

terror to the disaffected and rebellious.<sup>1</sup> Veerabadra Pillai and the other men were, for the present, to be kept close prisoners at Otapidaram.

Major Bannerman, on the 11th September 1799,<sup>2</sup> submitted a report to Government, embodying the chief events that had occurred, and stating what measures he had adopted for restoring peace and confidence in the disturbed Districts. On the 14th September 1799,<sup>3</sup> he again reported that Sundrapandia Naicker, the Nagalapuram Zemindar's brother, who had been guilty of several acts of murder and rapine at Gopalapuram in the Pallymarah Taluk, had been hanged at Gopalapuram, the scene of his atrocious acts. On the recommendation of Major Bannerman, Mr. Lushington sequestered the estates of the Poligars of Panjalomcourchy, Nagalapuram, Golavarpati, Elairampannai, Kadalgudi and Kulatur.

<sup>1</sup>Kearn's History, page 67.

<sup>2</sup> Do do pages 66 to 68.

<sup>3</sup> Do do page 71.

On the 13th Sept. 1799<sup>1</sup>, Major Bannerman issued a Proclamation notifying the sequestration of the Polliams, and directing the Forts to be razed to the ground; and requiring all arms to be delivered up at fixed stations on pain of death in default. The Collector, Mr. Lushington, coming to Nagalapuram, was much pleased to hear from Major Bannerman of all the valuable and efficient aid rendered by the Poligar of Etaiyapuram, during the recent disturbances, and wrote to the Board of Revenue as under.

“Conformable with the intimation given to you in my letter of the 13th Instant, I left Ramnad that evening and joined Mr. Bannerman’s detachment yesterday; to-morrow I shall receive the charge of the Panjalomcourchy, and Nagalapuram countries, and as the most formidable obstacles to their proper regulation have been removed by the execution of Subramania

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<sup>1</sup> Kearn’s History, page 72.

<sup>2</sup> Do do page 119.

"Pillai, the abandoned adviser of all Cata-  
 "boma Nayakar's enormities, and Sundara-  
 "pandia Naick, brother to the Poligar of  
 "Nagalapuram and the leader of the party  
 "that perpetrated those horrid acts of  
 "desolation, fire, and murder in the vil-  
 "lages of Gopalapuram and Arupucottah,  
 "detailed in my letter to you in the month  
 "of June last, I anticipate the early return of  
 "the alarmed inhabitants and the establish-  
 "ment of peace in these and many of the  
 "surrounding Polliams."

"The Poligar of Nagalapuram is a close  
 "prisoner in the Fort and will be sent to  
 "the Presidency, as soon as a sufficient  
 "guard can be spared from the detach-  
 "ment; the troops appeared before this  
 "place on the 9th, and the Poligar, soon  
 "after Major Bannerman's arrival, came in  
 "and surrendered himself to the Company's  
 "authority. I have much satisfaction in  
 "informing you that the Poligar of Etaiya-  
 "puram has conducted himself with regular  
 "zeal in complying with Major Banner-

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“ man's instructions : he pursued Cataboma “ Nayakar with so much rapidity that it “ was with the utmost difficulty he escaped “ with six persons who like himself were “ mounted on horses to the ancoor bands. “ Thirty-four of his principal dependants, “ among whom was Subramania Pillai, were “ seized and are now imprisoned in this “ Fort.”

“ It will of course be one of my first “ objects in receiving charge of the Panja- “ lomcourchy and Nagalapuram Countries “ to ascertain where the property of the two “ Poligars, of Subramania Pillai and Sund- “ rapandia Naick are secreted, and I shall “ report to you from time to time the pro- “ gress of my endeavours for this purpose.”

“ The troops, that had been sent to assist “ the Etaiyapuram Poligar in the pursuit “ of Cataboma, returned on the defeat “ and dispersion of that chief's forces, to “ Nagalapuram and rejoined the troops “ under Major Bannerman.”

The Poligar of Etaiyapuram, having re-

ported that Cataboma Nayakar and his five companions on being closely pressed had abandoned their horses and entered the dense forests, where it was impossible to follow them, was directed to relinquish the pursuit, and return, which he did reaching Nagalapuram on the evening of the 18th, when he met Major Bannerman and Mr. Lushington. They both commended him for his energy and zeal, and presented him with two valuable shawls and a horse with trappings. Major Bannerman, then addressing the Zemindar, informed him of the purpose of demolishing the Forts of the refractory Poligars and of disarming the people generally and invited his co-operation and support in carrying out the measure, observing that if a man of his position and influence set the example, the other Poligars would readily follow his lead. To all which, the Zemindar agreed. On the 19th Sept. 1799<sup>1</sup>, Major

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<sup>1</sup>Kearn's History, page 76.

Bannerman submitted the following Report to Government.

"I have the honor to inclose for the information of Government a copy of a letter, which I yesterday addressed to Mr. Lushington the Collector, and of a translation of the Proclamation, to which it alludes, and which was yesterday published throughout this country. I should think that justice and the necessity of the measure of sequestering the Polliams of Panjalom-courchy and Nagalapuram will never be called in question. The records of Government are crowded with proofs of the delinquency of the Poligars, and there is scarce a village or hut in the Polliams in the neighbourhood in which scenes of murder and rapine have not been frequently committed by their orders. The information, which I have received from Mr. Lushington of the refractory, turbulent and insolent conduct of the Poligars of Golavarpati, Elairampannai, Kadalgudi and Kulatur; and the frequent instances,

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“ which I myself have witnessed, of the  
“ readiness of three of the number to act  
“ in opposition to the Company’s authority  
“ on every occasion where they were  
“ not restrained, by the presence of the  
“ Military force, but above all their  
“ rebellious combination against the Siva-  
“ ghiri Poligar, determined me to include  
“ their Polliams in the number of those to  
“ be sequestered, not only as a measure of  
“ justice but with a view of making an im-  
“ pression on the minds of the other Poligars,  
“ which, I have much reason to believe, will  
“ operate very materially in obtaining from  
“ them a less reluctant compliance with  
“ such farther measures as I shall have  
“ occasion to adopt, for disarming the whole  
“ of the southern Poligars, and for reducing  
“ these chieftains to the authority of the  
“ Civil Government.

