

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 454

Press
~~Mis.~~

62.63

Dated

21-4-1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

No. 62.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
30th March 1857.

SIR,

D.
No. 49-9.

1. I have the honor, by direction of His Excellency the Governor of Mauritius, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 11th Ultimo, forwarding certain papers relative to an outrage, alleged to have been committed by certain Indian Coolies on one of the Six Islands.
2. And, in compliance with the request thereby communicated, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor of Madras, an account of the measures already taken by the Government of Mauritius, for ascertaining the truth respecting the alleged illegal introduction of Indians into the Six Islands, and the reported murder of Mr. Hugon.
3. Previous to the receipt of your communication, under acknowledgment, His Excellency had directed that the evidence obtained upon these two subjects, should be prepared without delay for transmission to the Government of India, I am therefore now in a position to furnish you with all the particulars that the Government of Mauritius have been able to collect, together with the Report of His Excellency's legal adviser upon the same.
4. On the 14th August last, a communication (of which a copy is enclosed) was addressed to His Excellency by Mr. Self, one of the District Magistrates of Port Louis, stating that a band of 7 Indians had been brought before him, who had been picked up at sea in the attempt to make their escape from the Six Islands to Cochin; no attempt was made to detain these people at Mauritius, but, as it appeared by their statements, that they as well as others on the Six Islands had been subjected to ill-treatment, and, as it further appeared very probable that they had been illegally introduced into that Dependency, an effort was made by the Government to obtain the services of Commander Peyton of H. M.'s Brig Frolic for the investigation of the validity of such statements.
5. Being informed however that Commander Peyton could not proceed upon this service consistently with the instructions which he had received from Commodore Trotter the Commander of the Station, His Excellency did not think fit to insist upon his undertaking such a commission especially as the arrival of the Commodore was daily expected.
6. But upon intelligence being subsequently received of the murder of Mr. Hugon, a communication was made to the Commodore himself of which a copy is enclosed together with his reply thereto.
7. The visit of Commander Peyton to certain Dependencies of Mauritius of which I also beg to transmit the Report, was the result of this correspondence and the evidence collected by him together with the declarations of Madame Hugon and Overseer Dumazel which were subsequently taken by the Crown Solicitor contain the only information which His Excellency can at present lay before the Government of Madras upon this subject.
8. The opinion which his Excellency's legal adviser has expressed upon the case is also transmitted for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor of Madras in Council.
9. His Excellency has taken steps to ascertain whether the grantees or their agents can be proved, to have been parties to the illicit introduction of the Indians above mentioned, and should the evidence appear sufficient to render such a proceeding advisable, instructions will be issued for their prosecution.
10. In any case every possible precaution will be taken by the Government of Mauritius to prevent the recurrence of such illegal practices.
11. As regards the latter part of paragraph 5 of your letter, I am directed to inform you that the Six Islands are situated in Lat. $6^{\circ} 35'$ South Long. $71^{\circ} 25'$ East and have been recognized as Dependencies of Mauritius ever since the capture of this Island on the 3rd November 1810, and that they are borne as such upon a List of the Dependencies of Mauritius deposited in the Colonial Archives a certified extract of which List is hereby transmitted. I also enclose in proof of the jurisdiction exercised by the Government of Mauritius over the said Islands, a certified copy of the deed of concession to the original grantees together with the Memoranda of

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April, 1857.

the various transfers made of the rights of such grantees to subsequent occupants. The inhabitants of those Islands are therefore amenable to the Supreme Court of Mauritius and to the Penal Code enacted by the Colonial Legislature.

12. The Report of Commander Peyton which accompanies this letter will supply all the information at present in possession of this Government respecting the treatment of the Coolies now on the Six Islands and the manner of their introduction; as regards the latter point, I have already informed you that measures are being taken to prosecute if possible the parties now holding the Island.

13. With reference to the charge of ill-treatment, His Excellency fears it is not without foundation as regards the Island of which Mr. Hugon was Manager. It will be observed however from the Colonial Secretary's letter to Mr. Laporte of the 17th February and from that gentleman's reply of the 26th, that as soon as this circumstance had been brought to the notice of the Government by Commander Peyton's Report, immediate measures were taken to remove all cause of complaint. Any further information that may transpire on the return of the Emma Louisa from the Six Islands will be immediately communicated to the Government of Madras.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

No. 22.

District Court,

Port Louis, 14th August, 1856.

To the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report the following circumstance for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

2. On Thursday last, the 7th Instant, I was applied to by six Indians and a woman who made the following statement. That they were embarked at Cochin about two years and eight months since, to proceed to Port Louis, Mauritius, as Immigrants. That the Captain of the vessel on board of which they embarked at Cochin instead of bringing them here, landed them at Six Isles, where they worked as laborers for upwards of two years when, being ill-treated and receiving no wages, they absconded in a boat and after being several days at Sea, were picked up by an American vessel and landed at Salomon's Islands from whence they had just arrived on board the "Sans Pareil," Captain Reynaud. They further stated that the vessel which carried them to Six Isles, was now in this harbour. I adjourned the case to Saturday, 9th Instant, to enable them to procure the name of the above vessel as also for the attendance of Captain Reynaud on that day.

3. On the 9th Instant, the Plaintiffs and Captain Reynaud being present, the Plaintiffs declared that the name of the Ship which carried them to "Six Isles," was the "Alexandre Auguste," Captain Rodriguez. Captain Reynaud also confirmed their statement as to being picked up at Sea and landed at Salomon's Islands. The case was again adjourned to Tuesday 12th Instant for the attendance of Captain Rodriguez.

4. On the 12th Captain Rodriguez appeared assisted by his Attorney Mr. Anthony Colin. The charge having been explained to him, he at once admitted having carried Plaintiffs from Cochin to Six Isles, but said they embarked for that Dependency, and not for Mauritius, in the light of Passengers and that he was not aware he could not take them there as such. He also said that there were only eight or ten people who left Cochin, but the Plaintiffs declared that they embarked to the number of 39 men and 4 women, that they were all landed at Six Isles and that, with the exception of themselves, the remainder were still in that Dependency. Captain Rodriguez stated that he was about to leave for Cochin and would give them a passage home; but as they evinced a repugnance to entrust themselves again to his care, after having been, as they stated, already deceived by him, I did not consider myself justified in ordering them on board "the Alexandre Auguste;" but directed that they should be at the charge of the owners of that vessel until His Excellency's decision on the subject should be made known.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

5. These people are thus thrown upon the Colony without any means of subsistence on their parts. I think perhaps they might institute a private action in damages under Art. 52, 54 and 79 of the Passenger's Act 1852, though how they will find money to institute proceedings, I cannot very well see; and I fear the delay in preferring the complaint has stopped any legal proceedings for breach or non-performance of contract. (vide Section 82.) Perhaps His Excellency might under the circumstances of the case order any action which might be entered to be heard in "forma pauperis."

6. I beg to enclose a certified copy of the letter stated to have been sent with them, when they were landed at Salomon's Islands.

(Signed) H. M. SELF,
District Magistrate.

Barque Americaine "Brouce," le 28 Avril 1856, Gouverneur de l'Ile aux Salomons.

Mon cher Monsieur,

Etant à cinquante lieux de cette Ile dans l'Est-sud-Est, le 22 Avril à neuf heures du matin, j'ai rencontré un canot contenant six Indiens et une femme qui n'avaient rien à manger, ils sont tombé à bord presque morts, j'ai secouru les malheureux, et je suis venus les mettre sur votre île avec les quelques paquets qu'ils avaient.

Vous recevrez deux lettres que vous aurez la complaisance de faire parvenir à Maurice, elles sont pour les Seychelles.

En le faisant vous obligerez votre très dévoué serviteur.

(Signé) THOS. WILSON,

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) H. M. SELF,
District Magistrate.

