SURVEY.

No. XI.

Letter—from John Mather.

To—Lieut.-Colonel Read, Superintendent and Collector, &ca.

Dated—14th August 1797.

I was duly honored with your very kind letter, and immediately began making out the accompanying maps, which I hope will give satisfaction.

The map of the River only and great part of the Shenageery District were done sometime ago, when the rains prevented my going out. The map of the Southern Districts, shall be forwarded in the course of 10 or 12 days, when the Shendamunglum District is finished which it is meant to contain.

I shall go on Colonel Mally in a course of a couple of days, and ascertain the sessation of 40 or 50 of the principal villages there was a sort of cursory survey of it made by a Bramin some months ago, by estimation only he makes 140 villages, the generality of which I am informed does not exceed 4 houses, and some only 3; to be so particular on hills, would in my opinion be throwing away time, that may be much better employed in other parts of the Districts, and in some degree tend to defeat the end in view. The remaining Districts are Veeraganoor, Ahtoor, Belloor, and Lingricottah; which if not intermixed, and the rains favorable may be completed by the end of November I assure you not an hour shall be lost.

Be pleased to accept my most grateful acknowledgements, for the generous and handsome offers you have made me, and the flattering terms in which you express your approbation of my conduct. If the Revenue Board were inclined to give such encouragement for District Surveying, as might be deemed adequate to the fatigue, and risk of health that ever must attend practical surveying in this Country, if closely followed up, and in a variety of Climate; or even ensure me of some provision in case of a broken constitution in their service which certainly cannot be thought unreasonable I would willingly sacrifice the best of my days for their interest and information; and in any place of the Country, they please. When I had the Honour of sheiving some maps to the gentlemen of the Board at Sanklydroog, one of them hinted that much might be done in the Northern Sirkars, and that comfortable Salaries would undoubtedly be allowed.

If they chose to employ me in Surveying, and repairing tanks and water courses, a smaller salary would be sufficient as some small emolument arises from the labourers being paid in grain. The line of an Engineer is also certainly very eligible, as affording a certainty of bread, and may also have other advantages that I am not at present aware of. As you condescend to Honour me so far as allow me a Choice, and have no one to advise with. I have said all that occurs to me, leaving the rest to your own good sense; and although I would prefer being employed by the Revenue, in any of the Situations you mention, will gratefully accept of what may be obtained with the least difficulty; as I am sensible there will at this time be many looking up to you for support, who may have greater claims on your friendship, than I can pretend to, you have already done much more for me than I had any reason to expect.

Should neither of these be easily attainable, its probable there might be other situations, at the Presidency, Ceylon, or other places along the Coast; as Assistants to Beechmasters, store or warehouse-keepers, etc., that I should like very well I received a letter from my father lately acquainting me of his having received the 20 lb. you was so kind as present me, and for which I return many thanks; the French are expected to make a descent somewhere on the N. E. Coast, and several large Encampments are of consequence formed one in particular at Aberdeen and the people of the Country adjoining have received orders to convey their cattle, and other moveable effects to some distance inlarge.

Notwithstanding the care you are pleased to take to see me provided for before you quit the Country I cannot help regretting how soon I am likely to be deprived of so able a friend and firm support I have always had a pride and pleasure in serving you and to give satisfaction has been my constant aim In whatever situation however fortune and your friendship may place me, fear not that ever I shall disgrace it, or forfeit the character you are pleased to give me.

I have the Honour to be with all duty and respect.

No. XV.

Letter—From John Mather.
To—Lieut.-Colonel Read, Superintendent, &ca.
Dated—Manantangal, 6th, September 1797.

The Map I have the honour of forwarding would have been despatched a few days sooner, but that I was desirous of completing that part of the hill also which belongs to Veeraganoor, that the whole might come in view at once, and perhaps be more acceptible.

Collee Mally is a hill of great extent being at a medium from N. to S. 17 miles and from E. to W. 10, and perhaps containing 170 sq. miles it is divided into 12 Nauts or Districts, 7 of which belong to Shendamunglum, and 5 to Veeraganoor, its surface is very irregular and the Valley only cultivated, the bottoms of which generally are swamps, and grow excellent paddy, of a something larger grain than below but accounted very wholesome.

