

# MEMOIR OF TRAVANCORE,

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL,

COMPILED FROM VARIOUS

AUTHENTIC RECORDS

AND

PERSONAL OBSERVATION,

BY

LIEUTENANT W. H. HORSLEY, ENGINEER.

AT THE REQUEST OF

MAJOR GENERAL J. S. FRASER

BRITISH RESIDENT.

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TREVANDRUM:

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1839.

*The Title page of Horsley's "Memoir Travancore", Published  
from the "Trivandrum Government Press" (1838)*

There are at least two traces of structures in Trivandrum that have withstood the ravages of time, which were engineered by Horsley. The first one is the Trivandrum Observatory (now under the University of Kerala). Though the original building was demolished around 1931 to build the water works, the new building is a copy of the old structure and still carries a marble tablet bearing the name of the Engineer and Swathi Thirunal himself, among others. The news about the construction of this observatory and the inscription on the marble tablet were published in an article by John Caldecott, Astronomer to Swathi Thirunal in 1837 in Madras and in 1839 in London.<sup>8</sup> It refers to Swathi Thirunal by the very same name, which is most likely the first such reference in English, and it is during his life time. This seals the debate raised by some musicians as to the name of Swathi Thirunal. Due to this special importance, the reference to the inscription in the article by Caldecott is reproduced below, with the word “Swatee” highlighted:

On the north and south faces, and let into a panel, formed in the parapet wall, are to be placed marble tablets, bearing an inscription, as follows:-

**THE TRIVANDRUM OBSERVATORY, FOUNDED BY  
HIS HIGHNESS**

Sree Padmanabha Dassa Vunchee  
Baula Rama Vurma Koola Shakhur  
Kireeta Putee **Swatee** Rama Rajah Bahadoor  
Munnei Sooltan Shemshair Jung.

A.D. 1837.

**SOOBROW DEWAN**

**COLONEL JAMES STUART FRASER** – Resident.

**JOHN CALDECOTT**, Esq. – Astronomer.

**W.H. HORSLEY**, Esq. Madras Engineers – Architect.

The inscription on the north face is in English and that on the south a translation of the same in Malayalam.

Another one is the bridge over the Karamana river which still stands on a foundation and some part of the columns erected under the supervision of Horsley. Shungoonny Menon himself quotes this and gives graphic details of the inauguration of the bridge in December 1853.<sup>9</sup> Other than these, not much is traditionally known about the life and works of Horsley. However, the author has been able to collect some new information on the life of Horsley from the web site set up by the

descendents of Horsley.<sup>10</sup> The site states that William Henry Horsley completed his training at Addiscombe in 1831 and sailed for India having first spent an year at Chatham in special preparation for the duties of an engineer officer. After a few years of service in other places in India, he got appointment as Engineer of Travancore. In 1815, he married Frederica. He had seven children and he returned to England in 1856.

Horsley's memoir is 76-page book which is not a pure historical treatise. It begins with sections titled "Situation and Extent" and "Distribution of the Surface" which are geographical information. Later chapters on Aspect of the Country, Sea Coast, Mountains and Principal Rivers also fall into this category. The section titled "History" runs to around 10 pages and covers as much ground as Shungoonny Menon's book covers, but in a very brief manner. His references to Velu Thampi's rebellion tell us that he did look at Travancore history from a British viewpoint, but however, there are no traces of special reverence to the local royalty, nor any prominent sign of religious prejudice as in the case of Samuel Mateer. Other sections on *eddawaggays* or Petty States, Divisions, Population, etc., Principal Towns and Villages, Government, Religion and Religious Establishments, Produce, etc., Cattle and other Animals, Climate, Lakes and Canals, Principal Tanks and irrigating Channels, Principal Roads and Communications, Of Weights and Measures, Land Measure and Coins cover almost every aspect of the Government, People, and various facets of life of the time. The book carries at the end two very important tables, one summarizing the first census conducted during Swathi Thirunal's reign titled "Abstract Memorandum of the Population of Travancore" and also a "Statement of the average Receipts and Disbursements of Travancore"

As a scholar I am not a competent person to make any further value judgements on the works of Horsley. It is hoped that the historians will study this work closely and use it to further temper the knowledge and outlook about the history of Travancore. The unedited text of the book is appended to this article.

### **Acknowledgements:**

The author wishes to acknowledge the inspiration received from Mr Pirappancode Murali, Member of Legislative Assembly of Kerala who suggested that Horsley's work should be unearthed, while the author was overseeing the development of a web site on Swathi Thirunal ([www.swathithirunal.org](http://www.swathithirunal.org)).

## MEMOIR OF TRAVANCORE

### *Situation and Extent*

THE PRINCIPALITY OF TRAVANCORE, situated at the south-west extremity of *Hindoostan*, may be considered as included generally between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> degree of north latitude; it is bounded on the north by the territory of the *Cochin Rajah*, on the south and west by the sea, and on the east by the high range of Ghatus, which divide this State from the districts of *Tinnevely*, *Madura* and *Coimbatoor*.

The extreme length, measured from *Pyraukoo-Cottah* in the north to *Kannea-koomaury* (Cape Comorin), would amount to one hundred and seventy-four miles, while the utmost breadth from *Cochin* on the Coast to *Doodaval Peak* on its eastern border is seventy-five miles; the northern boundary, however, is so intersected by the territory of *Cochin*, that the superficial extent is rendered very disproportionate to that, which these dimensions would give. The medium breadth inland is reckoned at about 40 miles, and the area, comprised within the total limit of *Travancore*, will thus amount to about six thousand six hundred and fifty-three and a half square miles; but of this extent the greater portion consists of hills covered with dense and impenetrable forests, and is lost to human industry. If so irregular an outline is referable to any particular figure, its form may be called triangular, *Kannea-koomaury* being the apex. The following Table conveys an almost correct distribution of its surface.

### *Distribution of the Surface*

	Square Miles
Rice lands.....	741*
Slopes available for the temporary cultivation of rice and various grains .....(about)	1,000
Suparee and Coconut topes chiefly along the coast.....	356 ¾ +

Sandy extent covered with Palmyra trees chiefly to the south	115
Lakes, Rivers, Tanks .....	157½ ++
Site occupied by buildings of every description .....(about)	20
Pasturage and superficies occupied by low chains of hills ..... (about)	1,961
Hills and Forests scarcely any part of which is improvable .....	2,302¼ ll
Total area of	<hr/> 6,653½

It is thus seen that , on a subtraction of the mountainous, woody and watery parts, something less than two-thirds only remains applicable to the purpose of profitable cultivation or pasturage. In general it may be said that the whole riches, population and cultivation of *Travancore* are confined to a narrow strip along the coast; in the south the breadth does not exceed sixteen miles, while to the north it expands to something less than double this measurement; two-thirds of this amount, or about 24 miles parallel to the coast, may be considered as including the inhabited part of *Travancore*.

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- \* In this extent of rice land is included Kootanaad, which may be estimated at about one-fourth of the whole extent.
  - + In this is not included the extent occupied by cocoanut and suparee plantations in the more interior parts.
  - ++ In this is not included the surface occupied by rivers, small tanks & c which however, is limited.
  - ll The superficies of the mountains would exceed the above calculation, which gives simply the area of their bases.

## History

The tract of country, extending along the western coast from *Gokarnam* to *Cape Comorin*, bounded by the Sea and Ghauts, was formerly designated *Kerala*; and its Ancient History is in some measure preserved in a work called the *Kerala-Oolpatty*, but so intermingled with fable and romance, that it becomes difficult at this period to distinguish truth from fiction. It is now commonly known as *Malayalam*, and includes the collectorates of *Canara* and *Malabar*, and the principalities of *Cochin* and *Travancore*. The whole or at least the greatest portion of this extent of territory would appear to have been originally the property of Brahmins and under their control. Their rule, termed *Aulichawattam*, continued for a considerable time and is stated to have terminated sixty-eight years before the Christian era.

They then, it appears, either invited or submitted to the sway of foreign princes of the Kshetry caste but their jealous policy still constituted it an elective Government, which confined the reign of each prince to twelve years, and required that the vacant throne should then be filled up by a new choice. This system, denominated *Veaula-wattam*, continued for about four centuries.

The *Kerala-Oolpatty* preserves the remembrance of eighteen princes who preceded Sharuman Perumaul, with whom terminated the *Malayalam Empire*.<sup>\*</sup> At his death the country was divided and portioned off among his descendants, subsequent to which its Ancient History is very little known. It would, however, seem that this country in general, and *Travancore* in particular, has escaped foreign conquest and control, together with all the attendant vicissitudes, to which most other parts of India have been subject. At the commencement of the eighteenth century, *Travancore*, or more properly speaking the space included within its modern limits, presented the same divided authority as the other parts of *Malayalam*; but from the imperfect state of its History, it is possible to enumerate a few only of the larger principalities.

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\* Some accounts describe his authority as ending in 352 A.D. Konay Thoma on reaching *Cranganore* in 345, found this Prince then

*Naunjyanaad*, an open and fertile tract, stretching north from *Kannea-koomaury* to the *Oodeagherry* range of hills, was ruled by a Corawen Chief. *Tirroovauncode*,+ the capital of a petty state included between *Oodeagherry* and *Anjengo*. *Ellavallor naad*, a small dominion, the situation and extent of which is nearly marked by the present *Nedoovenkaad* district. North of this was *Ellayeddatunaad*, an extensive principality, that included the two districts of *Kotaurakarray* and *Patanaupuram*. To the west, stretching along the coast between *Quilon* and the southern limit of *Kootanaad*, was situated the state of *Ohnaad* or *Kayenkulam*, a fine territory, comprehending the Districts of *Karunaugapally*, *Kartegapilly*, and *Mauvaleekarray*. The *Pandalam* principality was defined by its present limits. The fertile tract, bordering the large lake and now partly comprised within the boundary of *Ambalapuley*, constituted the Brahmin principality of *Vembanaad*, its chief being styled the *Chembagacherry Rajah*. The *Warackuncoor* and *Teckumcoor Rajahs*, whose territories the rude fortifications or lines intersecting the country at *Muaupuley* and *Ettumaunor* both defined and defended, held a nominal control over the wide extent, lying between *Pandalam* and *Perrumbaloor*, and spreading eastward to the foot of the Ghauts. This space was again subdivided into smaller states viz., *Cotayam*, *Keedandoor*, *Koymah*, *Perrawam*, consisting of a number of Sankaidams, \**Paniautti*, a mountainous tract of country, and *Meenachel*. The champaign country, bordering the southern bank of the *Periyaur*, was ruled by a number of *Maudambeemars*, feudatories of *Cochin*, to which state the district of *Sharretallay* also owed allegiance. The fertile extent, stretching south from the *Perryaur* district, consisted of two principalities under Brahmin control, the first *Parravoor* or *Pendenny-wattam Raj*, the second *Eddapally* or *Ellangaloor suroopam*. The little state of *Aulengaad*, bordering the northern bank of the *Perryaur*, was ruled by a *Saumunder* chieftan, a

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+ The present name, Travancore, is derived from this ancient seat of Government.

\* Independent possessions of Pagodas.

feudatory of *Cochin*, whose control extended over the woody tracts skirting it on the east. It is needless to attempt enumerating the number of inferior states, into which the above were subdivided; each state had its own petty chief, who was constantly engaged with his neighbours in endless struggles for pre-eminence; thus hostility became habitual and oppression and misrule prevailed throughout.

The *Soverigns of Travancore* are the real or supposed descendants of *Sharuman Perumaul*; a catalogue of the names of thirty Princes who ruled this state is still preserved, but very little information respecting the internal state of the country or condition and manners of the people has been transmitted to us. Upwards of three centuries are included in the period occupied by the reigns of the first twenty-three chiefs of this principality ; they seem to have been constantly engaged during this interval in attempts to overcome and keep in subjection a race of petty chieftans, termed *Etadda Pulleymar* who divided among them the country stretching east and south some distance from *Trevandrum*. The dates of the several conquests and acquisition are all that can be collected from the ancient records.

Eruma Warma Perumaul, the twenty-fourth Prince of *Travancore*, whose accession may be dated about A.D. 1684, was so much engaged in domestic feuds, that no attempt was made in his time to extend the limit of the principality over which he ruled. He is said to have assassinated I the Pangoda at *Trevandrum* several of the feudatory chiefs, whom it was found difficult to subdue; and a similar policy was pursued in crushing a rebellion that ensued shortly after, though many of the sufferers were closely allied to the Prince himself. His reign terminated in A.D. 1717. The period occupied by the reigns of his two immediate successors was but short; they appear, however, to have been marked by the same internal strife and oppression, as the preceding one, with occasional attacks made upon the adjacent states.

Wanjee Martanda Perumaul, who assumed authority in A.D. 1729, and held it for nearly thirty years, was one of the most successful in the subjugation of his neighbours, though at the same time severe and despotic in the government of his people. He resigned himself



entirely to the guidance of the Brahmins, for whose benefit he established a liberal though perhaps a somewhat improvident expenditure. The southern parts of the Peninsula had already been subdued by his predecessors; but this prince, pursuing his conquests with greater vigour, and aided by a large military establishment, added to these possessions in A.D. 1742 the district of *Ellayeddattunaad*, which from the animosities of its own rival chiefs became an easy prey. The conquest of the important principality of *Kayenkulam* was completed, after a long and doubtful conflict in A.D. 1757, the year preceding that in which his reign terminated.

Wanjee Baula Perumaul, the successor of this Prince, emulating his successes, early avowed more extensive designs of conquest. A strong body of troops, disciplined and directed by an intelligent European,\* encouraged his ambitious view and finally accomplished the subjection of the wide extent of country, lying between *Pandalam* and the northern boundary. The small states that occupied this tract, too deeply engaged with their own feuds to be capable of union or defence, were successively over-thrown, and from the close of this reign may be dated the entire extinction of the authority of the petty chieftains in *Travancore*. This Prince, hitherto so successful in extending his dominion, was soon, however, destined to experience aggression in his turn from a foreign power. Tippoo Sultan, pursuing the schemes of conquest that his father had mediated, readily found an excuse for directing his arms against *Travancore*, which offered much to allure and but little to resist his rapacity or ambition. So unequal a contest could not be of long duration. The rampart or barrier that runs along the northern frontier, rather marking than guarding it, was too weak to stay the progress of a less powerful army than that headed by the Sultan; and though defended with a gallantry, which in some measure checked his ardour and had nearly put a final stop to his ambitious career, it was soon overthrown (December 1788), leaving Tippoo at Liberty to pursue his conquests or rather secure his prey almost without opposition.