The superscription of this letter is as follows:

A Monsieur Le Gouverneur des îles aux Salomons.

(True Copy)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Reduit, 21st November, 1856.

To Commodore TROTTER,

G.

H. M. S. "Castor," Commander in Chief,

No. 42.

Cape Station.

SIR,

Referring to the correspondence with the Officer Commanding H. M. Sloop "Frolic" noted

Letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 2nd October 1856, to
Commander Peyton.

Reply of Commander Peyton to the above, dated 4th October
1856.

Letter of Colonial Secretary of 8th October 1856, acknowledging receipt of same.

in the margin, I now beg leave to acquaint you that intelligence has subsequently been received here, by way of Cochin, to the effect that the Indian laborers at Six Isles had murdered the Manager Mr. Hugon, and had compelled the Master of the Ship "Alexandre Auguste" to take them off the Island and carry them to Cochin where the Ship had just arrived, as the vessel that brought this intelligence from thence was leaving.

It is therefore in my opinion very desirable that if the "Frolic" can be conveniently spared for the service, she should be dispatched to visit the Six Isles with a view to obtaining all the information procurable respecting the murder, the treatment of the Indians by their employer, the circumstances that led to it, and the manner in, and the time at, which these Indians were illegally imported from Cochin to Six Isles.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

Being under the apprehension that labourers may have also been introduced into some of the other Dependencies of Mauritius in an illegal manner, I should be glad if the "Frolic" could also conveniently touch at any of those named in the margin, more particularly as none of those Dependencies have been visited by a British Ship of War for a number of years.

Agalega.
Six Islands.
Diego Garcia.
Coetivy.
Peros Banhos.
Solomon Island.
Saint Brandon.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.
(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

"Castor," Port Louis, 25th November 1856.

SIR,

In reply to your Excellency's letter of the 21st Instant, informing me of your opinion that it is very desirable the 'Frolic' should be dispatched to the 'Six Islands' with a view to obtaining all the information procurable respecting the murder of the Manager, Mr. Hugon, by some Indian laborers who had been illegally imported from 'Cochin.'

I have the honor to inform you that although those Islands are without the limits of the Cape of Good Hope Station, considering the serious circumstances of the case and the desirableness of early enquiry into the matter, I shall, after the arrival of the Mail Steamer from the Cape of Good Hope which is daily expected, despatch the 'Frolic' to the Six Islands for the purpose of carrying out your Excellency's wishes.

Commander Peyton will also be instructed to touch at as many of the other Islands in the neighbourhood, mentioned in your letter as Dependencies of Mauritius as may be compatible with the time occupied by the investigation at the 'Six Islands' and endeavour to ascertain whether laborers have been introduced in an illegal manner at any of the Islands in question.

Should the Frolic not be able at present to touch at St. Brandon and Agalego which are within the hurricane region. I shall hope to have an opportunity of sending a Cruiser there after the termination of the hurricane season.

(Signed) H. D. TROTTER, Commodore,
Commanding-in-Chief.

To His Excellency J. M. Higginson, Esq., C. B., Governor, &c. &c.

Reporting the Frolic's visit to the Mauritius Dependencies.

SIR,

H. M. "S. Frolic," Diego Garcia, 27th January 1857.

With reference to the correspondence of the Acting Colonial Secretary, dated 2nd October 1856, concerning the illegal introduction of labourers into the Six Islands, and desiring me to visit those Islands, as well as the other Dependencies of Mauritius, and also my instructions from Commodore Trotter of the 4th Ultimo, I have the honor to make the following report to your Excellency as far as relates to the condition of the several Islands I have visited.

"Galega".—2. I arrived at Galega on the 10th December 1856, and called upon the Administrator Monsieur Varcher; I went over the Establishment and found every thing in very good order particularly the labourers' houses. All the laborers have been legally introduced into this Island. I examined most of them and asked them if they had any complaints to make, which they all said, No. According to the offence they commit Mr. V. either imprisons them or stops their daily allowance of grog. Mr. V. informed me that whenever any of his labourers wished to go to Mauritius to seek better employment or higher wages, he had always given them leave but that they invariably returned as they find it more profitable being at Galega than Mauritius. They are principally from the Malabar Coast and were on the Island before Mr. V.'s time, so that he could not inform me what vessels brought them or who introduced them. They are paid 4 Dollars per month with rations. At present the Islands produces 9000 velts of Oil for the Mauritius market, but before the gale which took place about 4 years since and destroyed a great many fine Cocoa-nut trees, it produced nearly double that quantity.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

"Coetivy".—3. I left Galega on the 13th December for the Island of Coetivy, and arrived at that Island on the 16th; I proceeded to the Establishment which is on the N. W. side of the Island, and called upon Mr. Auzugru, the Administrator. He has only been there 2 months. I found every thing in good order and no complaints. This Island produces 3000 velts of Oil for Mauritius market annually.

The laborers of this Island have been legally introduced, but I could not ascertain how they came to this Island, or the names of the parties who introduced them, some of them have been of the Island for many years. Their pay is from 3 to 7 dollars per month with rations, and the Administrator punishes for theft or any other serious offence, by stopping 5 dollars out of their wages.

"Peros Banhos".—4. I sailed from Coetivy on the 17th December for Peros Banhos and arrived there on the 6th January 1857. I went over the establishment on Isle du Coin with the Administrator, Mr. Rivaud, and found everything in a very satisfactory order and no complaints. The laborers had all been legally introduced to these Islands, and are paid from 3 to 7 dollars per month with rations. Mr. R. for punishment sends them to Moresby Island. The produce of this group for the Mauritius market is about 20,000 velts of oil annually. A week before my arrival the American Ship "Ocean Spray" of 1,200 tons with a cargo of Railway Iron for Madras was wrecked on Diamond Island to prevent her foundering at sea, she sprung a leak about 400 miles to the Eastward of these Islands and it is my opinion that nothing can be saved, the Captain and Crew were living in tents on Diamond Island but most of them left in the "Two Consins" for Mauritius, and the remainder will I believe go to Ceylon in the Brig "Surprise." The Master did not require any assistance from me.

"Salomon's Isles".—5. I left Peros Banhos on the 10th January for Salomon's Islands, and arrived there on the following day. The establishments on Isles Boddum and Fouquet are in very good order, none of the laborers are illegally introduced into these Islands. The laborers on the Islands came from Mauritius with the present Overseer, and are paid from 4 to 5 dollars a month, with rations. The quantity of oil exported to Mauritius, is about 7500 velts annually.

"Three Brothers".—6. The "Frolic" left these Islands on the same eve, for the Three Brothers, and arrived there the following day. I sent Lieut. Stephens on shore to the centre Island, and on his return, reported to me that there was no one on the Island. I then proceeded to Eagle Island, and anchored there the same eve.

"Eagle Island".—7. The general state of this Island is very good, and the laborers have not been illegally introduced. Monsieur Bernard the Administrator of this Island, as well as the "Three Brothers," informed me that the laborers there are Creoles of Mauritius and are paid from 3 to 5 dollars per month. The produce of the Eagle and Three Brothers is about 3000 velts annually. No punishments are inflicted on these Islands.

