremost oar, or keeps the boat from running against the bank, or upon shoals, by means of a *luggy*, or bamboo pole thirty feet or more in length; first casting it out in the proper direction, and then lapping it round several times with the end of a strong tail-strap, fastened to a ring on the forecastle, so as to prevent the pole from returning.

Those who have not witnessed the dexterity of these people, and the rapidity with which they recover their poles, so as to make repeated resistances in dangerous situations, can form no idea of the strength, activity, and judgment necessary to qualify a man for this arduous situation. Often the fate of a boat depends on the certainty of the *goleeah's* throw; especially under a *cutchar*, or sand-bank, perhaps twenty feet or more in height, where a strong current has cut away the foundation, occasioning immense bodies of the soil to fall in, attended by a noise like thunder. One of these falling upon a boat must sink her, as experience has too often proved. The very swell occasioned by the fall of such ponderous and bulky rubbish, amounting perhaps to fifty or sixty loads, is sufficient to sink the smaller vessels. Fortunately, the *cutchars* in general subside, as it were, perpendicularly, without casting outwards, otherwise no vessels could navigate the Ganges, or the other great rivers at certain seasons, especially during the early winter months, when the *cutchars* are high, and the current strong.

The *Dandy* certainly leads as hard a life as any scavenger's cart-horse. Let us imagine the effects, even upon

the most hardy constitution, of exposure to all weathers ; at one moment under a burning sun, or numbed by a cold northerly blast ; by turns on board or at the trackrope, moving at a slow pace against a rapid current, and wading, without the smallest hesitation, through a million of puddles, often up to the neck, or even obliged to swim : the footing perhaps rugged, or along a heavy sand, or a deep mud ; and the path lying through briars, bordering steep precipices ! All this the *dandy* undergoes, as before specified, for wages rarely equal to three-pence daily. It is true, he scruples not to participate with his companions the produce of the fields he passes through, together with fire-wood, and occasionally some stray poultry or a kid. Nor are this class, which consists promiscuously of Hindoos and Moosulmans, very nice as to the means of obtaining their clothing. Knowing such to be the invariable disposition of *dandies*, the European must blame himself, should his valuables be missing in consequence of his own neglect, or an ill-placed confidence. Hence it is advisable never, under any pretext, to allow one of the crew to enter the cabin of a *budjrow*, unless attended by a servant ; whose whole attention should be directed to the prevention of theft. Most boats are baled by means of a skuttle in the cabin : this affords a very reasonable plea for entrance ; but too much caution cannot be used during that operation, which may be required from two to fifty times within the twenty-four hours, according to the soundness of the vessel's bottom. To describe a *dandy's* dress is scarcely practicable ; but a tolerable outline was given when treating of the passage from the ship at Kedgerree to the Presidency.

The *Berriarah*, or *Gurrearah*, devotes his life to tending sheep and goats ; and, in most situations beyond the me-

tropolis, obtains a place among the servants attendant upon the out-door concerns of a family.

"Sheep," says Captain Williamson, "may be sometimes purchased in tolerable good condition, especially during the hot season, when they nibble the short stems, and even the roots of the finer grasses: yet those procurable in the villages, are usually mere skeletons, and their fat, if any, is of a bad colour. Gentlemen are therefore obliged to keep small flocks, perhaps from thirty to sixty, according to the average expenditure; which, among officers in the army, may amount to one sheep in fifteen or twenty days. The meat is seldom good, nor the animal better for his keep, till put up for three or four months. The most approved mode of fattening sheep, is to have about a dozen on full feed, allowing as much *gram* as they can eat; which is about two pounds daily for each. Another dozen should be upon half feed, having an allowance of very fine chaff to complete their diet; or perhaps some cut grass, such as is brought in for horses. All these twenty-four sheep should be confined in an area, enclosed either by mud walls, or by railings of a suitable height; taking care to allow them access to sweet water, and to salt, of which a small quantity should be provided in a flat vessel. Thus they will fatten admirably in the course of six or seven months; their flesh becoming fine grained, juicy, and high flavoured. Besides these, about as many more, kept on a small allowance of *gram*, should be suffered to graze, in company with half a dozen milch goats and their kids, under charge of the *berriarah*, in some place remote from any camp or town, so as to insure their feeding clean; for all sheep, especially those of India, are apt to feed on any excrements which they find in their way.

Within the last twenty years, great improvements have taken place, not only in rearing sheep for domestic expenditure, but also for the public markets, all over the country, wherever there are a number of respectable Europeans at one station. The great evil now is the over-feeding butcher's meat by private families, whence it is often too fat and bilious for a warm climate.

