

DS
463
A2P2
1789
v.2

Major Scott's Speech in the
House of Commons...Upon the State
and Finances of India

By
John Scott

A
0
0
0
0
1
7
7
5
1
9



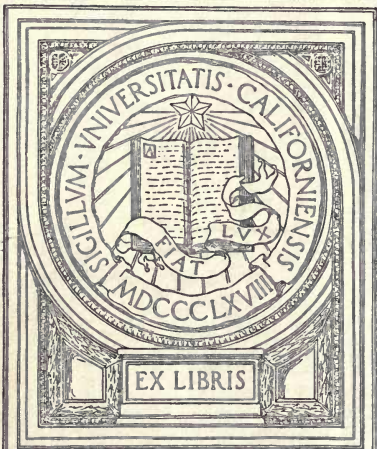
UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY

FOR READING ROOM ONLY

DS

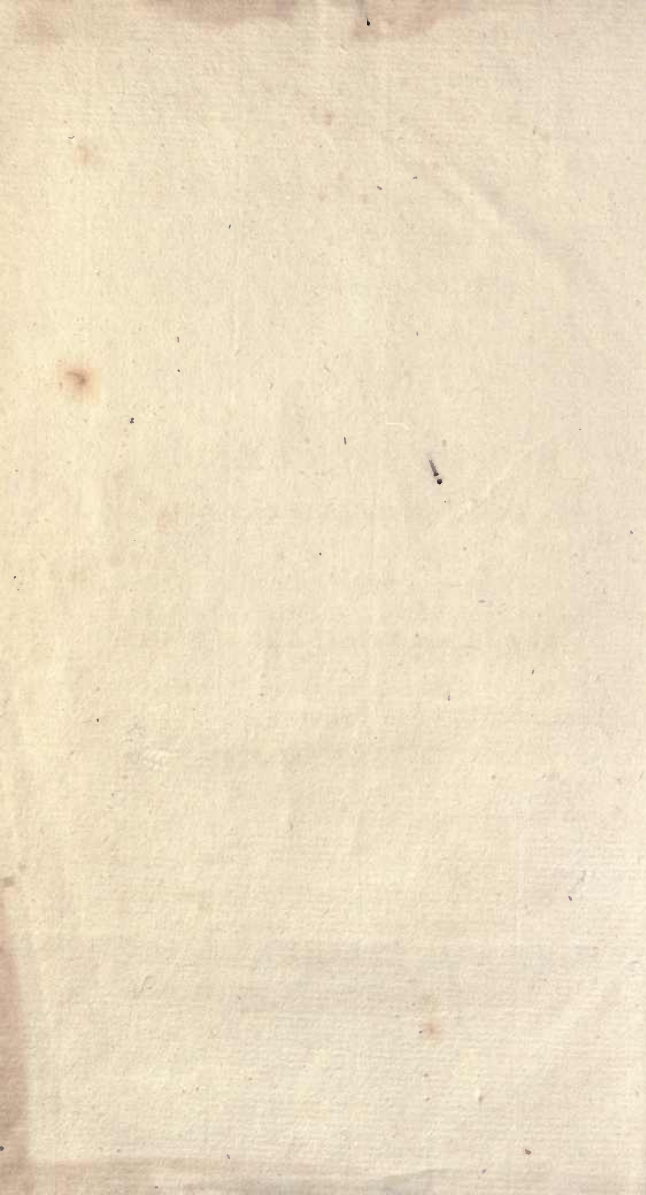
1789

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES



EX LIBRIS





MAJOR SCOTT'S
S P E E C H

IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
On the 1st and 3d of JULY 1789;

UPON THE
STATE and FINANCES of INDIA.

7900

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, OPPOSITE
BURLINGTON-HOUSE, PICCADILLY.

MDCCLXXXIX.

[Price One Shilling.]

