

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th April 1857.

Read the following papers.

No. 48. From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated 27th March 1857, No. 51.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward further translations* of Depositions taken from parties implicated in the "Six Island murder" and returned coolies.

I regret that delay has occurred in consequence of the difficulty of getting translations speedily made.

Captain Roman Rodriguez has been fined under Act XIV of 1839 in the sum of 1,200 Rupees by the Joint Magistrate.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

Acting Magistrate.

Deposition of Kalliakul Ramen Nair, nephew of Nambally Nair, Hindoo Shoodur, labourer, aged 53 years, inhabitant of Paddanair Kollangarah Tekoo Moorry, Karonagapally Prevarty, Karonagapally Mandavatom Vadakul, in Travancore, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, on the 13th January 1857.

It is three years since 18 coolies were shipped and conveyed from Cochin in Captain Roman's vessel. I was one of them. The Kat Syrang (Pilot) and Captain Roman told me that I would be paid at the rate of 3 Rupees per month with board, and that I should work as a labourer for two years in the Mauritius. I agreed to this and went with them. The ship proceeded to the Six Islands, where the Captain made over all of us, 18 in number, to the gentleman superintending the work of the coolies, and we served as labourers there. Afterwards, Captain Roman used to come to the Islands in his ship every 5 or 6 months, and land Malabar coolies on such occasions, and deliver them to the same gentleman. After our arrival at the Islands, he brought, as Malabar coolies, on one occasion 10, on another 13, 9 men and 4 women, and again 1, and landing them there, made them over to the gentleman above mentioned. A year after we had arrived on the Islands, the gentleman then superintending the work was removed, and another came in his room. This gentleman was in the habit of treating us with cruelty, which induced 7 Malabar coolies, 6 men and 1 woman, to get into a manchee (boat) and escape from the place. 18 of the Malabar coolies were sent by the Superintendent to work on the Island lying on the west of the Six Islands. To inspect the work of these coolies, he used to go to the former Island every Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, and return in the evening at 4 or 5. But on the last Saturday he went thither for the same purpose, he did not come back till sunset. The lady (his wife) therefore sent 5 of the Caffers, Estevo and 4 others, to make enquiries. They returned at 8 o'clock p. m. Estevo stated that the gentleman was not to be seen on the Island, that the boat in which he had proceeded thither was found hauled up and kept on shore; that the parties who had rowed the boat, viz. Veloo and Velayden, as well as the other coolies were there; that they, coming forward with threats to assault Estevo and others, prevented them from approaching the shore, and that they were therefore obliged to return in their boat without landing. The next morning, the coolies abovementioned, with their Moopah or Headman named Chowghautkaren Moideen Cooty, came to the lady's bungalow, armed with sticks, axes, swords and knives. Upon this the lady, being frightened, pacified them with gentle expressions, and providing them with subsistence, made them stay there. In this state of things, Captain Roman's ship arrived, and the Captain landed. After this, the latter and the lady paid our wages; and then we, 36 in number, 33 men and 3 women, embarked on Captain Roman's ship, and left the Islands. We proceeded to, and landed at, Kayomkollom. While we were in the ship, Captain Roman made us swear that we would not reveal to any one the fact of his having shipped and conveyed us to the Six Islands and landed us there, nor his having brought us back and landed us in Malabar. Veloo and Velayden were the coolies who used to come on Saturdays and convey the gentleman in a boat. On other days they were employed in bringing grass for asses from the western Island to the Six Islands. These two coolies being deducted, there were only 16 working on the former Island. Their names are: Chowghautkaren Moideen Cooty Moopen, Coonhamod, Kaleeba, Abdulla, Ismal, Carootah Moideen, Vellotah Moideen, Caronaga-

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pallykaren Moideen Crambar, Ernakollom Chokra Moideen, Payah Krishnan Nair, Pooten Crishnan Nair, Alapoya Barrido, Teean Carombam, Jonagan Bapoo, Ahmod and Bandaree, Veloo and Velayden are inhabitants of Ocherrah, and Chatanoor respectively.

My Deposition has been read over to me and is correct.

(True Copy.)

Signature.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Panjee, son of Joze, Christian, labourer, aged 17 years, inhabitant of Tangasherry in Quilon, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin on the 12th January 1857.

About 1½ year ago, the Kat Syrang (Pilot) shipped me and 9 other coolies from Cochin on board Captain Roman's vessel, on the condition, that each of us would be paid at the rate of 3 Rupees per month with board, and that we should work as labourers in the Mauritius for two years. But we were afterwards landed on the Six Islands instead of on the Mauritius. As we did not assent to landing on the former Islands, it was by beating and other acts of ill-treatment, that Captain Roman made us submit to it. The Captain made over all of us 10 in number, to a gentleman there, by name Monsieur Demier. On our arrival, there were on the Islands 31 Malabar coolies, 27 men and 4 women. Two months after this another gentleman, named Monsr. Hugon, came to the Islands and relieved the former gentleman. Monsr. Hugon used to impose on us very heavy work and illtreat us by beating and various other acts of cruelty. There were also 17 Caffers working on the Islands. The gentleman sent 15 of the Malabar coolies to the Island situated on the west of the Six Islands, for the purpose of working there. The parties sent were Chowghautkaren Moideen Cootty, Kaleeba Coonhamod, Bapoo, Vellotah Moideen, Ismal, Moideen Chokrah, Abdulla, Taddikaren Kellaven Moideen, Karotah Moideen, Caromban Barrido, Pooten Krishnan Ocherakaren Pyah Krishnan Nair, and Ramen.

On Saturdays, Monsr. Hugon used to go in a boat to the western Island at 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning for the purpose of inspecting the works there, and return in the evening. A month previous to our coming back to Malabar, the said gentleman having gone thither in the same manner on a Saturday, did not return even after sunset, nor did the parties who had rowed the boat, come back. The rowers were the two individuals named Veloo and Velayden. The lady his wife sent Estevo and 4 other Caffers in a boat to make enquiries after him. They came back at about 8 o'clock at night, and Estevo reported to the lady that the gentleman was not to be seen on the Island, that the boat in which he had proceeded thither was found hauled up and kept on shore, and that the Malabar coolies came forward to assault him (Estevo) and others. The lady became frightened, thinking that the said coolies had murdered Monsr. Hugon. In order to comfort her, some women and others lay down in the room occupied by her, and shut the door thereof. I and the other coolies working on the Six Islands lay down outside the bungalow. The next morning, Chowghautkaren Moideen Cootty and 14 other coolies, as well as Veloo and Velayden, who had rowed the boat in all 17 persons, came (to the bungalow) armed with sticks, knives, swords and other weapons. Upon this, the lady being frightened, spoke to Chowghautkaren Moideen Cootty in gentle terms, and delivered to him the key of the box containing rice. The lady asked Veloo and Velayden where Monsr. Hugon was. They answered that the gentleman had gone from the western Island in a boat for the purpose of fishing, and that the boat having foundered, he was not to be seen. Afterwards when Captain Roman's ship came to the Six Islands, more than 30 Malabar coolies, both men and women, were embarked on board that ship, and conveyed and landed at Kayomkollom. The Captain with the lady above mentioned, having referred to accounts, paid the coolies their wages. It was after making us swear that we would not disclose to any one the fact of his having taken us, the Malabar coolies, to the Six Islands, and brought us back to Kayomkollom, that Captain Roman landed us at the latter place.

My Deposition has been read over to me and is correct.

(True Copy.)

Signature.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th April 1857.

Deposition of Barrido alias Anthony, son of Oroman, Christian, labourer, aged 25 years, inhabitant of Tangasherry in Quilon, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin on the 12th January 1857.