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\* D'Lanoy, a Flemish adventurer of merit, was long in the service of this Prince; his tomb is still seen in the church at Oodeagherry.

Provoked by the resistance and difficulties which he had encountered, his successes were followed by the perpetration of the greatest atrocities. Undistinguishing devastation marked the course he pursued, and in consequence the whole of the northern part of the country suffered the severest calamities that an unbounded military license could inflict. The invading force, however, had not penetrated beyond *Veraupalay*, when the approach of the English army under lord Cornwallis obliged the Sultan to abandon his acquisitions, and hasten to the defence of his capital. This seasonable interposition saved *Travancore* from the conquest and severities that awaited it. Relieved from foreign violence, this country soon became the theatre of domestic strife. The reigning Prince, apprehensive of commotions, had recourse to the most rigorous precautions; and the military force he employed, however insufficient to protect his dominions from without, was formidable when directed against his own subjects, whom it was necessary to awe into obedience by such means.

The counsels of Rama Warma Perumaul, who succeeded to the Musnud in 1799, were guided by the same policy as those of his predecessor. Two insurrections agitated the early part of his reign, and afforded the same excuse for ensuring submission by a rigorous and despotic rule. This Prince, from his weakness and other causes, appears to have had great difficulty in contending with his ministers, who, devoid of all gratitude, alternately abused or usurped his power. The first person, who seized on the administration in the character of Dewan, stained his success by the death of his predecessor and a long list of adherents, who had supported his cause. His power, however, acquired by such violent means, seems to have been of short duration, as in 1801 we find him yielding to the superior address or fortune of another candidate, and expecting and probably experiencing the same treatment he had previously inflicted on others. This dangerous rank and position in the state seems always to have been held by a precarious tenure. The new Minister in his turn soon found himself surrounded by a crowd of enemies, excited and supported by the Rajah, and thus pressed on every side, he must soon have fallen before some aspiring rival, had not the powerful interposition of the British Resident, Colonel Macaulay, saved him from the disgrace and death that probably awaited him.

New commotions early disturbed the comparative tranquility that

followed his re-accession to office. The licentious crowd of troops that formed the Military, exasperated by the reduction of some customary allowances, or instigated by leaders, who concealed their views under this specious pretence, broke into open revolt 1804. The ferment was momentarily allayed by an admission of their demand, but his concession had the usual effect of confirming the rebellious spirit that it was meant to appease. The latent flame burst forth subsequently with greater violence, and the views of the disaffected, expanding with their increased numbers, were at length boldly avowed. The accomplishment of those views, though postponed, would not appear to have been abandoned.

We are unable to trace the successive steps that led to the war, or more properly, insurrection which took place in 1808; but it is perhaps to be attributed less to the people in general, who had every thing to lose from any change, which should extinguish British influence, than to the Rajah and his principal native servants, provoked as they were at a control, that threatened to moderate their excesses. The *Cochin* Minister seems to have been implicated in those transactions. The character of this personage, and the cautious manner, in which he conducted his measures, might countenance suspicion, that he was one of the most zealous and artful promoters of the troubles that ensued. The leaders, however, found their temerity had provoked a contest they could not sustain; the British force under Colonel St. Leger, overcoming all resistance, soon dispelled their illusive hopes. Of the military operations, that terminated hostilities, the details is sufficiently known; the perfidy of those, who excited them, experienced a clemency they scarcely merited and could not have expected. The contest commenced by an attempt to assassinate the British Resident : a perfidious design, fortunately defeated by the fidelity of a domestic. This act of treachery was followed by some others, marked by a baseness and cruelty, that would have justified the severest retaliation; but a lenient justice was satisfied with the death of a few of the most obnoxious criminals, and the banishment of some others, one of whom at least deserved to have been visited by a severer punishment. The state was called upon to defray the expense incurred by the British Government in this expedition; and a Brigade, consisting of 1 European and 3 Native Regiments, with a detachment of Artillery, was left in Cantonment at *Quilon*, as a subsidiary force, agreeably to the treaty concluded in November 1795.

The restoration of peace does not seem to have been followed by internal tranquility. The late Dewan, whose crimes had brought him to an ignominious death, was succeeded by Oomeny Tamby, who it would appear was equally unfit for this elevated situation. He sought to usurp the sole authority of the country and reduce the Rajah to the condition of a captive; thus the government became in a measure divided and the administration of affairs left in a most disorganized and unsettled state. So far indeed did this state of things proceed, that the British Government at length felt itself called upon to remonstrate upon the non-fulfilment of the obligation, which engaged to liquidate a large amount of debt, for the failure of which frivolous excuses had been offered from time to time.

The remonstrance was enforced by an intimation, that further delay would render it necessary to assume the internal administration of the country, as the only means of ensuring the satisfaction of those demands. This step, however, was rendered unnecessary by the death of the Rajah, which took place at this juncture 1811, and ushered in a new and better state of affairs. This Prince left a contested inheritance, but the claims of Letchmee Ranee superseding those of other competitors, to her was adjudged the right of succeeding to the vacant Musnud. The reign of this Princess, undisturbed by those disorders, which a series of weak Sovereigns and corrupt Ministers had so long inflicted, is happily connected with the improvement of the country and amelioration of the condition of the people. Her Highness the Ranee, anxious for the dismissal of a Minister, who had too held and abused the power of the state, and solicitous also to testify her sense of the justice that had placed her in authority, gave an early and strong proof of her prudence and good sense in delegating the administration of affairs to a British Officer, Colonel Munro, who continuing to exercise the duties of Resident, assumed those of Dewan also on the accession of this Princess in 1811. The arduous task of raising the country from the state of declension, into which it had sunk, was, after a successful administration of three years, fully accomplished, through not without opposition from some of the higher ranks, whose enmity was directed against a reformation, incompatible with the wretched state of plunder and excess of all kind, which they had so long enjoyed with impunity. The detail of the changes, that gradually restored prosperity to this fine

country, is here unnecessary; the beneficial reformation which deserves and receives the gratitude of the people, has, it is hoped, established the name and authority of the British in their affections. On the resignation of the Resident, the Dewanship was filled by a succession of Ministers extending up to the present time; their names and dates of assuming Office are given below.\* The short reign of Letchmee Ranee terminated in 1814. This Princess left issues,+ but they being minors at the period of her death, she was quietly succeeded by her Sister, who, as Regent, conducted the Government of the country with the same successful policy till the year 1829, at which period the present Rajah, having attained his majority, was formally installed and placed on the Musnud by the British Resident, Colonel Morison.

### *Edawaggays or Petty States*

There are still a few small States or Edawaggays allowed to exist, but the power of their Chiefs is in most cases reduced to a nominal authority, the decision of all criminal and judicial questions belonging solely to the Circar. To the South the little tract of *Autingal* constitutes the state of the eldest female of the reigning family. In its vicinity is *Killimanoor*, a small territory, belonging to the Rajah of that name, commonly called *Coil Pandaula*, who appears to hold it in consideration of his being connected with the family of the Ranee. The *Pandalam* State embraces a wide but woody extent within its limits; till later times its Prince enjoyed a comparative degree of independence; he, however, is now reduced to the condition of a pensioner, and his trifling stipend furnishes him with little more than a bare subsistence. In consequence of some debts due to the *Travancore* Circar, it has assumed (since 1812) the entire administration of the country known as *Pandalam*. The *Wanjeepuley Edawaggay*, situated in the neighbourhood of *Changanaucheryy*, is the property of a Potie of high

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\* *Names of Dewans* : Dewan Pulpanauban 1814, Shangoo Anavee 1815, Ramen Menaven 1816, Reddy Row 1817, Venkata Row 1822, Soob Row 1830, Renga Row Acting 1837, Venkata Row 1838, Soob Row 1839.

+ One daughter, who died July 1837, and two sons, the eldest of whom is the present Rajah.

rank, who holds this possession in right of some spiritual dignity; its revenue, however, is but trifling. The *Edapally* Rajah is to be considered as the family Priest of the Princes of *Travancore*. The territory of this Chief is of all those small states the most populous and productive : it is composed of several detached portions, *Eddapally* being the residence of its Ruler, a Namboory, who has a wide spiritual, but limited temporal controul. Portions of the mountainous tracts are nominally held by the Pagodas of *Narthoad*, *Tricauroor* and *Chenganaad*; other parts are still shared amongst Petty Chiefs, some of the Kshetry caste, others of inferior origin. The mountaineers, who possess the southern parts of the cardamom hills, acknowledge the sovereignty of the *Pandalam* Rajah. The Manamars consider themselves the subjects of the *Travancore* Government, the chief of the clan as an acknowledgement of his fealty paying a trifling sum annually to the *Thodhuwallay* Pagoda. He some years since received a sword from the Rajah of *Travancore*, an investiture that implied an admission of his authority in return for his allegiance. Of the mountainous domains, that of *Poonyanta* is, next to *Pandalam*, the largest; its chief, termed *Poonyautu Perumal*, holds a doubtful and unprofitable sway over an immense hilly tract, peopled by a few migratory tribes. There are within *Travancore* two confined tracts belonging to the British, *Anjengo*, one of its earliest settlements, and *Tanguncherry*, adjoining Quilon, once a Dutch possession; they are both included in the *Malabar Collectorate*, and in judicial matters are subject to the court of the Assistant Judge at *Cochin*, an arrangement which has but very lately taken place. There is another small tract of country belonging to *Travancore* to be mentioned, called *Mannapaad*, situated near the coast to the north of *Cochin*, which is at present held in rent by a Dutch Gentleman.

### ***Divisions, Population &c.***

*Travancore* is divided into thirty-two Districts or Talooks, and these again are subdivided into Pedaugays, Adigaurams or Pravurties, all synonymous terms, made use of in various parts of the country, to denominate the smaller divisions of a Talook. In *Shenkottah* the term Manniums is used for the same purpose. The following table exhibits the name, area and number of villages, and population of each District.

# Memoir of Travancore

Population according to the Census 1836			
Women	Boys	Girls	Total
22,486	12,847	10,873	67,512
8,332	4,283	3,652	23,738
13,286	7,085	5,730	38,521
27,839	18,612	15,371	87,033
13,683	8,376	6,931	42,243
17,859	9,182	7,480	52,610
9,876	4,697	3,790	27,692
10,510	4,677	3,831	29,320
6,836	3,312	2,736	19,835
18,638	10,425	8,980	55,294
20,491	11,639	10,173	61,592
16,330	7,738	6,367	46,177
17,445	9,704	7,902	51,323
17,032	8,657	6,849	48,972
8,853	5,094	4,178	27,218
7,206	3,876	3,141	21,084
12,497	7,458	6,249	38,358
21,402	11,368	9,442	63,652
14,792	8,459	6,709	46,241
14,972	8,096	6,381	45,706
9,025	4,802	3,946	27,110
11,477	6,856	5,695	35,792
8,021	5,468	4,661	25,968
3,602	2,086	1,931	11,172
11,246	5,837	5,152	33,454
18,597	10,597	9,339	55,201
10,936	5,812	5,240	32,584
7,673	3,599	3,159	21,597
11,419	6,178	6,050	35,156
4,27,673	2,38,080	2,00,171	12,80,668

### *Principal Towns and Villages*

In general the Towns and Villages in the South of *Travancore* have the same compact form, with regular streets, as those commonly met with in the Carnatic; but proceeding north, they become more straggling and cover a large surface of ground, each house being surrounded by its own garden or compound. *Schoosheendrum*, the chief town in the *Agasteeswaram* district, situated in Lat. 8° 9' 22" N. and Long. 77° 30' 26" E., is remarkable for its pagoda, built in the Carnatic style, and dedicated to Eesuren to Thaunoo Moorthy. This town has a large Brahmin population and is the residence of the Tassildar, who there holds his cutcherry. Myladdy, a considerable village near the base of the southern hills, contains the first Protestant Missionary Church, built in *Travancore* in the year 1810, by the Rev. Mr. Riugeltaube, who collected a small congregation of Native Christians, whose numbers have since increased under the zealous care and ministry of the Reverend Mr. Mault. *Agasteesuram*, from whence the district derives its name, is a place of small note, consisting of a few houses of Brahmins and a Pagoda dedicated to Agasteesuren. About a mile S. W. of the above there is another village of the same name, but more extensively inhabited chiefly by Shanars or toddy drawers. *Kannea-Koomaury* is only celebrated for its temple dedicated to the Virgin Goddess of this name, there being but very few houses, and some straggling huts inhabited by fishermen in its vicinity. *Kotaur* is a town of considerable extent, to which merchants from the southern parts of India resort, it being the principal mart for exchange in articles of trade and money in the south of India. The streets are generally narrow and irregular, extending 1½ mile from north to south. It contains some public buildings, as Granareis, and one in particular, a large tobacco Banksall. The most regular part of the Town is near the Pagoda of Vadevesuram, where the Brahmins reside, their houses being well built and neatly arranged in streets. An English Free-School has lately been established at this place by His Highness the Rajah, for the instruction of native youths in the English and Tamil languages. Continuous to *Kotaur* is *Nagercoil*, once the seat of the *Travancore*