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES
LIBRARY *4100*

MAY 20 1875

STATE OF INDIANA

IN THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

On the 11th day of June 1875

REPORT

STATE AND FINANCES OF INDIANA

FOR THE YEAR 1874

AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

AT THE REGULAR SESSION

OF 1875

[Price One Dollar]

INDIANAPOLIS

W. B. BOYD, PRINTER

1875

JS
463
A2P2
1789
V.2

Wednesday, July 1.

MR. DUNDAS moved to refer the Papers and Accounts presented from the India House to a Committee of the whole House.

The Motion being agreed to, the House resolved itself into the said Committee, Lord Frederick Campbell in the Chair,

Mr. Dundas opened the Budget; and afterwards concluded with moving,

“ That it appears to this Committee, that
“ the annual revenues of the East India Company
“ in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa,
“ and from Benares and Oude, under the heads
“ of mint or coinage duties, post-office collections,
“ Benares revenue, Oude subsidy, land revenues,
“ customs, and the receipts from the sales of salt
“ and opium, amount, on the average of three
“ years,

A 2

“ years,

354825

LIBRARY SETS

OCT 10 1940

Gamboni

“ years, from 1785-6 to 1787-8, both inclusive,
“ to the sum of five crore eight lacks eighty-
“ seven thousand six hundred and fifty-five cur-
“ rent rupees.”

LORD FREDERICK CAMPBELL,

I RISE with a peculiar degree of satisfaction and pleasure, to offer a few remarks to the House, on the day expressly appointed for taking into consideration the past and present state of the British Government in India.

It is highly honourable to the King's Ministers, that they do now, for a third time, bring fairly and fully forward, to the view of Parliament and the Public, the actual state of that distant Empire.

It has been my warmest wish, my Lord, at all times, to detect and expose those most fallacious and ridiculous accounts which have been detailed in this House, and elsewhere; and disseminated with so much industry throughout this nation, and throughout Europe; relative to the state of Bengal, and its dependencies. Gentle-
men

men are well aware, that where two representations of the situation of a whole people are given, totally differing from each other in every particular, both cannot be true. Those who sit opposite to me, have for some years past been in the habit of describing the natives of Bengal and its dependencies, as reduced to the lowest state of depression, misery, and subjection; the people fleeced of their property; the revenues collected with a degree of severity, at which humanity shudders; wanton oppression, gross injustice, deliberate unprovoked tyranny, marking every act of the British Government; and the system established at home, expressly calculated to perpetuate those miseries, which it professed to remedy. This is no exaggeration: those who have attended to the debates of this House, or to proceedings elsewhere, well know, that our language has been ransacked for epithets sufficiently forcible to condemn every part of the present system. I will not again allude to the dreadful tales that have been told—tales which this House knows now, have no foundation in truth, but by which I will confidently affirm, that Parliament and the nation

✓ tion have been degraded, dishonoured, and
 ✓ disgraced in the eyes of all Europe. Were they
 believed, those humane and liberal-minded
 men, who without further enquiry would have
 abolished much of the important commerce of
 this country, must, I am sure, have long ago
 proposed to withdraw every Englishman from
 Indostan. This House has now every possible
 means of information before them, and I know
 ✓ that the gentlemen who sit opposite to me, are
 not ignorant of the true state of Bengal. For
 what purpose is it then, that the national cha-
 racter continues to be degraded throughout the
 world? Is the voice of calumny to be inces-
 santly employed, because those who served their
 country in India had the good fortune to do,
 what many who were employed elsewhere could
 not accomplish? But I have too much confi-
 dence in the honour and the good sense of this
 House, to think that gentlemen will shut their
 ears to conviction. I will not presume to ad-
 vance one word which I cannot support, either
 by evidence upon your table now, or by evi-
 dence that can at any moment be called to your
 bar. Nay, I would even venture to appeal to
 the

the Hon. Gentleman opposite to me (Mr. Sheridan), to prove the fallacy of those accounts which have been so confidently delivered, since that gentleman has a general acquaintance, and has other means of information, by which he must know how grossly erroneous all the statements have been, that were given from gentlemen on that side of the House, as to Bengal, Benares, or Oude.

An Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Francis), whom I do not now see in his place (Mr. Francis just then walked up the House), but whom I this instant have the pleasure to behold, that Hon. Gentleman, for the first time that an India budget has been opened, has omitted to say one word as to the state of the government of India, or to reprobate, as he used to do, the system under which it was governed. This I take to be a good omen, and I hope we shall all agree in the end.

Twenty-five years have elapsed since this nation has possessed an absolute sovereignty over one of the finest and the most populous king-

doms of the earth. It was our policy for the first seven years of the period to leave the entire government of the country in the hands of one Mahomedan ; but from the year 1772 to the present moment, the government of the country, the collections of the revenues, and the administration of justice, have been in the hands of the English themselves ; and I affirm it to be a truth uncontroverted, incontrovertible, never disputed by any disinterested man of common sense, that from 1772 to the present hour, Bengal has been in a rapid state of improvement, with respect to agriculture, population, and commerce. The King's Ministers, and those who have access to the best official information, admit the truth of this fact. It is confirmed by the solemn declaration of every gentleman who arrives from Bengal. It is proved by the productiveness of the revenue, and by the astonishing drains which that country has borne during the late arduous struggle for existence in India ; and yet, my Lord, the fact has not only been denied in this House, but the authority and the name of the House are used in disseminating to the world the most solemn declarations,

rations, that by mal-administration “ the wel-
 “ fare of the East India Company has mate-
 “ rially suffered, the happiness of the natives
 “ of India been deeply affected, their confi-
 “ dence in English faith and lenity shaken
 “ and impaired, and the honour of the Crown,
 “ and character of this nation, wantonly and
 “ wickedly degraded.”

Such is one of the melancholy representa-
 tions which this House has nominally sanctioned.
 Let any gentleman read what the House has
 said relative to the mode by which the revenues
 of Bengal have been for years, and are at this
 very moment, collected. If I am to believe
 what this House has solemnly declared to be
 true, I must say that the revenues have been
 and are collected in a manner “ vexatious, op-
 “ pressive, and destructive to the inhabitants
 “ of Bengal; and that the rights of private
 “ property have been most notoriously and
 “ scandalously violated.” If the description of
 the internal government of Bengal is thus me-
 lancholy, it is so in a still greater degree as we
 advance upon the Ganges. Gentlemen have

all heard the state and condition of Benares and of Oude, as described both in and out of the House, and as described in the name and by the authority of the House. Let me therefore now proceed, from unquestionable evidence, to do away this load of gross and foolish misrepresentation, which, though it may advance the views and designs of a faction, degrades us in the eye of the Public.

I shall in no case now presume to quote the authority of that Gentleman whom this House has thought proper to impeach; but I have an undoubted right to quote as complete evidence, the solemn declaration of his immediate successor (Sir John Macpherson). On the 10th of August 1786, Sir John writes as follows to the Court of Directors:—" The condition in which Earl
 " Cornwallis will receive the government of
 " India, is creditable to the Company, and
 " cannot but be satisfactory to the nation. The
 " native inhabitants of this kingdom are, I be-
 " lieve, the happiest, and the best protected
 " subjects in India; our native allies and tri-
 " butaries are satisfied, and confide in our pro-
 " tection;

“tection; the country powers are emulously
 “aspiring to the friendship of the English; and
 “from the King of Tidore towards New Gui-
 “nea, to Timur Shaw on the banks of the In-
 “dus, there is not a state that has not lately
 “given us proofs of confidence and respect.”—

I will not pay so fulsome a compliment to Sir John Macpherson (whose merits I am as ready as any man to acknowledge) as to say, that this happiness of the natives, this respect and confidence of foreign powers, was the consequence of any measure recently pursued. The fact is, my Lord, that the British name then, and for years before, stood high in India; and that the natives of Bengal were then, as they had been for years before, “the happiest and the best protected subjects in India.”

