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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1594-1595 Press ~~Misc.~~

37.39

Dated 8—12—~~19~~ 1857

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No. 37. Read the following letter from T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Masulipatam ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 24th November 1857, No. 485.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report, that I have this day received Mr. Chase's report on the late attack on Juggiahpettah, which I herewith forward for the information of Government.

2. I cannot arrive at the conclusion, Mr. Chase has done, regarding the resistance offered by the Sepoy guard. It appears the Head of Police had been warned of the meditated attack and Sepoys and Peons were in readiness all night ; that at day-break it was supposed no Rohillas were coming and as I believe Sepoys and Peons having been up all night, went to their usual sleeping places, otherwise I cannot understand how so many Sepoys escaped, being crowded into a building with their ammunition expended and Rohillas pouring vollies into them, but that after an obstinate resistance, the Rohilla chief spared the lives of his opponents because they were only doing their duty, I do not believe.

3. However I have no doubt the Sepoys, who were at the Cutcherry, did their duty nobly, and were all killed, it is for Military men to say if 12 rounds of ball cartridges were sufficient for Sepoys at such an out-post. I decidedly think not. Probably his great stake having 700 Rs. in cash and gold ornaments, made the Havildar linger at the Cutcherry, and I fully believe if all his party had been present and his ammunition lasted, the Rohillas would have been beaten off. The result however is as usual in such cases and there is no getting at the truth, and I regret Mr. Chase did not reach Juggiapettah while the place was in confusion and before a story could have been concocted. Nobody expected the Head of Police, a Brahmin, to fight, though he might have told more truth about the matter than he has done. A native traveller who was in the town on the night of the attack told me they were all taken unawares, that the Rohillas became possessed of every fire-arm in the town, when they captured the Cutcherry, because all had been piled there ; and that therefore the Sepoys in the Cutcherry, having been killed, the rest with the Peons had no weapons to make any resistance.

4. It remains for me to submit for the consideration of Government my propositions, 1st, as to the punishment of the offenders, and secondly, as to future protection of Juggiapettah. On the former point Mr. Chase has not touched, but I am informed that one of these Rohillas laden with booty was captured in the rear of the gang by 4 Seikhs at a stage between Cummumett and Badrachellum. It will first I think be necessary for Government to grant a special pardon to the bullock man captured in the town and use him as a witness, his presence at the attack renders him a principal and not an accessary, and probably the Court of Foujdary Udalut, if applied to, might adhere to their Circular Order 13th May 1854, and as the names of two of the Sirdars are known and as this gang had perpetrated like outrages in the Nizam's dominions, it may be hoped several may be brought to trial.

5. The case will be one of gang robbery attended with murder, and I submit properly within the scope of Act XIV of 1857, and I respectfully solicit Government will direct that the Session Judge should, as Commissioner under the Act, hold his Court in Juggiapettah. The effect would be beneficial and the convenience to the inhabitants very great.

6. As regards the future protection of Juggiapettah, I beg to observe that, though it is unfortunate, a town with such wealthy inhabitants, should be in so exposed a position, the duty of protecting its subjects will never be shirked by our Government, and I feel, it is the safety of the town rather than our treasury must be considered.

7. I cannot agree with Mr. Chase that Sepoys either at Bezwadah or Condapilly would protect this place, nor do I think Bezwadah or Condapilly require Sepoys, but I believe there must be a force in Juggiapettah commanded by an European Officer, for in the present instance, had any Officer been present, he would have sent out scouts to see all was clear, and probably barricaded the gate so close to the Cutcherry.

8. I respectfully and earnestly request Government will direct that a Sibbundy Corps, similar in every way to the Golconda Sibbundy force, be raised for this District. The Officers and their recruits could at once be stationed in Juggiapettah, and would be ample for its protection. I would, when the Corps was sufficiently organized, have a Detachment at Razapore, and so save the Regular Troops. An active and intelligent Commanding Officer such as Captain Owen in Vizagapatam and speaking Telugu, should be appointed, and I feel confident this will be an effectual measure, and is suited to the country, and the enemies to be guarded against.

9. The expense of the Golconda Sibbundy Corps is 1,118 Rupees a month, and at present Government are paying 670 Rupees monthly for extra Peons. I may observe however that a Staff Serjeant on 40 Rupees a month would be required to command the Detachment at Razapore. I think also a communication should be opened from Juggiapettah to Razapore direct, such as armed troops could travel at night.

10. Till this or such arrangement as Government may deem necessary, is made, I trust an European Officer and 45 Sepoys as at present may be retained in Juggiapettah.

11. I think the inhabitants of Juggiapettah should be required to contribute a sum of money which might be expended on buildings for the Officers, and guard house, and any simple defences an Engineer Officer might suggest towards rendering the town more easily defended against sudden attacks.

(Signed) T. J. KNOX,
Acting Magistrate.

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From M. C. CHASE, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate of Masulipatam; to T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Masulipatam, dated Juggiapettah, 20th November 1857, No. 109.

Sir,

1. In continuation of my letter No. 99, dated 8th Instant, I have the honor to state that I arrived in Juggiapettah on Sunday morning 15th Idem with Lieutenant Hurst and the Detachment of 30 Sepoys of 7th Regiment N. I., under his command.

2. On the following morning I made a careful inspection of the Talook Cutcherry, the streets through which the Rohillas passed and of many of the shops that had been broken into and plundered. I have also taken depositions from all such persons as I considered able to afford me any information regarding the attack of the Rohillas, an abstract of which I have appended to this report.

