

quarrelsome and as litigious as the Courts will permit them to be, borrow all the money they can, do not get as much out of the land as they might, and spend too much time in attempting to get the better of neighbours. At the same time, it would be an entire error to suppose that the better elements in human nature are not also exhibited and convicts' descendants have shown themselves to be upright, capable, hardworking, honest, and self-respecting. On the whole, considering their parentage, the local born population is of a much higher type than the inexperienced would expect to find them, though there is too great a tendency on the part of the whole population to lean on the Government, the result probably of the excessive "governing" necessary in such a place as a Penal Settlement.

LANGUAGE.

The mother-tongues of the population are as numerous as the divisions and districts of India and Burma from which they are derived, but it is of value to ascertain them, as they are presumably a fair test of origin in the case of the convicts, and for that reason their places of origin are below tested by a comparative table of language with birthplace by provinces. For this purpose the languages of the convicts, as returned at the Census, are assigned to the various provinces and administrations, being necessarily grouped together. Thus:—

Indian Provinces.	Mother-tongues of residents in Port Blair.
Port Blair	Urdu.
Bengal with States and Assam	Bengali, Oriya, Assamese.
Bombay with States and Baroda	Gujarati, Mahrathi, Kachohbi, Kathiyawadi, Khatri, Konkani.
Burma	Arakanese, Burmese, Karen, Shan, Talaing, Siamese, Chinese.
Madras with States, Berar, Hyderabad, Mysore, Laccadives.	Tamil, Telugu, Canarese, Malayalam, Gadaba, Bellara.
Punjab with States, Frontier Provinces, Kashmir.	Panjabi, Dhanni, Dogri, Pabari, Peshawari, Pushto, Persian.
Sindh	Balochi, Brahui, Sindhi.
United Provinces with States and Central India and Central Provinces with States.	Hindi, Khweymi, Naipali, Khas, Gondii, Kharia.
Rajputana, with Ajmer-Merwara	Marwari.
Nicobars	Nicobari.
Straits Settlements	Malay.

On this basis province of origin by language and birth place can be stated thus:—

	Population by Language.	Population by Birthplace.
Bengal and Assam	1,766	2,596
Bombay	1,149	829
Burma	2,154	1,981
Madras	1,429	1,813
Punjab	1,761	2,119

	Population by Language.	Population by Birthplace.
Sindh	221	90
United Provinces and Central Provinces.	4,903	4,270
Rajputana	47	109
Nicobars	2	7
Straits Settlements	10	10
Portuguese Settlements	16	14
Port Blair	2,419	2,030
Others	437	388
TOTAL	16,256	16,256

The Urdu of Port Blair is thus not only exceedingly corrupt from natural causes, but it is filled with technicalities arising out of local conditions and the special requirements of convict life. Even the vernacular of the local born is loaded with them. These technicalities are partly derived from English and are partly specialised applications to new uses of pure or corrupted Urdu words. As opportunity has arisen some of these have been collected and printed from time to time in the *Indian Antiquary*. The most prominent grammatical characteristic of this dialect of Urdu appears in the numerals, which are everywhere Urdu, but are not spoken according to correct Urdu custom. Thus, the convicts and all dealing with them count up to 20 regularly, and then between the tens simply add the units, instead of using special terms, *e.g.*, a convict, whatever his nationality or mother-tongue, will give his numbers, say, 12,536, as *bara hazar panch sau tis chhe*, twelve thousand five hundred thirty-six. He would never say, even if born and bred in Hindustani proper, *bara hazar panch sau chhatis*. The convict must be addressed in the same manner, or he will most probably misapprehend what is said. Specimens of corrupted Urdu used in the Settlement will be found in the Census Report, pp. 362-364.

Many of the existing place names about Port Blair are English, and the corruptions thereof by the convicts and their native guards are interesting, showing that striving after a meaning which is so prolific of verbal corruptions all over the world. *E.g.*—Mount Harriett becomes Mohan Ret; Perseverance Point becomes Parasu Pet and Parson Pet; Shore Point becomes Suwar Pet; Navy Bay becomes Nabbi Beg; Phoenix Bay becomes Pinik Beg; and Barwell Ghat becomes Balu Ghat. Harriett was the name of the wife of Colonel Tytler, a former Superintendent. Perseverance and Phoenix were the names of Royal Ships in Blair's day. Shore Point is named after Sir John Shore (Lord Teignmouth), Governor-General. General Barwell was a former Chief Commissioner. There is also a large village called Anikhet (now often converted into Ranikhet), a conscious pun on the name of a daughter of a

former Chief Commissioner, who was named Annie Kate. A steam launch in the harbour was named *The Belle* after a daughter of another former Chief Commissioner, which has proved an unfortunate name, for the vessel was invariably called by the Natives "*Belli Jahaz*." The station of Elephant Point has been translated into *Hathi Tapu* and *Hathi Ghat*. The stations of Navy Bay, Dundas Point, South Point, and Phoenix Bay are all also frequently indiscriminately called *Chuna Bhatta*, because there is now, or has been at some former time, a lime-kiln at these spots. Convicts never forget a place at which there has been a lime-kiln: they hate the work so. So, also, there is a village called Chauldari (for *shuldari*) in the Southern District after a former convict camp at the spot; but the station of Middle Point, a long way off in the Northern District, is also commonly known to the convicts as Chauldari for the same reason. Sometimes the native names for places are merely corruptions of the English words, without any effort at a meaning; *e.g.*, *Ubten* for Hope Town where Lord Mayo was murdered, and *Hardo* for Haddo. Port Blair itself is always *Pot Biler* and Port Mouat always *Potmot*.

POPULATION.

The population of the Penal Settlement consists of convicts, their guards, the supervising, clerical, and departmental staff, with the families of the latter, and a limited number of ex-convict and trading settlers and their families. Detailed statistics have been maintained since 1874, and are shown as in the following table: but it must be remembered that in intervening years, the numbers of the convicts vary considerably. A point to notice in the figures is that the establishments had up to the Census increased since 1874 by 41 per cent., the free resident population by 257 per cent. and the convicts by 74 per cent., showing that the general increase in the population and convicts and the ever-increasing completeness in watch and ward and penal discipline has not been attended with a corresponding increase in establishments:—

Free Population.

YEAR.	ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT.					FREE RESIDENT POPULATION INCLUDING CHILDREN AND CONDITIONALLY RELEASED.		
	Civil.	Military.	Marine.	Police.	TOTAL.	Male.	Female.	TOTAL.
1874	50	426	19	330	825	466	372	838
1881	45	336	19	736	1,136	941	669	1,610
1891	85	460	39	541	1,125	1,357	1,340	2,697
1901	100	466	70	532	1,168	1,623	1,368	2,991