Another Gentleman who has long served the Company in very important offices, and now fills, with great credit to himself, and advantage to the Company, one of the first offices it has to bestow (I mean Mr. Shore), said in the year 1781, “That the natives were happier, and
 “their property better secured under our
 “government, than under that of their for-

“mer sovereigns. This,” says Mr. Shore, “I speak with all the confidence conviction inspires.” The same Gentleman defended the government of Bengal in the last year, when it was asserted that severities used in a distant province to compel the payment of balances were common in Bengal. The fact was positively denied, whatever might have been the practice in a remote corner of a distant province. This was said when the charges preferred against Deby Sing were finally determined upon; and, for the honour of the British nation, I trust the time will come when that story shall be fully investigated in this House.

My Lord, the next document to which I shall refer, in proof of the prosperous state of Bengal, is a very curious letter from Mr. James Grant to Earl Cornwallis, now upon your table. A more authentic, or a more conclusive document, cannot be produced. Salt is a necessary of life in all countries, but more particularly so in Bengal, where some of the Casts eat no flesh meat, others very little, and where salt is consumed by all. Mr. Grant has had access to every official document, and to every other channel of information,

tion, necessary to elucidate the subject on which he writes; and he has proved, that the consumption of salt in 1780 was considerably more than a third beyond the consumption of the same article in 1765. He then adds, “ A lapse of fifteen years under the lenity of the English government, had certainly operated a very material change in the state of things. Greater security and freedom in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, increased considerably the population of the country, with the wealth and the prosperity of its inhabitants. An additional consumption of all the necessaries of life was a natural consequence, and fully evinced the improved condition of the British provinces.”

In another part of his Letter, Mr. Grant states this as “ indicating with moral, infallible certainty, a prodigious increase of population, and all its concomitant advantages, in a period of little more than twenty years.” And arguing from the data he has laid down, Mr. Grant supposes the inhabitants under the Bengal government to be thirteen millions six hundred thou-

thousand souls. The Letter is before the House, and I refer Gentlemen to it as a most valuable and curious document. It is decisive as to the point for which I moved for it, which was to shew the improved and the improving state of Bengal under the British government. This Gentleman was appointed to a very considerable office under the Bengal government, not by Mr. Hastings, but by Sir John Macpherson.—
 ✓ His character stands high and unimpeached.—
 ✓ His assiduity is unremitting—and I am thoroughly convinced of the truth of his statement, and of the justice of the conclusions which he draws from it,

The same Gentleman has written an Analysis of the Revenues of Bengal, Bahar, Orissa, the Northern Circars, and Benares. They are very voluminous, and contain much valuable information, all tending to confirm most fully every thing that I have had the honour at any time to state to this House—in particular, the Analysis of the Benares Revenues states, that forty lacks is a very moderate annual assessment, and utterly does away every assertion that has
 been

been made by gentlemen opposite to me, relative to the state of that district, or the rights of its zemindars.—It is not from disrespect to Mr. Grant that I have not moved for them to be laid upon the table. I understand he will be soon in England; and if he can prove to the satisfaction of the Right Hon. Gentleman below me (Mr. Dundas), that the zemindars of Bengal, and the native officers, have defrauded government annually of a million a year for twenty-five years, I dare say he would be very happy to bring that sum hereafter into the exchequer.

My Lord, in addition to Mr. Grant's authority, I can quote the sentiments of every English Gentleman who has left Bengal in the seven last years, and particularly a Gentleman of great knowledge and observation, who was twelve years beyond the Company's provinces. That Gentleman (Colonel Polier, who is lately arrived) assured me, that in passing from the banks of the Carumnassa, which divides Bahar from the province of Benares, down to Calcutta, about 520 miles, he saw a country improved

proved beyond what he conceived was possible in such a space of time.