Two years ago, I and 17 other Malabar coolies, by the desire of the Kat Syrang (Pilot) and Captain Roman, embarked from Cochin on board Captain Roman's ship, and left for the Mauritius, for the purpose of serving as labourers there. The Syrang and Captain told us that we would be paid at the rate of 3 Rupees each per month, with board and clothing, and that after arriving at the Mauritius and seeing our work, they would increase our wages. The Syrang promised me an advance of two months' wages, and one day evening, gave me a Rupee and Moondoo (cloth,) saying that the remainder would be given the next morning. By this time the vessel had left the Port. On the 19th day of our voyage, we reached the Six Islands. As we did not agree to the Captain's desire to land there, he seized and tied up some of us to the mast, and flogged them with the rope's end. This made us land on the Islands. We were then delivered over to the gentleman superintending the works there, named Monsr. Demier. We staid and served as coolies there. We were employed in cutting cocoanut kernels, expressing oil, cutting jungles, breaking cocoanuts, thatching houses, &c. Three or four months after, Captain Roman came to the Islands again in his ship, and landed 10 Malabar coolies. Two or three months subsequently, he brought and landed another party of coolies, 9 men and 4 women. After this he came there twice, bringing with him two coolies, one on each occasion. After we had arrived and worked for one year on the Islands, Monsr. Demier was relieved and another gentleman, whose name I do not know, succeeded him as Superintendent. This gentleman imposed on us very heavy work, and caused many of us to be severely beaten. There were 17 Caffers also working as labourers there. As the gentleman beat them, 4 of them, getting into a boat, escaped from the place. Of the Malabar coolies, 6 men and 1 woman also ran away in consequence of the gentleman's ill-treatment. He used to cause women to climb over the roofs of houses and work, and also to beat them severely, and put them in chains and lock the fetters. He sent 15 coolies to work on the Island situated on the west of the Six Islands. On Saturdays he used to proceed thither in the morning, in a munchee or boat, and return to Six Islands in the evening before 6 o'clock. He continued in this manner for 5 or 6 months. About a month previous to our leaving the place for Malabar, the gentleman, on a Saturday, at about 8 o'clock A. M. got into a boat and proceeded to the western Island. Two Malabar coolies named Veloo and Velayden then went with him to row the boat. After sunset that day, the gentleman and rowers not having returned, 5 of the Caffers, Estevo and 4 others, were embarked on a boat and sent to the said Island, to make enquiries after the gentleman. They returned to the Six Islands at about 10 or half past 10 o'clock at night. Estevo stated that the gentleman was not to be seen; that the boat in which he had proceeded to the western Island, was found hauled up and left on shore; and that Veloo and Velayden who had rowed the boat, and the other 15 Malabar coolies who were working on the Island, were sitting and eating rice there. Estevo went to the bungalow and reported these circumstances to the lady, (the Superintendent's wife,) who became frightened, from an impression that the gentleman had been murdered by the coolies on the western Island. We therefore caused Koopaykaren Maistry (head cooly) and others on the Six Islands, to sleep outside the bungalow that night, and the Maistry's wife Prosina, and two other cooly women, in the lady's room. The next day at dawn, the coolies who were working on the western Island i. e. Chowghautkaren Moideen Cootty, as a leader, and others, together with Veloo and Velayden, amounting in all to 17 in number came to the veranda of the bungalow, with weapons in their hands, such as sticks, swords and knives. The lady, seeing them, became frightened, and prostrating herself at the feet of Chowghautkaren Moideen Cootty, promised him that they would be shipped and sent off when the ship arrives, and that rice, &c. would be given them for their subsistence. They agreed to this, and while staying on the Islands, and after the lapse of a month, Captain Roman's ship arrived there. The Captain landed, and Moideen Cootty then told him that he should ship and take with him all the coolies. The Captain with the lady settled the accounts of the coolies paying in £s the arrears of wages due to each according to accounts. We were paid at the rates of 6, 7, 8 and 9£. After this, 36 Malabar coolies, 33 men and 3 women, were shipped, and conveyed and landed at Kayomkollom. The Captain had told us, that we would not be landed in the Honorable Company's Territory; that we should not reveal the matter to any body, and that if we do so, he would be

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brought into trouble. He made us swear that we would not disclose the circumstance to any one. The names of the coolies who were working on the Island situated on the west of the Six Islands, are (1) Chowghautkaren Moideen Cootty, (2) Vellata alias Taddian Moideen, (3) Kaleeba, (4) Coonhamod, (5) Ismal, (6) Bapoo, (7) Abdoola, (8) Karotah Moideen, (9) Moideen Chokrah, (10) Taddikaren Kellaven Moideen, (11) Allapoyah Barrido, (12) Chowan Karomban, (13) Pooten Krishnan, (14) Ocherakaren Payah Krishnan Nair, and (15) a Jonagan Mopla of Ernacollom, having an unbendable arm, whose name I do not know.

My Deposition has been read over to me and is correct.

(True Copy.)

Signature.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Tadyambaratha Shangra Pillah, nephew of Imany Pillah, Hindoo Shooder, aged 40 years, labourer, inhabitant of Kotapoorathamoor, Tekoombagath Prevarthil, in Travancore, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, on the 13th January 1857.

Two and a half years ago, Captain Roman and Kat Syrang (Pilot) shipped me and 17 other labourers on board Captain Roman's vessel from this place, on the understanding, that we should serve as labourers for 2½ years at Colombo, and that we would be paid at the rate of 3 Rupees per month with board. The Captain gave me an advance of 6 Rupees on this account from Cochin. Within a month, the vessel reached the Six Islands, where all of us, 18 in number, were landed. The Captain then made us over to the gentleman superintending the work (of coolies) on those Islands. There we served as labourers, 4 or 5 months after, that gentleman was relieved by another, who used to overwork and ill-treat us by beating and other cruelties. 18 was not the actual number of persons shipped as above. What I have stated is a mistake, 9 men and 4 women were the actual number. On our arrival on the Islands, there were 18 coolies from Malabar and 15 or 16 Caffers working there. Four months after we had arrived, Captain Roman brought in his vessel 1 Malabar cooly, and 6 months subsequently to this, 10 more, and landed them on the Islands. A few days after, 15 of the Malabar coolies were detached by the Superintendent to an Island lying to the west of the Six Islands, for the purpose of working there, and he used to go to the said Island every Saturday at 10 o'clock in the morning, in order to inspect the work, and return at 4 in the evening. On the last occasion also he went as usual on a Saturday to the said Island at 10 in the morning to see the work, but did not return till sunset. He proceeded thither in a munched or boat, and it was Veloo and Velayden who rowed the boat. The lady (his wife) sent Estevo and 4 other Caffers in a boat to make enquiries after the gentleman. They returned at 10 o'clock at night, and Estevo stated that the gentleman was not to be seen on the Island, that the boat in which he had proceeded thither was found hauled up and kept on shore, that on their making enquiries for the gentleman, the 15 coolies present there, as well as Veloo and Velayden came forward to assault him (Estevo) and others. After this, on the following morning, the 17 coolies abovementioned came to the lady's bungalow armed with weapons such as sticks, knives and swords. Upon this the lady was so much frightened, that she, prostrating herself on the ground, entreated their head man Choukatkaren Moideen Cootty not to do any injury to (her,) a woman. After this while all the coolies aforementioned were staying on the Six Islands, Captain Roman's vessel arrived there and then more than 30 men with 3 women, all Malabar coolies were embarked on board that vessel and conveyed and landed at Kayonkollom. Before our departure, the Captain with the lady paid our wages in arrears according to accounts. Captain Roman made us swear while on board, that we would not mention to any one the fact of his having taken Malabar coolies to the Six Islands and brought them back and landed them in Malabar.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

(True Copy.)

Signature.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th April 1857.

Deposition of Prisoner Joseph, son of Antony, Christian, aged 20 years, inhabitant of Alpaat Moory, Karoonagapilly Mandavathoom Vathooke, in Travancore, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin on the 28th January 1857.

