



SKELETON MAP OF THE

DACCA DIVISION

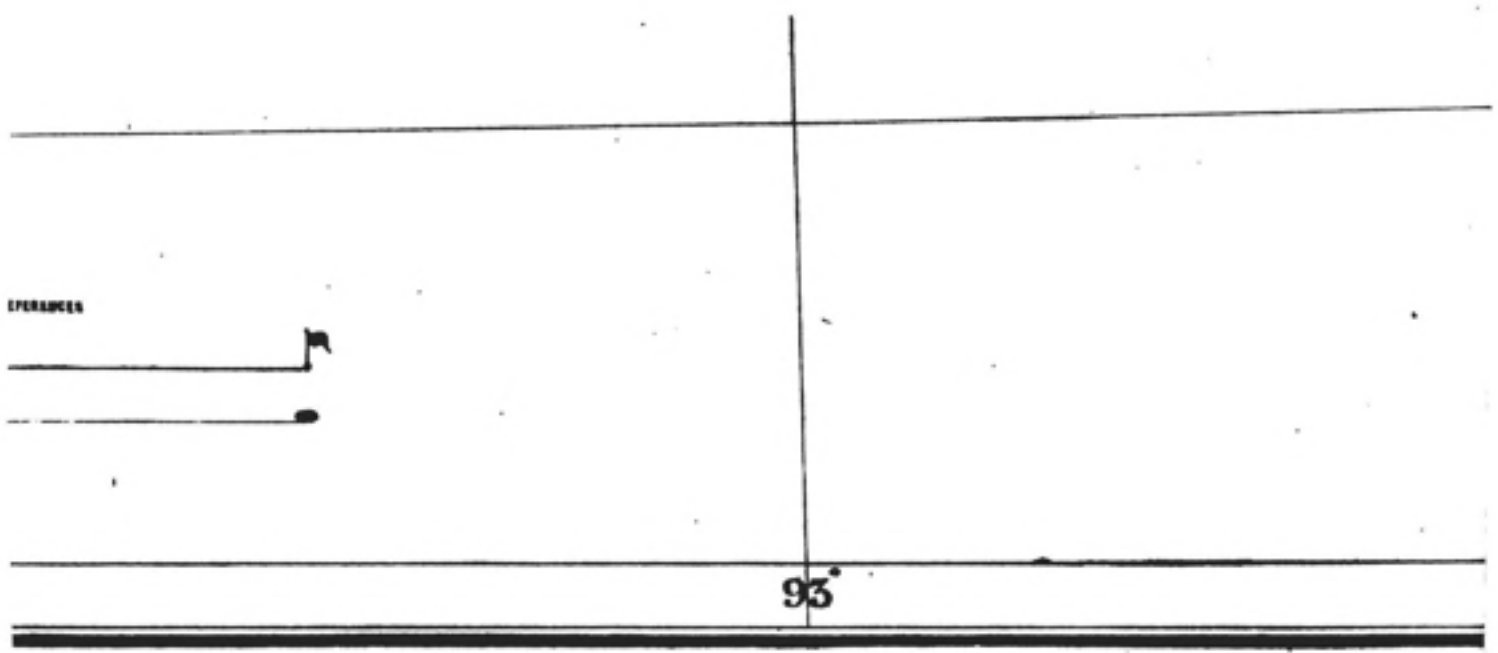
Comprising the Districts of

**BACKURGUNJ FURREEDPOOR DACCA MYMENSING
SYLHET AND CACHAR**

1867



SCALE 8 MILES = 1 INCH



SPRINGS

93°

PRINCIPAL HEADS

OF THE

HISTORY AND STATISTICS

OF THE

DACCA DIVISION.

CALCUTTA :

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CONTENTS.

DACCA DISTRICT.

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Geographical position, boundaries, &c...	1	Education, &c. ...	56
Physical aspect ...	1	Dispensaries, &c. ...	58
Area in square miles ...	2	Political pensions ...	62
Population ...	2	Roads and communications, &c. ...	62
Character of the people, &c. ...	2	Public offices and buildings ...	64
Religion ...	17	Staging bungalows ...	64
Soil ...	17	Rates of labor, &c. ...	64
Climate ...	18	Local weights and measures ...	65
Productions, &c. ...	20	Capture of elephants ...	66
Imports and exports ...	27	Cattle and poultry,—wild animals and birds ...	66
Principal places of commerce ...	27	Timber forest, &c. ...	74
Manufactures ...	29	Jail manufactures ...	75
Principal rivers, bheels, &c. ...	32	Principal places of worship, &c. ...	75
History of the District ...	33	Fairs,—when and where held, &c. ...	76
College of Dacca ...	38	Religious ceremonies, dates, &c. ...	78
Statements, land tenures, &c. ...	47	Sanitary condition of the District.—Ordinary diseases prevalent ...	80
Rates of assessment, &c. ...	50	Burial-grounds, remarkable tombs, &c., &c. ...	82
Land measures ...	51	Banking Institutions, &c. ...	85
Estates on the District Rent-Roll, &c....	52	Zemindari Dawk ...	85
Government estates ...	53	Village Police ...	86
Lakhiraj tenures ...	53	Municipalities ...	87
Mode of collection of Government revenue ...	53	Military Cantonment ...	90
Resumption proceedings ...	54		
Judicial Sub-Divisions, New Police Stations, and out-stations, &c. ...	54		

APPENDICES OF STATEMENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Revenues collected in 1865-66 ...	92	List of each Government Office Establishment ...	100
Local funds, &c. ...	92	List of European residents, &c. ...	118
Rates of taxes ...	92	Crops and prices ...	127
Expenditure on Ferry Fund Roads ...	93	Retrospective and prospective view of the commercial and general condition of the District... 129	129
List of Zemindary Dawk Stations, &c. ...	94		
Places for vending stamped papers ...	97		

DISTRICT OF BACKERGUNGE.

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Geographical position ...	137	Formation of the District ...	146
Physical aspect ...	137	Zillah Backergunge ...	147
Area ...	138	Revenue system ...	150
Population ...	138	Pergunnah Bazar-gomedpur ...	151
Character of the people ...	138	Pergunnah Selimabad ...	152
Religion ...	140	Sayer Mahal under Native rule ...	156
Soil ...	141	Local land measures ...	160
Climate ...	141	Mode of collection of Government revenue ...	161
Productions ...	141	Judicial Sub-Divisions ...	162
Imports and exports ...	142	New Police Stations, &c. ...	162
Principal places of commerce ...	142	Education ...	163
Manufactures ...	144	Charitable Dispensaries ...	165
Pottery ...	144	Political pensions ...	165
Principal rivers, bheels, &c. ...	144	Roads ...	165

DISTRICT OF BACKERGUNGE.—(Continued).

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Public offices and buildings ...	165	Religious ceremonies ...	168
Rates of labor ...	166	Sanitary condition of the District ...	169
Local weights ...	166	Burial-ground ...	169
Cattle and poultry ...	166	Banking Institutions ...	169
Timber forests ...	167	Zemindari Dawk ...	170
Jail manufactures ...	167	Village Police ...	170
Principal places of worship ...	167	Municipalities ...	170
Fairs ...	167	Resumption proceedings ...	172

DISTRICT OF FURREEDPORE.

