

**Petition of the Members of the Court, dated 10th July
1857**

To—The King ! Nourisher of the Poor !

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—That we have had the honour to be favoured by Your Majesty's order, and besides other particulars, we learn that Your Majesty's commands are to the effect, that the treasure which was brought has been nearly all expended in meeting the requirements of the Army, and the little now remaining must shortly be paid away to the same end, and that we, the Officers of the Court, are therefore directed to devise some feasible expedient to replenish the Treasury. Your Majesty, in our judgement, as the first step in this matter, the Army should go out.

Proposition First—That money on loan at interest be obtained from some Merchant and that this loan, with interest, be paid off on the establishment of order.

Proposition Second—That a force consisting of 1,500 Infantry, 500 Cavalry, and two Horse Artillery Guns, be sent out into the Country to establish Police Stations, Revenue Offices, and Postal arrangements, so that it may become widely known that Your Majesty's rule has been established. Further, that this force be empowered to take charge of all money which may be found collected anywhere on account of the revenues of the State, and which may be voluntarily made over to it. But it should be thoroughly impressed on all its members, that such of them as shall commit any act of plunder, tyranny, or oppression, will be severely punished.

Our first prayer is,—That both the above written suggestions for raising money, may be adopted.

Our second prayer is,—That one of Your Majesty's nobles, in whose integrity Your Majesty may have the most complete

confidence, may be sent with the force, to make arrangements for the Civil administration of the Country.

Our third prayer is,—That the noble Your Majesty may depute should, however, be warned, as though by this Court, that if, on going out, he shall oppress any poor land-holder or any subordinate Collector of Revenue, or if he shall take bribes or *douceurs*, he will be punished according to the decision of this Court. The settlement of the proprietary rights of landholders may be effected after the following way.

In each case it shall be ascertained that the name of the claimant is on record in the papers of the Registrar⁶ of proprietary rights in land, or in those of the Village Accountant⁷ and the claimant shall be required to file receipts of his former payments of land rent, to show that he contributed to the finances of the State, and that the settlement of assessment had been made in his favour. If, on inspection of their documents, and on the testimony of witnesses, *viz.*, of the Registrar of landed rights, the Village Accountant and other respectable men of the place, it shall be clearly proved that the claimant had really been the landholder, and the principal man or one of the principal men, recognized by the Government, as answerable for the Revenue of the whole Village, or of a considerable section of it, the settlement will be made in his name. If a subsequent claimant shall come forward, his petition will be taken, and an order will be recorded on it, to the effect that a final award will be given after investigation. But in the first instance, the appointment to the position of Headman⁸ responsible for the Revenue of the Village will be given to those who had formerly held the situation.

Our fourth prayer is,—That, if the noble deputed to settle the Country does not act in every particular according to these orders, the landholders will be at liberty to lay their complaints before this Court, and if, after due deliberation, it is found that the noble's orders have been such as should be reversed, they will be annulled, and the real owners will be

6. Kanungo.

7. Patwari.

8. Lumberdar.

installed in their just rights. The Petition of the slaves, the Officers of the Court, Jiwaram Subadar Major Bahadur, Sheoram Misr Subadar Major, Tahniyat Khan Subadar Major, Hetram Subadar Major, and Beniram Subadar Major.