

had he not chosen the sphere of activity which he did, might, he believes, have attained the highest rank as a poet:

"He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
Who dares not put it to the touch
To win or lose it all."

Verses LXXV-LXXXI, inclusive.—Incredible as the portrayal of the situation dealt with by these stanzas may appear, one, committing himself to it, cannot be honestly charged with exceeding the truth. Sir A. J. Arbuthnot, the contributor of the article on Clive to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, depicts the state of affairs in this way: "The whole Company's service, civil and military, had become demoralized by gifts, and by the monopoly of the inland as well as export trade, to such an extent that the natives were pauperized, and the Company was plundered of the revenues which Clive had acquired for them." Add to this what Lord Justice James remarks, "The most rampant misrule and uncontrolled license prevailed in Bengal."

Clive, injecting his whole energy into the gigantic labor facing him, "de-orientalized" the same writer says, "the civil service by raising the miserable salaries which had tempted its members to be corrupt, by forbidding the acceptance of gifts from natives, and by exacting covenants under which participation in the inland trade was stopped."

So merciless had the treatment, indeed, of the natives become under the system which obtained that, as a commentator puts it, many of them fled to the jungle, preferring to take their chances with insensate beasts of prey than their malignant oppressors. The special reference in Verse LXXVII to "Men's chartered Theft" arraigns the custom of demanding presents from the classes in question.

The zamindar was the native enjoyer of the land, holding it direct from the Padishah; the ryot was his tenant, or lessee.