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Geographical position of the District,—viz., its boundaries, situation, latitude, and longitude...	195	Dispensaries and other Charitable Institutions ...	203
Physical aspect ...	195	Political pensions ...	203
Area in square miles now ascertained ...	195	Roads and communications ...	203
Population and character of people ...	195	Public offices and buildings belonging to, or rented by, Government ...	203
Religion ...	196	Staging bungalows, &c. ...	203
Soil ...	196	Rates of labor ...	204
Climate ...	196	Local weights and measures ...	204
Productions ...	196	Places where elephants are caught ...	204
Imports and exports ...	198	Cattle and poultry ...	204
Principal place of commerce... ..	198	Timber forests ...	204
Manufactures ...	198	Jail manufactures ...	204
Principal rivers, bheels, canals, and any peculiarities connected with them ...	199	Principal places of worship, whether abandoned or still used, and any peculiarities connected with them ...	205
Formation of the District under the British Government, with a sketch of its history under Native dynasties... ..	200	Fairs ...	205
Settlement of the District and landed tenures ...	201	Sanitary condition of each District ...	205
Lakheraj tenures and their supposed assets ...	203	Burial-grounds ...	206
Modes of collection of the Government revenue. The latest dates of payment ...	203	Banking Institutions, &c. ...	206
Judicial Sub-Divisions ...	203	Zemindari Dawks and rates of assessment ...	206
New Police Stations and out-stations ...	203	Village Police ...	206
Education ...	203	Municipalities ...	206
		Military Cantonments ...	206
		Statement showing revenues, collected in 1865-66.	207

DISTRICT OF MYMENSINGH.

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Geographical position and area ...	213	Ferries ...	247
Soil and climate ...	216	Pounds ...	249
Population, religion, and language ...	216	Rates of labor ...	249
Agricultural productions ...	219	Jail and its manufactures ...	250
Commercial marts; exports and imports; fairs ...	221	Domestic and wild animals ...	251
Manufactures ...	222	List of pergunnahs ...	253
Rivers, bheels, and forests ...	223	List of towns and principal villages ...	253
Roads and communications ...	225	Revenue statistics ...	261
Education ...	226	Statistics of excise revenue, 1865-66 ...	262
Local land measures ...	228	Glossary of local words ...	263
Local weights and measures ...	230	List of schools in the District of Mymensingh on the 31st March, 1867 ...	265
Landed tenures ...	233	List of Zemindari Dawk Stations and Establishments, year 1866 ...	268
Rates of assessment ...	235	Names of Dawk Station in the order of postal lines, with distances ...	272
District Revenue Roll ...	237	List of Government Office Establishments ...	272
Excise ...	238	Business Statements ...	275
Judicial Sub-Divisions ...	240	List of European residents and Native zemindars..	278
Money Order Offices ...	241	Price Current for 1866 ...	280
Municipal Institutions ...	241		
Charitable Institutions ...	243		
Municipal and Village Police ...	244		
Zemindari Dawk ...	246		

DISTRICT OF SYLHET.

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Geographical position	281	Resumption proceedings	296
Physical aspect	281	Judicial Sub-Divisions	297
Area	282	Police Stations and Sub-Stations	298
Population	282	Education	298
Character of the people, manners, and customs	283	Dispensary	298
Diet	283	Political pensions	299
Mode of living	283	Roads and communications	299
Chief occupations	283	Public offices and buildings	299
Cost of ordinary living	283	Staging bungalows... ..	299
Dress	283	Rates of labor	299
Religion	285	Local weights and measures	300
Soil	285	Places where elephants are caught, and system	
Climate	285	of capture	300
Productions	286	Cattle and poultry	301
Imports and exports	286	Timber forests and Government Teak Planta-	
Principal places of commerce	287	tion	301
Manufactures	287	Jail manufactures	302
Principal rivers, bheels, canals, &c.	288	Principal places of worship	303
Outline of the history of the District	290	Fairs	303
Settlement of the District and land tenures	292	Religious ceremonies observed in public	303
Rates of assessment	294	Sanitary condition of the District	303
Local land measures	294	Barial-grounds	304
Number of estates in the District Rent Roll, and		Banking Institutions and operations	304
their revenues	295	Zemindari Dawks and rates of assessment	304
Government estates	295	Village Police	305
Lakbiraj tenures, and their supposed assets	296	Municipalities	305
Mode of collection of the Government revenue.		Military Cantonments	305
The latest dates of payment	296		

DISTRICT OF CACHAR.

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Geographical position	327	Education	365
Physical aspect	327	Dispensaries, &c.	366
Area	328	Political pensions	366
Population	328	Roads and communications	366
Character, &c., of the people... ..	329	Public offices and buildings	367
Religion	339	Staging bungalows	368
Soil	339	Rates of labor	368
Climate	339	Local weights and measures... ..	368
Productions, minerals, &c.	340	Places where elephants are captured, &c.	369
Imports and exports	352	Cattle, poultry, wild animals, &c.	371
Principal places of commerce	352	Timber forests, &c... ..	373
Manufactures	352	India-rubber	376
Principal rivers, bheels, canals, &c.	354	Jail manufactures	378
Formation of the District under the British		Principal places of worship, &c.	378
Government, with a sketch of its history under		Fairs, &c.	379
Native dynasties	355	Religious ceremonies	379
Settlement of the District and landed tenures	359	Sanitary condition	380
Rules of assessment	361	Barial-grounds	380
Local land measure... ..	362	Banking Institutions, &c.	380
Number of estates in the District Rent Rolls	363	Zemindari Dawks	380
Government estates	363	Village Police	381
Lakbiraj tenure	363	Municipalities	381
Mode of collections of the Government revenues	363	Military Cantonments	384
Resumption proceedings	364	Conclusion	383
Judicial Sub-Divisions, &c.	364	Municipality of Cachar	412
New Police Stations and out-stations	364	Bye-laws	412

REPORT
ON THE
HISTORY AND STATISTICS
OF THE
DISTRICT OF MYMENSINGH.

SECTION I.—GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND AREA.

The District of Mymensingh lies between the parallels $24^{\circ} 4'$ and $25^{\circ} 41'$ North latitude, and $89^{\circ} 28'$ and $91^{\circ} 13'$ East longitude. In shape, it is an irregular square, two tongues of land running out at the south-east and south-west extremities. It is bounded on the north by the Garrow Hills, on the east by the District of Sylhet, on the south-east by the District of Tipperah, on the south by the District of Dacca, and on the west by the Districts of Pubna, Bograh, and Rungpore.

The greatest extreme length of the District from north to south is 93 miles from Hurribari on the borders of Gowalpara to the Dowlutpoor survey pillar in pergunnah Attia. The shortest distance north to south is 59 miles from Suffoorkote at the foot of the Garrow Hills to Kowraed in Tuppeh Run Bhowal. The width of the District from east to west is about 76 miles from the Soorma river, which forms the boundary between Mymensingh and Sylhet to Scobuncooly on the Jamoona river.

2. The District has only recently assumed its present dimensions. The *Calcutta Gazette* of the 15th February, 1866, contained a notification that the following transfers of thannahs had been sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor :—

Thannah Serajgunge, from the District of Mymensingh to that of Pubna.

Thannah Dewangunge, from the District of Bograh to that of Mymensingh.

Thannah Attia, from the District of Dacca to Mymensingh.