The next evidence that I shall adduce, comes most materially and pointedly to the fact; I mean the Testimonials transmitted by all the principal natives of Bengal and its dependencies, relative to Warren Hastings Esq. late Governor General of Bengal. If Gentlemen opposite to me will give no credit to the King's ministers, nor to Earl Cornwallis, nor Sir John Macpherfon, nor Mr. Grant; if they will not believe the solemn assertions of every English gentleman who arrives from the country; if they continue to this moment to affirm that Bengal is ruined, exhausted, and desolated; I hope they will alter their language after they have heard what the natives themselves say, from the highest to the lowest ranks amongst them, and *that* uncontrovertible evidence is now upon the table of this House. The manner in which these Testimonials have been sent home eludes every possibility of suspicion as to their authenticity. It is a fact of universal notoriety,

notoriety, that the natives were eager, and anxious to shew their respect for the British government; to declare the happiness which they enjoyed under the protection of the man, who for thirteen years had been placed over them; and who, in point of fact, first reduced that government into system. That these Testimonials are highly important to the Gentleman of whom they make such distinguished and honourable mention is certain; but to this House, on this day, they are also important, in so far as they fully confirm all that Sir John Macpherson, Mr. Grant, Mr. Shore, the King's Ministers; and every unbiaſſed well-informed person has said, of the superiority of the English government in India, over that of any native administration whatever. What is said upon this subject by one man is so peculiarly striking, that I shall beg leave to repeat it. Meer Ash-ruff Dean Hofemy, who signs the Patna address, adds after his name these words: " From
 " the justice of Mr. Hastings, his protection
 " of the people, and his excellent conduct to-
 " wards them; the people of other countries
 " desired, as for example those of Cashmier

“ lift up their hands in prayer, that God would
 “ make the English government the lot of
 “ their country.”

Having now, my Lord, laid this ground work, I shall refer to my last evidence, which binds and fixes the whole; I mean, the estimated and actual receipts of revenue under the Bengal government for one complete year. The estimated revenue for 1787-8, was five millions sixty-four thousand eight hundred and ninety pounds twelve shillings; but the actual revenue received was five millions one hundred and eighty-two thousand seven hundred and eighty pounds; the estimated expences were three millions sixty-six thousand pounds; the actual expences were three millions forty-six thousand pounds; so that, from the receipts and expences of Bengal, described by some Gentlemen as oppressed, ruined, and depopulated; there was in the last year a real available surplus in Bengal of revenue, beyond expences of every denomination, of two millions one hundred and thirty-five thousand nine hundred and thirty pounds, considerably exceeding
 the

the surplus which it was estimated the last year would afford. Whether this surplus has been wisely disposed of, by paying it away in part to Madras, or Bombay; whether the Military Establishments there so far beyond their means of paying ought, or ought not to be reduced, is no part of my argument; for on this day I wish to confine myself to Bengal, and to shew, that there is no other country upon earth that can boast of such a surplus revenue; that there is no country more flourishing, nor body of people more happy or contented. The Right Honourable Gentleman who opened the Budget contented himself with merely stating the amount of the receipts and expenditure, but with the leave of the House I shall say a few words upon the most material items. The first is the Benares revenue. Gentlemen will see that more than the estimated revenue is actually received. The total, above forty-five lacks of rupees. Does the Right Honourable Gentleman, or any other person, express the least doubt as to the collections of future years? On the contrary, does not Mr. Grant, a well-informed man and a clear authority, say, that the assessment is

moderate? How is that to be reconciled with what this House has said as to Benarés? How is it to be reconciled with what the representatives of this House have said elsewhere, relative to the state and situation of that valuable, and flourishing province? This House has pronounced that country to be totally ruined, and desolated. Destruction, devastation, and oppression, are the epithets used by this House in describing the state of that country at no very distant period. The description, I confidently affirm, is not true; because the House knows, that from a country so described, no revenues could be collected. The sums received, and the united voice of the natives, are a sufficient refutation of so gloomy an account. So far from the revenue which Mr. Hastings fixed in 1781 falling short, it is likely to increase, from the addition of the opium, which Earl Cornwallis has taken for the benefit of the Company.