3. It appears that on the night previous to the attack, the Head of Police received information to the effect that a large body of Rohillas contemplated an attack upon the town. He adopted such measures as he was able, to place the town in a state of preparation, posting matchlock Peons at the several gates and warning the Havildar of the Detachment of Sepoys to be on his guard. This Detachment consisted of 2 Havildar, two Naicks and 19 Sepoys of 9th Regiment N. I., who on receiving the warning of the Head of Police stationed themselves in the Talook Cutcherry where they remained till morning. The night passed off quietly, but at daybreak shots were heard at the Sheir Mahommudpettah gate of the town, which is within 100 yards of the Cutcherry and the Peons posted at the gate shouted out "the Rohillas are coming," some villagers also told the Sepoys of their approach. It does not appear that the Peons at the aforesaid gate offered any opposition to the Rohillas, at all events if they did, it was a very ineffectual one. The Rohillas passed them and proceeded to the front of the Cutcherry, when the Havildar there called out to them not to advance or enter the Cutcherry as it was a Government one: he was merely answered by a volley from the Rohillas. It is not very clear whether the Sepoys were loaded at this time or not; but one thing is certain from the depositions of the Sepoys that they did not load when warned by the Head of Police of the probability of an attack, and from the Havildar's exclamation to the Rohillas he appears to have thought they were not daring enough to attack a Government Treasury guarded by Sepoys and therefore he took it for granted they would not. He was quickly undeceived, for he was almost at the first onset struck by a bullet in the temple and fell dead. The Sepoys say they fired on the Rohillas as soon as they were attacked, and kept up the fire until all their ammunition (12 rounds a man) was expended; that the Rohillas in the mean time surrounded the Cutcherry, fired in at them from behind and from all sides and pouring in, overpowered them, and then proceeded to plunder the cash-chest, &c., that their lives were spared only on the interposition of the leader of the Rohillas, who prevented the Sepoys from being injured, saying that in firing upon them, they had merely done what they were bound to do.

4. The main evidence upon which the above facts are based is the evidence of the Sepoys and Peons who were in the Cutcherry during the affray and who naturally would give such a relation of what occurred as would reflect their own conduct in the most favorable light, but this evidence is corroborated by that of others who were not present but who heard the firing &c., and the walls of the opposite houses afford sufficient proof, that the Sepoys made good use of their muskets as long as their ammunition (a very small supply) lasted; the fact also of the Rohillas finding their way to the rear of the Cutcherry may be received as a proof that they met with opposition in attempting to effect an entrance in the front. It is difficult to reconcile the result of their fire; (two killed, perhaps many wounded and escaped) with the quantity of ammunition expended, but they labored under many disadvantages, out-numbered as they were by about 30 to 1; they do not seem to have loaded till too late; they saw the Havildar fall, the two Naiks and another Sepoy quickly follow his fate, and taken by surprise as it must be admitted they were; I conclude they fired at random, the building moreover is one ill adapted for the purposes of defence and in addition to its unfitness in this respect, at the foot of the outer wall was heaped a pile of rubbish and tiles and slabs of stone which afforded the Rohillas a step whereon to stand, whereas the wall on the interior side was of such height that the Sepoys could not fire over it upon the Rohillas. Their only resource therefore was to retreat into the Cutcherry itself; when they were fired into from behind, and that they were there subjected to a hot fire is evident from the numerous marks of bullets on every part of the Cutcherry, which speak well for the defence made by them. The place was too small and too quickly crowded to enable the Sepoys to use there bayonets with effect. Their evidence to this point is conflicting; they may have presented their bayonets, but I believe they did not charge or use them. Had they done so they would not have failed to shew the blood stains on the bayonets, but I observed none. I am willing to believe, they had not an opportunity or that the space did not admit of their using their bayonets.

5. Before visiting the Cutcherry, I was impressed with a belief that the Sepoys offered but a feeble resistance, that after firing a few shots, they allowed the Rohillas to enter and occupy the Cutcherry and that they stood passively by while the cash chest was plundered, merely from the fact of so many of them surviving and being unwounded, but for the reasons detailed above, I have arrived at a different opinion and I feel satisfied that they did all, that a similar number of Sepoys, under similar circumstances could do.

6. The attack on the Treasury was the least part of the mischief inflicted by the Rohillas, the deposit there Rupees 1,934-4-9 was fortunately comparatively a small one, but 78 shops were broken into, and it is estimated that upwards of a lac of Rupees was carried off. The Merchants are said to have thrown money to the robbers to avoid their shops and houses being broken into. On my arrival at Juggiahpettah, I found the town, the 3rd largest in the district, nearly deserted and it will be long before confidence is restored and any feeling of security returns.

