

## PROCLAMATION.

Proclamation 23d November  
1811.

**H**IS Majesty's Charter having been received containing various important Provisions for the better Administration of Justice in these Settlements, especially the introduction of a Trial by Jury in Criminal Cases, and the re-establishment of the Courts called Landraads—The Lieutenant Governor cannot refrain from expressing His Congratulations to the Dutch and Native Inhabitants upon the gracious act of Royal munificence by which His Majesty has been pleased to admit them to a participation of privileges with His natural Subjects.

The Dutch Inhabitants and Native Headmen will receive with gratitude their admission to be Members of the Landraads, and will no doubt, zealously endeavour to render themselves worthy of that privilege, by a diligent application of that knowledge of the ancient Laws and Customs affecting Natives, especially in respect of Landed Titles, which peculiarly qualifies them for the Situations to which they are thus rendered eligible—and as it is in the nature of a Jury that while every person admitted into that Body exercises to a certain extent the Office of a Judge over his fellow subjects, each in his turn is subject'd to the impartial Judgment of his neighbours and equals, His Honor hopes that all Classes of Inhabitants will on the one hand set a due value upon a Trial so universally celebrated and on the other be sensible of the important functions they are called upon to fulfil, and aspire to the respectability which may entitle them to so great a Trust.

Correct Returns having been completed for Colombo, the Collectors at Outstations are hereby directed forthwith to prepare Lists of all persons resident in their Districts, who by their Character and Condition may be deemed qualified to sit upon Juries, distinguishing them into their respective Classes and Casts; and return such Lists with all practicable expedition to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

And it is hereby further ordered, that each Collector do Cause this Proclamation to be published throughout his District as generally as possible.

Colombo, 23rd November 1811.

By His Honor's Command,  
**JOHN RODNEY,**  
*Chief Sec. to Govt.*