

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>425</i>	Press Mis.
Dated <i>30th July</i>	18 <i>89</i> .

B no. 5-8

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
from 30th July to 5th August 1859.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 5. From W. WATERFIELD, Esq., Acting Sub Treasurer ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 25th July 1859, No. 399.

I have the honor to report for the information of Government, the disappearance from the Treasury of a bag said to contain 531½ Madras Pagodas.

2. It is not known when or under what circumstances these Coins were deposited here. The first mention of them I can find occurs in a letter of Mr. Clulow's, dated 16th December 1833, in which he enters the parcel as "a bag without any instructions." Mr. Cherry, also, on the 4th December 1839, furnished the Accountant General with a list including the articles mentioned by his predecessor and describing them in the words of the above letter to which he refers as the oldest authority on the subject. There is another list in the Office, dated 8th June 1842; this is a mere transcript of the former, omitting the Copper Coins which appear to have been disposed of.

3. Mr. Birch on the 26th October 1854, (*Vide* E. M. C. No. 91 of 13th February 1858,) again addressed the Accountant General on the subject of the deposits, recommending that they should be sold or melted down. This is the latest date at which the missing Coins can be traced. The box containing the articles was then removed from the Centre Magazine to the Current Cash Godown and though the list furnished was merely a copy of that of 1842, Mr. Birch writes that "great pains were taken to verify the correctness of Mr. Cherry's list" and that "every item was checked by himself," though at this distance of time he cannot re-call with certainty the particular bag in question and no one in the Office professes to remember the circumstance.

4. The box a common teak-wood treasure chest, only fastened with nails and that very slightly,* seems to have remained undisturbed in the inner godown (the key of which is in the possession of the Sub Treasurer, and the lock only opened in his presence, though it is not secured with his seal like the treasure godowns) until 1858, in February of which year the orders of Government were received. Accordingly the jewels, &c., were taken out at two different times and sold by auction. The dates of despatch to Messrs. Williamson and Co., were 26th April and 7th October 1858. It does not appear that the remaining packets were examined on these occasions.

5. On the 4th ultimo, Mr. Birch, before making over charge to Mr. Balmain, had the box, removed by the Cash-keeper to the weighing room (the key of which remains with that Individual) in order to be remitted to the Mint with various Uncurrent Coin.* Owing to the busy time of the month, and the examination instituted by Mr. Balmain, on taking charge, this box, (the last made over to the weighing-man) was not, he says, opened until the 11th, on which evening, and the morning of the 13th, (the 12th was a Sunday) he examined it in the presence of another Shroff and a Clerk. On the Monday, the deficiency was reported to Mr. Balmain. This was the first intimation that Gentleman received of its existence in the Office Records, for never having been entered in the Public Accounts as a regular deposit, and having been given out by Mr. Birch, for remittance to the Mint, it was not included in the list of deposits made over with the Treasury.

6. The Accountant General has ruled that as neither the Sub Treasurer nor the Cash keeper was present when the box was opened, the Shroffs must be held responsible. The case appears to me so doubtful, that I do not think at present any suspicion attaches to their characters. Most of them have served from 15 to 30 years, during which they have been greatly trusted, while I believe this is the first occasion on which any property has been missed from the Treasury, and

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the loss can only be regarded as their misfortune. They have filed a petition representing that as some of the parcels in the box contained base Coins, the value of these also should fairly be computed at an inferior rate. But the Coins to which they refer are noted in the list as base: and the parcels not so noted, the Mint Master informs me are of standard fineness. There are therefore, I fear no grounds for considering that the amount is less than was at first supposed.

No. 6. From G. L. PRENDERGAST, Esq., Accountant General; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Pater's Gardens, 23rd July 1859, No. 130.

With reference to my letter to your address, dated the 20th instant,* and to the orders of Government of the same date,† and of the 23rd instant, I have now the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter‡ received this day from Mr. Acting Sub Treasurer Waterfield, bringing to notice that the value of the missing Pagodas has been recovered at the full rate of Rupees 3-8-0, which he has fixed, unless a lower estimate be sanctioned for reasons therein explained,§ on which point I shall have the honor of reporting to Government, after making the necessary communications to the Sub Treasurer, and to the Mint Master for further information.

From W. WATERFIELD, Esq., Acting Sub Treasurer; to G. L. PRENDERGAST, Esq., Accountant General, dated 23rd July 1859, No. 395.

In reply to your letter, No. 317 of the 20th instant, I have the honor to report, that the value* of the missing Pagodas, has been recovered at the full rate of Rupees 3-8-0, which I have fixed, unless a lower estimate be sanctioned by you. The Shroffs on whom the loss falls, have filed a petition, representing that of the other parcels in the box, several contained base Coins and that there is a probability that the deficient Coins were of the same nature. I observe however that the packets to which they allude, are specially noted as "base" or "rejected," and from the Mint Master's return, I gather, that the packets not so noted were of the standard fineness. I did not therefore feel myself at liberty to fix the amount to be made good at any but the standard rate, though I undertook that their arguments should be represented to you.

The report to Government will be sent in on Monday.

No. 7. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT, dated 27th July 1859.

A complete copy of the whole of the papers should be sent to Mr. Birch for any observations he may have to make upon them, and he should be asked why the 531½ Pagodas were not sent to the Mint when that was directed to be done by the Order of Government, dated the 13th February 1858.

Meanwhile Colonel Boulderson is investigating the subject.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, 30th July 1859, No. 425.

