

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Judicial* DEPARTMENT.

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*Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 6th October 1857.*

No. 61. Read the following letter from A. PURVIS, Esq., Magistrate of Rajahmundry ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cocanada, 12th September 1857, No. 261.

SIR,

I have the honor, in continuation of the letter to your address from my Acting Head Assistant, under date the 22nd Ultimo, reporting the apprehension and incarceration of 9 men on a charge of plotting against Government, to report the result of the further investigation into the proceedings of the accused parties. I would mention that on receiving intelligence of the affair, I lost no time in proceeding to Rajahmundry where, with the exception of two days when I came down to Cocanada to arrange for the preservation of the peace at this place, I remained till the close of the Moharrum festival, which passed off with perfect quietness throughout the district as well as at Rajahmundry.

2. Every endeavour has been made by my Head Assistant and myself to obtain further evidence of the existence of any plot, or of any plan for a rising of the Mahomedans, who, I may observe, form but a small section of the population of Rajahmundry. We were however able to elicit but little more evidence than is already before Government. The informant's statement was somewhat vague and indefinite. He was not able to furnish much further information and the strictest questioning failed to elicit any thing more from the witnesses. There was nothing in the papers which were seized of a seditious character. My own opinion is that nothing deserving the name of a plot had any existence, though it is not improbable that expressions of a seditious character had been occasionally made use of by some at least of the accused. The informant referred to an attempt having been made in his presence to send a letter to Guntoor and that the bearer was also to go to Masulipatam. He was unable to give any clue to the contents of the letter and the party asked to take it refused to do so. The letter is stated by the intended sender (a baker) to be simply one to beg his mother to return, in company with the bearer of the letter, to Rajahmundry, and the party asked to take it declined doing so on account of the season of the year.

3. The evidence against one of the prisoners, of making use of seditious language, was stronger than in the case of any of the others, against most of whom there was nothing but the informer's statement, but it was not of a sufficiently definite nature, due regard being also had to the very indifferent character borne by the informer, to render it probable that conviction would follow had he been forwarded for trial, and it appeared to me very undesirable that such a course should be followed unless there was a fair prospect of conviction. I determined therefore to call upon the individual in question to furnish two securities in 500 Rupees for his good behaviour and appearance when called for to answer any charge that might be preferred against him, for the period of one year. The seven men against whom there was little or nothing but the informer's statement have also been released on furnishing security fixed with reference to their condition in life for their good behaviour and appearance for the same period.

4. The remaining individual alleged by the informer to have been implicated in the affair is Dada Saib. He is the only one of the accused of any influence or position. He is a resident of Rajahmundry and is joint proprietor of the village of Vella in this district. He is known to be in embarrassed circumstances, but there has hitherto been nothing against his character. His grand father was the late Cauzy of the district; except the statement of the informer, that he was one of those who met together and gave utterance to seditious language, there is no evidence against him. Under these circumstances and as his continued confinement in the Jail tended to keep up the excitement among the Mahomedan population, I permitted his release on very heavy bail, 5 securities in 1,000 Rs. each. Under this bail he is now at large and I do not see that there are grounds at present for any further proceedings against him. It is hardly necessary to add that the proceedings of this individual, and of all those set at liberty on security, continue to be very carefully watched.

5. Government having already expressed their approval of the proceedings of the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, it is unnecessary for me to do more than express my conviction that

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the energetic measures adopted by him were at the time, and under the circumstances of the case, fully called for, and in every way calculated to preserve the peace. As reported by Mr. Molony, the services of the detachment of Sappers, which had been located in the town on the night after the apprehension of the accused, were not considered necessary after the next morning, and, as Government are aware, no delay occurred in the Company under orders for Bengal proceeding to Cocanada for embarkation, no further requisition was made on the Officer in Command of the Sappers and Miners, the Police force had previously been largely increased, and with the aid, if necessity arose, of the Company of the 9th Regiment N. I. stationed at Rajahmundry, were, in my opinion, fully equal to preserving the peace had any attempt been made to disturb it.

