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**Catalogue of Additional Manuscripts 835:  
J.S.M. Blackett letters**

**Date range of material: 1857-1859; 1947-1948**

Durham University Library  
August 2023

## Contents

Preface .....	iii
Introduction .....	1
Catalogue of material:	
Add. MSS. 835/i-iii; 1-95.....	1

## Preface

### Creation of catalogue

This handlist was prepared by Sheila Sharp in 1982. EAD markup RIH December 2001. Calendared by Victoria Woodcock in May 2011 and Rachael Merrison in February 2012.

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## Introduction

*Collection title:* Additional Manuscripts 835: J.S.M. Blackett letters

*Reference code:* GB-0033-ADD 835

*Dates of creation:* 1857-1859; 1947-1948

*Extent:* 98 items

*Repository:* Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

*Creator:* John Stephens Blackett (b. 1833)

*Language of material:* English

## Contents

95 letters, May 1857 to December 1859, written by John Stephens Blackett (born 1833) from the neighbourhood of Agra in India, while in the service of the East Indian Railway. The letters are all to his mother in Ireland. They cover the period of the Indian Mutiny, and throw light also on the social conditions experienced by young "Chota Sahibs". Where the modern form of a place named could easily be discovered, it has been given in square brackets after the form used by Blackett. Also includes 3 letters from the time of the deposit of the material with the Library.

## John Stephens Blackett

John Stephens Blackett was born at Stokesley (N. Yorks.), and lived at 20 South Street, Durham, from 1839 until 1841, when his father, John Blackett, became agent on the Bessborough estates in Ireland.

## Accession details

The letters were deposited on permanent loan in Durham University Library in 1948 by the author's son, J.P.M. Blackett, who taught for many years at Durham School.

## Form of citation

The form of citation should be GB-0033-ADD, or the collection title Additional Manuscripts, and the *reference number*.

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0033-), followed by the reference number 835 etc.

Summary catalogue of Additional Manuscripts

## Add. MSS. 835/i-iii; 1-95

Add. MSS. 835/i 24 August 1947

Letter from J.P.M. Blackett to Professor J.L. Morison, giving some account of the letters and inviting Morison's opinion of them.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/ii [1947?]

Notes by Miss M.S. Coey, principal of Neville's Cross College, Durham, on topics of interest in the letters.

1 sheet

Add. MSS. 835/iii May 1948

Short description of the letters by J.P.M. Blackett with his reasons for depositing them in Durham University Library.

1 sheet

Add. MSS. 835/1 18 May 1857

Agra. Explains that the mutiny has largely been quiet in Agra while he has been on patrol and that there is a strongly guarded position there. Mentions troubles in Delhi and the general fears of civil servants who have retreated to the fort at Agra.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/2 30 May 1857

Agra. Discusses small incidents of fires and plundering in the surrounding countryside but compares the relatively calm situation in Agra to the massacres of people in Meerut, Delhi and other places; discusses a relief force being prepared to march on Delhi and Meerut.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/3 4 June [1857]

Agra. Mentions a disturbance near Agra and the disarming of native infantry but he hopes the worst is over. The rebels have also been beaten twice near Delhi losing 5 guns. He reports rumours that native regiments have been destroyed for mutinous activities.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/4 15 July [1857]

Fort Agra. He has been ill in bed during an attack near Agra by around 5-6,000 rebels. There has been a retreat to the fort at Agra. Looting and burning has taken place in the city and surrounding villages. A relief force is expected to come from Calcutta.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/5 11 August 1857

Fort Agra. He is safe in the fort at Agra. He reports that the Bengal army has been disbanded. News of soldiers arriving from England to retake Delhi. Discusses the massacre of men, women and children at Cawnpore led by Nana Sahib. There have been some small outbreaks of cholera exacerbated by the cramped conditions at Fort Agra.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/6 20 August 1857

Agra. Discusses the conditions in the fort including a small number of cases of cholera and dysentery. He also mentions the situation in the rest of India, including the retreat of Nana Sahib's rebels from Cawnpore followed by [Brigadier- General] Havelock, and anxiety concerning the situation in Lucknow.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/7 10(/11) September 1857

Fort Agra. [John Colvin] lieutenant- governor of the North–Western Provinces has died. Blackett describes his anger at the incompetence of William Hewitt [major-general in Meerut] in failing to save lives in Meerut and Delhi. Mentions news of British attempts to recapture Delhi.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/8 18 September 1857