"Six Islands".—8. I left Eagle Island the following day, and arrived off the Six Islands on the 14th. I proceeded on shore accompanied by Lieut. Stephens and Mr. Bignell, Assistant Pay Master, and visited the Establishment on Isle "Sud Est," under Mr. Dumazel, Acting Administrator of these Islands. I had all the laborers (18 in number) viz. 17 men and 1 woman brought before me. I questioned them, one and all in the presence of Mr. Dumazel, Lieut. Stephens and Mr. Bignell, if they had any complaint to make. They all said, Yes. That they had not been paid their wages since July last, and were all anxious to leave for Mauritius. They also complained of the general bad treatment they had from time to time, received from the late Mr. Hugon, especially about their provisions having been stopped as a punishment. Their pay is 4 dollars a month, besides rations. During my stay at "Sud Est," these laborers refused to work for Mr. Dumazel, as I was wind bound for 4 days, I had an opportunity of judging of their conduct and frequently observed several of them in a state of intoxication from drinking toddy. There is about 3,000 velts of oil ready for exportation. I consider that Mr. Laporte has been most neglectful in his duty towards Monsr. Gerard the Proprietor, in not sending money by the "Sans Pareil" (which left Mauritius for Six Isles in December last) to pay these laborers, and I would suggest to your Excellency that a vessel should be sent to Six Islands immediately for these men. Forty-four Malabars seized the English Schooner "Alexandre Auguste" in September last, and compelled the Master to take them to the Malabar Coast. The particulars

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

of which are contained in another letter reporting the circumstances under which Mr. Hugon was killed on Subine.

"Diego Garcia".—9. I left these Islands on the 18th and arrived at Diego Garcia the following morning. I inspected the three Establishments on this Island, viz. East Point, Mr. Reynaud, Administrator, Minni Minny, Mr. Mainguy Administrator, Point Marianne, Mr. Dumat, Owner and Administrator, and found them in a very flourishing condition. None of the laborers had been illegally introduced. They receive from 3 to 7 dollars per month and rations. The annual production of these Estates is about 50,000 velts.

Enclosure (No. 1) is a census of the population of the whole of the Islands, I have visited. Enclosure (No. 2) is a letter from Mr. Dumat, Owner and Administrator of the Estate at Marianne point, suggesting the necessity of having a Magistrate and Police force at these Islands and also that a Man of War should visit these Dependencies once or twice a year. Enclosure (No. 3) is a letter from Mr. E. Reynaud, late Administrator of Six Islands giving me a statement of the legal introduction of the Malabars to those Islands from Cochín.

(Signed) L. W. PEYTON,
Acting Commander.

Diego Garcia, 3 Establishments, 20th January 1857.

	East Point Estate, Monsieur Reynaud, Administrator.					Minni Minny Estate, Mr. Mainguy, Administrator.					Point Marianne Estate, Mr. Dumat, Owner and Administrator.					Remarks.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Whites.....	1	2	3	1	7	1	1	1	1	4	1	2	1	2	6	
Indians.....	7				7											
Africans.....						8	2			10						
Creoles of the Island.....														10	6	
Madagascar.....						6	1			7	12				12	
Negroes.....																
Creoles of Mauritius.....	92	15	3	3	113	25	7	10	10	52	42	7	10	6	65	

(Signed) L. W. PEYTON,
Acting Commander.

Census of the Population of the undermentioned Islands when visited by H. M.'s S. Frolic in December 1856 and January 1857.

Galega, 10th December 1856, Masmur Vacher, Administrator.						Coetivy 16th December 1856, Mon- sieur Sughrue, Administrator					Peros Banho (Ile du coin 6th January 1857) Monsieur Ru- aud, Adminis- trator.					Salomon's Islands 11th January 1857. Boddam, Mr. Hugon, Ad- ministrator.					Foquet Mon- sieur (13) de St. Simon, Ad- ministrator.					Remark.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Whites.....	3	2	4	2	11	1	1	2	1	5	3	1	1		5	1	1									
Indians.....	52				52	1				1																
Africans.....						4																				
Creoles of the Island	97	19	21	13	150																					
Madagascar.....						5	2			7	15					15	25	5			30					
Negroes.....						2	1			3	10					10										
Creoles of Mauritius.....						3				3	20	5	3	2	32	25	5	2			27	19	2	3	1	25

Fort St. George Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

	Three Brothers, 13th January 1857, Monsieur Bernard, Administrator.					Eagle Island 14th January, Monsieur Bérard, Administrator.					Six Islands 15th January, Monsieur Dumazel, Acting Administrator.					Remarks.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Whites.....						1	1			2						The three Brothers is under the Administrator of the Eagle Island. * Monsieur Dumazel and family with Mr. F. A. De Cruz left in the "Frolic" for Diego Garcia.
Indians.....																
Creoles of the Island.....											3				3	
Madagascar.....																
Negroes.....																
Africans.....																
Creoles of Mauritius.....						17	3	3	7	30	14	1			15	

Diego Garcia, le 24 Janvier 1857.

Monsieur Le Commandant PEYTON, du Brick de Sa Majesté "Frolic" en rade.

Monsieur Le Commandant,

Comme directeur et co-propriétaire des établissements d'huilerie du groupe de Peros Banhos "Pointe."— et de la Marianne a Diego Garcia ; comme ami de toutes les personnes qui ont des intérêts soit dans les autres parties de Diego soit dans les îles voisines ; je crois que ma présence fortuite dans ces parages ou je suis en tournée, m'impose le devoir de vous exprimer la satisfaction générale que cause votre mission dans l'archipel de Chagos : c'est la première fois à ma connaissance, tout au moins depuis un grand nombre d'années, qu'un vaisseau de sa Majesté y a jété l'ancre.

L'influence que votre visite peut avoir sur le sort futur de nos établissements, isolés et malheureusement peu connus, me paraît être si grande que je vous conjure au nom de la compagnie que je représente, et en celui de tous les propriétaires auxquels j'ai déjà fait allusion, de prolonger votre séjour à Diego aussi long tems que votre mandat et le bien que vous pouvez faire s'accordent à le permettre.

Il nous importe beaucoup, Monsieur, que vous ne vous éloignez pas de nous avant d'avoir acquis une connaissance parfaitement exacte des faits relatifs à nos administrations ; du soin que nous avons de confier ces dernières, à des hommes honorables et libéraux ; du sort qu'ils font à nos ateliers, du bien être qui en résulte pour tout employé laborieux et économe, et enfin de notre sollicitude pour que le succès de nos exploitations soit surtout le fruit, d'une respectable industrie exercée sous l'égide des lois. Cela nous importe, dis je, parcequ'une pareille étude faite par un homme de votre caractère nous vaudra un irrécusable témoignage et une puissante recommandation pour obtenir la protection dont il nous est désormais impossible de nous passer.

Nous croirions cette protection assurée si un des vaisseaux de la station du Cap visitait annuellement nos établissements. Peut-être objecterait on que l'archipel de Chagos est en-dehors des limites de cette station ; mais à quelle autre marine pourrions nous demander une surveillance à moins que ça soit à celle de la Compagnie des Indes, alors que nos îles sont des dépendances de Maurice qui est une possession de sa Majesté.

Nous croirions cette protection prochaine, si, même à nos frais, il nous était donné un Magistrat qui de tems à autre ferait sa tournée dans toutes les îles sur un de nos navires mis à ses ordres.

Nous croirions enfin cette protection efficace et complète si, en raison de la présence d'un Magistrat sur nos établissements, il nous était accordée une immigration appropriée à la nature de nos travaux et à l'importance de nos besoins. Ce dernier avantage est d'autant plus désirable que depuis longtemps déjà nos ateliers, recrutés dans la population creole, ne suffisent plus à l'entretien de nos forêts dont la production domine de jour en jour.

Permettez, monsieur le commandant, que sans trop abuser de la liberté que j'ai prise de vous entretenir si longuement, j'e vous fasse remarquer que les îles de l'archipel de Chagos méritent bien quelque faveur, et que Diego Garcia en particulier est digne d'un intérêt excep-

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

tionel. La position géographique de cette dernière île, sa magnifique baie que vous connaissez aujourd'hui, en font un port sur de relache naturelle pour les vaisseaux qui, à certaines époques de l'année se dirigent du golfe du Bengale vers Bombay ou les côtes Persannes et Arabiques; que dans presque tous les tems les vaisseaux qui trafiquent entre l'Inde et Maurice y trouvent abri, accueil et assistance, ce n'est donc pas tout-à-fait en dehors d'un intérêt général que je vous prie de faire votre rapport, et d'appuyer nos souhaits de votre bonne et sympathique recommandation.