I went to the Mauritius about 3 years ago. It was in Captain Roman's vessel that I did so. Besides me the following persons were shipped on board the same vessel, viz. (1) Anthony, inhabitant of Quilon, (2) Veloo, (3) Krishnan Nair, both inhabitants of Karoonagapilly, (4) an individual called Ramen, whose country lies to the east of Alleppey, the name of which I know not, (5) Thoma of Chowghaut, (6) Barrido Mathoo of ditto, (7) Cochoo Coonhen of Mavelly, (8) Chakoo of Cottyam, (9) Narranen of Quilon, (10) Ayappen, of what country I know not, and 11 to 18 are individuals whose names I am not aware of. Captain Roman embarked all of us, 18 in number, as laborers on board his ship, on the condition to pay us each at the rate of 8 Rupees per month. We accordingly worked as laborers for 5 or 8 days at Cochin, and then the Captain took us with him, saying that we would be conveyed to the Mauritius, but he landed us on an Island, called the Six Islands, telling us that we should go on shore, and, cooking and drinking our conjee, come back on board, and that after this, he would take and land us at the Mauritius. We accordingly went ashore and after cooking and drinking our conjee, returned, when neither the Captain nor the vessel was to be seen. After this we served Captain Gerall as laborers on the same Island for 6 months. There were also 10 or 18 Caffermen from the Mauritius serving there. Six months subsequently, Captain Roman, one day, brought and landed there 9 men and 4 women. These were (1) Bapoo, a Jonagan or Mopla, native of Alleppey, (2) Karoota Moideen (3) Velotha Moideen, (4) Coonjerah, a Christian, the name of whose country I know not, (5) Paucheeke of Quilon, (6) Karoota Moideen of Ernakollum, (7) Panjee, a Christian, (8) Ismal of Coythottom, and (9) a man whose name and country I know not. The women were (1) Maria, (2) Onala, (3) Anna, inhabitants of Cochin, and (4) Prosina of Alleppy. These 4 women, together with us, worked on the Islands for 6 months. Three months after this, another individual named Krishnan Nair, an inhabitant of Nedinganaad was brought there. While we had worked on the Islands for a period of 1 year, Mr. Smell, a gentleman in the service of Captain Gerall, was removed, and another gentleman, whose name I know not, came in his room. While we were continuing our work there as laborers, (1) Moopan Moideen Cootty of Chowghaut, (2) Velotha Moideen of Alleppy, (3) Karotah Moideen, (4) Bapoo, (5) Barrido, (6) Cochoo Moideen of Ernakollum, (7) Coonhamod of Chowghaut, (8) Moideen Krambo of Karoonagapilly, (9) Karoomben, whose country I know not, (10) Pandary of Ernakollum, (11) Ismal of Coythottom, (12) Krishnan Nair of Nedinganaad and two others, whose names I know not, were all working on the Island lying to the west of the Six Islands. While they were doing so, on a Saturday, Velayden and Velo, together with the gentleman superintending the work on the Six Islands, got in a manchee (boat) and proceeded to the said Island to inspect the work there. On every other occasion, on which he (the gentleman) visited the Island as above, he used to return at 5 o'clock in the evening, but on the last day he went thither, the lady (his wife) not seeing him return, despatched four Caffers to make enquiries after him. They went and searched for him, but not finding him, asked Moopen Moideen Cootty and others where he was. Upon this they beat and drove the Caffers away. The latter throwing themselves into the water, and getting into their boat, returned and informed the lady that the gentleman had been killed. After this the lady told us that Moopan Moideen Cootty and others, who were on the aforesaid Island, would come and kill her also, and that we should therefore surround and watch the bungalow. We accordingly did so that night. When it was midnight, Moopan Moideen Cootty, with the aforesaid 14 persons came there, and told us as follows: "get in quick; shut the door and lie down. If you come out we will kill you. We have come after murdering the gentleman and should now kill the lady also." Upon this we were struck with terror, and shutting the door, lay down inside the house. Next day after dawn, the lady did not come out from fear; but Karoonagapilly Karoonibar and Kollakaren Antony having assured her on oath, that no one would do her any harm, and that she could safely come out, she did so. Afterwards while we were all staying on the Six Islands, Captain Roman, on the 18th day after the above occurrence, arrived there in his vessel, and when he landed, Moopen Moideen Cootty, Coonhamod, Velotha Moideen Kaleeba, Krishnan Nair, in all 5 persons, went up to him and asked him to pay their wages and take them back and land them either at Cochin or in the Mauritius. Captain Roman promised to take and land them at any place where there is no Flag Staff. He then gave each of us 9£ and 6 Rs. and embarked us on board his ship. After this he told us that we should not mention

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the above circumstance any where under British Government; that if we did so, he would also fall into trouble, and that we should swear to the above effect. He then brought a book and made us swear accordingly, and afterwards landed us at Kayakollom, whence we proceeded in different directions. When we embarked Velotah Moideen Cootty had a war-knife, Kaleeba a small sword, Coonhamod a val-katty (sword-like knife) Moopen Moideen Cootty a sword belonging to the (murdered) gentleman, and Krishnan Nair a spear, Moopen Moideen Cootty took the sword with him but all the others threw their weapons over board. Upon this the Captain remained silent.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

(True Copy.)

Signature.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Prisoner Moideen Cootty, son of Coonhamoo, aged about 25 years, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, on the 13th Magarom 1032, or 24th January 1857.

Captain Roman shipped laborers from Cochin on 4 occasions within the last 2 years on board his vessel, and took them with him, saying that he would convey them to the Mauritius. It is only 1½ year since I went, (with him). On the first occasion he took 18 individuals, besides me, on the 2nd, 11 men and 4 women, on the 3rd 1 person, and on the 4th, 10 persons. I staid for a year and a half on the Island, called the Six Islands. The gentleman superintending the works on this Island, used to ill-treat the laborers most severely. If a person fell sick and confined himself to his bed, even for one day, he would have cadjan put over him, and set fire to. In consequence of such cruelties, 6 men and 1 woman were induced to get in a munchee (boat), and escape from the place. Where they went to, I know not. After this, myself, Krishnan Nair, Moideen Coonhah, Kaleeba Moideen Cootty, Coonhamod, Velotah Krishnan Nair, Alapoya Barido, Ismal, Pandaly Awoolla, Moideen Chokrah, Karoomba, Bapoo, Karotah Moideen, Krambar Moideen and Poolayen Ausep, were sent to the Island lying to the west of the Six Islands to work. While we were working there, on a Saturday, at 3 o'clock P. M., Velayden, Veloo and the aforesaid gentleman came there in a munchee (or boat). When the gentleman came to the working place to inspect the work, the abovementioned Karotah Krishnan Nair went up and complained to him, that I had beaten him, upon which the gentleman taking out of his pocket (a piece of) rope, gave Krishnan Nair a lash with it. As he was going to repeat the stroke, Krishnan Nair laid hold of, and put him down. Upon this Moideen Coonhah came up and struck the gentleman 5 or 6 blows with his fist, and then Kaleeba Moideen Cootty gave him a cut with a haraly kutty or chopping knife, used in clearing jungles. This cut hit the gentleman on the neck. He repeated the cut which severed the neck in two. This second cut struck also on the back of Moideen Coonhah's left hand, and occasioned a wound from the middle of the hand up to the forefinger, but did not sever it. After this Velayden and Veloo who had accompanied the gentleman, came and saw him lying dead. I heard that his corpse was buried the next day by Krambar Moideen, Aryan Barido, Ausep, a Poleyan or slave converted to Christianity, and Jose, all belonging to our party of coolies. The same day that the gentleman was assassinated, we, 15 in number, as also the two individuals who came with the gentleman, got into a boat and proceeded to the place where the lady his wife, was residing, and remained there separately from each other. On the 5th day after we had taken up our sojourn there, Captain Roman's vessel arrived and he landed on the Islands, when, we went up and asked him to embark us on board his ship, and land us either at Cochin or in the Mauritius. Upon this, he swore that he would not land us at either of those two places, but would do so any where else. Out of 1½ or 2 years' wages due to us, he paid us only one year's wages viz. 9£ to each (man) at the rate of 8 Rupees per month, and 7£ to each woman at the rate of 6 Rupees per month. He then embarked us on board his ship, and it was, I think, on the 10th day after our embarkation, that he landed us at Kayomkollom. Captain Roman having while on board, told us that he was in need of 10 or 20 Rupees to pay the crew of his vessel, all of us joined and gave him 45 Rupees. I gave him 1½ Rupees as my share. While embarking on board the ship from the Six Islands, each of us took with him his working instruments such as haraly kutty (chopping

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knife) axes, and iron handled knives. Being a Moopan or head man, I had only a stick in my possession. The aforesaid instruments, &c. were left on board when we landed at Kayomkollom. My native country and place of residence is Narakaad Deshom, Neddovah Umshom of the Sher-naad Talook. My house name is Naraga Parambatah Moideen Cootty. The parties who worked with us on the western Island were Krishnan Nair, a Native of Velliangode, Moideen Coonhah of Trekoonapoya in Travancore, Kaleeba Moideen Cootty of Betutpoodiangaddy, Coonhamod of Angadipoorom, Velotah Krishnan Nair of Ocherra, Barrido of Aleppy, Ismall, a native of southern country, whose place of residence I know not. Pandaly Abdulla, living near a place called Elayoor in Ernakollom, Moideen Chokra of the same place, Karoomba, a Native of Ocherra, Bapoo of Aleppy, a Nair converted to Mahomedanism; Karotah Moideen of ditto, Krambar Moideen of Karongapilly, and Polayen Ausep of Ernakollom. The places mentioned after the names of these individuals, are their native countries. Besides the aforesaid 15 persons, including myself, 21 men and 3 women were embarked from the Six Islands. Their names are (1) Jose, a native of Ocherra, (2) Veloo of ditto, (3) Panjeeka of Quilon, (4) Areyen Barrido of Ernakollom, (5) Velayden of Quilon, (6) Nair Cochen of Mavelykara, (7) Naranen Nair of Quilon, (8) Anthony of ditto, (9) Irooven Ayapen, of Manaporom in Chowghaut, (10) Thoma residing on the west of Chitattokare Bazar in Chowghaut, (11) Nassarany Topyachin living near the same place, (12) Domingo of Ernakollom, (13) Cootty Barrido of Allepy, (14) Ramen, a native of the southern country, (15) Shangaren Nair of Ocherra I think, (16) Coonjara, whose place of residence I know not, (17) Tien Kanden, a native of the southern country, Nos. 18 to 21, are also natives of the southern country, but their names I do not remember, nor do I know the place of their residence. The names of the 3 women are (1) Prosina, (2) Joosela and (3) Annah.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

Signature.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Tarayil Veloo, son of Pandarom Shangard, Hindoo, aged 26 years, seller of betel-leaves, inhabitant of Memal Mooree, Krishnarom Prewarty, Karoonagapilly Mangavathoo Vadookel, in Travancore, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, on the 15th Magarom 1032 or 26th January 1857.