Government. It is now the station occupied by the Southern Zillah Court, and is likewise the residence of two Reverend Missionaries, Messrs. Mault Russel in connection with the London Missionary Society. *Tovaula*, a town, which gives its name to the district, is only deserving of mention, as having some public charitable buildings belonging to it. *Arramanney* (literally a palace) is the frontier village in the vicinity of the fortified lines, which formerly guarded the southern entrance to *Travancore*. *Pootapaundy*, the head quarters of the *Tovaula* district, where the Tassildar resides, is an extensive town on the right bank of the *Pallyaur* River, with rich paddy cultivation all around. It is celebrated for its Pagoda and Agarums. *Ooleapaundypuram* contains also extensive Agarums, and was in earlier times the capital of the little principally of *Naunjynaad*, but is now only a second rate town. *Pullycoorchy* or *Oodeagherry*, a fort of some extent, constructed by a European in the service of the *Travancore* Government, of the name of D' Lanoy, to whose genius and military skill *Travancore* owes most of its conquests; his tomb is still seen in a small church within the fort. *Palpanaubapuram* or *Kalkulam*, about a mile north of *Oodeagherry*, has also an extensive fort, intended to defend the Palace and celebrated Pagoda within. The Tassildar's Cutcherry is held at this place, and outside the Fort is an English Free School, established on the same principles as that at *Kotaur*. *Thirruvauncode*, the ancient Capital of *Travancore*, and from which the Principality takes its name, has now fallen greatly into decay, and presents but a poor appearance : its population is chiefly composed of Lubbies and Soodras. *Coalachy*, a sea port town, in Latitude 8° 10' 43" N., Long. 77° 16' 55" E., known in the earlier ages of commerce, is still a place of considerable resort for small native vessels and traders to the *Coromandel* coast; the Indigo factory, formerly established here, is not now kept up. *Irraneel* is an irregular, dirty town, with narrow streets, where the Tassildar of the district resides, *Trivattaur*, *Trinandykarry* and *Triparapoo* are all celebrated for their Pagodas, but are not, with the exception of the first, of any size or importance as villages. *Coolaturey*, where the Tassildar of the *Vallavencoe* district resides, is a Nair town, on the right bank of the *Tambrapoorny* river, in

the vicinity of the main southern road; and contains a Cotaarium or Palace of the Rajah. *Neyattenkarray* is also a large Nair town with the usual appurtenances of a Pagoda and Cotaarium. It is situated on the southern bank of the *Neyyaur* river, and contains the Tassildar's Cutcherry and a public Agarum or alms-house, where a number of Brahmins are daily fed. There was originally a fortification defending the Pagoda but this is now fallen into decay. *Baularaumapuram*, three and a half miles W.N.W. of *Neyattenkarray*, is comparatively of recent date, having been founded by the Dewan Omeny Tamby about the year 1808. It was his intention to have made it a principal commercial town, and to have cut a navigable canal to communicate with the sea at *Villinjum*, the ground offering every facility for such an undertaking. The building of this town was commenced on a superior scale: artificers of every description, and also merchants were invited to settle there, but ere it could be completed, according to the original plan, its progress was arrested by the reverse of fortune, that befell Oomeny Tamby: since that period, it has remained in its present unfinished state, and is chiefly occupied by oilmongers and weavers, with a tolerable bazaar extending down the center street. *Trevandrum or Tirroo Anandapuram*, situated in Lat. 8° 29' 3" N. and Long. 76° 59' 9" E., is the present capital of the principality of *Travancore*. It contains a Fort, the form of which is nearly quadrilateral, the walls being 1000 yards in length from east to west and 810 from north to south, built partly of granite stones and apt only of mud, well baked in the sun. It has no ditch, and could not be defended for any time against an attacking force. There are five gates, two on the east face, one of which is situated opposite the principal Pagoda, and has an upper room in its where the Naubut is eabt every day; the one on the west face is that through which the road to the Beach, distant 2 miles, passes; that on the north face opens to the *Pettah*, in which direction the road to Ooloor and Quilon passes; the south face has also a gate opening on that part of the suburbs. The Pagoda within the Fort is in many respects similar

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\* This refers to the Pagoda in the Fort, the new Observatory is in Lat. 8° 30'

to those in the Carnatic, having an elevated Kohpuram or gateway in front. It is held in profound veneration by the sovereigns of *Travancore*, who consider it as the abode of their household Deity. The festivals celebrated at this pagoda are too numerous to be here described; that which exceeds all others in splendour and profusion takes place semi-annually called Moorajubhum, described below at which feast it is calculated, that at least 60,000 people assemble from all quarters to profit by the bounty of the Circar. Immediately in front of the Pagoda is a large reservoir of water for the ablutions of the Brahmins, who attend upon the Pagoda, and adjoining this to the south is the Rajah's Cotaurem, or Palace, divided off into several compartments or bungalows in the native fashion. In front of these facing the road and Dewan's Cutcherry, there is a long upper-roomed house, in which the Rajah has hitherto held his public Durbars.\* The Dewan's Cutcherry and the Appeal Court, with the various offices connected with them, occupy an open space in front of the Palace. There are several other extensive Cotaurems, as they are termed, within the Fort, one of which is occupied by His Highness the Ellia Rajah, and another by Her Highness the Ranee. The Dewan has also a residence of the description allotted to him, as also one or two other persons of distinction connected with the Government. The Zillah Court, which was formerly outside, is now situated in the N.W. angle of the Fort. The population within the walls is almost exclusively Brahmin, and no low caste person is permitted to enter at any of the gates. To the east of the Fort there is an extensive line of native shops, called Shala bazaar; through which the main road from the south passes, after first crossing the *Karramanneyl* and *Killyaur* rivers over rude stone bridges. Leaving this bazaar, the road takes a turn to the north and proceeds through *Pootenshanday* to what is called the Cantonment, though there are not at present any of the Honourable Company's troops stationed here. To the N.W. of the Fort lies an extensive *Pettah* in a low sandy plain, thickly populated. The houses, surrounded with gardens and compounds, in which the Cocoanut,

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\* A new and more extensive edifice has just been completed, in which such ceremonies will in future be conducted.

Jack, Mango and other trees thrive luxuriantly, present a shady and cool appearance. The inhabitants of this part are principally descendants of Dutch and Portuguese families, besides a considerable number of native fishermen or Mookoovers and Shanars, who in general profess the Roman Catholic religion. To the south and west of the Fort there are also extensive streets, running between compounds and gardens well stocked with trees, the upper part inhabited by Brahmins, and the lower by Nairs, Vellanlens and Rajpoots. This part of the town extends in a S.E. direction to *Manacaad*, where there is a bungalow and garden called Singaura Tope, built by the late Rajah about 30 years ago; but which is now very much out of repair, and the garden is also in a neglected state. The stables for His Highness the Rajah's a body guard and private stud are situated near the S.E. angle of the Fort. The whole length of the town, from N.W. to S.E. is about 2 miles, and is calculated to contain a population of about 12,000 including all classes and castes. The British Residency, a plain and moderate sized structure, stands on an elevated spot, 2 miles east of the Fort, commanding a view of *Tycaad* valley and surrounding country. In its neighbourhood a public Hospital has lately been founded by His Highness the Rajah for the accommodation of 75 patients of all castes. The establishment of the *Trevandrum* Observatory (which is also a recent date) is another instance of his Highness' liberality and desire to promote science and knowledge among his people generally, and under the above and zealous management of the present Astronomer J. Caldecott Esq., this Observatory cannot fail to add greatly to His Highness' fair fame, and produce results, highly interesting to the scientific world at large. The *Trevandrum* public Seminary is also a valuable institution, supported by the Circar, and at which from 80 to 100 boys (principally natives) receive an excellent education; which will in time fit them for holding office in the various departments of the state. The Barracks for the 2 battalions of Nair Sepoys, in the service of this Government, are situated, half-way between the Fort and Cantonment, at which latter the Officers and other European gentlemen reside. A Protestant Church has lately been erected in the Cantonment by subscription among that class of

the European community, at which Divine Service will in future be performed by a Minister connected with the London Missionary Society. The only new establishment, that remains to be mentioned, is the Printing Office, which it is hoped will be the means of communicating much useful knowledge among the people of the country. A Printing and Lithographic Press have been procured from England, and are now in operation. *Poontorayl*, on the coast, is the-sea port town of *Trevandrum*, but of very minor importance as a place of trade. *Anjengo*, a British possession, situated on the coast in Lat. 8o 39' 48" N. and Long. 76o 48' 19" E., consists of one long street occupying the narrow beach which intervenes between the sea and backwater. It has some tolerable houses in it, inhabited by the descendants of Portuguese and Dutch, but the generality of the people are in a very impoverished and wretched condition. To the south of the present town are the remains of a square fort, with bastions at the angles, in the interior of which the Commercial Resident and to her civil servants of the Honourable Company, connected with the establishment, formerly resided. The gate is on the east, and a saluting battery in one of the angles of the west face, looking towards the sea. On the north of the town there still exists a large Roman Catholic Church, and several very ancient monuments, mostly Dutch; the inscription on one is dated. A.D. 1704, on another slab is inscribed the name of Jno. Toller, first British Resident, A.D. 1777. The total population is estimated at about 2000 souls. *Sherayenkeel*, the capital of the district, is an extensive but irregular town, situated east of *Anjengo*, and on the opposite side of the backwater. It contains a Pagoda and Cotaurem, and comprises several streets of Nair houses and gardens, in which the Cocanut, Arecanut, Jack, Mango, and other fruit-trees as usual abound. A free school, for the instruction of native youths in the English and Malayalam languages, has been established at this place. *Autungal*, the capital of the small principality of that name, is situated about 4 miles N.W. of the above on the high road, leading from *Trevandrum* to Quilon. It contains the Palace of the Ranee or eldest female of the reigning family, whose patrimony includes two Adigaurums, consisting of 17 Dasums or Villages.

*Quilon* or *Kollam* is rendered remarkable from the circumstance of the Chronological Era of the Country being fixed by ancient tradition from the foundation of this town, which, by this account, is now 1015 years ago. It owes much of its present extent and importance to the large military force, which was stationed here from 1809 up to year 1830, which it was reduced to one native Regiment, as at present. It is still however a populous place, and contains an extensive range of bazaars and several Parsee shops, which are supplied with articles from Bombay. The Cantonment is to the east of the town, and contains barracks and other public buildings, sufficient for three or four battalions of Native and one of European troops, together with a Protestant Church, and several bungalows for the accommodation of the Officers. The British Residency is the most conspicuous building, situated on the north of the Cantonment, and commanding a beautiful view of the backwater and surrounding country. In its vicinity is an antique Pagoda, dedicated to Kistnaswamy. The *Ariancauvoo* road and pass, leading out of Tinnevely, proceeds direct to Quilon, and was, when first constructed, very much frequented, but such is not now the case, owing to the bad state into which it has fallen and the comparatively few persons that travel this road since the reduction of the force. Prior to the year 1829 the Huzzoor or Dewan's Cutcherry and the Appeal Court were at *Quilon*; these offices were removed to *Trevandrum* on the occasion of His Highness the Rajah ascending the Musnud, and the Tassildar's Cutcherry alone remains. Facing the Cutcherry, at the distance of a quarter of a mile, is the Sea Custom House, a commodious upper roomed building under the charge of the Master Attendant, who usually resides at *Tanguncherry*. *Tanguncherry*, formerly a Dutch settlement, is now a British possession, adjoining *Quilon* on the west. It was originally a Fort, built on a head-land of laterite, jutting into the sea, the length about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  furlongs east and west, and the mean breadth 1 furlong; portions of the old walls are still visible, as are also the ruins of an old Portuguese tower and beifry. The interior of one of the bastions is now occupied as a Protestant burial ground. The Master Attendant's house is situated at the foot of the rampart, leading from the Flag Staff, which

occupies the N.W. angle of the Fort. The town is composed of four regular streets, intersected by narrow lanes, and divided off into compounds, enclosing the houses of the Portuguese and Dutch families. The gardens are stocked with the usual fruit-trees, and in some coffee is also grown. The inhabitants are mostly Roman Catholic, and are under the spiritual charge of the Bishop of Cochin, who resides at this place. In judicial matters the people, here are subject to the Auxiliary Court at Cochin; the Department of Police has its separate Superintendent, appointed by the British Government. The customs, port dues and other revenues, derived from this settlement, are levied by the *Travancore* Circar, an equivalent in money being paid by it for the same. By this arrangement much of the smuggling and contraband traffic, which formerly existed, is now prevented. *Kotaurakarray*, the capital of the district, lies in the direct road from *Quilon* to the *Ariancauvoo* pass; it has nothing particularly remarkable connected with it; the public buildings, in which the Tassildar's Cutcherry is held, are but poor structures, though dignified by the name of Cotaurum or Palace. *Patanaupuram*, 10 miles N.E. of *Kotaurakarray* on the same road to the Ghauts, is now formed into a separate Tassildar's station. A fine river runs by this place, which empties itself into the backwater N.E. of *Quilon*; it is navigable for large boats during the monsoon, and is crossed at such time by a jungar formed of two canoes and a platform and railing above. The town is famous for its Temple and Ootoopary on the west bank of the river, about 4 furlongs south of the village. A small bungalow is erected on the east of the town for the accommodation of travelers. *Ariancoil*, is a temple of great antiquity, dedicated to one of the five Mountain Deities, and stands in a hollow surrounded by hills, about a mile from the summit of the Pass to which it gives its name. The Pagoda lies E.S. E. 26 miles from *Kotaurakarray*, in a direct line. In its vicinity is a frontier Chowkey or Custom House with a Havildar's guard of Nair Sepoys. The whole of this Pass, which may be reckoned about 18 miles in length, present a succession of jungle and grand forest scenery; the road is excessively bad, owing to the rocky nature of the country through which it is taken, and the continued rain that prevails

for six months in the year, which has gradually washed away the alluvial soil, of which the road was originally constructed, leaving little else than the bare rocks and masses of stone to mark its direction. The town of *Shenkottah*, situated to the east of the above Pass, is compact and neat in appearance, and at the same time tolerably extensive. Two small streams from the adjoining hills unite below the town, over one of which the main road of *Madura* and *Tinnevelly* passes. The Tassildar's Cutcherry is held in one of the public buildings, of which there are several, as well as Pagodas, in various parts of the town. It is distant about 40 miles from *Tinnevelly*, and immediately to the south is *Courtallum*, the general place of resort during the hot months for all those, who usually reside at *Palamcottah* or *Madura*, and who can find time to repair thither to enjoy the fine climate between the months of June and October. *Achincoil*, another ancient hill Temple, which gives its name to the Pass north of *Shenkottah*, is situated in an exceedingly wild part of the hills; the road or rather foot-path passes close to it, and then proceeds in a westerly direction to *Pandalam* and the adjoining districts. *Karunaugapally*, a Tassildar's station, lies 13 miles N.N.W. of the Residency at *Quilon*, and 3 miles from the coast, and is inhabited principally by Maytans or Moormen, who have an extensive Mosque in the town. On the north and to the east of the road are the ruins of a small square Fort and Cotaurum. About a mile to the south is the Pagoda of *Puddanairkulamkarray*, and some public buildings in which the Cutcherry is held. *Kistnapuram*, N.N.W.  $5\frac{3}{4}$  miles of *Karunaugapally*, is a place of note, and contains a large population, chiefly Nairs. It has an extensive Fort, forming almost a square, and defended without by a strong bamboo hedge; in the interior is a Cotaurum of modern date, a powder magazine and granaries. The inhabitants reside principally on the east of the fort; at the N.E. angle is a Pagoda dedicated to Kiatnaswamy, at which a thirty days' festival takes place annually. This is one of the five Zillah Court stations; the proceedings of the Court are conducted in one of the public buildings outside the Fort on the west. *Kunnattoor*, the capital of the district N.N.E. 13 miles from the Residency at *Quilon*, is scattered Nair



