

—in Papa's, domicile was not one which commanded the respect and deference, usually accorded to scions of a genteel—not to say "a county"—family (I always attributed this to the "plucking" business).

In the next and last place, I communicated to my revered papa my anxious wish to retire from the chair which I had hitherto occupied at his table, and to relinquish my claims on his pocket. In short I expressed a humble and dutiful desire to extend the circle of my acquaintance, in the land of my birth—the land of niggers, palm trees, and cocoa nuts; to be up and doing something in the interests of that mighty empire of the east, and to aid in extending its frontiers, in *any capacity*, by *any means*, or by *any mode*, "from pitch and toss to manslaughter" [I learnt this expression at college, but it was of no use whatever to me at that fatal, or rather fortunate examination.*]

Paternal love, and unbounded solicitude for the welfare of his own "Ramsawmy," were two of the gov—papa's weaknesses. One other weakness of his was a particularly prominent one, viz., his extravagant estimate of the great future of "his own darling boy." Ha! ha! there was something spicy in the sterling ring of that little sentence, which fully atoned for being pluc—I should say, that fully atoned for all the mishaps that attended my unsuccessful "cramming," and "grinding," and "coaching," and all those sarcastic glances, and sinister winks which indicated my approaching downfall at that horrid examination.

Yes! he *did* love "his own darling Ramsawmy," and the result was that he succeeded in procuring for me a comfortable clerkship in the Secretariat of the Madras Government. † It was a consolation to the governor (I think I am now warranted in the free use of this word, especially so when his Excellency Sir Godfrey Bulfinch is also called "the governor" in all oral and written communications. There cannot, therefore, be any possible disrespect in its application to my loving and beloved papa.)

To resume. It *was* a consolation to the governor (*and to me too*), that appointments of that nature did not then, nor do they now, require any special qualifications, beyond a knowledge of Hindoostanee, and of the social etiquette and observances peculiar to the east. The salary of my new post was £240 per annum, with prospective annual increments in that and other grades, up to a maximum of £1440 a year.

As there was no vacancy in the Military Department ‡ of the Madras Secretariat, it follows, of course, that I was not the successor of anybody in that branch of the public service.

*The phrase is now, I believe, a vulgar one, and quite obsolete in the higher grades of society—*Vide Butwer on "Single-stick Exercise."*

†The Governmental machine of each of the three Presidencies, consists of a series of Departments *e. g.*—the *Military*, the *Civil*, the *Judicial*, the *Ecclesiastical*, the *Marine*, the *Public Works*, the *Political*, and the *Foreign* Departments. Each Department is presided over by a Secretary (*i. e.*, a Secretary of State)—hence the general designation *Secretariat*, as applied to the whole combination of public offices. A similar arrangement prevails in the various subordinate governments of the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, the *North Western Provinces*, and the *Punjab*, as well as those of the Chief Commissioners of the *Central Provinces* and *British Burmah*.

‡This Department corresponds with the "War Office" of the Imperial Government.