The Government resolve to forward a copy of the whole of the papers on the subject of the defalcation in the General Treasury to Mr. Birch, late Sub Treasurer at this Presidency, for any observations he may have to make upon them, and to call upon him to explain why the 531½ Madras Pagodas referred to were not sent to the Mint when that was directed to be done by the Order of Government, dated 13th February 1858, No. 91.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Financial Department

*Pater's Gardens
No. 130. Accountant General's Office
23rd July 1859*

*From
The Accountant General
To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Sir,*

** No. 115
* Nos. 399 and 405.*

** dated 23rd instant
No. 395.*

** the probability of
the deficient Coins
having been base
ones.*

*What more can
be known than
Mr. Waterfield
has reported*

*With reference to my letter to
your address dated the 20th instant, and
to the orders of Government of the same date,
and of the 23rd instant, I have now the
honor to forward herewith copy of a letter
received this day from Mr. Acting Sub
Treasurer Waterfield, bringing to notice
that the value of the missing Pagodas
has been recovered at the full rate of
Rupees 3-8-0, which he has fixed, unless a lower estimate be sanctioned
for reasons therein explained, on which
point I shall have the honor of reporting
to Government, after making the necessary
communications to the Sub Treasurer, and*

to the Mint Master for further information.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

Edw. Pindar
Account^{ts} General

N^o 399

Port Saint George, General Treasury
25th July 1859.

From,

H. Waterfield Esq.

Ag^t Sub-Treasurer

To,

J. Pycroft Esq.

Chief Secretary to Government

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of Government, the disappearance from the Treasury of a bag said to contain 53 1/2 Madras Pagodas.

It is not known when or under what circumstances these coins were deposited here. The first mention of them I can find occurs in a letter of Mr. Chulow's dated 16th December 1833, in which he enters the parcel as "a bag without any instructions." Mr. Cherry also, on the 4th December 1839, furnished the Accountant General with a list including the articles mentioned by his predecessor and describing them in the words of the above letter to which he refers as the oldest authority on the subject. There is another list in the Office dated 8th June 1842; this is a mere transcript of the former, omitting the Copper Coins, which appear to have been disposed of.

Mr. Birch on the 26th October 1854 (vide E. M. C. N^o 91 of 13th February 1855) again addressed the Accountant General on the subject of the deposit, recommending that they should be sold or melted down. This is the latest date at which the missing coins can be traced. The Box containing the articles was then removed from the Centre Magazine to the Current Cash Godown: and though the list furnished was merely a copy of that of 1842, Mr. Birch writes that "great pains were taken to verify the correctness of

xx - which
28 Oct 13
Feb 50 auth^y
signed - why
it was not
done does not
appear

[Signature]

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of Mr. Cherry's List" and that every item was checked by himself, though at this distance of time he cannot recall with certainty the particulars of inspection and no one in the Office professes to remember the circumstance.

4. The box, a common teak wood treasure chest, only fastened with nails and that very slightly,* seems to have remained undisturbed in the inner godown / the key of which is in the possession of the Sub Treasurer, and the lock only opened in his presence, though it is not secured with his seal like the treasure godowns / until 1858, in February of which year the Orders of Government were received. Accordingly the jewels were taken out at two different times and sold by Auction. The dates of despatch to Messrs Williamson and Co. were 26th April and 7th October. It does not appear that the remaining packets were re-opened on these occasions.

* Some accounts say not at all; others that it had a couple of bolts.

5. On the 4th Ultimo, Mr. Rich, before making over charge to Mr. Balmain, had the Box removed by the Cash Keeper to the weighing room / the key of which remains with that Individual in order to be submitted to the Mint with various uncurrent Coin*. Owing to the busy time of the month, and the examination instituted by Mr. Balmain on taking charge, this Box / the last made over to the Weighing-man / was not, he says, opened until the 11th on which evening, and the morning of the 13th / the 12th was a Sunday / he examined it in the presence of another Staff and a Clerk. On the Monday the deficiency was reported to Mr. Balmain. This was the first intimation that Guthman received of its existence in the Office Records, for never having been entered in the public accounts as a regular deposit, and having been given out by Mr. Rich for remittance to the Mint, it was not included in the List of Deposits made over with the Treasury.

* All parties seem to agree that the lid was then quite loose.

The

From Act. Sec. Treasury 25 July 59.
I have just received your letter of the 25th inst. containing all the information that it likely to be procured relative to the deficiency. It does not appear that the money was paid to the Mint when it was sent to the Mint on 13th Feb. 1858. I am sorry to hear that the money was lost. I have not heard of any other cases of this kind. Please

down in N. H. H. H. President's
Minute of the 22^d. inst.

22 July 22

A complete copy of the whole
of the Papers should be sent to Mr
Birch for any observations he may
have to make upon them, and
he should be asked why the 531 1/2
Pagodas were not sent to the
Mint when that was directed
to be done by the Order of Government
dated the 13th February 1858.

Meanwhile Colonel Boulderson
is investigating the subject

W. H. Boulderson
27 July 58

List

Financial Dept.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following
papers:

From the Asst. Sub. Treasurer

(Dated 25 July 1859. No. 237)

From the Asst. General

(Dated 25 July 1859. No. 130)

Minute by the Asst. President

Order thereon. 30th July 1859. No. 425.

The Govt. resolve
to forward a copy of the
whole of the papers on
the subject of the de-
in the General Treasury
-falcation, to Mr Birch,
late Sub. Treasurer at
this Presidency, for any
observations he may
have to make upon them,
and to call upon him
to explain why the 531 1/2
Madras Pagodas re-
ferred to were not sent
to the Mint when that
was directed to be done
by the Order of Govern-
ment

Government dated 13th
February 1858 - No 91.

JP

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side]

H. S. D. Birch Esq
with copies of the papers
above recorded & those
entered in Proceedings
of the 13th February 1858 No 91
of the 23rd July 1859 No 405.
Also 19th ————— 394.
20th ————— 399.

omit

[Handwritten note in margin: Dismissed 10-810]

