Calcutta in the olden time—its people

The present paper: “Calcutta in the olden time—its People,” will refer in a cursory way to the various classes of inhabitants of last century (eighteenth century), their social status, dress, food, recreations, manners, and diseases.

Late year have witnessed the annihilation of that mighty East India Company, “the Empire of the middle classes” which so long ruled with absolute sway over the East, and whose name was everything in Calcutta last century, which survived all the shocks to trade under which the Dutch, French and German East India Companies sank. It is a question whether it has yet been succeeded by a better form of Government, one that will guard Indian interests and finances so faithfully and which will not allow the rights of natives to be sacrificed in order to swell the coffers of Mammon. The Company invariably resisted, as far as they could. The spirit of political and military aggression, they might have been reformed, but destruction was not the remedy: and now we fear in spite of themselves and their better principles, the Queen’s Government is imperceptibly drifting into a policy like that of Anotria in Italy, whose main points were unity, and centralization to the sacrifice of local Government, a foreign agency to administer as conquerors, and an entirely foreign army to back their views out. We know the result now in Italy, in spite of Austrian cannons and soldiers,—nationalities will have their sway and so it will be in India.

The East India Company won India, the problem is will the Queen’s Government keep it. Without the Company’s influence at one time it could not have been
secured, as Cromwell found when in 1654 he abolished the Company, but discerned that the Dutch made such way in India and Ceylon that he was obliged to restore the charter. The following lines were often quoted on old books in reply to people who argued that the best remedy for Indian chills was to transfer the Government to the Crown—

I was well,
I would be better,
I took physic
And here I lie.

The remedy was worse than the disease and the victim of empiricism idea.

St. Petersburg was founded by Peter the Great at the same time that Calcutta was by Job Charnock, both were erected in swamps, amid an unhealthy climate, both became the capitals of mighty empires. How little could either of the founders have anticipated that by the year 1860 both the Anglo-Indian and Russian Empires would nearly meet in Asia, separated only by a few hundred miles and that Kossacks would have done for one what sepoys have effected for the other.

We want in this antiquarian article to avoid all reference as much as possible to questions of the day, which now unhappily divide Europeans from natives. Looking at the past we have great reason to thank God and take courage. The Europeans have greatly improved in morals and socially, the natives also have better houses and are higher in the social scale: The millionaires of Calcutta among the natives are men who have realised their property by trading, like Muty Lall Sil who rose from being a seller of bottles at 8 rupees monthly to be the Rothschild of Calcutta; last century had such men as Kanta Baboo, Hastings' Dewan, who made such enormous sums by bribes. In contrasting Calcutta now with the Calcutta of last century we must take into account the progress of things every where; when we find so low a state of things
among the Europeans in Calcutta last century. Should we have found them much higher in London, talk of Barwell's and Francis' profigacy, what was it to the Court of George the Fourth or that of Versailles; debarring pleasures were common to England and Calcutta—each had its Ranelagh.

The reader of this paper will, we trust, see in compairing the present with the past, that in various points we have improved, not merely the *nous changeous rout cela*: the hand of God ought to be seen in social changes as well as in his Revelation or his Book of Nature; our own spirits have been often cheered when discouraged by existing evils, in reviewing the past.

One of the difficulties of dealing with Old Calcutta is the danger of taking instances as examples instead of exceptions. Thus any one having known Calcutta would have been surprised at the statement of Sir J. Royd to the Grand Journey of Calcutta in 1812 that "not a single instance of depredation on private property has occurred during the last six months of magnitude sufficient to be brought before you and this Court". As exculpatory on the side as Sir M. Wells on a recent occasion was condemnatory on the other.

We profess to give only a very brief sketch here of Old Calcutta, to enter into the subject fully would fill the whole of this *Review*. We shall as far as possible avoid repeating things which are generally known, or drawing from the ordinary books which treat of India. Our materials are derived from reminiscences of conversation with the late Mrs. Ellerton, who saw Warren Hastings carried away bloody from his duel with Francis; of Mr. Herklöz, who has fiscal of Chinsurah in Dutch times, of Mr. Blaquiere, &c. &c., and from books of which copies now in India are rare, such as Hartly House, the *East India Chronicles*, *Sketches Voyages*, Williamson's *Vade Mecum*, Kidirley's and Fay's *Letters*, and above all a collection of 510 pamphlets on the East Indies and
China filling 95 volumes. These are invaluable and contain many statements of great importance relating to Calcutta last century. Old Libraries are few, one of the best of them was the late Harkara one, but at an auction of books this year rare old volumes were sold for a few annas to sirkars, and thus a valuable collection has been scattered; it contained some of the Calcutta newspapers of last century which are not now to be had.

Calcutta in a regular colluvies gentium—the Jew that excels the Bengali in cheating—the American with his semi-Asiatic habits—the rich Mogul—Marwari merchant—the black Portuguese—the muddy-looking East Indian—have all made it their residence, but our object in this article is chiefly to give a glance at the English in their social life. Many estimates have been made at different times of the actual population of Calcutta. We give the following for 1850 as a standard, and with exception of Europeans who have increased, it might stand as an average for last century; this must be borne in mind that 100,000 Hindoos daily enter and depart from Calcutta.

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<th>Male.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Europeans</td>
<td>4,848</td>
<td>2,686</td>
<td>7,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eurosians</td>
<td>2,472</td>
<td>2,188</td>
<td>4,660</td>
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<td>Americans</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>847</td>
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<td>Hindoos</td>
<td>1,65,817</td>
<td>1,08,689</td>
<td>2,74,506</td>
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<td>Muhammedans</td>
<td>72,476</td>
<td>38,694</td>
<td>1,11,170</td>
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<td>Other Asiatics</td>
<td>8,225</td>
<td>7,229</td>
<td>15,454</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,15,063</td>
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The names of residents in Old Calcutta will be known best by consulting the monumental inscriptions, for comparatively few then to be returned to their own land to ease and competence—death intervened, and the shattered, mouldering monuments in Chowringi, great burial ground, "city of the dead", are the only memorials left of
them. Let us make a pilgrimage to the tombs there, the well-known Indian names of Becher, Barwell, Reed, Sykes, Law Jackson, Hayes, are to be met with. Sir William Jones lies buried on it, of whom it is recorded on his tomb;—Here lies "The mortal part of a man, who feared God, but not death, and maintained independence, but sought not riches: who thought none below him but the base and unjust; none above him but the wise and virtuous"—a statement new to the Calcutta people of his day though, if we are to believe those marbles "the inhabitants of ancient Calcutta were a race of virtuous, industrious, and honourable men: of pious and beautiful women, enlivened society in general, and afforded every domestic and social comfort to husband far distant from the house of early consanguinity and the joys of England." The oldest monument is of Job Charnock, who in 1692 "Mortalitatis suoe exuvis deposit reversus est domum suoe octemitatis;" Then of his daughter, "Qui per elapsa tot annorum millia culpam primaevae luit Parentis, et luet usque dum enternum stabit". "In delore paries filios,"—here lies Captain Poyning, who most bravely defended the Resolution of India-man against thirty sail of the Mahrattah fleet. Those were days when Indiamen mounted 20 guns, the crew and the passengers were all trained to arms. Cleveland who "accomplished by a system of conciliation what could never be effected by Military coercion". Oldham who died in 1788 was an undertaker who erected several monuments in the different burial grounds in Calcutta, and particularly in the ground where he himself lies interrad, "he was the first undertaker who settled in Bengal; Tomb stones before his time came as bespoke from Madras, he first cut stones from the ruins of Gour". There is an inscription over the wife of an Attorney, Jones.

"Through low in earth your virtuous from decayed,
My faithful wife my loved Nancy's laid,
In chastity you kept a husband's heart,
To all but him as cold as now thou art".
Justice Hyde was one of the Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court in which he spent 21 years, longer than those Judges ordinarily stay now.—Colonel Kyd distinguished for his botanic researches and William Chambers, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court noted for his Persian studies and Biblical translation. In the Mission Burial Ground the oldest tomb is of 1773; in the New Burial Ground of 1793; in Tiretta's Burial Ground 1796; the Hospital Burial Ground “On the bank of the Gungah” 1786; the Church of the Virgin 1712; the inscriptions Latin, Portuguese, and English; Bytakannah 1787; Greek 1777; inscriptions in Greek; Orphan Ground, Howrah 1791. Out of Calcutta the oldest tombs are Dum-Dum 1790; Barrackpore 1783; Serampore 1745; Chandernagore 1729, viz. that of Monrient Blanchatier, Director of the French East India Company, Chinsurah 1743; and Bandel 1756.