3. The northern boundary was determined at a still later date. Whether any part of the Garrow Hills had been included in the permanent settlement of 1793, made with the Mymensingh zemindars, was a question long involved in much uncertainty, and which, indeed, cannot yet be said to be finally settled. In 1856, when the survey of the rest of the District had been concluded, the Survey Officers attempted to lay down a northern boundary, including some portion of the hills, but the physical difficulties attending the task, and the opposition of the hill tribes, compelled them to abandon the attempt, and the boundary was provisionally laid down along the foot of the hills. The District and Survey Officers wished that the line thus laid down should be maintained as the District boundary. The Raja of Shoohung and some other zemindars objected to this, and claimed a large part of the hills as included in the perpetual settlement. The Board of Revenue, in a letter No. 165, dated

mostly from the western districts. The principal marts for cattle are Teersal, in Pergunnah Alapsing; Bhyrub Bazar, in Tuppeh Kooreekhai; and Gowreepoor, in Pergunnah Mymensingh. A good pair of draught bullocks will frequently fetch fifty or sixty Rupees. In the eastern part of the district, where the grazing grounds are extensive, buffaloes are largely kept both for draught and for milk. Poultry may be obtained in tolerable quantities at most of the large bazars; but I know of no breed deserving special notice. The largest supply of poultry is at Shumboogunge Bazar, in Pergunnah Mymensingh. Ducks are difficult to obtain; pigeons are kept in considerable numbers, but cannot always be bought in the bazars.

148. Elephants are kept by many of the principal zemindars, the finest elephants in the district belonging to Baboo Rajendro Kishore Roy, of Gowreepoor. A few of the wealthier natives keep horses, and country-bred ponies are common in every village, as the pound returns sufficiently testify. Bengali goats are plentiful, but the tall up-country breed of goat is very seldom seen. Sheep are not procurable.

149. The wild animals of Mymensingh are far more worthy of notice than the domestic breeds. The chur lands in the north-west of the district are believed to contain more tigers than any other part of India. These lands, however, are gradually coming under cultivation, and it is possible that in a few more years tigers will be comparatively scarce. Leopards are found in abundance, and the vicinity of man seems to have no deterrent effect upon them, as they are killed from time to time in the immediate neighbourhood of the station itself, and of other towns and large villages. Bears are found here and there, but are not common. Some of the varieties of deer deserve special notice. The sambur (*Rusa Aristotelis*) and the hog-deer (*axis porcinus*), which are common to all India, are abundant in the district, and in addition to these the barasinga (*Bucervus Duvancelii*) is found in the grassy plains at the foot of the Garrow Hills and on the north-western churs. This rare and beautiful deer is only known in Bengal in the three districts of Sylhet, Mymensingh, and Rangpore. There is also the barking-deer (*cervulus vaginalis*), which I believe is not met with south or west of the Ganges and Berhampooter. The rhinoceros has been killed in the north-west of the district, but is very rarely seen. Elephants abound in the Garrow Hills, and occasionally descend and devastate the crops in the villages below. There are a very few wild elephants still remaining in the Mudhoopoor jungle, where also may be found the *Lupus hispidus*, a rare specimen of the hare tribe. Wild buffaloes were formerly very common, but have become scarce of late years, and the wild boar is much less plentiful than formerly.

150. Game birds are found in the greatest abundance in the north of the district, near the Garrow Hills. Peafowl, jungle fowl, khyar, partridge (*ortygornis gularis*), and several varieties of the pheasant are found in great numbers in this locality. The floriken (*sypheotides Bengalensis*) is plentiful on the north-western churs. The black partridge (*francolinus vulgaris*) is found in the Mudhoopoor jungles, but I believe it has never been met with to the east of this limit. The sarus crane (*grus Antigone*), the common crane (*grus cinerea*), and the usual kinds of wild fowl are plentifully found in fitting places in the district. I imagine, on the whole, that the district of Mymensingh would present as attractive a field to the naturalist as any part of Bengal, and perhaps of India.

Appendix A.

LIST OF PERGUNNAHS.

1. Alapsingh.	17. Kooreekhai (tuppeh.)
2. Attia.	18. Lutteefpoor.
3. Bowkhund (turruf.)	19. Mokimabad.
4. Bullorampoor (tuppeh.)	20. Mymensingh.
5. Burbazoo.	21. Nicklee (tuppeh.)
6. Burrikander.	22. Noyabad.
7. Durzeebazoo.	23. Nusseroojial.
8. Hazradee (tuppeh.)	24. Pookhurea.
9. Hooshunshaye.	25. Roydoom.
10. Hossenpoor (Joar.)	26. Runbhowal (tuppeh.)
11. Idgha.	27. Satsikka (tuppeh.)
12. Jaffershaye.	28. Shagurdee.
13. Joanshaye.	29. Sherepore.
14. Kagmaree.	30. Shooshung.
15. Kashipoor.	31. Singdha (tuppeh.)
16. Khulliajooree.	32. Toolunder (tuppeh.)

N. B.—Pergunnahs Burrikandee, Kashipoor, and Noyabad belong locally to the Districts of Dacca and Tipperah, but the revenue is paid into the Mymensingh Treasury, and they are generally reckoned among the Pergunnahs of the District.

Pergunnah Mokimabad is almost entirely situated in the Dacca District; six villages belonging to it are found in Zillah Mymensing, of which five are locally situated within Pergunnah Jaffershaye, and one within Pergunnah Mymensingh.

The largest Pergunnah in the District is Sherepore, which contains an area of 789½ square miles.

Appendix B.

LIST OF TOWNS AND PRINCIPAL VILLAGES.

I.—PERGUNNAH ALAPSINGH.

1. *Nussirabad*.—The town of Nussirabad, sometimes called Sewra, the principal town in the district, lies in latitude 24° 44' north, longitude 90° 23' east. It is distant 94 miles from Dacca, and 281 from Calcutta. It is situated on the right bank of the Berhampooter river. The town, exclusive of the suburbs, covers an area of 871½ beegahs, or 288 acres; it contains 34 pukka and 941 cutcha houses, including public offices. The population amounts to 5,882, of which somewhat less than two-thirds are Mahomedans. With the exception of one Hindu temple, there are no buildings of any antiquity or interest. The town is of no great commercial importance, the river not being navigable for large boats except in the rainy season; but the bazar is tolerably well supplied with both local and imported commodities. A large part of the town is the property of Baboo Soorjya Kant Acharjia, Zemindar of 4 annas share of Pergunnah Alapsingh. There is a ferry over the Berhampooter,

opposite to the town. The town possesses good English and Vernacular Schools, a Charitable Dispensary assisted by Government, a Municipal Committee appointed under Act XXVI of 1850, and a body of Municipal Police.

2. *Mooktagacha*.—Eleven miles west of Nussirabad, with which it is connected by a good road. There is no water-carriage in the town, and drinking water is supplied from tanks. The town contains 36 pukka and 278 cutcha houses; the population is about 1,200, of whom the great majority are Hindus. Three hauts are held here: one daily, one weekly on Thursdays, and one on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The town is noted as being the residence of most of the Hindu Zemindars of the Pergunnah; the best house is that of Baboo Soorjya Kant Acharjia.

3. *Daponcea*.—On the river Satooa, about five miles south-west of Nussirabad. The Satooa is only navigable in the rainy season, being almost dry during the hot months. The population of the town is 1,684. It is an important mart for grain, of which large quantities are kept stored in the golahs. A haut is held on Sundays and Thursdays.

4. *Boyra Bhalooka*.—On the river Berhampooter, five miles south-east of Nussirabad. The population is 1,192; and a haut is held on Mondays and Fridays. It is on the main road to Dacca.

