

ADDENDUM-I

THE DARJEELING GUIDE

THE DARJEELING GUIDE

IT is a singular fact that the Darjeeling hills were, for many years after the British obtained a footing in Bengal, a *terra incognita* to the Christian people resident in the plains in their immediate vicinity. Scorched by the burning sun, saturated by the heavy rains, and debilitated by the insalubrious climate of the lowlands, the Christian inhabitants of the Zillahs Purneah, Dinagepur, Rungpur and Malda, lived within sight of the forest-clad hills and snowy peaks of the Himmalaya range, with scarcely a thought that they might be a refuge from the sultry heat and pestilential malaria of the lowlands in which they vegetated. The idea that this beautiful range of country might be turned to sanitary and other useful purposes did at length suggest itself to those who were interested, not only in the well being of those who dwelt in their immediate vicinity, but for invalids resident, generally, in Bengal and Behar. The thought once suggested was, as soon as official routine would permit, reduced to practice. The sickly Terai was passed, the mountains were scaled, and the district surveyed by intelligent and enterprising men.

The advantages offered by Darjeeling as a Sanatorium and a Military station were frequently brought to the notice of Lord William Bentinck. The first official report on the subject was presented by Colonel, now General, Lloyd ; the report was favorably received by the Government. Next to General Lloyd, Mr. Grant of the Civil Service was one of the most zealous advocates of Darjeeling as a station. Owing to the reports of General Lloyd, Mr. Grant and others, the Governor General appointed Major Herbert, the Surveyor General, and Mr. Grant, to visit and report on the general capabilities, and on the eligibility of the Sikkim mountains as a Military station and Sanatorium. The report of these gentlemen was highly favourable to the district, both for military and sanitary purposes.

The Darjeeling hills formed originally a part of the territory of the Rajah of Sikkim, a hill chieftain, whose capital lies contiguous to the Nepal country, and on the high road from Darjeeling to Thibet. This mountain chieftain had been driven from his country by the Ghorkhas, the warriors of Nepal. When the affairs of Nepal were adjusted, the British Government replaced the Sikkim Rajah on his throne, and guaranteed to him the sovereignty of his territory. The principal object which the British Government had in view in this arrangement, was to make the Sikkim country a post of defence between Nepal, Bhotan and the whole Himalaya eastward to the borders of Burmah, to prevent the marauding Nepalese from extending their conquests in the mountain countries between Nepal and the empire of the Golden Foot. Notwithstanding the importance of the locality in a military point of view, Darjeeling and its claims were held in apparent abeyance from 1817 to 1828. A frontier dispute between the Lepchas, the aborigines, of the Darjeeling hills, and the Nepalese, brought the subject once more prominently into notice. The dispute, according to the terms of a treaty entered into by the British Government, the Nepalese and the Rajah of Sikkim, was referred to the Government of India. While this matter was under consideration, Mr. Grant visited the hills, and pointed out to Lord William Bentinck the eligibility of the locality as a Sanatorium. The issue of his recommendation was the appointment of the commission to which reference has already been made. The various reports on the subject had in the meantime been forwarded to the Court of Directors. The authorities in Leadenhall Street looked with a favorable eye on "the Bright Spot," and suggested the propriety of making the new settlement a depot for European recruits, as well as a military station and sanatorium.

The Government of India, on the receipt of these instructions, at once took measures for securing a locality in the Sikkim hills. Application was made to the Rajah of Sikkim to cede a tract of country in which Darjeeling should be included, and for which an equivalent should be given. The terms at first proposed by the Rajah were exorbitant. He ultimately agreed to surrender the Darjeeling range, receiving

from the British Government, in return for the ceded district, £300 per annum.

General Lloyd and Dr. Chapman were then despatched to visit the hills, to report on the most eligible locality for the new station. They selected Darjeeling, and the history of the settlement has proved the wisdom of their choice. In 1840, Dr. Campbell, then holding office at Nepal, was appointed Superintendent of the Darjeeling territory. He was also entrusted with the charge of the political relations between the British Government and the Sikkim Rajah.

The arrangements entered into between the British Government and the Sikkim chieftain went on harmoniously for the first few years. The Rajah was somewhat of an ascetic, and left political affairs in the hands of his Dewan or prime minister. The Dewan acted strictly in accordance with the spirit of the treaty entered into between the two Governments. He was succeeded by a man of a different temper—a Tibetan, a relative of the Rajah's wife, an insolent and avaricious man, whose object was to monopolize the trade of the country and to aggrandize himself. Everything and person British was tabooed, and every impediment which a Chinese nature could present to friendly intercourse between the two countries was thrown in the way. The British Government and the Resident at Darjeeling met this conduct of the Dewan either with neglect or forbearance. This conciliatory conduct was misinterpreted by the prime minister. He mistook forbearance and neglect for weakness and fear : and like all narrow-minded men became bold through the forbearance of those with whom he had to deal. His conduct at length reached its climax, and terminated fatally for the territorial and pecuniary interests of his master. Dr. Campbell, the resident at Darjeeling, while travelling through the Sikkim country, was seized by order of the Dewan. He was imprisoned, and during his imprisonment suffered such indignities as petty tyrants know how to inflict. Troops were despatched, the Resident was liberated, the Rajah's pension ceased, and a part of his territory, the Morung, was resumed by the British Government. All friendly relations, as a matter of course, ceased between

the British and the Sikkim authorities ; Sikkim was a sealed country to the former, and ceased to be the high road for commerce between Darjeeling and Thibet. This state of things continues up to the present time, though hopes are entertained that amicable relations may shortly be resumed between the two countries—a pension to the present Rajah looms in the distance, and is a ground of hope of a better state of things in that part of our eastern frontier. The old Rajah has retired to a Lama monastery ; his son and successor is favorable to the British, but the Dewan still lives. His influence is great, and is the chief obstacle to friendly relations being entered into between the British Government and that of Sikkim.

The foundation of the station at Darjeeling having been laid, it steadily progressed. To the amiable and enterprising conduct of Dr. Campbell, the first Superintendent, may be traced the prosperity of the station and territory. That others have contributed to the present improved state of the district cannot be denied ; but to Dr. Campbell the palm must be yielded. He watched over the territory with parental anxiety, it was in his heart that it should prosper. His object was to inspire the Aborigines with confidence in the British rule, to induce the neighbouring tribes to settle in the territory, and to render Darjeeling a commercial centre for traders from the countries round about, extending even to Thibet. That he has to a great extent succeeded in obtaining settlers, is evident from the large tracts of land which have been cleared of dense forest jungle, and that his commercial hopes had begun to be realized, before the rupture with Sikkim, the Darjeeling bazaar and the fair at Titalya, at the foot of the hills, amply prove.

Darjeeling, as will have been gathered from the brief history now given, is situated in the Sikkim hills. The name is applicable both to the Station and to the Territory. The word Darjeeling has been variously interpreted. The popular interpretation appears to be "The Holy or Bright Spot." The territory is bounded to the north by the river Raman, which divides it from Sikkim ; on the east by the rivers Runjeet and Teesta, these divide it from Bhotan ; on the west the river

Mechi divides it from Nepal ; from the source of the Mechi northward the ridge of the Tonglloo and Phullat mountains, conveys the western boundary north to the River Raman. The Zillahs Rungpur and Purneah are contiguous to its Southern or Terai boundary. The territory may be divided into two sections, the northern and southern. The northern consists of a succession of mountain and valley, with an average altitude above the sea level of from 4,000 to 9,000 feet ; the Southern or Morung country consists of the skirts of the first range of the Himmalaya, and the plains between that region and the Zillahs of Rungpur and Purneah. The station of Darjeeling is situate in lat. $27^{\circ} 2' 53''$ N., Long. $88^{\circ} 18' 41''$ E. It is a spur of the second range of the mountains of Sikkim. The spur trends in a northerly direction. It is shut in from the plains, and is sheltered from the winds and mists, which ascend from the lower districts, by two ranges of hills or natural screens, and to this provision of nature may be traced its comparative freedom from the mists and rains to which the outer ranges are subject. It is about thirty miles from the foot of the hills by the road, and fifteen in a straight line. Its elevation above the sea level is 7,165 feet. The ridge on which it stands varies in height from 6,000 to 7,600 feet ; 8,000 feet being the elevation at which the mean temperature most nearly coincides with that of London. It is sheltered on the east by the Sinchal mountain, which rises to nearly 9,000 feet, and from whose summit a distant view of the plains may be seen, early in the morning, on a clear day.