It was in (1029) 1853-54, 3 years ago, I think, that Kat Syrang (Pilot) residing in Calvetty, one day at 12 o'clock at night shipped me on board Captain Roman's vessel for the purpose of serving as a labourer in the Mauritius, on the condition that I would be paid at the rate of 8 Rupees per month. On the 18th day after my embarkation, the Captain landed us on the Six Islands, telling me, that it was the Mauritius. Besides me seven other persons were landed on the same Islands. Six months subsequently, Captain Roman brought in his ship and landed there 9 men and 4 women. After our arrival, the Engineer gentleman residing on the Islands, employed us in felling timber, breaking cocoanuts, cutting jungles, and upon other works. While we were thus employed, and after the lapse of a few days, Captain Roman brought and landed there 10 persons more, viz., Coonhamod, a native of the northern country, Moopen Moideen Cootty, and 8 others. The aforesaid Engineer gentleman was then removed to another Island called "Jevoor." After this another gentleman, whose name I do not know, with his wife was brought by Captain Roman to the Six Islands. This gentleman then employed us as labourers, under him. He used to flog those who committed fault in their work. While matters were in this position, and about 8 months ago, the following parties, viz., Vadaken Kaleeba, (2) Coonhamod, (3) Pandary a native of Ernakollom, (4) Moideen Chokra, ditto of ditto, (5) Ismaly of south Anjengo, (6) Karoomban of Palloport, (7) Vadakel Karotah Krishnan Nair, (8) Velotah Moideen of Trikoonoopaya, (9) Karotah Moideen, the name of whose country I do not exactly know, but who I think an inhabitant of Cochin, (10) Ausep of Ernakollom, a Poleyan or slave converted to Christianity, (11) Krambar Moideen said to be a native of Karonagapilly, (12) Velotah Krishnan Nair of Karonagapilly, (13) Barrido of Aleppy, (14) Bappoo of ditto, and Moopen Moideen Cootty, in all 15 persons, were sent by Captain Roman and the aforesaid gentleman, to work on an Island lying to the west of the Six Islands. When they had worked there for 5 months, the gen-

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tleman abovementioned with myself, and Velayden proceeded to that Island on a Saturday, in a munched (or boat) in which we used to bring grass (to the Six Islands), in order to see the progress of the work there. The gentleman was in the habit of going thus every Saturday, in our boat, to inspect the work on the Island. Velayden and myself were servants employed in cutting and bringing grass in a boat to the Six Islands twice every day, viz., at 12 o'clock at noon, and at 4 p. m. On the last Saturday (he visited the Island), we having taken him in our boat and landed him on the western Island, he told us that he would inspect the work of the coolies and be back at 4 o'clock, and that we should cut grass, and putting it in the boat, hold ourselves ready before that time. After telling this, he went to inspect the work. We accordingly cut grass and got ourselves ready, but not seeing the gentleman return at 4 o'clock, I sent my fellow labourer Velayden in quest of him. When he went, he saw the persons of Moopan Moideen Cooty, Kaleeba, Coonhamod a native of Tellicherry, Vadaken Koratah, Krishnen Nair, and Velotah Moideen of Trikonapoya, stained with blood, and found their moondoo or cloths tied up tight. He asked them where the gentleman was, when they 5 in number drove him away and came with him to the place where the boat was lying. At this time I also saw blood on the persons of all these five individuals, and found their cloths tied up tight. They 5 then sent for the remaining 10 laborers and with them threw into the sea the grass kept in the boat. Moopan Moideen Cooty with Coonhamod, an inhabitant of Tellicherry, seizing me and Velayden, dragged us to their cooking house and kept us there. They then told us as follows: "We four, joining together, have killed the gentleman. If you divulge this circumstance, we will cut off your necks." Frightened as we were, we promised to keep silence. They then staid there till 10 o'clock at night. On that very night at 7 o'clock 4 Caffers came in a boat to the aforesaid Island from the Six Islands, in search of the gentleman. They were driven away by Moideen Cooty and others. At low tide we all got into the sea and waded to the Island where the gentleman resided. At high tide the place is not fordable. After we had reached the Island, the 5 men whose persons were stained with blood as above, conducted and kept us in our respective homes, and brandishing their knives and swords, threatened to stab and kill us if we came out, and promised to get us rice from the lady. After this, Moopan Moideen Cooty went up to injure the lady (the Superintendent's wife) when she shut the door and remained inside. She then sent gentle message to Moideen Cooty and others, through Moideen Krambar alias Krambar Moideen, under whose protection she remained. Seventeen days after this, Captain Roman arrived in his vessel, and landed on the Islands, when Moideen Cooty, Krishnan Nair and others went up and surrounded him, and with threats asked him to pay the 3 years' wages due to them, and also to take and land them at Cochin or Mauritius. Upon this, he saying that he had not brought so much funds with him, paid the men 9£ and 6 Rupees each, and the women 7£ each, and then of his own accord, embarked us on board his ship, and on the 17th day of our voyage, landed us at Kayamkollom. The number of persons whom he thus brought back and landed at the latter place, amounted in all to 37, 34 men and 3 women. Three days previous to our reaching Kayamkollom, Captain Roman, while on board, made us swear by laying our hands on a religious book he had, that we would not reveal to any one the fact of his having, without the knowledge of the Circar authority, taken us with him and brought us back and landed us (in Malabar). Captain Roman also touching the book swore by his sons, who were, he said, 7 in number, that he would keep secrecy on this point. I, as every one else, paid 8 Rupees to Captain Roman as passage money, and also 1£ which I borrowed from the lady on the Six Islands. The remaining £s I had with me when I landed at Kayamkollom, but have since been expended by me.

(True Copy.)

Mark.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Moondapally Krishnen Nair, Hindoo Shooder, nephew of Ayappen Nair, aged 28 years, a labourer, inhabitant of Poodoopally Tekoom Mooryil, Poodoopally Prewarty, Karoonakapully Mandavatoom Vadookel, in Travancore, taken on the 13th Makarom 1032, or 24th January 1857, before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin.

On the 3rd Chingom 1028, (17th August 1853,) at dusk, Captain Roman took me and 17 other persons on board his ship, from Vaypeen in Cochin, telling us that we should land some cargo

