


E-Assam-57/2.

Our education at present is poor. The occupation of our country by the British Government being so recent as 1880 we have had no chance or opportunity to improve in education and though we can boast of 2 or 3 graduates of an Indian University in our country, we have not got one yet who is able to represent all our different tribes or master our languages, much less one to represent us in any council of a province, more over our population numbering 102,000 is very small in comparison with the populations of the plains Districts in the province and any representation that may be allotted to us in the Council will be negligible and will have no weight whatever. Our language is quite different from those of the plains and we have no social affinities with either Hindus or Mahammadans. We are locked down upon by the one for our Beef and by the other for our pork and by both for our want in education which is not due to any fault of ours.

Our country is poor and it does not pay for its own administration. Therefore if it is continued to be placed under the Reformed Scheme we are afraid that new and heavy taxes will have to be imposed upon us and when we cannot pay them, all our lands will have to be sold and in the long run we shall have no share in the land of our birth and life will not be worth living them. Though our land at present is within the British Territory, Government have always recognised our private rights in it, but if we are forced to enter the Council all these rights may be extinguished by an unsympathetic Council the majority of whose members is sure to be long to the plains Districts. We also much fear the introduction of foreign laws and customs to supersede our own customary law which we now enjoy.


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