5. *Bhabkhalee*.—On the Berhampooter, about seven miles south-east of Nussirabad, on the main road to Dacca; the population is 872. There is an indigo factory in the village, and a haut is held on Sundays and Thursdays.

6. *Kathal*.—Nine miles south-east of Nussirabad. The population is 1,625; and a haut is held twice a week, known as Kalee Bazar.

7. *Kanceharee*.—Three miles south-east of Kathal. Population 1,535.

8. *Rampoor*.—Fourteen miles south of Nussirabad. Population 2,173.

9. *Baleepara*.—Sixteen miles south-east of Nussirabad. Population 1,779. A haut is held here on Sundays and Thursdays.

10. *Dhulla*.—One and a half miles south of Baleepara. Population 1,090. A haut, known as Khuraced Haut, is held twice a week, and there is a tolerably large daily bazar.

11. *Bayhur*.—On the river Satooa, nine miles south of Nussirabad. Population 3,206.

12. *Teersal*.—Eleven miles south of Nussirabad. Population 1,345. A cattle market of some importance is held in this village.

13. *Bargaon*.—On the borders of Runbhowal, nineteen miles south of Nussirabad. Population 2,107.

14. *Olkurree*.—Fourteen miles south south-west of Nussirabad. Population 2,053.

15. *Aseem Patoolee*.—Sixteen miles south-west of Nussirabad. Population 1,750. A haut is held twice a week.

16. *Gobindgunge*.—Five miles north-west of Nussirabad. This village is situated on the river Sotooa, just at the point of its junction with the Berhampooter. A haut is held here twice a week, and there are large golahs for storing grain. A fair is held in this village twice a year, in March and October. The village and indigo factory of Bygunbaree are close by.

II.—PERGUNNAH ATTIA.

17. *Attia*, the principal village of the pergunnah, is a place otherwise of no great importance, but deserves notice as being the site of a Police Thannah and of the Moonsiff's Cutcherry. Orders have lately been issued for the establishment of a new sub-division here.

III.—PERGUNNAH BOWKHUND.

18. *Amtolla*.—Twenty-two miles north-east of Nussirabad. Population 1,922, principally Hindus. The village is the residence of a large number of wealthy cloth merchants. A haut is held twice a week. The village contains a large Hindu temple and a Zemindar's Cutcherry.

IV.—PERGUNNAH BURBAZOO.

19. *Kuddeem Hamjancee*.—On a branch of the river Jumoona, 14 miles south of Soobuncolly. A haut, known as Patul Haut, is held on Mondays. There is a large mosque in the village, and a ferry over the Jumoona.

V.—TUPPEH HAZRADEE.

20. *Maekhapun*.—Population 1,137. A large haut is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

21. *Kurreemgunge*.—Nine miles east of Kishoregunge, and about twenty-two miles from the Berhampooter river. This village is the principal bazar for the people of the low country lying to the east of the sub-division. The population is 1,646. There is a large daily bazar, and a haut is held weekly on Thursdays. The bazar is the property of the Sheikhs of Baulai.

22. *Kadeerjungle* alias *Dewangunge*.—Two miles west of Kurreemgunge. Population 895. A haut on Sundays and Wednesdays.

23. *Khidderpoor*.—On the Berhampooter river, near the southern boundary of the district. Population 900. A haut, known as Rampoor Haut, is held on Mondays and Thursdays.

24. *Abdoollahpoor*.—On the Berhampooter river. Population 4,085, almost entirely Mahomedans.

25. *Dighirpar*.—On the Ghoraootra river. Population 1,505.

26. *Chandpoor*.—On a small stream called the Punkooreca river, 13 miles east of the Berhampooter. The population is 1,315. The village is well known as the residence of many native merchants and dealers.

27. *Kootubpoor*.—On a small stream called the Singooa river, 12 miles east of the Berhampooter. Population 1,005. A haut is held twice a week.

28. *Bongram*.—This village contains three pukka houses, and is the residence of many wealthy Hindu merchants. The population is 1,505. There are several Hindu temples in the village, and a haut, called Chowdhry Haut, is held twice a week.

29. *Moomeerdeea*.—Population 1,000. A haut, called Lukheegunge Haut, is held twice a week. The village is the residence of several rich natives, and contains three Hindu temples.

30. *Kuteesdee*.—On the Berhampooter river. Population 400. As a commercial mart, this place has lost its former great importance, owing to the drying up of the channel of the river on which it stands. It is still, however, a much frequented bazar. A haut is held on Sundays and Thursdays.

31. *Dampara*.—On a branch of the Dhunoo river. Population 1,235. A large haut is held twice a week.

32. *Agarosindoor*.—On the Berhampooter river, close to the southern border of the district. The Nicklee Thannah is located in this village. The population is 382. A haut is held on Thursdays and Fridays.

33. *Kaliachapra*.—An inland mart of some importance, eight miles east of the Berhampooter river. A haut is held on Tuesdays and Fridays, at which there is an abundant supply of grain and other country produce.

34. *Sekundernugger*.—Population 1,110. A haut is held on Mondays and Fridays.

VI.—JOAR HOSSEINPOOR.

35. *Naraendee*.—On the Singooa river. Population 1,200.

36. *Kishoregunge*.—The head-quarters of the sub-division, 13 miles east of the Berhampooter, with which it is connected by an earthen road. The khall which leads from the river to the village is navigable only in the rains. There is a Police Thannah here, and a haut is held on Sundays and Thursdays, besides which there is a large daily bazar. The population is 1,200.

37. *Durreenugger*.—Population 500. On the Berhampooter river. The village contains a well-known Indigo Factory, the property of Mr. Wise, of Dacca.

38. *Hosseinpoor*.—On the Berhampooter river. A small village, the population being only 180, but the village site is entirely occupied by shops, and the place is a large mart for all articles of country produce. A haut is held on Sundays and Thursdays.

39. *Hybutnuggur*.—Two miles west of Kishoregunge. The village is an inconsiderable one, but a large and well-supplied haut is held in it on Sundays and Thursdays. The village is the residence of Dewan Ilabee Newaj Khan, the most influential Zemindar in this part of the district.

VII.—PERGUNNAH HOOSHUNSHAYE.

40. *Achargaon*.—Eleven miles east of the Berhampooter. Population 1,237.
41. *Jehangeerpoor*.—On a small stream called the Koondulee river. Population 2,047. A haut is held on Sundays and Fridays.

VIII.—PERGUNNAH JAFFERSHAYE.

42. *Jumalpoor*.—The head-quarters of the Jumalpoor sub-division. The town lies in lat. $24^{\circ} 58'$ north, long. $90^{\circ} 3'$ east, on the right bank of the Berhampooter river. It is distant thirty-two miles from Nussirabad, with which it is connected by a good road. It contains a Moonsiff's Cutcherry, a Police Station, and a good School, besides the usual Sub-divisional buildings. There is a ferry over the Berhampooter. The population is 2,458. The place was formerly a military station, and the cantonments cover an area of 262 acres. The last Regiment stationed here was a wing of the 6th N. I., which mutinied at Allahabad on the 5th June, 1857. There is a large daily bazar in the town, and a haut is held on Sundays and Wednesdays.

43. *Chundra*.—On the Jheenai river, two miles north-west of Jumalpoor. The village contains a well-known Indigo Factory, the property of Mr. Brodie; and a haut of some importance is held on Sundays and Thursdays for the sale of country produce. There is a ferry here over the Jheenai, which, however, is only used in the rainy season.