“ I shall have the honor to report to  
“ Government at an early period which  
“ individuals I shall find expedient to send  
“ prisoners to the Presidency in consequence

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" of the sequestration of their Polliams. I  
 " received a visit from the Etaiyapuram  
 " Poligar yesterday forenoon, on his return  
 " from the pursuit of Cataboma Nayakar.  
 " In my interview with the Poligar on this  
 " occasion in which Mr. Lushington was so  
 " obliging as to assist, I took much pains to  
 " assure him how well satisfied I was with  
 " his behaviour on the late occasion which  
 " I should not fail to represent to Govern-  
 " ment as highly meritorious, and used every  
 " argument to encourage him to persevere  
 " in a line of conduct from which he would  
 " be one to derive the happiest consequences  
 " both to himself and his Polliam. I  
 " briefly related to the Poligar the causes  
 " to which the two late severe examples were  
 " to be ascribed and the reluctance with  
 " which I should act, if circumstances  
 " obliged me to make any more such exam-  
 " ples, but I, at the same time, avowed my  
 " firm determination to use the authority  
 " with which I was vested, to the full extent,  
 " in curbing the licentious and refractory

“ spirit of such of the Poligars who had for  
“ a long time past only waited for the  
“ absence of the Company’s troops, as the  
“ signal to act in contempt of their authority  
“ and to carry desolation and death not only  
“ into the Poliarns of their neighbours but  
“ even into the Company’s territories. I  
“ further informed him, that I should have  
“ much pleasure in proposing his conduct to  
“ the other Poligars as highly deserving of  
“ their imitation and that I had much reason  
“ to hope his continuing to pay proper atten-  
“ tion to the Collector as the representative  
“ of the Company would have the happiest  
“ effect in influencing the conduct of the  
“ other Poligars. We then parted, the Poligar  
“ having been previously presented with  
“ two shawls and a horse not only as a token  
“ of my fullest approbation of his past con-  
“ duct, but with a view also of securing his  
“ future attachment; for this man is so much  
“ respected in this part of the country, that,  
“ if I can but secure his concurrence in the  
“ measures which it is intended to adopt

"for destroying the Forts and disarming  
"all the Poligars, I do not apprehend  
"much difficulty in making the other head-  
"men follow his example.

" My letter to Mr. Lushington explains  
"the reasons of my intention to move with  
"the detachment in a westerly direction."

On receipt of this letter, the Government expressed its great satisfaction and approval of the tact and courtesy which had characterised Major Bannerman's dealings with the Poligar of Etaiyapuram which had no doubt tended greatly to facilitate the settlement of the country, and expressed its conviction of the salutary effect it would have on the future conduct of all the other Poligars. The Government in its Proceedings having passed some adverse strictures on Major Bannerman's too great precipitancy in ordering the assault on Panjalomcourchy, without waiting for sufficient European Troops to surround the Fort thus allowing Cataboma Nayakar to effect his escape. That officer in his

letter to Government, dated 22nd Sept.<sup>1</sup> vindicated his conduct and demonstrated how it had been impossible for him to have taken any other course.

The blind young Poligar of Golavarpatti and the decrepit old Poligar of Kulatur were sent to Mr. Lushington at Ramnad to be imprisoned. Satoorappa Pillai, Manager of Nagalapuram, Sundaralinga Nayak, Manager of Golavarpati, Chinna Veetoo Nayakar, son of the Kulatur Poligar, Manager Arumugom Pillay, P. Dharmaperumal Pillai, Manager of Elairampannai, and Mapillai Vannianar of Sivaghiri, were sent in charge of Lieut. Turner to Madras to be thence deported.

Under orders from Major Bannerman, Capt. Davidson, commanding at Tuticorin sent Cumarasawmy Naick, Cataboma Nayak's brother, and 16 other prisoners to Ramnad to be imprisoned there.

On the 28th Sept., <sup>2</sup>Major Bannerman

<sup>1</sup> Kearn's History, page 78.

<sup>2</sup> Do. do. page 83.

wrote to Mr. Lushington to say that on leaving Nagalapuram, he was informed that Chickammal, wife of Cataboma Nayak's uncle, had given a small box containing jewels and other valuables for safe custody to some man at Kosikundu; that he had sent for the box and had had an inventory of its contents made and duly attested by Brigade-Major Knowles, and Mr. George Hughes; and that since these jewels constituted "*Prize money*" he requested that, on being sold, their value be kept separate and distinct. Intimation was shortly after received from Raja Ragunatha Thondaman Bahadur, of the capture of Cataboma Nayakar.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Lushington ordered him to be confined at Madura for the present. On being informed of the capture of the great rebel chief, Major Bannerman, determining on military execution, directed him to be brought to Kayatar, and invited all the Poligars to be present there.

Cataboma Nayakar, and six of his com-

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<sup>1</sup> Kearn's History, page 86.

\* panions in adversity and sharers in his ini-  
quity, were brought down to Kayatar on  
the 5th October. All the Poligars having  
arrived by the 16th Octr., Cataboma Na-  
yakar was brought before Major Bannerman,  
Major R. Turin, Mr. George Hughes (Mala-  
bar Translator) and the assembled Poligars.

On being asked, if he had received the  
letter of the 1st Sept. 1799<sup>1</sup> requiring his  
attendance at Palamcottah, he answered  
in the affirmative. He was then shown his  
reply which he acknowledged as having  
been written and sent by him. He confessed  
to not having obeyed the several summonses  
sent him by Mr. Lushington, and owned to  
not having paid his kists. He was then  
asked if he had not joined the Sivaghiri  
Zemindar's son and Mappillai Vannian,  
and in August and September aided them  
with a force of from 700 to 1000 armed  
men in their revolt against the Zemindar ;  
if he had not failed to obey Major Banner-

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<sup>1</sup> Kearn's History, page 103.

<sup>2</sup> Do do page 102.

man's summons to attend, and if he had not about the same time been present when the troops sent to arrest him were resisted and fired upon. The Poligar neither admitted nor yet denied these several accusations. The charges were then gone into and established by the testimony of unimpeachable witnesses. Cataboma Nayakar was sentenced to death and Oomai Cumarasamy Nayakar and the other prisoners were ordered to be confined in Palamcottah jail.

To carry out the sentence, Cataboma Nayakar was taken to a gallows, erected on an eminence near the old fort at Kayatar and there hanged. On his way to the execution, he evinced no signs of fear, but cast looks of defiance, scorn, and contempt at the Etaiyapuram and Sivaghiri Poligars. He walked up to the gallows with a firm step bitterly lamenting his folly, and exclaiming against his hard fate in not having died defending his Fort instead of being to be thus brought to end life ignominiously on a scaffold.

Major Bannerman having read out the sentence, the unfortunate Cataboma Nayakar was launched into eternity.

The Sivaghiri Poligar's son, who had also been condemned to death, was, at the earnest solicitation of his father and in consideration of his uniform good conduct and allegiance, pardoned by Major Bannerman.

The Poligars, who had been detained at Kayatar, pending the dismantling of the 42 Forts and the registry of all arms, now that those orders had been carried out, were allowed to return to their several Polliams. Major Bannerman remained to see that all the orders of Government were complied with and, so soon as that duty had been performed, made over charge of his command to Major Robert Turin commanding Palamcottah, and left for England on furlough.

