Fairfax
Hall
Lexington
1796

1796

Tuesday 2 August

Paid to Mr. Beaumont 100 Sk in part of his bill for the conducting — Found from experiment that Mr. Sk— 's method of Cochineal was when dried from 9 to 10 P. Cent lighter than before — All the merchants of Bengal Cochineal in very prosperous are beginning to grow mouldy, putrefaction is commencing on. The Spanish is not affected

Wednesday 3 August.

Purchased a Chinese grammar — for instruction to Mr Wilson relative to experiments on Indigo —

Dr Hunter sent his reflecting telescope to have the thermometer examined —

Thursday 4 August 96

A person from the justices office arrived this morn on questioning the person one of them trembled much he was immediately taken into custody — Suspicion falls heavy on this person —

Dr Hunter called — we put up the telescope and found the thermometer answer very well —

My wound shews little inclination to heal —

Dr H sent me Colt. Beaufoi's attempt to account for the bar. being lowest about 12 o'clock every day at Calcutta from the sea on land breezes

Friday 5th August 1796

Mr J-q called — Q — a letter
Lectures on the language
Commerce & of India to be given at
Edinbr.

— Hindostanee moral Diagram —

+ There is a report that a
strong fleet of French and Dutch
ships have sailed for the Cape
and that the minister has
written to Sir G. K. Elphinstone
to collect all his force at the
Cape — This news is said to
have arrived in a letter from
Capt. Butler to his brother
in Calcutta —

Saturday 6th Aug. 1796

Wind pamphlet — no appearance
of any tendency towards
storming —

This morning an expedi.
by a friend of the Sirdar
to discover the thief — experi-
— At 12 H 3 a sudden gust
of wind followed by rain
— What is the cause of these
sudden gusts, following other
at short intervals, should
there not be a vacuum be-
tween the strong and weak
wave the former moving mor-
ing so much faster than
the latter —

— At 6 Thunder — little rain
very black clouds from the west
moved east against the wind as
usual when advanced within
20 or 25 degrees of the Zenith the
wind suddenly flew about and
blew from the west —

Sunday 7 August 96

Dr. Spalding — Lobster
Lord L—n —
— Mr. Fenton — Dr. Crick —

Monday 8th August

Mr. Hunter — Thinks there is an inconsistency in Law. system respecting the composition of the Nations and attornation — in of the same from infancy —

Tuesday 9th August

Arrived at Diamond Pt. the Ship Berger left England in March — Another English Pass is daily expected —

Cachet called — Explained to him the construction and use of the Micrometer — The Hon. Gennet has one of the most learned Students in the Country this Gent. in a conversation he had with the Cachet told him that there were notions in the Sanscrit books

on the subjects of Mechanics, and denied the possibility of performing by human powers what Europeans relate to be effected by the aid of mechanism —

— Prospero and Lent to Mr. Campbell some Nitric acid — The engages to call to morrow to have some conversation on the subject of supplying the Dispensary with Nitric acid.

Wed. 10th August

Mr. Z and Walker called with specimens of the Indigo and an account of the experiments which I pointed out to them to have made with the Oxl. and Muriatic acids — whenever the specimens are fully dried they shall be examined —

— Made of conducting the English Danish business. A ship under a Danish flag takes in a cargo in England for Madeira, the

cannot land is immediately at Bengal. She gets a certificate of her cargo being landed at Madeira and clears out at that island for the East India. Would it not be better for the Court of Directors to extend the private Indian trade on English bottoms? When foreigners have once got a footing it is no easy matter to drive them out. Besides partial prohibitions tend to excite murmurs among the people who have for some time past enjoyed the privilege of trading with this country. The whole cargo agreeable to the clearances in England ought to be landed at Madeira but the Officers of the Customs seem to [illegible] Capt. that would be by ~~granting~~ granting a certificate of the goods having been landed

Thursday 11th August

— Got two tubs prepared for the Experiments on Indigo —

— Dr. Gilchrist called on his way to the Medical Society

— Some papers from Mr. Scott —

Friday 12th August 96

Mess.rs Fr and Wm. agree to commence our Expt.s on Indigo to morrow Evening.