We know not when Calcutta¹ first got the title “City of Palaces”, though last century it was a misnomer in a place having no glass to its houses and few verandahs to shade off the heat; in whose streets dead animals were to be seen putrifying, and sometimes even human beings. Defective as are still the municipal arrangements of Calcutta, it is a great improvement on last century, when drains three feet deep were reservoirs of filth, sending out annually their three hundred and sixty stenches; the receptacle of rotting animals; even human corpses have been known to be two days in the streets, before being taken away by the police, and thrown into the canals.

¹ The native name of Calcutta (Kalikatta), we believe, was given it from Kalighat, but the English metamorphose native names sadly thus—Mannakali point is called melancholy point.—Suraje Daula was called Sir Roger Daula: they called all natives Gentoo, according to Voltaire a contraction of gentiles.—Kedjeri pots were so called from Kedjeri where crockery was abundantly supplied to the shipping.—A native went by the name in 1780 of Sam Chakraborti! Where is this to end? We have Dover Village and Shrimp Channel marked on the old maps South of Calcutta—where are these? How much better to keep to permanent native names.
In some cases they were left for the jackals to make a
two days' meal of them.

The following verse, taken from Atkinson's Poem, the
City of Palaces, well describe its then state:—
Calcutta! What was thy condition then?
An anxious, forced existence, and thy site
Embowering jungle, and roxious fen,
Fatal to many a bold aspiring wight:
On every side tall trees shut out the sight;
And like the Upas, nor some vapours shed;
Day blazed with heat intense, and murky night
Brought damps excessive, and a feverish bed;
The revellers a eve were in the morning dead.

"Worse than Batavia, thou west then, a tomb;
What are thou now, amidst thy various brood?
Though unincumbered by forest's gloom,
Thou robbest beauty of its eloquent blood,
Youth of its lustre, and the opening bud
Of infancy is blasted in thy view,
Fell us the vampire in its thirstiest mood:
All ranks alikes thy direful influence rue:
Thou bane of lovely looks and health's inspiring hue'.

No wonder that the Europeans, gradually migrated
from the Belgravia of that day—Tank Square,—and took
up their abodes in Chowringi "out of town"; The
common sobriquet was "the settlement", and its inhabi-
tants called themselves, "the exiles,"—though never did
live in such luxury, and in so many cases forget home and
all its associations.

Viewing the rapid succession of residents and the
"Voice from the tomb" we need not be surprised at Eu-
ropians being deterred from coming to Calcutta last
century—at its being regard as a land of exile and death.
Gladwin gives the following view as entertained even by
the Mussalmans of Bengal. "In former reigns the climate
of Bengal on account of the badness of the water, was deemed inimical to the constitution of Moguls and other foreigners; and only those officers who laboured under the royal displeasure were stationed there, so that this fertile soil, which enjoys a perpetual spring was considered as a gloomy prison, the land of spectres, the seat of disease, and the mansion of death. The ministers of state and the Dewans appropriated the greatest part of these valuable lands to tankahs for the jaigeers of the mansibadars, so that the amount collected in the khalsa was so inconsiderable, as to be inadequate to the demands of the Nizamut troops; which deficiency was supplied from the treasury of Delhi and by tankhas on other Soobahs'. But we find in 1757 the subsequent of "the terrestrial paradise" was applied to it, this certainly could not be stated of it by Europeans,—but they had chiefly to blame themselves; with tables groaning under the weight of heavy joints of meat, washed down with Arrack-Punch, it is not surprising to find that one-third of the cases in hospital arose from liver complaint. We do not quite understand what is meant by "the hot winds of Calcutta", a fertile source disease so often referred to by old writers there. "When the hot winds are abroad the angel of death is busy in all quarters; and though numbers survive, the devastations are aweful. There is existence only supportable in the morning and evening; and the whole European people droop the head and dissolution solely occupies their thoughts". In reading old accounts of heat in Calcutta, such as that it was usual to throw water on the wheels of carriages an hour before going out, also to pour water on stones for coolness, we must remember the heat was not greater then than now, but persons had no means of alleviating it, excepting charming their linen, as the Judges of the Supreme Court did three or four times a day during Omichand's trial; it was doubtless the air that blew hot when the houses were all opened, no punkhas, no tarries, to escape from the horror of which our predecessors rented
houses at the so-called healthy villages of Baraset and Chinsurah, where, seated behind the felted canvas, which in early times served purpose of cuscus tatties, they refreshed themselves with gallons of Arrackpunh and country beer, to keep off the effects of the climate, and remedy the debilitating influence of copious perspiration.

Ives gives the statistics of the Calcutta hospital from the ships in 1757 between February 8th and August 8th of that year 1140 patients were received, of those 54 were for scurvy, 302 bilious feners, and 56 bilious cholie; 52 men burried. Between August 7th and November 7th, 717 fresh patients were taken in, of those 147 were in putrid fevers, and 155 in putrid flexes, 101 were buried. No wonder for in the same year Dr. Boqne remarks of the fevers in Calcutta—"bleeding was commonly used in fever cases". The rains were the deadly time in Calcutta, and particularly for new arrivals. Ship's crews in the river then used to lose one-fourth of their crews, or 300 men, chiefly owing however to their exposure to night fogs, and to the punch houses, though the stoppages at Diamond Harbour, laid the foundation of the disease of the majority; survey was almost universal, there were no Agri-Horticultural Societies in those days to supply vegetable seeds.

For improving the Sanitary condition of Calcutta, the Lottery Committee did much. We find that as early as 1794 there were Lottery Commissioners: in that year they advertised for a benevolent charitatable purposes a lottery of 10,000 tickets at 32 Rupees each, and some of our best

2. This is an important point in connection with the amalgamation of the armies; all the old medical writers on Calcutta state that new comers are most liable to the diseases of the country. Dr. Lind in his celebrated work in tropical diseases published in 1776 affirms, that "by length of time the constitution of Europeans becomes seasoned to the East and West Indies climates, if it is not injured by repeated attacks of sickness on the first arrival". Still the fact remains the Europeans can not bring up a healthy offspring in the plains of India. An old soldier 44 years in India told us that he considered one soldier seasoned after three years was equal to two recruits.
streets are owing to their funds. The English knew nothing sanitaria last century, Barasat, Chittagong and St. Thom at Madras were the places for change of air. W. Hastings, Sir R. Chambers and others used to go to Bircul near Hijli for sea-bathing; the remains of their Bungalows are still to be seen there; Sukhsagar was another retreat.

Much of the disease in Calcutta and in other parts of India has been owing to the English not conforming their mode of living, dress, &c. to the climate. Anglo-Saxon in every part of the world has wished to carry his home system in with him, he is the Topi-wala in Calcutta as in London; he is like the Dutch at Batavia, who in the swamps made canals or fetid ditches run through their capital because Amsterdam had them,—the results were pestilential fever, hence the canals have slain more Dutch in Java than the swords of the natives. We find Calcutta people warned in 1780; “from the many sudden deaths which have happened lately, gentlemen should be cautious not to eat too freely during the continuance of the heat (June; ) the Surgeon of an India man expired in the street after eating a hearty dinner of beef, the thermometer was at 98°”.

But last century tropical countries were generally unhealthy Jamaica formerly buried to the amount of the whole numbers of its white inhabitants once in five years; Batavia lost one-fifth of its Dutch population annually, the Portuguese lost all their European Missionaries in Guinea, and found it necessary to raise up a class of black prints; one-third of the Europeans died annually in the African factories.

No wonder fever was prevalent in Calcutta. People slept on the ground floor; few houses had upper stories, though the first floor was raised and was approached by a flight of steps. There was a disease common to the lower classes of Europeans called the Barbers, a species of palsy, owing to the exposure to the land winds after a fit of intoxication. Abscesses of the liver were very fatal—one
of the charges advanced against Comte Lally was, "of causing himself to be treated as if he had an abscess of the liver before an abscess was formed, which, had it ever happened, would have caused his death" though this is absurd—it shows the view entertained then of abscess.

