

PROCEEDINGS



OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIA,

FROM

January to December 1856.

VOL. II.

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The Title was passed as it stood.

The Council having resumed its sitting, the three Bills settled in Committee were reported.

#### PORT-DUES AND FEES.

MR. ELIOTT moved the third reading of the Bill "to authorize the levy of Port-dues and fees at the present rates for a further period of twelve months."

The motion was carried, and the Bill read a third time.

MR. GRANT was requested to carry the Bill to the Right Honorable the Governor General for his assent.

#### OATHS OF OFFICE BY REGISTERS OF DEEDS.

MR. ALLEN moved that the Bill "concerning the taking of Oaths of Office by Registers of Deeds" be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. LeGeyt, Mr. Currie, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

#### POLICE CHOWKEYDARS (BENGAL PRESIDENCY).

MR. CURRIE moved, under Standing Orders Nos. LXXXIV and LXXXV, that the Bill "to make better provision for the appointment and maintenance of Police Chowkeydars in Cities, Towns, Stations, Suburbs, and Bazaars, in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal," as settled in Committee of the whole Council, be printed and re-published for general information.

Agreed to.

#### MOFUSSIL MUNICIPAL LAW.

MR. LEGEYT moved that a communication which he had received from the Government of Bombay, on the subject of widening streets, be laid on the table and referred to the Select Committee on the projects of Mofussil Municipal Law.

Agreed to.

#### ABKAREE REVENUE (BENGAL PRESIDENCY).

MR. CURRIE moved that a communication which he had received from the Government of Bengal, relating to the Bill "to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Abkaree Revenue in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal," be laid on the table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

Agreed to.

#### TRIALS FOR RAPE (BENGAL PRESIDENCY).

Also that a communication which he had received from the Government of Bengal on the subject of the Bill "to enable Session Judges to pass sentence in trials for Rape," be laid on the table, and referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

Agreed to.

#### MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT (CALCUTTA).

Also that a communication which he had received from the Government of Bengal relative to the Bill "for appointing Municipal Commissioners, and for levying rates and taxes, in the Town of Calcutta," and the Bill "to comprise in one Act the provisions necessary for the assessment and collection of municipal rates and taxes in the Towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and the several stations of the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca," be laid upon the table and referred to the Select Committees on the Bills.

Agreed to.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

MR. CURRIE gave notice that, on Saturday next, he would move the second reading of the Bill "to consolidate and amend the law relating to the cultivation of the Poppy and the manufacture of Opium in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal."

Also, that, on the first day of Meeting after the Doorga Poojah vacation, he would move the third reading of the Bill "to make better provision for the appointment and maintenance of Police Chowkeydars in Cities, Towns, Stations, Suburbs, and Bazaars, in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal."

The Council adjourned.

*Saturday, August 16, 1856.*

#### PRESENT :

The Honorable J. A. Dorin, *Vice-President*, in the Chair.

Hon. Sir J. W. Colville,	P. W. LeGeyt, Esq.,
Hon. J. P. Grant,	E. Currie, Esq.,
Hon. B. Peacock,	and
D. Elliott, Esq.,	Hon. Sir A. W. Buller,
C. Allen, Esq.,	

#### HINDOO POLYGAMY.

THE CLERK presented a petition from Rajah Suttoashurn Ghosal praying for the abolition of Hindoo polygamy.

Also a petition signed by 114 Hindoo inhabitants of Bancoorah with the same prayer.

Also two petitions signed by 88 Hindoo inhabitants of Chandernagore with the same prayer.

MR. PEACOCK moved that these Petitions be printed.

Agreed to.