The ridge on which Darjeeling stands, like most of the spurs in the Himmalaya, is generally narrow, or what is termed hog backed. It has a steep descent on its eastern side, which runs down to the torrent stream of the Rungnoo. The views presented on this side of the ridge, are, on a favorable day, most exciting. Mountain and valley stretch away as far as the eye can reach, until they merge in the snowy range, which in every varying form trends to the east for upwards of sixty miles. The murmuring waters of the Rungnoo make sweet and fitting music to such a scene. On the western side, the ridge declines in more gentle declivities, a kind of terraced slopes, intersected by numerous mountain streamlets, the

whole forming a picturesque amphitheatre two or three miles in circumference. The station viewed from the more artistic points forms a pleasing *coup d'œil*. The Swiss-cottage-like houses, perched on commanding knolls or nestling under sheltering hills, with their well-trimmed gardens, the bazar and sepoy lines, the village church on the hill, the cutcherry, the ruined Llama temple, with the wide-spread valley clothed with luxuriant forest foliage and verdant crops, and flowers of every from and hue, with here and there a silvery mountain stream, give it the appearance, on a calm summer's eve, of

"A spot enclosed by God,
Out of the world's wild wilderness."

This sylvan refuge for the weary residents of the plains, is distant from the Metropolis of British India, our busy, reeking Calcutta, 371 miles.

There are in Darjeeling some seventy houses, and a Christian population, including children, the invalids, and the Depot establishment, of upwards of two hundred. In the season this number is considerably augmented. There are in the station the following public buildings and institutions. The Invalid Establishment for sick soldiers of Her Majesty's and the Hon'ble Company's services. There are usually about one hundred and fifty invalids at the Depot. They are under the charge of a Commandant and a small body of officers. There is a military officer and an apothecary attached to the Depot. The establishment is on the Jellahapahar, the highest point in the station. it is the first object which arrests the attention of the visitor on his entrance into the station. At the other extremity of the station stands the Episcopal Church, a neat and simple structure ; near it is the Cutcherry, under its roof all the official business of the station is transacted. The Treasury is here also. Lower down are the Assembly and Reading rooms. Below this again is the Baptist Chapel, and still further down the Jail. One Hindu temple stands near the Bazar, and a small house fitted up as a Mosque is in the same vicinity. The Government school is in the same locality. In a retired nook on a lower elevation stands the Roman Catholic Nunnery and Chapel. There is a Roman Catholic Chapel also

at the Jellahapar for the invalid Roman Catholic soldiers. The Bazar and the Sepoy lines are on a cleared spot in the centre of the station. The bazar is upon the whole well arranged, and tolerably well supplied. The Bunneahs are all from the plains. The shops have been erected by, and are the property of, the Government. The authorities however do not interfere with the prices of things sold in the bazar. Trade is quite free, and every encouragement has been given to tradesmen to settle at the station. The Lepcha bazar needs improvement. It is ill built and dirty ; this is however quite in accordance with Lepcha taste. The officials in Darjeeling are not numerous. The Superintendent is the sole ruler of the station and territory, except in certain Criminal Cases, when the Judge from Dinagepore officiates. Assessors are sometimes appointed. The Judge is not however bound by their decision, they are merely selected with a view to give the Superintendent or Judge the benefit of their local experience. There is a resident officer attached to the Sapper corps ; he has charge of the roads and other matters which call for the skill of the engineer. A Civil doctor resides in the station. A chaplain is appointed by Government to officiate in the Church and to the invalids at Jellapahar. he is appointed for two years. There is a Baptist Missionary, connected with the Mission established by the Rev. W. Start ; he labours chiefly amongst the Lepchas. A School Master has been recently appointed to the Government school, and there is a Teacher for the children of the invalids at the Military Sanatorium.

The prosperity of the station has called into existence, besides the native shops in the Bazar, European shopkeepers, butchers and gardeners ; and one small Tavern, or, as it is termed, a dak bungalow. A good Hotel is needed at Darjeeling. Parties have commenced Taverns ; but hitherto they have not succeeded. As the station progresses, and the number of casual visitors increases, there will be a better prospect for any one entering on such a speculation.

In presenting an account of Darjeeling we cannot omit to mention some by whose enterprise the station has been helped into prosperity. Amongst others may be mentioned General

Lloyd, S. Smith, B. Hodgson and D. Wilson, Esqrs., Sir Thomas Turton, Mr. Lowe, Col. Crommelin, Dr. Withecombe, Capts. Masson, Cornish and Murray, and Mr. Martin. There are others of whom we doubt not honorable mention might be made, were we more familiar with the details of the history of Darjeeling. Amongst the florists, General Harvey with his garden of beautiful flowers deserves notice.

The approaches to Darjeeling are full of beauty and interest to the traveller. Having left the scorching plains of Bengal, the first change which the visitor experiences is the Terai or belt of dense forest jungle, which skirts the base of the Himalaya. This though beautiful is no paradise. It is most unhealthy, and notwithstanding the partial clearings, is deemed an unsafe spot for a stranger to pass the night in. To sleep in the Terai is generally equivalent to "gaining a loss" in the shape of jungle fever. The unhealthiness of this hot-bed of disease, arises from the want of drainage. The waters from the hills find no free passage, they are pent up by the massy jungle, and either percolate the gravel beds or are carried off by evaporation. The want of circulation, owing to the proximity of the mountains, and the amount of malarious vapour ever hanging over the district, as well as the sources already adverted to, sufficiently account for the unhealthiness of the Terai. Cultivation and good drainage will doubtless tend very materially to change this nest of fever into a comparatively healthy district. In the mean time we may suggest the almost certain means of avoiding the evils of the Terai. Let the journey through it be made in the morning from seven to ten, and the chances are that no injurious effects will be experienced. In the season of 1856, parties traversed the Terai during the whole season, in palkies, on elephants, on horseback, and by carts; and, as far as Christians were concerned, in every instance, with impunity. The Terai is inhabited by the Mechis, a squalid and unhealthy-looking race; their companions are tigers, wild elephants and bears, fitting residents for such a region. In passing through the Terai, the bed of the Mahanuddi is passed. Having passed this mountain stream, the ascent is gradual through a district rich in natural scenery. Crossing a rustic bridge, and traversing

a long picturesque mountain road, the first puffs of a cooler atmosphere begin to be felt. At the termination of this road the ascent becomes abrupt, and we have reached the first step in the Himalaya ladder. On a small knoll at the head of the ascent we reach Punkabarria, the first station in the hills. It is 2,500 feet above the sea level.

The India Rubber tree (*Ficus Elasticus*) is to be found here, as well as in the valleys higher up on the same level. This Dr. Hooker states is the western limit of this plant.

The next stage is from Punkabarria to Kursion. The rise from the first to the second station is very abrupt. The road is however so constituted as to render the ascent comparatively easy. The journey from Punkabarria to Kursion is most enchanting.

The soil and its productions are completely new. The soil is mica and clay slate, the former, says Hooker, being full of garnets. A noble forest replaces the stunted and bushy vegetation of the Terai. The passage through this region in the spring is a treat even to the residents, much more to the weary traveller from the plains. It is like passing through the vast, well-wooded park of some feudal lord. Lofty mountains rise on every side, covered from the base to the summit with magnificent forests, their offspring of orchids, vines and climbers being interlaced in most fantastic forms. The sides of the road are covered with a rich variety of ferns and flowers, while here and there a mountain stream gives out its music to aid the few song-birds who chaunt sweet notes in shady groves.