Dr. Lind writes of the fevers of the middle of last century in Calcutta. "The distempers are fevers of the remitting or intermitting kind; sometimes they may begin under a continued form, and remain several days without any perceptible remission, but they have in general a great tendency to a remission. They are commonly accompanied with violent fits of rigorous or shiverings, and with discharges of bib upwards and downwards. 'If the season be very sickly, some are seized with a malignant fever, of which they soon die; the body is conversed with blotches of a livid colour, and the crops in a few hours turns quite black and corrupted. At this time fluxes prevail, which may be called bilious or putrid, the better to distinguish them from others which are accompanied with an inflammation of the bowels. In all diseases at Bengal, the lancet is cautiously to be used. It is a common observation, both at Bengal and Bencoolen, that the moon or tides have a remarkable influence there on intermitting fevers. I have been informed by 'a gentleman of undoubted veracity, and of great knowledge in medicine, that in fevers at Bengal, he could foretell their precise time when the patient would expire, it being generally about the hour of low water. This much is certain, that in the year 1762, after a great sickness of which it was computed 30,000 Blacks and 800 Europeans died in the province of Bengal, upon an eclipse of the moon, the English merchants and others, who had left off taking the bark, suffered a relapse. The return of this fever was so general on the day of the eclipse, that there was not the least reason to doubt of the effect'.

Respecting the mortality of Europeans in Calcutta, it is
difficult to get accurate statistics. Hamilton states that in 1700, there were about 1200 English men in Calcutta, but in the following January 460 were buried, higher than any year up to 1800, excepting 1760 when 305 died; the last century gives an average of 164 annually—but we doubt its correctness.\(^3\)

Strong has made elaborate tables in which he calculates the mortality among natives in Calcutta in 1831-40 at four and three-fifths per cent annually.

The *adventurers* (a term applied in the days of the company's commercial monopoly to every man who came out not in the service of the Company; India was designed to be a pet preserve of the civil service) cannot be ommitted from the sketch of Old Calcutta,—they were few a despised.\(^4\) The "Eonats" a poem in ridicule of "free

\(^3\) "Respecting that disease which has proved such an awful scourge in Calcutta—Cholera, it is a commonly received opinion, that is broke out first in the Marquies of Hastings' Army, and made its appearence in the Nuddea District in 1813, but by reference to old writers we find, that if not known as an Epidemic something very similar prevailed in Calcutta, but as an Endemic. Lind mentions "that in the great sickness of 1762 in which 30,000 Blacks and 800 Europeans died in the province of Bengal, it was marked that a "constant vomiting of a white, though, pellucid phlegm accompanied with a continental diarrhoea, was deemed the most mortal symptom". Cholera was called *Morte de Chien.* "Very frequent, and fatal;" and the treatment was *emetics opiate, hartshorn,* and water, it took the patient off in a few hours. Monsieur Bollin in 1808 writes of a disease called, the Indian Mordecoi, which kills people in a few hour's time, accompanied with vomiting and looseness. The remedies reckoned effectual, are applying a red hot iron to the feet across the anestes, and taking kanji water with peeper. When cholera as an Epidemic first broke out in the Marquis of Hastings' grand army natives were first attacked, in the case of Europeans it accompanied by spasms, caused intense thirst, but the Doctors did not allow a drop of water; though some men that got water by stealth rapidly recovered. Besides brandy and landanum, one of the remedies was placing the patient in a hot bath, and bleeding him white there in the arms—provided blood flowed. The doctors contagious; the camp followers were cut off so rapidly that the Marquis of Hastings was obliged to pitch a standing camp near Gwallor".

\(^4\) The following extracts from the pamphlet show the feeling. Thus it describes the importations to India.
trade and empty speculation;" published in 1813, gives a
frontpiece in style of Punch; close in the background, is
the India House to be let, one man holds a scroll on which
is written "since the loss of the slave trade our Liver has
become a pool of grief to us dissolved in woe—moreover
our port (Liverpool) stands so sung for smuggling that the
free trade need not go North about for that purpose".
Another "Cork jackets for Indian Divers, salted pork for
Fakirs", then a Scotchman "Your petitioners request that
leaving to the Company the Hull, you would give us the
Kernel of the East Indian Commerce" then to barter
"for converting Scotch pearls into orientals, show boots,
fire screens, warming pans in visible petticoats, tragedies
for worm weather:" then the ship "Venus receiving her
cargo of white and willing nuns" for the consumption of
East Indies, which from the intended schemes of specula-
tion, will naturally become Bankrupt in Morlas as in
Trade."8 The writer, to show how little demand there
is for the interloper to trade in Calcutta, states that of a

Pale faded sluffs, by time grown faint
will brighten up "through art;
As British gives their faces paint
For sale at India's mart.

Another in his bark receives
coffins for undertakers
For Brahmins, cassocks and lawn sleeves
And feather beds for Fakirs;

This packs up ice in earthen Jars,
And happily creates
For Sheffield manufacturers,
A large demand for skaita.

And lo! to mend the sunburnt breed
Of Asia's fawny sons,
what a vast foresightage is decreed
Of white and willing nuns.

5. Yet in the 1823 the King of Japan styled Sir T. Smith and others
in "the honourable and worshipful adventures to the East Indies".
labouring man, wife and two children, can live on 2½ rupees monthly, what an overplus he must have to expend on articles of foreign luxury—he overlooked young Bengal.

Any one found without a license 10 miles from the Presidency was liable to be marched under a guard on board ship and sent back to England forthwith.

While the settlement of European Capitalists having a good moral character, and willing to treat the natives kindly and justly, would be a great boon in the Mofussil, the indiscriminate admission of Europeans was always considered bad; the East India Company have never had justice done in their views with regard to interlopers in this point; one of the best exposed of them however was given in a speech of the Right Honourable H. Dundas in the House of Commons in 1793, and which called forth the decided approbation of Pitt. He states on this point, “An indiscriminate and unrestrained colonization would destroy that respect or rather eradicate that feeling which is general among the natives, of the superiority of the European character. It is a fact, that upon this feeling of the superiority of the Europeans the preservation of our empire depends, and it is owing to the limited number of them, and to their being the connected servants of the company, or licensed inhabitants, that the idea of the superiority is so general, or that is effectual as a means of administering the government of our provinces. I cannot illustrate these observations better, than referring to the correspondence between Meer Cossim and Mr. Vansittart; the Nabab complained to this Governor, that the natives were oppressed and harassed by numbers of Vagrant Europeans; thinking, perhaps, that the Nabab was alarmed without reason Mr. Vansittart replied, that these Europeans were too contemptible to deserve notice. ‘They may be contemptible’ answered the Nabab, ‘in your opinion, but the dog of an European is of consequence among the limited natives of this country’. If then, the superiority of the European character must be maintained
in India, it is impossible for us to think of authorising an unrestrained emigration”.

Griff's, though so abundant of late in India and particularly old Griff's, were not unknown formerly. Captain Williamson states regarding them in 1800. "Nothing can be more prepasterous than the significant sneers of gentlemen on their first arrival in India; meaning thereby, to ridicule or despise what they consider effeminacy or luxury. Thus, several may be seen annually walking about without chattahs (i.e. umbrellas,) during the greatest heats, they affect to be ashamed of requiring aid, and endeavour to uphold by such a display of indifference, the great reliance placed on strength of constitution. This unhappy infatuation rarely exceeds a few days, at the end of that time, sometimes only of a week (may I have known the period to be much shorter) we too often are called upon to attend the funeral of the self-deluded victim. The first attack is generally announced by cold shiverings and bilious vomiting, delirium speedily ensues, when pure—faction advances with such "hasty stride, as often to render interment necessary so soon as can possibly be affected." The Colonel of a King's Regiment was considered the beam ideal of an old Griff. An anecdote is detailed of one who sent to the office of the Commander-in-Chief of request that a "cool station" might be selected for his crops; and of the commandant of a brigade who hearing continually of the allowance for doolees (Palanquins), enquired what short of "animals" they were since they seemed to eat so much. 6

An old writer of 1808 thus describes a griff officer of the Royal Army on his arrival in India.

