

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1421	Press
3-4	~~Mis.~~
Dated 30. 10. 1915	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 3rd November 1857.

No. 3. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 17th October 1857, No. 62.

SIR,

As senior Civil authority on the spot, I beg to forward, for information of Government, proceedings of an *Inquest*, at Coonoor, on the 12th Instant, on the late General B. Kennett, of the Bombay Army ; who died from wounds inflicted by a robber.

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS,

Magistrate.

Proceedings of a European Court of Inquest, held at Coonoor, 12th October 1857, at the requisition of E. B. THOMAS, Esq., the Magistrate of the District and nearest Civil authority, for the purpose of inquiring into the causes of the death of the late General BRACKLEY KENNETT, resident in Coonoor.

Present E. B. THOMAS, Esq.,—President.

COLONEL CLEMONS.
COLONEL WOODFALL.
MR. STANES.
MR. DARLING. } Members.

The President and Members having assembled, examined the body, and adjourned to the 13th.

Second day, 13th October 1857. President and Members all present.

Statement of Sheik Hoossain, 30 years, butler to the late General Kennett.

On Thursday morning, 8th October 1857, about 2 A. M., I heard General Kennett call me by name, and found him leaning against the wall near my house. I lifted him up and carried him to his bed-room. The General said, "some thief has stabbed me." I brought a light, sent Lallah to call the Doctor. Left Beca, the maty, with the General, and myself went to call Revd. J. Scudder.

Question by the Court.—Have you any reason to suspect any one of being concerned in the murder of General Kennett.

Answer.—I have not.

Statement of Revd. J. Scudder, M. A., October 8th, 1857.—Between 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M., I was awoke by Hoossain calling out, and he gave me to understand that something was the matter at General Kennett's. I ran there, and on my way he said, "somebody cut master." I came in and saw the General lying on his couch with his head on his arm, he fainted, and on coming to he said, "somebody has cut me." I stanced his wounds, and soon afterwards Doctor Rogers came in. The General died on the morning of the 12th October, 2 A. M. The General told me that the man who stabbed him had a white turban, he was fair for a native, but not very light coloured. He thought the man had a club or pistol in one hand, and that when he (the General) called "koun hai," the man lowered his head and blew out the light.

Statement of Surgeon Moses Rogers.—I came to General Kennett's about $2\frac{1}{2}$ A. M., 8th October 1857, I found him lying in bed in a state approaching collapse, there was a wound on the outer and front part of the right arm, about 3 inches in length, extending outwards and downwards, another wound at the back part of the arm, a third wound in the front of the chest between the nipple and the collar-bone, about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, from the 3rd to the 5th rib, the latter being broken. This wound penetrated the chest at the point where the rib was broken. A fourth wound was on the back, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches below the lower angle of the scapula, and nearly in a line with it, the direction of the wound was upwards and inwards and externally about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, this wound penetrated into the chest. At the post mortem examination, at 1 o'clock on 12th October, it was found that the lower margin of the lung was cut from the wound at the back, and clotted blood had collected in a cavity about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and breadth. I believe that the General's death was caused by the exhaustion from the great loss of blood, and the nervous irritation which succeeded. The nervous irritation was probably the

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 3rd November 1857.

cause of the sickness that followed, which also tended to hasten his death. The wounds might have been caused by a sharp knife, not broader than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Statement of Assistant Surgeon Maitland, Medical Officer of Coonoor.—Being temporarily absent, under sanction from the Commanding Officer, I did not see General Kennett until 8 o'clock on the morning of the 10th. Doctor Rogers having been in charge during my absence. At the post mortem examination on 12th October, I found on the upper part of the right arm a wound 3 inches in length, passing downwards and outwards and communicating deep in the arm, with another wound on the back of the arm. This latter wound was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, externally, and extended along the outer margin of the arm-pit. About midway between the right nipple and the right collar-bone, was another wound about 3 inches long, the direction was downwards and outwards, it was found to pass inwards beneath the muscles from the lower border of the 3rd rib to the 5th rib, which latter was fractured. At this point there was a slight opening to the cavity of the chest. The lung however was not wounded. A fourth wound was found on the back, about 6 inches below the lower angle of the right scapula. This wound was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, passing upwards and inwards, it was found to enter the cavity of the chest and corresponding with its inner opening was a small wound of the lower edge of the right lung. In the substance of the lung above this wound, was a large cavity filled with coagulated blood. This last wound, I believe to have been the cause of death. The wounds were probably caused by some sharp instrument, such as a knife or dagger.

The Court having duly weighed the evidence before them, and having inspected the body of the late General Brackley Kennett, are of opinion that his death was caused by the severe wounds inflicted by some person or persons unknown, about 2 A. M., on the morning of 8th October 1857.

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS, Magistrate.	(Signed) C. WOODFALL, Lieut.-Col.
" W. H. STANES, of Coonoor.	2nd Vet. Bat.
" JNO. L. DARLING, do.	(") C. CLEMONS, Col.
	43rd Regt. N. I.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 1421; dated 30th October 1857.

To be recorded.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

29th Nov. 3rd Nov.
Martial Department
1857

From No. 1704

The Magistrate
of Coimbatore

To the Chief Secretary

to Government

Fort Saint George

Dated 17th

Recd. 26 October 1857

No. 62.

With enclosure

forwards an Inquest

held at Coonoor on the

12th. Instant on the

late General B. Kennett

of the Bombay army

wounded by a Rebel

28/10/57

Recorded

30 Oct 57

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