Lawrence

B.40

23, Queen's Gate Gardens,
S.W.

1 Feb.y 1878

Dear Miss Nightingale

With reference to your last note, I write a line to say that I am satisfied of Mr. Primp's safety in your hands; he is to call on you on Saturday at 5 P.M.

As to the Ryots of India their condition is different

in various parts of India
As a rule I should say,
that of late years their
condition for the most
part has improved, ex-
-cept where the country
has suffered from drought
and famine - the Hindoo
Cultivators are industrious,
economical, and even
parsimonious - their
general tendency is to

case; the Mahometans are the reverse in all three points. The only exception to the above picture, is that all classes are extravagant in the marriages of their Children, getting into debt beyond measure on that account. Legal enactments might do something for them, but

the best hope is in improved
education.

Then as regards Irrigation,
the case also is different
in different parts of the
Country - in some Provinces
rain is so scarce and so
uncertain, that Irrigation
is greatly desired, and
readily paid for - in
other parts rain is
plentiful, and with rare
exceptions, pretty certain

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there the tendency is to hold off, and not take the Canal water until the rains fail – again, in some parts many wells for Irrigation exist and the water is near the surface; and the labour of irrigating the fields is light – ~~&~~ and in such cases the people

desire no change. I do not think that the Cultivators when irrigating their lands from Canals are oppressed by the Native Officials - certainly not in those parts of India with which I am best acquainted.

I lived for some years in the vicinity of Canals, and the complaints of the

Cultivators were very rare.
In the first instance when
Canals are opened, the
water rent has been pitched
too high, and people have
refused to take it on such
terms - they should be
nursed into taking it
by low rates, increasing
in degree as they learn
to appreciate its value.

I will tell you more if you desire it when we meet, which I hope will be (unless I hear from you to the contrary) on Saturday the 9th Feby., about 5 P.M., or at any time you desire.

Yours sincerely

Laurence