

Ganni Duffadar.

2nd June 1860.

1057. How does your account stand with the factory now?—I believe I have something to receive, but I can't say how much it is. I am not able to read or write, and I don't understand much about accounts.

1058. You say you have to borrow from a *mahajan*, at what rate does he charge?—At one anna per month per rupee.

1059. Do you borrow grain from the *mahajan*, or money?—I borrow both money and grain.

1060. Do you borrow grain for the purpose of cultivating?—I borrow grain to eat.

1061. How do you live with simple borrowing, if you have no other means besides the pay your father receives as village chowkidar?—If we can't pay our debts, we sell a cow to liquidate them, I have got two bullocks and four milch cows; I don't sell the milk but drink it; I have also a garden of mango and jack trees, the fruit of which I sell, and so I manage to get on. I do not do any other business, but I sometimes work as a day labourer, and get four pice a day; I don't get a hot meal, but I get a handful of dry rice, and if my employer is of the same caste as myself, I get a pull at his *hookah*.

1062. Mr. Temple.] When you were confined in the godown, what sort of a place was it?—It was a dark room, in which the day and night were the same.

1063. Was there any window for air?—No.

1064. Did they let you go out for daily exercise?—No.

1065. What food did you get, and who brought it?—I don't know who the man was, but we used to get some rice in the husk and water. The man brought it to me, when there was no one by to see that there was a prisoner confined.

Abadi Mundal, Christian, Inhabitant of Bhoobarpara, Thannah Hurra, near the Hurra Factory, called in, and examined on oath.

Abadi Mundal.

1066. President.] Are you in the habit of sowing indigo for the Ruttonpore factory?—Yes, they generally make me sow indigo; my father has sown indigo for a long time. About three years ago, the factory got the lease of my village and called on me and all the other ryots to sow indigo. I was compelled to take advances for five beegahs of land, but on that they made me sow ten beegahs, that is to say, my father got the advances; I never did. Before the factory got the lease of the village, my cattle were grazing on the plain one day, when 50 or 60 *lattials* came up and were taking them away, when the herdsman gave me notice. I ran out and remonstrated; they threatened me, and when I persisted in going near them, I was wounded on the head and thigh, of which I still bear the marks; my father was also wounded at the same time; whereupon they carried us away first to Ruttonpore, thence to Jatrapore, from there to Dulalpore, and thence to Nischindipore. They took me in *Phalgun*, and let me off in *Jyeshtho*; they took care of my wounds, but for eight days did not give me much to eat, after which they fed me tolerably well, confining me in the drying house. They gave me one full meal a day and *moorki* and *chera* (preparations of rice dried) besides, in the evening; they also brought me water to bathe in the godown. In the end, the Dewan of the Pirpore factory gave me 25 rupees and let me go. I complained to the Magistrate of Kishnagur, but no order was passed on my petition by the Magistrate.

1067. Mr. Sale.] Why did they give you 25 rupees?—They told me that I had suffered a good deal of loss by my cattle being taken away, and that I had been wounded; besides which they told me, "you are a Christian and they hoped I would not tell the *Padre Sahib* any thing;" but for all that I thought it necessary to tell the *Padre Sahib*.

1068. Mr. Fergusson.] Since this occurrence, did you sow indigo last year, and how much plant did you cut?—Yes, ten beegahs; I cannot say what the produce was, but my father knows.

1069. Baboo Chunder Mohun Chatterjee.] How did the factory get the lease of the village?—After my affair, the zemindar and the planter made it up on condition of my being produced, and the cattle being returned; this was subsequently done.

1070. Mr. Fergusson.] Was the zemindar afraid on account of the quarrel?—The zemindar was certainly alarmed, because during the night the factory people used to cut and take away the ryot's crops. The zemindar thought that the factory was very powerful, and might collect 5,000 men in a day, if necessary, and therefore thought it best to make it up. The zemindar had done nothing wrong, but he did not know what cases might or might not be brought against him. The planter used to go to the zemindar almost every day, until it was finally settled.

1071. Have you cultivated indigo this year for the factory?—Yes, we sowed $6\frac{1}{2}$ beegahs in October; I call that my full sowing.

1072. Did they not ask you to sow ten beegahs as usual?—No, this year they did not.

1073. Did you get any advances this year?—I cannot say; my father might be able to tell.

1074. Besides these ten beegahs on which you sow indigo, what other lands have you, and what do you cultivate it with?—I have 48 beegahs altogether including the ten beegahs, on which I sow rice, linseed, and a little tobacco for home consumption, and about fifteen cottas of sugar-cane. The best lands are taken for indigo; I don't sow indigo for seed. They don't allow me to sow cold weather crops on the indigo lands, but keep the stumps for seed, though they rarely produce anything.

1075. President.] Do the factory servants ever ask you for any money?—They do, threatening to charge us with cattle trespass, if we don't fee them. For the last two months it has not been so bad. If I complain to the *Sahib*, he drives me away.

1076. Mr. Fergusson.] Have you or your father ever had occasion to borrow money from *mahajans*, and what interest do they charge?—I have had to borrow at two pice on the rupee per month.

1077. Have you ever had occasion to borrow grain for consumption or for sowing, and if so, at what rate?—When for consumption, it is repaid at 50 per cent for each maund; and when for sowing, it is at the rate of cent per cent.

1078. In these transactions does the *mahajan* claim a right to take a further portion of the crop at a fixed rate below the bazar rate?—It never happened to me; but I have heard of cases in which the zemindar, who is also the *mahajan*, exacts such a rate forcibly.

1079. Does not the *mahajan* frequently lose by the ryot not paying him, so that a balance increases against the ryot?—Yes, it happens very often, because the ryots cannot sow their rice on account of their being obliged to sow the indigo.

1080. President.] In districts in which indigo is not sown, are the ryots never in debt to the *mahajan*?—No, not to such an extent, and those who get into debt, generally manage to pay; they are not obliged to borrow rice; they may borrow money.

1081. Mr. Fergusson.] Did you never hear of ryots who did not sow indigo in your neighbourhood, getting into debt?—Only in bad seasons, when instalments of the rent fall due before the crop is ready, then they are obliged to borrow.

1082. Is not the rice crop uncertain in your neighbourhood on account of the seasons and the soil?—Yes, if there is a want of rain, the crop fails altogether, but the soil is pretty good.

1083. President.] Do not the planters make loans to the ryots when they lose cattle, or are in difficulties, without charging them interest?—I have never heard of such a thing.