Fort Agra. Mentions rumours that the city of Delhi has been recaptured but the palace has not been taken. He discusses the punishment of mutineers involved in the massacre at Cawnpore by [Lt-Col] James Neill. There are plans to blow up mosques in Agra if there is an attack.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/9 30 September 1857

Fort Agra. News has reached Agra of the recapture of Delhi and the relief of Lucknow. Blackett criticises plans to send captured mutineers to Allahabad. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces has been replaced by Hugh Fraser [Colonel in the Bengal Engineers who took on the inferior rank of chief commissioner from Colvin]. Blackett supports harsh punishment for those involved in mutiny.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/10 7 October 1857

Fort Agra. There is a threat of an imminent attack on Agra by mutineers. Blackett criticises the ignorance of British politicians concerning what has happened in the Indian rebellion.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/11 18(/19) October 1857

Fort Agra. The rebels were defeated at Agra on 10 October. The relief force has left Agra to defeat the rebel Raja of Mainpuri. Blackett criticises the government for its lenient approach to mutinous regiments. Weapons are being bought and sold at Agra in case of further rebel attacks.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/12 21 October 1857

Fort Agra. Asserts that the community in Agra was never in any real danger except for when a rebel force came close to the fort on 5 July.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/13 25 (/30) October 1857

Fort Agra. Discusses the punishment of those involved in the rebellion in Delhi. Some small outbreaks of fighting were still taking place such as near Cawnpore. Those called up into the militia in Agra have been discharged and are going back to work. Praises the 60th Rifles for their role in the recapture of Delhi.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/14 4 November 1857

Fort Agra. Discusses the position at Agra and how the only real danger would have been if mutineers from Gwalior had arrived. Suggests that certain officers should have put the mutiny down sooner, particularly Hewitt and [Maj-Gen George] Lloyd [station commander at Dinapore]. Disarmament of 3 to 4 regiments in Calcutta.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/15 25 November 1857

Fort Agra. Criticises soldiers for writing letters to the papers discussing their actions in India. Gives an account of a trip to Meerut and Delhi.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/16 3 December 1857

Fort Agra. Discusses the situation at Gwalior including the seizure of property from British people. Blackett, in his job with the East India Railway, has no work to do as the government has temporarily taken away railway deposits.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/17 9 (/12) December 1857

Fort Agra. Fighting is still taking place at Cawnpore and Oudh. Blackett criticises the government in India for acting as if all people and religions were equal. Discusses the British victory in Cawnpore led by [Lieu-Gen Sir Colin] Campbell.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/18 20 December 1857

Fort Agra. Discusses the British victory and the battle in Cawnpore. Blackett is not yet back working for the East Indian Railway.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/19 26 December 1857

Fort Agra. The Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior [remained pro- British during the rebellion] visits Agra and is given a guard of honour. Discusses news of British victories in India including one led by [Brig Thomas] Seaton.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/20 1 (/2) January 1858

Fort Agra. Suggests that people in England don't understand the full horrors of the Indian Mutiny from newspaper accounts alone. He discusses the possibility of leaving India.

Criticises reporting by the newspapers in India and the ignorance of people stationed in Calcutta concerning Indian affairs.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/21 5 January 1858

Fort Agra. Discusses the possibility of purchasing a weapon and news that the British army has pushed the rebels back into Rohilkhand. Criticises [Maj-Gen Charles] Windham for a defeat at Cawnpore and praises [Lieu-Gen] Colin Campbell [Commander-in-Chief of troops sent to India] generally for his work in India. Blackett wants more British troops sent up to Agra.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/22 14 January 1858

Furrah [Farah] near Muttra [Mathura], 13 miles SE Muttra, 20 miles NW Agra. He is to begin work on a railway line in Furrah. Discusses various hunting expeditions he has been on.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/23 17 January 1858

Camp Furrah [Farah]. He is to begin work on the railway line. Discusses rumours of administrative reform in India including moving a regional seat of government from Agra. Praises the soldiers who fought at Lucknow [relieved by British forces twice in September and November 1858].