- 3. The best wheat grows in a sort of brown mould, rather inclining to black requires much dung and if cowdung so much the better, I am told it has been tried below in the Combys (which must partly partake of the same mould, brought down by the Rains) but never answered; owing to a sort of insect, that destroys the roots before it ripens.
- 4. By a look of the Map you'll see that almost all the water that falls on the hill runs to the Eastward, and is the source of the Sivaida and Aia or Eya Rivers; the Aia Aur is a very considerable one, (and contains as much water in my opinion during the dry months as both the Iramunnymoot, and Allagamoousia Rivers, from which this country benefits so much) but from which we derive little or no advantage as soon however as it enters the Terriore bounds, its divided into two or three Streams, which supply most of the tanks in that country.
- 5. There is a very conspicuous tract for about one mile, of a calwa begun about seventy or eighty years ago, intended to carry that River down through the Cargoory hobly which I think is very practicable (and its probable Captains Macleod and Munro were of the same opinion, when they intended renting that hobly) the reason I am informed it never was completed was that the rains setting in very strong one might broke down part of the water course, and entirely buried a swamy house in the ruins, and which was followed soon after by the Death of the man who Superintended it, and therefore accounted a very bad Omen, and a prejudice that perhaps will never be over come by the Natives.
- 6. I was 10 days on the hill and feel not the least indisposed, altho' I am sorry to find that most of my people have got the fever vague very severely.
- 7. I shall go on Pacha Mally also, in order to ascertain the boundary, etc., but if you please, will defer Shairawa Mally and the other hills between that and Culry Mally, till the plains are all surveyed in case of sickness.
 - 8. Be pleased to return the Map case by the bearer.

No. XVIII.

Letter—from John Mather.
To—Lieut.-Colonel Read, Superintendent, etc.
Dated—Veraganoor, the 18th September 1797.

I am heartily sorry to inform you that Denning is fallen sick owing chiefly I believe to our being so much among the hills, and from the accounts of the inhabitants may continue so for many months, he has this day had a fit of the ague also. The Western part of the Ahtoor and Veeraganoor Districts is one continued chain of hills passable only in some directions; and the Northern part of Belloor, and Sn., part of Tingricotta, are I fear pretty much the same.

The quarter part of my people are sick also, but (as I employ some peoplemonthly as coolies and occasionally to carry the Surveying instruments) their loss is not felt, nor has any delay on that account arisen hitherto. I am however under the disagreeable necessity of saying that owing to my not being (I am sorry to say) sufficiently master of the Country Languages, I am much as a loss and as may be supposed in rather an aukward situation at times; and humbly request, to prevent inconvenience, or delay you'l be pleased to send me any other of the young men that you may think proper, for the few months required to complete, or till Dupenning recovers; it may be of no disservice to them afterwards; nothing but bad health shall delay the Survey an hour. I shall begin on Ahtoor in 4 or 5 days and complete it at farthest in 15 days there will then remain Belloor, and Tingricottah only. I received a letter a few days ago from Captain Macleod accompanied with some Bark (2 doses of which I have given Dupening daily) and informing me also that he had ordered the Tahsildars to furnish me with Cutcherry Servants to carry on the public Service, if I found it necessary till my people recover. I shall send Dupening either to Ahtoor, Salem, or any other place you propose, when medical assistance may be had, and take-care he beproperly provided for.

When its convenient send the Map case. I have the Honour to be with the utmost gratitude.

No. XXX.

Letter—from J. B. TRAVERS, Acting Secretary.

To—the Lieut.-Colonel ALEXANDER READ, Superintendant, Collector at
Baramahal and Salem Districts.

Dated—Fort St. George, 23rd December 1797.

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed Extract of the orders of the Honourable Court of Directors for obtaining information for their historiographer, and to desire that such communications as you may after may form a separate-address your attention to the interesting subjects therein noticed is particularly requested, but not in such manner as to affect your other duties.

You will also herewith receive Copy of a letter from Mr. Secretary Webbe, signifying that the allowance hitherto granted to the junior part of the Service for Moonshies will be discontinued from the 1st of January next, and that a compensation of 1,000 Pags., will be granted to such of the Company's Servants, as may qualify themselves to transact business, and to Conduct a Correspondence in any of the Country Languages without the aid of a Native.

No. 1 in XXX.

Letter—from I. Webbe, Secretary to Government.

To—Edward Saunders, Esq., President, etc., Members of the Board of Revenue.

Dated—Fort St. George, 16th December 1797.