The next article is the Oude subsidy, above five hundred and twenty-five thousand pounds, of which at the end of the year the trifling balance

balance of five thousand five hundred pounds only remained. Will Gentlemen have the goodness to recollect for one moment, what has been said in this House relative to Oude? Do they not remember, that when a Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Fox) brought in his celebrated India Bill, there was a balance of above seven hundred thousand pounds due to the Company from Oude? Do they not remember, that by one dash of the pen he struck out the whole? Yet, since that period, the whole has been paid. By papers before this House, we know that eight millions sterling was received from Oude in eight years; and that by the present arrangement the Nabob pays more than the third of the expence of our army. But is there a man in the kingdom who gives credit to the accounts which he has heard, or the articles we have voted, who will not say, that instead of receiving half a million annually from Oude, we ought, for years to come, to send half a million a year into that country? And here let me seriously call the attention of Gentlemen to a fact, which I have often mentioned before, but which cannot be noticed

✓ noticed too often. This House passed thirteen
 ✓ articles relative to Oude, but did not, and could
 not read them, as I can prove from a reference
 to the Journals. In those articles, the present
 ✓ system, by which Oude is connected with Ben-
 gal, is condemned in all its parts. The Mini-
 ster, Hyder Beg Khan, is termed, in those ar-
 ticles, "an implacable tyrant," and the power
 with which Mr. Hastings invested him, is stated
 to be monstrous, and the act itself highly cri-
 minal. Will the House be pleased to hear what
 ✓ Earl Cornwallis and the Directors, under the
 sanction of the King's Ministers, say as to the
 system by which Oude is governed?

Lord Cornwallis says, 20th April 1787,
 " The only material difference which has taken
 " place in the engagements between this go-
 " vernment and the Nabob Vizier, relates to
 " the brigade stationed in Futtyghur; the con-
 " tinuance of which body of troops in the do-
 " minions of the Vizier I deem equally essen-
 " tial to the interest of the Vizier and the
 " Company. In other respects I have nearly
 " adhered to the principles established by the
 " former

“ former Governor General, Mr. Hastings,
“ and since confirmed by the orders of the
“ Honourable the Court of Directors. All the
“ subsidiary arrangements have been formed
“ with a view to strengthen those principles,
“ and render them permanent.”

So late as the 8th of April last, this communication is replied to by the Directors, and the King's Ministers, as follows :

“ Having attentively perused all the minutes,
“ proceedings, and letters, referred to in these
“ paragraphs, and in your subsequent advices
“ on the subject of the late agreement, concluded by Lord Cornwallis with the Vizier,
“ we approve of the general arrangement, and
“ of the principles on which it was formed.”

How, my Lord, is this decided approbation, and the continuance of the system, with the full knowledge of this House, to be reconciled with our permitting those articles to which I allude to remain upon our Journals? I shall push the subject no farther.

In Bengal, Gentlemen will see, that the revenues from land, salt, and opium are much beyond the estimate: the two latter were in fact created by Mr. Hastings himself, and produce considerably more than half a million a year. And here, my Lord, I desire to call the attention of the House to another curious fact. If Gentlemen will look to the total revenues of Bengal, including Benares and Oude, in the last ten years, they will find a very remarkable and wonderful equality in them; the difference not more than eight or ten thousand pounds. And when it is considered that above five millions sterling a year have been received, the difference in each year's receipts bear no proportion to that difference which every Gentleman of landed property in this House feels in proportion to the amount of his income, either from the failure of tenants, or the repairs of farm houses. In point of fact, during the whole of the late war, the resources of the Bengal government were equal to what they now are; or how could we have so successfully resisted the whole world? During that war, Bengal supplied Madras and Bombay with above

seven millions sterling in money and provisions; and it has sent immense sums, since the peace, to liquidate arrears, and to pay establishments. The more Gentlemen go to the bottom of this subject, the more they will be convinced that I have never deceived them in any statements.