#### LAND CUSTOMS (BOMBAY PRESIDENCY).

MR. LUGREY moved the first reading of a Bill "to make better provision for the collection of Land Customs on certain Foreign Frontiers of the Presidency of Bombay." He said, it would be in the recollection of the Council that, in December last, he moved the first reading of a Bill to amend Act II of 1852. He subsequently withdrew that Bill, upon finding that it was defective. It was also objected to that Bill that the amount of the Land Customs of Bombay was so small that legislation on the subject was unnecessary. If the Council would refer to a communication which had been received from the Government of Bombay, they would see that that Government did not consider the smallness of the amount as a sufficient reason for their proposition not being carried out. It also appeared that there was a considerable sum collected by the Land Customs Establishment in Bombay derived from salt; and, further, that the same establishment operated as a check upon smuggling goods, which might have been landed in defiance of the Sea Customs Law. In this Bill, he had altered the construction of his former Bill, inasmuch as the former Bill had reference to Act I of 1852, which related to the Sea Customs of Bombay, and made its provisions on certain points applicable to contingencies which might arise under Act II of 1852. He had, in this Bill, thought it necessary to re-cast Act II of 1852 altogether. The object of the Bill was to render the collection of Land Customs in Bombay more perfect than the provisions of Act II of 1852 had hitherto done; and it comprised within itself provisions respecting all those matters in which the Government of Bombay had found that Act defective. He had introduced into this Bill no new matter which he had not explained in the Statement of objects and reasons which he had given in regard to the former Bill. He would not, therefore, take up the time of the Council with recapitulating

them, and no further observations were necessary.

The Bill was read a first time.

#### OPIUM (BENGAL PRESIDENCY).

MR. CURRIE moved the second reading of the Bill "to consolidate and amend the law relating to the cultivation of the Poppy and the manufacture of Opium in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal."

MR. ALLEN said, it was not his wish to oppose the second reading of this Bill. He admitted that, in so far as it altered the present law, it was an improvement rather than otherwise; and, therefore, he should vote for the second reading. But there was an important principle contained in the Bill to which, he thought, objection might fairly be taken.

He was not one of those who thought that the opium revenue of this country was a monstrous evil, and that the Government should have no concern in it. He did not think that we were bound to protect the morals of the Chinese, or that we should put a stop to all poppy cultivation because some Chinese smoke opium to excess, any more than the Emperor of France was bound to prohibit the cultivation of the vine, because some Englishmen drink too much wine or brandy.

The opium revenue was raised upon the opium which was consumed in the country, and upon that which was exported. The first was merely an excise duty, and of comparatively trifling importance. But that revenue which was raised upon the export of the drug, was one of the most important items of revenue which we had. Whether it was raised, as on the Western side, by a pass duty of 400 Rupees per chest, or, as in Bengal, by a monopoly of cultivation joined to the opium sales, the duty levied was essentially an export duty, and nothing more, and, as such, was collected from the pockets of the Chinese, and not from the pockets of our own subjects. The whole opium revenue, including the portion realised by the Malwa passes, amounted to nearly four millions pounds sterling; and he believed that all that sum was paid to this country by the Chinese as completely as if they paid us so much tribute. Consequently, it was a revenue which we should do all in our power to retain.

But the point to which he desired to draw attention was, the mode of collecting that revenue on this side of India. It might be thought that, as the Bill did not alter the

mode, it was not right to speak upon the point now, or that it was more the duty of the Executive than of the Legislature to regulate the mode. But when he found that, by Section II of the Bill, the following principle was declared—namely, “that the cultivation of the Poppy and the manufacture of Opium within the territories under the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, except on account of Government, are hereby prohibited”—he was inclined to ask himself if it was just or wise to prohibit the cultivation generally of any produce which owners of land might wish to raise? The only ground upon which such prohibition could be justified, was that it was necessary for the protection of the revenue. The question, therefore, appeared to him to be, was it necessary on that ground?

He had heard several grounds advanced in support of the prohibition. One ground was that, if we did not prohibit the cultivation of opium, we should lose our excise revenue. As he had remarked before, that revenue was of very trifling importance as compared with the export revenue; and even if some little loss did arise in that branch of the revenue by a change in the existing practice, he did not think that that should influence us if the change appeared to be expedient upon other grounds.

But he did not believe that the excise revenue would be injured by our allowing the free cultivation of the poppy. At present, that revenue was raised by selling to retail dealers opium from the Government stores at monopoly prices. No doubt, if we should permit the free cultivation of the poppy, retail dealers would not buy from the Government stores at monopoly prices, opium which they could obtain cheaper elsewhere. But the answer which had been given to that objection was, that if the opium was not bought in retail by the dealers up the country for consumption there, it would be brought to Calcutta and sold to exporters at public auction at a better price than the monopoly one demanded up the country. But more than this, the excise duty might be levied by doing with opium that which was commonly done in the North Western Provinces with country spirits—namely, letting out at auction the privilege of selling opium in certain localities. At any rate, the whole excise revenue on opium out of Calcutta, was only about 1 per cent. of the total opium revenue; and, therefore, as he had observed already, it was an item of trifling importance. But, by the process which he indicated, he maintained

that, so far from a loss resulting in the excise revenue by allowing free cultivation of the Poppy, more than the amount now raised could be realised.