IX.—PERGUNNAH JOANSHAYE.

44. *Bajidpoor*.—Population 600. A village of some note, as containing a Police Station and a distillery. The latter has very recently been removed to Kishoregunge. The village possesses a force of Municipal Police under Act XX of 1856.

45. *Teeloneea*.—Population 235. The Bajidpoor Moonsiff's Cutcherry is situated in this village, and the Bajidpoor haut is held in it on Mondays and Fridays.

X.—PERGUNNAH KAGMAREE.

46. *Pulseea*.—On a branch of the river Jumoona, ten miles south of Soobuncolly. A tolerably large haut is held here on Tuesdays.

47. *Koogdara*.—Ten miles east of the river Jumoona. There is a large haut held here twice a week, and a well-supplied daily bazar. Some small native banking establishments exist in the village.

XI.—PERGUNNAH KHULLIAJOOREE.

48. *Khulliajooree*.—This is the only village of any note in the pergunnah. It is situated on the river Dhunoo, which is navigable throughout the year. The Zemindars' Cutcheries are located in this village. The population is 500.

XII.—TUPPEH KOOREEKHAE.

49. *Ghooroe*.—On the Ghornootra river. Population 2,495. This village is the residence of many rich native merchants, chiefly dealers in cloth and Dacca muslins. It is also a large mart for dried fish.

50. *Oolookandee*, alias *Bkyrub Bazar*.—The most important commercial mart in the district. It is situated on the Berhampooter river, just at the tri-boundary junction point of the Districts of Daeca, Tipperah, and Mymensingh. A large trade is carried on between this place and Naraingunge. The population is 1,500. The village contains a Zemindar's Cutcherry, and a masonry survey pillar has been erected in it. The village is situated within the zemindary of Bhoobun Moiee Chowdhraim, of Mooktagacha. It contains a good school, and a well-supplied cattle market is held in it.

XIII.—PERGUNNAH MYMENSINGH.

51. *Satpye*, alias *Kaleegunge*.—On the Soar river. Population 675. The village is of some note, as containing the Netrokona Police Thannah and the Moonsiff's Cutcherry. There is a good bazar, and a haut is held twice a week. Orders have lately been issued for the establishment of a new Netrokona sub-division, with head-quarters in this village.

52. *Muddunpoor*.—Twenty-two miles east of Nussirabad. Population 973. A haut is held here on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The village contains two large mosques, one of which is known by the name of Shah Roomeer Musjid. The story is that a member of the royal family of Constantinople wandered to this village in a state of madness, and eventually recovered his health, and subjugated and converted to Mahomedanism the neighbouring tract of country. A pukka tomb to his memory exists on the west side of the village.

53. *Skumbhoogunge*.—Three miles east of Nussirabad; one of the largest marts in the district. The haut is held on Sundays and Thursdays, and all kinds of country produce, and many imported articles, are procurable. The population is 2,257. The Cutcherry of the Moonsiff of Madargunge is located in the village.

54. *Gowreepoor*.—Eleven miles east of Nussirabad. A village of some note, though the population does not exceed 150. Three hauts are held in this village: Gowreepoor Haut on Tuesdays and Saturdays, Lukheegunge Haut on Mondays and Fridays, and Thakoorbaree Haut on Sundays and Thursdays. These are marts for all kinds of country produce, cattle, and brass and copper utensils. The village contains a fine pukka house, the residence of the Hindu Zemindar, Baboo Rajendrokishore Roy.

55. *Ramgopalpoor*.—Two miles to the south of Gowreepoor, and about eleven miles from Nussirabad. A haut is held on Mondays and Fridays. The village is the residence of Baboo Kashikishore Roy, an Honorary Magistrate, and one of the great Zemindars of the neighbourhood.

56. *Shakooa*.—On a branch of the Berhampooter river. The population is 1,696, almost entirely Mahomedans. Two hauts are held in the village, each twice a week.

57. *Chur Nillakhees*.—On the Berhampooter river. Population 1,282. A haut, known as Gopaulgunge Haut, is held on Mondays and Fridays.

XIV.—TUPPER NIKLEE.

58. *Niklee*.—On the Nosoonda river. Population 1,100, who are almost entirely Hindus. A haut is held twice a week.

XV.—PERGUNNAH NUSSEROOJIAL.

59. *Goojadia*.—On the river Nursoonda, on the southern border of the pergunnah. The population is 2,345. A haut is held on Sundays and Thursdays, and there is a Hindu Akhra in the village.

60. *Kandeeoora*.—A small village with a population of only 190, but noticeable as being the site of Thannah Futtchpoor, *alias* Kendoora, and also of a Government Sudder Distillery.

61. *Nowapara*.—On the Patkoora river. Population 1,350, who are almost all Hindus. A large haut is held twice a week.

62. *Futheeka*.—On the Mogra river. A petty village of only 150 inhabitants, but the well-known Muddun Haut is held in it twice a week for all kinds of country produce, and especially for grain. It is the most frequented mart in this part of the district. The Mogra river is a stream of no great width, but navigable all the year for large boats.

63. *Muzufferpoor*.—Population 1,695. A large haut is held twice a week.

64. *Buraeeoora*.—On the Dhunnoo river. Population 450. This village is the principal seat of the manufacture of the so-called Dacca cheese. There are extensive grazing grounds in the neighbourhood where large numbers of buffaloes are pastured.

XVI.—PERGUNNAH POOKHUREA.

65. *Soobuncolly*.—Forty-four miles west of Nussirabad, with which it is connected by a tolerably good road. The village is on the Jumoonna river, over which there is a ferry. It is one of the large marts of the district, and a considerable export and import trade is carried on. A large haut is held on Mondays and Thursdays. The village contains an Indigo Factory, the property of Mr. W. Baldwin.

66. *Mudhoopoor*.—A well-known village on the western border of the Mudhoopoor jungle. It contains two Hindu temples and several pukka houses. A haut is held on Tuesdays and Fridays. The Mudhoopoor Police Station is in this village.

XVII.—TUPPER RUNBHOWAL.

67. *Rowha*.—On the river Berhampooter, twenty-one miles south of Nussirabad. Population 957. A haut is held here twice a week. The village is on the main road to Dacca.

68. *Lamkaen*.—On the Berhampooter river. Population 1,409. A large haut is held twice a week for the sale of country produce and cattle.

69. *Biroe*, *alias* *Dutt's Bazar*.—On the Berhampooter river. This is one of the principal marts of the district, and a considerable trade is carried on with Naraingunge. The population is 940. A haut, known as Sanooa Haut, is held twice a week.

70. *Burmee*.—On the river Banar, close to the borders of the Dacca District. There is an Indigo Factory in the village, and charcoal is largely manufactured.

XVIII.—PERGUNNAH SHEREPOOR.

71. *Ghagra*.—Seven miles north of Sherepoor. Population 625. A haut is held here twice a week, and there are two mosques in the village.

72. *Chur Gurhjurepa*.—A small village with a population of only 300, but noticeable as containing the remains of an old mud fort. The ruins of the walls are still twelve or fourteen feet in height. The fort is traditionally said to have been built by one of the independent Mahomedan Kings of Bengal.