village and only noted from its being the Head Quarters of the Tassildar. A branch of the Saumunder race of *Koollicote* (Calicut) reside here. Two and a half miles to the north at *Kuddumbanaad* is an ancient Syrian Church, now falling to decay, supposed to be one of the first structures of the kind erected in the country. *Mauvaleekarray*, the capital of a district, lies north 25 miles from *Quilon* and 8 ½ miles from the coast, and bears signs of having once been a place of some consequence. It has a large and regular Fort, built of red-stone and mud, about 2 miles in circumference with 24 bastions, each side having a gate-way in the centre. The interior is laid out in neat streets, crossing at right angles, and lined with compounds and houses of the Nairs, whose numbers amount to something considerable. In the centre of the Fort stands an ancient Pagoda, surrounded by a Brahmin Agarum and having a large reservoir to the north faced with stone. On the east side are several public buildings, occupied by the Tassildar's department and other public offices. On the south is a spacious Cotaurum, where some connections of the present Rajah's reside. To the N.E. a short distance from the Fort there is a long street of houses, inhabited by Syrian Christians, who have a neat church at the eastern extremity. *Chenganoor*, formerly included in the *Mauvaleekarray* district, is now the capital of a separate Tassildar's Charge. It is an extensive and populous town, situated on the west bank of the *Kukkooley*, a small river or canal, connecting the *Chincoil* and *Pambay* rivers. There is another town of the same name about 5 miles of the N.E. on the south bank of the *Pambay* river, which is famous for its Pagoda dedicated to Mahadeven. The population here also is extensive and consists principally of Nairs and Brahmins. The country around is open and well cultivated and the scenery exceedingly picturesque and beautiful. The *Pandalam* principality, originally called the *Iroor Suroopam*, was subjugated in 931 of the Malabar era or A.D. 1756, and finally assumed in 1812. It is now included in the *Mauvaleekarray* district. *Pandalam*, the capital, is composed of 12 villages, continuous to each other and containing a large population, chiefly Nairs and Brahmins, whose dwellings lie scattered along the banks of the *Achincoil* river, and are

enclosed as usual by their separate gardens, containing the customary fruit-trees and vegetables. There are several Pagodas of celebrity with their Ootooparays for Brahmins attached. *Kartegapally*, another Tassildar's station, lies in the main road from *Cochin* to *Quilon*, and is situated 27 ½ miles N.N.W. of the latter place. On the west of the town is the general bazaar, forming a long street, and kept by Mauplays and Chetties, at which a daily market assembles. About the centre of the town is a small Syrian Church and to the west a bungalow for the accommodation of travellers. There are several well built native houses on the north, scattered under groves of coconut plantations &c. The population consists of Brahmins, Nairs and Mauplays, and is tolerably extensive. *Arripaad*, situated in a fertile and populous part of the *Kartegapally* district, is held in great estimation by all classes for the sanctity and celebrity of its temple, dedicated to Soobramuny, a superior edifice of its kind. The dome over the interior above the image is covered with copper plates, and in the walls are fixed a number of brass lamps to illuminate it. There are spacious caravansaries and other large apartments attached, encompassed by a high wall. Around and within its vicinity are a few Pagodas and other edifices, the latter being occupied at the annual festival in April, which lasts for 10 days, in which interval immense crowds assemble to witness the ceremonies. The Brahmins reside the Muddums, and detached houses surrounding the Pagoda, and the musicians and dependant about the margin of the fields, under groups of coconut plantations. The Cotaurem or Palace, a neat building, is situated on the border of a fine tank, immediately north of the temple. During the festival Putter Brahmins and merchants resort here and traffic in cloth, and other saleable articles. The expense of this Pagoda, defrayed by the Circar, amount to a very great sum annually. The Tannah Choultry is to the west on the high road near a canal. *Shirrutunny Tek*, *Aunaury*, *Ayarumperumboo*, and *Toolamperumboo Nudduvut*, are subordinate villages; at the three former are Pagodas, and the latter is venerated for its *Sarpa Cauvoo* (Serpent Grove). The whole of the villages are densely scattered under coconut topes, divided at intervals by long and narrow arms of rice lands. A portion of

this subdivision comprises an extent of the delta lands of *Kootanuad*, intersected by canals, most of which are navigable the greater part of the year. The population consists of Brahmins and Nairs, also Shanars, Poolayers or predial slaves, the latter confined to remote situations in the fields. *Kayenkulam*, the capital of the *Puttyoor* subdivision of the *Kartegapally* district, is a large compact town with extensive bazaars kept by Konkaneys. It is situated about 8 miles S.E. of *Kartegapally* on the edge of the back-water and a short distance only from the coast. A considerable quantity of rice, cocoanuts and other articles are exported from this town, to which easy access over the bar, or out-let from the back-water to the sea, nearly all the year round. Larger vessels anchor outside in the open road stead. *Tirroowalla*, the capital of the district of this name, lies 9 miles N.N.E. of *Mauvaleekarray*, and derives some celebrity from a large antique Pagoda, which for magnitude and sanctity is perhaps only exceeded by that at *Trevandrum*. The foundation of this temple is traditionally carried back to 83 years before the Christian era. Previous to the year 1796 this town was a place of commercial note, but in this respect it has gradually declined since the establishment of *Changanaucherry*, as the general mart for this part of the country. The large, Pagoda, encompassed by a high wall nearly one furlong square, forms the center of an extensive and tolerably regular town, inhabited principally by Brahmins and Nairs. The chief buildings are the Cotaurn and Cutcherry, in front of which is a tank or reservoir faced with stone, having bathing apartments jutting out into the water on the four sides. On the N.W. and contiguous to the high road are two ranges of Konkaneys and Mauplay Shops, separated from the capital by a deep and broad Nullah, crossed by a wooden bridge, the private dwelling houses of the inhabitants being disposed in enclosures on either side of the road. The Syrian Christians have erected a church about half a mile on the N. of the 4 Pagoda, in place of one that was formerly burnt to the ground. The other public buildings at this place consist of a Police Choultry, Custom House, and Tobacco Godown; beyond these there is nothing remarkable. *Auroomullay*, situated 9 ½ miles E.S.E. of the capital, is an extensive village, noted for its Pagoda on the south

bank of the Pambay river. This temple is as usual surrounded by a high wall, and has its roof covered over with copper-plates, with a high column of brass raised in the interior court before the gateway. The population consists chiefly of Namboory and other Brahmins, who besides the subsistence they derive from the Ootooparay, carry on a small trade in cloths. A considerable part of the village, stretching east from the Pagoda, is inhabited by Nairs and a few Kshetries, connected with the *Callicut* family. About 3 furlongs N.E of the Pagoda at *Mauramun* is a Syrian Church surrounded by its congregation of Mauplay Christians. *Ambalapuley*, the principal town of the district, to which it gives its name, is situated on the western confines of a broad sheet of cultivation, and was, up to the year 1754, the capital of the *Chembagacherry* Rajah's country. The temple is a small but neat and costly edifice, erected on the center of a mound of earth two furlongs square, having an entrance on each side. The interior apartment is covered with plates of copper, and on the top are three gilt spiral ornaments, with a large brass pillar in front of the gate. A few yards to the south is the Cotaurum, surrounded also by a wall and divided into numerous apartments, all substantially built. To the west is a street of bazaars, with the Tannah Choultry in the centre, and the Cutcherry to the south. The usual Agarums and Muddums for the accommodation of the Brahmins are found here also on an extensive scale. The annual festival takes place in April, the expense of which, estimated at 15,000 Kally fanams of 2143 Rupees and 17,000 paraahs of paddy, is defrayed by the Circar. *Poorakaad* lies on the coast, and was once the sea-port of the country and a place of considerable trade, but has declined in proportion as Alleppey (the present Port) has increased in importance; it is still, however, a populous town, consisting of a broad street of bazaars with other narrow lanes, branching off to the right and left. The buildings of note are the Cotaurums of the Rajah of *Travancore* and *Chembagachery*, (the latter is now made use of as a depot for Tobacco), the large Konkaneey Pagoda, a Romo-Syrian Church and a few spacious houses of merchants. Small country craft with Circar Tobacco from Jaffnapatam touch here occasionally to deposit their

cargoes. A line of fortification to the south, called *Tottapally Vauday*, originally raised to prevent encroachments on the part of the *Travancore* Raja's Troops, is now in ruins. A skirmish is said to have occurred at it, when the latter became victorious in the year A.D. 1741. There are also the remains of a Portuguese fort and factory in the sea, which can be seen at low water. The population of this place consists of Konkanies, Mauplays, Mookoovers and Shanars. *Alleppey* or *Aulapuley*, situated in Lat. 9° 30' N. and long 76° 21' E., is now the first sea-port town in *Travancore*. The town itself lies scattered between the beach and an extensive tract of paddy cultivation, bordering the backwater, which here stretches eastward to considerable distance, forming an extensive lake. A canal, leader from the backwater to the Circar timber-yard on the coast, passes through the centre of the town and is crossed by six wooden bridges, about a third of a mile from each other, having streets leading from them at right angles to the canal, by means of which every facility is afforded to the merchant in conveying his goods from one side of the town to the other. The southern portion is divided into compounds, containing the dwelling houses of Arab and Parsee merchants as well as of the better classes of the inhabitants. Contiguous to the coast at the end of the canal are the Pepper and Salt Banksalls, and Sea-custom house and a private dwelling house for the accommodation of the Commercial Agent. A Protestant Mission, connected with the Church Missionary Society, has been established at this place for many years past, under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Norton. The Church together with the mission house and premises lie on the north side of the canal, a short distance only from the coast. The town of *Alleppey* was of little or no importance 50 years ago; but from the encouragement, held out to merchants and settlers of all classes, it has by degrees become most populous and a place of vast trade. It is here that the chief produce of the interior, such as Teak-timber, Pepper, Cardamoms and other export articles, is collected, from the sale of which the *Travancore* Circar derives a considerable revenue. The whole of this department is under the superintendence of a British Officer in the capacity of Commercial Agent. A flag staff has been erected by

the Circar near the Custom house, in the main topmost cross-trees of which a double lantern with plain lights is fixed; and these are kept burning regularly at night, as a guide to vessels passing up and down the coast, or wishing to make this port. *Chunganaucherry* is the capital of a district, and lies 15 miles east of *Alleppey*, and 38 miles N. of *Quilon*. The town is built on a rising ground on the eastern border of that extensive delta, called *Kootanaad*, and is both populous and flourishing, being from its situation well adapted for trade and having roads to the interior communicating with the Dindigul Valley across the hills, and good water communication to the W. towards *Quilon*, *Alleppey*, and other intermediate places. A fair is held here bi-weekly, which is attended by crowds of people from the interior and from the west; these latter are at times so numerous, that the canal is quite blocked up with their canoes and boats. The population consists of the usual proportions of Brahmins, Nairs, Syrian Christians, Lubbies, and other lower classes, each portion of the community having its own streets and places of worship. A Kshetry Prince, connected with the reigning family of *Travancore*, resides at this place. *Kunjarapally*, the capital of subdivision of the *Chunganaucherry* district, is situated on the east bank of the *Chittaur* river 19 miles N.E. by E. of *Chunganaucherry*. It has a considerable population of Lubbies and Nassarauny Syrian Mauplays, with a few Vellalah Kshetries, but there is nothing very remarkable connected with the town itself. *Sharretallay*, the capital of the district bearing its name, is situated at the southern extremity of an inland branch of the backwater, by means of which it possesses free communication with *Alleppey*, *Cochin*, and the interior districts. It has an extensive population consisting of Brahmins, Nairs Konkanyes, Syrians, and Shanars. Their houses are considerably scattered, with the exception of that portion of the town called *Mootum*, which consists of a street of bazaars running south for about 3 furlongs, the side next to the water being occupied by Syrian or Mauplay merchants, and the southern part by those of the Konkany caste. This town is a place of some trade: a market assembles at it every evening, where flash and other articles of daily consumption are exposed for sale. About the

centre, on the west side of the town, is a Syro-Roman Church, one of the largest in the country, and is said to have been built about 370 years ago. A colony of black Jews once settled at this place, but the stagnation of trade and want of employment induced them (it would seem) to quit it; their synagogue, a short distance from the church on the opposite side of the street, has now fallen to ruin. The Konkanyies have their dwellings to the east in compounds around their Pagoda; a few of the families of this caste are in affluent circumstances. The houses of the Nairs are dispersed under groves of Cocoonut trees bordering their fields, which run in long narrow valleys and depend on the periodical rains for water. To the S.E is a neatly built small Pagoda, dedicated to Bagavaty with an Agarum and several buildings for Brahmins attached. This is one of the many places of celebrity in the province; the annual festival occurs in April, and continues for 8 successive days, during which time the place is thronged with spectators, chiefly Nairs, from the neighbouring districts. *Cotayam*, though a place of some note, is not a very large or regular town; it extends for some distance along the edge of the river, and at the northern extremity, near a small fort, is a small square of bazaars, where a weekly market is held, and some little trade carried on, chiefly by the Syrians, amongst whom there is here perhaps more wealth and property than they are generally found to possess. The population of *Cotayam* is principally composed of Syrian Christians, who possess several large Churches in the neighbourhood, and consider this as the principal seat of their religion. The usual district authorities also reside here. The scenery around is exceedingly picturesque, Churches and Pagodas are seen dispersed here and there amid the rich foliage of fine forest trees that skirt the river in its course through a beautifully undulating country; vegetation also is most luxuriant; and the addition of a few neat and well constructed European houses gives the place an air of novelty and interest. The Church Missionary Society has long occupied this spot, and Missionaries have been sent out from time to time to instruct the Syrian population generally in the truths of Christianity, but more especially to educate the youths intended for the ministry. With a view of aiding this laudable intention, a