Another ground advanced was, that, without the monopoly, it would be difficult to prevent opium from being smuggled into Calcutta and exported thence abroad, free of the tax. He did not think that there would be the least more danger of this under a system of free cultivation, than there was under the existing arrangement. Opium required for its production a peculiar climate. The climate of Bengal was too hot and damp, and opium could not be produced profitably in the Delta of the Ganges. Therefore, it would only be necessary to provide against the smuggling of the drug from up the country. Now, how was the smuggling of opium into Calcutta prevented at the present day? Both in Oude and in the Nepaul Terai, the cultivation was free, and quantities grown in those countries were brought to our own Agencies, and purchased there;—from the Nepaul Terai they were brought and sold openly; from Oude in an under-hand manner, by Goruckpore cultivators and others. The Ganges stretched alongside of Oude to a great distance. If it was easy to smuggle opium from up the country, what was there to prevent people in Oude putting opium grown there surreptitiously upon boats, and bringing it down to Calcutta? Why should it be more difficult to prevent the drug from being smuggled into Calcutta from Bundelkund or the Doab if the cultivation were free, than from Oude and the Nepaul Terai under the present system?

The third objection against the free cultivation—and he believed that this objection was much relied upon—was that, without the monopoly, we could not regulate the supply, and that, if there should be a very large quantity of opium thrown into the market, the price would be so reduced that the profit on the increased quantity would not amount to so large a sum as the profit on the smaller quantity—in fact, that there would be no check against an over-supply, which would so lower the price at the Calcutta sales that the increased quantity would not compensate for the decreased price, and that a less profit would be realized than at present. He denied that it would be impossible to check an over-supply if the cultivation were free, for the transit of opium downwards to Calcutta would still be prohibited. What was cultivated, would be brought to the Agencies, and there purchas-

ed at the same prices as that which was produced under advances. Now, if in any year the supply was too large, the quantity the following year might be reduced by prospectively decreasing the price at the Government Agencies.

Of course, if the plan pursued on the Western side—namely, that any man might cultivate the drug, and pass it to this Port by paying a fixed duty—was adopted, Government would get its fixed duty, and the loss arising from any over-supply would fall on the speculator, and not on the Government; and this plan he (Mr. Allen) believed would be the best for the Government to pursue.

But he wished to examine a little further into this fear of an over-supply. That an increased supply would lower the price in the long run in the China market, and consequently at the Calcutta sales, every principle of Political Economy would lead us to expect. But the question was, to what extent would the price be lowered? Would it be lowered to such an extent as to reduce the net profit, or the net opium revenue? Suppose, for instance, that 50,000 chests were brought to sale here per annum, and that the opium sold at 900 Rs. per chest: that would give, in round numbers, a net profit of 600 Rs. a chest, or of 300 lakhs on the whole. If we should increase the supply to 100,000 chests, and opium should therefore fall in price to 600 Rs. a chest, that would give a net profit of 300 Rs. a chest, or of 300 lakhs upon the whole, which would be as much net revenue as the smaller quantity of 50,000 chests yielded. And would the Government derive no advantage from having the same amount of revenue from a larger quantity of opium? It would, both directly and indirectly. It would derive advantage directly, because it would prevent competition: it would prevent Egyptian and Turkish opium from being taken to China and coming into competition with the Indian opium: and indirectly, because it would give a profit from the cultivation of opium to a considerably larger number of cultivators, and from the transport of it to double the number of ship-owners, and owners of boats on the river.