I have now, my Lord, endeavoured to state, and as concisely as possible, the actual state of Bengal, Benares, and Oude, under a system so strongly, and allow me to add, so absurdly reprobated in all its parts. No Gentleman in or out of this House can entertain a more exalted opinion of Lord Cornwallis than I do, or can feel a stronger sense of the important services that he has rendered; nor will any fair and candid man withhold, either from the Board of Controul or the Directors, the applause which they so justly merit. But I will not so far offend against common sense as to say, that the flourishing and prosperous state of Bengal is owing exclusively to measures which they have pursued. For the æconomical arrangements that they have established, and which Earl Cornwallis has so vigorously enforced, every praise is

D due;

✓ due; but the fact I wish to impress so strongly upon the House is this; that in *the system* no alteration has been made. In Oude, as Lord Cornwallis tells you, the system established by Mr. Hastings is adhered to; so at Furrukabad; so with Fyzoola Cawn; Benares the same. Full credit is taken for all the sums collected from these countries, and the system is continued.

✓ In Bengal there is no alteration. Mr. Shore, who is at the head of the revenues under Lord Cornwallis, was in the same situation under Mr. Hastings. Zemindars in some instances, farmers in others, collect the revenues now as they did when Mr. Hastings was there. Salt and opium form two great branches of the public revenue; both in fact created by Mr. Hastings. Justice is administered now as it was when he was there. The inland customs only have been abolished, and the House knows that Mr. Hastings recommended the abolition of them many years ago. To ensure the continuance of prosperity in Bengal, this House, against the most vehement and continued opposition of the Gentlemen opposite to me, conferred additional powers on the Governor General. I then pre-

dicted the happy effects which that salutary law would produce, and we now experience them in the highest degree.

I remember, when I sat in the gallery in the last parliament, that a Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Fox), who but the year before had described the miserable state of the British navy, took occasion to state it as highly flourishing, under the unremitting attention of the then First Lord of the Admiralty (Lord Keppel). A noble Lord (North) very properly observed in reply, that ships could not spring up like mushrooms : that infinite credit was due to the late Lord (Sandwich), though that Right Hon. Gentleman proposed to the House to address his Majesty to remove him from his councils ; and he might say to the present Lord, " Alexander has conquered with the foldiers of Philip." So it is in Bengal ; the prosperous state of that country has not been the work of a day, nor of a year, but it has been in a progressive state of improvement under the mild influence of the British Government for a series of years, until it is now become, as a Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Dundas) so emphatically deemed it, the brightest jewel in the British Crown.

Friday, July 3.

MR. SPEAKER,

AFTER having trespassed so long upon the indulgence of the House the other night, I shall only now presume to detain them a few minutes, in consequence of what fell from an honourable and respectable Gentleman (Mr. Dempster), whose good opinion I am very anxious to retain, and who I wish should think well of every part of our Indian government. Though I have no encouragement to add to my former observations, from the present appearance of the House, yet it convinces me of one thing, that what I did take the liberty to say, *cannot be answered*; for if the gentlemen who were formerly so loud in opposition to the line I have taken, could defend or support *their former assertions*, they would not be absent on this day;—nor would another set of gentlemen
be

be silent, if they had not discovered their former errors.—Is it possible, Mr. Speaker, that those gentlemen who would abolish a valuable commerce, on the very appearance only of its being oppressive, would sit silent on a subject where the happiness of millions is at stake, unless they knew how grossly they had been deceived? For I never can impress this truth too strongly upon this House and the Public,—
That the system by which Bengal is governed at this present moment, is precisely the system that stands so strikingly condemned by the Votes, and upon the Journals of this House.