college was erected and liberally endowed by the late Ranee during the administration of Colonel Munro, which is still in existence, though the students at present are but few, in consequence of the opposition of the present Metran, who is averse to any species of improvement or reform. *Ehtumannoor*, the capital of a district, lies about 30 miles S. E. from Cochin; it is only remarkable as having a large temple (the usual point of attraction), dedicated to Siven whose various retinue, together with the Officers of the district Cutcherry, constitute the chief part of its population. An annual fair is held here at the period of the festival. *Laulum*, or *Paullypeetta*, the capital of the *Meenachel* district, is situated S. E. 35 miles from *Cochin* on the bank of a fine navigable stream. It is a tolerably large town with some bazaars and inhabited almost entirely by Christians, many of whom are merchants engaged in the Areca trade, which here forms the chief article of traffic. *Three several kinds* are enumerated as adapted to the different markets, for which they are prepared; in the first case, the nut is split, coloured and dried; in the second, coloured and dried; and in the third instance, dried only. A portion of this product finds its way to *Palghaut*, being transported by water to *Chowghaut*, and from thence by land carriage. The southern parts of *Travancore* and the inhabitants of the *Dindigul Valley* are in part supplied with this article from *Laulum*, and this town receives in turn several imports, such as cloth of various textures, coarse cumblies, iron, dry grain &c. The *Meenachel* district authorities reside here, and in its immediate neighbourhood is a small fort, now in ruins, within which a Cotaurum and other wooden buildings, built after the usual rustic fashion, are to be seen. *Muauttupuley*, the town, which gives its name to a district, is situated at the junction of two rivers and in the vicinity of a third, (whence its denomination) and is in some measure the mart for the Suparee (Arecanut) of the neighbouring districts, and receives likewise a portion of the imports brought by the *Todupuley* and *Nareamunjalum* passes. There is a small *Pettah* here, inhabited by Mauplays and Christians, and the usual Offices of the district authorities occupy the bank of the river, beyond which there is nothing deserving of particular notice. *Todupuley*, centrally situated



in the district, bearing the same name, was once the seat of an extensive trade carried on chiefly by Lubbay merchants originally from the eastern coast, who form the principal part of the population of the town. The Pass between *Todupuley* and *Cumbum* in the *Dindigul Valley* leads through a wild mountainous tract, densely covered with large forest trees, (among which the Teak is seen flourishing) and is traversed by bullocks, in ten or twelve days. The export trade is confined to the Arecanut and some little Cocoanut and Salt-fish, all which articles find a ready sale on the eastern side of the Ghauts; and the imports consist of cloth, cumblies, iron in bars, a great variety of dry grain and a long list of condiments and other less important articles. The town itself is in no way remarkable, but the scenery around is of a strikingly grand and romantic character. The fine river, the *Perryaur*, flowing through this district, is of extensive service in the transport of Teak timber to the coast. *Ahloowye* is situated on the southern bank of the *Perryaur* river, and may be considered as the watering place of *Cochin*, from which it is distant about 16 miles. Several bungalows have been built on the banks of the river, which are in great request during the hot months of March, April and May, both on account of the cool temperature of the place compared to *Cochin*, and the wonderful salubrity of the water, which induces all who frequent the place to enjoy the luxury of bathing; indeed in general, each bungalow is furnished with a temporary covered way leading down the bank to a comfortable bath jutting into the river and screened off by mats. The native town is not of any extent, nor is there any thing remarkable connected with it. *Parravoor*, the chief town of the district of this name, lies north 13 miles from *Cochin*, and is esteemed one of the principal towns, of the northern parts, although by no means remarkable for either size or regularity; it was, however, at no very remote date of greater importance, having been one of the chief Military Stations; its decay may be dated from the invasion of the Sultan, who after his usual manner plundered and partly destroyed the town and suburbs. It still possesses numerous bazaars, and some small trade, and is a principal mart for cloth : the traders are generally speaking, of the Konkany caste. There is rather a large population here, but of a

mixed character; Christians occupy part of the town; there are also a few Jews and considerable number of Vellaulers, inhabitants of the other coast, who formed part of the Sepoy rabble once stationed here. This town has two Churches, a Pagoda, some small Cotaurums, the usual Offices of the district authorities and some few buildings of European architecture, now become store houses of Tobacco, Pepper, Salt, &c. The Zillah Court of the northern district is held at this place. The Estate of *Manapaad*, or as it is more generally called of *Palliport*, (*Pollypuram*) was purchased from the Dutch by the *Travancore* Government, at the period that the Fort of *Kodungaloor* was sold by the former. This tract is now held by a Dutch Gentleman (M. Vernede), who rents it from the Circar, and is highly cultivated, and extremely fertile in the ordinary produce of the country. It has a very large proportionate population and in some measure belongs to the *Parravoor* district, a guard from the Police Establishment of that place being stationed in it, or being called on for aid on all occasions where coercion is necessary. The Circar servants do not interfere in collecting the revenue; defaulters, however, are amenable to the *Parravoor* Zillah Court, within whose jurisdiction it is included. The gentleman holding those lands exercises some civil authority within their limits, and is not interfered with by the Government Officers; in fact he resembles in every particular an ordinary Zemindar. The fortified lines, that now mark and were originally intended to defend the northern frontier of *Travancore*, pass for 3 ½ miles through the district of *Parravoor*, terminating near *Jacolay*, a name commonly given to this portion of the fortification. *Curreepully* is a small work on the line, probably intended as a Magazine, the whole however has now fallen to complete decay and it can no longer be considered as a defensive barrier. The stream, passing from the last mentioned place to *Manapaad*, is too shallow to serve as a further defence to those lines, it affords however an easy passage to the smaller class of boats. Close to *Manapaad* is a small but strong built Tower, evidently of European construction, raised most probably to defend the passage of the river; within it is a well, yielding the best water in the vicinity.

### **Government**

The administration of affairs in *Travancore* has of late years undergone great reformation, and the present system of Government is in many respects similar to that of neighbouring countries. The reigning Prince enjoys every possible consideration, and exercises independent power throughout the country. To the chief Minister or Dewan is confided an extensive executive authority over all the departments of governments, and by his means, aided by the advice and counsel of the British Resident, the whole of the important business of the state is transacted. The country is divided into thirty-two Mundavattum Wautookals or districts, having a Tassildar at the head of each and under him a Sumbrudy Pillay or principal accountant, and several Keelcootum Pillays or assistant accountants. In addition to these are one cash-keeper, six or eight peons, employed in collections, and two or three Vallia-Thundacars, who act as hurkaurars. Each district is divided into smaller divisions, managed by a Provertheyear, who has under him a Chundracar or cash-keeper and an accountant. The villages, of which these divisions are composed, have their own proper officers, exercising a domestic jurisdiction. The large establishment, forming the Huzzoor or Dewan's Cutcherry, is composed of various officers, of whom the following are the principal, viz., the Dewan, the Dewan Paishgar, Huzzoor and Tannah Sheristadars, the Vallia-Meleloothoo Pillay or Accountant General, and under him the Meleloothoo Pillaymars, and Goomastas, or various ranks of accountants, Unchull Pillaymars or Postmasters, and two Moodelbudies or Treasurers for receipts and disbursements. The above form the principal revenue establishments of the Circar. Justice is administered by a separate department. At the head of it is the Appeal Court at *Trevandrum*, composed of four Judges, three of whom are Hindoos and one a Christian, with a Shastree and a Moofee as law officers of the court. Under its jurisdiction there are five Zillah Courts, each having one Hindoo and one Christian Judge, assisted by a Shastree. The Zillah stations are *Nagercoil*, *Trevandrum*, *Kistnapuram*, *Alleppey* and *Parravoor*. The Dewan is the chief Magistrate of the country or head of the Police, and under him are the Tassildarsa and Proverthycars

of the several districts, who, in addition to their revenue duties, also conduct those of the Police under certain limitations and restrictions. A Tannah Naik and ten or twelve peons form the regular police establishment of a district; but in addition to these, every town or village of any extent has its own Cauvulcars or watchmen to serve as a protection against robbery or violence of any kind.

### ***Religion and Religious Establishments***

The southern share of *Malyaulum*, unexpected as it has been Mahomedan conquest, preserves the Hindoo religion in all its strictness of forms and ceremonies. The Brahmin population peculiar to this country is divided into two great classes: the first in importance and of the highest caste is the Naboor; and the second, the Pootie or Canara Brahmin; these two classes take precedence of all foreign Brahmins, enjoy many privileges and are looked up to with great reverence by the people of the country in general. The number of Hindoo temples is estimated at nearly 4000, the greater part of them, however, are but small compared to those in the Carnatic, and very many are fast going to decay. Upwards of 300 are consecrated to the worship of the Superior Divinities, Vishnoo and Siven; a considerable number are dedicated to Bagavaty, (the Buddrakauly of the eastern coast) at whose shrine buffaloes, sheep and poultry are sacrificed. During the festivals in honour of this Goddess it is common for her votaries to pierce the muscles and flesh of the back with hooks, and suffer themselves to be suspended and swung, round a pole till their strength is quite exhausted. The long catalogue of Pagodas, which yet remain, belong to the lower orders, and are dedicated to local or sylvan deities, which latter are considered to preside over the business of rural life. Padbanabah Swamy or Vishnoo may be considered as the patron deity of *Travancore*. His principal shrine, termed Ananta-Shaiyanum, is at *Trevandrum*, where his worship is supported with great profusion and splendour. Among the other Pagodas of celebrity that of Ayapen at *Chowrymully* attracts particular attention, vast numbers (and many even from the eastern coast) flocking to it at the period of the festival in January, to present their vows and offerings. notwithstanding it is situated in the wildest country possible.

*Kannea-koomaury* at the extreme point of the peninsula is a celebrated place of pilgrimage. The ceremonies of the Pagodas are almost always performed by the two classes of Brahmins before mentioned, who are succeeded in their office from time to time by others of the same caste. The principal, and they may be called the nation festivals, are those of Vishoo and Wonum; the former occurs in April, and the latter in August or September. The Wonum is the feast most generally observed throughout the country; during its progress the houses are adorned with flowers; lamps are kept burning and the swing is put in requisition, in fact a general jubilee is kept by all ranks and classes of society. It would be impossible almost to enumerate the several festivals, that occur at the various principal Pagodas in the country; but there is one grand feast, called Moorajabbum, celebrated every sixth year at *Trevandrum* that is worthy of notice. It occupies 56 days and generally collects the whole Brahmin population of the surrounding country, who are entertained at an immense expense to the Circar, a liberality or rather profusion, that has acquired for this state the epithet of Dhurmah Summustaunam or Charitable Land. The Circar have within the last 20 years resumed the whole of the Pagoda lands, yielding an annual revenue of 3 lacks of rupees. The expenses of the religious establishments are now defrayed from the general treasury and arranged on a liberal footing, that allows of the performance of every ceremony, consistent with the established customs.

### ***Produce & c.***

The chief produce of the land is rice, of which there is always more than sufficient for home consumption. Dry grains, such as Natchnee, Cholum, Cooltie (Horse Gram), Dhall, Raggy, Oolundoo (a species of Pea) and Rape Seed are also produced, but not in any great abundance. The Pepper vine grows luxuriantly and is found in almost every garden as far south as *Kalkulam*, and the forests yield a considerable quantity of Cardamoms, besides Cassia, Frankincense and other aromatic drugs. Cocoanuts are very plentiful, except in the south or *Naunjynaad*, where the Palmyra tree abounds. Vegetable oils are extracted from the fruits and kernels of several trees and shrubs. Of

these may be enumerated, Ellu (or Rape Seed oil) Aumanukka (Castor oil), Cocoanut oil, Pinnaykai (or Laurel oil), Marottie, Illoopa, Vaympoo, the three latter oils being extracted from the fruit of large trees. Sugar and Salt are manufactured in the country, but to a small extent only, and by no means sufficient for the wants of the people.

### *Cattle and other Animals*

The nature of the country, notwithstanding its general fertility, is too mountainous and woody to be well adapted for pasturage. The domestic cattle, with few exceptions, present a most wretched appearance, being very ill taken care of by their owners, and the supply of grass during the hot months furnishing but a scanty subsistence. The black cattle do not thrive well on this coast, their size is very diminutive and their strength is scarcely sufficient for agricultural purposes, except in very light loomy or wet soils. The climate and localities agree better with Buffaloes; which are more than proportionally numerous and possess considerable bulk and power, and are of essential service to the ryot. The hill people do not possess or breed cattle, but this is chiefly on account of the number of wild animals, that infest the jungles, and to whose ravages they would be exposed. Goats are found in tolerable number, but there is great room for increase and improvement in the breed. For Sheep the climate of *Travancore* is decidedly unfavourable, and the same may be said in respect to horses, of which there are very few to be seen in the country. Among the wild animals it would be sufficient to enumerate those most commonly known and met with, through the recesses of the hills probably harbour a great variety of different species. The royal Tiger, Panther, Cheetah, and Tiger-cat are very numerous, but it is from the voracity of the first named that both men and cattle chiefly suffer. Immense herds of wild Buffaloes are met with in the remoter parts; they do not however venture beyond the shelter of their woods. Elephants exist in great numbers and are a source of much trouble and annoyance to the cultivator, upon whose fields they frequently commit great depredations, trampling upon and destroying more grain than they actually consume. They are sometimes taken in pits for the purpose of being tamed and made use of in the

Timber and Maramut Departments of the Circar. It would be very desirable if a better plan could be adopted for their capture, both on account of the value of their labour as well as more effectually to reduce their numbers, which appear to be increasing rapidly. The wild Hog, Deer and Porcupine are very common, as is also every species of the Monkey tribe; the Chingalum or sphinx-faced Monkey, one of their varieties almost peculiar to *Travancore*, is small, sort tailed, and might perhaps be imagined to bear some resemblance to the fabulous animal, from which it takes its name. Both Lizards and Squirrels of the flying kind are met with in the jungles; in the former, thin membranes, extending along its side, form the wings; its flight however never exceeds the distance of some neighbouring tree; the back is striped with a great variety of brilliant colours. Of the amphibious animals the Alligator is the most conspicuous, consisting of two species, large and small; the backwaters and canals are completely infested with them. The Otter is also an inhabitant of those waters. There is every variety of the reptile species to be found in the country, from the little Golden Snake, that lies concealed within the folds of the Kuldeva flower, to the immense Rock Snake or Boa, which is found in the wilder parts, and would appear to be of great magnitude. Calculation gives the number of black cattle as equal to 2,91,377, that of Buffaloes at 91,405, the total giving on an average, 57 to the square mile, which number will be increased to 88, if we deduct the hilly and uninhabited extent of country.