6. I feel it my duty in conclusion to direct attention to the conduct of Syed Rungalla a pensioned Naigue. He failed to communicate at once, as he was bound to do, what he had heard to the authorities, and clearly knows more than he has told. The little he did say was only obtained from him with considerable difficulty, a translation of his deposition in full is transmitted as well as those given by two peons who were present when some further conversation took place a few days subsequent to the apprehension of the accused, between Selaman Shereef (the informer) Syed Rungalla and the peons. There is no reason to doubt the general correctness of the account given by the latter, though Syed Rungalla only admits but a small part of the conversation which, as detailed by the peons, leads to a belief that Syed Rungalla still knows more than he will communicate, should the Government not think the case sufficiently strong to warrant the entire withdrawal of this man's pension, I think the suspension of the same for a certain period, say two or three years, would be well deserved, and an example of the kind would have a good effect.

(Signed) A. PURVIS,  
Magistrate.

Witness Valesetty Raujennah, son of Tautiah, of Talegu caste, and long mark religion, living by service as Peon, aged 23 years, and at present residing at Rajahmundry, deposes on solemn affirmation.

A. Last night at 7 o'clock P. M., as I, and Doorjun Sing a substitute peon, were sitting at the house of Selaman Shariff, an inhabitant of Rajahmundry, the latter also was seated with us, a man Syed Rungalah came and sat near us. In the mean time Selaman Shariff said to us "all the people of this village are thieves, and should not be trusted, they would not tell the truth, they are Bahunchotes." He, Selaman Shariff, then rose up and went away.

Syed Rungalah thereupon said 'Aray Alla.' I and Doorjan Sing asked him why he said so. Syed Rungalah answered that "Selaman Shariff considered to take all and get them confined for an act committed by three or four persons, and by this the gentlemen intended to cause them to be shot, but it has been stopped through my means." After saying this Syed Rungalah was silent, upon our asking him to tell who were the persons that committed it, he said "it is past, whether committed or not," and then he (Syed Rungalah) went away from that place, Selaman Shariff was then at hand, heard also the words spoken by Syed Rungalah, and said to us, "while you as Circar servants are present Syed Rungalah stated these words before you, you have heard them." We then came away and intended to inform you of this circumstance, but as Duffadar Mahomed baig said it was late and it was doubtful whether we could get an opportunity or not, we did not come and inform the same that night.

Q. In the statement of Syed Rungalah what act, did he say, was committed by the three or four persons?

A. Syed Rungalah said that for an act committed by three or four persons regarding words spoken about the Circar's circumstance Selaman Shariff accused so many people. But he mentioned nothing of the particulars of those words, nor did he tell (as we required him) the names of the person who spoke thus.

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I never heard similar conversation before this time, if I had done so, I would have immediately reported. As I heard last night I now inform you of the same, I have heard this deposition, it is right.

The 28th August 1857.

(Marked) RAUJENNAH.

Solemnly affirmed before me at Rajahmundry, this 28th day of August 1857.

(Signed) F. B. MOLONY,  
Acting Head Assistant Magistrate.

(True translation.)

(Signed) A. PURVIS,  
Magistrate.

Syed Rungala, son of Meer Mahomadally, of Mossulman caste and Soonny sect, aged 50 years, pensioned Naik, inhabitant of Masulipatam, and at present residing at Rajahmundry, deposes on solemn affirmation.

Q. Did you go 7 or 8 days before to Selaman Shariff's house to get medicine?

A. Yes.

Q. Relate fully and clearly what conversation took place there at that time.

A. There were then sitting there 3 persons viz., Selaman Shariff, Raheman beig and Noo-kannah. I asked Selaman Shariff to feel my pulse and asked him for medicine. He told me that he would give the medicine to-morrow and cure my boil. Raheman beig said that this is a Nabob's Cotta and it should not be said to be ruinous and that *Dustahs* would be tied up or located here. I told him that he should not utter such words, this being under the authority of the Honorable Company, the words of the Moguls should not be spoken, saying this I went away, I also said to Selaman Shariff that if such words are spoken "rope will come to neck." I also told them to go away, and asked why they should utter such words.

Q. Was there any one else at the place when such words were spoken?

A. No. This took place at 3 or 4 o'clock P. M.

Q. How was it that there was no one else at the time while the place is near the Police Cutcherry, and a public road by which many people pass?