Ascending, open spots give artistic views of the vast plains, which stretch out from the base of the mountains to the horizon, "like the smooth surface of a summer's sea." The distance from Punkabarria to Kursion is six miles : owing, however, to the abruptness of the ascent, it takes about two hours to reach the second station. Kursion is one of the gems of the Sikkim hills, and will in time, we doubt not, become a station of importance. It is situated on a large ridge or spur, through which the high road to Darjeeling passes. Its elevation is 5,200 feet above the sea level. The view from the

Eagle's Crag, a bold, rocky eminence, is most extensive and picturesque. The broad plains of Purneah, Dinagepur, Rungpur and Malda, with their dense forests and verdant crops, intersected by the silver streams of the Mechi, Mahanadi, Teesta, the Brahmaputur, and on a very clear day, the great Ganges, are seen stretching out as far as the eye can reach to the South and East. To the North Kinchijunga and his companions raise their icy peaks, while immediately in the vicinity lofty mountains and deep valleys, clothed with everlasting spring, encircle you on every side. The zephyr-like breezes wafted up from the plains, come laden with the rich perfumes of sweet scented flowers, and clouds, of which Kursion appears to be the laboratory, rise up in most fantastic forms. Kursion boasts its water-fall, which during the rains is an object of great attraction. The climate of Kursion is not unlike that of Nice, with this exception, that during the rains it is necessarily damper. Medical men give the preference to Kursion for patients suffering from pulmonary affections.

The next stage is from Kursion to Chuttuckpur. The rise is abrupt for three or four miles, when it becomes more easy till you reach the third bungalow. The scenery is much the same as below. Nature, ever varying, changes her dress as we ascend, new varieties in the floral and arborial world make their appearance, and the atmosphere becomes sensibly cooler. The weariness of the plains is exchanged for the elasticity of the mountains. The whole system becomes invigorated, the appetite sharpened, and the spirits more exuberant.

Chuttuckpur lies like a nest in the side of a lofty mountain. It is generally in the clouds, and is on that account a damp and not over-comfortable bungalow. It is, however, a welcome rest-house to the mountain traveller. The road from Chuttuckpur to Darjeeling is, until you come within a short distance of "the Bright Spot," almost a level. The scenery is bold, the road passing through lofty mountains and majestic forest trees. The mountain streams are more impetuous, the air cool and refreshing.

On the road to Darjeeling, and about midway between Chuttuckpur and the central station, is Sanadah, a village and a resting place for troops. On a spur descending from this station is the new settlement of Hope Town. This station was only commenced at the close of the rainy season of 1856. It owes its existence to the enterprise of two or three gentlemen from the plains. Their object is to make it a settlement for residents. The cleared land has been purchased from the natives. The proprietors have no wish to make a profit by the re-sale of the land, their object being to induce people to become settlers, and to develop the resources of the country. The location has been surveyed and marked out in lots of from one hundred to five hundred acres, with building plots. A Tea Company has been formed in connexion with the Hope Town settlement. A portion of profits of the sale of land is to be appropriated to the erection of a place of worship,—unsectarian,—a school house, a dispensary and a bazar. The greater portion of the land has been taken, three houses are nearly erected, and others will soon be commenced; a road has been made from the main road down to Balasun, and all the shares, and more than were originally issued, of the Tea Company, have been taken up. We shall watch with interest this attempt to form a Colony of Himalaya farmers in the Darjeeling territory: and from what we know of the men who have started it, we have little doubt of its success. Retracing our steps we pass on to Darjeeling. The immediate approach to it is steep, the top of the Jellapahar has to be attained before we can see “the Bright Spot.” Having reached the top of the Himalaya Pisgah the station is in full view, and well repays the toil of the wearisome journey, the accidents by flood and field, by plain and valley and mountain.

The natural scenery of the Darjeeling territory is full of interest to the admirer of nature and the man of science. From the Jellapahar, the highest point in the station, the views on every side are pregnant with grandeur and beauty. To the south the landscape is a succession of mountain and valley, covered from the base of the mountains to their loftiest peaks with the most luxuriant forest foliage. To the east the Sinchul raises its lofty head, covered with the sweet-scented magnolia,

and with a forest of richly hued rhododendra. To the north, the mountains of the lower range of the Himmalaya, like massive mountain billows, rise one over the other covered with eternal spring, till they merge in the snowy range ; while in the distance Kinchijunga, the monarch of mountains, raises his silver crested peaks high even above his aspiring companions. To the west rises Tougloo and Phullot. Abrupt slopes, deep ravines, cleared patches and mountain streams, encircled by lofty mountains, make up a picture which, when lit up by the rays of the rising or the setting sun, can have few if any rivals. Nor must we omit the cloud scenery of this beautiful region. Here the clouds are seen in all their perfection, assuming every imaginable form, and tinged with ever varying hues.

 Their ever-changing forms and shapes
 By rainbow hues adorned,
 Seem oft as if by heavenly skill
 For angels' chariots formed.

Nor is their beauty diminished by the dark outlines of the mountains on which they cast their airy shadows. The lover of nature can desire no view more entrancing than this land-locked Sanatorium, either at sunrise or by moonlight. Both are calculated to stir the poet's muse, or to inspire the artist with a desire to give, in mimic form, the great realities of nature ; nor will the ordinary mind be unimpressed with the greatness, wisdom and benevolence of Him who made the whole.

The want felt in this region, is that which lends additional enchantment to the scenery of the Alps and the hills of Westmoreland. There are no lakes in the Darjeeling territory. The rivers too, which in the rains are roaring and blustering streams, become in the dry season mere gently flowing and erratic brooks.

The taste displayed by the residents in the selection of sites and the laying out of their grounds, gives a minor grace to the scenery. It would be impossible to enumerate all, but we cannot pass by Brianston, the residence of B. Hodgson, Esq., late of the Bengal Civil Service.

Both as it respects situation and taste, Brianston is a gem of a mountain home. Its broad acres tastefully arranged, and its rustic bungalows, prove that it has been the product of an intelligent and tasteful mind, of one who has determined to make the Himalaya not only the field of scientific research, but his home. The hospitality manifested by the proprietor of Brianston is too well-known to need more than a passing record. Nor is hospitality confined to this mountain home. If the ennui which must be felt by those who are accustomed to busier scenes can be dispelled by domestic generosity, it will be by the hospitality of the residents in the Darjeeling hills.

The *climate* of Darjeeling is adapted to the generality of European constitutions. The mean temperature throughout the year is 55° to 56°. Equality of temperature both of day and night during the year is a marked peculiarity of the climate. The air, which is keen in the cold, dry season, is pure during the entire year. The people dwelling at Darjeeling may in the course of a few hours have almost any temperature they please. A descent of one or two thousand feet will take them from the cold breezes of the Jellapahar to the more genial stations on the lower slopes, and in the neighbouring valleys, the old Indian may luxuriate to his heart's content in a climate almost as warm as that of the plains. The valleys are not, however, the most salubrious locations ; want of free circulation engenders fever, and other diseases common to low and sultry localities.

The year may be divided into two parts, the rainy and the dry seasons. The rains commence about the middle of May, and continue until the middle of October. The rains in the hills are regular down-pours ; they come down in right good earnest. Owing to the slopes, and the porous nature of the soil, the water does not long remain on the surface, it is soon either absorbed or finds its way by the mountain streams to the beds of the rivers. A short interval of sunshine serves to render the ground dry, and gives a good road on which the pedestrian or equestrian may take his accustomed rambles. When during the rainy season there is a temporary cessation of the rain,

the climate is exquisite and the atmosphere clear and brilliant. The dry season commences in October, and continues until May. January and February are very cold, with almost daily frost. March, April and May are the dry and warm months, or spring period; when beautiful, sweet-scented flowers and indigenous fruits make their appearance. The following extract from the Darjeeling Meteorological Register shews the mean temperature and fall of rain from 1853 to October 1856 :—

Extract from the Darjeeling Meteorological Register, mean temperature and fall of Rain from 1853 to 1856.

