

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 163

Press
~~Mis.~~

5-6

Dated 10 - 2 - 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 10th February 1857.

No. 5. Read the following letter from WILLIAM KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor, Ganjam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Chicacole, 23rd January 1857, No. 38.

SIR,

1st. I have read with much pain and regret the censure passed on me by the Honorable Court of Directors in their Despatch dated the 5th November 1856, furnished with Extract Minutes of Consultation, under date 6th Instant, I beg leave most respectfully to submit a more detailed account of what took place at the time the Dundaseena made his escape, as I trust it will prove to the satisfaction of the Honorable Court and this Government, that I did not neglect to take common precautions for the due custody of this important State Prisoner.

2nd. That there was but one Peon in charge of the Dundaseena, I fully admit, but that such was the case, was in direct contradiction to my written order to the Jemadar of Peons. In it, I directed him to keep the Gomah Bissoye and the Dundaseena under a suitable or sufficient guard of Peons, (the word used in Telugu was తాగినా "tagina.") The Jemadar was a man of some standing in the office, and had borne a good character, and I had every reason to expect he would have carried out my orders; had he informed me that he had not Peons enough to watch these Prisoners, I would at once have given him more, even had I weakened other guards. He did come into Cutcherry and asked leave to keep them in the Cutcherry during the day, this I could not allow, as there was no empty room in which they could be placed, our space being very circumscribed, this however satisfied me, that he was aware of the responsible charge committed to him, but I was, I confess, completely deceived, so little attention did the Jemadar pay to the Prisoners, that he did not even take the trouble to see them locked up at night as ordered, thus giving the Dundaseena 12 hours start of his pursuers, and it appears to me that he has tacitly admitted his guilt, as he has made no appeal against his dismissal from the Service.

3rd. It may be said that I ought to have named the number of Peons to be employed on this duty, but such I have generally found unnecessary, for in most cases the number put on guard over persons of notoriety is far more than is actually necessary, and lastly, I felt it would not be right in me to confine in the Jail, and subject men of such position among their own people against whom no actual crime was proved, to the risk of infection and death for the very fright of being locked up in the Cholera tainted house, from which I had been obliged to remove the Convicts might have brought on the disease.

4th. I would beg that this explanation which will I hope be considered satisfactory, may be submitted to the Court, and that I may be relieved from censure.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, No. 163; dated 7th February 1857.

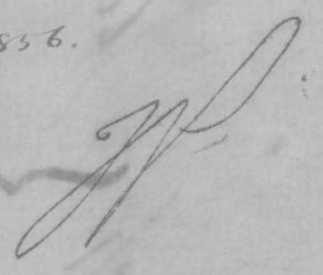
Resolved that the above letter be brought to the notice of the Honorable Court, with reference to their Despatch of 5th November, No. 16 of 1856.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 103

Resolved that the above letter be
brought to the notice of the Council
Court with reference to the despatch
of 5th Nov. No. 16 of 1856.

For G. S. George,
104/105 7th February 1857



J.C. No. 46
6/1/57
Jud. Lr to Sup No. 16
9-6-57
Recd to in No. 106 1859/8

Copy to the Genl. Agent.
Ganjam } despatched 9th Feb/57