2f

Add. MSS. 835/24 25 January 1858

Camp Furrah [Farah]. Discusses the preparations of the British army in getting ready to put down the remnants of the rebellion in Oudh. British people at Agra have now moved out of the fort and back into the city.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/25 28/30/31 January/1 February 1858

Camp Furrah [Farah]. He is working on resetting the railway line. The rebels in Oudh are being surrounded by the British army. Blackett suggests part of the government offices at Agra will be moved to Allahabad straight away and the rest in February. Agra may also be placed under the control of the Punjab. Discusses the problem of salt smuggling in India.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/26 2, (4/5) February 1858

Camp Furrah [Farah]. Continued on 5th from Camp near 13th mile on Agra and Allyghur [Aligarh] road. He is to begin work on a new railway line. Blackett suggests that despite his returning to work India is still not at peace after the rebellion.

4f

Add. MSS. 835/27 12 (/14) February 1858

Camp Suphoo. Describes his normal day working on the new railway line. Gives a description of the poor condition of some of the native villages in India.

4f

Add. MSS. 835/28 18 February 1858

Camp Russulpore. He has nearly finished work on part of the new line. Hears very little news about the rebellion since leaving Agra to work on the new railway line.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/29 22 February 1858

Camp Toondla [Tundla]. He has been relaxing by shooting and reading. Hears little news of the rebellion except that Campbell [British Commander-in-Chief] has not moved to put down the remaining pockets of rebellion.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/30 28 February 1858

Camp Hatrass [Hathras]. Then 1 March, camp 12 miles from Allyghur [Aligarh]. Discusses an Indian festival being celebrated. Also describes the fortresses in India that have been used during the rebellion and the difficulty for the British in capturing them. He is having difficulty getting information about the rebellion, particularly about Cawnpore. Mentions his dislike for the King of Delhi [Bahadar Shah II] and the lenient treatment he thinks the king has received. Criticises the English papers for their reports concerning some of the military leaders whom Blackett regards as poor.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/31 19 March 1858

Camp near Lackhun. Then 21 March from Camp Meyroo. Discusses the harvest in India. He hears very little about the rebellion where he is currently working.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/32 25 (/26) March 1858

Camp Sassnee [Sasni]. The new railway line will be opened in 18 months. Mentions the punishment of mutineers and the atrocities the rebels committed in Cawnpore and Agra. Criticises the English papers for their ignorance of India. Discusses the execution of the sons of the king of Delhi by [Maj William] Hodson.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/33 26 March 1858

Camp Sassnee [Sasni]. Then 27 March, Camp Khundowlee, andf 28/29 March, Agra. Discusses the execution of the sons of the king of Delhi and the escape of mutineers from Lucknow. Blackett wants the rebellion to be put down swiftly. He also argues that the atrocities committed by mutineers have not been exaggerated.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/34 31 March 1858

Camp Koomerpore. Complains about not being able to get a house and having to live in a tent. Also discusses new reform plans for governing India but he sees the real problem as being the constant change of governors and consequently of Indian policy.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/35 6 (/7) April 1858

Camp Koomerpore. Discusses an accidental fire at the fort at Agra and the capture of Jhansi by the British with the escape by the Rani of Jhansi [married to the Maharaja of Jhansi, but, after a childless marriage, the British annexed Jhansi from her adopted son]. Discusses the need for India to be governed directly from home by the British government. Blackett suggests that the rebellion has still not been put down and supports measures such as disarmament of the native population to prevent more trouble.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/36 12 (/13/16) April 1858

Camp Koomerpore, 7 miles from Agra. Discusses the capture of Jhansi, atrocities committed there, and the need to hang the Rani of Jhansi as punishment when she is captured. The suburbs of Agra are being cleared of mud huts which Blackett supports as they are usually populated by troublemakers. He mentions the home papers and some inaccuracies in reports concerning military leaders involved in putting down the rebellion.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/37 17 (/21) April 1858

Camp Koomerpore. He has no money or debt problems to deal with but has very few books to read. He rejects the criticisms of Campbell [British Commander-in-Chief] made by the newspapers, in particular Campbell allowing rebels to escape from Lucknow.  
3f

Add. MSS. 835/38 23/25 April /2 May 1858

Camp Koomerpore. Hears that the British have captured a fort in Rohilkhand but that [Brig] Robert Walpole failed to take a fort at Ruiya and lost many men. Blackett discusses his daily work routine.  
2f