MONTHS	HEIGHT OF INSTRUMENTS ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE SEA, 7168 FEET.								AVERAGE.	
	1853		1854		1855		1856			
	Mean temp. of day	Rain	Mean temp. of day	Rain	Mean temp. of day	Rain	Mean temp. of day	Rain	Mean temp. of day	Rain
January	36.79	1.85	45.85	.10	39.42	.10	40.99	1.78	40.76	.96
February	47.23	.75	42.01	1.57	41.93	2.03	45.57	.00	44.18	1.09
March	52.83	.00	51.47	.40	49.36	2.94	52.84	1.38	51.62	1.18
April	57.74	1.00	53.83	5.10	52.58	5.76	56.41	1.15	55.14	3.25
May	61.35	2.07	59.73	5.68	58.70	11.65	58.00	1.18	59.44	5.14
June	64.34	26.90	62.96	40.57	60.88	21.21	61.37	45.95	62.34	33.40
July	65.26	29.49	65.81	18.55	62.24	21.76	62.53	34.77	64.03	26.14
August	64.13	31.26	65.41	40.91	61.97	26.54	61.69	37.61	63.30	34.08
September	62.02	20.15	63.55	28.10	60.42	15.80	61.18	17.51	61.80	20.40
October	56.71	4.34	58.52	4.05	56.20	.02	59.18	15.90	57.65	6.08
November	49.28	.37	49.47	2.10	49.52	.41				
December	45.29	.00	45.14	.20	47.56	.00				
Means	55.24	9.85	55.29	12.28	53.39	90.2				

Lat 27° 2' 53" N.

Long 88° 18' 41" E.

Mag. Var 2° 30' E.

Correction for Corresponding Greenwich time.— + 5h. 53m. 14³/₄.

The soil is stiff red or yellow clay, with Gneiss rock lying under it, and in some places coming to the surface. Gneiss crumbled in the form of sand is met with in different parts of the hills. Where the jungle has not been cleared, there is a fine surface soil of vegetable mould, ranging from six to twelve inches in depth. This yields one or two fair crops ; when however the vegetable soil is washed away by the rains, little is left but the primitive clay ; with here and there the bald rock standing out. The only minerals at present found in the hills are copper, iron and manganese ; they have not however, as yet, been found in sufficient quantities to remunerate the miner. Lime is found in the valleys.

The prevailing winds are E. to S. E., during the cold and dry season ; and from S. to S. W. during the rains. It rarely blows from the north, the snowy range being a barrier to the wind in that quarter.

The Darjeeling territory abounds with the following timber, fruit and flowering trees and plants—Oaks. There are several species of the oak. Five are known as yielding good timber. The oak of the Himmalaya cannot however compete with the sturdy British oak. The damp appears to deprive it of the strength and durability for which its English namesake is famous.—Chesnut. This is an excellent wood, and is used for building purposes. The nut is small and sweet.—Birch—two species.—Maple, two species. Sal.—This tree, which is one of the best Indian woods, grows abundantly in the neighbourhood of Punkabarria. It is also found on the other side of Darjeeling, near the Runjeet. Sissu—grows in the valleys of the Ballasun and Runjeet. Toon—grows to a large size in the lower districts. The Wild Mango—grows between Kursion and Punkabarria. The fruit is small and cylindrical in form, it has not much of the flavor of the mango of the plains. Rhododendron—white and red. The latter is found only at Darjeeling, the white is in great abundance lower down. It grows to a gigantic size, and flowers in April and May. The wood is white, light and durable. Walnut.—This is a very handsome wood and is used for furniture and house building. Champ,—a yellow cross-grained wood, excellent for

ceiling, flooring, chimney pieces, and doors and windows. Magnolia—a large handsome tree, white flowered and highly scented, flowers in the spring, scenting the air with its fragrance. Lotus tree—a large handsome tree, flowers in the spring ; it bears a profusion of large, lotus-like, pink flowers—when in full bloom this tree is really the Queen of the forest ; it belongs to the genus Magnolia. Sycamore,—Somewhat like the Plane tree. The wood is good. The natives use the leaves as a substitute for tea. Holly—this is a large handsome plant, and especially in the winter, when it is in full leaf, and its branches are covered with scarlet berries. There is a species of Olive, the fruit is as large as a plum. The wood, though not durable, is used for door-posts and out buildings. Semul—well known in the plains for its cotton. It grows at an elevation of 3,500 feet. Figs,—two species, edible, they ripen in August. The Pimento tree bears a spicy berry, which has somewhat the flavour of strong orange peel—it is used medicinally by the natives. The Paper tree,—three species, the yellow, white and pink and scarlet flowered. The yellow flowered thrives at an elevation of about 5,000 feet. The paper made from this tree is coarse and dark coloured—the whitish pink is abundant ; this thrives in a belt embracing 2,000 feet of elevation, that of Darjeeling, 7,257 feet, being the centre—it is the most abundant of the species. The scarlet flowered is found on higher elevations, such as the Sinchal. Olea Fragrans is abundant about Darjeeling, it is sweet scented and flowers in October. Firs are found near the Runjeet. Wild cherry is abundant below Darjeeling. The Barberry is indigenous to the district, the fruit is equal to British fruit, the wood is green and is used for dyeing purposes.

There is a yellow, durable wood, very offensive when fresh cut, called in "the Darjeeling Guide," Stink Wood. The Tea Plant.—This is not indigenous to the Darjeeling district. It was introduced by Dr. Campbell. A few healthy plants are found in the station, the seeds are large and well formed, the leaf is large and coarse. The elevation of Darjeeling is too high for the plant to be very productive ; besides which it must suffer from the frost. Tea plants have been sown and raised on the lower slopes, at Tuqvar, to the north, by Captain

Masson, at Kursion by S. Smith, Esq., and tea is now being raised at the Canning and Hope Town plantations by the Companies attached to those locations, by Mr. Martin on the Kursion flats, and by Capt. Samler, the agent of the Darjeeling Tea Concern, between Kursion and Pankabaria. There can we believe be little doubt but that the tea plant will thrive at an elevation of from 3,500 to 4,500 feet. The managers of Hope Town Tea Concern have been obliged to increase the number of shares, to meet the calls made upon them by parties interested in the project. This concern is indebted for its prosperity to the energy and skill of F. Brine and E. D'Cruz, Esqs. Should these tea plantations succeed, and we see no reason to doubt their success, they will be a great boon to the Darjeeling district, as well as highly remunerative to those concerned. With a view to encourage the growth of tea by the natives, the Government has placed at the disposal of the Acting Resident, Capt. James, several maunds of tea seed for distribution amongst the indigenous agriculturists. It is an experiment worth trying ; but we doubt whether the erratic disposition of the Lepcha farmer will allow him to wait four years ere he realizes the fruit of his labours.

The coffee plant has been sown below Kursion, and gives promise of fruit. The soil and climate is favourable to the production of the plant, and if there be sun enough to ripen it thoroughly, there is good hope of success with coffee as well as with tea. We have seen and tasted tea grown near Darjeeling, which to our taste was more palatable than the produce of the Assam tea plantations.

There are five species of raspberries—three of tolerable flavor. They require cultivation to give them a higher flavor. Strawberries are grown by the residents ; they are well flavored, a little more acid than the English fruit. They are nevertheless a great treat to those who have so few opportunities, in the plains, of tasting this queen of fruits. Apples, pears, and plums, have been introduced by the residents. They do not, however, arrive at perfection. The trees are healthy, and the fruit well formed, but they need sun

to ripen them into the mellow flavor of the British fruits. Peaches are grown, but they are hard and bitterish to the taste. They, like the apple, require more sun than Darjeeling can afford. It is probable that these fruits of the Western world may arrive at greater perfection in the lower ranges, such as Kursion and other spots at the same elevation. Besides the trees mentioned, the Elder, Hydrangia, Bramble, Honeysuckle, Camelia, and the Ivy, and different kinds of climbing plants, are found in great abundance at different elevations. A wild purple grape grows on the lower slopes. It is a pleasant fruit, and makes a jelly with somewhat of the flavor of the English damson ; if cultivated it would we think grow to a much larger size and might probably produce a common kind of claret.

