M.R.O. 1—32,400—28-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 624 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 12th November 1915

B. 20-11-12 7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 11. Read the following letter from W. WATERFIELD, Esq., Acting Sub-Treasurer; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 12th October 1859, No. 693.

I have the honor to submit the explanation of the Cash-keeper, called for in the Proceedings of Government, No. 549, of the 26th ultimo, Financial Department.

2. I am not directed to offer any comments thereon, but I may be permitted to endorse his statement, so far as to say that he appears to have observed the usual routine of business with respect to the Box, and that his post is to direct the receipts and payments in the Cash Department, and not to supervise in person, the work of shroffing carried on in the godowns.

3. I think it right however to mention, that the shroffs, Govindoo and Seetaram disclaim all knowledge of the letter addressed to you. I have no doubt in my mind that it is a forgery, and I think the matter will be clear to Government, if it be compared with the petition of the eleven Treasury shroffs on the subject of the same coins which was forwarded to your office in original by the Accountant General. I regret indeed that the letter was not returned at once to its reputed authors for submission to Government in the usual course, through their immediate superior.

4. I have inspected the original letter, and perceive it to be signed in a Tamil scrawl. The signature of Seetaram to the petition, is written boldly in Telugu (Govindoo signed it by proxy.)

5. The petition shews that the shroffs were perfectly aware that the orders to make good the loss, emanated from the Accountant General, and Mr. Balmain—it is dated the 9th July, and the money was levied by me on the 23rd, yet they have never preferred any complaint to me, and you were not addressed on the subject till the 3rd September.

6. It is absurd to suppose that the shroffs were ignorant of the amount deficient, or that they would quietly have submitted to pay a larger sum; yet the value of the Pagodas, was Rupees 1,860-4-0, while the letter seems to imply that the share of two men alone was above Rupees 2,000.

7. The shroffs were I believe very far from desiring any further investigation on the part of the Police. They regarded it as in someway throwing suspicion on their character, while they considered it useless—as very unlikely to lead to any result, and needless, as they had already made good the loss to Government.

8. It will be observed that throughout the letter, the Cash-keeper is called the *Head Shroff*, an entirely different office, so that the author is compelled towards the close to indicate by name the person to whom he alludes, lest his object should be mistaken. No one engaged in the Treasury, *and writing in his own name*, would have made this confusion. It appears to be intended to degrade the office of Ramakistnah, and is part of the same petty spite which complains of the youth of a man of 18 year's service. Govindoo, moreover, being the junior of all the shroffs.

9. The animus of the writer is evident, he is some person actuated by feelings of enmity or jealousy towards the Cash-keeper. This is not, I think, the case with any of the shroffs. Indeed they know that they have not a sufficient knowledge of English to enable them to hold the office of Cash-keeper: and that solely for that reason, Mr. Birch did not, on the late vacancy bestow the appointment upon one of them.

10. Whatever may be the decision of Government as to the party on whom the loss of the Pagodas should fall, they will I trust, exonerate the Cash-keeper from all suspicion the letter attempts to throw upon his integrity.

From M. RAMAKISTNAH CHETTY, Cash-keeper; to WILLIAM WATERFIELD, Esq., Acting Sub-Treasurer, dated 10th October 1859.

1st. In obedience to your directions, I beg leave to submit for the information of Government, agreeably to their Proceedings No. 549, dated 26th September 1859, Financial Department, an explanation in respect to the Box of coins delivered to me by Mr. Birch your predecessor on the 4th June last.

2nd. The shroff of the Mint Weighing Department, Balagooroonadum who was at the Mint, attended at the Treasury by order of Mr. Birch from the 31st May, for the purpose of taking charge, for transmission to the Mint, the uncurrent coins then in the Treasury.

3rd. Ramasawmy Chetty, the clerk who prepares the Memorandum of uncurrent coins at the Treasury, brought to my notice in the latter end of May, that there was in the Office, a Box containing coins, which might be sent to the Mint along with the uncurrent coins; he laid before me the order of Government, dated 13th February 1858, No. 91, Financial Department, and the letter of the Accountant General of the 23rd idem. This is the first intimation I had of the Box of coins being in deposit.