For the valuable services rendered by the Tondaman Raja in arresting Cataboma Nayakar, the Government, in high appre-

ciation of his conduct, granted him his whole Territory as a freehold in perpetuity and to mark its sense of the help given by the Etaiyapuram Zemindar in the defeat, pursuit and capture of the rebel chief, the Government made him a grant of the village of Sivagnanapuram. The lands belonging to Panjalomcourchy were confiscated and placed under an Amildar named Lala Sahib.

<sup>1</sup>A conspiracy was, in the meantime, maturing which had for its object the release of Oomai Cumarasawmi Nayakar and his companions from the Palamcottah Jail and the rebuilding of the Fort at Panjalomcourchy which, as already mentioned, had been razed to the ground.

On the 2nd February 1801, a number of the conspirators, some disguised as itinerant jugglers and others carrying bundles of grass and firewood, in which their weapons were concealed, entered the town and practising their juggling and

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<sup>1</sup>Kearn's History, page 120.

other tricks during the day, towards evening proceeded to the Jail and, overpowering the guards, entered and threw the prison doors open. Oomayan and the rest, arming themselves with the muskets of their late guards and passing through the southern gate, made such good use of their heels as to reach Panjalomcourchy 30 miles distant by daybreak on the following morning. They provided themselves with arms on their way by disarming nearly 100 men and an entire company of sepoys under a Native officer at one stage of their hurried flight. While these events were transpiring, Major Macaulay and the whole European community, consisting of some twenty ladies and gentlemen, were innocently dining at the Major's garden house.

With the exception of some four or five hundred men garrisoning Palamcottah, the major portion of the Company's troops were at Sankaranainarkoil. Setting to work with a will, the insurgents had, within 6 days of their arrival as if with magic

wand, called the Panjalomcourchy Fort again into existence. The walls of the new structure were composed of stiff clay well beaten up with cumbu stubble and offered great resistance to the penetrating power of cannon shot. This Fort was a parallelogram  $500 \times 300$  feet with walls 12 feet high. A sufficient and well-armed body of men had likewise been provided for its efficient defence.

On the following day, Major Macaulay, considering what measures were to be adopted, ordered the troops from Sankaranainarkoil to proceed forthwith to Kayatar. All the officers at Palamcottah with a small body of cavalry, consisting of 28 men belonging to the Nabob, set out and joined the troops at Kayatar on the 16th Feby.

The European troops had, on the settlement of the country, been withdrawn from Palamcottah to garrison other places; hence the whole available force then consisted of 900 sepoys armed with muskets. Coming on to Culasekaranellur, 19 miles

from Kayatar, they were then joined by a Detachment of Bengal Artillery with 4 guns 2 six and 2 four Pounders. On the morning of the 8th February, the force reached the village of Culasekaranellur. Just as the men had got under canvas and had set about preparing their food, they observed about a thousand of the enemy occupying the surrounding heights. Dividing into 3 parties, the enemy simultaneously began the attack in three sides of the camp. A party of the enemy, creeping along the bed of a Nallah, were attacked and driven back. After about an hour's struggle, the main body gave way and was soon in full flight. Forty of the Poligar's men and six of the Company's men were killed. All in camp was quiet up to 9 P.M., when the sounds of firing being heard about a mile off Culasekaranellur, the Company's Troops got under arms but, on reaching the spot, found that the Troops then had already repulsed a night attack that had been made by the enemy. The Troops

remained under arms all night and starting at 6 A.M., advanced and occupied some open ground near Panjalamcourchy. Under the impression that they would have an easy victory since the Fort had only recently been razed to the ground, what was their surprise on arriving there to find a new and strong Fort confronting them well manned by a garrison of 5,000 men all ready and eager for the fight! Seeing how well prepared the enemy was to meet them and astonished and confounded at the apparent strength of their position, the officer in charge of the Company's Troops considered that the force with him was altogether inadequate for the capture of the place. Being informed of the enemy's resolve to take the aggressive and attack him that night, he determined on beating a retreat to Palamcottah.<sup>1</sup> At two in the afternoon, the enemy, observing some stir in the camp, took it to indicate an immediate advance and assault and manned their

<sup>1</sup> Kearn's History, page 122.

walls in readiness to receive and repel any attack. Placing their baggage and women and all non-combatants in the centre, the British Troops formed square. These preliminaries to a retreat served but to confirm the enemy in his erroneous impression as to the imminence of an advance. The Company's Troops, turning to the west, took the direct road to Palamcottah. The Poligar's people were still deluded as though this was a mere ruse to induce them to sally out; they hence kept close to their Fort awaiting the attack. At length no enemy appearing, they began to recognize the truth and to be convinced that the Company's forces were in reality in full retreat. They immediately set out in hot pursuit and, coming up, attacked the retreating force. Capt. Visey and his grenadiers with two six pounders, detaching themselves from the main body, made a stand and waiting till the enemy had approached to within a short distance, fired killing 110 men at one discharge. Astonished and awed, the

remainder beat a precipitate retreat, and the troops were no more molested during the whole of their long and tedious march back to Palamcottah. Mr. Lushington, who was then at Nagalapuram, on hearing of all that had happened, wrote to the Etaiyapuram Poligar to make due enquiries and submit a full report on the position of affairs which he accordingly did. On receipt of the Etaiyapuram report, collecting a force, Mr. Lushington proceeded to Panjalamcourchy via Etaiyapuram, writing in advance to the poligar to make all necessary arrangements against his arrival.

Messrs. Lushington and Cassamajor, on reaching Etaiyapuram, conferred with the Zemindar as to what order was to be taken for the capture of Panjalamcourchy, and asked him to assist in the operations against that Fort. The Zemindar promised all the aid in his power and, since he and the Panjalamcourchy Poligar were at deadly feud, desired that he might be

supplied with fire arms and other appliances of war. On reaching Palamcottah, Mr. Lushington directed Major Macaulay to issue the necessary arms which he sent under a strong guard to Koilpati, where the Poligar's men took charge of them. Three hundred additional muskets were subsequently supplied. Lieutenants Laugh-ton, Landen and Warren, with three companies and some guns, were sent for the protection of Etaiyapuram. Leaving a thousand men to guard that place, the Poligar with 2000 men got ready to proceed to Panjalamcourchy. From the 1st to the 27th February, troops for the capture of Panjalamcourchy were concentrating at Kayatar. On the 27th, hearing that Kadalgudi was threatened, the Panjalamcourchy Poligar sent a force of two thousand men to relieve it. This body was met and forced to retire. Of the men belonging to Kadalgudi, 3 were killed and 15 wounded, while, in the absence of any returns, nothing definite can be said about the Panjalam-

courchy losses. While the Company's forces were thus concentrating, the Panjalamcourchy men had not been idle and had looted many of the surrounding villages. All the Company's Troops had reached Kayatar by the 3rd of March. The Panjalamcourchy men had, in the meantime, captured Tuticorin, made Mr. Baggot prisoner and carried him off to Panjalamcourchy. His wife followed him there and at her earnest entreaties, the husband was set at liberty by the Poligar chief. Some adjacent (government) villages were sacked and some thousand muskets fell into their hands. Proceeding to Srivikuntam, they endeavoured to sack the temple there ; but the place made a brave and unexpected stand till it was relieved by the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment under Major Sheppard. The whole of the force, amounting to 3000 men, had arrived at Kayatar by the 27th March and was under command of Major Macaulay, who was also Resident of Travancore. Leaving Kayatar, Major Macau-

lay had barely reached Otrampati six miles from Kayatar when he was attacked by a body of 600 Panjalamcourchy men who had been lying in ambush.