I am directed to furnish you with the orders of the Honourable Court of Directors for obtaining information for their historiographer and to desire, that it may be transmitted to the subordinate officers of your department such communications as you may in consequence receive, together with such observations as you may be enduced to make, upon this enteresting subject are to be separately laid before the President in Council for transmission to the Hon'ble Court.

No. 2 in XXX.

Extract of a general letter from England in the Public departement, dated 9th May 1797.

In order to enable the Companys Historiographer to complete a general history of the British affairs in the East Indies and as we mean, that the plan of such a work should comprehend the History of India and such part of that of China as is connected with our. Trade and also the progress of our Trade in general we direct that such of our servants as may be in situations to promote this public work be instructed to transmit to you for the purpose of being forwarded to as such a information on the Chronology, Geography Government, Laws, Political revolutions the progressive stages of the useful arts, manufactures and Sciences and of the fine arts and particularly on the former and prise state of internal and foreign trade, as they may be in stations to afford or may from time to time be able to collect.

No. XLI.

Letter—from John Mather.
To—Lieut.-Colonel Read, Superintendent, &ca.
Dated—Yetapoorum, March 9th, 1798.

I have the pleasure of saying Tingricotta is at last completed, and my useful labors as you was pleas'd to call them and to which you have been so firm a friend and steady support drawing nigh a close. The very particular attention you have been pleased at all times to pay to the most trivial request, in behalf of the service I have been employd on, calls for my warnest acknowledgments and its but justice to the Gentlemen in charge of the divisions also, to say that they have on all occasions readily furnishd every assistance and information in their power and to them there for I also consider myself under particular obligations. When the extent of the Ceded districts is considered and that a survey of them containing so much information, has been finished in so short a time and particularily when its understood that I am a lame mase and climbing among the hills. must have had those disadvantages to struggle with attending so painful a mispoilur I trust it will appear no time has been mispent, or pains spared to make it as acceptible as possible and whatever countenance or encouragement my labors may hereafter meet with from our superiors, I shall console myself with having done my utmost endeavour, to discharge some of the many obligations I owe to you and my duty to them in its fullest extent.

I was favo'd with Mr. Horst's answer about the Draftsman, who probably ere this repents of his duplicity I hope you'l suffer no inconvenience through the want of him; I'll do my utmost as far as my abilities to supply his place.

I propose if you think fit convening the farmers of the Southern and center divisions, at the 5 following places, viz, Ahtoor, Shandamangalam, Tritchangoor, Womoloor and Darrampoory. Ahtoor will be contiguous to Belloor, and Veeraganoor; Shandamunglum to Namcul and Raushpoor; Trichangoor to Purmutty and Sanklydroog, Womoloor to Yerapandi, Nangapilly, Salem and Shenageery and Darrampoory to Penagra When Captain Graham favord me with his opinion of the mundies, he said the whole of a division might be done at some central station by convening the farmers and thereby much time said for there convenience however I propose making that circuit and afterwards shall proceed through the Western districts of the N division to settle the boundaries and close with Jewadi. The S. and C. divisions may be done by the end of March probably and the whole by the end of April.

. I have agreeable to Captain Irton's desire returned the 3 sepoys belonging to his guard.

The satisfaction you was pleased to express at seeing my remarks on Collee Mally, has induced me to attempt something similar of the Tingricotta district, under the idea that from the opinion generally intertained of its unhealthiness, and its public roads but little frequented the interior parts may be but little known to Europeans.

The Tingricottah District now so called, is composed of 4 Smaller ones, viz., Tingricottah, Herroor, Murpoor, and Cotapitty, each of which I shall consider as subdivisons, and speak of separately, and afterwards make some remarks on the range of hills between that and the Salem Districts.