J'ai &c.,

(Signé) DUMAT.

Monsieur L. W. PEYTON,

Commandant H. M. S. *Frolic*.

MONSIEUR,

Je viens d'après votre demande, vous donner quelques renseignements, au sujet des Indiens qui ont été introduits au Six Iles, pendant mon administration.

Je puis vous assurer, Monsieur le Commandant, que ces hommes n'ont pas été le moins contraints à y rester, et qu'ils ont déclaré en ma présence être engagés verbalement, à Cochon, par le Capitaine Romain Rodrigues, pour deux ans, et que ce dernier devait à l'échéance du dit engagement les transporter à Maurice ou dans leur pays, selon leur désir.

Ces hommes étaient à mon départ des Six Iles au nombre de quarante-quatre (44) ils y ont été débarqués, Monsieur le Commandant, en les divers époques que voici.

Le 2 Septembre 1854, par Alexre. Augte dix-huit.....	(18)
Le 18 Mars 1855, par même navire même Capitaine quatorze.....	(14)
Le 18 Juin 1855, do. do. un	(1)
Le 29 Septembre 1855, do. do. onze	(11)

Ils étaient engagés pour la première année à recevoir trois roupies par mois, sel et tabac, en quantité suffisante pour leur consommation, et quarante-cinq livres de riz (45) par mois, ces hommes avaient aussi le loisir de la pêche, pendant leurs récréations et quarante roupies pour la seconde année.

Je puis vous assurer, Monsieur, qu'ils ont été régulièrement payés pendant mon séjour aux Six Iles, tous les mois, jusqu'à mon départ pour Diego Garcia le 31 Décembre 1855, en foi de quoi ils ont déclaré en présence du Capitaine Bacot, de la Goelette Emma Louisa de ses Officiers et du sieur Paul Hugon mon remplaçant, n'avoir rien à réclamer. J'ai donc expédié à Monsieur Gerard propriétaire à Maurice, un Certificat de Paye, que ces Messieurs ont approuvé, les Indiens ne sachant signer.

Diego Garcia, Pte. de l'Est }
ce 20 Janvier 1857.

(Signé) E. REGNAUD,

(True Copies.)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

COPY

REPORTING THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH MR. HUGON WAS MURDERED AT SIX ISLANDS.

H. M's Sloops *Frolic*
DEIGO GARCIA,
27th January 1857.

SIR,

With reference to the 2nd paragraph of your orders dated the 4th December 1856, directing me to report the circumstances of the murder of Mr. Hugon at Six Islands. I have the honor to make the following statement respecting that lamentable occurrence and to enclose the

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

evidence of Madame Hugon, and Monsieur Dumazel, Acting Administrator of the Six Islands, who were living there at the time it took place. In examining Monsieur Dumazel on my arrival at Six Islands (15th Instant) in reference to the murder of the late Administrator, I had some difficulty in understanding him as he only speaks Creole French.

2. On the afternoon of that day I went over to the Island of Lubine where the murder was perpetrated, accompanied by Lieutenant Stephens, Mr. Bignell, Assistant Paymaster, Mr. Thomas A. DeCruz, and one Creole, and had the body of the late Mr. Hugon exhumed. I observed there was nothing but the skeleton left except the feet, they were in a large pair of Blucher shoes in a state of decomposition. On the back of the skull there is a large hole about the size of a five shilling piece, this was done by a heavy axe which I have now in my possession. There is also his Umbrella buried with him. His grave is under a small thatched cover made of Cocoa and Palm leaves, and at his head there is a small stone erected by Madame Hugon stating the date of his death. The following account regarding the murder of Mr. Hugon is from what the Indians told Madame Hugon, Monsieur Dumazel and the Creoles on their return from Lubine to Sud-Est. These Malabars (15 in No.) had been some weeks employed at the Island of Lubine cutting wood, &c. In the first week of August last, Mr. Hugon visited them to see how the work was progressing and found very little done; they had a canoe with them and were allowed by Mr. Hugon to come over to the establishment for provisions, &c., whenever they required them. Mr. Hugon had observed that when they came they invariably bought wine which he was allowed to sell to them by the orders of Mr. Laporte. On the 16th August (the day of the murder) Mr. Hugon again visited them on Lubine accompanied by two Malabars, and found that the work had not progressed in the least, since his last visit, and on his speaking to the head man, and not receiving a satisfactory answer, he struck him, with a piece of 1½ inch rope about four feet in length which he generally carried with him; the Malabars then attacked him with axes and sticks, at first they could not overpower him as he was a very strong man, but at last he was compelled to run for it, and on his falling on his knees an Indian struck him over the calf of his leg with an axe which brought him to the ground when, another Indian struck him over the head; which must have killed him at once. They then cut his throat, cut his feet and wrists off, ripped his stomach open, took his entrails out and put them in his coat, doubled his body up and buried him with his head down and feet up in a hole about three feet deep. On the day of the murder there was a Creole at work on the other end of the Island cutting wood. I asked him particularly if he heard any cries or noise between the hours of 11 A. M. and 3 P. M. his answer was that it was blowing very heavy from N. W. and it was impossible to hear anything.

3. On the arrival of the *Alexander Auguste* at Six Islands in September last, the Indians boarded and robbed her, and compelled the Master (Rodriguez) to take them on board and proceed with them to the Malabar Coast, had he not complied with their demand they would have killed him also.

4. As the evidence I have obtained from Madame Hugon, Monsieur Dumazel and Mr. Thomas A. D'Cruz (who was in the *Alexander Auguste* at the time Mr. T. A. D'Cruz, letter No. 3. the Malabars seized her and who remained at Six Islands at the request of Captain Rodriguez to protect Madame Hugon) respecting the murder and subsequent conduct of these Indians will give the authorities at Mauritius some insight into the circumstances of the case. I do not consider it necessary for me to dwell further on the subject.

5. Madame Hugon and children had left Six Islands in the *Sans Pareil* for Diego Garcia two days before my arrival. When I arrived at Diego Garcia I found Madame Hugon on board the *Sans Pareil* waiting a passage to Mauritius which Captain Régnaud had kindly offered her.

6. Madame and Monsieur Dumazel are about to proceed to Mauritius in the same vessel and will be able to give further information if required.

Enclosed is a list of 17 Malabars who were present and concerned in the murder of Mr. Hugon on the Island of Lubine and also the names of those who left Six Islands in the *Alexander Auguste*.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) L. W. PEYTON,

Acting Commander.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

Madame Hugon examined by Commander Peyton in the presence of Mr. E. Régnaud and Madame Hugon's brother.

Dated at Diego Garcia, 23rd January 1857.

The circumstances under which these Indians were introduced at Six Islands, whether their statement be true that they engaged their passages at Cochin for Mauritius and that they were against their will landed at Six Islands?

The rate of wages at which they were hired at Six Islands and whether their wages were regularly paid?

Whether there were any, and if any, what amount of wages due to these men at the time of Mr. Hugon's murder?

Whether the men had any ground of complaint against Mr. Hugon and generally as to the treatment of the men in question by their Employers?

What were the apparent motives for the murder of Mr. Hugon, whether revenge for alleged ill-treatment or plunder or any other motives?

What time did the labourers go to work in the morning?

What time had they to breakfast?

Had they any grog per day?

Do you know up to what time Mr. Hugon paid the labourers?

Did the Malabars and Creoles work from the 1st August to the 16th, the day of Mr. Hugon's death?

Do you know why the Malabars of Lubine did not work?

How often did Mr. Hugon visit the Island of Lubine between the 1st and 16th August 1856?

Do you know the first man that struck your husband and if so with what weapon?

Can you tell me the names of the principal men engaged in the murder?

When did the Malabars return to Sud Est?