The Floral world is abundantly represented. Many common English wild flowers bring back to memory the hills and dales and shady nocks and lanes of the fatherland. The fox-glove, daisy and butter-cup, with others of the same order, greet the eye in the spring season. The daisy, though not indigenous, flourishes at Darjeeling. The English primrose is not found in the hills, but a plant with a palish pink flower, called the Sikkim primrose, is abundant in the neighbourhood. The English cabbage rose, imported, and others indigenous to the hills, attain to great perfection, one species of rose which flowers in the spring, deep crimson and well-scented, grows very profusely. Fuschias of two kinds grow to a large size. A large variety of flowers, including two or three varieties of violets, and indigenous to the hills, are continually developing their beauties and making the air aromatic with their fragrance. Ferns are found in rich variety, from the most minute of these feathery plants to the stately and graceful Fern tree. The bamboo is found in the valleys, and up to six thousand feet, in great variety ; the dwarf species is abundant between Darjeeling and Kursion. Some of the species grow to a large size, and as in the plains so in these hills, the bamboo is a most useful plant. It is used by the natives for almost every purpose. The water carrier makes his chungu out of the larger ones ; and in the same form it is employed by the natives for carrying milk, butter and all similar produce. The leaves of the younger plants are used as food for horses and

cattle. The Orchid race is largely represented—many beautiful species are found in the Darjeeling territory. They find a home on the large forest trees, and not unfrequently on their very topmost branches. In the depths of the forests they, with a number of the fern tribe, attached to huge trees and gracefully festooned by luxuriant climbers, give to the forests an elegant and refreshing appearance. Man, if he felt disposed, might well make some of these shaded forests, temples in which to worship Him who made them all.

The Darjeeling potato has earned for itself a name in India. It is well flavored, and when diligently cultivated, a good specimen of the root. It finds a ready market in the plains, and only needs care in the cultivation to become a general favorite. With a view to get the potato down to the plains early in the season, we apprehend it is often gathered before it is fully ripe. This gives it a darkish appearance, deprives it of some of its flavor, and often causes it to sprout. The seed transferred to the plains, the largest and best kinds being selected for seed, and the ground well manured, produces a larger potato than we generally find in the hills. The Darjeeling farmer should look to this. Murwah is extensively grown by the natives. This plant produces a small seed, which when fermented makes a drink which is most popular with the people of the hills. The seed is put into a chungu or bamboo bottle, hot water is poured into the bottle, and allowed to remain until the seed is well soaked, the liquor is drunk hot, through a reed or bamboo pipe. Murwah is an intoxicating drink. It forms a part of the daily rations of every native in the hills. It seems when taken as an ordinary drink to induce pleasantry; but like all intoxicating beverages, when taken in large quantities, it leads to drunkenness with its accompanying evils. The taste of Murwah is something like Sweet Wort, the juice of barley prepared for brewing purposes in England. Connoisseurs in Murwah, when they wish to make it more exciting, give it a spice of some pungent condiment.

Bhoota or Indian corn is extensively cultivated by the natives. It grows to a large size, and yields generally an

excellent crop. It finds a ready sale in the hills. It is used as food for horses and cattle. The natives pound it and make from it a not over digestible cake. The castor oil and pawn plants grow wild at Kursion and in other spots at the same elevation. Castor-oil and Indigo might both be grown at Kursion and Punkabarria for seed. The produce would find a ready and remunerative sale in the plains. Munjeet and cotton both thrive in the Terai—the latter is being more extensively cultivated every year—the whole Terai if cleared might be made one vast cotton-growing country.

Darjeeling produces good specimens of both native and imported vegetables ; —the latter, such as rhubarb, cabbages, peas and beans, are large and upon the whole well flavored. The rhubarb is especially good—the other vegetables have not quite the rich flavor which their home name sakes possess : this in all probability is owing to the moisture of the atmosphere and also to the fact that the land after a while requires to be well manured.

The native vegetables are not numerous ; the mountain yam is a mealy well flavored vegetable. It grows to a large size, weighing often from one to two seers : the Kachu, a soft watery yam, a species of colocinth, ripens in the autumn. It is used by the Lepchas as a purgative.

There are also aromatic and medicinal plants, the virtues of which are as yet known almost only to the natives. Oils and essences have been extracted from some of the hill plants by amateurs ; and may probably yield a profitable return to those who bestow more labor in the preparation of the extracts. Grasses of different species, and some of exquisite formation, are found at certain elevations. The indigenous grass is large and coarse, and does not appear to be very nutritious. English grass has been introduced. White clover imported is now no rarity. Some of the slopes in Darjeeling are, in the spring, covered with its sweet-scented flowers, giving the homestead of the residents the appearance of an English farm. Not a stem of red clover rears its head amongst the white, nor have the English primrose or cowslip found their way to Darjeeling.

Butterflies of every size, shape and hue, and moths small and gigantic roam about in this fairy region. Nothing can exceed the beauty of some of the butterfly tribe. Nature appears to have exhausted her skill in their formation and coloring. Nor are the moths less elaborate in formation, though not so pleasing to the eye. The Lepchas are great butterfly hunters. They sally forth with a muslin bag at the end of a bamboo, and give chase to these aerial beauties over brake and dell in the valleys of the Runjeet and Balasun, returning with their spoil for sale to the visitors at "The Bright Spot." The average price of these captured beauties, if taken promiscuously, is sixty for the rupee, and thirty or forty if the choice ones are picked out. The butterfly hunters have of course their tales about some of their wards. One of them refers to the moth. They say that there is one species so large that the man who catches it is sure to die ; no one however has seen this wonderful moth. It is a legend which has doubtless been handed down from generation to generation, a sort of bugbear with which to frighten the young and the timid. Sometimes a large and rare species of butterfly will realize a large price ; we heard of one which was sold for twenty-two rupees. Beetles of singular forms and hues are also abundant in the territory.

In the valleys, birds of rich plumage are found in considerable variety. On the upper ranges, an occasional brace of black eagles may be seen soaring aloft, and a few birds of prey of smaller size are indigenous to the region. Song birds are not numerous at Darjeeling. The thrush discourses sweet music in the spring ; the cuckoo, with its once familiar note, comes in April and May ; and a species of blackbird hops about, but does not sing often ; and a small blue canary chirps in the trees when the flowers begin to bud. Sparrows and crows are, as the Americans have it, sparse ; they are not indigenous—they were introduced by Dr. Campbell. Pheasants of exquisite plumage are numerous ; and partridges are found, but not in great abundance. Porcupines, bears, wolves and jackalls are indigenous, bears are numerous and sometimes

commit great deprecations on the Bhoota farms. There are other wild animals, and some of the feline genus beautifully marked.

Fish abounds in the rivers, but little of it reaches Darjeeling. The Maha-seer, and some small mountain-stream fish are brought to the station either from the Runjeet or the Balasun by the natives. Fish however is not abundant at "the Bright Spot." Fishing is by some pursued as a recreation at the Runjeet. Bees abound in the forests. Honey and bees' wax, gathered by the natives, are brought into the station for sale. The honey is of a rich flavor and congealed. The wax when clarified is of fine quality and finds a ready sale. It is brought in by the natives in cakes of a dark dirty color, and sold for a rupee a seer. Milk and butter are of the first quality and cheap. Twenty quart bottles of milk can be obtained for one rupee. From the milk bought at the door, people sometimes make their own butter. The process is simple and cheap. A preserve bottle is the churn, in which the cream, is well "shaken before taken" out as butter.

The cattle produce of the territory and its neighbourhood consists of the Sikkim and Nepal cow. Ponies from Thibet and the plains, sheep, some indigenous, others imported from the plains, and pigs. The cows are well formed, and about the size of good sized English cows. They do not equal the English cow in the quantity of milk they give ; the quality is however good, and creams well. The cows feed in the jungle, and the milk has sometimes a taste of the aromatic plants on which they feed. The hill sheep is large boned, and when brought in by the natives is not over well fed. The beef and mutton has not the flavour, nor is it so tender, as that of the plains : but a good appetite, added to a few days' keep, makes it very palatable. Pigs appear to thrive in the hands of the caterers for the public appetite. The pork is well flavoured, and when cured makes excellent corned pork. The Darjeeling hams are not unlike the small Yorkshire hams, and when carefully cured, find a ready market in the plains. A good ham, of from eight to ten pounds, may be bought in Darjeeling for from

three-eight to five fucees. Poultry is scarce ; the supplies are generally brought up from the plains. Ghee is abundant in some parts of the hills ; and especially in the Nepal district, it is of fine quality and of reasonable price. It might be turned to profitable account by the Darjeeling farmers.