Add. MSS. 835/39 4 (/6) May 1858

Camp Koomerpore. Discusses the punishment of Indian rebels. He suggests that public opinion is wrong in opposing the government's encouragement of Christianity in India. He criticises the public for their ignorance of Indian affairs and blames Walpole for a British defeat at Ruiya.  
3f

Add. MSS. 835/40 7 (/11) May 1858

Camp Koomerpore. Criticises the government's new bill for governing India, suggesting that despotic rule would be better than a large council for governing. Criticises the public in Britain for having too much sympathy for the native population in India.  
2f

Add. MSS. 835/41 18 May 1858

Agra Then 22/24 May, Etmad oo Dowlah. Criticises reports about India written by Russell for the *Delhi Gazette*. Discusses atrocities committed by natives during the mutiny.  
3f

Add. MSS. 835/42 27 May 1858

Etmad oo Dowlah. The gun ordered by Blackett has arrived. Mentions the British army capturing Kalpi. Praises [Maj-Gen] Hugh Rose and the 60th Rifles for their work in putting down the rebellion, but suggests that the fighting is not quite over.  
3f

Add. MSS. 835/43 1 (/2/4) June 1858

Agra, Etmad oo Dowlah. Criticises the postal service in India and suggests that the natives who run it are to blame for letters going astray. Mentions that the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior has fled to Agra after being deserted by his own troops and native rebels capturing the fort at Gwalior.  
3f

Add. MSS. 835/44 11 (/16) June 1858

Etmad oo Dowlah, Agra. Mentions rumours that Sir John Lawrence [chief commissioner of the Punjab] has been made a peer and governor-general which Blackett supports, and that Sir Colin Campbell [commander-in-chief in British army] has been made a peer. A force from Agra has gone to Gwalior to help recapture the fort from the rebels.  
2f

Add. MSS. 835/45 19 June 1858

Etmad oo Dowlah. Hears that Gwalior has been retaken. Praises [Maj-Gen] Hugh Rose in leading the recapture of Gwalior and his other actions in helping to put down the mutiny. Criticises the British public for thinking the Oudh Proclamation [confiscation of land by the British government from powerful Indian landowners] to be too severe.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/46 25 (/27) June 1858

Etmad oo Dowlah, Agra. Mentions the capture by British troops of 25 guns and 70 elephants, and the killing of 600 rebels. Supports the Oudh Proclamation and the confiscation of land because it shows the Indians that the British are not afraid. He also criticises the Indian Post Office.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/47 4 July 1858

Koomerpore Bungalow. He is hoping for promotion in his job. Criticises the plans for a canal scheme in Bengal and discusses the government of India's monopoly of most transport from Calcutta and its use of new railway lines.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/48 6 (/9) July 1858

Koomerpore. Believes that there is little public news to report but that [Edward Law, 1st earl of] Ellenborough should not govern India though he agrees with some of what he said about the rebellion. Discusses the casualties from the battles in Agra in July 1857 and from the cholera which spread in the fort at Agra in 1857.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/49 11 (/19) July 1858

Koomerpore. Discusses the parliamentary debates concerning the Oudh Proclamation [re the confiscation of property rights in Oudh by the British government which would then choose who would have the property rights in that region] and the need to conquer India in order to maintain British rule. He supports the Oudh Proclamation and defends Lord Canning [governor-general in India].

3f

Add. MSS. 835/50 22 (/25/26) July 1858

Koomerpore. Discusses the atrocities in Cawnpore against British people. There will be an increase in salaries for engineers working in India.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/51 4 (/5) August 1858

Koomerpore. Difficulties with money and receiving clothes. In support of Mr Puneses against the fort over appointments. Refers to a "layman" sheltered in a village 1½ miles from Meerutt and conditions in the jungles of Bengal. Includes a list of books and food which he would like to be sent.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/52 7 August 1858

Koomerpore. Brief letter with extracts of his diary detailing the military situation. May 13 -19: reports concerning a mutiny in Meerutt and troop manouvers. May 21 - July 29: talks of his illness and discusses a further mutiny in Mutha and military decisions/action against the rebels.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/53 11 August 1858

Koomerpore. Angrily writes against John Bright who talks of "the tyranny of the English in India".