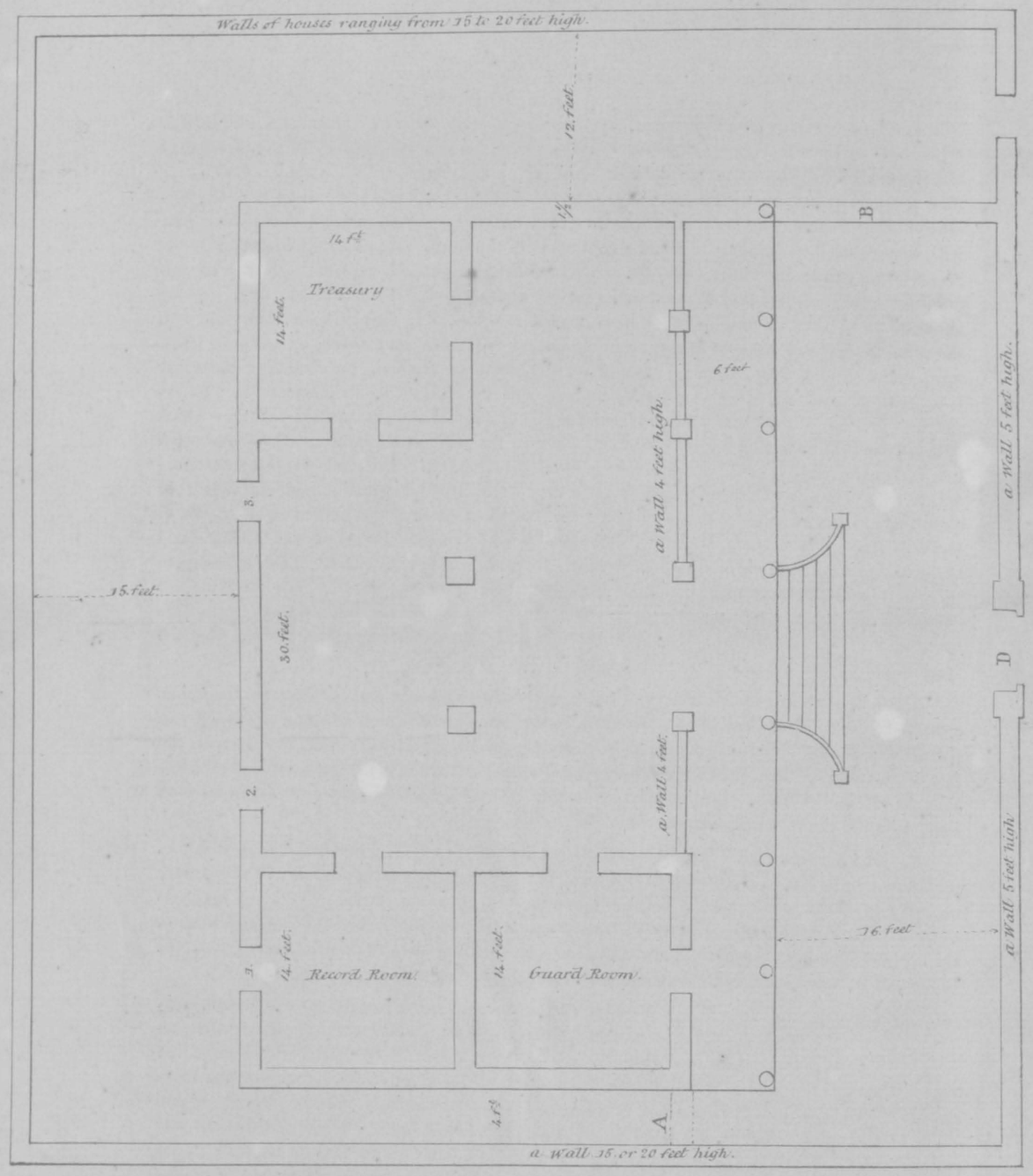
Vide para. 2 of Lieut. Col. Davidson's letter No. 1441, dated 17th November 1857.

7. A consideration of the above facts leads to one conclusion, viz., that of the insecurity of the town from plunder, notwithstanding the presence of a Havildar and 21 Sepoys and a large number of Peons, the Talook Cutcherry, a plan of which I subjoin, may be rendered more secure, by moving the three small windows Nos. 1, 2, 3, in the rear to a height sufficient to prevent persons from firing and climbing into them. The small space marked A should be built up to a height of 10 or 12 feet as should also the wall B, the latter wall being loopholed for muskets; a body of Rohillas would thereby be subject to a hot fire before they approached the Cutcherry and prevented from surrounding it or entering by the rear. I have caused the rubbish to be removed from the outer base of the wall and the slabs of stones placed on the interior side. A strong solid gate instead of the present wicket should be placed at D. These alterations which would be made at a trifling charge of from 25 to 30 Rupees, would enable a few determined men well supplied with ammuni-

I have had an estimate made of the probable expence of these alterations, which I enclose herewith.

tion to keep at bay almost any number that might attempt to enter the Cutcherry,

Plan of the Talook Cutcherry.



ON TRANSFER PAPER BY C. RAJAHGOPAL. LITH. BY J. DEMPSEY, GOVT. LITHO. PRESS, CENTRAL OFFICE OF P.W. FORT ST. GEORGE.

But this is not the only precaution necessary. A larger force than a Havildar's guard is required to protect a town situated as Juggiahpettah is, on the frontier of the District 90 miles distant from any station of troops. It is a place of great trade and wealth and has frequently been attacked, the Government Treasury there having been plundered by Rohillas so recently as 13th

July 1855, when 5,948¼ Rupees was carried off. At that time a Company of Sepoys was stationed at Condapully, and aid was readily available, but this Detachment was withdrawn at an early part of this year. I brought to the notice of the authorities the inadvisability of its removal and urged its detention, but without effect. In June, the Head of Police of Juggiahpettah reported to me the proximity to that town of a body of Rohillas when the present Detachment consisting of a Havildar and 20 Sepoys was sent, and 15 extra peons were appointed to guard the Treasury.