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from the ship, which was lying in the river inside the bar. After we had been on board the Captain told us that if the cargo was landed on that day, it might not reach the shore in safety, that therefore we should sleep on board; and that the cargo could be landed early the next morning. I believed in what he said and we accordingly slept on board. The next morning when we got up, we found the vessel in the sea and could not descry land. We then asked Captain Roman where he was taking us to and that if he did not set us on shore, we would throw ourselves overboard and die. Upon this, Captain Roman got the classees, or sailors, to tie the hands of every 2 persons together with rope and inflicted on each of us 18 stripes with rope's end on the back. He told us, that we would be landed at the Mauritius, and that each of us would be paid at the rate of 8 or 10 Rupees per month, and that we should work as coolies there. We remained on board through fear, awaiting our debarkation. On the 18th day of our voyage we were landed on an Island, the Captain told us to cook and drink our conjee there, and that we could afterwards go back on board. After cooking and partaking of the conjee, we missed the vessel and the Captain. The next day a Caffer on the said Island came and took us to the jungle, and there set us to work, employing us in felling trees, and clearing jungle. Six months after this, Captain Roman brought 10 men and 4 women in his vessel and landed them on the Island. Again, after the lapse of six months, he brought 9 men and landed them on the Island. Three months subsequently to this, Captain Roman brought and landed Krishnan Nair of Chowghaut. A gentleman, who was superintending the work there, was in the habit of imposing on all of us very heavy work, and allowing us millet for 4 days and rice for 2 day in the week, without salt or any other ingredients for curry. We used to cook our rice with sea water. Whenever the gentleman was dissatisfied with our work, both himself and Moopen Moideen Cooty, the head cooly, were in the habit of flogging us with the rope's end. While we were thus employed, 3 months before last Kany, (September October,) I, (2) Alapoya Barrido, (3) Alapoya Karootah Moideen Coonhy, (4) Bapoo of Aleppy, (5) Kaleeba of Chowghaut, (6) Coonhamod of Tellicherry, (7) Ausep of Cochin, a Polean converted to Christianity, (8) Pandary of Ernacollom, (9) Velotah Moideen Coonhah of Trikonapoya, (10) Peroomal Toorakaren Ismal, (11) Karomben, a native of a place called Karthy Pillay, (12) Karotah Moideen Coonhah of Karoonagapillay; a Shooder converted to Mahomedanism, (13) Velotah Krishnen Nair, a native, I think, of Tellicherry or Chowghaut, and (14) Moideen Chokrah, the place of whose residence I know not, in all 14 persons, together with the Moopen Moideen Cooty, who was to superintend our work, were sent by the gentleman to another Island lying on the north west of the aforesaid Island and about 2 narighas (miles) distant therefrom, for the purpose of working there. When we had worked on that Island for 3 months, the gentleman, on a Saturday at 3½ p. m. came there in a munched (boat,) as he was accustomed to do every Saturday to inspect our work, accompanied by the grass cutters called Veloo and Velayden. These two individuals were cutting grass and the gentleman then came to the place where we were working and inspected the work, when one of the coolies, Krishna Nair of Chowghaut, complained to him that the Moopen Moideen Cooty, was oppressing him much. The gentleman then throwing down the umbrella which was under his arm and untying the rope he had around his waist, gave the complainant Krishna Nair a lash with it. The latter warded it off with an axe he had with him, and immediately seized the gentleman and threw him down. At this time Velotah Moideen Coonhah of Trikonapoya gave three blows with his fist on the gentleman's head. Immediately Moopen Moideen Cooty gave the gentleman a cut on the neck with a sword used in cutting jungle. The gentleman then cried out "Ponjee." After this Moideen Cooty inflicted two more cuts and severed the head, when the individual named Kaleeba inflicted a cut on his corpse with a haral kutty or chopping knife. We then cried out, whereupon Moideen Cooty threatened to stab us also. This induced us to be silent. We, 15 in number and the 2 grass cutters got into a boat and proceeded to the Island on which the gentleman resided and there Moideen Cooty, the aforesaid Krishna Nair and others shut up me and 7 others in a room, and the two former (Moideen Cooty, and Krishnan Nair) with Velotah Moideen Coonhah of Trikonapoya, entered the gentleman's bungalow and went to illuse the lady. The same 3 individuals then moved about the Island in a despotic manner. After matters had been in this state for 18 days, Captain Roman came to the Island in his ship and landed there. Upon this Moideen Cooty and others, with the view of committing an outrage, went up to him with sticks and swords and told him that 3 years' wages were

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due to them, and that he should pay the same, and take and land them in the Cochin Sircar's country. The Captain said that he had no funds to pay 3 years' wages, but would give each of them one year's wages; and taking the hat from his head sent it to the Malmy (Pilot) (with a message for money,) and having this got £s. from board the ship, gave each of us 9£ and 6 Rs. We asked the Captain to take us on board and land us either in the Cochin Sircar's country, or in the Mauritius. The Captain then said that if he landed us at either of those places, he would fall into trouble and be put in chains, and that therefore he would take us to, and land us at, any place where there is no flag staff. Captain Roman then took us, the above named 15 persons, with 3 women and 15 other men, in all 33 persons, on board his ship. Afterwards he made us swear by laying hands on his book, that wherever he may land us, we would not reveal any where the fact of his having done so. We were landed near the bar at Kayamkollom. While on board, the Captain asked and obtained from each of us a £ gratis. When landed, we had each 7£ on hand. The 7£ I had, have been expended and there is no balance with me.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

(True Copy.)

Signature.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Valiath Caroomban, Hindoo Eyooven, son of Shangaren, about 25 years of age, labourer, inhabitant of Pallipatt Moory, Kartia Pilly Perwarty, Aripaath Mandawattom Vadookel, in Travancore, taken on the 15th Makarom 1032, or 26th January 1857, before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin.

About 2½ years ago, one night, at 8 o'clock the Kat Syrang (Pilot) named Abderman, residing at Kalvety came and told me, that there was a week's work in the ship belonging to Captain Roman, lying on the Cochin sea beyond the bar, and made me over to the said Captain, who embarking me and 17 other labourers in a munchee, or boat, took us on board the ship, where we slept that night. After day-break, we could not see land. On our asking the Captain where he was taking us to, he first answered "to Colombo" and afterwards "to the Mauritius." He desired us to sign a paper, when, as he frightened us by threatening to cast us overboard (if we failed to do so), we affixed our signatures to the paper written by him. On the 18th day (after our departure), we were landed on an Island, where he desired us to work. A Caffer who was then there, employed me in expressing oil and upon other works. Subsequently, a gentleman with a lady (his wife) came to that Island. For 12 months we worked under his orders. On their departure, another gentleman with a lady (his wife) came there, and we were working under his orders. The head man who was superintending the work of the coolies under this gentleman was the Moopen Moideen Cooty. He used to beat us, the coolies, with open and clenched hands, without any cause whatever. While thus working on this Island, I, (2) Trikoona-poyakaren Velotah Moideen, (3) Chowghatkaren Velotah Caleeba, (4) Karotah Moideen, name of whose country I know not, (5) Coonhamod a native of the northern country, (6) Kurotah Krishna Nair, ditto ditto, (7) Ismail residing east of Trevandrum, (8) Pandary Awoolla of Ernacollom, (9) Ausep, (a Christian) convert, formerly a Chermen, of Ernacollom, (10) Barrido of Aleppy, (11) Bapoo of ditto, (12) Karoonagarapallykaren Krambar Moideen, (13) Moideen Chokrah, supposed to be of Ernacollom, (14) Ocherrakaren Velotah Krishnan Nair, in all fourteen persons, together with the aforesaid Moopen Moideen Cooty, as our head man, were sent to another Island, the name of which I do not know, situated 4 miles distant, for the purpose of working there. We served on this Island for 5 or 6 months, being employed on various works, such as clearing Jungles &c. &c. It was customary for the aforesaid gentleman to come to this Island every Saturday to inspect the work, and return. The last time also the gentleman came there on a Saturday at 10 A. M. in a munchee or boat rowed by Veloo and Velaydeen, the grass cutters. I was laid up sick of fever in a house close to the place where the boat was anchored and saw the gentleman go from thence to the working place which is a mile distant. The gentleman did not come back till evening that day. At midnight, Moopen Moideen Cooty and all the labourers came to the landing place where the boat was lying. They as well as myself and the grass

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cutters got into the boat and went to the Island where the gentleman resided. Both on our way to, and after our arrival at the Island, I heard the other coolies talk among themselves, that the gentleman had been put to death by Moopen Moideen Cooty. This individual remained on the Island annoying the lady, and when he had continued there in this manner for 10 or 20 days, Captain Roman came there in his ship from I know not where. All the coolies demanded their wages from him. He then sent for money from board the ship, and the wife of the deceased gentleman read out our names. We, the men, were paid our wages at the rate of 9£ each; and at our request, Captain Roman took us on board and landed as at the Kayomkollom bar. All the persons, as well as myself, paid each 4 Rupees as passage money to the Captain. On our landing at Kayomkollom. I had 8£ in my possession, of which 7 have been expended, and with the remaining one I have been brought up here. We, who returned in the ship as above, were altogether 36 in number, 3 of these were women and the rest men. The above-named 15 persons, who were working on the Island where the gentleman was murdered, being deducted, the remaining 18 persons who came on board the ship are Aripaatkaren Kanden and others. I do not recollect well the names of all of them.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

Signature.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Coonjeeerian, Christian, son of Ittykella, aged about 20 years, inhabitant of Aripaath Kartia Pillay, Mandawattom Vadookel, in Travancore, taken on the 28th January 1857, before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin.