"On his arrival in India, it is, somehow or other, a natural bias which prompts him, (and I may say every European, King's or Company's) to feel a sensation of

6. Not as bad as Lord Hardinge's ordering Chaprassies to be cooked for breakfast—he meant Chappatees.
repugnance, nay, little short of abhorrence, to the natives in general. Whether this has been born with us, or is the effect of education I know not; But I can appeal to the truth of it, to the breast of any person who has been into India, everything a native does is executed exactly contrary to European ideas; and these people are so addicted to telling the most barefaced lies, that a stranger falling into the hands of the most villainous post of them (the Madras dubashes) on his first arrival, is naturally confirmed in the abhorrence he has felt for them at first sight. I have seen many sensible persons who could not conquer their aversion, for a length of time, so far as even to touch the skin of a native “Blackey”; ‘black fellows’, and ‘black scoundrels’, are the opprobrious terms generally used ‘in speaking of them, amongst every class of Europeans.’

The King’s troops were all noted for their griffinage—The following anecdote is recorded of one at the period of the Vellore Massacre:—“The arrogance of a reply to a Lieutenant Colonel, of ‘25 Years’ standing, who commanded a corps of sepoys, had asked ‘a King’s Colonel (commanding the station) leave for his sepoys to attend an annual Hindoo festival; urging, when this was denied, that it had been an invariable custom to grant the leave, for 25 years he had been in the service.”—Then, replied the commandant (who was not three years old when the Lieutenant Colonel entered the Army) “I, Theodosius Pam Padore Mount Razor, Colonel, commanding the * * * do now abolish, and put a stop to the said custom, in its 26th, years! turning upon his heel on finishing the sentence”. This griffinage was near costing the loss of India, as the Vellore Mutiny was mainly caused by king’s officers interfering ignorantly with the prejudices of the sepoys, requiring them to wear peculiar kind of turban like a hat and to shave their whiskers: the principal conspirator going to execution declared at his last words that “he would rather suffer death than wear the hat”—Yet people in
English in that day Pooh-poohed it. Saying "what is the matter it is a turban or a whisker?" A young Griff in the hands of native servants was always an object of the deepest pity, about 1810 he is graphically described thus: "His clothes disappear first—he goes next, he knows neither the coins of the country, for their value—for the worth of two pounds he is lucky if he obtains one—and so on. Without a soul on whose recommendation for servants he can rely, he beholds himself the prey of sharpeners of whose villainy he is well aware, thought utterly at a loss how to supply their place with others in whose fidelity he has confidence. Those servants who ply at ghauts, or landing places, are usually of the very worst description; and it is truly to be lamented, that these men by speaking English, become so useful to the stranger, unacquainted with a single word of Hindoo-stancee, that all confidence is vested in them, of which, as may be supposed, they fail not to take every advantage".

In direct opposition to the Griff was the Old Indian of whom so much has been written; here are the descriptions of one of last century. "Having lost all affections for, and all remembrance of the land of their nativity, they settle down to some engrossing employment, and vegetate in dulness and obscurity, perfectly satisfied with the gratification which a regular supply of European eatables and drinkable can afford, never desiring to change their situation, or to enter into a larger or higher sphere. A vast number of strange notions may be acquired by those who, confined to a narrow circle, contract their minds within the same boundary, and are as little fitted to mix with the world as if their faculties were benumbed by the wand of the enchanter". Or again "Amorous in the extreme, possessed of nice sensibility increased by the climate and passionately devoted to a luxurious and idle life, the generality of Indians find too many resources in their Zenanas to exchange them voluntarily for the cares of Cutchery or the tumuts of camp".
But with improved religious and literary tastes the old Indian is passing away and men are inclined to go to the other extreme and remain “Everlasting Griffs”—ever learning.

With the exception of Buchanan, Thomson, Martyn, Browne and few others, the India Chaplainey has been bear of men distinguished either for pulpit eloquence, pastoral visiting or theological knowledge. David Browne who came out in 1786 was the first men of any note; previous to that period and 1736 there were 13 Chaplains of these 2 died, one in the Black Hole, another at Fulta among the fugitives, 5 died after about 3 year’s service, none of them “studied the language of the Gentus.” The first Chaplain we have mentioned of in Calcutta is the Rev. S. BriencifFFE in 1714. Seeing the want of schools, the Portuguese “having none, but bringing up their slaves in their own faith”, he propose to establish one, but met with no encouragement. Mr. Bellamy perished in the Black Hole. Butler and Cape were Chaplains in 1758 and assisted Kiernander in raising money for missionary operations, they died there in 1761. Stavely succeeded but was carried of by an epidemic in 1762. Dr. Burns, Hulser, Chaplain to Sir E. Carter, Owen, Blanshard and Johnson were subsequent Chaplains. Large fortunes were made by them in days when 16 or 20 gold-mohurs were a common fee for a marriage and 5 gold-mohurs the smallest fee for a baptism. “Goldmohurs are dealt about in Calcutta as half-crown in England”. We in vain search for traces of any of the Chaplains of last century having been distinguished for oriental scholarship. Valentia writes of them in 1802 “as noted for the unedifying contests that prevail among them even in the pulpit, which tent to lower the religion and its followers in the eyes of the natives of every description”. The late Bishop Wilson’s opinion, regarding Chaplains was similar; he once declared publicly, that half his time was spent in settling their quarrels. Major S. Waring recommended in 1807 that
Chaplains should in future confine themselves to the souls of their own countrymen,—there was little occasion for that advice, as the Chaplains have never been over zealous in "teaching the Gentus".

The name of Doctor will ever be dear to Calcutta, in connection with Surgeon Hamilton who cured of a malignant distemper the Great Mogul, and was allowed by him as a mark of gratitude a piece of ground for his countrymen. Surgeon Kerr who died in 1782 was distinguished as well by his medical knowledge, as by his "improving the Arts, and enriching science by his discoveries in India". Dr. Wade died in 1802, he published various medical tracts and had finished a large volume on the History of Assam,—where is it? Hartly House states last century of the Doctors—"Physic, as well as law is a gold mine to its professors to work it at will. The medical gentlemen at Calcutta make their visits by palanquins, and receive a gold-mohur from each patient for every common attendance, extras are enormous. Medicines are also rates so high, that it is shocking to think of: in order to soften which public evil as much as possible, an apothecary's shop is opened at the Old Fort, by the Company, in the nature of your London Dispensaries where drugs are vended upon reasonable times. The following charges are specimens of the expenses those Europeans incur, who sacrifice to appearances. An ounce of bark, three rupees; an ounce of salt, one rupee; a foul, one rupee; a blister, two rupees—and so on in proportion, so that literally speaking, you may ruin your fortune to preserve your life. But then to balance this formidable account, every profession has its amazing advantages: accordingly, as I am told, that is no uncommon thing to clear a hundred and forty per cent by merchandise on many European articles and particularly the ornamental for ladies or men's hats".

In 1780 the following squib on some of the doctors appeared in one of the Calcutta papers—we fear it was too true:
Such Doctors who never saw Leyden, or Flanders, Run counters to reason, and bleed in the jaundice. If your wife has a headache let Sangrado but touch her And he'll jobb in his Launcet live any Log Butcher Tho' in putrid complaints, dissolution is rapid, He'll bleed you to render the serum more rapid. But consider the cause sure, 'twill give one the hip man, To see dubb's a doctor, a special good midshipman, Who handels your pulse as he'd handel a rope, And conceives your complaint, Just as clear as the Pope.