- 2. Tingricottah has formerly been a place of much importance, and for many years considered as the Capital of the other 3 Districts or Divisions. It has a large Mud fort now falling into ruins, and well supplied with water by that branch of the Vani aur which rises on Buttel Mally, and was till within these few years the seat of the aumildar who now resides at Herroor.
- 3. Its bounded on the North and East by Herroor, and Cotapitty, and on the South and West by the Belloor, Salem, and Murpoor Districts; it's throughout pretty, well cultivated, the soil good, has but very little jungle unless at the foot of the hills, to the Southward; and probably not so unhealthy as is generally believed, Tenanda Mally belongs to this Division, as well as part of the Northern Skirts of Shairawa Mally. There are more streams run through it than falls to the lot of most districts, an advantage which from the remains of the numerous watercourses drawn from the different branches of the Vani Aur, the former Ryots were seemingly well aware of.
- 4. It abounds in fine horn'd cattle generally of a red colour, from which Hyder used to draw large supplies on his plundering excursions into the Carnatic, much to the detriment of the Ryots, which with the depridations of Chilnaig, and the havock made among the Inhabitants and Cattle by the Tigers, till it fell under your management, have all conspir'd to its depopulation, and consequent decrease of Cultivations and Revenue.
- 5. Herroor has never been considered in any other light than as a large Country Village with a mud fort as a defence againd horse, and the head of a holly having like most other large villages a weekly fair, its bounded to the Northward by the Ponidur, on the East and South by Cotapitty and Tingricottah, and to the Westward by Murpoor; within 4 or 5 miles of the Poni Aur, the vallies only are cultivated, and the rising ground quite covered with bushes; which when viewed from the Northward leads many to conclude who never visited the interior parts, that its all one continued jungle, this district has also much benifited by the Vani Aur, but little or any thing by the Poni Aur; and in some places in the dry season the scarcity of water is severely felt by the Inhabitants and their Cattle towards the South the soil, and cultivate on and are pretty much the same as in Tingricottah.
- 6. Murpoor has also a small mud fort nearly in ruins, and has only been considered of any inportance from its being situated where 2 Large roads cross each other. Its bounded also from the North by the Poni Aur, on the East by Herroor and Tingricottah, and to the South and West by the Salem, Womoloor, and Darrampoory District; towards the Northward and Southward it is very jungly; what improvements have been made extend from Murpoor South 10 miles only, it has very little wet ground part of Shairawa Mally and Buttel Mally belong to this Division.
- 7. The Cotapitty vally is certainly in my opinion the most unhealthy spot in the Ceded Districts, probably owing to its being much overrun with Jungle, and surrounded with Large Hills; it has for at least a Century before it fell under Hyder's management, been the residence of refractory Poligars (Ancestors of Chilnaig), who lived by plundering the neighbouring Country, and on the appearance of a superior force retired to the inaccessible parts of the mountains, with those who were attached to them through regard, or a love of booty, leaving in Ryots with what few Cattle or effects remained, to the mercy of a dissappointed enemy, and who worn out at length by constant oppression and dispaining no doubt of ever seeing better days begun to withdraw into more peaceable parts of the Country. The vally lies about South 30 West and North 30 East and from Cotapitty to Amapoliam Southward, a Distance of 14 or 15 Miles in length, and probably on an

average 31 in breadth, and some of the best soil, is now one entire jungle, excepting some few spots that in consequence of some late encouragement, the people from the Hills (no one else could live there) are beginning again to inhabit.

- 8. To the Northward the Country is more open, and better cultivated, and has some substantial Ryots, and of a long standing, who had always a great reluctance to leave the place of their Nativity, from it's having attractions to them that any one else would be a stranger to, this I have found to be pretty much the case throughout the Country among that class of people who are cultivators of the soil.
- 9. It is bounded on the East by Culry Mally belonging to some Poligars, who pay tribute to the Nabob of the Carnatic, on the West by Herroor and Tingricottah, and to the Northward by the Ponicur, in which about a mile before it quits our country there is a steep water fall reckoned by the Natives a great curiosity, it has cut a passage through the Solid rock nearly 2 Miles in length, and about 60 feet perpendicular, and as many broad: where the water stands in many places to an amazing depth and abounds with Aligators the clifts of the adjoining rocks are well stor'd with a variety of wild fowl, with hatch and retire annually before the rains set in.
- 10. Shairawa Mally belongs to the Salem District and is devided into 3 Nauts, Viz., Salem Mutoo and Mogo Naud of these Salem is the Eastermost, largest, and best Cultivated. Its prinicipal production is wheat, (which they sell or barter in the weekly fairs belows for Cloth and other necessaries of life) of which I have frequently seen 70 or 80 acres together, a specimen of some of the best on the Hill with the mud it grew in is transmitted for your satisfaction a good crop of if depends on a wonderful coincidence of circumstance, and some years when the rain does not set in at the proper season, there is little or any sown, if it falls plentifully in September, they sow in October and reap in February generally a good crop. Its very liable to be injured by Insets both above and below ground, too much rain drowns it and too little dries it up and its on the whole considered a very tender grain from the appearance of the mould its not improbable some of that description might be found on the plains, although they say it has often been tried thereto no purpose, owing certainly to the heat of the soil, on the Hill the mould is cool and plentifully supplied with heavy dews in the night.

