

to have been lost about by appearance of a rival <sup>company</sup>  
 called Sir Wm Courten's Assoc. who got a licence from  
 crown to trade with India in 1635. (see p. 101 J. O. A.) The  
 relation of that licence to the charter of the Co was  
 eagerly debated & discussed. This Assoc. cut in  
 & played havoc with their Co. In 1653-4 took place  
 the English Revolution which again disturbed their Co.  
 Meanwhile however, the movement of events continues  
 in direction already indicated. In 1651 the Grand  
 Mogul granted very favorable terms for the settlement  
 the richest province in India which was destined next  
 day to become centre of East India Co. & <sup>consequently</sup>  
 the fort at Madras became indefatigable. The difficulty  
 produced by appearance of Courten's Co. was increased  
 & difficulty between holders of various blocks  
 of stock, in 1657 it was seen that a union of  
 all the <sup>financial</sup> interest involved was effected, from  
 1657 one Co. existed with a single stock. & the  
 Co. began to enter upon a period of rapid &  
 growing prosperity as far as its was concerned.  
 When we remember that the nabobs - i. e. enriched  
 returned East Indian officers - were a feature in  
 English society in reign of Queen Anne within 50 yrs  
 or so of this time, we see how rapid must have  
 been growth of prosperity of the Co.

The constitution of the several presidencies & other areas  
 began now to take the shape which we find subsequently