I went to the Mauritius and Six Islands. It is now about 2½ years since (1) I, (2) Chowghatkaren Ahmod, (3) Cochikaren Jonagan Bapoo, (4) Trikonapoyakaren Taddien Velotah Moideen, (5) Payamallakaren Changaren Nair, residing east of Quilon, (6) Karotah Moideen of Aleppy, (7) Ismail of Quilon, (8) Jonagan Cochoo Bava of Ernacollom and (9) Ausep a (Christian) convert, formerly a Poleyen (slave) in all 9 men together with Oorgina of Aleppy, Ootha, Anna and Maria, in all four women, were embarked from Cochin on board Captain Roman's ship, by the Kat Syrang (Pilot), on the condition that we should go to Colombo to work as labourers, and that the men would be paid at the rate of 8 Rupees and the women at 4 Rupees each per month. The vessel immediately set sail and left the port. It was after the vessel had sailed that Captain Roman told us that we would be landed only on the Island called "the Six Islands," and we were accordingly landed on that Island. On our landing, there were 18 persons, Chowans, (Teers) Moplas and others. I do not know their names or country. We worked on the Six-Islands for 2½ years, during which period, 10 others were brought and landed there, viz., on one occasion Krishna Nair a native of Northern country, and on another, Coonhamod, Moideen Cooty, Kaleeba Ayapen, Cochen Nair, Panjee Barrido, Krambar and another, whose name I do not know. While we were all working together on the Island, the Moopen Moideen Cooty, Krishnan Nair, Velotah Moideen, Krambar, Karoomben, Abdulla, and some others, whose names I do not know, in all 15 persons, were sent to work on an Island situated to the west of the Six Islands. On a Saturday, the gentleman, whose name I do not know, with Veloo and Velaydeen, got into a manchee (boat) and went to inspect their work. As the gentleman did not return till 5 in the evening, the maistry (butler) sent caffers in a boat to make enquiries. They returned at midnight, saying that they did not see the gentleman. The next day after dawn, the Moopen Moideen Cooty and 14 others came to the Six Islands, and we, who were working there, asked them where the gentleman was, when they replied that he was cut to death. Subsequently, Moopen Moideen Cooty and Krishnan Nair went to the bungalow where the lady was residing, and taking each a chair, sat on both sides of the lady, and threatened to stab her to death. We then remained on the Island for a month without work. By this time Captain Roman arrived in his ship and landed there. All of us asked the Captain to pay our wages and take us to and land us at Cochin. The men were then paid at the rate of 9£ and 4 Rupees each. He told us that if he landed us at Cochin, he would fall into

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trouble, but that he would land us at Kayamkollom, and, desiring us to swear that we would not reveal the matter to any one, brought a book and made us take our oath on it. Each of us paid him 4 Rupees as passage money. When we embarked on board the ship, there were no sticks or other weapons with any of us. We were landed at Kayamkollom. None of us threw over board or took away any articles, all of us went to our respective places (of residence). I know nothing further.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

Signature.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Ramen alias Cauden Coomaren, Hindoo Choren, (Tien) son of Shangaren, aged 30 years, inhabitant of Chepat Moorry, Kartia Pilly Mandawattom Vadookel, in Travancore, taken on the 28th January 1857, before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin.

About 2 years ago, the Kat Syrang (Pilot) embarked me and 17 others on board Captain Roman's ship, saying that we would be taken to the Mauritius for the purpose of working there as labourers. The names of the persons shipped are, (1) Colakarin Anthony, (2) Narainen Nair, (3) Panjee, (4) Ocherrakaren Velloo, (5) Karoonaga Pilly Ootha, (6) Mavellykaren Cochoo Coonhan, (7) Catalath Ayapen, (8) Barrido of Chowghaut, and (9) Thoma. I do not recollect the names of Nos. 10 to 18. Instead of landing us at the Mauritius, we were taken to, and landed at the Six Islands. When we landed, no other people but caffers were there. But afterwards, on one occasion 4 women and 5 men, and on another occasion one man were brought there. The names of the women were (1) Prossina, (2) Maria, (3) Annah, and (4) Oolla. The men were (1) Ausep, a Polean, converted to Christianity, (2) Aripaat Conjeera, (3) Chowghaut Ahmod, (4) Parookaren Cochen Nair. I do not know the names of the rest. While we were thus working there, 15 persons were sent to another Island lying to the west of the Six Islands. The persons sent were Moopen Moiden Cootty, Coonhamood, Velotah Moiden, Moiden Krambar Krishnan, Shangaren, Bapoo, Cochoo Paylee, and Kaleebah. The names of the others I do not recollect. To inspect the work of these men, the gentleman, accompanied by Velayden and Velloo his wife, sent caffers (to enquire after him.) When these went and made enquiries, they were told, that the gentleman had gone to fish. The caffers hearing this came back and told the lady, that they did not see the gentleman, and that he had gone to fish. The next day at 4 o'clock in the morning, we asked Moopen Moideen where the gentleman was. Upon this the Moopen and others said "you cayverees (scoundrels) we will now kill you." They then proceeded to the front courtyard of the bungalow to ill-use the lady, when Moiden Krambar said, that they should not do so. They still sat down outside the bungalow. Ten or twenty days afterwards Captain Roman arrived in his ship and landed there. All of us then demanded our wages and asked him to take and land us at Cochin. The men were then paid at the rate of 9£ and 4 Rupees each. Having paid the lady the amount due to her on account of cloths we had purchased from her, and 4 Rupees each to the Captain as passage money, we got on board the vessel, and were landed on the north of Anjengo. The vessel then went back and the people proceeded to their places of residence. I know nothing further.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

Signature.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

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Deposition of Moideen Crambary, Hindoo converted to Mahomedanism, labourer, aged 30 years, inhabitant of Velangat Mooree, Kolashegarom Prewarty, Karonagapilly Mandavatom Vadakul, in Travancore Rajah's Territory, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, on the 27th January 1857.

About a year and a half ago, the Kat Syrang (Pilot) shipped me on board Captain Roman's vessel. He did so after telling me that I should work as a labourer in the Mauritius for two years, and that I would be paid at the rate of 8 Rs. per month with board. Captain Roman also told me the same. Besides me 9 other coolies were shipped from Cochin. We were landed on the Six Islands, and made over to a gentleman there, named Monsr. Demier. After we had served for 6 months, another gentleman, by name Monsr. Hugon came and relieved Monsr. Demier, who left the Islands. The new gentleman then set us to work. There were 37 men and 4 women from Malabar serving as labourers on the Island. 6 men and 1 woman got into a boat and escaped from the place in consequence of ill-treatment they had received in course of their work. I heard the crew of Captain Roman's ship say that they were in the Mauritius. While we were working on the Six Islands, Monsr. Hugon sent Moideen Cootty Moopa (headman) and 14 other coolies to work on the four other Islands situated on the north-west side of the Six Islands. The names of these 15 persons are (1) Chowghautkaren Moideen Cootty Moopa, (2) Coonhamod, (3) Moideen Cootty Kaleeba, (4) Veliangotkaren Krishnan Nair, (5) Alapoyakaren Karotah Moideen, (6) Alapoyakaren Bapoo, a Nair converted to Mahomedanism, (7) Ernakolotkaren Pandary Abdulla, (8) Ismal, residing near Anjengo, (9) Ernakolotkaren Moideen Chokrah, (10) Ocherrakaren Payah alias Vellotah Krishnan Nair, (11) Trikoonooveyakaren Taddian Moideen, alias Vellotah Moideen Coonha, (12) Aripatkaren Chowan Karomban, (13) Alapoyakaren Barrido Matoo, (14) Ausep, a Polean or slave converted to Christianity, and (15) myself. Monsr. Hugon used to come there every Saturday to inspect our work, and return to the Six Islands the same day afternoon at 4 o'clock. On the last occasion also he came on a Saturday in a boat at 12 o'clock M. and stood at a distance of 6 denompads (about 54 feet) from the place of work. After this he got over and stood on a log of wood lying near the spot where Moopen Moideen Cootty was standing, and told the latter that he should cut down two large trees standing at the working place, and remove the leaves &c., thereof and clear the ground. Afterwards the gentleman, with the view of returning (to the Six Islands), walked back. Veliangotkaren Pooten Krishnan Nair then approached and told him, that Moideen Cootty Moopa was in the habit of beating him most severely, and that in consequence of heavy work, he was very sick. The gentleman then laying hold of a piece of rope he had around his waist, raised his hand to beat Krishnan Nair with it. Upon this the latter held up his hand to ward off the blow with an axe he had with him, and then throwing away the axe on the ground, seized the gentleman over the arms. Immediately after this, Coonhamod who was examined here to-day, seized and pressed the gentleman's both legs. Thus they two, joining together, put him down. So soon as he had fallen on the ground, Moideen Cootty Moopen laid hold of his head, and at the same moment Taddian Vellotah Moideen Coonha, and Moideen Cootty Kaleeba beat him with open and clenched hands. Then all the above-mentioned five individuals beat him together in the same way. At this time Taddian Vellotah Moideen Coonha inflicted 3 blows with his fist on the right side of the neck, right cheek, and jugular vein. Upon this the gentleman cried out "Ponjee," and the said Taddian Vellotah Moideen Coonha observed to him as follows: "When you tied me up to the wooden post on which the bell is suspended, and inflicted on me 101 lashes, I cried out "Ponjee" a thousand times, but you did not then listen to me." Immediately after, I saw Moideen Cootty Moopen go and fetch a sword lying at a little distance from the spot, and inflict a cut with it on Monsr. Hugon's neck. So soon as I saw this I lost my senses and fell down. When I recovered my senses 4 Narighas (about 1½ hours) after, I found myself lying at the cooking place, about a quarter or half mile distant. It was the coolies aforementioned who had carried and laid me there. After I had recovered my senses, I enquired of Karotah Moideen, Bapoo, Pandary Abdulla, Moideen Chokrah, and Ocherrakaren Payah Krishnan Nair, about the matter. They then told me that Moideen Cootty Moopen, Coonhamod, Moideen Cootty Kaleeba, Veliangotkaren Krishnan Nair, and Taddian Vellotah Moideen Coonha, joining together, had murdered Monsr. Hugon, and cut his heel. I did not then go and see his corpse. After this, at 4 Narighas (about half past 7 o'clock) of the night, four caffers came there from the Six Islands in a boat, to make enquiries after the gentleman, when Moideen Cootty Moopen asked them what had induced them to