8. During the past Moharum, a Detachment of Sepoys was stationed at Bezoarah, but soon after withdrawn without a reference on the subject being made to me. I have always been of opinion that a Company of Sepoys should be permanently stationed in the subdivision, and a Company has been so stationed in Condapully as long as the British have held the country until the present year, when Condapully was discovered to be an unhealthy station, this discovery which might have furnished a ground for removing the Detachment to Juggiahpettah or Bezoarah as I then urged, was made use of as one for its removal altogether from the subdivision. The Police Peons are wholly and altogether inefficient, and cannot be spoken of as any protective force whatever, even aided by 21 Sepoys; the late daring attack shews the estimation held by the Rohillas of our means of resisting them, when they are bent on plunder.

9. If the Treasury at Juggiahpettah is to be rendered secure from periodical attacks of Rohillas, and if the inhabitants are to live in the consciousness that their lives and property are protected, then no force less than a full Company of Sepoys with its European Officers, should be *permanently* stationed at Juggiahpettah, and so anxious are the merchants for this protection, that they offer to build a dwelling house for the Officer. I know that many objections will quickly be raised to such a proposition, but the question whether Juggiahpettah is to be protected or abandoned? will answer such. An adequate force permanently stationed here would not only protect the town, but also Nundegamah and the Talook of Guntoor adjacent to Juggiahpettah; Bezoarah should also have a separate Detachment or thirty men from the Veteran Battalion stationed at Guntoor would, I believe be sufficient. A Company of Sappers and Miners under a European Officer was stationed there until the end of last July; it is now without any means of defence, although there is a Talook Treasury, and an impression exists that the anicut Treasury contains a large sum of money

10. To bring out Sepoys from Head Quarters, a distance of 90 miles, by forced marches, entails a great amount of extra duty and expence upon the men, and is moreover attended with no satisfactory results, for it is shutting the stable door after the horse is stolen, whereas to station them permanently for a fixed period of six months or one year, imposes no hardship upon them as they would be then accompanied by their families, but if it is beyond the bounds of possibility to furnish such a force, then the only alternative is to entertain Rohillas to undertake this duty; there is a kind of honor among these thieves, which they scrupulously regard, and were they paid for guarding the Treasury on the frontier, they would faithfully do so. One or other of these propositions should be adopted, for common justice demands that a Government should protect its subjects, however little regard it may pay to the security of its public Treasuries.

(Signed) M. C. CHASE,
Acting Joint Magistrate.

P. S. Subsequently to writing the above, I received your demi-official letter dated 16th November, in which you recommended me not to comment in my report on the conduct of the Sepoys during the affray, and to call on Lieutenant Hurst to do so. However Lieutenant Hurst had submitted to Head Quarters his opinion on that subject, and I found it necessary to enter at some length upon the conduct of the Sepoys, to shew that notwithstanding the creditable resistance made to the attack of the Rohillas; they were overpowered, and the Treasury was plundered, such a fact affording strong evidence of the inadequacy of the guard, and the necessity of a stronger one.

(Signed) M. C. CHASE,
Acting Joint Magistrate.

Abstract of Depositions.

No. 1.

Deposition of Syed Gouleb, Sepoy No. 44, 1st Company of 9th Regiment N. I., 11th November 1857.

That on the morning of the 7th Instant, seven hundred Rohillas came in at the Sheir-Mahommudpettah gate to the Talook Cutcherry; then the peons of the gate shouted out saying "the Rohillas are coming;" then Sheik Badur, a Sepoy hearing the noise warned the Sepoys of the Cutcherry; then 19 Sepoys, 2 Naiks and one Havildar got ready and loaded their muskets, and that the Havildar then told the Sepoys to shoot, the Rohillas being close before the gate, from whence the Havildar got a ball in the forehead and was killed, and a Sepoy Mahommed Khan got a ball in the neck and died in the evening, and Naik Mahommed Cassim was wounded in the belly and also died in the evening; Rungiah, 2nd Naik was beaten with a knife on the hands and the right finger and also got a ball in the belly and was killed, that they robbed the earrings of the Sepoys and broke 9 of the Sepoys' muskets and the Peons' muskets. Some of the Rohillas went to the bazar and robbed from some of the shops. Deponent does not know from how many; others in the Cutcherry broke open the cash chest and robbed the contents and a box of the Havildar containing 700 Rupees and robbed the gold neck-rings and ear-rings of the Havildar and the cloths and dress of the other Sepoys. During the affray the Sepoys shot and killed one Rohilla, another died 20 fathoms distance, one was killed in the Mauraddy street, another near the Mittagoodem gate by a Sircar Peon and one Soucar was shot, a horse of the Rohillas also was killed by the Peons. Deponent heard that a Peon made prisoner of a Banion who came with the Rohillas. A Duffadar and 2 Peons were present in the Talook Cutcherry during the affray, that the Tahsildar came to the Cutcherry with some Poens at 12 P. M., and warned the Havildar of the coming of the Rohillas, who (the Havildar) ordered the muskets to be got ready but not to be loaded. Deponent also states that the Tahsildar came to the Cutcherry with 21 Peons at night, who (Peons) remained in the Cutcherry all night, but before 6 A. M., the Duffadar told the Peons to go to their houses and wash and return, that they went away, and in the interview the Rohillas came; that 1 Duffadar, 2 Peons and 19 Sepoys, Havildar and two Naiks were in the Cutcherry; when the Rohillas came that the Tahsildar was not present. Deponent's brother was wounded in the neck and Deponent went into the bazar to get some medicine and the Rohillas remained in the town till 10 o'clock and returned by the Sheir Mahommudpettah gate; that 21 muskets of the Mutrasa people and 10 of the extra Peons and 4 English muskets were broken, that each Sepoy had 12 rounds of ball cartridge, all of which was fired off, and then that they remained quiet, that they did not use their bayonets or charge.