Lieutenant Grant, with a hundred cavalry and two guns, was ordered to charge them. The enemy retired sullenly, keeping up a running fight. The ground was black cotton soil, covered with standing crops and, unsuited and difficult for cavalry at any time, was made more so by some rain which had fallen. Lieut. Grant having killed three of the enemy, was speared and fell, but with the energy of despair succeeded in slaying his opponent. Subadar Sheik Ibrahim, who was with Grant, was killed after having himself killed 4 men. Besides those mentioned, 4 sepoys and 2 horses were killed and 11 men and 12 horses wounded. In this engagement, 96 men were killed on the Panjalamcourchy side and a great number wounded. Finding it hopeless to stand their ground any longer, the enemy

taking advantage of some broken ground and jungle, dispersed and escaped into it.

On the 30th March, the Etaiyapuram Poligar with 2000 men,<sup>1</sup> joined Macaulay at Pasuvanthanai.<sup>2</sup> Starting thence the combined forces reached Athalodei and camped one mile from Panjalamcourchy. They reconnoitered and, getting some guns into position on a tank bund, 900 yards distant, opened fire on the north-western Bastion. Finding little or no impression made at that long range, the guns were advanced to within 400 yards. After a heavy cannonade about three in the afternoon, a breach, deemed practicable, was observed and the storm was ordered. Two howitzers and two six pounders had also been pouring in their fire from a bank to the northward. These, from various causes, however, did little or no damage. The storming party consisted of 2 Companies of the 74th Regiment, all the Native Grenadiers and a battalion Company of the 3rd

<sup>1</sup> Kearn's History, p. 125.

Regiment, the whole line being close in, and disposed to the right and left to keep down the enemy's fire. The Company's Troops began the assault on the western wall. The Etaiyapuram forces, amounting to 2000 men and a contingent of 300 men under Capt. Charles Trotter, made an attack simultaneously on the northern side. The walls were obstinately defended by 5,000 men. Every vacancy by death in the front ranks of the enemy was immediately filled by a living man from behind. Regardless of the heavy fire opened on them from 5 or 6 Bastions and the Curtains, the Company's troops, overcoming all obstacles, crossed the thorn hedge and endeavoured to climb the walls ; but they had no sooner reached the summit, when they dropped down pierced with wounds from both pikes and musketry. A retreat was ordered and a sad scene of horror ensued. The wounded, who were of necessity left behind, were ruthlessly stabbed and hacked to pieces. The casualties were 4 officers and 49 men killed, and

13 officers and 254 men wounded. A flag of truce was sent asking for permission to remove and bury the dead which was granted. On the 2nd April, the Poligars demanded an amnesty declaring their readiness to obey the British Government and pay their kists but, at the same time, protesting against the imprisonment of their Chiefs. They were told in reply that rebels in arms could not be treated with; and that they must deliver up their chiefs and lay down their arms unconditionally before any proposal could be entertained.

Declining the terms, the Poligar prepared to renew the struggle. At 8 P.M. that night when Major Macaulay and the other officers were sitting at dinner, the night being dark, the Poligar's forces suddenly attacked the camp firing briskly and severely wounding Lieut. Lyne of the Cavalry and five men. As the moon rose they were first noticed retiring. Between this and the 22nd, nothing of note occurred.

There were daily skirmishes in which both sides lost a few men. The Pioneers were occupied in strengthening the outposts and in raising a breast-work as a defence against cannon shot which the enemy occasionally sent into camp from some old guns they had drawn out. The 22nd was ushered in by a heavy thunderstorm, accompanied with showers of rain which damped everything and prevented the fire arms from readily going off. Taking advantage of the circumstance, about noon, a party of the enemy suddenly assailed the camp and gained some advantage, but just then the weather clearing, the guns on the Tank bund, distant about 500 or 600 yards, began to play on the enemy, but the rain again setting in, they had soon to cease firing. Assaulted thus by the elements and the enemy, the Company's Troops were placed at a disadvantage and suffered considerably. Making a sudden dash, the enemy secured some fire-arms and, wounding 18 men, captured a field piece which they pro-

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ceeded to laboriously drag away across the wet cotton soil. Reinforcements arriving, Lieuts. Day and Clason with some men dashed forward and, recovering the gun, succeeded in dragging it back in triumph. After about an hour's fighting in which much powder was burnt but little damage done, both sides, as if by common consent, suspended hostilities and retired to their respective stations. About 9 P.M., when all had got under tents they were roused by the sound of heavy firing in front of their position and, looking out in the gloom, could discern the flashes of firearms. Not knowing what it portended, and each man expecting a pike thrust at any moment, the troops stood to their arms and remained for some time in great suspense. Presently a body of shouting and howling men were seen approaching and were about to be fired upon, when it was happily discovered, that they were a party of the Company's Pioneers, lascars and coolies who had been engaged in throwing up a Battery some

400 yards from the Fort, and some sepoy's who had shamefully abandoned their posts and fled in terror and dismay on being attacked by a party of the enemy. These latter were at once placed under arrest. The next day, Major Macaulay, with the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment and four guns, made a reconnoisance and proceeded round the Fort taking care to keep out of the reach of musketry from the walls. The enemy opened fire, but the party being out of range no harm was done. On their return the enemy tried to intercept them; but were deterred by a few discharges from the galloper guns. From this time up to the 19th May was passed in occasional skirmishes with the enemy in which a few men were killed on either side. A new Battery, 20 paces by 15 paces and 16 feet high and mounting two guns, was erected within 600 yards of the western gate. A guard of 60 men was placed there in charge of the battery. On the 21st May, Lieut.-Col. Agnew, Capt. Munro, Major of Bri-

gade and Capt. Marshall, Private Secretary, arrived with reinforcements and immediately determined on an attack.