*English ladies* in Calcutta in last century were few and were very expensive. Stavorinus thus describes them in 1770:

"Domestic peace and tranquility must be purchased by a shower of jewels, a wardrobe of the richest clothes, and a kindly parade of plate upon the sideboard, the husband must give all these, or according to a vulgar phrase 'the house would be too hot to hold him,' while the wife never pays the least attention to her domestic concerns, but suffers the whole to depend upon her servants or slaves. The women generally rise between eight and nine o'clock. Dinner is ready at half past one; they go to sleep till half past four or five; they then dress in form, and the evening and past of the night is spend in company or at dancing parties, which are frequent during the colder season. They are fond of parties of pleasure, which are frequently made, both upon the delightful banks and upon the pleasant waves of the Ganges. Yet these and all other amusements, are here peculiarly expensive". Up to the close of the century they amounted to not more than 250 in Bengal and its dependencies, while the European male inhabitants of respectability, including military officers, were about 4000. Besides few comming out through dread of the climate, no lady could be landed in Bengal at a less cost than 5000 rupees; freight was high, a monopoly of the Company—£25 a ton paid for goods, now to be sent at £5; a good lebel was kept during a long voyage, which then as now afforded leisure and scope for fiery hearts and
gossiping tongues. Hickey's *Gazette* states of this in 1780. "In my last I sent you an account of the number of ladies which has arrived in the late ships, there came eleven in one vessel, too great a number for the peace and good order of a Round House. Millinery must rise at least 25 per cent, for the above ladies, when they left England were well stocked with Head Dresses of different kinds, formed to the highest ton. But from three last months of the passage they had scares a cap left when they arrived".7

The *marriage question* is one that occupied an important place in Old Calcutta, in the days when Edinburgh was called "the flesh market for the marriage mart. London supplies out too. Grand Pre states of this. "From a knowledge of this general predilection in favour of matrimony in India, the English, who are inclined to every sort of speculation, send thither annually whole cargoes of females, who are tolerably handsome and are seldom six months in the country without getting husbands. These

7. What Stavorious states of the Dutch ladies at Batavia in coeter is paribus applicable to those of Bengal. "They are in general, of every delicate make and of an extreme fair complexion; but the tints of vermillion which embellish our Northern ladies, are wholly absent from their cheeks; the skin of their face and hands is of the most deadly pale white. They have very supple joints and can turn their fingers, hands and arms in almost every direction; but this they have in common with the women in the West Indies and in other tropical climates. They are commonly of a listless and lazy temper; but this ought to be ascribed to their education, and the number of slaves of both sexes, that they always have to wait upon them. They rise about half past seven, or eight o'clock, in morning. They spend the forenoon in playing and toy ing with their female slaves, whom they are never without, and in laughing and talking them, while a few moments afterwards, they will have the poor creatures whipped unmercifully, for the merest trifle. They loll in a loose and airy dress, upon a sofa, or sit upon a low stool, or upon the ground, with their legs crossed under them. In the meantime they do not omit the chewing of pinang, or betel, with which custom all the Indian women are infatuated; they likewise masticate the Java tobacco; this makes their spittle of a crimson colour, and when they have done it long, they get a black border along their lips, their teeth become black, and their mouths are very disagreeable".
cargoes were impatiently expected by such as not liking the orphans, are tired of celibacy, and on the look out for the arrival of the ships they were eager, as in other places, for a freight of merchandise to make purchases of goods. What is more extraordinary, these marriages are in general happy. The women, removed from Europe from a situation of mediocrity, often of unhappiness, to distant country where they pass suddenly into a state of opulence, feel as they ought the sentiments of gratitude due to the men, who share with them their fortunes. They become both good to the natives, who are continually wishing for the luxuries in which they were brought up. These matrimonial ventures afford the means of keeping up the white race, at Bengal, and prevent the Portuguese caste from increasing fast as on the coast. This caste is called here topas, from the word topi which signifies in the Portuguese language a hat. The name is given to such Indians as change their own for the European dress and wear a hat instead for a turban”.

On a young lady landing the church itself was made a place for courtship, and the first three nights after landing the young lady—who came to see her aunt, remained up all right to receive visitors who crowded the house of some lady of rank, as if at on fresh wake—the rule being “strike the iron while hot” Marriages were accordingly as quickly got up as these at Kidderpore but the Governor-General’s licence to be married was necessary to constitute it a legal one. Many matches were concluded even before the third night of exhibition but in special cases a fourth night was required for the banquet of bachelors from the interior. There were no punkahs in those days—with tight lacing, mosquitos and a crowd, the lady must have suffered much—and she had to return all the visits. About 1780 the practice began to fall into disuse owing to the increase of people and of houses, some of which were at a great distance from others. There was great competition then for marriageable
ladies, as the following notice of Hickey's *Gazette*, 1780 illustrates!

"It is said that the Captain H—was last night or will soon be married to Miss P—, a lady of merit and gentle accomplishment. We are told here that several other happy unions of the same nature are now meditating and will soon take place in Calcutta. Happy people! who have the opportunity of rendering yourselves to the fair, a blessing seldom experienced by us poor fellows in this remote part of the country. Make the most of your present situation, I advise you; for the gentlemen out of the provinces, believing that forestalling is contrary to law, as they are assured it is repugnant to equity, are determined to apply to the Judges for an order of Court, that an equal division of beauty may be made, and they hope to have the support of Government in this and their prayer as remits are no less necessary than civilians to the welfare of the state."

The consequences of hasty marriage were often deplorable, Calcutta having been noted for its *Affairs de Court* almost as much as the Court of Versailles, and a husband was often regarded by the lady as an Italian lady generally views hers. On the slightest attack of illness the wife found a pretext for leaving for Europe a husband to whom she had scarcely reached kedgiri, before the husband had supplied himself with "a seraglio of bloc damas." Cases have been even known, when the doctor was bribed by the husband to give an order for a change of climate. Men old enough to make a girl guilty of a breach of the canonical articles which positively forbid your marrying your grand-father, were wedded to girls in their teens with little or no attraction. No wonder it was remarked of those marriages "Hymen in Calcutta is seldom attended at the nuptial ceremony by Cupid". Marriages were celebrated in the evening we find it is in 1778—how much earlier we do not know. Weddings here are very joyous things to all parties
especially, I should suppose, to the Padre or clergyman, who frequently receives twenty gold-mohurs for his trouble of performing the ceremony. The bride and and bridegroom's friends assemble, all elegantly dressed, at one or other of the young couple's nearest relations, and are most sumptuously entertained; and the congratulatory visit on the occasion put the whole town in motion."

Notices of marriage were written in a curious style, this is one of 1780. "Married last Saturday at Cossimbazar the Honourable David Anstruther & the yellow, to Miss Donaldson of that place, a young lady of beauty and infinite accomplishments. In those days all ladies were considered beauties, 'tritons among the minnows,' but few ladies of good education or good family would venture out of England. Scotland sent a supply and of them it is observed in 1800. "The generality of ladies who came annually from Europe though doubtless of unsullied virtue, are by no means such as a person at all scrupulous in the connexions he formed, would select form, for a partner for life."

The establishment of the Supreme Court in Calcutta last century introduced the lawyers into Calcutta, to the great loss, and sorrow of the natives, who have found English law the dearest and worst of all law. Asiaticus writes thus in 1774: "The numerous dependants, which have arrived in the train of the Judges, and of the new Commander-in-chief of the forces, will of course be appointed to all posts of any emolument, and we must do those gentlemen the justice to observe that both in number and capacity, they exactly resemble an army of locusts sent to devour the fruits of the earth.

Hartley House mentions—"No wonder lawyers return from this country rolling in wealth, their fees are enormous, if you ask a single question on any affair, you pay down your goldmohur, and if he writes a letter of only three lines twenty-eight rupees! I tremble at the idea of coming into their hands, for what must be
the recoveries, to answer such immense charges! you must, however, be informed, that the number of acting attorneys on the Court roll is restricted to twelve, who serve an articled clerkship of three years only, instead of five, as in England. The fee for making a will is in proportion to its length, from goldmohurs upwards and as to marriage articles I should imagine they would half ruin a man, and a process at law be the destruction of both parties. A man of abilities and good address in this line, if he has the firmness to resist the fastible contagion, gambling, need only pass one seven years of his life in Calcutta, to return home in affluent circumstances, but the very nature of their profession leads them into gay connection, and having for a time complied with the humour of their company from prudential motives, they become fained and prosecute their bane from the impulses inclination.