The Honourable Gentleman finds fault with the large military establishment in Bengal; but I beg he will recollect the prodigious extent of country which our army covers and defends;—twelve hundred and fifty miles in length, and in some places six hundred and fifty in breadth. I would also desire the Honourable Gentlemen to recollect, that more than one-third of the expence of the Bengal army is borne by the Nabob of Oude, whose country, in return, is effectually secured. I also call to the recollection of the
 Honour-

Honourable Gentleman, that this great subsidy is regularly paid; that, in eight years of our greatest difficulty, we received eight millions sterling from Oude. I am sure he will remember too, that a Right Honourable Gentleman (Mr. Fox), a few years ago, struck out, with one dash of his pen, above seven hundred and twenty thousand pounds, then owing by the Vizur to the Company. Every rupee has long ago been paid. And here I inform that Hon. Gentleman that *the system by which Oude is connected with Bengal, is precisely that system which Mr. Hastings established.* Lord Cornwallis tells the Company, that in his subsidiary arrangements, if he has made any alterations, it is *with a view to strengthen those principles, and to render them more permanent.* The Court of Directors, and the King's Ministers, *approve this system* in their reply to Lord Cornwallis, *and the principles on which it was formed.* If the House was better attended, Mr. Speaker, I should have much to say upon this subject, but I leave it to Gentlemen to compare this account, with what the House has done, and what has been said in its name elsewhere.

There

There is another point on which I beg to set the Hon. Gentleman right. He does not think so large an establishment of Sepoys necessary, and says, our great dependance must be upon an European force in time of danger! Here I totally differ from the Hon. Gentleman; and though I am as much an advocate for a respectable European force in India as he can possibly be, yet the real effective force for service in India ever has been, and ever must be, our Sepoy battalions. We have brought them to such a degree of perfection in point of discipline, as strikes every English officer who sees them, for the first time, with astonishment; and in the late war, one of our Bengal battalions of Sepoys came to the push of the bayonet with a veteran French regiment, and actually repulsed it. Their attachment to us is so great, that during the late war when they were six, seven, and eight months in arrears, at a time that they had sold their silver ornaments for subsistence, no mutiny happened, though such an event was with great reason apprehended.

The

The Hon. Gentleman has expressed his wish that the monopoly of opium may be abolished; and he has told the House a very dreadful story of corn having been ploughed up, and poppies planted in its stead; I heard that story above eighteen years ago, but from very particular enquiry, have great reason to believe it was not true. It was said to have been done in the year 1769. But whether true or not, the trade has been regulated for a great number of years; and such a thing can never happen. Opium ever has been, and ever must be, a monopoly. Mr. Hastings made that, as well as salt, an article of revenue for the Company; and it is highly important to the export trade of Calcutta.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, these are the only objections which the Honourable Gentleman made to the statement; and I desire to call to the recollection of this House, thin as it is, that, by the resolution now in your hand, we are going to take credit for an immense revenue in Bengal, all of it acquired by means which this House, in another character, has

E

condemned;

condemned; all of it retained under a system which this House, in another place, has, by its Representatives, strongly reprobated.

With regard to the establishments of Madras and Bombay, so much beyond their ability to pay, I think they ought to be reduced upon this principle (since a Right Honourable Gentleman [Mr. Dundas] has particularly applied to me), that we shall not be able to keep them up: that Bengal cannot bear an annual drain of fifty lacks to Bombay, and twenty to Madras; therefore, I would lessen the establishments there, and increase them in Bengal; for this very obvious reason; because, if the establishments are kept up in Bengal, Government pays with one hand, and receives with the other. But money, circulating specie, sent to Madras and Bombay, is lost for ever to Bengal. Marine battalions raised in Bengal would, in my opinion, be ready for foreign service, and keep our specie in Bengal. If, however, the Right Honourable Gentleman thinks he can spare fifty lacks to Madras, and twenty to Bombay, after all the drains Bengal has suffered,

ferred, every argument I have used is strengthened in the highest degree, and the former administration deserves even more credit than I have given to it.

THE END.

27 35

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
Los Angeles

This book is DUE on the last date stamped below.

29-40m-7,'56(C79084)444

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT
LOS ANGELES
LIBRARY



3 1158 01025 1287

UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



A 000 017 751 9