In reconnoitering that evening, the party was fired upon and 2 sepoys with Col. Agnew were wounded. On the 22nd, the 77th Regiment under Col. Spry, a company of artillery under Capt. Sinclair, three companies of the 1st Battalion of the 7th Regiment under Capt. Godfrey, and 4 companies of the 1st Battalion of the 13th Regiment under Capt. Townsend, with 4 eighteen pounders, and two  $5\frac{1}{2}$  and two  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch Howitzers, joined the camp. In addition to these troops, the 1st Regiment of Light Cavalry under Capt. Doveton and 150 Malay under Capt. Whitby also reached that evening. On the 22nd May, Col. Agnew with Sir John Sinclair and Lieut. Bradley of the Engineers, having again reconnoitered, fixed on the best site for a breaching Battery on the south bank and got 4 eighteen pounders and 2 six pounders and 2 Howitzers into position.

Three men were killed in accomplishing this.

At sunrise on the morning of the 23rd May, 2 Batteries opened fire on the south western Bastion of the Fort and soon demolished the southern face and salient angle of the bastion. Colonel Agnew was for an immediate advance and the storming party was ready, but by Major Macaulay's advice, the assault was put off to noon the following day. On being consulted, the Etaiyapuram Poligar gave it as his opinion, that until the whole side had been demolished, and the exact position of the enemy ascertained, it would be rash to assault and enter the Fort. Col. Agnew was eventually brought round to the same opinion. The bombardment was hence resumed, when the garrison retired to underground excavations as a protection against the rain of shot and shell. On the 24th May, the continuous cannonade, from 6 A.M. to 1 P.M., had well nigh destroyed the major portion of the walls and demolished the Palaces

and other buildings inside. Although the bastions were crowded, to their surprise, not a man was observed moving about inside the Fort. To prevent the enemy's escape on that side, Capt. Doveton, with some cavalry and Lieut. Grant and 4 gallopers, were stationed on the eastern face. The enemy hence had no chance of escaping unobserved. Cols. Agnew and Macaulay were lost in astonishment not knowing how to account for the sudden and mysterious disappearance of the enemy, when the Etaiyapuram Poligar informed them of his having heard about their burrowed hiding places. Mr. Agnew at once directed hand grenades to be thrown into the Fort and the bastions which still gave some trouble to be carried and directed the cavalry to look after any runaways. The storming party consisted of the Grenadiers' Light Company and a battalion company of the 77th, the Grenadiers of the 3rd, 4th, 7th, 13th and 14th Regiments, the Malays, and a detachment

of the 9th. Notwithstanding this formidable array and the strong force in reserve to support it, the Poligars did not in the least shrink, but with renewed vigor bravely stood their ground and so effectually defended the breach, that it was quite half an hour before the first man of the assailants could stand on the summit. Not only did bodies of the enemy keep firing on both flanks, but some got round and attacked the troops within the hedge. After a hand to hand struggle, which lasted 15 minutes, the whole of the enemy at the breach having been killed by hand grenades and heavy shot thrown over among them. At length, the assailants carrying the breach, entered the Fort pursuing the flying enemy. Oomai Cumara-sawmy Nayakar and some 2600 men finding their underground quarters untenable from the suffocating smoke, left their burrows and escaped in two bodies through the eastern gate. They were then surrounded and attacked by the cavalry, and the

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Etaiyapuram Poligar's men who killed 600 of them. The remaining 2000 escaped.

Col. Agnew directed the Etaiyapuram Poligar to pursue and arrest Oomai Cumarasawmy Nayakar and in case of resistance, to cut him down. The Etaiyapuram Poligar, with Cattalomkulam Alagumuthu Servei, and a body of horsemen, and some foot, started in pursuit. Pushing on in advance, the horsemen before long came up with Oomayan's party, when some skirmishing took place in which many of Oomayan's men were killed and Oomayan himself, severely wounded by a pike thrust, fell from his horse. It being night and dark Oomayan was not recognised.

Presently a woman came on the scene searching for her missing son, among the dead and dying on the battle field. Her search was successful: but alas! the son expired almost immediately. He lived, however, long enough to point out Oomayan, who was lying near him, to his mother and commend him to her care. Throwing a

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sheet over him, the woman carried the insensible chief to her hut and, the more effectually to screen him, covered him with a white cloth and told all enquirers that he was some poor man laboring under an attack of small-pox, which scared the too curious. Recovering from his wounds, Oomayan lived in seclusion for some time at Sinna Vadagai, a small hamlet, and being there joined by Parea Marudu and Sinna Marudu Serveis, set about devising new plots for resisting the Company's authority. Hearing that Oomayan, and the Poligar of Kulatur with a large body of men were committing degradations in and about Kamadi, Colonel Agnew directed Major Sheppard and the Poligar of Etai-yapuram to proceed thither with their men. The enemy were pursued up to Seruvayal where they were joined by Marudappa Servei and his men. In an engagement which shortly after ensued close to Pasalai, a small village, Marudappa succeeded in capturing and carrying off a

gun from the Company's Troops, which was, however, recaptured and brought back by Alagumuthu Servei of Cattalomkulam, the Etaiyapuram Poligar's headman. Colonel Agnew was highly pleased at this, and presented the Etaiyapuram Poligar with an English Flag. Their followers having been thoroughly routed and dispersed, Sinna Marudu and Parea Marudu were taken and hanged. Colonel Agnew having likewise captured Oomai Coomarasawmy Nayakar and Sevathiah, they were both brought back and hanged at Panjalamcourchy. The large number of tombstones and mounts near Panjalamcourchy testify to the severity of the fighting that took place there. The Etaiyapuram losses too in this warfare were very heavy amounting to 300 men and the following names occur in the death roll :—

Muthu Pillai, Cuppiah Pillai, Sokar Pethanan, Muthu Cumaru, Mapillai Cumarasawmi Nayakar, Sinnasawmy Nayakar, Cumarasawmy Nayakar, Ramanuthu

Pethanan, Thavasi, Ramanathen and Jagavirettu.

The descendants of these men still enjoy Maniams then granted them as blood bounty in the villages of Mavaliodai, Puthalapuram, Chinnoor, and Mathandanpati. The Government, being much pleased with the Etaiyapuram Poligar's conduct throughout the disturbances, was desirous of extending the limits of his Zemindari by giving him large tracts of confiscated land, but owing to the disturbed state of the country, the Zemindar was at first unwilling to add to his responsibilities, but was finally encouraged and was persuaded to accede to the proposal by Mr. Lushington, the Collector. Six Vanithams, (Divisions) belonging to Panjalomcourchy, were thus acquired. Many valuable presents and marks of distinction were conferred on him on the same occasion. The site of Panjalomcourchy was ordered to be ploughed up and sown with the castor oil plant, so that every trace of its existence may be

blotted out and its very name pass from the memory of man.