About 1820 a Tirhoot planter published a work on India and gives the following views which corresponds with other statements, of the Mercantile Houses last century. "The Calcutta agents from a very prominent part of the community and from their extensive mercantile connexions, occupy a large space in the public eyes. These gentlemen, according to bombastic mode of expression usual in India, are called, by way of eminence, the princely merchants of Calcutta. Indeed the princes of the desk and ledger are very fond of adulation, and take pride in the high-sounding epithets applied to them, by persons some twenty or fifty thousand rupees minus in their books. People in the East are addicted to pompous title; the emperor's court arounded in "lights of the world, invincible swords, and supporters of the throne". I dare say these ledger princes, whose insignia should consist of a bale of cotton for a crown, and an indigo chest for a sceptre, by and by will be metamorphosed into ornaments of our Indian and 'mighty lords of the quill'—high in dignity. But a trace to levity, and let us examine what the
princely merchants are. During the war Calcutta agency houses consisted of old establishments which engrossed a great part of all commercial transactions, and might be termed a mercantile aristocracy, possessed of large factories and numerous constituents through India, the trader was entirely depended upon them, and an agent dictated his terms, from which there was no appeal. At present the case is different; inferior houses of agency have started up, new establishments have been formed, and an agent cannot dictate terms to persons possessed of some property, as they may have recourse to these inferior houses, so that the aristocracy is fast losing its domineering ascendancy; they act no agents to civil servants, in the army, &c., and lend money to merchants or traders upon terms very favourable to themselves, so that it often happens, when these are losers by a speculation, the agent is a gainer. During the war, when the commercial men sometimes made their fortune by a happy incident, they charged forty, fifty, and ninety per cent for money advanced; however, at present, that trade is dull; they are compelled to be moderate and content themselves with thirty. This exorbitant percentage, they make out in the shape of interest for money, commissions, charges, godown rents, &c., which often startle and gall an unwary constituent. I have heard of cases where this letter has sat down full of satisfaction, and calculated a pretty little balance in his own favour, after allowing for the common interest of money; but this was reckoning without his host. He goes to his agent, requests his account, and start at a debt which stares him in the face, more frightful than Hector's ghost was to pious Æneas. The agents have indigo factories, cotton factories, and other possessions in the interior, over which they appoint manager, and allow them a share in the concern, also a salary for their trouble; with these they adopt the same system as with speculators, so that managers are often involved in debt, whilst the agent is a gainer. This was the case with indigo-
planters for many years; they laboured, they sweated, and found themselves in the end playing a sowing game; however for the last two years, fortune has been propitious, and owing to the great rise in the price of that article they are getting rich in spite of incumbrances. Constituents, with an independent property, are neither more nor less than servants to agents, related, recommended, or otherwise connected with these latter; who possess establishments which must be superintended by somebody, and into which these gentlemen are doubled as managers, constituents or servants. When a constituent is deeply in their books, and has no assets sufficient to pay them, they insure his life to the amount; so that his death, which may not be very distant in a climate like India, discharges all arrears. They are associated with persons of the highest rank, with whom they are concerned in business, and receive numerous visitors, in order to draw the ties of interest closer and arbitrary, not the moderation of an English merchant, but the loftiness of an Indian; so that young men, who would come in their employments, should have a flexible back, and be skilled in the art offooing*. How much the merchant was in the power of the Banyan last century we may judge from the following description of that functionary.

* * *  

"Banyan is a person either action for himself or as the substitute of some great black merchants by whom the English gentlemen is generally in transact all their business. He is interpreter, head book-keeper, head secretary, head broker, the supplier of cash, and cash-keeper, and in general also secret-keeper. He puts in the under-clerks, the porter or door-keeper, stewards, bearers of the silver, slaves, running footmen, torch and franch light-carriers, palanquin-bearers, and all the long tribe of under servants, for whose honesty he is deemed answerable, and he conducts all the trade of his master, to whom, unless pretty well acquainted with the country languages, it is difficult for any of the natives to obtain access. In short
he possesses singly many more powers over his master than can in the country be assumed by any young spendthrifts, steward, money-lender, and mistress all together, and farther serves very conveniently sometime in public discussion to farther such acts or proceedings as his master darest not avow. There is a powerful string of connection among these Banyans who serve all the English in the settlements of Bengal, as well in all public officers as in their private offices. Since the great influence acquired there by the English, many person of the best Gentoo families take upon them this trust of servitude and even pay a sum of money for serving gentlemen in certain posts; but principally for the influence which they acquire thereby, and the advantage of carrying in trade which they could not otherwise do and which in this situation they frequently do, duty free, under cover of their master's dustucks. There have been few instances of any European acquiring such a knowledge in speaking reading and writing the Bengali language (which is absolutely necessary for a real merchant) as to be able to do without such Head Banyan."

In 1833-34 the great crash came on merchants of Calcutta who lived as princes—but with other people's money. The newspaper press of Calcutta was silent but the London Times told the truth in the following plain language. "The mite of the widow, the hard earnings of the military servant, the collected accumulations of the civil servant, the funds of the capitalist, and the realized treasure of the retiring pensioner, on its way from India to Europe, have all been involved in one common deterioration or ruin. They have been occasioned solely by the mode in Calcutta agency houses have been transacting business for the last ten or fifteen years, in other words since the charter of 1814; the range for speculation or inordinate gains, on the part of the directors, and too eager or confident cupidity of their customers. Over-trading, improvident enterprise, extravagant miscalculation and.
-excessive expense in living have no doubt been the cause of the recent failures”.

We give the following lists of failures of a few houses which show the ruin and dismay that were then spread in Calcutta, but this effect was little among merchants as some of the old partners of the agency-houses seeing the storm coming had retired with part of their fortunes, and penniless adventurers took their place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calcutta</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1830 - Jany.,</td>
<td>£5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmer &amp; Co.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reported;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832 - Dec.,</td>
<td>£3,440,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander &amp; Co.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>admitted;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833 - Jany.,</td>
<td>£2,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackintosh &amp; Co.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833 - May,</td>
<td>£1,120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colvin &amp; Co.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833 - Nov.,</td>
<td>£3,562,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fergusson &amp; Co.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834 - Jany.,</td>
<td>£1,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crutenden &amp; Co.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Calcutta</td>
<td>17,172,000</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bombay</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1833 - April,</td>
<td>£207,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotan &amp; Co.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>London</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1833 - May,</td>
<td>£950,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plekrads &amp; Co.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833 - Augt.,</td>
<td>£1,044,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firlie &amp; Co.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Total ... £19,373,000

Missionaries were looked on last century, and past of this, by the Government, as dangerous class of men; hence originated the following despatch of the Governor General in December, 1807 of the court. “The late prohibition of Public preaching in the native languages at Calcutta, was rendered indispensable by some actual indications of solicitude, and incipient irritation in the minds of the native public, an in this city, in consequence of those provocations, in India more than in any other country, the control of religious publications is indispensable for the ‘public safety’.

Yet last century the stores for the Danish Missionaries were sent freight and duty free, by the Court of Directors, and in Lord Minto’s time they
were lent 300 pagodas monthly to be repaid. Missionaries in the Madras Presidency rendered great service to the cause of Natural History, such as Koenig a pupil of Linnæus, Martine, Klein, Roftler, John. Swartz, at the earnest request of Government negotiated with Hyder who would just no one else. Governor Clive stood sponsor to the child of Kiernander, the first Protestant Missionary in Calcutta. But the Vellore Massacre had about 1808 roused Calcutta people to a sense of the slight tenure of their power in this country; as a consequence, in a letter to the Court in 1813, we have the following alarm expressed in a pamphlet of the day at the proposal even to have a Bishop.

"Even names often have a great effect among the multitudes. The Bishop, on his arrival in India, will probably be called Lord Padre Saheb, perhaps Lord Padre Burra Saheb, and the Archdeacon Lord Padre Chota Saheb. These appellations and the very appearance of the dignified divines will excite curiosity, and curiosity produced injury. For what purpose these great Padres come? may be asked among each other. The answer will be obvious, alarm be excited and the recent irritations be renewed, and widely spread. The principal Mahomedans, or their adherents, many of them as enthusiastic as any of our zealots for the propagation of their faith, will, as they did at Vellore, eagerly seize the opportunity and unite in flames with the Hindoos against the Christians."

There was no ground however for alarm as friends of Missions then did not advocate State interference in missions; thus in 1813 Wilberforce in a famous speech in the House of Commons recommended the sending Missionaries to India, but added, "that the missionaries should be clearly understood to be armed with no commission from the the governing power of the country. In the work of conversion, I abjure all ideas of compulsion: 'I disclaim all use of the authority, nay, even of the influence of
government. I would trust altogether to the effects of reason and truth.