Mineral springs have been found in the Darjeeling district. Two of these "medicine wells" have attracted attention. The first to which the notice of the residents was called is Menchu, or the "medicine water." This is situated in the valley of the Rungnoo, about six miles from the station. Its medicinal virtues had been long known to the natives. They had resorted to it for the cure of rheumatism, cutaneous and scrofulous diseases. Their mode of administering the water was two-fold—the hot bath, this they prepared by damming up the water and throwing in hot stones : in addition to the bath they drank the water and cooked their food with it. The same plan has been adopted by their more civilized neighbours, and in some instances with considerable success. Cases have been cited in which considerable benefit has been derived from a residence at Menchu. The water has been sent to practical chemists in Calcutta, to be analysed and reported upon. As in almost all similar cases doctors have differed. The first report was to the effect that the Menchu water contained iron and sulphur and other medicinal substances in small proportions : the last report pronounced it only the very purest water : both reports however may be to a certain extent correct. Every thing will depend on the season when the water is procured. If it be obtained in the dry season its real properties will be developed ; if in the rains, it must, from the porous nature of the soil, and the large and constant fall of rain, be so diluted as to be little better than the ordinary water found in the mountain streams. One thing is clear, whatever the chemists may report, that some persons have derived considerable benefit from a residence at the springs. The natives, the children of nature who seldom err in these matters, have looked upon the Menchu spring as medicine water. Another spring has been discovered a short distance

from Menchu, on which the resident medical men have reported favorably. Water from a third spring in the centre of the station has been sent to Calcutta and has been analysed. It contained a considerable portion of iron, a trace of sulphur, and carbonates considerable. This was the result of a rough analysis. There can be no doubt but the Darjeeling hills abound with similar springs, some of which may be probably more impregnated with medical virtues than those at present discovered—a better acquaintance with the country, and more patients benefited by the waters, will however soon set this, at present debateable, matter at rest : Chemists like Doctors are not always infallible, and one cure is better than a dozen theories.

The Resident is invested with almost supreme authority, in matters Judicial and Civil. An order in Council, dated 4th September 1839, contains the rules, twenty-one in number, for “regulating the assignment of locations and grants of land in the Hill Tract attached to the station of Darjeeling, and for the administration of the said Tract.” These rules, says the Report on Darjeeling, speak of the Superintendent “as the officer in Civil and Political charge at Darjeeling.” “The police and magisterial authority will be exercised by the officer in Civil and Political charge.” Rule 4 declares “The officer in Civil charge is vested with the power and authority of Civil Judge in respect to all claims, complaints and disputes that may arise, and be cognizable in the Civil Courts of the settlement, under the Acts and Regulations in force in the Bengal Presidency.” These were all the regulations originally given to the Superintendent for the government of a tract of country covered with dense jungle, and in which he had to administer Civil and Criminal Justice and Police, and to collect Revenue. Other instructions, principally suggested by Dr. Campbell, for the collection of revenue, have received the sanction of Government. The Acts and Regulations in force in Bengal, happily for the Darjeeling district, have never come into operation in the territory. With this simple code the territory of Darjeeling has, from a tract of jungle and forests, become a thriving country, an important Frontier Station.

The Revenue from land as given by the Report is as follows :—

Total Jumma of Morung	30,761
Deduct cost of Collection.....	3,034
Remainder	<u>27,727</u>
Total Jumma of new Hill Territory, no cost of Collection	140
Total Jumma of Hill Territory appropriated to local purposes, no cost of Collection	<u>6,025</u>
Total Jumma of Darjeeling Territory	36,926
Total cost of Collection, 8 per cent.....	<u>3,034</u>
Net Income	<u>Rs. 33,892</u>

“The income of the Hill Territory, Rs. 6,025, is appropriated to local purposes by order of Government. The income of the territory in the Hills and in the Morung, according to the new settlement, is Rs. 27,867, this is the clear revenue derived from the district by the state and available as income.”

The following statement of the Receipts and Expenditure connected with the Treasury, for the whole territory, will serve to show what a change has been wrought in this once jungly and unproductive district :

In 1852-53.

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>Disbursements</i>	
Cash for Drafts issued	1,23,210	Executive Department	
Ditto for Land Revenue	26,773	Assignments	37,217
Ditto for Abkaree	2,228	Post Office	8,032
Ditto for Post Office	10,253	Drafts Revenue and Military	
Ditto for Fines	558	Department	1,62,055
Remittances from other		Audited Bills	74,362
Treasuries	1,54,000	Pension	8,000
Stamps	621	Interest on Loan Accounts	1,253
Miscellaneous	19,581	Miscellaneous	26,259
Total Rs.	<u>3,37,226</u>	Total Rs.	<u>3,17,180</u>

The number of civil suits decided during five years, according to the Report, was five hundred and one ; or an average of one hundred suits a year. The number of criminal cases decided during the same period was one thousand four hundred and twenty-two. The number of prisoners sent up for trial in 1852, was four hundred and fifty-one,—convicted, one hundred and seventy-nine,—acquitted, two hundred and seventy-two. The report estimates the entire population of the district at ten thousand. The entire income derived from the territory is estimated by the same authority at fifty thousand rupees.

The following statistics will show the state of crime amongst the natives and the nature of the crimes to which the people are addicted. In 1852, there were petty affrays 57, abductions 37, false imprisonment 8, assaults with wounding 5, child stealing 1, burglary, aggravated, 4, cattle stealing 22, thefts 60, plunder of houses 4. Not a solitary case of murder occurs in the list, and the graver offences against the laws are comparatively few.

The vigilance of the police must exceed that of the plains if the following statistics of property stolen and recovered be a standard by which we may judge :—

Value of Property Stolen	Value of Property Recovered.
1850.....3,045	2,096
1851.....2,460	1,237
1852.....2,219	329

It is a singular and strange fact that the language in which the official business of the Court is transacted is Bengali, and this in a Court where the bulk of the people are almost as ignorant of that dialect as they are of the language of Timbuctoo. This, at least, whatever else may not need it, requires reform.

We have referred to trade with the neighbouring countries, and especially with Thibet—the people of Thibet are believed to be well disposed towards the British Government. The Chinese Government, with whom rests the appointment of the officials at Lassa, is not favorable to free trade with outside barbarians, and has done all in its power to prevent intercourse between the two countries. Previous to the disruption with Sikkim, through which country the high road to Lassa passes, the influence of the Chinese Government in Thibet had been much weakened. The value of the imports from Lassa to Darjeeling by this route was estimated at 50,000 Rs. annually. On the high road from “the Bright Spot” to Lassa are two large towns, Phari with a population of 4,000, and Geanchee Shubur with a population of 20,000.

The imports from Thibet consist of salt, gold, silver, precious stones, and coarse woollen stuffs. The principal import is wool. The flocks of Thibet are very numerous, and the wool is of the finest quality. It is as fine as Merino with a much longer staple. The Report treating on this subject says :—

“The fineness of this wool is attributed to the same cause as that of the merino ; the fine and succulent short pasture of the Thibet hills, while the cold climate has the usual effect on the fleece of supplying that peculiar quality which is found in the shawl wool of the Thibet goats. The high plains on which these numerous flocks feed are of immense extent, and if the importation of the article could be facilitated, it would become a source of profit to our speculators and manufactures, and of riches and civilization to the Steppes of Thibet, which have been hitherto excluded from all possibility of improvement by the rigid application of the exclusive policy of the Chinese. The nearest road to Lassa from the British Territory lies through Darjeeling by the Choombi Valley, and the towns of Phari and Geanchee Shubur already mentioned, as forming the present line of traffic : the distance about 500 miles, of which 70 miles in Sikim as far as Choombi. The Thibetan institutions are such as to admit, without difficulty, of the establishment of a consul of a foreign nation at Lasa for the protection and control of the foreigners carrying on trade there. I am informed that Lassa is visited by people of all the

neighbouring nations as merchants. The merchants of each nation appoint their own consul as the medium of communication with the Thibet Government, and to settle their own disputes without reference to the Government of their own country. The Nimals of Nepal, the Cashmerees, the Ladakees, and the people of Bootan have all headmen or consuls of these descriptions in Lassa, as well as other States lying between China and Thibet. If, therefore, the traffic of Thibet could be extended by improvement of the communication, it would be easy to effect a commercial establishment in Lassa, if the opposition of the Chinese power, now so much on the wane, could be once got over."

The Lassa merchants are about a month on the journey from that place to "the Bright Spot." The traffic between the two countries shows how important it is for the British Government to obtain, once more, a free passage through the Sikkim country.