A. The Police Cutcherry lies in a lane at a distance. There were no others but the 3 people mentioned. I went away immediately. Some people were playing at cards under a tamarind tree. Those now here are the same persons. I have seen Daudasaib now here, he was not present at the playing. Vazeersaib and Gaulub beig were only present.

Q. Look at Vazeersaib alias Meer Vazeerally, Gaulub beig and Gaulub saib, were they present at that time?

A. I see them, they three were then present. There were also present Manavarully and Hoossain beig. I see Meerun Hussain alias Meerun saib, he was not present there. I see Raheman beig, he was sitting at the time with Selaman Shariff but was not playing. I see Mustansaib, he was not present there.

Q. Were the persons who sat under the tamarind tree speaking or silent?

A. Four of them were playing while the rest were sitting quiet. The tamarind tree is situated beyond the house of Selaman Shariff. It lies on the left side of one going from the direction of the Cutcherry, I use always to pass that way and see these people sitting there.

Q. Is there any injury to the Circar from the above statement?

A. Yes.

Q. You have heard this deposition. Is it right?

A. I have heard. It is right.

(Marked) SYED RUNGALA.

21st August 1857.

Solemnly affirmed before me at Rajahmundry, the 21st day of August 1857.

(Signed) F. B. MOLONY,  
Acting Head Assistant Magistrate.

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Re-examination on solemn affirmation on the 28th August 1857.

Q. Did you speak last night to Selaman Shariff?

A. It was not at night, but at 4 o'clock P. M. Selaman Shariff sent for me and said to me "what! you great man! you would have got reward, why did you not tell properly? you favoured many people." I answered him that God! and not I favoured. Peon Rajunnah was present this took place. Peon Doorzausing came afterwards.

Q. Did not you say "you confined many people for the act done by 2 or 3 persons."

A. I did not say so, I do not know why Rajunnah say I did, we spoke in Hindoostany which Rajunnah does not understand, and I know not how he understood what we spoke. Selaman Shariff told Rajunnah in Telugu that he would be made a Duffadar, Selaman Shariff further said that I also should have been fettered. I know Telugu a little but not well.

Q. Why did Selaman Shariff call you?

A. He might have called me to ask as stated above. I supposed that some order might have been received from Government and that he wanted me to tell what he had heard regarding it.

Q. You have heard this deposition. Is it right?

A. Yes, it is right.

28th August 1857.

(Marked) SYED RUNGALA.  
Solemnly affirmed before me at Rajahmundry, this 28th August 1857.

(Signed) F. B. MOLONY,  
Acting Head Assistant Magistrate.  
(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. PURVIS,  
Magistrate.

Doorjun Sing, son of Bajah Sing, of Bondely caste, and long mark sect, living by service, aged 20 years and an inhabitant of Rajahmundry, deposes in Gentoo, on solemn affirmation.

A. Duffadar placed me on the guard near the Nabob's house in this village. As the house of Selaman Shariff lies close to it, and as a peon Rajappah (whose house name is unknown to me) was at that house, I went to him. By the time I went, the said Rajappah, Selaman Shariff and the Naik (whose name I know not, now in the Cutcherry here) were sitting in the street of Selaman Shariff's house, I also sat there. In the mean time Selaman Shariff said, "the words they thus tell differently."

Selaman Shariff saying this went away towards the wall, a distance of two yards, after he went, the Naigue said "Allah."

I and Rajappah, who was there present, asked him why he said so? He (Naigue) answered that this Selaman Shariff has done injustice. He asked him how. He replied "that two or three persons lately talked of being Nabob and Vazier, they were but drunkards and no others: For this only he (Selaman Shariff) accused the whole town, and as he informed this circumstance to the gentlemen, they intended to shoot them. I have visited several countries, and if I tell all such circumstances what respect would it be."