Kiernander, the first Missionary to Bengal, was we believe, the first who did anything in native education. We find that in 1758 Mr. Kiernander had a school of 175 children, 78 of whom were instructed at the expense of the Christian Knowledge Society. Mr. Kiernander’s colleague, Mr. Sylvester, was then occupied in translating a Catechism and prayers into Bengali; at that day it was brought by many as absurd a thing to give high introduction to a native as to teach dancing to a cow. We have an account of a Mr. Reuben Barrow, an able mathematician in India at the close of last century, who was asked by several natives to instruct them in astronomy and algebra. He began, but he was so deficient in suavity of manner as to drive the natives away and to gain for himself the little of the Mathematical Hottenot.

Sailors in Calcutta have always been noted for their recklessness and speedy death. The mortality of sailors in the Port of Calcutta was fearful, chiefly owing to thier intemperance, and no means adopted to check it; in fact in the early days of the East India Company, such as in 1750, the charge was made by a proprietor against the Captains of Indiamen, “of the constant practice of making their crews drunk, and mad with the spirituous liquors they trafficked in, and the Commanders in the military swallowing the whole pay of your soldiers in the same trade; which was one great cause of the few there was, and of their illbehaviour and desertion at Madras, when the enemy came before it”. About 1780, Sobha Bazar was frequented by sailors, as Lal Bazar is now, “the noted place of residence of the black ladies of pleasure”. In that year a great fire is recorded to have happened there, when Jack rescued all their property from the mat huts.

8. Major Scott Waring who had been Secretary to Warren Hastings, came out at this time with a pamphlet which he recommended “the immediate recall of every Indian Missionary”. 
Sailors in 1780 were in Calcutta loafers, "occasionally rabling over the country, disgracing the British name and weakening the hands of Government". We have an account of a press gang going after them to the punch houses, "pressing a considerable number of men who had no visible means of their support", thus ridding the settlement of great numbers of idle fellows "who may be useful to their king and country, by lending their assistance to chastise the enemies of Old England in this part of the world". The following is an advertisement to sailors in 1780 to engage in privateering, which was then reckoned a favourable opening to men seeking their fortune.

To all gentlemen, seemed and lads of enterprise and true spirit, who are ambitious of making an honourable independence by the plunder of the enemies of their country, the "Death or Glory" privateer, a prime sailing vessel, commanded by James Bracey, mounting six 22-pounders, 12 coehorns and twenty swivels and carrying one hundred and twenty men—will leave Calcutta in few days on a five month's cruise against the Dutch, French and Spaniards. The best treatment and encouragement will be given.

Last century when European were few, food and houses cheap and salaries high, Calcutta was pre-eminently the shine of hospitality; a new comer found his hosts house, servants and money at his disposal; spare covers were laid out at dinner and at supper for any friends that might drop into tea pot luck, merchants then had regular hot tiffins open to all their friends, and to those who wished to see them on business there was the freeness of French life; the increase of prices and multiplication of unknown adventurers necessarily placed restrictions on this open table system, and boarding houses gradually sprang up. Public breakfasts were customarily given by the Governor-General, and members of Council—A?preface to alevee "good and bad were to be seen around the same teapot. This occasioned a native of some
consequence to remark that among Europeans all who wore a hat and breeches were gentlemen." Lord Cornwallis however discontinued the practice—it has of late years been observed in Madras.

Hotels were not established in Calcutta till about 50 years ago, previous to that there were taverns in the Lal Bazar and Cossipollah: the Wilson's of 1800 was at Fulta where large establishment was maintained for families and single ladies who had to embark and disembark there on account of the tide. On the increase of strangers and temporary residents in Calcutta the cost and comfortlessness of furnishing a whole house led to the setting up of boarding houses. The increase of rent of late in Chaurungi is leading many now to adopt the Paris fashion of having a stite of rooms in a house. In 1780 however we find an advertisement of an hotel in Calcutta to be kept by Sir E. Impey's late steward and Sir T. Rumbold's late cook—"turtles dressed, gentlemen boarded and families supplied with pastry."

Commercial pursuits were not very consistent with literary tassels in Old Calcutta; the jingling of rhyme was discord to the rattling of rupees, and the shaking the pagoda tree was preferable to every other pursuit. War and the Muses were equally at variance. One Johns kept a public library in the—Old Fort about 1770,—new books came out only yearly, and there were few periodicals to tempt the literary loungers. Mr. Andrews who opened a circulating library, complains in an advertisement in 1780 of the loss he has sustained—"owing to gentlemen going away, and in their hurry not recollecting their being subscribers to the library or having any books belonging there to." Another advertisement of his in 1780 states, "books are kept too long, one month is allowed for a quarto, he alleges that many sets were detained by individuals, cuts, leaves are torn out." The old Hurkaru circulating library stood many years. Printing was high, 500 per cent higher than now, Asiaticos
containing 142 pages 12mo., printed, in 1803, was sold to nonsubscribers at 24 rupees a copy.

Hickey's *Bengal Gazette* was the first Calcutta newspaper, it was published weekly, and started Saturday, January, the 29th 1780. The early number announced it to be "an antibilious specific." No I contains advertisement of "the comedy of the 'Beaux Stratagem.' to be performed at the Calcutta Theatre", foreign intelligence from the Liege *Gazette* of March the 8th, 1779—News received from Bombay Via-Bussora dated September 15th, 1779—Calcutta raises the subscription plate value 2000 Sicca Rupees. "Stewards of the racing club invite the ladies and gentlemen of the settlement to a ball at the Court House"—Madeira wine at 13 Sicca Rupees per dozen. At Williamson's Auction Room, Old Play House, houses offered for sale—West India sweetmeats, Chariots horses, ships. The Poet's Corner—Nicoll's advertisement of tavern south east of the China Bazar—a house for sale at Ducansore—to let a Garden House situated at Bread and Cheese Bungalow opposite the great tree. Government has given to Mr. John Princep an exclusive patent for coining copper pice." The investments used to be auctioned; among the lists of things occur swords and phaetons. Thefts are advertised in a way not to give offence, thus—as lost or supposed to be taken away in a mistake from the house of Mr. Brightmann in the Moorgy Hattah, a gold cane belonging to Mr. De Conti—borrowed last week by a person or persons unknown out of a private gentleman's house a very elegant pair of candle shades; 40 rupees reward was offered. Scurrilous as the Calcutta press has always been; it was out done by Hickey's *Gazette*. The editor, thought it teemed with all kinds of obscenity, thought like subsequent editors that he could say what he liked; he advocated the liberty, i.e. licentiousness of the press, "the birthright," as he called it "of every Englishman though not of venal Scotchmen. There was great jealousy of Scotchmen. Hickey writes
"Scotchmen rule every thing in India, monopolise every post. In connexion with the newspaper press, subsequently occur the names of Greenlaw, Grant, Sutherland Bryce, Buckingham, Richardson, Horaca Hayman Wilson—they gave many brilliant articles but little Indian news, while the censorship prevented their criticising either Government or Bishop. The pens of Dr. Grant; Meredith Parker and Calder Campbell, the Oriental Pearl was also well done.

The Calcutta press being long under censorship could not express its views, as soon as public opinion enabled it to shake of those restrictions, which were useful perhaps in a country like India, where we cannot expect the natives to respect the English Government when the European press is constantly abusing it, the Calcutta press became, generally, the advocate of class-interests i.e. of a handful of European in opposition to views of an imperial policy, which would include both European and natives; hence the Calcutta press became the mere organ of the mercantile houses of Calcutta. But in 1833 attention was called to the disgraceful silence of the Calcutta press, on the public exposures excited by Palmer and Company's insolvency.

Calcutta is the child of trade, Charnock founded it with mercantile views on the eastern bank of the Hooghly, thought the western was the more healthy; but there was a great number of weavers living at Suttanatee, and there was deep water. Yet it is curious there was a strong party in England opposed to trade with India, who raised clamorous complaints loud and general.