The dress of the *berriarah* is usually similar to that of the *cooly*; with the addition of a substantial blanket, on account of the oppressive heats at one season, the heavy rains at another, and the sharp cold during three months. This blanket is generally black, the ordinary colour of the sheep. In the hot season, it serves to repel the heat; during the rains, to keep the *berriarah* dry; and in the winter, to keep him warm. As any cross folds, or pleats, would rather retain, than cast off, the rain, these people have an effectual mode of managing the blanket; tying it together very regularly, after puckering the longest side, and placing that part over their heads. Whatever moisture may lodge within the short pleats above the ligature, cannot sink downwards, if it be properly made; while all the pleats below it, being in a perpendicular direction, serve as channels, to carry the water downwards. The blanket, indeed, becomes a bell-tent, of which the inhabitant is himself the pole. The wages of the shepherd are usually from three and a half to four rupees monthly; but some gentlemen regulate them by the number of sheep maintained. This by no means answers their expectations; for if the number be great, one or two deficiencies, imputed to the wolves, are rarely noticed; and if the flock be small, a shepherd is tempted to take a fat sheep to his own use. No sheep can be fattened, taking all things into consideration, under four rupees, equal to about ten shillings, including the origi-

nal price; which has risen of late years to about a rupee per head, for such as have six teeth. All below that age are generally rejected, because their food increases their growth rather than their flesh; which is seldom of a good colour, but retains a certain light hue, like very young beef, after the second year.

The wool of the Bengal sheep is coarse and lank, more resembling dog's hair than a fleece, and by no means valuable as an article of commerce. The natives manufacture it into *puttoos*, a very heavy close kind of felt, which stands proof against the severest weather, and may be made in any form. Their usual shape is nearly conical, resembling a bell-tent, with a rudely worked border of some colour strongly contrasting with the body of the cloak. Thus, a black *puttoo* would have a white pattern, and a white *puttoo* a black. This extremely simple manufacture is performed by means of a carding machine that entangles the wool, which is previously mixed in a very strong lather of soap.

"The average price of a sheep fit for fattening," says Captain Williamson, "is about a rupee; but that price has existed only for about twenty years. Before that date, the common value of a *coarge* (or score) was from six to eight rupees; and at an early date, a *sirkar* to a contractor for European recruits, has bought several *coarges* for their use, at three, and three and a half rupees. Thus six sheep were purchased for a rupee, which, in British currency, would be *five-pence each*. The sheep were certainly not fat; being driven into the camp from the flocks grazing in the adjacent plains, and, in general, taken without much selection." It is probable that the price of sheep is now rather on the increase than on the decline; and when they were supposed to be so very cheap, the seller must have before him only

Hobson's choice. He, therefore, wisely determined to accept the small sum of five-pence per head, rather than have them taken away without payment by the native purveyor, to an irresistible detachment of European recruits.

So audacious are thieves in India, that they have been known to come into a cantonment with lighted *mushuuls*, in imitation of a marriage procession, or of a religious ceremony, and thus to attack a treasury where a strong guard was posted. They likewise crawl about in dark nights, so as to be mistaken for dogs, or other small animals; thus gradually lulling the vigilance of a sentry, and making their way to the interior. They oil their bodies, and thus render it scarcely possible to retain a hold of them; and are armed with a small sharp knife, always carried in a girdle, which consists only of a stout piece of twine carried round the waist, supporting a very narrow *lungooty*, or clout, passing between the legs.

When travelling through any part of the Company's territories, it is proper to require *chuoikedars* (watchmen) from the villages in the vicinity of the encampment; otherwise a robbery may be expected, without the most distant chance of recovering the property, or of tracing the thieves. Nor should such *chuoikedars* be sent away without a payment to each, of two annas, equal to nearly four pence; lest intelligence of the nonpayment should be conveyed to the next halting-place, and no *chuoikedar* be forthcoming; unless, indeed, one of the collector's peons be in the company, or his order be sent to the inhabitants to provide whatever may be wanting. The reader must not imagine himself in England, but in a country where there is no public place of accommodation, no relay of horses, no public conveyance, and perhaps no other European within scores of miles. His fancy may

picture to him the variety of preparations necessary before a party, much more a single gentleman, sets out for the purpose of sporting, or of repairing to some distant station. He will then see the necessity of adopting the local customs, as well as employing every means that prudence can devise; observing particularly, that when he would bestow a gratuity upon any villager, &c. for provisions, or services, he should never fail to pay it himself: otherwise, the servants will diminish, if not altogether withhold, the donation.

From the great number of servants sleeping within the houses at Calcutta, and each dwelling having a separate gateway, where a *durwan* (or porter) constantly attends, as well as owing to the great number of *chuokees*, or patrol stations every where to be seen, few *chuokeedars* are employed there, except by merchants who have warehouses full of valuable commodities, or *shroffs* (bankers) residing in that part of the town inhabited principally by natives. At the *baugeechahs*, or garden-houses, which generally stand, like our farm-houses, at some distance from other dwellings, *chuokeedars* are indispensable. Within the Company's provinces no head *chuokeedars* are to be seen; and, generally speaking, there is no ostensible person who comes forward to guarantee the safety of goods under charge of a *chuokeedar*; though, when this most desirable assurance is wanting, the greatest vigilance is sometimes inadequate to the prevention of theft. It is not very easy to defeat the machinations of a most expert banditti, in a country where it is necessary, to prevent suffocation, to throw open every door and window during the night.