Dr. Duck — story of a Mr Nott singer — Native pensioner 30 or 40 years resident in the Dr. Mand. Sir John Shore managed the business for the deceased who had been an old servant of his

Mr. N. commenced an action against the Gov.r General for a considerable sum due from the estate and

and for which he produced
the demands accepted and
the signature was sworn
to by several witnesses
The note of hand was however passed
off and the writing appeared
so suspicious, as to occasion
an enquiry from the court
whether writing could be ex-
actly taken out - Dr. D.
performed the experiment
with marine acid - It
was found that Neill had
washed out the writing of
some letters or strokes which
contained his real signature

and had written on the
same paper an "obligation"
for a considerable sum
but the acid used was
too strong it had burnt
the paper which occa-
sioned the scratching on
the other side
Spinning is performed here
by the hand without a
wheel - The threads are
sometimes so fine that
the spinner cannot see
them - shadow in water
little spun now so fine -
The cloth made of so fine
thread was bought up for
the princess and other gentlemen

Saturday 13 August
Took a dose of physic
preparatory to the opera-
tion —
Mr. W. — showed me
Mr. Rottan's letter
— from works have been
attempted in a large
~~flow~~ scale in Ava
country but have not
succeeded — Brown lost
a large fortune in the
business — Something
is still done in the
small way, the iron
is inferior in quality
and sold cheaper than
the English
Coals may be had
in plenty in Bengal
and near the surface
of the earth, but it
has not been hitherto
worth while to work
them — English coal com
cheap — brought out for
ballast little used in hot
climates —
The banks of the River
are full of Cudgeon pots
some at a considerable
depth — The Natives

never work twice in the same spot, they carry the to the banks of the River where they are washed into the river and left in the bank. This joins with other facts to prove the rapid wearing of the banks and consequently of the poor country in India —

The large Banyan tree on the Esplanade near the Hospital has no grass growing below its whole extent.

On asking the reason the Serje replied that it the ground is too hot for grass to grow. Does this tree any peculiar property of preventing grass?

The Silk is exported from Aleppo to Europe is manufactured at Antioch and on the distant mountains while Mulberry — not permitted to grow higher

— Syria has undergone great changes respecting temperature — winters now more severe than formerly —

Respecting Aleppo

— The Turks at Aleppo let the beard grow after a certain age — in China 30 years of age

— Tobacco universally smoked in Syria — Estimate amount of it about 1610 in India about the same time — made into balls with rose water & brown sugar — Kelian or Hookah lately introduced at Aleppo for music — Long pipes used by common folks — Custom of taking opium not so common among the Turks — Opium is compounded with certain aromatics & spices & made into an electuary with honey called Biss is hot and noxious to the taste

— take from 10 to 200
grains at a time —
— largest quantity known
to be taken in 24 hours
was three drams —
— effect — Granules dissolve
themselves — Effects of
the opium on health —
— few, addicted to it, have
resolution enough to lay
it aside —

Sunday 14th Sept. 1796
after an endeavour an
opposition for a Hydro-
cele — New made by
port-wine — operation
lasted about 15 minutes
some twice injected —
It is necessary to bring
on an inflam.n which
may subside and the
cure be effected in 4 or
5 days —
— I call for the Secr.y
of the Bristol Society
announcing a special

meeting on Friday next
to consider on the best
means of rendering the
~~society~~ institution permanent —
+ Report of four French
frigates being off Ceylon
— also of an engagement
+ Sales of the Hydro-
cele amounted to
14 oz of a light yellow
colour resembling the
of Madeira —

Monday 15th August
Slept well last night
Sultan coming on
Fellow trying by the
two bamboo conjuration to get back
the Indian money
the Natives begin to
laugh at these things
consequently they seem
to have that good
effect that they had for
many —

Sunday 16 August 96

Inspection - Col. Murray -
Col. Cameron - conversation about conduct
of the Staff -
- Mess. F. L. and P. -
examine the Judge
with the accused evidently
prejudiced to that without
it -
- From Mr Dick Kirwan
relative on both and Ma-
rines -
+ a letter from Col. Mall-

of Madras astonished
the receipt of the two
books I sent him —
+ at 2 p. m. the water
of the Ty — muddy and
of a whitish colour
+ the report respecting
the French frigates
unfounded —
— Col: Hall wishes to
have a model of the
pile Bridge —
— Dr. Tod is the Earl
Lord Lieut over all Scotland

who has the powers in
time of civil insurrection
or foreign invasion, to call
out every man capable
of bearing arms — Name
of all such required —
Burkes pamphlet —
The King and Court of France
were asleep at the commence
ment of the troubles in
that Kingdom — The British
Ministry will profit by
the example —

~~Thursday~~ Wed. 19 August 179

Received an order from Mr Campbell to supply the dispensary with Nitric acid. to fix my own price on he would answer the demand —

— Mr. Maclean (the) says the Nitric acid is doing wonders — that ~~the~~ 2 lbs ~~of~~ week will be wanted —

Thursday 18 August 96

Austin Mst. Fan Wm

Coarse Indigo selling very low at home — fine a good price —

Opium best formerly from 5 to 6 ~~00~~ Rs. ℔ Chest — This season sold at best 150 —

Loss on the Opium the year from 10 to 15

Lac of Rupees — This is is shed is owing to adulteration by the contractors to increase the quantity