The fear of an over-supply had been entertained for many years. Up to about 1847, it was so great, that the supply seldom exceeded 20,000 chests; and in those days, 200 lakhs, or 2 millions sterling was considered a large net profit to make. After that, for a few years, there was a change. In 1848-49, the first large increase of quantity took place. As many as 33,000 chests

were brought into the market, being an increase of 10,000 chests over the supply of 1847-48; and although the price fell considerably, the net profit was increased 45 lakhs. In the following year, 1849-50, a further increased supply was brought to market, being 36,000 chests, or 13,000 chests more than in 1847-48, and the net profit realized was about 250 lakhs, or 100 lakhs more than in 1847-48. After 1849-50, there was no increase of quantity for two years, but a slight decrease, and the net profit decreased also. We then came to the year 1852-53, in which there was brought into the market nearly as much as in the year 1849-50, and a net profit of about 25 lakhs more was realized, making nearly two millions and three quarters of net revenue. This was the largest revenue ever realized. After the year 1852-53—that is to say, in 1853-54 and 1854-55—the supply of opium was largely increased, and the net revenue was diminished, the amount, instead of being 270 lakhs, was, on an average of the two years, only 230 lakhs. Those who argued against increasing the supply, relied, he believed, very much on the result of these two years. But these two years were very disturbed years in China, and he thought the result might be attributed to that and other causes; for it was contrary to all former experience to say that an increase of quantity should cause a permanent reduction of the revenue. Indeed, in the following year—that is, last year, 1855-56—there was also an enormous quantity brought to auction—namely, 49,400 chests; and although this followed an equally enormous quantity brought forward in 1854-55, the net profit of 1855-56 was as nearly as might be 275 lakhs, or equivalent to that of any year whatever.

He, therefore, maintained that we were not justified in presuming that we had attained the fair limit. The causes which regulate the price of opium were not known, he believed, to any of us. No one could predict what the price would be this day six months. It was, he believed, considered the most gambling and uncertain trade in Calcutta. But he thought we might go a little upon principles. No one had ever heard of any other article being liable to such an export duty as that of 150 or 200 per cent. Unless India was the sole country in which opium could be grown, this revenue must be a most uncertain one, and might fail us at any time. It might be presumed that the late war in Europe would open Asia Minor to capitalists, and there could be

little doubt that Asia Minor could produce opium, and any large production there would knock down all our profits from that source at once, and we could only preserve it by lowering the export duty, and thus realize our revenue from a larger quantity. We did not know what quantity was grown in China itself. He had seen a letter in the papers three days ago, stating that the quantity was very large. If it was very large, increased cultivation in India would render our revenue much more secure. If there were already a poppy cultivation in the interior of China, it was absolutely necessary for us to increase our quantity and reduce our price in order to throw the opium grown in that country out of the market. He knew that Mr. Fortune and others were of opinion that there was very little opium grown in China. But they had seen but a very small portion of the country. For a large quantity of opium, but a small spot of ground was necessary. One square mile of poppy cultivation would yield a hundred chests of opium. How many thousand square miles were there in the interior which those gentlemen had never seen? It was natural to suppose that poppy cultivation might be carried on in the interior without the knowledge of English travellers, because the cultivation was prohibited, and the thing was done on the sly. His idea was that we ought to permit the free cultivation in every district of the Upper Provinces which was far removed from a port, and allow the Agencies to purchase the produce at the same price which they paid to cultivators to whom they gave advances, taking the same care to ascertain that the opium was of the proper consistency and purity, and then to send it down in the usual way to Calcutta. This process was formerly observed in the Nepaul Terai; but Jung Bahadoor had now taken the trade into his own hands, and exported the opium across the hills to China. The people of Oude were to be allowed to bring their opium into our Agencies. Why should the people in Bundelkund and other parts in the Upper Provinces be prohibited? Eventually, too, we should be able to do away with the system of advances—a system which was bad for both the givers and the receivers, and one which, whether as regarded opium or indigo, most people would be glad to see abolished. It was liable to much abuse, and although it was difficult, on the first introduction of a new manufacture in this country, to do without making ad-

vances, every one must wish to see the system abandoned.

He would much prefer the free *manufacture*, as well as free cultivation, obtaining the revenue by an export duty of 400 Rupees a chest, which might be levied either at the port of export or near the place of manufacture, as was now done in Indore with Malwa opium. Still, a free cultivation without a free manufacture, forcing the cultivators to take the raw opium to the Agencies, was open to much less objection than the monopoly system which now existed.

