M.R.O. 1—83,456—19-11-85.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 776 Press ~~Misc.~~

Dated 3. 12. 1857

P.R. No. 5-6-2383

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 5. From the Accountant General; to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 25th November 1857, No. 248.

SIR,

I have the honor to report, in view to the sanction by Government of my proceedings in the matter, that certain sums of "Table money" declared by the Military Auditor General to be recoverable on vouchers for payments made at other Presidencies on account of this Presidency, remain unrecovered by reason of two individuals who were, but are not now, on this Establishment, having neglected to cause their recovery. One of these was an Insolvent, was arrested and then struck, temporarily, off the Establishment. He was subsequently admitted in a minor situation and resigned. The other, having retired on Pension, is dead. The sums which were omitted to be recovered in proper time and which it has now become impossible to recover in consequence of the Estates from which they were due having been otherwise disposed of, amount to Rupees 353-15-0.

2. It was the particular duty of the Manager of the Military Department, who had the superintendence of the parties immediately concerned to have exercised vigilance and either to have seen that the recoveries were duly effected or to report the neglect of duty to me. He did neither. But in a recent instance of a similar omission of duty on the part of the Clerk since entrusted with this business the Manager did bring it to my notice and suggested that the Clerk should make good the loss. The Clerk however paid the amount of his own accord and it was placed to the credit of Government in the Presidency Paymaster's Accounts.

3. On a former occasion the Acting Head of the Agency Department paid money into the hands of a party for which payment he had no distinct authority from the Constituent. The constituent claimed the amount and the Acting Head of the Agency Department, assenting to his personal responsibility, paid the constituent from his own private resources, pending the measures which had to be taken to recover the improperly paid amount from the recipient but it was recovered.

4. On another occasion the Head of the Foreign Department passed a double payment. The blameable parties assenting to their personal responsibility deposited the amount of money irregularly paid, pending the steps necessary to effect the recovery, but it was effected and the deposit was repaid.

5. On another occasion there was a small Bond missing from the Bond Department. The Head of that Department feeling his personal responsibility came forward of his own accord, deposited a Bond of the same Loan and amount, pending the references requisite to obtain a new Bond for the Proprietor which will eventually be placed in the Proprietor's possession.

6. On another occasion the Clerk in charge of "Commissions" having neglected to recover the Fees due on certain Commissions which fees thereby became irrecoverable, acknowledging his personal responsibility, paid to the credit of Government the amount thereof.

7. When the neglect of duty, in which the Manager of the Military Department is involved came to my knowledge, he also assented to his personal responsibility by proposing to hold Government harmless by depositing 50 Rupees per mensem out of his monthly pay to be carried to the credit of the Government eventually. I deemed it right to accept this reparation of his fault. He accordingly paid the first instalment of 50 Rupees which has been remitted to the Paymaster at the Presidency.

8. Government are aware from my letters, dated 28th May 1855, and 9th April 1856, that I have required from the Heads of the Bill and Bond Departments tangible security for the proper conduct of their respective duties. I think it advisable, as only due protection to the interests of Government, to take, as opportunities occur, tangible security from the several parties on this Establishment for the due performance of duty, whose duty involves re-

Nos. 43 and 445. coveries of Government demands or the passing of orders for Cash payments.

For although in the above instances the assent to their personal responsibility has been accorded by the parties concerned, this may not always be the case; or they may be unable to make good loss. Tangible security being lodged by parties is ever a guarantee for accurate despatch of business. It acts in a two fold manner. It makes the depositor particularly vigilant that no errors occur: and if error does occur the Government have redress in their own hands and the party has no real cause of complaint if his delinquency be thus met.

9. Clerks in the Establishment of the Madras Bank correspond in the Cash transactions give tangible or other security. Inhabitants in the Provinces give security. Contingencies and even Mess Writers have to give it. In every "Contract," almost tangible security is deposited, and what is the duty of the parties in Government money Orders where Cash interests are involved, but a "Contract" for the faithful performance of which guarantees ought certainly to be taken. It does not follow that the depositor is to remain loser, he has the means in his own power of avoiding it. On the contrary such deposit is the most obvious method to prevent either party, the depositor or the Government, being a loser.

10. I have accordingly obtained security in a few such cases and with the permission of Government, I purpose doing so in others, where the duties are connected with money transactions.

(Signed) G. L. PRENDERGAST.

Accountant General.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, No. 736; dated 3rd December 1837.

Government approve of the Accountant General's proposal to take from the Servants on his Establishment tangible Security for the due and correct performance of duties connected with money transactions. The Security should be taken in communication with the Honorable Company's Solicitor and none accepted but such, as in his opinion, is tangible.

Lond. J. A. Wilson.

No 776 (7)

Govt approve of the Accountant General's proposal to take from the Servants on his Establishment tangible security for the due & correct performance of duties connected with money transactions. The security shall be taken in communication with H.M. Solicitor and none accepted but such, as in his opinion is tangible.

Fort St George
5th December 1837

Govt Accountant General
H.C. Solicitor

Dispatch