4th. On the 31st May, the uncurrent coins in the Current Cash Room, were issued and removed under the supervision of Balagooroonadum to the weighing godown; on the 1st June, the uncurrent copper in the Grand Magazine was made over to him. The 2nd was a holiday, the 3rd and 4th being Civil payment days, no work was done in the weighing room. On the morning of the 4th June, Ramasawmy clerk, shewed the documents referred to in the preceding paragraph to Mr. Birch, and in my presence asked for the Box, in order to its being sent to the Mint along with the uncurrent coins—he accordingly issued the Box which was immediately made over to Balagooroonadum. This is the first occasion that I saw the Box. It was, on being issued, kept in the hall of the Cash Department in the rear of my table, and Balagooroonadum remained near it. Mr. Birch having proceeded up-stairs, I attended to my duties at my table, *viz.*, issuing orders for payment and receipt of cash. I could not remove it to the weighing godown immediately—the day being the 2nd for Civil payments, and my attendance was absolutely necessary: when at leisure at noon, (about 1 o'clock) I took the key of the weighing godown, and in company with Balagooroonadum, a Gollah who carried the Box from the place above alluded to, and another Gollah who was to open the godown. The godown being opened, the Box was lodged in it, and virtually therefore with the uncurrent coins, was in the charge of Balagooroonadum—the key of the godown being in my charge. The 5th was Sunday, on the 6th Balagooroonadum and Vencatasooboo, sorted the uncurrent coins, the 7th they were engaged with Mr. Balmain in examining bags in the grand Magazine, the 8th and 9th they were engaged for Office payment and Carnatic Stipends,* on the 10th and 11th the work of weighment was carried on, and on the latter day, late in the evening the contents of the Box was commenced to be examined by both of these men, in the presence of Ramasawmy clerk; the examination of the Box was completed on Monday† the 13th about 12 A. M. When the report was made to me that a bag of Pagodas was missing, I immediately brought the circumstance to the notice of Mr. Balmain.

* *From the 7th June to the 9th the weighing godown was not opened.*

† *Vencatasooboo was not present, but on duty in another godown.*

5th The practice which obtains in taking out uncurrent coins for the Mint is as follows: The Coins are delivered out by the Sub-Treasurer, they are for convenience arranged for a time opposite the godown whence they are taken, and are subsequently removed to the weighing godown, or when there is money in this godown, in the Sub-Treasurer's charge to any other vacant godown. There the coins are sorted by Balagooroonadum, if necessary aided by another shroff; on the completion of this part of the work, the clerk who prepares the Invoice is sent for, and in presence of each other, the weighment commences; the Cash-keeper occasionally calls to see that the people are at work, he is not present at the whole of the time occupied in the process above detailed, he being required at his table to direct the issue of payment of Bills and receiving of money tendered.

6th. In the case of the Box in question, it was not opened in the presence of the Sub-Treasurer, or in my presence, as the lid was not fastened or lightly secured—the packets being simply kept in the Box apparently when they were arranged by the late Mr. Cherry. It contained uncurrent coins, and just exactly as Balagooroonadum takes charge of uncurrent coins in Bags, he took out first for assortment prior to weighment, the several packets in the Box. There was a Memorandum in the Box which was written as far back as the year 1842, it is in the hand writing of C. Soobaroyaloo Chetty, a clerk now in the Office, it bears the initials of the late Mr. Cherry, and Mr. Kennet, the Sub-Treasurer, and Examiner, and certain marks of each item but whose these latter are I cannot tell.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, for the month of November 1859.

7th. You are uow a few months in charge of the Treasury, and you are aware, that with the Sub-Treasurer in opening remittance godowns there are present beside him *the Cash-keeper, two or more Shroffs and several Gollahs,* so in the case of godowns of which the Cash-keeper has the key, there must, in opening them, be present at least a shroff, and some of the servants on the Establishment.

8th. I may also here refer to the practice of opening remittances from the Mofussil, the carpenters being present together with the shroffs deputed to see the Boxes opened, the bags are taken therefrom and arranged, the Cash-keeper is not present, but when he can spare time from his other more important duties in the Office, he now and then calls to see that business is going on. When the bags are found torn in the Box, a message from the shroff on duty is sent to me, it is inspected and reported to the Sub-Treasurer, who either inspects or gives orders in regard to it.

9th. Under these precautions used in opening or entering a godown or Mofussil remittance, I am at a loss to ascertain how the charge is made of its being a questionable subject that the Pagodas were purloined by the *Head Shroff,* and who this is intended to mean, whether the senior shroff or myself, who am but only recently in charge of the post, is more than I can tell.

10th. In the petition presented to Government, it is represented that the Box was opened by me, this statement, you will find from Mr. Balmain's letters, to be incorrect.

11th. I am stated to have directed the attendance of the shroffs at my house, I beg most solemnly to deny this. The Accountant General in his letter, dated 9th July 1859, having intimated to Mr. Balmain the course for the recovery of the money, Mr. Balmain endorsed these instructions and I drew up a Memorandum* in which he put his initials, having concurred in this proceeding on my part; this memorandum was handed by me to the shroffs, and in accordance therewith, the whole of them assented to pay towards the loss. The letter of the shroffs to the address of the Acting Sub-Treasurer at the time they paid up the money for the gold coins does not point out any coercion used, or interference on my part, which, had such been the case, it occurs to me should have been represented to you at the time.