No. 2.

Deposition of Sabbaputy No. 610, 1st Company of 9th Regiment N. I.

That the Head of Police the night previously warned the Havildar of the approach of the Rohillas and told the guard to be on the watch, that Havildar ordered the Sepoys to be all present at the Cutcherry and the Head of Police posted Peons at the gates. Before day-light 10 or 20 villagers came to the Cutcherry and said the Rohillas were coming; firing was heard at the gate either by the Rohillas or Peons (Deponent) does not know, that the Havildar ordered the Sepoys to load; on the Rohillas coming in front of the Cutcherry, the Havildar said "this is the Government Cutcherry you must not come inside," the Rohillas answered by firing 100 or 200 shots. The Sepoys fired also upon the Rohillas till they expended all their cartridges (12 rounds each,) that the Havildar fired 2 or 3 times, and was then shot through the temple. One Sepoy also was hit in the neck and was killed, and one Naik Rungiah was wounded in the belly and on the hand, and Naik Mahommed Cassim was wounded in the belly, both of whom died in the evening, that the Rohillas surrounded the Cutcherry and fired into it upon the Sepoys from all sides, that the Sepoys fired away all their cartridges, killing one Rohilla outright and wounding others; that the Sepoys then used their bayonets, but the Rohillas beat down their muskets and entered into the Treasury and opening the cash-chest, plundered its contents, that when one Syed Hoossain was wounded, the Jemadar of Rohillas told his men not to injure the Sepoys. The Head of Police came up after the Rohillas left the place, that the Rohillas robbed the Sepoys of their earrings and boat-cloaks.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th December 1857.

3rd Deposition.

Chinniah Sepoy, 1108, 1st Company Sepoy.

Deposed that the Head of Police came at mid-night to the Cutcherry and advised the Havildar to be on his guard, as Rohillas were reported to be coming; that the Havildar ordered all the Sepoys to be present, but did not order them to load; that at 6 A. M., some villagers came to the Cutcherry saying Rohillas were coming, that the Peons at the Sheir-Mahommudpettah gate prevented them, but the Rohillas overcame them and advanced to the Cutcherry, that at that time a Peon at the gate fired at the Rohillas, that then the Havildar ordered the Sepoys to load, and when the Rohillas appeared, he told them not to enter the Cutcherry as it was a Circar building, that the Havildar then went to the gate and shut the door, when the Rohillas fired into the Cutcherry, that the Havildar and Sepoys then fired upon the Rohillas, the Rohillas retaliating and hitting the Havildar by a musket shot in the temple, the two Naiks also fired and in turn were fired on and shot; some Rohillas also came behind the Cutcherry and fired into it; that the Sepoys fired off all their ammunition (12 rounds) when the Rohillas entered the Cutcherry and overpowered the Sepoys and Peons and broke open the cash chest and took the contents; that when they entered the Cutcherry, the Sepoys presented their bayonets to them, but the Rohillas beat them down with axes and sticks and one Syed Hoossain (a Sepoy) was wounded by a knife, but the rest of the Sepoys were spared on the Jemadar of Rohillas calling out to the rest not to injure the Sepoys; that 1 Duffadar and 7 Peons were at that time in the Cutcherry with the Sepoys; that the Tahsildar was not present during the affray, being in the Muttagoodem village; that 10 or 12 Rohillas were wounded by the Sepoys, one being killed opposite to the Cutcherry, one near the Cutcherry one in the Merchants' street and one in the Mittagoodem village; that during the affray the Rohillas plundered every thing from the Sepoys, viz., earrings, boat cloaks. brass pots, &c., &c.

Depositions Nos. 4, 5 and 6.

Venkatasawmy, Sepoy No. 1506, 1st Company of 9th Regiment N. I.

Peddiah, Sepoy 1843, 1st Company of 9th Regiment N. I.

Marian Sepoy, 1380, 1st Company of 9th Regiment N. I.

Corroborate the statements of the former Sepoys as to the Head of Police warning them of the approach of Rohillas, the attack at day-break and to the details of the affray as deposed to by them.

Peddiah adding that he saw 7th Deponent struck by bullets while holding the Jemadar of Rohillas' horse and also that when the Rohillas entered the Cutcherry they pushed the Sepoys therefrom.

Deposition No. 7.

Teperesetty Nagiah, inhabitant of Nagooloor of the Nizam's Territory.

Deposed that 15 days before the robbery of the Rohillas, he was going from Nagaloor to Naullacharoovoo with his bullock, when near Kristnapoorum, Mohadeenkhan, Jemadar of Hanoomunta Rowpettah caught him and told him to accompany him and others to carry their baggage, that he did not consent, but the Jemadar forcibly detained him and brought him to Juggiahpettah. Rohillas compelled him to hold his (Jemadar's) horse near the Talook Cutcherry, that Jaufer Khan another Jemadar and some Rohillas who were living in Kristnapoorum, Naullacheroovoo, Tarakapully, Hanoomunta Rowpettah, Mandhavarum came to Hanoomunta Rowpettah, but that he (Deponent) is unable to state the names of the Rohillas or to give a discriptive roll of them, but that he can point out the Rohillas of the Hanoomunta Rowpettah village, that some people of the Atkara caste accompanied the Rohillas; that when he was near the Cutcherry he was wounded in his legs by some bullets; that Mohadeen Khan offered Deponent 4 Rupees a month for his services, none of which Deponent has received; that the Rohillas carried away the property they plundered on 3 bullocks and 20 horses; that they carried him (Deponent) to Dubbakupully whence he was unable to walk; that the villagers there caught him and sent him to Juggiahpettah.