2f

Add. MSS. 835/54 13 (/22) August 1858

Koomerpore. Was in Apa and met an officier of the Madrias Engineers with H. Rose, and discusses the actions of the 86th regiment and the 25th. General Roberts has successfully fought against the Rebels.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/55 24 (/28/31) August 1858

Koomerpore. Will be working out in Camp in a month, and will receive a rifle. May receive his box in about a month, but he has to pay more tax.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/56 2 (/6/8) September 1858

Koomerpore. Speaks of the habits and attitudes of the "Niggers". Two regiments and artillery have deserted from Mooltan.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/57 9 (/13/14) September 1858

Koomerpore. A quarantine in Eygpt is affecting the mail. Went on a boat with M. Comes down with a fever but by the end of the letter is recovering. A colleague died and he has to go and witness the reading of the will. Has been reading books; makes comparisons with the natives.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/58 20 (/21) September 1858

Koomerpore. (/29 September, Ram Bagh) Obligated to Uncle Russell for practical advice about hollow bricks. Problems with the rain and heat; a lot of natives have fevers. Runaways in the Panjamb have been caught.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/59 9 (/15) October 1858

Koomerpore. Mr. Punsen is to come up and the new line should be settled. Possibility of promotion and he details expenses and allowances for his horse and purchases. Talks of the fight against the rebels and predicts further conflict.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/60 15 (/20/25) October 1858

Koomerpore. Talks of the controversy over the mutinies. Speaks about the United States, Hindu holidays, his mother's letters and his eventual return home. Promoted on 25 October. Thinks that an enquiry about a native official will come to nothing.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/61 25 (27/31) October / 2 November 1858

Koomerpore. Promotion will be sanctioned from 1 September. Planning a great celebration for the Proclamation, and refusing to work. Went shooting and going to Mr Cowley's 3 miles away for dinner and fireworks.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/62 7 (/10/15) November 1858

Agra. Has a low opinion of Mr. Lavelle's decision to marry a Hindu. Has been careful not to make any great mistakes in front of the European Inspector. M. has left for the Allyphus line. Is finding managing natives difficult, has another fever and details beginning work of the "Big Bridge".

3f

Add. MSS. 835/63 17 (/18/19/22) November 1858

Koomerpore. Has been promoted by his inspector. Issue with paying a native twice over for some bricks. Blckett is grudgingly accepting that the letter in *The Times* was written "by no means an average specimen of the tribe".

3f

Add. MSS. 835/64 30 November /1 December 1858

Koomerpore. Commander in Chief appears to be making headway against the rebels with his cavalry in Qude. Finds it difficult being alone and giving orders (dispute over some trees with a native). Enquires of interest rates back home.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/65 6 December 1858

Koomerpore. Talks about sending money for a church back home. Spoke of meeting Adley (editor of the *Engineers Journal*) Dislikes Russell of *The Times* for criticising the commander in chief and headquarters staff.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/66 21 (/23) December 1858

Koomerpore. E. (whom he was with at Nynee two years ago) and his wife have arrived, and talks about Ragley. Worried about work, and discusses the native language, as well as his dislike of living alone.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/67 29 December 1858/1 January 1859

Koomerpore. Spent Christmas with Mr. Smith - shooting, racing and "cockfights". Talks about paying rent. Mr. Cowley has gone to Calutta to meet his wife.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/68 3 January 1859

Koomerpore. Went to a dinner on St Johns Day with 40 people, and bought 20 sheep.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/69 7/15/16 January 1859

Koomerpore. Has been promoted, and was given leave to draw back pay. Now in charge of 3,000 people but there is little brickwork at present. Has become aware of his workers taking some money and bricks for themselves. Receives news about the deaths of his grandfather and Sam Jopling.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/70 25 January 1859

Koomerpore. There are two queen's regiments at Agra. Spoke to Mr. Smith and agreed not to try to go home till the Agra District is finished (at least 3 years). Talks about managing sheep.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/71 11 (/16) February 1859

Koomerpore. Can afford to buy the house, and describes "well sinking". Now has 4,000 workers and mistrusts them. A friend, Cuthbert Cooke, he used to know is now an inspector on the line.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/72 19 February 1859

Koomerpore. Brief note sent with cloth and shawls for family.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/73 21 (/28) February 1859

Koomerpore. Is planning on returning home via Paris. After catching a large cat in a trap, he and Cooke managed to shoot it.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/74 11 (/17) March 1859