* To the Shroffs of the General Treasury.
Before Mr. Birch left the Presidency for Bombay, he delivered a Box on the 4th of June last, containing old coins, &c. On its being opened and examined afterwards by shroffs Balagooroonadum Chitty and Vencatasooboo Chitty, in the presence of M. Ramasawmy Chitty writer, a certain Baq containing 531½ Madras Pagodas was found missing. Mr. Birch was written to by Mr. Balmain on the 14th June 1859, *in reply, that Gentleman states, that the articles in the Box were carefully compared with the list by him in the year* 1854, *and found to be correct, which he adds must be in the recollection of some of the shroffs. The shroffs of the Establishment are hereby called on to make good the loss to Government, as directed by the Accountant General.*
(Signed) M. RAMAKISTNAH, CHITTY,
Cash-keeper.
General Treasury,
11th July 1859. (Signed) W. B.

12th. I was promoted to the situation of Cash-keeper on the 21st February last, after a service of 18 years in the Department. In my former post with valuable securities in deposit on account of the late Joint Government Agency, the Supreme Court, the Administrator General, sundry Deposits and various Documents of Paymasters and other Officers in my charge, I rendered every satisfaction. On my nomination, I knew nothing of the Box of uncurrent coins in deposit, and when it was brought to my notice, steps were at once taken for the transmission of the contents to the Mint. The usual course for uncurrent coins was taken in respect to the Box. No part of my duty as Cash-keeper had been neglected, and as in the usual course, the shroff examined the Box.

13th. It would be impossible for me to be present at every transaction of weighment ors shroffage, as the payment of demands and the receiving of cash for the day, is the most important duty; if this be neglected, the Public Service must necessarily be greatly inconvenienced,

the shroffs must necessarily be entrusted to all other details in the various godowns in which they may be engaged, and while so trusted, as a natural consequence they have been and are looked to, for all deficiencies that may arise.

14th. Having fully explained matters in respect to the Box of coin, and the reasons why I was not present at the examination of the contents, I beg leave to add that my honesty during a service of 18 years and in the very responsible situation I held prior to February 1859, has never before now, been called in question. The shroffs are always looked to for all deficiencies in bags, and hence in the present instance while no individual shroff could be blamed, the recovery was made from the whole body. It is a standing rule on this Establishment, to hold the shroffs responsible, a view frequently urged on Government by your predecessor Mr. Birch, and unless this is strictly adhered to, the shroffs will be less vigilant in their work, and quite unmindful of their duty, if exempted from responsibility for deficiencies. The explanation which I now submit, will, I trust be both satisfactory to you, and to the Government.

No. 12.

ORDER THEREON, 12th November 1859, No. 624.

Financial Department No. 549. The Acting Sub-Treasurer submits the explanation furnished by the Cash-keeper, under the orders of the Government 26th ultimo, relative to the missing bag of Pagodas.

2. In forwarding this explanation, Mr. Waterfield reports that the shroffs Govindoo and Seetaram, disclaim all knowledge of the letter addressed to Government in their names on the 3rd September last, and he gives good reasons for considering that letter to be a forgery.

3. The shroffs, he believes, were very far from desiring any further investigation on the part of the Police. They regarded it as in someway throwing suspicion on their character, while they considered it useless, as very unlikely to lead to any result—and needless, as they had already made good the loss to Government.

4. Under these circumstances, it appears to Government to be unnecssary to carry the matter further. The shroffs repudiate the petition presented in their name, and the loss has been made good by a departmental arrangement acceded to by all concerned. The sum of Rupees 1,860-4-0 will be carried to the credit of Government, and the matter closed.

5. Referring to the last paragraph of the Acting Sub-Treasurer's letter, the Government observe that nothing has transpired to impeach the integrity either of the Cash-keeper, or of any one of the shroffs. It has been necessary to hold the Office Establishment responsible for the loss sustained, but no suspicion rests on the character of any individual.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. W. J. Boyton.

would seem that the Sheriffs at the
Annual Meeting and held accountable
- able for any bad Expenditure that may
be found in Bags of Ten Shillings -
but (see Mr Lushington's letter of
25 Oct 1856) the Cashkeeper is
held accountable for all -

25/10/59

As the Sheriffs repudiate the
Petitioners presented in their name
praying to be relieved from the liability
we need not enter further into the
subject

L Mundyne
7 Nov 59.

Exd. W. J. Boyton.

I think we too
the money has
been made good
by a deficit-medical
allowance must
accordingly to by ale
borrowed

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Exd. W. J. Boyton.

Financial Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

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Order thereon 12 Novr. 1859, No 624.

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JP

To the Asst. Genl
Subs Exhaustion } Dispd 19

Pro of Govt 29 Nov
Financial 1859 Depart.

No. 6214.

Proceedings of Govt

of 12 November 59.

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