It is but natural that we should briefly touch on the diseases prevalent in the Darjeeling territory. The following medical statistics for eight years in connection with the convalescent Depot give a succinct and clear view on this subject in connection with European ailments :

The following table shows the rate of mortality amongst the native prisoners in the Darjeeling jail, and also amongst the Sebundy Corps during the years 1853 to 1856 :

Prisoners in the Jail

1853	1854	1855	1856
3 Deaths occurred 2 By Dysentaria Chron. 1 By Diarrhoea.	1 Death occurred By Febris Quodn. Intermittent.	8 Deaths occurred 1 By Febris Tertian. 2 " " Remittens. 2 " Dysentaria Acute. 1 " " Chron. 1 " Coma. 1 " Cachexia Syphiloides.	1 Death occurred By Diarrhoea in September last.
Average daily Strength } 38.11	Average daily Strength } 37.91	Average daily strength 45.65 " " of sick 6.65	
Average daily of sick } 6.2	Average daily of sick } 6.52		

Sebundy Corps of Sappers

1853	1854	1855	1856
3 Deaths occurred by Variola.	1 Death occurred by splinties	1 Death occurred by Enterites.	No Death.
Average daily Strength } 210	Average daily Strength } 209	Average daily strength 209 Average daily of sick 5.21	
Average daily of sick } 3.04	Average daily of sick } 5.7		

The natives are subject to slight fever, dysentery, rheumatism, small pox, and other diseases common to genial but humid climates. Darjeeling is not the best climate for pulmonary complaints ; nor is it a desirable residence for persons at all affected with rheumatic affections, or indeed for any troubled with complaints to which humidity is an ally. The effect of the climate on the majority of constitutions is in the highest degree favorable. A very brief residence enables the invalid visitor to shake off his weakness and his ennui. He becomes buoyant and cheerful ; new life is sent through his veins like magic. The residents generally are pictures of robust health. For some constitutions it is better adapted than the colder climate of Britain. In cases however of complete prostration we believe that the Darjeeling hills will not supply the place of the bracing and invigorating climate of Europe. It would at least require as long a residence in the hills as it would in Europe, in which case we suspect the majority of invalids would prefer Europe, with its home associations, advantages and excitement. Man is so constituted that he needs something more than climate to restore him mentally and physically after a long and weary residence in the wasting plains of India. For an agreeable and invigorating change to persons weary of the plains, or to those on whom disease has not fastened his chronic hand, we can think of no better spot than Darjeeling, while for old Indians who intend to make the east their home, or for enterprising people with agricultural

Table Showing the Strength of the Depot, Mortality, & c., since its formation in 1848.

YEARS	Strength				Deaths				Invalided			Proportion of Deaths to Strength	Percentage of Deaths to Strength	Average Strength during each year	Diseases of those men who have died during each year.												Total number of Deaths during each year
	Officers	Men	Women	Children	Officers	Men	Women	Children	Officers	Men	Women				Children	Anasarca	Bronchitis	Cynanche Tonsil	Diarrhoea	Dysentery	Febris Remittent	Hepatitis Ch.	Hematemesis	Phthisis Pul	Paralysis	Syphilis Con.	
From 1st April 1848 to the 1st April 1849	3	43	3	2	...	6	1	6 to 71 ¹ / ₃	8.32	71	2	...	2	2	6	
Ditto Ditto 1849 Ditto 1850	3	73	5	4	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 to 85	9.35	56.84	1	...	3	1	2	...	...	1	...	8
Ditto Ditto 1850 Ditto 1851	5	107	8	7	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 to 127	1.73	70.88	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ditto Ditto 1851 Ditto 1852	4	96	21	24	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 to 145	4.20	103.72	1	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	6
Ditto Ditto 1852 Ditto 1853	3	72	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1 to 77	1.27	75.20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ditto Ditto 1853 Ditto 1854	8	136	4	5	...	6	...	...	6	...	...	...	6 to 153	2.38	77.86	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	6
Ditto Ditto 1854 Ditto 1855	5	74	4	8	...	1	...	...	...	12	...	...	1 to 91	1.09	72.9	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ditto Ditto 1855 Ditto 1856	4	68	3	7	...	1	...	...	...	12	...	...	1 to 82	1.18	68.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1

tendencies, the Darjeeling hills offer a prospect than which nothing can be more pleasant or hopeful.

For children Darjeeling is indeed "the Bright Spot." Its climate is really the children's friend. If blooming, rosy faces, healthy bodies and buoyant spirits be a boon to the young, they have them all in Darjeeling. We doubt whether any English village could produce such a fine show of robust and healthy children as the station can display. It is quite a treat, after being familiar with the pale faced little ones of the plains, to meet the joyous, merry-faced urchins in the hills. Their faces vie in colour with the blushing roses of their own fair gardens. In proof of the adaptation of the hills to the constitutions of children, we may mention that the Roman Catholic Nunnery has been established upwards of ten years ; during that period but little serious sickness has visited the pupils, and not one death has occurred within its walls. The pupils are all from the plains, and generally are sent up in a weak and sickly state.

The religious condition of the hill tribes has not been overlooked by Christian philanthropy. The Rev. W. Start, a truly good man, who has been the means of introducing several excellent Missionaries into the field of Missions in North India, while on a visit some years back, resolved on establishing a Mission at Darjeeling. His chief object was the conversion of the Lepchas.

Mr. Start brought out from Europe a small staff of German artizan Missionaries, and located them in Darjeeling and its immediate neighbourhood. His idea was that the Missionaries should after a time support themselves by engaging in agricultural and other secular pursuits. The plan, from causes which we need not discuss, did not answer, and the Mission now consists of one Missionary, who labours chiefly amongst the Lepchas.

There was in former years a school connected with the Mission for Lepcha children. It is at present discontinued. A Grammar of the Lepcha dialect has been compiled by Mr. Neible the Missionary : portions of the Holy Scriptures have been translated into the Lepcha tongue, and a few smaller

publications have been published and distributed amongst the people. In addition to Missionary labours Mr. Start preached for some years, and before a chaplain was appointed to the station, to the Christian population, in a chapel built at his own cost, and free of all charge to the people. This is the only attempt which has been made to propagate the knowledge of the Gospel amongst the hill tribes.

We think as a centre of influence for Christian missions Darjeeling is a station of importance, and ought not to be lost sight of by the Christian Church.

The people resident in the Darjeeling territory are the *Mechis*, the *Lepchas*, the *Nepalese* and the *Bhooteas*. There are a few other mountaineers scattered here and there in the district, such as the *Garrows*, the *Dimals* and *Lharrahs*. Their neighbours are the *Limboos*, *Murmis*, *Haioos* and *Kerautis*. The first named tribes however form the staple of the population of the Darjeeling hills.

The *Mechis* inhabit the Terai district. They are seldom if ever found at an elevation higher than one thousand feet. Their cast of countenance is Mongolian, accompanied by a squalid softness of outline, which distinguishes them from some other of the mountain tribes of Mongolian origin. They are migratory in their habits. Though living in the Terai, which is so fatal to strangers, they are generally healthy. Their chief occupation is clearing the Terai : on the clearances they cultivate cotton and rice, and graze buffaloes. Of religion they have but a very slender knowledge. The little they have is of the Shivite form of Hinduism. The Brahmins have no influence over them, and they have no *Gurus* : Priests they have none, nor have they any temples : they perform no *Shradh*. They bury their dead in some convenient part of the jungles. Their funeral obsequies consist in feasting and placing food on the graves of the dead. They are a dirty and easy living race, and rank very low in the scale of human society. They have no caste, eat fowls, buffaloes, cows, and the carrion of all animals, the elephant excepted. They have too much respect for the *hati* to serve him up as food. Their marriages are contracted at an early period of life and at

convenience. The men purchase their wives, at prices varying from ten to sixteen rupees. If the bridegroom cannot pay for the bride in cash, he works for her parents until he has earned his prize. Beauty is the standard by which the price is regulated. The women, besides attending to the household duties, take their full share with the men, in the labours of the field. The Mechi language has no written character. It is doubtful whether it is of Thibetan or Burmese extraction, or whether it has a common origin with that of the Coles and other aboriginal wild tribes of India. The probability is that it is a compound of different dialects.