Koomerpore. Describes "sky racing", which does not allow the training of the horses before the races are advertised. Talks of two murders (Mr. Evans and another man) on the line. Is to visit Futtehpoore. Suspects that Cooke will stay in Apa for good, and refers to events at home with the church and Edward.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/75 3 (/4) April 1859

Koomerpore. Talks of his visit to the ruins and Mosque 2-3 miles from Apa, as well as his stay and shooting trip in the Bhuntpoore Rajahs preserve. Received a revolver.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/76 10 (/15/16) April 1859

Koomerpore. Has built an office outside, and hopes Mr. Punsen's case will be brought into parliament as he has now left for home. Discusses issues concerning the Italians (whom he does not think are worth going to war) and the French. Bridge works have been delayed due to flooding, and talks about what an engineer's job in India entails.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/77 16 (/23/30) April 1859

Koomerpore. Has become secretary to the Mutton Club with a house in Apa, and disagrees with his mother about the foot service. Refers back to Mr. Evan's murder. Spent two days in Apa.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/78 3 May 1859

Koomerpore. Brief note sent with photos.

1f

Add. MSS. 835/79 4 May 1859

Koomerpore. Spent a night in Apa at the Lodge, and will spend an evening at Mr. Cowley's. Refers briefly to developments concerning his salary.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/80 11 May 1859

Koomerpore. Slightly disagrees with the *Saturday Review* and believes that few people want reform. Discusses an article in the *Delhie Gazette*.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/81 18 May 1859

Koomerpore. Predicts what will happen in the event of a European war. The book club is doing well, but two of his workers have stolen some of the money through forgery. Thinks that Maj. Barrow should be punished, and the Nawaub kept a prisoner (after the murder of 62 europeans and eurasians).

2f

Add. MSS. 835/82 2 (/12/14) June 1859

Koomerpore. Asserts that the Rajah becoming christian is the best move for civilising India and discusses the situation between the European powers. A gang of rebels has looted some villages 20-25 miles down the line. Has become a master mason.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/83 27 (/28) June 1859

Koomerpore. Discusses the Austrian manifestoes and mentions the new engineer in chief.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/84 6 (/15) July 1859

Koomerpore. Mainly talks of the weather and refers to sunstroke and possible famine. Most of the European troops have left.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/85 19 (/27) July 1859

Koomerpore. Has little to say: the rains arrived and had a slight fever.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/86 13 August 1859

East Indian Railway, Agra Branch. Spends a week on a shooting holiday.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/87 20 (/25) August 1859

Koomerpore. Has been paid 25 per cent, and discusses his financial arrangements

2f

Add. MSS. 835/88 3 September 1859

Koomerpore. Confusion over whether the Rajah is actually a Christian. Spent an evening in Apa at the theatre with some friends and refers to events at home.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/89 16 September 1859

Koomerpore. Strongly argues that he does not desire promotion at present, despite the offer from Mr C.Fd. Complains about having to pay income tax, and suggests that the natives will have poor justice if too many of them are involved in administration.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/90 26 September/4 October 1859

Koomerpore. Talks at length as to why he had not sent a letter.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/91 3 November 1859

Koomerpore. Is spending a week's leave with Murray. Wants Col. Bakes to be brought to task before a parliament committee or something similar. Mentions a fine of Rs 56000 on Apa for damages.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/92 13 (/19) November 1859

Koomerpore. Unimpressed with Captain Henry of the Alma, but pleased with the "P & O". There is still disruption which results in the villages getting little of what the government pays for. His pay is now 2 months and 19 days late.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/93 29 November 1859

Koomerpore. Was unable to visit Apa to see the arrival of the governor general, but his work was admired by the engineer in chief, and two "Swells". Is required to give evidence in Apa concerning the stolen money in May.

2f

Add. MSS. 835/94 9 (/14) December 1859

Koomerpore. Protests that he does intend to return to England, and suggests reading an article in the *Calcutta Review*. Frustrated at the amount of lies his workers tell, and has heard good reviews of Mr Sibly as engineer in chief.

3f

Add. MSS. 835/95 20 December 1859

Koomerpore. Believes that he is very near to the top of the list for promotion and mentions geology, parcels and sending letters to friends/family in England.

2f