Although the duty was, in fact, nothing more than an export duty, he believed that there was now some color for the accusation which was made by very amiable men at home, that the Government of this country cultivated on their own land a pernicious drug which they smuggled into China. If what he proposed were done, the sting of that accusation would be taken away, and it would be clear to every one that the opium revenue was merely an export duty taken directly on the export of an article produced freely by the cultivators of the country.

MR. CURRIE said, in moving the second reading of this Bill, he had not at all expected to raise a discussion on the general subject of the Opium Revenue; and in his judgment, a discussion on that subject, upon such a motion, could not be attended with any beneficial result.

When he introduced this measure, he explained that he had been induced to take it up because it was intimately connected with a matter which had been pressed upon his attention—namely, the consolidation of the Laws relating to the Abkaree revenue; and he stated that his object was to bring together those portions of the law relating to opium which would remain un-repealed after the passing of the new Abkaree Act, and at the same time to make such alterations in them as would give legal sanction to the existing practice of the opium Agencies in their dealings with the cultivators.

Further than this he had not thought it necessary to go. Whatever his own opinion on the points adverted to by the Honorable Member might be, he thought that any change of system affecting any of the great branches of the public revenue must originate with the Executive Government, which alone possessed the means of acquiring the information requisite to come to a decision on such a subject.

He had no intention of entering upon the questions discussed by the Honorable Mem-

ber ; but with respect to the specific recommendation which the Honorable Member had made towards the latter part of his speech—namely, that of permitting the free cultivation of the poppy in the Upper Provinces—he (Mr. Currie) would mention that in 1849 or 1850 the same point had been mooted by the late lamented Lieutenant Governor of the North Western Provinces. Mr. Thomason was pleased to consult the Board of Customs, Salt, and Opium in Calcutta, and he (Mr. Currie), as a Member of that Board, had expressed his opinion on the subject, which, as far he could remember, was to the effect that, if it was thought advisable on general considerations to allow the free cultivation of the poppy in the districts above Allahabad, there need not be any objection to the measure for reasons connected with the opium revenue. That was five or six years ago, and he had heard nothing on the subject since. He concluded either that, upon further reflection, Mr. Thomason had abandoned the project, or that the Government of India had not thought it expedient to alter the existing arrangements.

MR. ELLIOTT said, he would not oppose the second reading of this Bill ; but he wished to refer to some of its provisions, to which, if the Bill should come before a Committee of the whole Council, he should draw the attention of the Council. He objected to the provisions for the adjudication of penalties. Section XII provided as follows :—

“ At the proper period of the year the Sub-deputy Agent, or other officer as aforesaid, shall make an estimate of the quantity of opium which the land engaged for and cultivated with poppy in his district is likely to produce, and shall forward the same to the Agent for transmission to the Board of Revenue. If, at the time of making such estimate, it shall be found that any cultivator, who has received advances from Government, has not cultivated the full quantity of land for which he received such advances, he shall be liable to a penalty of three times the amount of the advances received for the land which he has failed to cultivate ; and the said penalty may be adjudged by the Deputy Agent or Collector, on the complaint of the Sub-Deputy Agent or other officer as aforesaid. Any person dissatisfied with the judgment of the Deputy Agent or Collector may appeal to the Agent, and the decision of the Agent shall be final.”

It seemed to him that it was not expedient to take cases of this kind, which were simply breaches of contract, out of the jurisdiction of the ordinary Courts. The obvious mode of dealing with them was by proceedings in the Moonsiffs' Courts.

*Mr. Currie*

Again, the last Section of the Bill provided that, subject to a certain reservation, all penalties prescribed by the Act for the illicit cultivation of the poppy or the illegal disposal of opium, or for any complicity at or participation in such cultivation or disposal, should be adjudged, not only by Deputy Agents, but also by Sub-Deputy Agents. If such power were given to any Revenue Officers, he thought that it ought to be given to Revenue Officers of the superior class, and not to subordinates who came in frequent contact with the ryots and were hardly fit to be judges in such cases.