When did you first hear of your husband's death?

Did the Malabars rob you of money or anything?

Did they open your boxes and demand the keys?

Did they look every where about the house for plunder?

The statement of these Indians is not true for they were legally engaged at Cochin for Six Islands.

Hired at the rate of 3 Rupees per month for the 1st year and 4 Rupees for the 2nd year, wages regularly paid up to the end of July 1856.

The Malabars and Creoles were paid by Mr. Hugon to the end of July 1856, 16 days are due to them.

I did not hear them complain of any ill-treatment from Mr. Hugon.

For plunder. They told me that if they had not killed Mr. Hugon they would not have been able to have taken the money from the Schooner on her arrival and gone to their own country.

6. A. M.

One hour and a quarter.

Once a day at 5 P. M.

Up to the end of July 1856.

Those that were left on Sud Est worked up to the 16th August and those on the Island of Lubine 15 in number refused to work.

After their return to Sud Est they told me that they did not work because they were waiting for Mr. Hugon to come over there for them to murder him.

Once, and on the last occasion of his visiting them he found that they had not progressed with their work.

The first man that struck my husband is called Mothen Cooty, with an axe.

Yes—their names are Mothen Cooty, Esemall, Mothar, Cougee, Kistna, Novo.

On the evening of the 16th August 1856.

4 or 5 days after it occurred.

They took 100 dollars and one gold watch and chain.

Yes.

Yes.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

Did the Malabars turn you out of your house.
Did any of the Malabars show you any protection from the rest?

Yes.

Three of them would not allow the others to hurt me. Antony Grand, Barbe, and Corom Hamondth.

Did they threaten to take possession of yourself, Madame Dumazelle and Madlle. Ardinne and take you to Cochin?

Yes, and the reason they did not was on account of the three Malabars I have mentioned opposing as they said it would prove that they had murdered Mr. Hugon.

How long was it after Mr. Hugon's death before the Alexander Auguste arrived at Six Islands?

About 28 days after.

Do you know how much money the Alexander Auguste had on board when the Malabars robbed her?

About 4,700 dollars.

Do you know the reason there was so much money on board her?

To repair her at Cochin.

Do you know how much money belonged to the Master?

About 2,000 dollars.

How long did the Malabars remain on the Islands after the death of your husband?

About 34 days.

How long did the Alexander Auguste remain at Six Islands after her arrival?

About 6 days.

Did they compel the Master of the Alexander Auguste to take them away or did he do so of his own free will?

Compelled him.

(Signed) L. W. PEYTON,

Acting Commander.

MONSIEUR LE COMMANDANT LE FROLIC,

Monsieur, vous m'avez demandé des renseignements, sur ce qui s'est passé aux Six Iles depuis la mort de mon mari jusqu'ici. Les voici: Oui, Monsieur mon pauvre mari a été la victime de ces misérables, le 16 Août vers trois heures de l'après midi environ, le crime a été commis sur l'Ile aux Lubines.

J'ai expédié à sept heures un bateau à sa rencontre, mais les gens qui y étaient ont failli être victimes, aussi ils sont donc retournés, Monsieur, à l'Etablissement ou j'étais à huit heures, et ce n'est que quatre jours après que ces gens après m'avoir dépossédée, pris les clefs et m'avoir fait mille vexations, m'ont avoué qu'ils avaient tué le pauvre malheureux.

Je n'ai eu Monsieur le Commandant, aucun soutien de Monsieur Dumazel, il était chez moi avec sa famille sous ma protection et moi sous la sienne.

Monsieur Dumazel n'a pas du tout regretté la mort de mon mari, vu, m'a-t-il dit que la place lui avait été promise et qu'il était un père de famille.

Je finis vous assurer, Monsieur le Commandant, qu'il était temps que le Sans Pareil me transporte à Diégo, que j'étais about de mes souffrances, il me serait trop long et trop pénible de vous mentionner de nouveau les détails que je vous ai fait connaître. Je pars, Monsieur, ces jours ci pour Maurice par le Sans Pareil, et espère être justifiée de telles mystifications en attendant, Monsieur, croyez moi votre bien dévouée servante.

(Signé) VVE. HUGON.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

Monsieur Dumazel examined by Commander Peyton in the presence of Mrs. Hugon and Brother Mr. E. Regnaud and Mr. Bigned.

Dated this day of January 1857.
18 months.

How long have you resided at Six Islands?
Is it your opinion that Mr. Hugon ill treated any of the Indians or Creoles?

It is my opinion that he did not.

Did you ever see Mr. Hugon strike any of the Indians or Creoles with a stick, rope or his hand?

I once saw Mr. Hugon punish an Indian with a stick, and order my brother to give 30 lashes to another Indian with a piece of rope and afterwards each Indian to give them our lash for desertion.

Did you think that these men deserved their punishment?

Yes.

How were the labourers paid?

Indians from 1½ to 2 dollars per month, Creoles 4 dollars per month.

What quantity of provisions had they each per day?

1½ lbs. of rice every other day and 1 lb. of Indian corn to make up for being short of rice, grog in the evening and 1½ salt and sufficient tobacco for their use during the month.

What were the working hours?

From 4 A. M. to 7 P. M. and had not regular hours to themselves.

On which Island was Mr. Hugon murdered?
How often did Mr. Hugon visit the Indians on Lubine?

Lubine.

Sometimes once and sometimes twice a week.

On Mr. Hugon's first visit in August did he find that the work was progressing?

Yes, but slowly.

When did he last visit them?

On the day of his death 16th August 1856.

After they had murdered Mr. Hugon when did they return to the Establishment on Sud Est?

The same evening.

State their conduct on their return?

They all went to their houses.

Did they threaten to murder you and take your wife, Mrs. Hugon and Madame Ardinne to Cochin?

Yes on one or two occasions.

Did you remain at your own house or did you go to another Island with your family?

After the arrival of the Alexander Auguste I escaped to Lubine.

Is it true that the Indians sought you on the Island that you had escaped to?

Yes but I returned before they reached the Island.

When you left Sud Est with your family did you offer any assistance to Mrs. Hugon?

No.

How long were the Indians on the Isle Lubine before Mr. Hugon's death?

Some weeks.

What was their subsequent conduct after the murder and when did they acquaint you of the death of Mr. Hugon?

The day after the murder when I rung the bell for the labourers to go to work the Indians came with sticks and threatened to murder me, Mrs. Hugon and all, and set fire to the Establishment if the keys of the stores were not given up, they did not acquaint me or Mrs. Hugon of the death of Mr. Hugon until 4 or 5 days after it had occurred, some of them were in a state of intoxication.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

When did the Alexander Auguste arrive at Six Islands?

About the 13th September 1856.

Did you remain in your own house with your family from the day of the murder until the arrival of the Alexander Auguste?

No, I remained in Mrs. Hugon's house.

After your return to Sud Est is it true that you sought refuge in Mrs. Hugon's house and would not go out when she ordered you?

No.

Is it true that the Indians threatened to fire the houses if they did not obtain all the money and valuables?

Yes.

Can you state what articles they took from the Establishment and from Mrs. Hugon?

They took Rum, Rice, &c. from the Establishment, but I do not know what they took from Mrs. Hugon.

After the arrival of the Alexander Auguste what did the Indians do?

When the Captain landed, they made him a prisoner and went on board the Alexander Auguste the following day and brought chests on shore supposed to contain money, as I saw the Malabars with plenty of money afterwards.

How did they escape and when?

By the Alexander Auguste, left 28th September 1856.

Did the Master of the Alexander Auguste take them of his own free will or did they compel him?

He was compelled.

How long was the Alexander Auguste at Six Islands before the Indians embarked?

About 6 days.

Do you know the number that left in her?

Forty-two.

Can you tell me how the Indians knew that the Alexander Auguste would have money on board when she arrived at Six Islands?