In the 12th year of his reign, Muttu Jagavirarama Kumara Ettappa Nayakar Ayan had the ceremony of Athana Yagom performed by Subramania Dikshadar and, in the following April, he was blessed by the birth of a son and heir. In the next year 1797, the Zemindar had the ceremony of Soma Yagom performed by the same Dikshadar at an expenditure of Rs. 10,000. Three years after, he had Soma Yagom performed by Gomathi Dikshadar, a brother of Subramania Dikshadar, at an expenditure of Rs. 5,000. The Zemindar likewise presented the temple of Calugu-malai with its silver vehicles (Peacock, Horse, Goat, &c.) at a cost of Rs. 7,000. He is hence to be commended for his piety, generosity and other good qualities. He ruled 33 years.

#### ABSTRACT.

31 reigns=1011 years, i.e. up to 1814 A. D.

## CHAPTER IV.

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### EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE PANJA- LOMCOURCHY WAR.

Jagavira Rama Vencateswara Ettappa Nayakar Ayan succeeded. During his time a temple in honor of Subramania was erected at Cumarettiapuram and two villages, yielding Rs. 900 annually, were allotted for its up-keep. This Zemindar erected a choultry at Etaiyapuram with a large well of drinking water for the use of Brahmins. In the year 1827, the Right Honorable S. Lushington, Governor of Madras, on coming to Rayaghiri belonging to Sivaghiri, paid Etaiyapuram a visit. At Calugumalai a very fine stone-mantapam was erected at a cost of Rs. 30,000 in honor of Calugachalamurti. The large stone-tank and central mantapam were also now constructed. This Poligar's wife built a chuttram and endowed it with two villages Culathulvaipati and Chathrapati yielding an annual income

of Rs. 650. An agraharam, consisting of 12 houses, was also established by her and hence named Ammal madum. Rs. 20,000 were expended in providing the local Swami Calugachalamurti with a palanquin and jewels. The ceremony of Lukshadwipam was likewise celebrated with great pomp and profuse expenditure. The large tank to the north of Etaiyapuram was faced with stone and a supply channel excavated connecting this tank with another and larger one at Pedhapuram, two miles to the west. In 1833 the ceremony of Ashtabandanum<sup>1</sup> (the ceremonial fixing of an idol) was performed in honor of Salivateswarer and Srikanthimathi of Tinnevelly at a cost of Rs. 50,000. At Vedanattom on the road to Rameiswarem, a choultry costing Rs. 15,000 was erected and at which all brahmins and gosavis are supplied with food. A temple, with a stone-tank attached in honor of Siva, was erected here. At Puthiamputhur a Siva Temple was erected and

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<sup>1</sup> Ashta = eight, bandanum = fixing.

a stone-tank constructed. The temple at Golavarpati was renovated at a cost of Rs. 10,000. At Etaiyapuram itself the fine buildings known as Sundaravilasom, Kaliana Mahl, Subramania Vilasom, &c., were built. The two flags of honor, promised by the Company to the Zemindar's father, were now received. He reigned 23 years.

The late Zemindar left 5 sons, Jagavira Rama Cumara Ettappa Nayakar Ayan, Venkatteswarettu Nayakar, Muttusawmy Pandian, Cumaramuthu Pandian, and Rama-sawmy Pandian. The eldest of these succeeded. He pulled down and rebuilt the palace and replaced the mud fort by one built of brick in chunam. On the north-eastern side of the palace, he erected the edifice known as Shunmugavilasom crowning its summit with a golden sphere. He also constructed roads especially the fine and broad one leading to Naduvirpati and planted the existing avenues. The tanks at Puthupati and Naduvirpati were faced with stone and deepened. The annual fes-

tivals at the Siva and Vishnu Temples were instituted and certain villages, yielding an annual income of Rs. 2,500, set apart for their expenses. He made Subba Dikshadar his domestic priest and was instructed in the panchaksharam (a siva formula comprised in the five letters<sup>1</sup>) and performed Siva-pujah. The priest was rewarded with a grant of lands at Kurumalai and Cumaraghiri and carried in procession in a golden palanquin.

The Temple of Subramania Swami at Calugumalai was endowed in perpetuity with 15 villages yielding Rs. 7,600 annually in addition to the original ayacut maniam. The great mantapam at Calugumalai was at this time erected. The Mulas thanom of Arumuga Nainar was built and the rails of the vestibules gilded and jewels, set with precious stones to the value of Rs. 70,000, presented to that Swami.

This Zemindar composed many Sanskrit

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<sup>1</sup> Na, ma, si, va, ya which together comprise a name of the deity Siva.

hymns in praise of Siva, Vishnu and Subramania which are still admired and sung. The bridge crossing the Chittranadi near Gangaikondan was also built by this Zemindar at a cost of Rs. 6,000. Another bridge spanning the Uppar near Kayatar was erected at a cost of Rs. 10,000. He received the thanks of Government for his public spirit and for his large-hearted benevolence.

For the up-keep and conservancy of the bridge at Gangaikondan, the Government made a grant of 25 cawnies of land, planted with palmyrah to the north of the bridge. A chuttram, with an endowment of 2 villages yielding Rs. 1,500 annually, was also built at Vepalapati. This Zemindar reigned 13 years.

Jagavira Rama Kumara Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan having no son, his brother Jagavira Rama Venkateswera Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan succeeded. He built the mantapam facing the Siva-temple at Etaiyapuram at a cost of Rs. 5,000. He also

erected the Hall of Installation surmounted with 5 golden stubies (spheres) within the palace limits at an expenditure of Rs. 30,000. He likewise erected a Hall of Sacrifice and had the ceremony of Soma Yagom performed by Swamy Dikshadar at a cost of Rs. 7,000. He reigned 6 years.

He leaving no son, his brother Muttusawmy Jagavira Rama Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan succeeded. This Zemindar had the honor of interviewing the Governor of Madras, Lord Napier, at Tinnevelly and Satur, when his Lordship visited the Tinnevelly District. The Chambu Kaviyam, a portion of the Skanda Puranom, was now written by Sawmy Dikshadar and publicly recited in the temple at Calugumalai when the author was publicly honored and rewarded. A silver howdah and a car, costing 8 and 10 thousand Rupees respectively, were constructed for the use of the Calagumalai temple. He left two sons and was succeeded by the first.

The life of the present Poligar of Etaiya-

puram, Jagavira Rama Kumara Ettappa Nayakar Aiyan, has been more eventful and fuller of pleasing incidents than the lives of most of his immediate predecessors. He succeeded to his Estate upwards of twenty years ago. At the very outset, he had the honor of taking a prominent position in giving welcome to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales on the memorable 10th December 1875, the day on which H. R. H. landed at Tuticorin; and on which date the South Indian Railway extension to Tuticorin was opened and used by the Prince for the first time. The Poligar travelled in the same train with the Prince as far as Koilpati, where H. R. H. again received him kindly, and gave him an opportunity of bidding him God-speed. A commemorative medal was granted to the Poligar. All relating to this transaction will be best illustrated by the following passage.