A *Durwan*, or porter, has been described as stationed at the gate of entrance into that area, (called the *compound*,) within which most houses in Calcutta are situated.

This servant usually receives from four to five rupees monthly, and generally dresses little better than a *cooly*. Soon as a palanquin enters the gate, the *durwan* vociferates lustily that a visitor approaches; when immediately some other servant, such as a *peon* or *hurkaru*, runs to enquire the name, &c. which is immediately announced to the master or mistress.

The *durwan* has a small lodge near the portal, where he is in constant attendance day and night. When the family have retired to rest, he shuts and secures the gates. It was formerly an invariable rule to close them during meals, till the head servant gave notice that all the plate, &c. were safe. This custom operated, no doubt, as a check upon many, who, but for such a restriction, would have purloined some valuable article of a portable description.

The *Cahar*, or palanquin-bearer, is a servant of peculiar utility, in a country where, for four months, the intense heat precludes Europeans from taking much exercise. During a similar term, they are prevented by the puddles, in every place not artificially raised, and drained at a great expense. Indeed, even in the cold months, the palanquin cannot always be dispensed with, and still less the *chattah*, or large umbrella. Many gentlemen who arrive during the winter season, find the sun little more than agreeable; they, therefore, very incautiously dispense with the *chattah*, and allow themselves to be heated extremely. So many instances have indeed happened, of persons being carried off suddenly in consequence of such exposure, that all who visit India cannot be too earnestly exhorted to be very cautious of placing reliance on strength of constitution: the strongest are in most danger; on them fever seizes firmly, giving little time for the adjustment of their affairs, and still less scope for the exertion of medical skill.

A set of bearers varies, as to number, according to the situation, occupation, and wealth of the employer. In Calcutta, where there is much visiting, seven at least must be kept, one of whom stays at home to cook victuals for the rest; and as another will probably be the *sirdar*, or head-bearer, who attends personally when his master is dressing, and generally has some charge of linen, &c. he will not, except on emergency, officiate under the bamboo. Thus only five will be left to carry the palanquin and the umbrella; the bearer of which at times relieves one of the four who carry the vehicle; and they alternately assume his part of the labour.

There are, however, various tribes of bearers, generally provincial, to be found at Calcutta, chiefly those called *Ooreeahs*, i. e. natives of the province of Orissa, a tract of country lying between the Roopnarian and the northern *sirkars*. These are generally called "Balasore-bearers:" from the principal town.

It is not easy to describe the influence of this set of menials throughout those parts to which they extend their services; which is rarely more than a few miles around Calcutta. They are, in fact, a commonwealth, governed by one or more of their gang, and subject to the regulations from time to time established by councils convened in the most imperious manner, by the old *sirdars*; every trespass against which incurs not only the immediate punishment of ejection from among their society in the town, but absolutely a species of outlawry, even in their own country.

To such a pitch had these *bearers* carried their audacity, that more than once they withdrew from Calcutta, leaving its inhabitants in the most awkward predicament, till they chose to return, or their insolent demands were satisfied. If any offence be given to one or more, espe-

cially to a whole set, it is instantly submitted to their superiors, who have on many occasions issued their mandate, interdicting all *Ooreeahs* from engaging in the offender's service. Where real injury is done, they never fail to carry the complaint before the commissioners of the police, or into the supreme court; the costs being defrayed by a general assessment. The prudence with which they proceed in the prosecutions, is not unworthy of notice, and cannot fail to save much vexation, trouble, and expense. They put the case very fairly before a fictitious tribunal, consisting of *sirkars*, writers, &c. who, having been employed by gentlemen of the law, have picked up a smattering of that profession, and are perfectly acquainted with the forms attendant upon civil causes. These "base epitomes of legal greatness" possess wonderful shrewdness, and by means of two fictitious advocates of a corresponding description, who, with an acuteness scarcely to be equalled, argue their respective sides of the question, are enabled to decide on the case with strict propriety. The fact is, that this mock court, being instituted for the purpose of preventing any native who chooses to have his cause pleaded before it, from being entangled in that net of perplexity, the supreme court, every endeavour is made to scrutinize the several turns and arguments to which the defendant may resort. Consequently, it is ever the study of the accusing party to strengthen his opponent's side, with every subtlety that can be devised. The sages delivered their opinions, as in our courts; cautious never to decide in favour of a plaintiff, unless the case appears fully established.

It is a well-known fact, that, with the exception of a few haughty, opinionated individuals, who think that such a resort would degrade them, or perhaps discover that chicanery on which they rely for success, scarcely an