

James Scott - P. of H. Island - to Messrs D. Scott  
Extract

39770 - 1

I sincerely hope your endeavours will effect an Amendment here, at present we are without Laws, Police or efficient Magistrate; without Protection tho' our aggregate Population including Struants cannot be less than 200000 our aggregate Property ashore and afloat from 2 1/2 to 3 Millions Sterling -

But while our Civil Servants are insulated, holding their Offices by a precarious Tenure and in fear of being removed on every Change nothing but pilferage can be their Object, whereas if all these were appointed from England with hopes of gradual Advance here, or Civil Servants on the Bengal Establishment who had the Service to look up to, they would have a motive to induce them to exertion in order to deserve promotion; at present, our Lt Governor is a Soldier, Secretary, a Broken one, first Assistant, a Fool then a St. Marins second a Malay Boy, third, an old Country Captain who never could get bread in his own Profession, from such what can be expected, yet they cost 8000 R. of Month. - It has been a grand Error in Politics the not fixing on Java, had it been done at first the Imports of 15000 Tons annually would have enriched both Individuals and the Station. - I have represented this to the Admiral who has used all his influence to effect it without success, at Palembang and Banjar the Dutch have only Factories to receive the Produce in Tin and Pepper, if they were removed and Treaties made with the Sovereigns it would liberate the Trade.

I trust that Parliament will not be blinded by the Dancing Bear. - Colonization, under which the Directors wish to cover their March; this Colonization may be effected when Civilized settle with Savages. - but when a People expensive in their Victuals & Clothes attempts to settle with a People

equally ingenious, and who can subsist on almost nothing, it will never do - our Artisans by Labour here cannot live in Company with Chinese; and Chinese Artisans cannot live in Company with the Natives of India, the reason is plain a Chinesian can afford to work and save at half what an European can, and an Indian at  $\frac{1}{2}$  of what a Chinese can.

If it is admitted, that a Nation is an aggregate of Individuals it must be admitted that the gain of the Individual is the gain of the Nation involved in the Fortes of Concerns with all the World and perplexed by the variety of Trading Interests you neither see so clearly nor decide with such Precision on Subjects so involved and apparently incompatible as we who view the whole from an insulated Situation. otherwise it would scarce admit of discussion, when all Europe had Companies, and each Company carried its restrictive Collections to its own Endowments, the Competition was between Companies but now when it may be admitted the Trade is open to all, openly or covertly; the Competition is between all Europe and America and our East India Company and however they may gain as Sovereigns in such a State, they must lose as Merchants - With their Aid as Sovereigns, some Restrictions on Foreigners aided by a liberal License given their Countrymen, the Competition would be more equal and when our immense Capital is considered might be prevailing

If this should be attended to and a liberal License is given Pinang will become a prominent part of our Trading Settlements both for Ships and Cargoes especially for Tin, Pepper Sugar Coffee, Benjamin, Sago, for altho we have got all Malabar, yet, we can and do send Pepper to the West of India, and selling at the Company's Contract Price gain 40% Cont, they buying at 140 of Candy, we at 11 d. & 9 Pecul. - but if this takes place we must either have a Servant of 14 Years standing or one empowered by Law to dispatch our Ships or then they will have to call at Madras for dispatch which would be of great detriment at particular Seasons; the aggregate produce of Pepper in  
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39771

our Neighbourhood Java, and the West Coast of Sumatra excepted is about 5000 Tons of which China takes of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the Dutch on Java will always have about 1000 to 1500 Tons and our Company on Malabar and West Coast about an equal Quantity; if the Encouragement given by Mr. Light had been continued we should by this have had 2000 Tons of Annam produce here. I have carried my Farming to an alarming Extent, having 300m Pepper Vines 20m Cocoa Nuts, one Million Nutt Trees and I purpose increasing my Coffee now about 5m Trees to 100m all of which in 4 or 5 Years will be productive and should yield well. Encouragement in this Line should be given by Government.

As to the Returns when it is adverted to that the Dutch sent 30 Ships, now supplied by America, the extent of our wants may be estimated as yet, our Market is not resorted to for your Articles; as the Sales occasionally made by our Indiamen are only casual, but when a regular Supply invites resort our wants will perhaps surprise.

In order to aid our Ship building and while we considered the plan of October 1798 as permanent, I made an Establishment on the River Dinden about 30 Leagues to the Southward where the Forests are of Cedar and the Shores lined with Panaigne and where we can launch into 4 Fathoms and should that plan be made permanent by Parliament Ships of any Size with Cedar Bottoms, Teak upper Works and Panaigne Timbers may be built which will last for ever. This Establishment has given great offence to our Governor because I found a facility in peopling it and he could get none to settle our new acquisition called Province Wellesley, the Governor General says the proposals must come thro' our Government before it can receive their sanction which is all that is wanted. - If therefore the Building Business is thought well of the Notice of the Government General to the General Measure will be wanted to be made to our Lieut. Governor.



Lord Hobart sent 4 Companies of Europeans to garrison Malacca with a Battalion of Sepoys, if therefore we are to expect safety to our property here and the Trade is to be pushed to the extent it admits, additional protection should be afforded us ~

In addition to private Adventure in the agricultural Line the Company have begun plantations of Cloves and Nutmegs, which must have cost them from 3 to 4 Lacks of Rupees; Counters a very unfit Subject is Gardner; as this promises to be very beneficial a qualified person to manage should be sent out immediately. - This is the Station for a Botanical Establishment where Trees grow like Mushrooms. - Cinnamon & Tea are with us Jungle plants and grow without Culture. -

In order to give you some Idea of the value of Land in Serap Foun, attend, The L<sup>d</sup>. Governor assembled the Inhabitants in order to fall on Means to repair our Roads and Streets. - I proposed that he should give us authority to sell on the Beach 30 Ft. towards the Sea and under High Water Mark, he did so and it bought  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Span. Dollar a Square Foot besides the expence of embanking and filling an Estimate then made it was found that the aggregate rent of the Town was about 5000<sup>l</sup> of Annum

altho' Mr. Counters Life is far from Exemplary yet he has £ 300 a Year for reading prayers once a week and as much for Gardening for which he is equally ill fitted ~

In short the place has capabilities and if subdivided would afford a Field for patronage at present smuggled by people no one knows. - if the detail of Salaries & Employments were called for this would appear. Bards poor Fellow is skin to the Skin and all the little Documents hitherto annexed to his office given to others ~

There being no effective Magistrate or Laws duly sanctioned  
there is no protection on British Subjects here, this if all as formerly were  
good would be for the Time of little moment. - but since Chempore and  
Tranquebar no longer afford shelter, we have become a Nest of Runnagats  
who cannot in their Dealings be called to account which has a most un-  
favourable effect on our Character as Merchants with the Natives and when  
if a remedy is not applied will soon render the Town a Nest of Thieves  
and Rogues, an act authorising Laws & Magistrates should therefore be  
set about. -

Extract of a Letter from  
James Scott  
at  
Prince of Wales Island  
to  
Mess<sup>rs</sup>. D. Scott & Co<sup>o</sup>.