It has little or no wet ground, although well supplied with streams of water, the steepness of the banks do not admit of their being turned to any use in Cultivation; this Naud in teak of a small size.

11. Mutoo Naut is only the surface of barren rock and lies on the Southern most and highest part of the Hill, what improvements have been made in it are only in the vallies where the rains in course of time have brought down a little

What has been said of Salem Naut, applies equally to Mogo Naut, with this defference only that its more berrun with Jungle, which they are in many places beginning to clear away either through an increase of settlers, or some encouragement in point of Revenue probably.

12. Amant Mally belongs to the Belloor district, and is only a small hill of a triangular form, containing 7 or 8 villages. It forms with Shairawa Mally to the Westward the Manjawaddy Pass, and with Tenanda Mally to the Eastward the Belloor or Boodvary pass. Tennanda Mally belongs to Tingricolla District, is a large Hill but its soil in general bad, has few Inhabitants and a little ground only cultivated in the vallies. It forms with Culry Mally to the Eastward the Cotapitty pass, and derives its name from a Goud or Gour of that name who resides there, and is considered as the Chief of all the Hill people, to him all disputes arising about the casts are referred, and he has look'd upon as a Deity among them. The Poligars of Culry and Pachai Mally pay him a sort of Annual tribute, and probably those of our Districts too, although it is not generally known.

None of those Hills are to be compar'd with Collee Mally, either in point of fertility, or population.

13. The Hill people in and bordering on the C. Districts, are composed of two distinct Classes, or Tribes. (who seldom intermix if it can be avoided) differing in many respects from those below particularly in their intermarrying, and cure of diseases neither of which, being very delicate, or much to the cresis of either sex I shall pass them over.

Although you are well acquainted with the situation of those Hills, and the Passes leading through them from the Northern to the Southern District, I shall beg leave with the difference to make the following general remark.

From Culry Mally to the banks of the Cauverly is one continued Chain of Hills, with five principal passes, viz., Cotapitty, Belloor, Manjawady, Tingricotta, and Topoor, of these Topoor and Manjawady only are much frequented, but the easiest and most direct Route (if the Jungle was cleared away) from Vaniambaudy, Trippatore, Conotoor, etc., to Womoloor, Sanklydroog, etc., would be through the Tingricotta pass; its will supplied with water, and leads through several Capital Villages, although there must no doubt be many powerful reasons that I am not aware of, for leading the great Road proposed from Amboor to Trichinopoly through the Topoor pass, seeing its so very steep and always from its situation, liable to be put out of order by the rains.

No. XLII.

Letter—From ALEXANDER READ.
To—Mr. MATHER.
Dated—Trippatoor, 13th March 1798.

It gives me much satisfaction to learn from your letter of the 9th that your survey is finished, for I was very apprehensive lest another fever should have interrupted your zealous endeavors as the districts you have surveyed the last are the most unhealthy. Having known many instances of the hill fever remaining in the blood several weeks and breaking out even after the patients have left these districts, I recommend your taking some bark, every morning at least for some time, by way of a preventative. Considering the extent of these districts, th menuteiness and accuracy of your survey, your having brought it so soon to a close is in my opinion a remarkable instance of what can be done by the labor and assiduity of an individual. Exclusive of the pleasure I have had in observing your incessant deligence and perseverance, the readiness I have always shown in support of your exertions has proceeded from my anxiety to expedite your work which I have considered as essential to the rendering my own complete, on account of the connexion there is between the geography of a country and its cultivation revenue and all the other sources of its wealth and polity. This in view, I am now desirous of having your survey speedily brought into the form which may appear the best calculated to answer the intended purposes and on that account request you will came this way soon. I still hold the intention of showing the syr collections seperate from the other districts, but that may be deferred till the last as their boundaries being all that is wanted they can be ascertained in a very short time. your account of the Tingricotta district, and of the several hills in the country, is very acceptable a topographical account of the whole being a part of my plan. I request therefore to be favored with similar remarks upon the soil, inhabitants, products, and aspect of every other district.

But you can do all that when more at leisure. I intend to lay a copy of your survey before the revenue board, when I shall not fail to make the merits of it known, and to recommend you to it in such a manner as I think will insure you reward.