73. *Madarpoor*.—Six miles north-west of Sherepoor. Population 425. This is a village of some importance in the neighbourhood, and is the only place at which carts are procurable. A large haut is held twice a week, and there is a well-supplied daily bazar. The village contains a large sheet of water, known as Beysha beel, which abounds in wild fowl.

74. *Sherepoor*.—Nine miles north of Jumalpoor. The town consists of the villages of Narainpoor and Barruckpara. It lies between the rivers Shirree and Mirghee, about half a mile from the former, and one mile from the latter. There is no water carriage to the town itself, and the inhabitants are supplied with drinking water from tanks. The town contains a fine Hindu temple and thirty-seven pukka houses, but the buildings are, in general, in bad repairs, and the place has a decayed and neglected aspect. A body of Municipal Police, raised under Act XX of 1856, are employed in the town. The population is 2,550. A road, at present somewhat out of repair, connects Sherepoor with Jumalpoor, the river being crossed by a ferry. The town contains a Police Station, a Post Office, a Moonsiff's Cutcherry, and a good School. There is a daily bazar, and hauts are held four times a week.

75. *Naleetabaree*.—Thirteen miles north-east of Sherepoor; one of the largest marts in the northern part of the District. The haut is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays. A good supply of cotton, produced in the Garrow Hills, is brought to market here, as well as all kinds of country produce.

XIX.—PERGUNNAH SHOOSHUNG.

76. *Naraindur*.—Eighteen miles north-east of Nussirabad. The population is 285. The village contains some old pukka buildings, and is noted as being the residence of the Muzoomdar Zemindars, who are influential proprietors in the pergunnah. A large haut is held twice a week.

77. *Poorubdehola*.—A large village with several pukka buildings and tanks. The population is 250, and a haut is held twice a week. The village contains an extensive sheet of water, called Raj-deholabeel, which is beautifully clean and limpid.

78. *Doorgapoor*.—On the Soomessury river; the principal town of the pergunnah, and the site of the Shooshung Rajah's palace. The population is about 1,000. A haut is held twice a week. The Rajbaree is an extensive, but now dilapidated building.

79. *Amtoel*.—This village belongs to Pergunnah Shooshung, though it is locally situated within Pergunnah Sherepoor. A large haut is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

REPORT
ON THE
HISTORY AND STATISTICS
OF THE
DISTRICT OF SYLHET.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

1. The District of Sylhet, including the plains of Jynteah, is bounded on the north by the Khasya and Jynteah Hills; on the east by the Jynteah Hills for a short distance, and then by Cachar down to Chatterchura Hill, which is the extreme south-eastern point of the district; on the south by the country inhabited by the Looshais and other independent Hill tribes, Hill Tipperah, and the District of Tipperah; and on the west by Mymensingh. It extends from East longitude $90^{\circ} 58'$ to $92^{\circ} 38'$, and from North latitude $23^{\circ} 59'$ to $25^{\circ} 14'$. The situation of the station of Sylhet being longitude $91^{\circ} 54'$; latitude $24^{\circ} 53'$; distant from Calcutta about 260 miles, and from Dacca 120 miles North-East in a direct line.

PHYSICAL ASPECT.

2. The greater part of Sylhet is a large alluvial plain, but clusters of sandy hillocks (locally called "tilas") exist here and there. This plain is intersected by a large number of rivers, water-courses, and drainage channels. The margins of these, especially in the case of the larger streams, are more elevated than the parts further inland, and many villages are situated on the banks of the rivers. Inland some portion of the country is subject to a long annual inundation; and this portion is usually covered with reeds and grass jungle. Another portion is only subject to slight or occasional inundation, and in this villages are built on the higher land, while the rest is under rice cultivation, and is very fertile.

The village sites, and all the higher lands, are covered with clumps of bamboos and palms (almost entirely areca), together with a considerable variety of trees. The hillocks mentioned above are generally covered with grass, low trees, and shrubs, the two latter are useless, excepting for fuel.

During three months or more in the year, the whole of the District, with the exception of the hillocks and the villages, some of which are artificially raised, is usually under water, and when seen from the hills, present the appearance of an inland sea. In the south of the District, however, eight ranges of hills run into the plains of Sylhet, being spurs running out from the higher ranges in Hill Tipperah. The names of these ranges proceeding from West to East are given in the margin.

1. Raghunandem or Lokhipotti.
2. Dinárpur or Sathgaon.
3. Balishira.
4. Bhanugach or Bájikandi.
5. Haraga) or Sungla.
6. Patharia.
7. Dulhalia or Pratabghur.
8. Sorriapur or Sideshar.

Note.—These ranges run uniformly North and South parallel to the meridian.

There is also a detached range, the Ita (or Etah) Hills, almost in the centre of the District.

REPORT
ON THE
HISTORY AND STATISTICS
OF THE
DISTRICT OF CACHAR.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

1. The District of Cachar is situated east of District Sylhet, and on the extreme Eastern Frontier of Bengal. It lies between the parallels of 24° and $25^{\circ} 80'$ North Latitude, and the Meridians of $92^{\circ} 30'$ and $93^{\circ} 15'$ East Longitude.

Boundaries.—North, Naga Hills of Assam. South, Looshai Hill country. East, Muni-
poor. West, Sylhet and Jynteah.

It is said to be bounded on the north by the watershed between the Berhampooter and Barrock Rivers; but the position of this boundary has not yet been ascertained to define the limits between Cachar and the newly-formed District of the Naga Hills of Assam.

On the south the limit of the District is undefined, but on Lieutenant Fisher's map of 1822, it is shown by a line drawn due east from Chatterchoora Hill* to the mouth of the Tepai River, where it joins the Barrock River.

On the east the Jheeris, Barrock, and Tepai Rivers form a natural boundary common to Muni-
poor.

On the west the Soorisporo or Siddashur Hills, and the Barrock River, form the boundary common to Sylhet, and on the north-west the boundary is defined by masonry pillars erected for the definition of the boundary line between Cachar and Jynteah, settled under orders of the Government of Bengal.

PHYSICAL ASPECT.

2. The aspect of Cachar is singularly diversified and beautiful. The Burrail Hills, which connect the north Muni-
poorie range on the east, with the Cossiah Hills on the west, form a wall varying in height from 2,500 to 6,000 feet along the north of the District.

From the foot of the Burrail Hills several ranges of small hills extend southward to the River Barrock, which flows from east to west, dividing the District into two parts.

* Chatterchoora, called by the hill people "Kolalyon," meaning kulsee-shaped, defines the south-eastern limit of District Sylhet. It is a hill 2,069 feet high, situated in North Latitude $25^{\circ} 15' 18''$ -8, and East Longitude $92^{\circ} 29' 31''$ -9.

South of the Barrock again low ranges extend into the unexplored forest that lies between Tipperah and Burreil.

These latter ranges evidently form part of the same system to which the hills to the north belong; for in all cases the hill on the river bank, which ends a northern range, is exactly opposite to the hill with which the corresponding range to the south of the Barrock begins.

The principal range to the north of the Barrock is the Hoorung, which varies in height from 700 to 1,000 feet. To the south the highest hills are the Bhubuns, some of which are 2,000 feet high, the Soorispor range varying from 600 to 1,000 feet, and the Tellain Hills, the highest of which is about 300 feet in height.

All these ranges are covered with dense forest, or with high grass jungle, except where clearances have been made for the cultivation of Tea, or for the Jume cultivation of the hill tribes. Such clearances, however, seem very small when compared with the great extent of hill country still unreclaimed.