I thereupon asked the Naigue who those persons were. He answered, "I told you the circumstance that had passed, but what do you care to know the names of those persons?" Saying this, he went away from that place. He spoke these words in Hindoostani, and as I am a Bondely, I understand that language. Rajappah told me afterwards to inform this circumstance to the gentlemen, I went to the lodgings of the Duffadar to tell this, but he was absent. I went to him while he was at the guard and informed him, he said "we will report to the gentleman to-morrow." Syed Rungalah (Naigue) told me all the words above stated, he also said that Selaman Shariff took from him 5 Rupees, some Rupees from Veenay Veerunnah and some from Easaff khan writer, that he thus received from him as a loan, and from the two latter for medicine, but has not made or given it, he further added that he (Selaman Shariff) who go away without repaying the money.

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He (Syed Rungalah) also said that Selaman Shariff went and informed beforehand, and as he\* is a Government servant, Selaman Shariff only went and told as he had told him.

Syed Rungalah (Naigue) did not mention the names of those who would become Nabob or Vazier, but only said as above.

I have heard this deposition, it is right.

The 28th August 1857.

(Signed) DOORJAH SING.

Solemnly affirmed before me at Rajahmundry, this 28th day of August 1857.

(Signed) F. B. MOLONY,  
Acting Head Assistant Magistrate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. PURVIS,  
Magistrate.

No. 62.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1295; dated 6th October 1857.

In this letter, the Magistrate reports the result of his investigation into the charge of sedition and conspiracy preferred against 9 Mahomedans who had been taken into confinement by the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate. Mr. Purvis considers that there is no evidence to prove the existence of an actual plot, though seditious expressions appeared to have been used by some of the party. The accused were therefore set at liberty, but heavy security was taken from one of the number.

2. Mr. Purvis brings to notice the conduct of pensioned Naigue Syed Rungallah, who failed to make known of his own accord the seditious conversation which took place in his presence, and concealed his knowledge when officially interrogated on the subject. For this misconduct the Magistrate recommends that his pension should be suspended for a time, if not cancelled. In this view His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief concurs, and it is accordingly ordered that Syed Rungallah's pension be suspended for a period of two years.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,  
Acting Chief Secretary.

Edw. F. Cartledge.

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- For orders. -

In this letter the Magistrate reports the result of his enquiry into the supposed Makhomedan plot at Rajahmundry, & expresses his opinion (P2) against the existence of a plot. Though it is not improbable that seditious expressions had been occasionally used by some of the accused.

- The accused persons have not therefore been committed for trial, but one named Deha Sahib has been called on to furnish heavy security (P4)

- The orders of Govt are requested regarding the pensioned Nazim Syed Rangallah mentioned in P.6. The Magistrate seems to think that he has withheld information & that his pension ought to be <sup>for 2 or 3 years</sup> suspended & not taken away. It seems however doubtful from the papers whether sufficient grounds exist for such a measure.

30 Sept/57

The

I think there is not sufficient evidence in the papers to warrant so severe a penalty as that proposed by the Magistrate - six months deprivation of pension wd be the utmost - & that more on account of the general tenor of the Magistrate's opinion - than from details.

30-54  
1854

No 1295 J. G.  
Extract Minis. of Cons.  
Dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 1857

Read letter from the Magistrate of  
Richmond d 12 Sept. 1857 No 261.

In this letter the Magistrate reports the results  
of his investigation into the charge of sedition  
& conspiracy ~~proposed~~ against 9 persons  
A - names who had been taken into con-  
finement by the Act H. d. Sept. 1857

GL Mr. Parson considers that there is no evi-  
dence to prove the existence of an actual  
plot, though seditious expressions appeared  
to have been used by some of the party.  
The accused were therefore set at liberty  
but heavy security was taken from one  
of the number.

2 - Mr. Parson, being to restore the conduct  
of General Rique by Ranguellak, who  
failed to make known of his own accord  
the seditious conversation which took place  
in his presence when

It appears to me that this was well shown  
to have his presence for the purpose suggested by the  
Magistrate if he is not altogether dishonest & if  
it is the intention of the Government to punish it  
was intended his presence with the Government  
to prove all that has come to his knowledge  
then his more unwilling attempts are shown  
sufficient to condemn him.



Military Department -

*Mammillaria* Inapp.  
Ag. & Sp. Sec. p. 6. Col.

*In Ans. to Mr. Cooper  
invid May Sept.*

5621 1/2

Ex: *Micro. f. lani.*

Patent 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1854