### *Climate*

From the variety of aspect and extensive range of territory some diversity of climate might be inferred, dampness is perhaps amongst its most sensible qualities. The hills present every degree of temperature from beyond fever-heat, to near freezing point; this rapid transition, however, is only common in the mountains, the climate of the low country being much more regular. The natives divide the year into six seasons. The Wussuntakaulum commences with the new-moon in March, and continues to May; during this period it is hot with rain at intervals; the Grishmakaulum sets in which the new-moon in May, and continues to July; the periodical rains are considered as commencing with this period

and continue throughout it; the Prauverie or Wurshakaulum begins with the new-moon in July, and continues to September; the rains for this period being more moderate; the Sharelkaulum commences on the close of the previous season, and continues to November; the north east monsoon is partially felt, and the one peculiar to this coast now subsides; the Haymantakaulum next succeeds, and lasts till January; it is marked by strong winds and heavy dews; the Siserakaulum is the last season, it commences as the other closes, and continuing till March, is distinguished by its excessive heat. But more generally speaking, the seasons may be separated into wet and dry, their vicissitudes being the same as the other parts of the western coast. The monsoon commences about the beginning of June and ends in September it is ushered in by frequent thunder and lightening, and a constant succession of showers; during its continuance, the rains are heavy and incessant. The three months following their partial cessation are perhaps the most agreeable and salubrious in the year, the air being cool and refreshing, and the face of the country clothed with a luxuriant verdure. The borders of the lakes always afford an agreeable climate. The cultivated parts, particularly the more western, enjoy a favourable degree of salubrity; receding from the coast, the country becomes less healthy, and the villages along the foot of the hills feel the baneful effects of their vicinity. In the interior of those wild tracts, from December to May, both months included, the climate is quite pestiferous, nor do the mountaineers escape its effects; to European and indeed to Natives of the plains it is highly injurious, nor is it easy to say to what cause the fever, common to the hills during this season, must be attributed, though the sudden change of temperature (often varying 40° during the 24 hours) and excessive dews doubtless give activity to it. The climate of the hills for the remaining portion of the year is very salubrious, from June to September particularly so; the only inconvenience experienced for this period being the torrents of rain that deluge them, and the multitude of leeches that are generated thereby. In the neighbourhood of the Caps the S.W. monsoon is but slightly felt, and the southern districts are in consequence often quite parched and dry, while heavy rain perhaps is falling not twenty miles to the north at the very same time : thus *Oodeagherry*



may experience all the severity of the monsoon, while *Myladdy* has comparatively dry climate: Notwithstanding the favourable character of the climate of *Travancore*, the ordinary infirmities of life are more common, at least the less fatal diseases are more numerous here than in the eastern parts of the peninsula; attributable, possibly, to the warm humidity of climate, constant use of spirits, which are easily obtained and largely indulged in, a wretched diet, and scanty clothing. The term of life does not equal perhaps the duration common on the other coasts : those who have reached the middle point of life (and perhaps the number is proportionally greater amongst the Christians, more especially the Sooryauny part of them) are however, numerous; the advanced age of eighty and ninety is but seldom met with, and at this period the faculties are always impaired, if not entirely annihilated. A change of climate is always injurious to and eventually generally destroys a native of *Travancore*; such is not the case, however, with an inhabitant of the eastern coast, who emigrates with safety and is not in the least incommoded by the transition. The Natives have but little skill in physic • or in the virtues of plants; medicinal simples and embrocations of herbs, added to the imaginary benefit of incantations, are their only remedies; many Brahmins possess some knowledge of medicine, but are quite devoid of any science; empirics are numerous, but their nostrums are only remarkable for their absurdity; the prescription is frequently directed against some minute Demon, who is supposed to cause the disease, and the last resource is to implore the aid or deprecate the wrath of some minor diety (particularly Bagavaty, who is the Pandora of those parts), the petition being always strengthened by an offering.

### *Aspects of the Country*

The face of the country presents considerably diversity, although its general character, with the exception of the southern portion, is extremely abrupt and mountainous. The line of coast is generally flat, but retreating from it, the surface immediately becomes unequal, roughening into slopes, which again gradually combine and swell into the mountainous range which hounds the view on the East. *Naunjynaad*, with its collected villages, waving plains, Palmyra topes,

and extensive cultivation, resembles in some respect the neighbouring province of *Tinnevely*, except that it in no wise partakes of its sterile and barren appearance; approaching northward this fertile plain is succeeded by the woody and rugged surface of the genuine *Malayalam* country. The rich and variegated tract, extending along the coast, flanked by its mountainous barrier, is finely contrasted with the somber magnificence and desolate solitude of those wilds of which the Elephant seems the natural master; and though the landscape may be too much made up of this wild scenery, it still presents many striking localities and peculiar beauties. The eye is arrested by the wild rocky and precipitous acclivities and fantastic forms, assumed by the mountains in the more southern parts; but proceeding north, the bold and elevated contour of this Alpine chain is less sharply defined, a few rugged cliffs and conical summits alone breaking through the sameness of its rounded and somber outline. The high range again dissolves into clustering hills and romantic precipices, at the foot of which wind innumerable valleys, presenting (particularly in the middle parts) the most delightful landscapes, embellished and diversified by the prospect of Churches and Pagodas; indeed the endless succession of houses and gardens, scattered in picturesque disorder over the face of the country, gives it entirely a different appearance from the eastern coast.

### *Sea Coast*

*Travancore* is bounded on the west by an ample extent of sea coast, which measures in its whole length one hundred and sixty-eight miles, but is not indented by a single harbour or even a bay of any capacity; it offers, however, a safe and clear road-stead from October to May, nor is it during this period liable, generally speaking, to any sudden squalls or storms, except in the neighbourhood of the Cape, which has always been remarkable for continued violent winds. *Mannagoody*, *Colachy*, *Vilinjum*, *Poontoray*, *Vayly*, *Anjengo*, *Quilon*, *Kayenkulam* (or its bar), *Porakaad* and *Alleppy* are reckoned as sea-port towns; the last mentioned is by far the most important of the whole, the remainder being frequented only by small native craft and having comparatively but little trade. A ledge of rocks is stated to

strike out from the coast for some distance in the vicinity of *Pullypuram*. A mud bank, lying about three miles out at sea parallel to the shore, and stretching formerly from beyond *Alleppy* to *Porakaad*, formed a good anchorage, where ships in twenty fathoms water rode secure in all seasons from the dangers of a sea-shore, any heavy sea being repelled by the soft bank; much of this, which has always been subject to some fluctuation, has been carried away, but a portion yet remains near *Porakaad*, which furnishes a safe retreat to vessels in heavy blowing weather, some even remaining there (dismantled) during the monsoon. The waters of the rivers and lakes escape into the sea by several embouchures. The *Pullayaur*, having pursued its fertile course through the *Naunjynaad* valley, forms a small lake at *Mjannagoody*, and disembogues itself by a narrow opening, which is closed, however, during the dry season. The *Tambrapoorny* (formed by the junction of the *Coday* and *Paralay* rivers), *Neyaur*, *Karramanney*, and *Bhavanaupooram* rivers discharge themselves at *Tangapatnum*, *Poooor*, *Pootentoray*, and *Anjengo* respectively. The mouths of the small backwaters at these places are opened only in the rains. The *Kulladdee* river, after spreading into a fine lake, escapes by the outset of *Eywikka* or *Ullymoogum*; these embouchures are generally narrow and shallow, admitting only the passage of large dhonies. Immediately at the Cape (*Kunnea-koomaury*) the coast is bold and rather rugged, and from it the breakers are seen dashing over a few precipitous rocks. *Cuddeanputnum* and *Velinjum* are little jutting promontories, whose abrupt bases are constantly washed by the sea. *Wurkully*, presenting for a distance of six miles a series of rugged headlands, and *Tanguncherry*, are the last portions of the coast, where the higher grounds extend to the sea, with these exceptions the coast is low and flat, a narrow strip of sand, rarely more than a furlong in breadth, intervening between the sea and the commencement of Cocoanut tops and gardens, that every where fringe its margin. It is only during the violent intervals of the monsoon, that the surf is boisterous; at other times it admits of an easy debarkation. It would appear, that the sea had made slight inroads within the last seventy or eighty years, as at *Porakaad* the remains of a fort and factory, and at *Tricoonnapulay*

&c. those Pagodas are seen at times amidst the breakers; but the encroachments have only been partial, and the low sandy surface of the more northwestern districts might rather excite the belief, that they had at some former period emerged from the Ocean, but no marine remains have been found, that would tend to substantiate this supposition.

### ***Mountains***

The high chain of Ghauts, that form the eastern boundary of *Travancore*, is composed of a succession of bluff ridges and conical peaks, presenting in general a very irregular outline, the highest of which, at the greatest estimation, cannot exceed four or five thousand feet; amongst the most remarkable eminences are those of *Myandragerry*, *Agasteesuer*, *Kootanaad*, *Nedumbara*, *Palpanaubapuram peak*, *Unmurtamalay*, *Kodiaturm* *Martamamalay*, *Peermode*, *Chowkanaad*, *Payraymalay*, *Thairathemda*, *Shoolemalay*, and *Auneymalay*. Some of the above lofty mountains are seen entirely detached, except near their bases, from the neighbouring heights, falling precipitously and followed to the westward by a succession of low hills, which continue to diminish in altitude as they approach the coast. From *Quilon* southward these secondary ranges are softened down into undulating slopes, intersected by innumerable glens and valleys, which dilate in width in proportion as the elevation of the hills diminishes, and are cultivated invariably with paddy and found to be most productive. Amongst the labyrinth of mountains there are some rough elevated table-lands to be found; but the transition from hill to dale is in most cases too rapid to allow of any large extent of plain surface. The above remarks refer to the country west of the *Perryaur* river, between which and *Dindigul* is an immense mass of hills, crowded together in endless confusion. They are, however, distinguished by similar characteristics; their gloomy summits, either broken into projecting cliffs, or thickly shaded with wood, fall generally with precipitous abruptness and present a variety of wild but magnificent forest scenery.

These solitudes enclose within their recesses some elevated plains, occupying about 1½ of the whole area, which afford fine pasturage for the cattle of the neighbouring country, and enjoy a good

climate for a portion of the year. It is in these parts that the principal Cardamom gardens are met with, the produce of which is annually transported to *Alleppey* and sold by contract for the benefit of the *Travancore* Government. The finest Teak timber is also to be found in this mountainous tract, but cannot be felled to any purpose, except when in the vicinity of the *Perryaur* or any other large tributary stream, by which it could be floated down to the coast.

### ***Principal Rivers***

The line of coast, included with the limits of *Travancore*, is intersected by fourteen rivers, besides numerous subsidiary streams and rivulets, of which the most remarkable are included in the following enumeration.

The *Pullay*, rising in the secondary range of mountains, north of *Kalkulam*, flows in a direction S.E. and S.S.E for a distance of 23 miles, passing in its course the towns, *Pootapaundy*, *Kotaur* and *Shoosheendrum* and discharges itself at length into the *Mannagoody* backwater. The banks are in general low, and the breadth of its sandy bed varies from 12 to 30 places. This river, possessing but a shallow stream of its own, receives a supply of water by means of an artificial channel from the *Pandian Ana* thrown across the *Paralayaaur* near the village of *Ponmunna*, and is thus of essential service in the irrigation of *Naunjynaad*. Several large channels are taken off from it at intervals in its course to the south, one of these, the *Pooten-aur*, commencing a little above *Pootapaundy*, waters a space 17 miles and supplies a considerable number of Tanks along its borders, the last being within half of a mile of *Cape Comorin*.

The *Paralay* river rises in the mountains north of *Myandragerry*, and flows (for the first part) through a wild tract in a S.W. course for 23 miles, entering the plains at *Trivattaur*, shortly after which it is joined by the *Coday* river. The junction of these two streams forms the *Cooleturey* river, which disembogues itself at *Tangupdinum* on the coast, after a further course of 14 miles. This latter river is navigable during the rains for small boats as far as *Cooleturey*, above which the bed becomes rocky and precipitous.

The *Coday* river descends from the *Moolachy* mountains, and flows S.S.W. through a wild and woody country, the banks being in general steep and the bed rocky, causing several falls and cataracts, the last of which is seen near *Tripaparapoo* Pagoda, from whence it proceeds in a more tranquil course, till it unites with the *Paralay*, before mentioned, 20 miles from its rise.

The *Neyaur* issues from the foot of the *Agasteesuer* hills, and is precipitated in its early course by a succession of small falls, which as it escapes the wilder tracts, swell into a cataract of considerable magnitude. Confined by bold banks, this river flows over a partially rocky bed in a S.W. course 35 miles, till it discharges itself into the sea near *Poo-oor*. It is navigable for boats as far as *Neyattenkarray*, a distance of about 8 miles, but this is only during the rains, at which seasons also Timber is floated down from the hills.

The *Karramanney* river also has its source on the northwest-side of the *Agasteesuer* mountain, and flows in its early course through a very woody and uneven country over a partially rocky and narrow bed confined by high banks. The total distance traversed by this river in all its windings is about forty-one miles, its course being generally S. and S.W. till approaching *Poontoray* on the coast; after receiving the waters of the *Killyaur*, it runs parallel to and unites with the Sea at the foot of a little head-land termed *Covellum*. The *Karramanney* is crossed by a rude stone bridge at the village of the same name, over which the main road to *Trevandrum* passes. Boats can ascend this river for 8 to 9 miles during the monsoon and it is serviceable likewise for floating down Bamboos and Timber of all descriptions from the hills.