MR. CURRIE said, the penalty provided in Section XII, was the penalty provided in the existing Law. The existing Law did not say how that penalty was to be adjudged. He had thought it right to provide that it should be adjudged by the Deputy Agent or Collector. It was to be observed that the contract contemplated by the Section was not a common contract between individuals, but one under which an advance of public money was made by a public officer. He supposed the objection to be that the Section provided not merely for the recovery of the advance, but for the enforcement of a penalty. If the provision had been merely that the advance made should be repaid with interest, it would be entirely in accordance with the principles of the Revenue law that the liability to such repayment should be adjudicated by a Revenue Officer. If there were really any objection to allowing a *penalty* to be adjudged by a Revenue Officer, he should prefer empowering the Sub-Deputy Agent merely to recover the amount advanced, with interest. He thought it very undesirable that a cultivator should be put to the expense and trouble of a regular suit in a matter of that kind.

As to the adjudication of penalties for illicit cultivation and the like being left to the Sub-Deputy Agents, that was merely a continuance of the existing Law. If it was thought right to take the adjudication of offences against the Revenue Law entirely out of the hands of the Revenue Officers, the provisions upon that point would have to be altered. The question would arise in the settlement of the Abkaree Bill, and whatever might be determined on this head with respect to that Bill, would of course govern the practice to be adopted under the present Bill.

The Bill was read a second time.



## REVENUE OF CALCUTTA.

MR. CURRIE moved the third reading of the Bill "relating to the administration of the Public Revenues in the Town of Calcutta."

The motion was carried, and the Bill read a third time accordingly.

## PORT-DUES AND FEES.

The following Message from the Governor General was brought by Mr. Grant and read :—

MESSAGE No. 80.

The Governor General informs the Legislative Council that he has given his assent to the Act which was passed by them this day, entitled "A Bill to authorize the levy of Port-dues and Fees at the present rates for a further period of twelve months."

By order of the Right Honorable the Governor General.

CECIL BEADON,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

FORT WILLIAM,  
The 9th Aug. 1856. }

## MESSENGER.

MR. CURRIE moved that Mr. Grant be requested to carry the Bill "relating to the administration of the Public Revenues in the Town of Calcutta" to the Right Honorable the Governor General for His Lordship's assent.

Also the Bill "to provide for the execution of Criminal process in places out of the jurisdiction of the authority issuing the same."

## MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT (STRAITS SETTLEMENT).

MR. ALLEN moved that two communications which he had received from the Government of the Straits Settlement regarding the Municipal Assessment Bills, be laid on the table and referred to the Select Committees on the Bills.

Agreed to.

## OPIUM (BENGAL PRESIDENCY).

MR. CURRIE moved that the Bill "to consolidate and amend the law relating to the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of opium in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal" be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Grant, Mr. Allen, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

## CATTLE TRESPASS.

MR. LEGEYT moved that a communication which he had received from the Government of Bombay on the Bill "relating to trespasses by Cattle" be laid upon the table and referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

Agreed to.

## NOTICE OF MOTION.

MR. ALLEN gave notice that, on Saturday next, he would move the second reading of the Bill "for conferring Criminal jurisdiction on Moonsiffs and Tahseeldars in the North Western Provinces."

## STANDING ORDERS.

MR. LEGEYT moved to refer to the Standing Orders Committee the question as to the time allowed for presentation of Reports on Bills by Select Committees, with a view to the alteration of the Standing Order regarding publication of Bills.

Agreed to.

## NOTICE OF MOTION.

MR. LEGEYT gave notice that, on Saturday next, he would move the second reading of the Bill "to amend the law relating to the duties payable on Tobacco, and the retail sale and warehousing thereof in the Town of Bombay."

The Council adjourned.

Saturday, August 23, 1856.

## PRESENT :

The Honorable J. A. Dorin, *Vice-President*, in the Chair.

Hon. Sir J. W. Colville,	D. Elliott, Esq.,
His Excellency the Com-	C. Allen, Esq.,
mander-in-Chief,	P. W. LeGeyt, Esq., and
Hon. B. Peacock,	E. Currie, Esq.

## HINDOO POLYGAMY.

THE CLERK presented the following Petitions praying for the abolition of Hindoo Polygamy:—

A Petition of Rajah Goluck Indronarain Roy and other Inhabitants of Midnapore, bearing 15 signatures.

A Petition of Pundits of Bhatpara and other inhabitants of Baraset, bearing 346 signatures.