“At last we reached “*terra firma*.” The “preparations were pretty; but there was “really very little time to look about one.

" A temporary pavilion or Pandal had been  
" erected, in which the inevitable address  
" was delivered, and the Zemindars were  
" presented; and when the exchange of  
" courtesies had ended, the Prince walked  
" to the station, where he waited till the  
" exhausted and exhausting Margaret  
" Northcote, had delivered her luckless  
" freight. It is scarcely possible to exag-  
" gerate the quiet charms of the scenery  
" along the new Railway, or the great  
" delight of the people at the combined  
" attractions of the first Train, and of the  
" Prince. The whole population thronged  
" to the road-side. The tall, erect figures,  
" square shoulders, broad chests, narrow  
" flanks, and straight limbs of the men,  
" struck one almost as much as the graceful  
" carriage and elegant forms of the women.  
" It would be difficult to find a finer race in  
" any part of the world. Their attitudes  
" of wonder and joy were singularly grace-  
" ful and attractive. Some expressed their  
" feelings by placing their hands, clasped as

“ if in prayer, before their breasts ; others  
“ held their fingers to their lips, as if to  
“ suppress their cries ; but as the Train  
“ passed, one and all clapped hands, as if  
“ they were of a London audience, applaud-  
“ ing at a Theatre. A more natural, easy,  
“ and well-to-do looking people could not  
“ be found in Christendom. Plains green  
“ with sugar, rice and cotton, spread to the  
“ foot of the wooded Hills of gniess rock,  
“ which, generally conical, were sometimes  
“ worn into fantastic outline of castle-like  
“ crag, and beetling precipice. It is certain-  
“ ly a land, if not flowing with milk and  
“ honey, inhabited by a population of sweet  
“ and kindly disposition, whose virtues are  
“ admitted by the Missionaries, and whose  
“ exceeding tractability has gained for them  
“ the praise of Masters, not always given  
“ to indulge in over-laudation of any native  
“ virtues.

“ The part of India, which the Mission-  
“ aries call Tamil-land, is larger than  
“ Bavaria, Saxony, Wertemburgh, and the

" German Dukedoms together, and contains  
" a population of about sixteen millions of  
" people. The Neilgherries rising to the  
" height of 8,000 feet, the Pulney with  
" peaks 7,000 feet high, and their eastern  
" offshoots, diversify the surface; and the  
" watersheds throw off supplies for the  
" great rivers, which become, however,  
" for part of the year, little more than beds  
" of sand. Coffee is planted on the lower  
" ranges; rice in great quantities is culti-  
" vated in the plains, and sugar cultivation  
" is extending. Indigo and different kinds  
" of grain thrive in parts of the District,  
" if so it may be called, and cotton is not  
" only sufficiently abundant for the wants  
" of the native manufacturers, but gives  
" margin for export. The manufacture of  
" iron, the ore of which, is found in large  
" quantities though not of very great ex-  
" cellence, is still carried on. Here we have  
" the Salt Tax and monopoly in full force,  
" the French at Pondicherry receiving  
" £40,000 a year for prohibiting the

“manufacture within their Settlements;  
 “the revenue of the Tamil District from  
 “this objectionable source amounting to  
 “about two millions of Rupees per annum.

“One of the German Missionaries of the  
 “Evangelical Lutheran Society has ex-  
 “pressed a regret in which I certainly  
 “share, that the sobriety of the people has  
 “been undermined, if not by the English  
 “Government, certainly by its legislation,  
 “for it has introduced the system of selling  
 “the right to make Palm-tree toddy to  
 “the highest bidder, and drunkenness—  
 “once the great disgrace amongst Hindus  
 “and even a capital offence and punished  
 “with severity under the Mahomedans—is  
 “steadily increasing.

“At Maniachi, 18 miles from Tuticorin,  
 “a deputation of about 6,000 native Chris-  
 “tians including a large body of clergy and  
 “catechists, and 1,000 boys and girls receiv-  
 “ing education in Church of England  
 “schools, awaited the arrival of H. R. H.  
 “The Rev. Dr. Caldwell, the able and learn-

"ed Missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the Rev. Dr. Sergeant, a veteran representative of the Church Missionary Society, surrounded by a considerable staff of English clergy, stood on the platform side by side typifying the perfect unanimity with which our two great Church societies are laboring for the evangelisation of India. When H. R. H. alighted from his carriage, the Missionaries were presented to him by Mr. Robinson and Canon Duckworth. Dr. Caldwell read an address of welcome from the Church of Tinnevelly, expressing the devoted loyalty of its members and their deep sense of the special blessings they enjoyed as the Christian subjects of a Christian sovereign. The progress of the Church of England Mission in this region was sketched, and it was shown how the good seed conveyed from Tanjore by Schwartz about the end of the last century and that which was sown broadcast from 1820 onwards by Rhe-

"nius both German Missionaries in the  
"employ of English Societies, had been  
"nurtured by Missionaries since 1840, until  
"the Native Christian community in Tin-  
"nevelly is the most numerous in India.  
"Christian congregations have been formed  
"in about 900 towns, villages, and ham-  
"lets composed exclusively of converts.  
"The total number of Native Christians  
"in the District was stated to be sixty  
"thousand, who are under the charge of  
"54 Native clergy and 590 catechists, and  
"teachers of various grades; and the number  
"of communicants is 10,378. The schools  
"are attended by about 13,000 boys and  
"girls. It is worthy of note that the Chris-  
"tians in Tinnevelly contributed last year  
"Rs. 32,483 for the support of their own  
"church equivalent in the sacrifice it re-  
"presents to eight or ten times the amount  
"in England. At the conclusion of the  
"address, a handsomely bound Bible and  
"Prayer Book, in the Tamil language, and  
"offerings of embroidery and exquisitely

“ fine lace, the handiwork of girls attending the Tinnevelly schools were presented to His Royal Highness.

“ The Prince having replied to the address in gracious and encouraging words “ the children sang a Tamil lyric composed in the Prince’s honor, of which the following is a translation, in chorus to a quaint Native Air :—“ Through the grace of the Blessed Lord of Heaven, oh son of our victorious Queen, may’st thou ever enjoy all prosperity !

“ It is our peculiar happiness to be subject to a sceptre under which the leopard and the deer continually drink at the same stream.

“ Crossing seas and crossing mountains, thou hast visited this southernmost region, and granted to those who live under the shadow of thy Royal Umbrella, a sight of thy benign countenance.

“ May thy Realm on which sun and moon never set, become from generation to generation more and more illustrious !

“ May the Lion Flag of the British  
 “ Nation wave gloriously far and wide, and  
 “ wherever it waves may the Cross Banner  
 “ of our Lord Jesus fly with it harmoniously !