Deponent further states that when the Rohillas first approached Juggiapettah, they came to Callair, thence to Googaloo, where they crossed the river and went to the Condapoorum village, thence to Anoomoocondah Vinnoogundala where some Arabs opposed the Rohillas, but the 2nd Jemadar Jaufer Khan spoke to and quieted them, that from Vinnoogundala the Rohillas came to Juggiahpettah.

Deposition No. 8.

Syed Mausum, extra Police Peon.

That on the night in question, the Head of Police stationed 6 additional Peons at the Sheir Mahommudpettah gate, who remained watching till day-break, 4 of the Peons then went away, one (9th Deponent) going to the Cutcherry, one to the Tahsildar, this last Peon was shot by the Rohillas in the town, that Deponent and another Peon were present, when the mob of about 300 Rohillas approached the gate; that he (Deponent) went to the front of the Rohillas and told them not to enter the town, that without heeding him they advanced and Deponent observed another mob of 200 Rohillas behind them, that he (Deponent) then fired into the Rohillas, who responded, and 4 Rohillas came towards him, when he escaped outside of the town; that the Peon who was with him reported the approach of the Rohillas to Sepoys in the Cutcherry.

Deposition No. 9.

Sheik Hoossain, extra Police Peon, corroborates the above statement.

Deposition No. 10.

Moottooshashoo, extra Peon.

That he was stationed to guard the Hydrabad gate, heard the noise of firing in the Cutcherry, went towards there when 10 Rohillas came towards him, that Deponent fired upon them and hit one Rohilla when the rest pushed him out of the gate, the Deputy Tahsildar being present when he (Deponent) fired on the Rohillas; that the Rohillas then returned to the town; that a Peon named Sheik Hoossain (11th Deponent) brought a knife and cut off the Rohilla's head that was fallen; that afterwards he met 4 Rohillas, one of whom fired and hit Deponent through the leg.

Deposition No. 11.

Sheik Hoossain, Police Peon.

Deposed that he accompanied the Head of Police to the Cutcherry at mid-night, that Head of Police ordered him (Deponent) to take a musket, that 12 Peons were at that time in the Cutcherry, but only three were present when the Rohillas came, the rest having gone for the purposes of nature; when he saw the Rohillas were coming, he went to his brother's house to get a sword and returned, that finding one Rohilla lying wounded, he cut off his head and took his sword and shield; that a Revenue Duffadar Soobbaroydoo came there; that the Mohataud of the town searched the person of the Rohillas and found a silver ring and 3 gold jewels, and 2 silver hand-rings which he made over to the Revenue Duffadar; that the Deputy Tahsildar then came there.

Deposition No. 12.

Dubbakoopully Sheik Hoossain.

Deposed that he and 5 other Peons were on guard at the Cutcherry on the night of 6th Instant, that on next morning, the Duffadar told him to report to the Head of Police that the Rohillas were coming in at the gate, that he met the Head of Police in the bazar who told him (Deponent) to get Peons from the neighbouring villages, when Deponent returned to the Cutcherry, a mob of Rohillas were inside and around the Cutcherry, he could not therefore ente it, that 18 Sepoys also were in the Cutcherry.

Deposition No. 13.

Mahommud Cassim, extra Peon.

That on the night of 6th Instant, he was watching in the Cutcherry with the Duffadar and 6 other Peons, that the Head of Police came to the Cutcherry at mid-night and reported that Rohillas were coming, that on the following morning the Head of Police brought 21 matchlock Peons from the village and placed them in the Cutcherry, the Head of Police going away,

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th December 1857.

these 21 Peons also were going away for the purposes of nature, keeping their muskets in the Cutcherry, that 9th Deponent afterwards reported that the Rohillas were coming, on which the Havildar ordered the Sepoys to be ready, and one Sepoy by name Mahajid Khan who was on the look out near the Cutcherry gate, fired at the Rohillas, and then went into the Cutcherry, the Havildar and Lingappah, a Peon went to the gate and shut it, the mob of Rohillas then came in front of the Cutcherry and fired, the Sepoys and Peons returned the fire till their cartridges were expended, that the Havildar was shot and two Naiks were hit, and died in the course of the day, that as one Rohilla endeavored to break the gate with an axe, Deponent fired and hit the Rohilla on the shoulder, that some Rohillas came behind the Cutcherry and fired into the Cutcherry, that they broke the muskets by sticks, and axes; that the Jemadar of the Rohillas told the rest not to injure the Sepoys, that the Rohillas carried off some of the muskets both from the Sepoys and the Peons and sent them into the street, that Lingappa an extra Peon (No. 14, Deponent) fired and killed a Rohilla.

Deposition No. 14.

Lingappa, extra Peon.

Deposed that on the night of 6th Instant, he with 7 other Peons and a Duffadar were at the Talook Cutcherry on the morning he heard firing at the Sheir Mahommudpettah gate, soon after which, the Rohillas approached the Cutcherry when the Havildar ordered the Sepoys to fire and the Duffadar also ordered his Peons to fire; that the Havildar was shot after firing 4 or 5 rounds, that he (Deponent) fired on the Rohilla who shot the Havildar and killed him, that after expending all their cartridges the Rohillas entered into the Cutcherry and disarmed the Peons and Sepoys and broke their muskets and pushed them into the street, that the Head of Police had warned the Sepoys at mid-night to be on their guard as Rohillas were coming.