The *Killyaur* may be considered as a branch of the above, rising of *Nedoovemkaad* forests; it has a short and devious course of fifteen miles to the point of junction. The water of this river irrigates a small tract of rice land by means of anicuts and channels taken off from them; one of these also supplies the large reservoir in the Fort, immediately in front of the Pagoda.

The *Bhavanaupuram* river springs from the foot of the

*Purvumbacode* hills and after running west twenty-three miles, through a hilly tract of country, reaches the town whose name it bears, and from thence flows five miles further to the *Anjengo* estuary. Timber, Bamboos & c. are easily conveyed to the coast by this river during the monsoon.

The *Ittykarray* issues from the low ranges of hills east of *Cheddiamungalam*, and flows S.W. by W. thirty miles with a rapid, though in general, shallow stream. The waters of this river are discharged into the *Parravoor* estuary.

The union of five large streams issuing from the high range of *Gjauts*, form the *Kullada* river. Its course is generally N.W. passing by the towns, *Patanaupuram*, *Muhnuddy* and *Kunnatoor*, and the total length is estimated at 70 miles, about one-third of which will admit the passage of boats. The breadth of this river varies considerably, but in some parts it expands to nearly three hundred yards. The high road to *Quilon* through the *Ariancauvoo* pass meets it at *Patananaupuram*, where it is crossed during the rains by means of rafts formed by a couple of canoes with a platform and railing above.

The *Achincoil* or *Kallakadavoo* river springs from the foot at the pass of the former name, and in its course to the west traverses a wild tract of country for some distance. Its bed, generally sandy but interrupted at intervals by rocks, gradually widens to near three hundred yards the elevation of the banks, diminishing at the same time and passing the towns of *Pandabam* and *Mauvaleekarray*; at length, it unites with the *Pambay* river, after flowing a distance of seventy miles N.W., of which forty miles may be reckoned upon as navigable for small boats the greater part of the year.

The *Pambay* river, of which the *Kullaur* and *Kukkandaur* are branches, rises in the mountainous country, stretching east of *Raunnea*, and pursues its course with a rapid current over a rocky and precipitous bed, till it emerges into the plains where it finally unites its waters with those of the *Achincoil* river, and discharges itself by two embouchures into the *Alleppey* or *Vembanaad* lake. The *Pambay* are

formed during its winding course to the westward, the whole extent of which will measure about ninety miles, fifty-two being navigable for boats the greater part of the year.

The *Mannymalay* river, issuing from the *Kodamoorty* hills, also connects itself with the *Pambay* near *Shambanakulam*, below which, again separating, it flows by several channels into the large lake. *Kalloopauray* and *Tirroowalla* are situated on the banks of this river, thirty-five miles of whose course are navigable.

Numerous mountain streams, descending from the *Kodiatur* and *Kodamoorty* mountains, unite at *Eerattupetta* and form the *Meenachel* river. *Paullai*, *Keedungoor* and *Cotayam* are situated on its banks. The course of this river may be about thirty-five miles in length, twenty-six of which are navigable for small boats during the greater part of the year. On leaving *Cotayam*, its waters are discharged by various channels in to the *Vembanaad* lake.

The *Moovautupulay* river is composed of three branches, which have their rise in the mountainous tract, stretching east of the town of the same name, and which derives its own appellation from the circumstances of their streams uniting in its immediate vicinity. This river, after leaving the town of *Moovautupulay*, has a further course of twenty-eight miles, when it discharges its waters into the *Vembanaad* lake by several embouchures. Boats can in general ascend as far as *Khodamungalum* and *Thodupulay*.

The *Perryaur* is the first river in *Travancore* and most probably the principal one throughout the whole of the western coast. It has its source in the highest range of Ghauts and flows first in a northerly and afterwards a westerly direction, a total distance of one hundred and forty-two miles, till it mingles its waters with the sea at *Pallypuram* near *Kodungaloor*. In its course to the low country this river is increased by innumerable tributary streams, of which the *Mulay*, *Sherdhoney*, *Peringacootay*, *Moodrapally*, *Kundanpara* and *Eddamalay*, are the most considerable. Its progress is often impeded by rocks and narrow gorges in the hills, with occasional falls, rendering

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the passage quite impracticable for boats above *Nareamungalum*. The greater portion of the Teak wood, which is cut down annually in the mountains, is floated down this river to the coast. On reaching *Ahloowye*, the *Perrryaur* separates into two branches, the northern one proceedings as before mentioned to *Pallypuram*, and the southern branch, after leaving *Varaupulay*, again separates into two; one of these, however, is speedily lost in the grand estuary to which it flows through numerous channels, and the other continuing south, falls into the lake south *Trippooneetuary*. Sixty miles of this river may be considered as navigable, small craft ascending as far as *Nareamungalam*, and on that branch of it, which is formed by the *Eddamalay* river, boats find a ready passage to *Iddiaramaud*. With the exception of the last thirty five miles, the course of this fine stream lies through a compelte wild, the populated tracts not extending beyond the town of *Mulliatoor*.

### ***Lakes and Canals***

It will be seen by the Map of *Travancore*, that a succession of lakes or backwaters, connected by navigable canals, extend along the coast for a very considerable distance, and are well adapted to promote the comfort and convenience of the people. The extreme length may be reckoned at nearly 200 miles, that is from *Chowghaut* to *Trevandrum* inclusive, but between the latter place and *Quilon* there still exists a high promontory of land of about 6 miles in breadth, which it would be necessary to cut through to make this line of water-communication complete. The total area occupied by the surface of these lakes amounts to 227 ½ square miles, of which 157 ½ are within *Travancore*, 53 ½ belong to *Cochin*, and 16 ½ to the British province of *Choughaut*. The principal lake in point of extent is that stretching each of *Alleppey* and known by the name of *Vembanad*, but except perhaps during the monsoon, its depth in most parts is very trifling. A narrow strip of land of a width varying from 7 miles to something less than ½ a miles, serves to separate these backwaters from the sea. There are however several outlets; those at *Chetwye*, *Kodungaloor*, *Cochin*, *Kayenkulam*, *Iveka* and *Parravoor* are the principal ones, by which the surplus waters

from the hills find their way into the sea. As may be supposed, every description of merchandize as well as the whole produce of the country is conveyed up and down the coast by the cheap and speedy transport afforded by this water-conveyance, and in consequence good carriage roads are very seldom met with in the country. The boats in use on these waters are of various sizes but in most instances they are formed from a single tree, the stem of which is hollowed out for the purpose. The ordinary size is about 20 feet in length and 2 ½ feet in breadth; those intended for carrying rice to any distance are larger every way, and made to close in towards the top or gunnel of the boat. The Teak, Angely and Cotton trees are those generally selected as being more durable and admitting of greater size.

### ***Principle Tanks and irrigating Channels***

It is the south of *Travancore* only that the necessity for Tanks and artificial works of irrigation exists, and accordingly it is there alone, (with the exception of the *Shencottah* talook, which may more properly be said to be in *Tinnevelly*) that any large reservoirs or irrigating channels are met with. The *Agasteesuram* district contains about 130 tanks of all sizes; of these, the tanks of *Shoosheendrum*, *Purarakay* and *Tairoor* are of the greatest extent and capacity, being supplied by channels from the *Pullay* river. The number of tanks in the *Tovavalla* district is estimated at about 120, the largest are those at *Pootairy*, *Taulagoody*, *Vaimbadoor* and *Ully-Paundypuram*. In the *Kalkulam* and *Irraneel* districts the tanks decrease in size, though the actual number is greater than in two former districts, the only one of any capacity being that near *Cuddeapatnam*, called by way of distinction the *Perryakulam*. In the *Vellavencode* district, which is still further north, the reservoirs, estimated at about 475, become less and less in extent of bund, the generality being formed simply by an embankment thrown across the heads of the numerous valleys, which intersect the country in every direction. The same may be said of the several districts immediately to the north of the one last mentioned. The *Shencottah* talook in *Tinnevelly* contains several tanks of considerable extent, supplied (generally speaking) by channels taken off at intervals from

the *Ana-moonuddy* and *Cara-moonuddy* rivers. The large tanks at *Ellatoor*, when full, presents a fine sheet of water and serves to irrigate 417 Kottah of Paddy cultivation. The *Saumbervarakarray*, *Iyecoody* and *Clangat* tanks are also worthy of notice, each yielding a large revenue to the Circar. Channels of irrigation have been formed to great advantage in the southern districts, denominated *Naunjyanaad*. The chief supplying source is from the *Pandian* and *Pooten* anicuts on the *Paralay* river near the village of *Ponmmunna*. The former sends off a channel of supply to the *Pullay* river, which takes its rise in the secondary range of hills east of *Ponmmunna*, and flows through a rich fertile valley, composing the *Tovaula* and *Agasteesuram* districts, till it reaches the back water at *Mannagoody* near *Cape Comorin*, into which it discharges its surplus waters. This river in its whole course is crossed by eleven anicuts, of these we may mention the *Anandan*; *Shatapoodoor*, *Pootapaundy* and *Veeranamungalum* anicuts in the *Tovaula* district; and the *Moocoover*, *Shoosheendrum* and *Achyraumum* anicuts in the *Agasteesuram* district, as being of the greatest utility in supplying numerous tanks and extensive tracts of cultivation by means of their respective channels. From the lower or *Pooten* anicut near *Ponmmunna* a channel is drawn off for the supply of the *Kalkulam* district. This extensive work was executed about 60 years ago, and considering the natural difficulties to contend against, (the excavation in some places amounting to 70 and 80 feet and frequently through granite) it certainly displays great enterprise and energy on the part of the state in those days. The Rajah's palace within the *Palpanaubapuram* Fort is likewise supplied with water from this channel the total length of which in all its windings is about 18 miles. It is now in contemplation to connect the *Coday* with the *Paralay* river above the *Pandian* dam, so as to turn the water of the former (which now runs waste to the sea), to connect in giving an additional supply to *Naunjyanaad* and the *Kalkulam* and *Irraneel* districts, by which means a considerable extent of land will be brought under cultivation and failures in the present crops rendered far less frequent.

### ***Principal Roads and Communication***

The mountainous frontier on the east is passed by sixteen communications of very various character. That of *Bodinai-kenoor* is the most northern, it is ascended on which it rises measuring about two miles; it continuous rugged and confined till passing the *Moodrapully*, twenty-six miles; thence it is still difficult, running through a rugged country to *Nareamungalum*, twenty-three miles; beyond this place is *Khodamungalum* twelve miles, in reaching which it experiences less embarrassment. This road traverses a complete wild, there not being a habitation for nine-tenths of the whole distance amounting to sixty-one measured miles: in accomplishing it with cattle, twelve days are consumed.

The *Thaywarram* pass reaches the top if the *Ghaut* after an exceeding steep ascent for two miles; from thence it proceeds to *Pervingincooty* twelve miles, continuing its course to the *Keel-Perryaur* fourteen further, and reaching *Udambanoor* the first village in *Travancore* thirteen miles beyond that river. This, for much of its distance, is a difficult path, traversing a wild and mountainous region and now little frequented.

The ascent from *Coombum*, though rugged for one and half mile, is favourable on the whole; the acclivities it ascends render the passage of it in some measure laborious, the road, however, may be considered otherwise as good to the *Kurrungkull-aur*, where some difficulty is experienced in crossing its rocky and bed and impetuous stream; from thence it is much of a similar character to the *Perryaur* twenty-three miles and three fur-longs; having passed that stream it gradually ascends meeting *Peermode* seven miles and reaches the top of *Madgunni Ghaut* seven miles beyond that river, the whole distance from *Peermode* being over undulating steep open slopes. The above pass is well chosen; descending gradually from the elevated table to the lower country, reaching *Velliamuthum* fourteen miles from its summit, and the town of *Thodupulay* eighteen further on; the road for this last stage is comparatively level and good. the whole distances from

*Coombum* to this place measures fifty-two and half times, upwards of five-sixths of which is through a mountainous country; merchants frequently pass this route, their cattle surmounting it in eight days. This communication is one of the best across the hilly tract, separating the two countries; it is, however, very susceptible of, and deserves improvements.

The *Goodooloor* pass has an ascent of equal length and difficulty with the previous ones; the road crosses the *Munjamalay Perryaur* at the distance of sixteen and half miles, and reaches *Terratawutchunkull* eleven and half miles further; it is in both instances tolerable, considering the nature of the ground, the last stage however is marked by a steeper rise; from this the road has a gradual though sharp descent to *Perumundaunum*, three and three quarter miles, which continues, but gentler, to the river four and a quarter miles, beyond which, eight miles, is *Caunjerapully*, at which town it arrives without any material difficulty, making a total of forty-three and three quarter miles of a tolerable route.

A more northern road strikes off from this at *Copechetty Tawullum*.\* Three miles west of the *Munjamalay Perryaur* and proceeds by the *Kodamoorly* Ghaut a steep and difficult declivity to *Eerattupetta*. This route excepting the pass, is tolerable, though running over a rugged surface. The facilities, which this road offered to smuggling, rendered it necessary to prohibit the traverse of it.

A path ascends the hills south of *Goodooloor* and leads to *Chowrymalay*, but it is not of material consequence, and is only frequented by cattle during the festival held at that place.

The *Shewagerry* Ghaut, the route from which, connected with that of *Goodooloor*, is now prohibited. A road leads up it from *Rajampollium*, while one from *Shevalapootoor* ascends by the *Shantoor* Ghaut, but both these communications are difficult and serve only for the purpose of giving access to the pasture lands move.

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\* A Halting place

The *Achincoil* pass has a difficult ascent for a mile from the plains that stretch along its eastern foot; quitting the summit, the road descends partly through the bed of a stream (for it is crossed by it ten times) to the Pagoda, six and half miles, thence passing over swelling ground and following the right bank of the *Kollanacuddum* river, it reaches *Goney* at twenty-nine miles, having crossed in the course of this last distance nine powerful streams, the passage of which during the rains constitutes the chief difficulties of this route. The communication leading from *Shencottah*, via this Ghaut through *Goney*, *Pandalam*, and *Mauvaleerkarray* to *Kartegapully*, a populous town in vicinity of the coast, measures in its whole distance sixty-four and a quarter miles.