“ God preserve thee and regard thee  
 “ with an eye of grace, and grant thee  
 “ long life and victory, and bless thee for-  
 “ ever more !

“ Obeisance to thee ! obeisance to thee  
 “ oh wise king that art to be ! safely may'st  
 “ thou reach again the capital of thy realm.  
 “ O thou whom all men justly praise !

“ After receiving this vocal homage, H.  
 “ R. H. handed to representatives from  
 “ each of the schools, mango and other  
 “ seedlings to be planted in the school com-  
 “ pounds in memory of his visit and  
 “ doubtless in many a hamlet of Tinne-  
 “ velly the Prince's tree will keep alive,  
 “ for generations, the traditions of the hour  
 “ when the Christians of Southern India,  
 “ long wont to pray like ourselves for  
 “ Albert Edward Prince of Wales, the  
 “ Princess of Wales, and the rest of the

"Royal Family, stood face to face with  
"their future sovereign.

"At 12-20 P.M. the Train stopped at  
"Koilpati, 36 miles from Tutticorin. There  
"was a small camp and a handsome mess-  
"tent fitted up luxuriously near the station.  
"The tents belonged to the minor Zemin-  
"dar of Etaiyapuram who was there with  
"his kinsfolk and tenants, and the usual  
"mighty multitude to greet the Prince.  
"Once more we had occasion to wonder at  
"the swarming masses and to admire the  
"fine forms, pleasant manners and looks,  
"and picturesque appearance of the people.  
"There was a halt of half an hour for  
"luncheon and, before the Prince resumed  
"his journey, he accepted from the Zemin-  
"dar some articles of trifling value as  
"mementoes of his visit."<sup>1</sup>

The Poligar was invited to be present at the Imperial Durbar, held at Delhi on the 1st of January 1877, in celebration of the

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<sup>1</sup> Prince of Wales' Tour in India, &c., &c., by W. H. Russel, pp. 296 to 301.

auspicious occasion on which Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, first assumed the title of "Empress of India."

The Poligar was honored by the grant of a Medal by His Excellency the Governor-General, when an interview with him was accorded. A certificate was also given him.

#### CERTIFICATE.

"By command of His Excellency the  
 "Viceroy and Governor-General this certifi-  
 "cate is presented in the name of Her Most  
 "Gracious Majesty Victoria, Empress of  
 "India, to Jagavira Rama Cumara Ettappa  
 "Nayakar, Zemindar of Etaiyapuram, son  
 "of Muttusawmy Jagavira Rama Ettappa  
 "Nayakar, in recognition of his loyalty and  
 "fidelity to the British Government and  
 "charity to the poor. 1st January 1877.

He was thus enabled to travel throughout India, escorted by a Public Officer of rank, under the orders of the Madras Government. He was one of the few who were invited to attend the assemblage from Southern India.

During the late very serious and widespread famine, which raged in Southern India in 1877-78, he adopted liberal measures of relief, by opening "Feeding-houses" for the famine-stricken, and, by making advances to cultivators, enabled them to recommence husbandry after the famine ceased. The following extract from the Proceedings of the Court of Wards, No. 4472, dated 25th September 1877, will show the Zemindar's action, *in re*, the distribution of relief to the starving poor, and affording substantial help in rendering assistance to the ryots in sinking additional wells, &c.

"The interest displayed by the minor Zemindar in the management of the charities is highly creditable to him.

"2. The Collector will intimate to the minor Zemindar their high appreciation of his conduct on this occasion."

The present Poligar's uncle (father's brother), instituted a suit against him, for the partition of the Etaiyapuram Polliam,

before the Subordinate Court, Tinnevelly. In the decision given in favor of the Poligar, the Judge has fully discussed the origin and duration of the Estate. In summing up the evidence, the judge has passed the following remarks.

“ 11. Here the plaintiff described the “ Etaiyapuram Estate as a simple Zemin-  
 “ dari created at some time prior to 1783,  
 “ (i. e., during the Mahomedan period) and  
 “ denied at the first hearing that it was an  
 “ ancient Polliam. Consequently I cast  
 “ upon 1st defendant the burden of estab-  
 “ lishing that it was a Polliam and not a  
 “ mere Zemindari, which, as already observ-  
 “ ed, does not necessarily imply impar-  
 “ tibility. Whether the estate existed as a  
 “ Polliam prior to the Mahomedan rule or  
 “ not, is thus the next question for consi-  
 “ deration. The plaintiff’s own exhibit A  
 “ (the History of Etaiyapuram published  
 “ by one Swami Dikshadar) shows that the  
 “ family was founded in so far back as in  
 “ A.D. 803; that 36 successions intervened

“ between the original founder and the pre-  
 “ sent 1st defendant ; and that during this  
 “ long period of 1,000 years there was not a  
 “ single instance of a partition having taken  
 “ place of the estate. Throughout this book  
 “ the Polligar is spoken of as a sovereign  
 “ prince. It is true that this book was filed  
 “ by plaintiff for the limited purpose of  
 “ showing that his grandfather was not the  
 “ son of his immediate predecessor ; but this  
 “ will not prevent the Court from reading  
 “ the whole book as one document and avail-  
 “ ing itself of other informations therein  
 “ contained.” \* \* \*

“ 19. For the foregoing reasons I find that  
 “ the Estate of Etaiyapuram was a Princi-  
 “ pality ; that from the nature of its constitu-  
 “ tion, as a sort of sovereignty, it has been  
 “ all along imitable ; and that the Villages  
 “ acquired during the time of Plaintiff's  
 “ grandfather and father form accretions to  
 “ it and are therefore equally imitable.”

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<sup>1</sup>Judgment in O. S. No. 23 of 1884 on the file of the Subordinate Judge, Tinnevelly, paras 11 & 19.

He made to the Local Fund Board a free gift of the road leading to Calagumalai, 8 miles in length, constructed and maintained at his own cost. He has, with the approval of Government, lent from his own resources, a sum of Rs. 35,000 to the District Board, Tinnevelly, for the completion of the Bridge at Srivaikuntam across the Tamrapurni. He has put all the irrigation works in his Estate into thorough repair, by which his tenants are greatly benefited.

Despite these liberal contributions for the general good, he has, by the judicious exercise of economy, and not lending himself to vain expenditure, been able to effect substantial savings, which he has invested partly in Government securities, and partly in the purchase of new Estates.

The present Zemindar has added much to the attractiveness of his capital, by the erection of palatial buildings, at a cost of two lacks of rupees. These are chiefly intended as residences. Embodying as they

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do, in their construction, all modern principles of sanitation and ventilation, they are quite in contrast with the time-honored erection of a bygone and insecure or lawless age, when, *security* had to be attained, at any sacrifice of comfort and elegance.

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