Deposition No. 15.

Duffadar Venkatanaroosoo.

Deposed that he was watching in the Cutcherry on the night of 6th Instant, that Head of Police came at mid-night and called him (Deponent) to the gate saying Rohillas were coming and ordered him to send 4 more Peons to the Sheir Mahommudpettah gate, which he did, at day-break the Head of Police went to his house and Deponent accompanied him and returned to the talook Cutcherry, that at 6 A. M. a Peon cried out "a mob was coming," that Deponent went outside and looked, that a Sepoy (Deponent No. 19) was on guard at the gate of the Cutcherry, that Deponent and Lingappa (Deponent No. 14) shut it, that the Rohillas fired first, that at that time 6 Sepoys and 1 Naik were loaded and fired, that as soon as the Rohillas came, they told the Sepoys and Peons to go outside, but the Havildar said it is a public Cutcherry, do not come inside; that the Rohillas bobbed or crouched behind the wall when the Sepoys fired, the Havildar was soon shot and Lingappa (14th deponent,) fired and killed the Rohilla who shot the Havildar; that the Sepoys and Peons fired till their cartridges were expended; that the Rohillas then entered and told Duffadar to shew the Head of Police and the Treasury, but he would not do, then the Rohilla pushed him outside of the gate, that Havildar, 2 Naiks and a Sepoy were killed.

Deposition No. 16.

Mohajid Khan, Sepoy, 1247, 1st Company 9th Regiment N. I.

Deposed that on the morning in question he stood in the street before the gate of the Cutcherry, on being told the Rohillas were coming; that firing was heard at the Sheir Mahommudpettah gate when the Havildar ordered the Sepoys to load; that up to 5½ A. M. Sheik Baubun (19th Deponent) stood sentry in the street; that the Havildar shut the Cutcherry compound gate; that when the Rohillas advanced, the Havildar told them "it is a public Cutcherry, don't come here;" that they said they had come for plunder; that the Havildar fired three times, then fell; that a Sepoy and two Naiks were afterwards killed; that he (Deponent) fired 12 cartridges as did the other Sepoys; that they presented their bayonets, but the Rohillas had surrounded and filled the Cutcherry and broke their muskets with axes and robbed the Treasury; that the Rohillas then attempted to kill the Sepoys, but their Jemadar told them not to do so; that he (Deponent) was struck by a stone on the chest.

Deposition No. 17.

G. Seetiah, Soucar.

That on night of 6th Instant, 2 persons came from Nalacondapully to T. Venkanah's house saying that 400 Rohillas were halted near that village; that he and some other Soucars went and told this to the Head of Police, who was present at a festival at the Pagoda; that the Head of Police thence went to the Cutcherry and warned the Sepoys and Duffadar stationed there, and also informed the servants of the Mauraudies and Peons; that 4 extra Peons were kept at the Sheir Mahommudpettah gate and others sent to patrol the Town: that the banions then returned to their houses; that at 3 A. M. two other persons came from Nalacondapully saying a mob of 700 Rohillas were advancing; that the Head of Police assembled the Soucars and told them to be on the watch; that the Rohillas came into the town at day-light, and robbed the Cutcherry, that he heard 200 or more shots fired there shewing the space of 24 minutes, that he (Deponent) was robbed of 10,000 Rupees.

Deposition No. 18.

Sreeram Dausiah, a Soucar.

Corroborates the statement of former witness in nearly the same words and adds that 2 Peons out of six kept by the Mauruady merchants were shot by the Rohillas.

Deposition No. 19.

Sheik Bobbin, a Sepoy No. 851, 1st Company 9th Regiment N. I.

Corroborates the statement of 16th deponent, viz. that he (Sheik Bobbin) stood sentry in the gate from 4 till 5½ A. M., that on the villagers then reporting that the Rohillas were approaching, the Havildar ordered him to come inside the Cutcherry; that 16th Deponent also was in the street but not on sentry duty; that the Havildar shut the gate. (N. B.—Deponents Nos. 14 and 15 state they shut the gate); Sheik Bobbin further states no one fired till the Havildar gave the order. N. B.—this contradicts statement of 13th Deponent who stated that Majeed Khan (16th Deponent) fired and then went into the Cutcherry.

Deposition No. 20 *of Head of Police.*

That on night of 6th Instant a festival took place at the Pagoda where he was present, was told by G. Seetiah and S. Dausiah (Deponents Nos. 17 and 18) that they had received information from Nalacondapully that 400 or 500 Rohillas were coming thence; that he and the Deputy Tahsildar then went to the Cutcherry and told the guard there to be on the watch; that he sent more Peons to the Sheir Mahommudpettah gate, and that again at 4 A. M. he went to the Cutcherry, where the Duffadar and some Peons and all the Sepoys were present; that he heard the firing which lasted about an hour; that the deposit in the Treasury amounted to Rupees 1,900 and odd.

Deposition No. 21.

Deputy Tahsildar.

That on night of 6th Instant, at 2 A. M. he was told that Rohillas were coming into the bazar, he therefore went to the Cutcherry where he saw the Tahsildar who warned their Sepoys (21) and the Peons there and placed extra guards at the gates of the town; that after 6 A. M. while he was in his house, he heard the firing, but was unable to go to the Cutcherry as the Rohillas had entered therein and were in the streets, that two Rohillas passed near the Mittagoodem gate when 10th Deponent fired and one Rohilla fell, and 11th Deponent went and cut off his head.