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come there at that night time. Upon this the caffers, being frightened, went away. Immediately Moideen Cootty Moopen and the other 4 individuals who had murdered the gentleman, calling me and the other coolies, told us that we should go with them to the larger Island where the gentleman was residing. Thus we all went together to that Island. It was then about 12 Narighas (11 o'clock) of the night. After this, they put and shut us in a room there till day break, and all of them, the five coolies abovementioned, watched us by sitting outside, at the door of the room. After day break, we all came out, and Moideen Cootty Moopen and the four Hugon's wife) and others. But they, being frightened at this, did not open the door. Afterwards we all spoke in gentle terms, through a window, to the maistry (or butler) who was in the room, and thereby induced him to open the door. The lady then delivered the key of the rice box ship arrived. The accounts of the Malabar coolies were then settled by the Captain and lady. The men were paid at the rate of 9£, and the women at 7£ each. We embarked on board the ship, and landed at Kayomkollom. While in the ship, Captain Roman made us swear, that we would not communicate to Government authorities or any body else, the fact of our having been sage money at the following rates, viz., for 33 men at 4 Rupees, and 3 women at 1½ Rupee each. Captain Roman's words before Moideen Cootty Moopen as follows: "I will not disclose anywhere the circumstance of your having committed the crime." On the day on which Monsieur Hugon was murdered, when I recovered my senses and saw at the cooking house, the Cootty Kaleeba, and Veliantogkaren Krishnan Nair, I found the whole of their persons, as well as the moondos (cloths) they had on, stained with blood. Taddian Vellotah Moideen Coonha gentleman, that he got this wound. Afterwards I saw all the five persons abovenamed go into the sea and bathe, and also wash clean their weapons and came up ashore. The men were paid at the rate of 9£ and 6 Rupees each.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

Signature.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Nelika Parambil Mandikal Coonhy Ahmod, Moosulman Mopla, son of Markar, aged 28 years, a labourer, inhabitant of Panga Deshom and Umshom in the Walloowanad Talook, taken on the 27th January 1857 before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin.

About 2 years ago, the Kat Syrang (Pilot) shipped me on board Captain Roman's vessel, telling me that I should work as a labourer in the Mauritius, that I would be paid at the rate of six Rupees per month with board; and that I should work there for 3 years. Captain Roman also told me the same thing on board the ship. Nine other coolies besides me were shipped from Cochin on board the same vessel. We were taken to, and landed at the Six Islands. There was a gentleman there by name Monsieur Demier, to whose charge we were made over. On our arrival, there were on the Island, inclusive of ourselves, 39 men, 1 male child, and 4 women, all Malabar coolies. We were employed in clearing jungles, breaking coanuts, cultivating millet, expressing oil, and on other works. Three or four months after our arrival there, Monsieur Demier was removed, and another gentleman by name Monsieur Hugon succeeded him. He used to impose on us very hard work, and also beat and otherwise ill-treat us. In consequence of such ill-treatment, 6 men and 1 woman of the Malabar coolies got into a manchee (boat) and fled to some unknown place. Captain Roman used to come to the Island in his ship and land there every 5 or 6 months. On these occasions, Monsieur Hugon was not in the habit of ill-using us. Captain Roman used to tell Monsieur Hugon not to strike or do us any thing. (1) Moopen Moideen Cootty, (2) Velliantogkaren Pooten Krishnan Nair, (3) Trikoo- napoyakaren Taddian Moideen, alias Moideen Coonha, (4) Betutpoodiangaddy Karen Moideen Cootty Caleeba Nair, (5) Topitta Bapoo, (6) Karoonagapillaykaren Karoomban, (7) Allapoya-

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karen Karotah Moideen, (8) Ismal, supposed to be of Anjengo, (9) Paya Krishnan Nair, alias Vellotah Krishnan Nair, a native of the southern country, (10) Ernacolathkaren Pandary Abdulla, (11) Ellookaren Moideen Chokra, (12) Allapoya Barrido, (13) Ausep, a Polean converted to Christianity, (14) Karoonagapillaykaren Moideen Krambar, a Hindoo Shooder, converted to Mahomedanism, and (15) myself, in all 15 persons were sent by the gentleman to the Island on the west of the Six Islands. We were working there as coolies. Monsieur Hugon used to come to this Island every Saturday to inspect the work and return. When the gentleman came to the Island two weeks previous to the Saturday on which he was said to have been killed, I was laid up sick of blood flux, and represented it to him, when he told me, that I should go to the Island further west, where there was millet to be sown and work there. Accordingly I went to this Island, where there was a caffer, with whom I worked. On Sunday the day after the gentleman had been murdered, I and the caffer Kittavoo, went to the bungalow on the Six Islands, when all the Malabar coolies, i. e., those who were working on that Island, as well as Moideen Cootty Moopen and the 13 other coolies who were working on the western Island, were there. I heard from the lady, Monsieur Hugon's wife and the caffers who were there, that Moopen Moideen Cootty and the other coolies who were employed on the western Island, had put Monsieur Hugon to death. Eighteen days after this, Captain Roman's vessel arrived there. The accounts of the Malabar coolies were then settled. The Captain and the lady paid the men at the rate of 9£ and the women, I think at 7£ each. After receiving our wages, we embarked on board Captain Roman's ship and came and landed at Kayamkollom. I do not know how Moideen Cootty Moopen and others murdered Monsieur Hugon.

My deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

Signature.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

Joint Magistrate.

Deposition of Barrido, son of Matoo, Christian, aged 40 years, petty trader, residing at Pollattil Bazar, in Waddakanjerry, within the Cochin Rajah's Territory, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, on the 29th January 1857.

On the 4th Chingom 1030 (18th August 1855) and 17 other persons were shipped from Kalpety in Cochin, on board Captain Roman's vessel, for the purpose of being taken to the Mauritius, 11 of these persons, myself and 10 others, were shipped by Changaren Chooan, and the remaining men by a Christian named Coonha. At the very time that we were shipped, each of us was paid two months' wages, 6 Rupees, with a promise of being victualled in the ship, and Captain Roman told us that after our arrival at the Mauritius we would be paid at the rate of 8 Rupees each per month with board; and then gave all of us, as above stated, two months' wages, 6 Rupees, to each, at the rate of 3 Rupees per month. I was also paid at the same rate. After this, Captain Roman took us to an Island called "Six Islands," and told us that we should land there. As we did not attend to it, he beat and landed us there by force. He then left us to work under a gentleman whose name I do not know. I am only aware of the names of some of the 18 persons abovementioned, viz. (1) Cochoo Coonhan, the name of whose country I know not, (2) Karomban, (3) Ramen, and (4) Ausep. I do not recollect the names of the others. We staid on the Six Islands for 2½ years. For 6 months we were paid at the rate of 3 Rupees each. After this, the gentleman (then superintending the work) was removed and another gentleman, whose name also I know not, succeeded him. This new Superintendent was not in the habit of giving us either pay or food properly. On our asking for pay, he used to beat us, and thus oppress us much. Six months after (our arrival) Captain Roman again brought 10 or 20 labourers. These were composed of two or three castes, such as Nair, Jonagan (Mopla) and Chowan (Tejan). Among them there were the following women, viz. Annah, Oodallah, Korissina and Maria. Among the men, those whose names I know, were, (1) Moideen Cootty, (2) Coonhamod, (3) Ismal, (4) Carotab Moideen and (5) Vellotah Moideen. I am not however aware of the name of the country to which these individuals belong, nor do I

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation 7th April 1857.