The *Lepchas* are the aborigines of the Darjeeling hills. They are divided into two races, the "Rong" and the "Khamba." They have a written language but no history, legends, literature, books or manuscripts. They appear to have little if any tradition as to their origin or how they came into the hills. The only tradition which we could gather was that they came from a neighbouring district, and that their ancestors came from the top of one of the mountains—a faint tradition of the story of the flood. They are evidently of Mongolian origin.

Their expression of countenance is, when young, pleasing. It is soft and feminine. They are a cheerful, apparently contented people, with few wants and little or no anxiety ; and as dirty in their persons and habits as a people can well be. They are migratory and very erratic in their mode of living, seldom continuing more than three years on one location. Some of them take service in the families of the residents and visitors, but they are seldom be depended upon. Love of change is so inherent in their nature that they will flit in a night without rhyme or reason from one family to another. Their occupation is chiefly as chair bearers or house servants, they will not work as coolies. The religion of the Lepchas, such as it is, is in form Budhist. They appear, however, to give themselves but little trouble on religious matters—they are evidently timid and superstitious, fear their priests and evil spirits. Their concern religiously is evidently to avert evil. "If God be good" they say "he will not harm us, 'and why should

we trouble him, our business should be to avert 'evil.' We were informed by one well able to offer an opinion on the subject, that they have no word in the language to express the idea of the Supreme being : they only refer to some attribute of God, and not to God himself.

The dress of the Lepcha is graceful, it is quite an oriental Highland costume—their food is coarse and their cooking not over-delicate. The women labour as much if not more than the men : they, unlike the majority of oriental women, walk abroad as do the women of the western world. Every Lepcha carries a formidable knife in his belt. It is used for every purpose, from cutting a potatoe to clearing the jungle. In the hands of a Lepcha it is a powerful weapon. Marriages are contracted in mature life : the bride is purchased. Previously to marriage the women are not strictly bound to chastity, after marriage it is rigidly enforced. The Lepchas bury their dead ; they have a great dread of death ; they are a healthy race, and notwithstanding their dirty habits are remarkably free from the ills which flesh is heir to. They have little taste for music, and unlike most mountain tribes have but few musical instruments. Their singing is a sort of low chant, and not at all ungrateful in their mountain solitude. They have no towns and but few villages. They often perch one or two houses on the brow of a hill or some cleared spot, where at night its fire light shines like a dim star. The Lepcha is fond of a forest life. In excursions into the interior he is an excellent companion and a good servant. He is then in his element and appears to be quite in his glory. They are an intelligent race and display a good deal of curiosity about things beyond their ken. We once had occasion to spend a few days in the house of a Lepcha Subah or chieftain, and had good opportunities of forming a fair estimate of their domestic character. It was modest, cheerful, courteous. and inquisitive. It was, however, indolent and not over-marked by cleanliness. If the Lepchas could be brought under the influence of Christianity, we incline to think they would be a very interesting and hopeful race.

They have some imagination, and often use in ordinary conversation striking figures : they say, referring to the leaves of the trees on which they eat their food, "we have plates of gold in the morning and plates of silver in the evening."

The *Bhooteas* are unmistakeably of Mongolian origin and Budhist in religion. They are a more athletic race than the Lepchas. They are a taller, more robust and sterner clan than any in the hills ; they are equally if not more dirty than the Lepchas. They are not so amiable or cheerful as their neighbours. They have more of the Chinese nature in them ; they are cunning and great cheats, are fond of strong waters, and when under their influence not over amiable. They are the coolies of the hills, and can carry very heavy burdens. Some of the men will carry four maunds, a distance of thirty miles up the hill. The women are also very strong, the old women may be seen toiling up the hill with not very light burdens.

The *Nepalese* are a light and nimble people : they come as agricultural and industrial labourers from the Nepal country. They have a pleasing expression of countenance and are a laborious race : their pay is two annas a day, the day reckoning from seven in the morning till five in the evening. They are in religion Hindus. They are not strictly speaking residents ; they come for a while and then return to their homes, to visit their families, who by the laws of Nepal are not allowed to accompany them across the border. Such is Darjeeling its territory and its people.

In a military point of view it is important. It is an outpost from which the Nepalese and the less numerous and diversified tribes which people the mountains and valleys to the north and east may be watched and held in check. To do this efficiently, should necessity require it, the station must have a stronger military force than it has at present : one hundred and eighty native sappers, with two or three small guns, and one hundred European invalids could do little to protect the territory should occasion arise for defence, much less could such a force attempt anything in the shape of conquest, should it be deemed necessary to strengthen our

position on our North Eastern frontier. Happily, however, with the exception of the Nepalese, there is nothing to fear from the neighbouring tribes, and but little if any temptation to make conquest,—except it be the conquest of civilization—in a country so vast in extent, so scantily populated, and with so little to repay the expense of life and property, which invasion must entail.

As a Sanatorium Darjeeling must, so far as Bengal and Behar are concerned, ever hold a very high place. It is the only place, save the broad blue sea, to which the weary and jaded invalid of the plains can look, in this neighbourhood, for renewed health and re-invigorated spirits. Notwithstanding the exceptions we have taken to Darjeeling, we believe it is the greatest boon to the people of the plains which a wise and kind Providence has placed at their disposal; and we only wish that the approaches to it were such as to place it within the reach of all classes of the community. A few years and the railway and a new road now in course of construction through Purneah will not only diminish the distance but lessen the expense of a trip to Darjeeling. When these arrangements have been completed, the resident in Calcutta will be able to reach Darjeeling within a week by easy and pleasant stages, and at a reasonable cost.

As a field for emigration and settlement we look upon the Darjeeling territory with hope. If one of the finest climates in the world, and a country capable of producing the staples which the Darjeeling district has already developed, be at all indicative of success, we think that it affords hope of much better and greater things. Every man who has settled in these hills, with the determination to succeed, has prospered, and there is nothing to prevent the course they have pursued being pursued by many more. We do not say that immense fortunes could be realized in the Darjeeling hills, but of this we are assured that prosperous and happy homesteads, and fair remuneration for honest industry, might be realized. Thriving and healthy families might be reared at comparatively little cost, while in the distance would loom for such families a good, healthful and peaceful homes.

The effect of such emigration on the territory would be only for good. Its resources would be more fully developed, and its traffic largely increased, and instead of untilled valleys, and jungle-covered mountains would spring up on every hand and as far as the eye could reach, small prosperous settlements of an industrious and happy people; the best safeguard of the frontier, and the best gift which civilization and religion could confer on the now wandering and ignorant tribes which people the countries immediately contiguous. Darjeeling answers a great and good object as a Sanatorium. This however ought to be but the precursor to a far nobler object: such a country, we believe, has been cast in our way for a far higher purpose than that of securing health or recreation for the sick and the weary of the scorching plains of India.

As a field of Missions, the Darjeeling territory should not be lost sight of by those who are interested in the diffusion of Christianity in the east, and especially on our North Eastern Frontier. Attempts have been made in this direction, and though they have not been attended with the success which could have been desired, this is no reason why a more matured and determined effort should not be made to diffuse the knowledge of the Christian faith over this wide and interesting field. Here we have a country bordering on Thibet, and within a month's journey of Lassa its capital on the one hand, and on the other stretching away to the east to the very borders of Burmah and China, with Darjeeling, a most healthy spot, as a centre, from which the rays of Christianity and of civilization might be sent forth to cheer and guide those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of spiritual death. The door is wide; who will enter in and possess the land for Him who is destined to be Lord of all?

With reference to this subject, we may be permitted to remark, that it does not appear to us that the Moravian, or Industrial system of missions will succeed here, or in any part of India. Europeans cannot gain a livelihood as tradesmen in competition with natives, to whom six pence is not merely "a fair day's wages for a fair day's work," but a very large return

for it. It is true that a European will do more in a day than a native ; but even if he could do double, and earn eight annas, or a shilling, a day, he could not live on that ; indeed that would be but a small contribution towards the defraying of his expenses. But we cannot doubt that openings would be found for introducing the Gospel among the natives by preaching, and by means of schools of a humble character, in which elementary education might be given in combination with Christian truth.