The sale to the East
has been proportionately
low on acct. the purcha-
ers say of this adulterat-
- Company sales in
London are annually
to 5 millions -
Principle articles -
Tea - Salt petre - Silks -
Cloth - Sugar - Indigo -
- Sent for W. Morris
- Cochineel carried
from England to China
frequently putrefies
is rendered useless -
+ this Cases prescribe

against mouldiness &c
it is said better than
even bottles -
- The same observation
has been made on Pre-
serves -

Economy - X in S.E. corner -

Friday 19th August

Dressed for the first time since the accident — & wrote a letter to Sir Thos President of the Medical Society of which the following is a copy

Sir

As the Medical Society meets this evening for the special purpose of considering the best means of rendering the institution permanent and of determining what & a house should be procured for their future meetings

Permit me to offer a few observations which indisposition prevents me from making in the Society itself —

The following regulations would in my opinion tend to improve and render permanent the Society

1 Stated and Regular meetings — once in the month at least — once in the week would probably be better —

Obj.n 1st The Members cannot possibly attend so often — Ans.r There two or more Vice Pres.s —
Obj.n 2d We shall some time want Papers —
Ans.r — When that happens to be the case — Upon the time is wasting on useless subjects. At a conversation as it is called of this sort, held at Sir Joseph Banks's in London, more information may be obtained in two hours than in many months reading and study.
Req.n 2 A committee to select papers and superintend the publication of the Asiatic Researches — The transactions of the Royal Society of London for many years under the sole direction of the Secretary — complaints, however of supposed partiality became so frequent as to induce the Society to elect a Committee for the above purpose. The old adage, may, I hope without offence, be applied to the Secretary of any Society as to any man whatever "Nemo omnia possumus omnes

To this it may be replied
the Secretary can consult
some of the Members indeed
Society respecting the merits
of a Paper. I cannot to
hack about and expose
much more to write answers
and comments on a Paper
which has not as yet
been read is as disrespectful
to the Society as to the Author

3 A Library and Museum
are desirable objects &
that would tend to render
the institution permanent
The ~~Only~~ principal obsta-
cles at present ~~seem~~ to these
and to a Room seem to
be the smallness of the
number of Members and
the Situation of the Society

I should have troubled
the Society with a fa-
mor hint drawn from
experience, but that the
hopes of ~~being~~ being
able to attend have
induced me to postpone
writing this till too late

Dear Sir
Your
Sincerely
J. Ormsby

J. Ormsby Esq
Pres: of the
Ag: Society

+ Mr. Navey called this
morning — I mentioned the pro-
portion of Bot. and in leaving
informs me that the board
have established a sugar
work about 50 miles up the
river —

Saturday 20th Aug 96

This morning prepared
materials for about 5 lbs
of Nitric Acid — Intend to make
it to morrow —

+ It is reported that Mr. F —
sent home last season Coarse
Indigo to the amt. of ten Tuns
of Rupees, and that he has
lost by the sale 5 Rupees —

This day dined with Mr.
Fearle, first day abroad after
my confinement —

Sunday 21st August 96

This morning received a note from Mr. Hannington with Dow's History of Hindostan —

He informs me that I am chosen a member of the Committee of the Asiatic Society — for the Framing a Charter and procuring a House —

— with Mr. Franks —

Evening, paid a visit to Mr. Nelli — Epigram on G. F. — on Mr. and Mrs. B — r —

Monday 22 Aug.

Summoned to meet the Committee at the House lately occupied by Major Hydé in Chenings on Wed. the 24th inst. at 11 o'clock —

Committee

Thos. Graham Esq.
Sir John Murray —
J. Fleming Esq.
J. N. Harrington Esq.
J. Webb Esq.
Major Collins —
Capt. Colebrooke —
D. Denwiddie, Capt. Seymour

A Pair of Adams' 12 Inch
Globes sent by Mr Cox for
my opinion — They are of
the best construction —
— sent to Tallahassee a
~~Long~~ Pair of Adams 18
Inch Globes a little da-
maged —
— with Mr Frank —
+ Gold does not circulate in
the province of and nothing
but ~~A~~ Lucrative Respects
other sent from here bear
a premium of 6 P Cent.
tho' the Brick Rupees are
equal to the Lucknow Rupees

but the former are better
than the latter in the pro-
portion of —
— for ordr to make Gold
circulate in the country
Gov. permitted pay. to
be made in the revenue to
the Collectors in Gold. This
step which was well intend-
ed has produced the very
contrary effect. The
collectors receive payments
from the Ryots in Silve-
r. This Silver they pur-
chase Gold which they pay
into the company, being
permitted so to do. The Exch.

is so much in fact of
Silver that the Collectors
gain greatly by this mode
— The advances which the
Company are obliged to
make on all in Silver
procured at a heavy expence
by not their order fact
to be paid in Silver into the
Treasury — Some time ago
it was in contemplation
to abolish the Gold altog-
ether! And they then left for
what have you left for
circulation? — Some ~~com~~
specie must be in circu-
lation —