The Master Roman Rodriguez told the Indians that he would call at Six Islands on his way to Cochin and that he would have money on board to repair the Ship when he arrived there.

Do you know what quantity of money she had on board?

About 3,500 Dollars.

How much belonged to the Master?

I do not know.

After the death of Mr. Hugon did you take upon yourself the Office of Administrator of the Islands and give protection to Mrs. Hugon?

Yes.

Had you any suspicions of the Indians before the murder took place, and if so, what were your reasons?

I had none.

How long had the murder taken place before the Alexander Auguste arrived at Six Islands?

38 days.

The circumstances under which these Indians were introduced at Six Islands, whether their statement be true that they engaged their passages at Cochin for Mauritius and that they were against their will landed at the Six Islands?

These Indians were legally introduced here having volunteered at Cochin for Six Islands, and brought there by the Alexander Auguste, Captain Roman Rodriguez, at different periods from 2nd September 1854 to 29th September 1855.

The rate of wages at which they were hired at Six Islands and whether these wages were regularly paid?

1½ Dollars to 2 Dollars paid up to the end of July 1856. Mr. Hugon was murdered on the 16th August 1856.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

Whether there were any, and if any what amount of wages due to these men at the time of the murder of Mr. Hugon?

16 days.

Whether the men had any grounds of complaint against Mr. Hugon, and generally as to the treatment of the men in question by their employers?

These men if they had any grounds of complaint did not make it known to me.

What were the apparent motives for the murder of Mr. Hugon whether revenge for alleged ill-treatment or plunder or any other motives?

Supposed to be for revenge and plunder.

Whether there was any apparent complicity on the part of any of the labourers now remaining on the Island and totally what is the condition of the labourers now remaining on the Island, are they well treated, are their wages regularly paid and are there any of them who are detained there against their will?

No complicity on the part of the labourers now remaining. The men complain that their wages have not been paid since Mr. Hugon's death and that they wish to leave for Mauritius.

(Signed) L. W. PEYTON,
Acting Commander.

Freligue a paru à Six Iles le 15 Janvier 1857 Capitaine Naintongue Commandant de la Corvaite je suis décidé à lui rendre conte de tout qui cet passé à Six Iles appartire du 16 Aout 1856, cet que nous avons approuvé 16 Aout 1856. L'asance de l'Administrateur sa mort a même tant qui asasinant par le malabard qui avais été campait à l'Ile Libine qui et à trois mille de distance ils avaient un Créole de Maurice Ecarisenti qui travaleur sur le même dit ils on ce 16 Aout moi Dumazel cet inquietee vert trois heur de laprémidi comme dabitide de le voir retourné de sa tourné tant affrese gros mer plus sant cesse tout la journé il cet embarqué avain-qua de autre Indins dans une ambarcation qui a coutume d'aller chercher de l'eurbé dans cet dit ils de fachons quand je ne pas vus arrive l'administrateur jusqu'à cinque heure je de lapre-midi je expedier cinque Créole dans une ambarcation qui on venus me rendre conte vert huit la ils on demande le nommé Modine Coty où et Missier. Modine Coty arrester pendant dix minite asoupi ils a repondu en Grosse parole Misier n'a pas ici le Créole on vus la mauvaise disposition de ce Indins tout suite ils on transporter dans leur embarcations en courant ils antandu un coup dallem dositant que ont pri prend dans leur ambarcation le Indins été à leur poursuite ils on ramefermé a loise le Indins sont arrive part cause la Marait basse avant l'ambar-cations été sur l'Ile de suite quand l'ambarcations fut rentre à la cour moi Dumazel avait pre-parait une autre ambarcation pour aller au même renconte alorse je me suis retenu à larive de Créole qui été rendu la ils m'ont donné la detaille de cet Indins été disposé de faire a loise la je me sus desidé de me metre sous le arme je fait la paille de tout nos Créoles sur le quele je enbeven ma famille de cet moi pour rendre dans la maison de Mme. Hugon je renferme tout le damme dans la chambre et je tait à companier par nos Créole tout autour de la maison pendant cet nuit du 16 Aout cet ne que St. Gile qui n'a pas voulu se trouve avaique moi pandans cet nuit, cet nuit m'a donné m'a beaucoup d'incertitude j'avais deux bons Indins qui m'ont parait détre bons a ce momant le nommé Thomer et Antony ces sont le homme qui mont dit la mauvaise dispositions de leur camaradé qui a soutenu le interait de ma famille et cel de Mme. Hugon de fachen le 17 à six heur du matin le Indins sont mis et armée aligne pour prendre la raine de l'Etablissant ils m'ont demandé tout le clef la cleuf de la boutique de commerce sel qui on res-peté si je n'aurait pas donne que imedamant ils aurait assasinant tout la cour entier ils m'ont obligerait de leur payer tout le Créole malgré qui devez à l'Etablissant si je naurait pas exécuter leur ordre ils m'aurait parpiyer piyage sur le animaux tu au diverse bourique de fache de Créole daproses pres la maison principale ils obligerait ma famille de travaleur du linge

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

pour et malgré malade ou non on été obligerait de faire le 18 matain Modine Côté et Modina Conge et Cinait nouveau qui on venu dans le propre intations pour nous assinaint malgré le avoir lire la raine de l'Etablissant ils avais sougon que nous avons fait un prose verbal contre at ce raport qui en voulu nous excuter le 18 Aout 1856. L'arrivé de Alexandre Auguste 13 Septembre 1856 qui a donné la plus forte incertide que nous avons pus supporter moi et ma famille nous e'tons obligerait de nous exsaler dans une île pour aller nous avons profité la maraid basse pour nous sauve nous avons rester sans pouvoir donné a nos petit enfant ni boire, ni manger pandant trois jours ils et vient que dans ec momont voulant prandre courage à nous nouyer comment faut ils faire doteé la vie à trois petit insant ceci venaint à nous faire tomber le bras la le soir ils falu transporter dans la cour en faisant la même roule crevant de faim et de soif le piene mertriyer par le corant courant un buisant de quatre mille de distance pandant cet uuit meurt de fatigue en fain ca nous a donné une claire consations pour nous le lendemain matin 18 Septem-bre quand ils sont embarquer par l'Alexandre Auguste pour cochaît snppose d'être le surveillante de l'anfants de Madame Hugon qui a beaucoup troublé le talimant de ce dit endroi pandans que nous avons un navire la détaille et si gaud qui a Diego Gracia je ne peu pas vous dire tout qui ce passer à Six Iles si je le bonheur arrive à Maurice je soutindre par dixsept creole quand nous somme retourné de l'Ile Lidine Monsieur Romaine nous dit qu'il été oblegerait de trois mille cinquecant piase au mallabars pour nous racheter la vie. Si je quitai le Six Iles à Larivé de la corvaite cet par le creole ou refuge totalement l'ourrage et plus il cet amuset d'une bousent composer d'une mauvaise fermentation dont le calcul il et certain que vous me même commandans vous avais vu le subeson de ce homme.

Je suis votre Devout Serviteur Juge de la Britanique.

(Signed) PIEUR CULDEY DUMAZEL,

Rade de Diego Gracia ce 21 Jan. 1857.

MEMO.

The above letter is almost unintelligible; it is written in the Creole Patois of the Island by a very illiterate person. An explanation of its contents will be hereafter forwarded and if possible a translation.

(Signed) S. DOUGLAS,

Pro. Colonial Secretary.

DIEGO GARCIA,
24th January 1857.

SIR,

I am going to give an account of my being on board the Schooner Alexander Auguste, Captain Roman Rodriguez, belonging to Cochín. I entered on board that vessel in 1855, as an apprentice to my uncle the master.

