MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1170 Press Mis.
17-18
Dated 11-7-1917

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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No. 17. Read the following letter from C. F. CHAMIER, Esq.; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated 28th August 1857.

SIR,

At the request of Mrs. C. A. Pierce, whose husband Captain Pierce, of the 27th Regiment M. N. I., has proceeded on active service to Calcutta, I have the honor to solicit the favor of your bringing the following circumstances under the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, for His Lordship's orders.

2. It appears that towards the close of last year, a vessel named the "Rio Grande" ran aground on the Coast of Birmah, while bound from Calcutta to Australia; and that the chief Mate, Mr. *Charles Lush Rennie*, procured a passage to Madras, and was proceeding thence to Cochin, with the view of returning to England, when it was found necessary to put him ashore at a small village below Trevandrum, as he was too ill to proceed any further. Mr. Rennie succeeded in reaching *Trevandrum*; but his illness, which had been first contracted during his exertions to save the ship, unhappily proved fatal, and he died at that place on the 22nd of January last.

3. Captain Pierce, as the only officer in cantonment at the time, took charge of the deceased's effects, consisting of a sea-chest and its contents; and after ascertaining the address of his father, Mr. Rennie, *Nelson Cottage*, Stonehouse, Plymouth, placed himself in correspondence with the latter, as to how the property was to be disposed of.

4. Being obliged to leave Trevandrum before the receipt of a reply from England, Captain Pierce sealed the chest, and made over charge of the same to the Dewan of His Highness the Rajah of Travancore, the Commandant of the station declining to interfere.

5. Soon after his arrival at Vellore, Captain Pierce received a letter from Mr. Rennie's father, desiring him to forward all his son's private papers, but to sell the chest and such of its contents as might not be worth the expense of carriage to England, or possess any special interest to justify their being transmitted to his friends. A formal *Certificate of death* was particularly solicited.

6. This letter was sent by Captain Pierce to the Dewan, with a request that the father's wishes might be attended to; but was subsequently returned, accompanied by an intimation from the Dewan, that he was not prepared to undertake the responsibility, nor to advance the hire for the conveyance of the chest from Trevandrum to Vellore.

7. Upon this, Captain Pierce addressed the Resident of Travancore, re-enclosing the father's letter; but up to the time of his proceeding with his Regiment on active service, he had not received any reply from the Resident, and none to his address has since reached Mrs. Pierce.

8. The melancholy interest which attaches to the case, and the helpless situation of the late Mr. Rennie's father at such a distance from the scene of these occurrences, will, I trust, induce His Lordship in Council, to issue instructions to the Resident of Travancore to carry the father's wishes speedily into effect, by selling such articles as it may be unnecessary to send to England, and forwarding the deceased's papers, together with any money realized, after deducting requisite charges, and by granting at the same time an official certificate of Mr. Rennie's death, to enable his father to obtain from the Admiralty a certain sum of money, to which it seems such certificate would entitle him.

(Signed) C. F. CHAMIER.

No. 18. From E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government of Fort St. George, to the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, dated 11th September 1857, 1170.

SIR,

It has been brought to the notice of Government, that when Captain Pierce of the 27th Regiment Native Infantry, was leaving Trevandrum, he made over to the Dewan of His Highness the Rajah of Travancore, the property of the late Mr. Charles Lush Rennie, Chief Mate of the "Rio Grande," who died at that station on the 22nd of January last; and that shortly after his arrival at Vellore, he forwarded to you, as the Dewan declined to undertake the responsibility,

a letter received from Mr. Rennie's father, desiring that all his son's private papers might be forwarded to him, and that the chest with such of its contents as might not be worth the expense of carriage to England, or possess a special interest to justify their transmission might be sold, as also that a formal certificate of death might be sent. No reply is said to have been received to this communication; and I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to request, that you will be so good as to report what steps have been taken regarding the disposal of this property.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Rob. F. Carbridge

Judicial Department

№ 11770

To

The Resident of Travancore & Cochin,

Sir,

I do now desire to bring to the notice of Government the case of Capt. Price of the 27th Regt. N. I. who recently Proceeded on leave to Europe on Board the Bengal of Travancore, the Pilot of the late Mr Charles Rob. Rennie Chief Secretary of the Rajah Travancore who died at that station on the 27th of January last; and that shortly after his arrival at this Presidency upon the Government decided to undertake the responsibility of settling with Captain Price the claims of his late Employer

Letters might be forwarded Office
and that the Head must direct
to contain no enclosure
under the penalties of carriage &c
England or Foreign without
instead respectfully the Number
there might be sent, or when the
a formal certificate of death
might be sent. He reply to
said Letter was received & the
communication; and Answer that
the Right Honble the Governor
in Council requires that you
will be as good as to state
what steps have been taken
upon this the subject of the
Property

Jas. L. George Esq
11 September 1857

Copy to C. F. Cameron Esq. Dep. D. G. M.

In My Room 15th Sept
Judicial 1857 Sept 8th

No 1170

To
The President of
Barrancas Navy Yard

Sir/ Lighthouse Dep.

Ent. 20 Oct

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