know the names of the remaining men and their country. 2 of the labourers first brought, and 14 of those subsequently landed, amounting altogether to 16 in number, were detached to another Island lying to the north of the Six Islands, for the purpose of cutting wood, and one of them Moideen Cootty was placed as Moopan or head man over the rest. The names of these 16 persons are (1) Moopen Moideen Cootty, (2) Coonhamod, (3) Vellotah Moideen, (4) Karotah Moideen, (5) Kaleeba, (6) Abdulla, (7) Moideen Chokrah, (8) Karomban, Ausep, Pooten Krishnan and Paya Krishnan. The names of the remaining men I do not recollect. Rice and other provisions for their subsistence used to be carried thither from the Six Islands every eight days. The gentleman was in the habit of going there every Saturday to inspect the work. The manchee or boat in which he used to go as above was that in which the two individuals named Pandarom Veloo and Velayden were in the habit of proceeding to the Island where the coolies aforesaid were employed, for the purpose of bringing grass (to the Six Islands.) The gentleman used on all occasions to return at 5 o'clock in the evening. One day having gone thither as usual, he did not come back even after it was 6 o'clock. The lady (his wife) therefore directed rice to be distributed to us. Having received the rice, we left the place for the purpose of cooking and eating it. The caffers whom the lady had sent to enquire after the gentleman, having returned at night, informed her that they did not see the gentleman, that the coolies were all sitting and taking their meals, that on seeing the caffers, they all rose up in a body, and that the caffers then got frightened and returned. When it was about midnight, all the coolies that were employed on the other Island, came to the Six Islands on which we were residing, and then beat us all in a most severe manner. Moideen Cootty and others used (afterwards) to give us work, and provide for our subsistence. After the lapse of 20 or 25 days, Captain Roman's ship arrived at the Six Islands, and Moideen Cootty told the Captain thus: "You should give our wages and take us back and land us in our country." The Captain paid our wages accordingly, and conveyed and landed us at Quilon. He paid me 9£ as wages. We paid passage money at the rate of 4 Rupees each. After this, all of us proceeded to our respective destinations.

My Deposition has been read over to me, and is correct.

Signature.
(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

(True translation.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

The Deposition of Prisoner Calatil Moideen Cootty alias Caleeba, before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, dated the 21st February 1857.

I think it was about two years ago, that myself, Moideen Cootty of Chowghaut, Coonjamod of some place unknown to me, Iyappen, Punchee, Barido, Veloyden, Joya, Caroottha Moideen Coonjoo, and Cochen Nair were shipped from Cochin on board Captain Roman's vessel by the Ghaut Syrang. We were told that we should proceed for labour to the Mauritius, that we would receive eight Rupees each for the time, and ten Rupees after our arrival there. We went accordingly, and the vessel touched at one of the small Islands of the group called the Six Islands. Captain Roman told us to go on shore. We said it was not proper to land us there, but that we should be landed at the Mauritius which is a large and populous place. He then got the Syrang to haul us up to the mast and beat us. Being afraid, we landed there. We worked there about a year. We were afterwards taken to the larger Island to the west of that on which we first landed, and were employed there two months and a half, when we were taken to another small Island further west. We worked there 10 or 15 days. A man attached to a gentleman on the aforesaid. We were afterwards taken to an Island to the eastward and employed there for two or three months. On a Saturday, the gentleman on the Islands, and two men of the Thier caste came to see the works, when Krishnen Nair of Velliengode told the gentleman that Moideen Cootty the Moopen (head man) often beat and ill-treated them. The gentleman thereupon struck

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th April 1857.

Krishnen Nair with a piece of English cable, when Krishnen Nair grappled with the gentleman, and they fell down together, the former above the latter. Moopan Moideen Cootty and Veloota Moideen Coonjee of Tricoonapoya seized the gentleman, and Moopan Moideen Cootty with a sword he had in his hand, cut the gentleman on the neck. Veloota Moideen Coonjee also cut the gentleman on the neck with a knife, and afterwards Moopan Moideen Cootty severed the head from the body. Seeing this, we all ran up and found the gentleman lying dead. Karoota Coonjamod, with an ayuda cutty or war knife, cut the tendon of the heel. We all went and lived in a house in the place. After 20 or 25 days, Captain Roman's vessel arrived, and we went on board. We desired that we might be landed at Cochin or at the Mauritius, but he (Captain Roman) said he could not, but would land us at Kayencollum, and he did so, when each of us went his way.

Mark of Calatil Moideen Cootty.

(A true translation.)

T. Govindo Manom, Sheristadar.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

N. B.—After the man had been seven days in Jail, he expressed a wish to make another Deposition, and this was taken from him.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

The Deposition of Calatil Moideen Cootty alias Caleeba, aged 37 years, of Mangala Umshom Talakara Deshom in the Betutnad Talook, Mahomedan, by profession a fish-monger, son of Moideen, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin on the 14th February 1857.

I reside in my Village in the Betutnad Talook, but I have not been to the Six Islands or other places. I obtain my living by selling fish in my native place.

I have heard the Deposition read to me, and it is correct.

Mark of Calatil Moideen Cootty.

(A true translation.)

T. Govindo Manom, Sheristadar.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

No. 49. ORDER THEREON, No. 410; dated 7th April 1857.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing communication be transmitted to the Government of India, and of that and of the Acting Magistrate's letter of 9th March last No. 38 (with enclosure), to the Government of the Mauritius and the Honorable Company's Solicitor with reference to previous correspondence.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Ordered that the following letters be despatched.
No. 50. From T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Fort St. George, to the Secretary to the Government of India; dated the 7th April 1857, No. 411.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of 20th March 1857, No. 335, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a further letter, with its enclosures, from the Acting Magistrate of Malabar, forwarding Depositions on the subject of the murder of Mr. Hugon at the Six Islands.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

*one copy of above, with enclosure
to the Colonial Secy, Mauritius (20th April 1857)*

W. C. Solicitor

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th April 1857.

No. 51. From T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, to the Colonial Secretary, Mauritius; dated 7th April 1857, No. 412.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of 11th February 1857, No. 181, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor of the Mauritius, copies of further letters, as per margin, received from the Acting Magistrate of Malabar, having reference to the murder of Mr. Hugon at the Six Islands, and the conviction of Captain R. Rodriguez of the Schooner "Alexander Auguste," for crimping.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Letter from Acting Magistrate of Malabar, 9th March 1857, No. 58, (with enclosure.)
Do. do. 27th March 1857, No. 51, (with enclosures.)

Judicial Department

No. 410

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 7th April 1857.

Read the following Letter
from the Acting Magistrate of
Malabar.

(Here enter 27th March 1857 No 51).

Resolved that a copy of the
foregoing communication be
transmitted to the Government
of India, and of that and of
the Acting Magistrate's letter
of 9th March last No 58 (with
enclosure) to the Government
of the Mauritius and to the
Honorable Company's Solicitor
with reference to previous
correspondence.

Ordered that the following
Letters be despatched

To the Govt. of India (Here enter No 1)
To the Colonial Secy, Mauritius (D.O. No 1)

Copy to H.C. Solicitor

Copy to the Magistrate of Malabar } Dispt 21st
" H.C. Solicitor

Judicial Department

No 411

To The Secretary to the Government of India

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of 20th March 1857 No 335, I am directed by the Right Honble the Governor in Council to transmit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a ^{further} letter, with its enclosures, from the Acting Magistrate of Malabar, forwarded on the depositions ~~taken~~ ^{on} the subject of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~murder~~ ^{murder} of Mr. Heyon at the Lin Islands.

[Signature]
27 Mar/57 No 57.

To the Secy, 27th April, 1857

[Signature]

Dispt 2.11.11

Recd by to Aug 20 Del 57
No 26 of 1857
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No 410

Extraordinary

27th April 1857

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Disptd 21st

Judicial Department

N^o 412

To the Colonial Secretary
Mauritius

Sir,

In continuation of my
letter of 11th Feb/57 N^o 187, I am
directed by the Right Hon^{ble} the
Governor in Council to forward
for the information of His Excl.
Majesty the Governor of the Mau-
ritius, copies of further letters,
as per margin, received from
the Acting Magistrate of Mala-
bar, having reference to the
murder of Mr. Regou at the
des Islands, and the convic-
tion of Capt. R. Rodriguez of the
schooner "Alexander Auguste",
for crimping.

[Signature]

To the Secy,
7th April, 1857

[Signature]

Letter from A^g Magistrate of
Malabar 9th March/57 1858
(with enclosures)
S^o S^o 27 Mar/57 N^o 57 (with 80)

Aug 27th to Aug 20th 1857
N^o 26 of 1857
Dated
Sept 26th to Oct 5th 1857 N^o 23

The Secy of the
Judicial N^o 57 of 1857

N^o 411

The Secy to the Secy of
Judicial

27th April/57

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23. Apr
1857

Wash. D.C. Aug 20. 1857
No 26 of 1857
Dated at Wash. D.C. 1857.

Dr. Geo. F. Johnson
Baltimore 1857

1857

Dr. Geo. F. Johnson
Baltimore 1857

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