Deposition No. 22,

Cutwall who was *not* present at Juggiapettah at the time, states he heard on his return to the Town that not more than 5 or 6 Sepoys were in the Cutcherry when the Rohillas came and during the affray, and names one Venkatappah, a Banion, as his authority for a such a statement.

Deposition No. 23.

P. Venkatachellum who was cited by 22nd Deponent to corroborate his statement merely stated, that when the loot occurred, he bolted his door and went away to the Mooktialah gate, does not know who were in the Cutcherry at the time of the affray.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th December 1857.

Deposition No. 24.

Jagannaikloo, Hoozoor Daloyet.

That he went with 22nd Deponent to house of C. Venkatappa; on his return saw Ram Ruck (25th Deponent) that he and 22nd Deponent went near to him and the latter asked the 25th Deponent concerning the affray, when the 25th Deponent said only the Havildar and a few Sepoys were present, if all had been present, it would have been well.

Deposition No. 25.

Ram Ruck states, that after the affray, he heard from villagers that only few Sepoys were present at the Cutcherry, which statement he repeated to the Cutwall, but he cannot identify or say who said so.

N. B.—Venkatapah, Banion, cited by 22nd Deponent was not in the town and could not be found.

Remarks.

With regard to the testimony of the 22nd Deponent, it must be admitted it wears an air of probability, for it is difficult to believe that the Sepoys fired 252 rounds of ball cartridges into a mob close to them with the result of only one killed. I believe they were present in the Cutcherry all night but many may have left at day-light when the Peons did and for the same purpose; if only 6 Sepoys were present, it speaks very highly for the resistance they made, five being killed and one wounded, and no blame can be attached to the remaining Sepoys, who after watching all night, left the Cutcherry only at day-light, after all fear of an attack seemed to have passed. It is also more easy to believe that the 18 Sepoys who survived were not in the Cutcherry, than that their lives were spared on the interposition of the Chief of Rohillas, for the Rohillas would naturally be so exasperated at the resistance, that they would not have left them uninjured. It was also easy to make marks on the opposite houses to resemble those of bullets. I have carefully sought evidence on this point without success; that of 22nd Deponent is merely hearsay and uncorroborated by any other. However probable therefore it may appear to be, the previous 21 depositions cannot be set aside, and regarded as false fabrications on such grounds alone.

Masulipatam, Joint Magistrate's Court, at Juggiapettah, 20th November 1857.

(Signed) M. C. CHASE,
Acting Joint Magistrate.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, No. 1594; dated 8th December 1857.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has learnt with deep concern the occurrences of which a detailed report is forwarded with the above letter. The town of Juggiahpettah has been attacked by a large band of armed Rohillas, the Havildar, two Naicks and one Sepoy of the guard on duty at the Cutcherry were killed, the Treasury plundered and private property stated to be of the value of more than a lac of Rupees carried off.

2. A report of this daring inroad has already been made to the Resident at Hyderabad, and his active exertions solicited for the detection and punishment of the marauders. Copy of the Magistrate's letter and its accompaniments will now be sent to Major Davidson, for his information.

3. As suggested by Mr. Knox, the Commissioner for the Masulipatam Zillah will proceed at once to Juggiahpet, there to try under Act XIV of 1857, all parties who may be committed to him as implicated in the robbery. The Government authorize the grant of a special pardon to the Bullock-man on condition of his making full disclosure of all the facts within his knowledge, and giving all the information in his power regarding the members of the gang. As the case falls under Act XIV, 1857, no reference to the Foujdaree is required.

4. Pending the measures which it is trusted will now very shortly be carried out for the re-organization of the Mofussil Police generally, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is not prepared to sanction the enrolment of a Sibbundi Corps in the Masulipatam District, and

he cannot but remark that the attack now under report, might have been prevented or repulsed, had the Magistrate acted upon the authority given him* for the entertainment temporarily of an additional Police for the defence of his frontier.

*Demi-officially, 22nd July last.

5. These papers will be referred to the Military Department, for further consideration there

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secrrtaey.

No. 39. From T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George; to the Resident at Hyderabad, dated 8th December 1857, No. 1595

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of the 20th Ultimo, No. 1512, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward for your information copy of a report, relative to an attack made on the Town of Juggiapettah by a large band of armed Rohillas, submitted by the Acting Magistrate of Masulipatam, under date the 24th Ultimo, with the Proceedings of this Government thereon.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge

Judicial Department

No. 1595

To

The Resident at Hyderabad

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 20th Ultimo No. 1512 I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward for your information copy of a report, relative to an attack made on the town of Juggiapettah by a large band of armed Rohillas, submitted by the Acting Magistrate of Masulipatam under date the 24th Ultimo with the Proceedings of this Government thereon.

Fort St. George
8 Dec 57.

Chief Secretary

Entered with Ltr dated 21st Dec 57

Judl Dept Ltr to Engr 2d March
No 2 of 1858 - Para 15

239/58 A

4 of 62

37 @ 39

In Cons. 8th Decr
Judicial 85th Dispatch

No. 1595

To
The Resident at
Hyderabad

5th December/57.

Forwards for information copy of a report relative to an attack made on the Town of Juggiahpettah by a large band of armed Rohillas with the proceedings of this Govt thereon