The first voyage I made in her was from Cochín to Six Islands with 8 or 10 Malabars as passengers for those Islands and they were landed there without any complaints nor did ask to go to Mauritius. I went again to Six Islands in the Alexander Auguste in September 1856 and on my going on shore on Sud Est, I was told that the Malabars had killed Mr. Hugon on the Isle of Bene. I then observed some Malabars seize Captain Rodriguez and they told me to tell him to give them money and to take them to the Malabar Coast, if he did not give them money they would kill him. Upon which Captain Rodriguez told them through me that if they went on board the vessel that they would find some money. The Malabars then told me to tell Mrs. Hugon to give up the money and if she did not do so that they would kill her. Mrs. Hugon said that she had no money, but they could take her clothes and her gold watch. After searching that she had no money, but they could take her clothes and her gold watch. After searching Mrs. Hugon's boxes and appearing not satisfied, and then again the Malabars say that she had hid the money under ground, threatened to fire the house and to burn Mrs. Hugon and Captain Rodriguez. Then Captain Rodriguez and myself then begged Malabars not to kill Mrs. Hugon. Captain Rodriguez told them if they go on board the Schooner they would find some money then three or four Malabars then took the boat with one Creole and went to the Alexander Auguste and brought the money on shore, they then compelled Captain Rodriguez to divide the money amongst them, after this the head man Moythin Cutty made the Malabars to pay Mrs. Hugon

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

what they owed her for making clothes. And then the Malabars say that will not take me and Captain Rodriguez they will take the chief officer to be their Captain, then Mr. John D. E. Costa, the chief officer told them if they will not take the Captain Rodriguez that he also will not come, then Malabars say that they will take Captain Rodriguez and myself. All the Malabars left the Six Islands in the Alexander Auguste, a few days afterwards. I was left at the Six Islands to protect Madame Hugon at her request and also by permission of my uncle the Captain Madame Hugon with two children left the Six Islands in the Schooner Sans Pareil for Diego Garcia on the January 1857.

I have the honor to be, &c.,
(Signed) THOMAS A. D. E. CRUZ.

The names of 17 Malabars who were present and concerned in the murder of Mr. Hugon on the Island of Lubine on the 16th August 1856.

Kistrea Langarey,
Barrie Mooreau,
Kistrea Variole,
Billoo,
Authap,
Mothin Conge,
Bapoo,
Mothin Edouard,
Esmale,

Kistra Nouvian,
Abdoulah,
Coum Hamondth,
Mothin Gd. Barbe,
Mothin Cootry,
Mothin Calypa,
Batithen Valaydon,
Mothin Chocra.

(Signed) L. W. PEYTON,
Acting Commander.

A List of 44 Malabars who escaped from the Six Islands in the Alexander Auguste on the 28th September, 1856.
Master Roman Rodrigues.

Mothin Conge,
Kistrea Langarey,
Rama Naday,
Cochogue,
Noulo,
Barrie Mooreau,
Lovimah,
Antony,
Narrama,
Rama Narrain,
Kistrea Variole,
Barrie Matoo,
Kandan,
Billoo,
Chakoo,
Ayapun,
Cooum Barrie,
Rhomen,
Joseph,
Authap,
Congeria,
Changra,

Domingo,
Mothin Chocra,
Bapoo,
Mahameth,
Mothin Edouard,
Esmale,
Rosena,
Maria,
Anna,
Hossalalah,
Kistra Nouveau,
Abdoulah,
Coum Harroondth,
Mothin gd. Barbe,
Mothin Cootry,
Mothin Calpa,
Panchichoo,
Barridhoo,
Lemn,
Eyepen,
Cochen,
Batithen,

(Signed) L. W. PEYTON,
Acting Commander.

(True Copies)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

March 1857.

Before recommending the adoption of any measures for the purpose of bringing the perpetrators of the murder of Mr. Hugon to justice, I have thought it desirable that the evidence of Madame Hugon and the Overseer Dumazel who are now in this Island should be taken at greater length than has been done by the Commander of the "Frolic" the more particularly as this Officer has acknowledged that he experienced great difficulty in comprehending the Creole French spoken by the latter of these parties. As no District Magistrate had cognizance of a crime committed in the Dependencies, the Six Islands, I have caused this enquiry to be made by the Crown Solicitor and although the evidence thus obtained has necessarily not been upon oath, it nevertheless appears to me to be sufficient to come to a conclusion on this matter. The murder of Mr. Hugon has been perpetrated on a small Island called Lubine, one of the Six Islands. There were at the time 17 Indians on this Island and one Creole. The Creole states that he was working at a distance from the Indians and neither saw nor heard any thing that took place. There is reason to suppose that the whole of these 17 Indians were more or less implicated in the murder of Mr. Hugon but all these men as well as the rest of the Indians who were on the other Islands have returned to Cochin. There is consequently not a single witness who can speak to any of the circumstances of the murder, and it is impossible to say what different parts were taken by the several Indians who were on Lubine Island in the commission of the murder. Under these circumstances I do not think that there will be any use in taking any steps with the view of having these 17 Indians arrested, if possible, by the Government of India, since there is no evidence sufficient even to bring these men to trial, if they should be arrested.

It further appears to me to be beyond doubt from the evidence obtained from two of the 7 Indians who were picked up at Sea in a canoe in which they had made their escape from Six Islands, which evidence is corroborated to a great extent by that of Madame Hugon and Dumazel that these Indians have been driven to commit the crime by the ill-usage which they were daily accustomed to experience at the hands of Mr. Hugon the Manager of the establishments at the Six Islands. There is every reason to believe that the whole of the Indians on the Six Islands have been induced to embark at Cochin under the impression that they were to be brought to Mauritius, where they were to receive 6 to 10 Rupees per month wages and that they have been fraudulently landed at the Six Islands and engaged according to the statement of the Overseer at 3 or 4 Rupees a month. That during their sojourn on these Islands they have been subjected constantly to beating and other ill-treatment; that they were not supplied with proper food and there is some ground for believing that they have not received any wages. Circumstances of this kind would even in the face of strong evidence, which in this case does not exist, have great weight with the Court and a Jury in favor of the criminals.

I transmit herewith the Deposition of witnesses taken by the Crown Solicitor which may be interesting to His Excellency the Governor as explaining the circumstances under which these Indians were introduced at the Six Islands and the treatment which they experienced there.

(Signed) W. G. DICKSON,
Proc. & Advocate General.

Pierre Fulde Dumazel of Jardin des Peaux, Rue de la Fontaine, declares as follows:

I went to Six Islands on 19th July 1855, as an Overseer, and I remained there until the month of January 1857, when the "Frolic" Brig of War visited these Islands. About five months after I had been at Six Islands, Mr. Hugon arrived there to replace Mr. Riquard, as Chief Overseer. He was the Chief Overseer until the day of his death. On the 16th August 1856, there were 15 Indians and a Creole employed on the Island called Lubine. They had been employed there for about six months clearing the ground to plant cocoanut trees, at 12 o'clock on that day Mr. Hugon left the principal Island called Chouette (Sud Est) where he resided as well as myself, and went in a small piroque with two Indians named Bellow and Balayden to Lubine Island to look after the workmen there. As Mr. Hugon did not return in the usual time, I sent another boat with the Creoles named Gustave Pampauh, Malfils, Sinun, Jean Charles and . . . to see what had become of him. As the second boat had not returned

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

at 8 o'clock at night I was preparing to go myself to look for him when the Creoles returned in their boat. I had not any suspicions up to this moment that any foul play had been done upon Mr. Hugon, but as the weather had been rather boisterous when he left, I was afraid that he had met with some accident at Sea. The Creoles informed me on their return, that on landing at Lubine and enquiring for Mr. Hugon, the Indians told them that he was not there, seeing that the Indians were all armed with sticks and that there was something suspicious in their attitude, the Creoles stated that they would go to another Island to see if Mr. Hugon had gone there. As they were returning to their boat for this purpose the Indians pursued them, but the Creoles managed to escape before they could be caught and they returned to the main Island. I called together all the Creoles 17 in number, and begged them to remain near the main house during the night to protect Mrs. Hugon, not knowing what might happen. Before this I was informed that all the Indians from Lubine Island had crossed over to the principal Island by walking along the reef at low water, and that they were in a very angry and excited state. Before receiving this information, I had been to the Island where, about 16 Indians resided. I found only one Indian there. It was after receiving this information respecting the return of the Indians from Lubine Island that I called together the Creoles to protect the Establishment. I remained with the Creoles the whole of that night under the verandah of Mr. Hugon's house, an Indian named Antony came and warned us that the Indians were talking of murdering all who were in the yard, that is to say Mrs. Hugon, myself, and all the Creoles. The next morning at six o'clock I made the "Appel." The Indians all came armed with axes, bill hooks, and sticks; they were drawn up in a line like Soldiers at about 50 paces from Mrs.