— The Establishment of a
National Bank would
have a very beneficial
tendency — just let us
twenty lacks of Rupees in
circulation and add a
certain proportion of the
Revenue to be paid into
the treasury in Silver and
the inconvenience occasi-
oned by want of Silver will
soon be removed — The
Native Shroff would in
a few days function to
the amount of a lacs
of Rupees —

Dollars which formerly
used to be sold at 100 for
200 Rupees, are now 214
and the mint will give
only 200 —
In many of the Company's
works and manufactories
such as Saltworks Saltpetre, considerable advances
are made by the company
and all in Silver — Gold
was never very current in
this country and has been
for the most part brought
into use by the Europeans
— Now cannot as a Coin
in China —

In the Verandah in the
evening talking with Mr. J.
Gopal prostrated himself flat
on the Floor and began a story
about his having served me
honestly for two years, and wanting
the imprisonment for the Sum
money &c &c —
It is said that God has it
in contemplation to send the
Silver to be coined at the Ba-
nares mint into Lucknow
Rupees, by which they think
to ~~save~~ gain 6 & 8 Cent the premium
on Silver sent from here to
Calcutta — Queere would
not a Company's Bank tend
to prevent this? —

Friday 23 August 96

Went to see the new Coach
made by Stuart and Co. for the
King of Pegu —

Mr Cox called — expects to set
sail for Pegu about the beginn.
of next month — Mr. Burkham
accompanies him — I shall
make out a memorandum
for him respecting natural
and artificial objects at
Pegu —

— Mr. G. to call this morning
to look at Jupiter —

— Cleared the Godown for the
furnace —

— Went for Capt. R — and
Mr. Allen —

— Saw an immersion of
Jupiter's first satellite at
7.42 by my regulator —

— Mr. C did not attend —

+ Great scarcity of cash at
present — cause perhaps
brought up by the natives on
purpose to raise the discount
on company's paper —

— It appears a little extraor-
dinary that some plan can-
not be adopted to prevent this
evil —

Wednesday 24th Aug. 96

Lady Nott's death appears in this day's minor —

+ A letter is said to have been received by an Armenian Merch. at Madras from Suez purporting that an engagement had taken place between the French and Austrians in which the latter had been beaten

+ Attended the committee at Major Ryder's — several resolutions were determined on with regard to the Society — but as such meeting of the committee takes place to revise and finish the business for the society — the resolution I afterwards —

+ It is assumed that 200 Rupees P. month may produce in seven years four thousand —

With Mr. Foulis —

Mr. Bruce's Expence. & Indige —

— Evening at D. Dick's

+ Fakeir swinging by the hook from the branch of a Banyan tree, for many years — his head bobbed thro' a fire. Once the rope broke, he fell into the fire, and lay there till a connected rope could be had. Had he been dragged out by a cons: rope, must have been ob: nio —

Thursday 25th Aug.

– B with Mr Faulk
called at Pulsons and
room
– Mr Spalding – Mrs Morr
dead – corpse brought up the
river in a tow boat –
– Sailor at Mr Moultry's
– Mr Russel called – He has
discovered a poisonous
water snake – If a snake
has a double row of teeth
all round he is not poiso
nous – If he has a single
row behind and one or
two fangs with bags before
he is poisonous –
– Borrowed Mr Pellis Journal

and one retort and receiver
– Unfortunately broke my own
~~receiver~~ retort this morning
+ Crumpe says that the
opium of the shops con-
sists of about equal parts
gum and resin and $\frac{1}{4}$ of
the whole indissolvable
earth that is in 12 pt.
of opium are
4½ parts gum
4½ parts resin
3 Earth –

Other Chemists have found
the proportion
5 Gum
4 Resin
3. Earth
} The first is the most correct and by exp

— with Dr. Clark —

— Diseases of the eyes are very prevalent the ~~orphans~~ Hospital on account of the ~~[illegible]~~ offensive exhalations on the West side of the river —

+ The Nitric acid is said to be an effectual remedy for the Dysentery — This from the General hospital from Mr Maclean assistant Surgeon — Told me by Mr Mushet Surgeon to the orphan School — He succeeded Mr. N—h

+ Returned Mr. Cox's Globes

He wishes to have my Camera obscura —

+ A great snake takes several months to digest a hearty meal — Name the case liver & children

or 9 months without eating any thing as was the case with the snake at the superintendants of Penang. It lived 11 months without eating the greatest attention was paid to the snake by Mr. Leight who kept the key of the door himself, very ~~[illegible]~~ plenty of food was thrown into the room but not a particle eaten — the door was left open for one night when the snake made his escape — He swallowed a pig on his way from the

home —