The *Ariancavoo* is amongst the principal passes of *Travancore*; it has an easy ascent from the open country on the east, reaches *Maumpulatoray* at twelve miles, *Patanaupuram* at thirteen beyond it, the road pursuing its course over waving ground through thick woods; it is passable for cattle, but difficult for wheel carriage; it is the most immediate communication between the southern provinces and *Quilon* from which to the town of *Shencottah* it measures sixty-two miles; the distance from the former place to *Tinnevelly* may be estimated at one hundred.

South of this is the *Shanar* Ghaut, difficult and but little frequented; it ascends four, and descends eleven miles to *Koolatoopulay*, thence to *Irroor* measures nine more, the whole through a thick forest.

*Moonymautaur*; this is a tolerable good road and runs through an easy pass, intersected by several streams; it is at present much overgrown with forest; from the ascent in *Tinnevelly* till reaching *Koolatoopulay* the distance is twelve miles; this route is frequented by cloth merchants who return with the *Areka* of these parts.

A road, now in a great measure shut up, rises from the plains on the east, to the top of the *Oorcumpoorie* or *Arianaad* pass, quitting this it gradually descends through a thick forest to the village of this

supersede the necessity of roads, but receding from it, communication becomes more embarrassed, and frequently even the most thickly inhabited tracts are only penetrated by narrow paths, skirted by hedges; the difficulties of communications and those seen are steep; narrow, barely accessible and almost always impracticable for cattle. To those impediments must be attributed the little general intercourse between the difficult parts (particularly the interior) of the country; and the timid and jealously policy of the native chiefs would appear to have been directed to their increase rather than diminution; but the period when such a system could have been useful has passed away and their improvement or rather the formation of good roads (for which the nature of the soil offers every facility, indeed in many places cutting through the forest would be sufficient) seems to deserve attention; facility of transport would necessarily quicken commerce, and the increase of frontier might more than repay the expenditure that would be incurred; even in the present state of the roads the addition of bridges would be a material advantage, which they now want; in the interior the chasms and valleys that intersect them, are often crossed on the trunk of a tree, or a rustic bridge of canes, supported by branches that overhang the stream, which affords a dangerous passage.

The natives estimate the greater distances by time, the smaller ones by sound. A Naullygra (something less than half an hour) may be considered as a mile and half in the level country, but in the hilly parts the estimation must be reduced by one-third: a Villypaad (or call) means about a quarter of a mile. The summons is communicated in a peculiar tone of voice, enforced by the utmost effort of the lungs, and answered after the same manner; to the woody nature of the country must be attributed the generality of this practice, and to the same cause is probably ascribable the practical knowledge of the compass, possessed by everyone, and employed upon the most trifling occasions.

In connection with the above it may as well to mention, that it is in contemplation to open a new line of communication for wheel carriages throughout the interior of the country from south to north, commencing at *Colachy* on the Coast in the *Irraneel* district, and

supersede the necessity of roads, but receding from it, communication becomes more embarrassed, and frequently even the most thickly inhabited tracts are only penetrated by narrow paths, skirted by hedges; the difficulties of communications and those seen are steep; narrow, barely accessible and almost always impracticable for cattle. To those impediments must be attributed the little general intercourse between the difficult parts (particularly the interior) of the country; and the timid and jealously policy of the native chiefs would appear to have been directed to their increase rather than diminution; but the period when such a system could have been useful has passed away and their improvement or rather the formation of good roads (for which the nature of the soil offers every facility, indeed in many places cutting through the forest would be sufficient) seems to deserve attention; facility of transport would necessarily quicken commerce, and the increase of frontier might more than repay the expenditure that would be incurred; even in the present state of the roads the addition of bridges would be a material advantage, which they now want; in the interior the chasms and valleys that intersect them, are often crossed on the trunk of a tree, or a rustic bridge of canes, supported by branches that overhang the stream, which affords a dangerous passage.

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passing through the principle towns of the interior in a direction nearly parallel with the line of coast, and about midway between it and the foot of the Ghauts. It will ultimately join the *Trichoor* road leading direct through *Palghaut* to *Coimbatore*.

To facilitate communication, it is also intended, that crossroads should be constructed at convenient distances, connecting the principal road with the backwater, which stretches along the coast for a distance if about two hundred miles, and (with the exception of an interval of six miles across the *Wurkully* hills between *Trevandrum* and *Quilon*) affords convenient transport for merchandise and goods of every description.

### *Of Weights and Measures*

The system, if indeed there ever was any here, of weights and measures appears always to have been very imperfect; a more regular one has lately been established, and those now used at the several Chowkeys, & c are regulated by a fixed standard. The following tables will show most of the weights and measures in ordinary use.

#### *Weights*

10	Gold Fanams.....	1 Callanjoo
20	Callanjoo.....	1 Pullum
5½	Pullums.....	1 Rautel
18	Rautels or	
99	Pullums*.....	1 Toolaum

#### *The Weights used at Quilon*

3	Pullums .....	1 Seer
2	Seers .....	1 Pound
20	Pounds .....	1 Toolaum
28	Pounds .....	1 Kutcha Maund*

\* Sometimes one hundred Pullums

\* Thirty pounds equal to a Pucka Maund.

*Grain Measure in Naunfynaad*

360	Grains of Paddy .....	1 Chevadoo
5	Chevadoos .....	1 Olluck
8	Ollucks .....	1 Pudy
8	Pudies.....	1 Marcal
21	Marcals.....	1 Kotay

*Liquid Measure*

4	Thodums .....	1 Nauly
4	Naulies .....	1 Edungally
9	Edungallies.....	1 Purray
11	Do .....	1 Chodanay +
5	Chodanys .....	1 Codum ++

*Grain Measure*

4	Naulies .....	1 Edungally II
10	Edungallies .....	1 Purray
20	Purrays .....	1 Vurray

***Land Measure***

Purray, in the northern and central parts sure, particularly as refers to the low land on which rice is grown. The Perrumboo grounds, that border the glens, are also estimated by Purrays but are more commonly called Moories, meaning the divisions into which they are formed by hedges; thus in stating the extent of his property, a Ryot would say, he possessed so many Purray Cundam (rice lands) so many Moorie Perrumboo fields on low slopes; so many Cocoanut trees, & c. The Purray is understood generally as the space, upon which three Edungallies of seed can be sown; but the grain lands never having undergone measurement, the area implied under this term is as much diversified in point of extent, as the seed is in quantity, it being influenced by the character of the soil. From various measurements it would appear that the Purray of the Poonjay lands is smaller than that of the

+ This measure is subjected to great varieties, varying from three to twelve Edungallies.

++ Or a large pot full.

II This means the Moodray or stamped Edungally. In the sale of grain the Ryots have two other Edungallies, termed Ullavenly and Cullocauder of small measurement.

valleys or Verupu lands; the former may be taken at one-eleventh of acre, the latter is about one-seventh; but perhaps we shall not be wrong in estimating the general area of the Purray at one-eighth of an acre:\* the uncertainty of land measurement might perhaps be received as a proof of the little value of this kind of property, but the inference would be incorrect. The area, being ascertained by estimation, lies arbitrary, perhaps often unjust; but the measurement, it may generally be considered, is in favour of the Ryots; a more regular system might be more advantageous, but the attempt might possibly create alarm. A measurement was begun in *Pandalam*,+ but the Natives did not seem to relish the innovation. The land measures in *Naunjynaad* is termed Kotay; it fluctuates in extent with the varieties of the soil; on the lands bordering the valleys the Kotay is equivalent to one and half acres on the waving uplands, occupied by Palmyra trees; it expands to three and three quarters acres; when the term is applied to those lands, on which salt is made, it means an area of two and one-eighth acre.

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* The average of fifteen different measurements	Feet
gives the Purray at	5,739
Do ..... sixteen do. at Perrawam.....	5,475
Do ..... one do at Kalloopauray....	5,496
Do ..... thirteen do. at Eddapally	3,596
Do ..... do. in Pundagum gives	3,802
In the same district along the borders of the lake	3,328
The average measurement at Parravoor .....	4,224
The amount of cultivated lands in seventeen districts, as given by the survey, would amount to 190,720, supposing the acre to be equal to 8 Purrays, the registered lands would give 200,863 acres, being a difference of only one –twentieth.	

+ The following are the measures there used.

1 Veracole	Square feet 1/5,94 feet
4 Do.	1 Denu
8 Veracole	2 Denu
80 Do.	20 do.
1/95,06 Square feet	1 Edungally cundum.
380 Square feet	10 do. Do.
	Purray cundum 3802 feet.

### Coins

Coins current throughout *Travancore* are of small value; the largest is the gold Anandarauyen Punnum; the Cullian, also gold, now only seen in the southern parts, is in a great measure a nominal coin, it is, however, much used in calculation, and is that in which the Circar revenue accounts are kept. The Chuckrum is silver. The Rashee, worth ten Chuckrums and Kutcha Rupee, one quarter of a Pagoda, are nominal coins, but commonly used in accounts. In *Cochin* the coins are somewhat different; there are several kinds of Copper ones; the Raes, the smallest of them is a nominal coin; the Pootten is silver, fifty per cent greater in value than the Chuckrum. The Veerayuen is a gold coin of the same value as the Anandarauyen Punnum, the devise is only different. The following are the ordinary coins in *Travancore* and *Cochin*.

#### *Current in Travancore*

16 Copper Cash .....	1 Chuckrum
4 Chuckrums .....	1 Cullian Punnum
2 Cullians .....	1 Anandarauyen
3 ½ Anandarauyen .....	1 Madras Rupee.

All the coins of the eastern coast, have currency in the more southern parts.

#### *Current in Cochin*

2 Rai Shelle	
2 Shelles .....	1 Doodie
2, Doodies .....	1 Pice
2 ¾ Pice or .....	
11 Shelles or cash .....	1 Pootten
5 ½ Poottens .....	1 Veerarauyen Punnum
3 ½ Veerarauyen Punnums ! Rupee.	

Gold Mohurs, Surat Rupees, Gold and Silver Dollars, are current in *Cochin*; their value in the market is subject to great fluctuation, being raised or depressed by the arts of the native shroffs (Konkanies), who are numerous, clever, and unprincipled, and subject to no check. The Circar, however, have an established standard, at which they are received and paid. The public accounts are kept in gold Veerarauyen Punnums, and Surat Rupees, which are valued as Company's Rupees, though generally six per cent, less.

*Abstract Memorandum of the Population of Travancore  
according to the Census taken in A.D. 1836*

1	Malayaulum Brahmins	9,843	
2	Foreign Brahmins	18,751	
3	Kshetries	1,319	Caste of the Cochin Rajahs
4	Samanders	446	Caste of the Calicut Rajahs
5	Umbalavausees	27,231	People who work in Pagodans
6	Vyshiers	173	Chiefly Shroffs and Shopkeepers.
7	Soodras	3,65,470	A class of Nairs
8	Chetties	15,193	Foreign or Carnatic Soodras
9	Konkanies	4,563	A class of Brahmins, who came and settled here from Goa and other parts of the country; they are chiefly traders.
10	Yeddayers	13,270	Herdsmen.
11	Chemboothutties	190	Copper Smiths
12	Neyetucars	6,046	Weavers
13	Vauniers	22,080	Oilmongers
14	Europeans	81	
15	East Indians	1,484	
16	Parsees	2	
17	Romo Syrians	56,184	
18	Syrians	1,18,382	
19	Jews	39	
20	Chindycars	477	A class of Mussulman Merchants, who came from Bombay and Cutch
21	Mussulmans	60,291	
22	Coshavens	4,207	Potters
23	Thuttans	11,174	Silver or Goldsmiths
24	Kunnans	2,046	Braziers

25	Cummaullers	24,135	Carpenters
26	Kullausauries	2,950	Stone Cutters
27	Kollens	10,777	Blacksmiths
28	Umbuttuns	12,539	Barbers
29	Paunens	1,901	Tailors
30	Vunnauns	11,633	Washermen
31	Moochees	1,472	Painters
32	Oters	68	Tank diggers
33	Kunniauns	4,960	Chiefly Astronomers and Enchanters
34	Mallay Vaylens	16,226	A class of Hill people
35	Corawers	31,891	Chiefly beggars. If they meet with an opportunity, they will certainly commit theft.
36	Oop-alavurs	724	Salt Manufacturers
37	Shanars	1,08,515	Toddy drawers in the Southern parts of Travancore
38	Eeloovers	1,80,956	Do. do. in the Northern do.
38	Pullurs	3,750	
40	Purrayers	38,625	
41	Poolayers	90,598	Soil Slaves
	Grand Total	12,80,668	

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT		DISBURSEMENTS	AMOUNT	
	Rupees	Reas		Rupees	Reas
Land Revenue.....	16,06,930	56	Devassams or Religious Institutions.....	5,18,012	101
Custom Department.....	2,99,480	250	Ootooparays or charitable Institutions.....	2,66,737	213
Country Arrack.....	48,485	299	Palace Expenses.....	3,66,424	2
Sale of Tobacco.....	10,42,994	36	Huzzoor Cutchery and Districts.....	3,76,475	313
" of Pepper.....	3,53,896	73	Judicial Establishments.....	71,998	304
" of Salt.....	2,11,959	1	Police Establishment.....	40,353	181
" of Columbo Arrack.....	994	48	Nair Troops.....	1,29,523	210
" of different Articles.....	1,30,765	211	Elephant and Horse Establishment.....	8,604	368
" of Timber.....	18,909	5	Pensions.....	82,978	35
Profit derived from the Mint	8,646	394	Public Works.....	82,656	327
Petty State of Eddapally.....	1,082	228	Tacavy advances for Cultivation.....	2,246	270
			Purchase of Tobacco, Pepper, Salt and other goods.....	6,47,834	66
			Contingent charges.....	1,09,850	97
			Subsidy to the British Government.....	8,11,236	289
	37,24,144	1		35,14,932	396