The valleys between the hills are of alluvial formation, and much of the plain land of the District is uncultivated marsh, under several feet of water during the rains, and covered in the dry season with forests of gigantic reeds. To the extreme south, the land above inundation level is for the most part forest. Of late, however, there has been a considerable extension of rice cultivation in this direction.

To the north of the Barrock almost all the arable plain lands are cultivated. South of the river also there is a great area under cultivation, principally the lands near the banks of streams, and those lying immediately under the ranges of hills.

There is thus a constant succession of changes in the character of the country, and the rich vegetation and beautiful forms of the hills, the surprising fertility of the cultivated lands, the great size and beauty of the bamboos and fruit trees that surround the cottages of the people, and even the wild and primeval appearance of the great marshes, give a richness and picturesque variety to the scenery of Cachar, which is generally wanting to the monotonous plains of East Bengal.

AREA.

3. Cachar is about 100 miles in length north and south, and 50 miles in breadth east and west, giving an approximate area of 5,000 square miles.

The portion of the District settled on villages, or taken up for Tea grants, lies between the parallels of 24° and 25° North Latitude, and the Meridians of 92° 30' and 93° 15' East Longitude, and, estimated from the Thakbust or Demarcation Records, contains a gross area of about 1,500 square miles.

POPULATION.

4. It is not easy to estimate, with even tolerable exactness, the population of Cachar.

In 1855, Major Verner, who was then Superintendent of the District, took a rough census of the people, the result of which gave a total of 85,000 inhabitants.

goldsmiths for weighing precious metals, and also to express their valuation by assay. The following Table shows the different weights in use, and their equivalents in troy weights:—

		English Troy Weights.			
		lbs.	oz.	dwt.	grains.
4 Dhans	= 1 Ruttee	= 0	0	0	1½
4 Ruttees	= 1 Masha	= 0	0	0	15
12 Mashas	= 1 Tolah	= 0	0	7	12
5 Tolahs	= 1 Chattack	= 0	1	17	12
4 Chattacks	= 1 Pao	= 0	7	10	0
4 Paos	= 1 Seer	= 2	6	0	0
40 Seers	= 1 Maund	= 100	0	0	0

The seer of eighty tolabs is the standard, and in use for every article sold by weight in retail business.

The only measure in use is a kattee, which is an oval basket roughly stated to be sixteen ungoolees or fingers' breadth measured round the oval, from one side along the bottom of the basket up the other side; and twelve ungoolees in diameter at top. The kattee measures, though dependent on the ungoolee or finger's breadth, do not noticeably vary in its size in different parts of the District, and it is in very general use in the villages and bazaars for measuring rice, paddy, oilseeds, and grain of all kinds, which are usually sold by measure, and not by weight.

The kattee contains 2 seers and 2 chattacks, or 5lbs. and 3½ oz. troy weight; and 20 kattes make a maund of measure equal to 106lbs. 3 oz. The smaller measures are subdivisions of the kattee, and are expressed in fractions of ½, ¼, and ⅓ kattes.

PLACES WHERE ELEPHANTS ARE CAPTURED, &c.

32. There are four places where elephants are caught: Panisagor and Nichintpur, in the south of the District, and north Jelalpore and Baladhun to the north. The two former are very much better than the latter.

The right of capturing elephants in these places was formerly leased to the natives of the District; but this was discontinued under the orders of Government of India, No. 1360, dated 30th November, 1865, and the elephant fields are now strictly preserved.

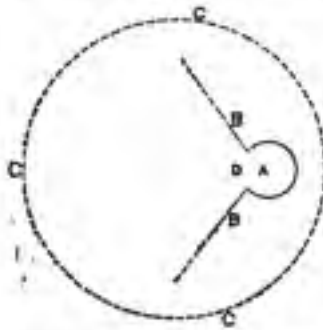
There is a very interesting description of the manner in which elephants are caught in this frontier in Major Stewart's notes, to which I have before so often referred.

As this account is the best I have ever seen of this system of capture, I give it in full.

"The cold season is chosen for the operations, which are called kheddah.

"A band of four or five hundred men, distributed into parties, each with a leader, is required for the purpose. Five or six experienced hunters precede this body by a day's journey, and make their way into the jungles in search of footmarks. When they come upon these evidences of the near existence of a herd, a message is sent to the main body, who silently

approach and surround the herd, enclosing it within a line of sentries, in a circle, some ten or twelve miles in circumference. It is necessary that the ground on which the animals are surrounded be as regular as possible, for which purpose, should the place where the elephants are first met with be hilly or uneven, they are made to shift their position by slight alarms, and the blowing of a reed instrument like a fife, and are thus moved on until a proper place is reached for surrounding them. The circumjacent jungle is then cleared for a few yards all round this huge circle, and a slight fence of boughs and bamboos erected along the entire circumference. This fence is by no means strong enough to resist a charge of the elephants, but is intended merely to present an obstacle to their eyes, should they venture near it, and contemplate departure. Fires are then lighted round the enclosure, at which the sentries sit and watch night and day. Should the animals endeavour to make a rush past, the men close in towards the point of their charge, and drive them back with discharges of blank ammunition.



Enclosed thus on all sides, they retreat towards the centre of the circle, which is far enough removed from the sides to let them remain undisturbed. A strong stockade (A) is then built, of about five acres in area. Within the large circle, but upon its circumference, huge timbers, fifteen to twenty feet above the ground, are planted close to each other to form it, and care is taken that it shall enclose a number of large trees to which the captured elephants may be subsequently tethered. Within the palisades a ditch is dug all round, save at the doorway (D), which faces towards the centre of the large

enclosure, and is about twelve feet broad. The counterscarp of the ditch, which is six feet in depth, is made perpendicular, and the scarp slopes inward, the earth being thrown into the interior. Care is taken to cover the ditch and the newly-turned earth with boughs and leaves, for there is nothing that the wild elephant distrusts so much as fresh soil. Two lines of strong palisades (B B) are then built, one from either door post, stretching out into the enclosure (C C C), widening as they extend; they are carried on for several hundred yards, and their extremities are lengthened by lighter fences. A strong portcullis having been erected at the doorway, the trap is prepared, and the sentries round the large enclosure close in towards the gate, with shouts, and yells, and discharges of firearms. The elephants are driven within the two lines of palisades, and proceed along them as they narrow, until they enter the stockade, when the portcullis falls, and the whole herd, sometimes to the number of two hundred, is secured. The frantic commotion into which these huge monsters throw themselves when they become conscious of their position, is described as something really terrible. They shriek, and trumpet, and roar, stamp upon the ground, and throw themselves down on it with the greatest violence. There is a visible vibration of the ground for a hundred yards round the stockade from the collective weight of their tread in their transports of fury. Several become victims to their own passion, and die of rage, or of injuries inflicted on themselves or one another in their paroxysms. In the course of a day or two, their fury becomes to a certain degree spent, and they regain a little tranquillity. Trained elephants, called koonkies, are now employed, for the purpose of tying the wild ones to the trees within the stockade. Three or four of these are admitted within the palisades, each with a rider on its neck armed with a long spear. They approach the animal first selected, and surround him, wedging him in tightly between their bodies, so that he can neither stir

foot nor trunk. One of the mahouts then slips off his seat, and makes fast the hind legs to an adjacent tree, and in this manner, one after the other, the whole herd is tied up. The stockade is then broken down, and the newly-caught elephants walked of by degrees, each between two koonkies, who prevent their being obstreperous, by beating them with their trunks.

