

RAMACHANDRAPURAM.

This great and populous field lies South and West from Cocanada, embraces an area of three hundred square miles, and contains a population roughly estimated at 200,000, living in two hundred towns and villages. The field is an exceedingly compact one, including within its bounds the whole of the Ramachandrapuram Taluq or county, and occupies one of the finest stretches of country to be seen in all India. The soil is rich and fertile, the land is flat like a prairie, and so well adapted for the growing of rice, that great staple of Indian diet. By a splendid system of irrigation works, the surplus waters of the majestic Godavery, which throws its mighty arm around almost half of the field before emptying itself into the Bay of Bengal, are let loose upon the fields, with the result that whatever the scarcity in other parts of India, the Ramachandrapuram district has enough and to spare. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that it should become the Egypt to the more famine-smitten parts, and that thousands of immigrants should