Calcutta has never had any European merchant's like Jagut Set, the Rothschild of them were capitalists—except on money borrowed from native. They were agents, and opposed by the Company, whose London employers preferred sending dear things out from London to finding them in India: last century castor oil used to be sent out from England, reminding one of the directors.
forwarded during the mutiny by the medical authorities in England, apprising the Queen's Surgeons of the recent discovery of the virtues of the best fruit,—such things may be, as we have it on record that a cargo of skates were once sent out to Calcutta from Liverpool for winter recreation.

A brisk trade was springing up with China last century, merchants used to go from Calcutta every season to bring goods from it for the Calcutta market. One John Jones advertises in 1780 for orders as he is going to China. In the Gentlemen's magazine for 1784 the following notice occurs of the Indian trade.

"There is no branch of European commerce, that has made so rapid a progress as that to East Indies. The whole number of ships sent to Asia by all the maritime powers of Europe, at the beginning of the present century, did not amount to fifty sail, of which England sent 14, France 5, Holland 11, the Venetians and Genoese together 9, Spain 3 and all the rest of Europe only 6; neither the Russian or imperialists at that period sent any. In the year 1744 the English increased the number of their ships to 27, the Venetians and Genoese sent only 4, and the rest of Europe about 9. At this period 300 sail of European ships belonging to the several powers are employed in the East India traffic of which England alone sends 68 being the whole of the East India Company's shipping. The French last year employed 9, the Portuguese 18, the Russians and Spaniards make up the remainder. But neither the Venetians nor Genoese now send one single ship to India."

In the present day when the mercantile interest of Calcutta is of such vast consequence, it is interesting to look back at the objects that were once made against it. From a pamphlet published in 1621 we give the following objections to trade with India.

1. It was a happie thing for Christendome (say many men) that the navigation to the East Indies, by way of the
Cape of Good Hope, had never been found out; for in the fleets of shippes, which are sent thither yearly out of England, Portingall, and the low countries, the gold, silver, and c大洋nt of Christendome, and particularly of this Kindome, is exhausted, to buy unnecessarie wares.

2 The timber, plancke, and other materials for making of shipping, is exceedinglie wasted, and made dearer, by the building of so many great shippes, as are yearly sent to trade in the East Indies; and yet the state hath no use of any of them upon occasion. For either they are not here; or else they come home verie weake and unserviceable.

3. The voyages to the East Indies do greatly consume our victuals, and our marriners leaving many poore widdowes and children unrelieved. Besides, that many shippes are yearely sent forth to the East Indies, and few we see as yet returned. Also this trade hath greatly decaied the traffique and shipping, which were wont to bee employed in to the streights. And yet the said Trade of the East Indies, is found very unprofitable to the Adventurers. Neither doth the commonwealth finde any benefit by the cheapenesse of spice and Indico, more than it times past.

It is generally observed, that His Majestie's Mint hath had but little employment ever sithence the East India Trade began; wherefore it is manifest, that the only remedie for this, and so many evils, besides, is to put downe this Trade. For what other remedy can there been for the good of the commonwealth?"

In some thoughts on the present state of our trade to India, by a merchant of London in 1758, it is thus mentioned.

"Tea mean dirty drug, established by luxury, is become a necessary of life. Ridiculed by the Chineses our hardy seamen brave all climates, difficulties, herbs and baked earthenwares. Infatuation!"

Ship Building began to be risk after 1770, teak wood
being chiefly used; we have an account of the launch of a
ship, built by Captain Watson at his dockyard Kidder-
pore. Warren Hastings and his lady were present at the
launch and subsequent entertainment. After this, Indian
ship building was viewed with enormous jealousy in
London by all the dockyard men and shipwrights con-
ected with Leadenhall Street. Even as late as 1813 a writer in
England states—"is it not a matter to be deplored, that the
Company should employ the natives of India in building
their ships, to the actual injury and positive loss of
this nation, from which they received their charter.
Mistaken as the Company have been in this particular,
it is not very difficult to divine what will take place,
if an unrestrained commerce shall be permitted: if British
capital shall be carried to India by British speculators,
we may expect a vast increase of dockyards in that coun-
try, and a proportional increase of detriment to the arti-
fices of Britain". The selfishness of English landowners was
invoked that teak should give place to oak.

Taylor's formerly made a rich harvest by their trade,
at the beginning of this century; but not so great, as one
Martin, who went out a Taylor in the Lord Clive Indiaman
in 1763. He found his trade so profitable that he refused
to exchange it for an Ensign's commission, and in ten years
he gave his friends a dinner served up on silver plate, and
shortly after retired to Europe with a fortune of 2 lacs.

Undertakers drove a more profitable trade, and the
good-will of a rainy season was worth half a lakh of
Rupees to them.

Milliners settled early in Calcutta "to the great dismay
of husbands who are observed to turn pale as ashes on the
bare mention of their wives being sent to enter milliners,
shops for control in not an article of matrimonial rule at
Calcutta". White gentlemen conformed in dress to the
requirements of the climate, the ladies of Calcutta dressed
like the Indies of London, except that their fashions were
some 12 months old. But these were days when "Nawab-
ism was stumbling block of their ambition, and flattery the daily incense of their sex. In 1780, appears in the Calcutta papers the following notice, stating the complaint of the ladies, “that the retailers of China cargoes, more particularly of silks and other articles proper for their wear, would be more consistent with mercantile fairness, to display their good to the ladies and gentlemen of the town in general before they permit. Taylors and other shopkeepers (at hours too early for them) to select all the choice assortments in order to dispose of them hereafter, at an enhanced and exorbitant rate. Ladies and Gentlemen giving as good a price for their purchases as taylors, are rather preferably entitled to the prior choice; and also to observe to them that if this unfair practice be continued they are determined not to give themselves that trouble of attending their sales”.

Gentlemen’s dress is different from last century. Williamson writes of it before 1800. “In many instances, these evening visits are paid in a very airy manner: coats being often dispensed with the gentlemen wearing only an upper and an under waist coat both of white linen and the former having sleeves. Such would appear an extraordinary freedom, were it not established by custom, though it generally happens that gentlemen newly arrived from Europe, specially the officers of His Majesty’s Regiments, wear their coats and prefer undergoing a kind of warm bath of the most distressing description both to themselves and to their neighbours; but in the course of time, they fall in with the local wages, and, though they may enter the room that cumbrous habit, rarely fail to divest themselves of it, so soon as the first ceremonies are over, in favour of an upper waistcoat which a servant has in readiness”.

Lord Valentia in 1804 states that English cloth as being more fashionable was superseding White. It was gradual, white so suitable to the climate was eventually superseded only by Alpaca. There was one singular article of dress,
however, Grand Pre states to be secure from the attacks of mosquitos, it is the custom to wear within doors, of one stays any time, whether for meals or any other purpose, past-board round the legs. The change from white to black became very profitable to the tailors.

Grand Prerrepresents the English as trying the cultivation of the sugar-cane about 1794. "Messrs. Lambert and Ross were the first who engaged in the speculation. I visited their plantation, and had the pleasure of seeing that their fields looked well, and were in good order, and the canes promising, though smaller than those of the Antilles; this disadvantage however is compensated by the quantity of juice they yield, which is owing to the peculiar quantity of the soil in which they are planted. The only thing that dissatisfied me was that misplaced economy seemed to have presided in the establishment of the manufactories. The buildings were good, the coppers extensive and the mill well executed, but it was worked by oxen, which have neither the strength or perseverance of the mules in the West Indies. A water mill certainly would be much more simple and preferable and Ganges is rapid enough to afford a fall of water that would set any wheel in motion. At the period of which I speak, the natives were too little acquainted with business of this kind to be capable of conducting it, and workmen were accordingly brought from China for the purpose."

We find the reward offered for returning a very elegant pair of candle shades, in 1780 was 40 Sicca Rupees. About 1780 the rent of an upper-roomed house, consisting of a hall and two small rooms amounted to 150 Rupees in Calcutta; in fashionable part it was 300 to 400 Rupees. The Bungalows of the day were equally dear. Food stood thus in 1778: "A whole sheep costs about two Rupees; a lamb one Rupee; six good fowls or ducks ditto,—two pounds butter ditto,—twelve pounds of bread ditto—and a pint of veal ditto,—good cheese two months ago sold at the enormous price of three or four Rupees per pound, but