" Besides this wholesale method of capturing elephants, there is a way of noosing them, which was much practised in Cachar before the Government prohibition came out. A trained elephant, with two men on its back armed with spears, and provided with a stout rope, one end of which is attached to their own elephant, and the other formed into a noose, boldly enter into the midst of a herd, and throw the noose over the head of any elephant who may approach near enough to them. But the chances are much against catching him, and the experiment has to be repeated ten or twelve times before one is secured. Wild elephants are also caught by the administration of drugs.

" A female decoy is let loose in the jungle, and attaches to herself a male, who deserts the herd in pursuit of her. Their position in the forest is marked, and the neighbourhood is baited with dainty bits of sugarcane and plaintain pith, into which an intoxicating drug has been introduced. The animal eating it becomes quite drunk and unconscious, and finds himself, on recovery, made fast to a tree.

CATTLE, POULTRY, WILD ANIMALS, &c.

33. The ponies in use in Cachar are brought from Burmah and Manipur. The Burmah ponies are usually twelve and a half hands high, with high withers and broad loins, and up to a great weight. They are frequently cow-backed, and are very apt to shy, owing to defective sight, which is the prevailing defect in the Burmah. They are mostly geldings, and it is exceptional for a stallion or mare to find its way to Cachar, as the exportation of them is carefully restricted to preserve the breed.

The Manipuri pony is rarely over twelve hands high, and exhibits in miniature many points of a well-bred racer, and the endurance and courage of a blood horse. The Manipuri is prized for hockey, for which he is admirably adapted by his symmetry and high spirit; and it is not uncommon to see the ponies as much excited in the game as their riders. These ponies are usually fed on paddy, which is given to them with a little water, and are allowed to graze. It is noticeable that the teeth-marks are very soon worn, and that a pony at six years loses every mark. The mouths are also in very many cases abnormal, the teeth of the lower jaw frequently being in double rows, and the tusks wanting. Since the extension of tea-planting in Cachar, and consequent great demand for ponies, the valley of Manipur has been so severely taxed to meet the demand, that at present the export of Manipuri ponies is restricted, and a heavy imposition in the shape of a tax is levied by the Rajah. The price of Burmah and Manipuri ponies varies from Rupees 50 to 300. The Cachar Mela Races for some years past have led to ponies being trained for racing, and these small creatures, with ten stone weight, have run the mile in two minutes and ten seconds.

Elephants are common all over the north-east frontier of Bengal, and are caught wild in the jungles to the north and south of the plain-lands of Cachar. They are chiefly employed

in dragging timber, and the hire of an elephant so employed is either paid in kind, in the proportion of one-half or one-third of the timber, according to the distance it has to be drawn to the nearest water channel, or at the rate of Rupees 5 per diem.

There are two perfectly distinct varieties or castes of elephants caught in the jungle of Cachar. The *first* in value is called Koomeerah, and is distinguished by its stout make, small head, and low action, which renders its pace quick and even; the *second* and inferior caste is called Meergia, and is marked by its large head, slender body and legs, and high action, which renders its pace slow and heavy. A cross between the two varieties is called Doasala or Nusub.

The male elephants (Goondas) have long tusks, but there are males without tusks, called Muknas, which are generally large and strong animals; and this increase in size and strength is attributed to the want of tusks having allowed them to draw nourishment from the mother for a longer period than usual. There are also male elephants with one tusk only, called Goonesh, which are held in reverence by Hindoos; but the loss of the sacred tusk is in all probability owing to an accident in youth.

The price of an elephant depends upon its height, caste, and age, but the average price at present may be stated as follows for well-trained elephants :—

			Rs.	
Koomeerah, 7 feet high	...	...	1,100	} About Rupees 200 for every foot in height in excess.
Nusub, ditto	...	...	1,000	
Meergia, ditto	...	...	900	

Elephants, till they have been for three years in captivity, are very subject to diseases, and a large percentage die whilst being trained.

Buffaloes are imported largely from Manipur and Burmah. The Rajah of Manipur levies a tax of Rupees 16 on all buffaloes that pass from his frontier into Cachar. Manipuri buffaloes are sold in this District for sums varying from Rupees 80 to Rupees 120. The price of Burmah buffaloes is considerably less. The Manipuri buffalo is a very fine animal, but the breed degenerates in Cachar, although the animal is found in a wild state in various parts of the District.

A female buffalo gives from one to four seers of milk a day; but the buffalo is chiefly used for the plough. Two bullocks are not able to do more work than one buffalo, and two cows do still less.

The best cows in Cachar are brought from Manipur, and are now sold for Rupees 25 and 30. I have paid Rupees 85 for two Manipuri cows; but they were remarkably fine animals, and each gave two and half seers of milk daily. The usual yield is much less.

The Methen or Metna is usually called the Goby or wild cow by the Kookies, who rear it for slaughter. It is perhaps the Asiatic bison. It has short black horns, a bunch on the shoulders, and a light mane, and in colour resembles a buffalo. It is found wild in the hills to the north and south of Cachar. Those to the south, however, are somewhat different, and resemble more the cow than the buffalo, and the variety is supposed to have been owing to a

cross between the cow and the wild metna. The country to the south was once populated; but when the people deserted their villages, in consequence of the incursions of Lbershai and Kookie tribes, their cows were left behind, and the cross breed is thus accounted for by the natives.

The usual price of a metna is Rupees 100. It is not used as a beast of burden, and is only prized for its flesh, and for ceremonial sacrifice by the Kookies.

The small Bengali goat is extensively bred in the plains. It yields about half a seer of milk daily.

There are no sheep, except those imported from Patna for the use of Europeans.

The poultry of Cachar are of a very inferior description, and there are no varieties calling for particular remarks.

The jungles of the District are full of large and small game, tigers, rhinoceros, deer, besides elephants, wild buffaloes, and metnas, as mentioned above. Among birds, there are snipe, teal, duck, jungle fowl, pheasants, &c. Unluckily I put off writing this very interesting and important part of my account of Cachar until the last moment, in the hope of getting some notes on the habits of the wild and tame animals of the District, which I had been promised by one of the most experienced sportsmen on the frontier. He was, however, prevented by sickness from writing, and I have not now either the time or the materials to treat this subject in a satisfactory manner.

TIMBER FORESTS, &c.

34. The Cachar timber forests are of enormous extent, covering several thousands of square miles. They have never, as far as I know, been subjected to scientific investigation. All my knowledge, therefore, about the timber grown in Cachar is derived from my own unskilled observations, and from statements made by natives, which of course are in many points unreliable.

The most valuable timber found in the District is the Járul (*logerstremia regina*). This tree is said by some to increase in height and girth until it reaches its seventieth year; but I am inclined to think that it does not grow after it is about forty years old. When full-grown, it is about 35 feet high, with a girth of between 7 and 8 feet.

The colour of the wood of the Járul is a light salmon color. The grain is coarse and uneven. The wood is very hard and durable, and does not rot under water.

This timber is chiefly used in boat-building, and for the posts of houses. The price paid for it has increased greatly of late years, and fine trees can now be sold without difficulty for Rs. 60, or even Rs. 80 each.

I have tried in vain to make an approximate estimate of the number of Járul trees which are still to be found in this District. There can be no doubt that the wasteful way in which this fine timber has been cut in the forests near the navigable rivers has