The Creoles were all present, separated however from the Indians.

Hugon's house. They remained drawn up in order and sent a Creole named Agustave who acted as Interpreter to inform me that if the keys were not immediately given up to them as well as the control of the Establishment, they would murder us all and set fire to the Establishment. The Indians were then 33 in number besides women and children. Only 8 of my Creoles were able bodied men and we had no arms so I was obliged to comply with the orders of the Indians. The same day the Indians Moedine Cooty, Peria Kistnan, told me that they had killed Mr. Hugon and that they would not work any longer. One of the Indians named Moedine Coigne came to me for some ointment to dress a wound on his hand, which he said had been given him by Mr. Hugon. He did not give any particulars as to the circumstances under which this wound was given. On the 18th August the whole band of Indians came again armed to the house of Mrs. Hugon. Four of them named Moedine Cooty, Peria Kistnen Moedene Cogne, and Thoney (Indian) came forward armed with axes. They told us that they had been informed, that we had drawn up a "proces verbal" respecting the murder of Mr. Hugon, and that if such was the case they would murder us and our children. I told them that we had not done any thing of the kind. The Creoles had all been driven away with blows of sticks to a distance from us. These four Indians in the presence of the whole gang then compelled Mrs. Hugon, myself and my wife to swear solemnly on the heads of our children and after kissing the Crucifix and also the feet of the Indians, that we had not drawn up any statement respecting the murder of Mr. Hugon and that we would not do any thing of the kind. There were Christians as well as Mussulmen amongst the Indians and they compelled us to swear in the manner usual amongst Christians. From the 17th August until the 18th September they prevented the Creoles from joining us and they frequently beat the Creoles with sticks. They threatened Mrs. Hugon, and my family constantly during this period, and they placed Banana plants upright in front of the verandah and forced us to come and see them cut at them with swords to shew the way in which they could cut off our heads. They obliged us to make clothes for them. They took a sum of Dollars 300 belonging to the establishment. As well as about Dollars 50 belonging to me. They helped themselves also to food and to clothing. On the 13th September the Schooner "Alexandre Auguste," Captain Romain Rodriguez, arrived at Six Islands. She anchored at a distance of about 3 miles from the shore. The Indians shut up all the Creoles in the camp, and forced me under threats of instantaneous execution to put on my best clothes, and to walk about on the shore near the landing place where I could be seen from the Vessel. They also set to work two or three of the Oil Mills in order that the place might appear as if nothing had happened. As Captain Rodriguez neared the shore I was ordered to retire to the house where Captain Rodriguez came as soon as he landed. Whilst he was at the house the Indians seized his boat and after-

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

wards made a prisoner of him. The boat's crew as well as the crew of the Schooner were nearly all Cochon men the Countrymen of the Indians at Six Islands. That night as we were all in the house, Captain Rodriguez asked me if I had any arms, I shewed him some that I had made by tying Carpenter's tools on to the ends of sticks. The Captain then called his boat's crew who were there and shewing them these arms which were concealed under a mattress asked them to assist him in fighting the Malabars. The boat's crew did not do anything. I do not know what they said, as I do not understand their language. The next day, the Indians came and searched the house, and took away these arms, threatening us all with death. The 15th September, the Indians all embarked on the Schooner with their effects. They were 33 men besides women and children, all the Indians on the Island embarked on the "Alexandre Auguste." The Captain went on board of his own free will taking with him Mrs. Hugon, who wished to go away in the same vessel, but the Indians would not allow her to go in the same vessel with them, and she was landed again. Captain Rodriguez told me that he had ransomed our lives by paying to the Indians a sum of Dollars 3,500. There was no wind until the 18th September, when the Schooner set sail taking away all the Indians who were on the Island. The Indians had several times declared to me, that they intended to take my niece, a girl of 17 years, as a concubine. They however did nothing more to her, than to touch her breasts on several occasions in my presence. They said at one time that they would kill me and take with them to Cochon my wife and niece and Mrs. Hugon. Moedine Cooty appeared to be the ringleader of the Indians, next to him was Peria Kistnen. Two of them named Anthoney and Grand Barboo, all along behaved with great kindness to us, and intervened on several occasions when the others wanted to kill us. After the departure of the Schooner with the Indians, I went accompanied by Augustave, Bot Marois, Eugene, and others to Lubine to look for the body of Mr. Hugon. I found a place where the earth appeared to have been recently dug up. There was some brushwood, heaped up over this place. I removed the wood and the earth to the depth of a foot and found the feet of Mr. Hugon with his shoes on, his parasol, and a great coat. The body appeared to be buried in a slanting position with the head downwards. I did not remove the earth any further after coming to the feet and legs of Mr. Hugon. The feet and legs were in a good state of preservation and were recognized by us as being those of Mr. Hugon, as he was the only white man on the Islands. The shoes and clothing were also recognized by the Creoles who accompanied me. I was afraid to remove the body as I thought that Government would send some Officers of Justice to make an enquiry, and that it would be better to leave things as they were. The Creole Auguste Pampan was present afterwards when the body was dis-interred in the presence of the Captain of the Frolic, neither I nor Mrs. Hugon were present on this occasion. I know that Mr. Hugon sometimes carried a rope's end for the purpose of punishing the Malabars. He had this rope's end with him the day that he went to Lubine (on the 16th August.) I have seen him use the rope's end for striking Indians on some few occasions. But I was generally working at a distance. I have not seen the Indians much ill-treated (trop mal-traites) by Mr. Hugon. They were treated the same as the Creoles. They commenced work at 5 o'clock in the morning and knocked off at 5½ in the evening. Their rations were 1½ lb. of rice four days in the week and 1¼ lb. of maize on the other three days. They had salt and tobacco and a glass of grog every night. These were part of their rations and were not paid for by the Indians. The wages of the Indians were from six to eight shillings a month. The men were paid every month. I have never been present when they were paid, but I have seen them go up to the house to be paid. They never complained to me that they were not paid. Of the Indians on the Island a band of 10 were introduced in September 1855, by the "Alexander Auguste." The other Indians were already on the Island when I arrived there. I heard that the other Indians were also introduced by the "Alexander Auguste." I think it was in March or April 1856, that six men and one woman all Indians escaped from the Six Islands in a canoe. On the 3rd or 4th February 1856, 4 Malagash also escaped from the Islands in a boat. They have all arrived, I am told, at Mauritius, having been picked up by vessels at Sea. I believe that the Malagash left because one of them named Pierre had received from Mr. Hugon a blow over the eye. I did not see the blow given nor do I know with what instrument it was given. The Indians may have left because several of them had been rope's ended by Mr. Hugon. I heard the Indians tell Captain Rodriguez that on the day that Mr. Hugon was murdered he had given some blows to Moideen Cooty the Sirdar, because the men had not worked for a week. They said that for this reason and also because they had been landed at Six

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

instead. The houses of the whole band of Indians who were on the Six Islands 44 in number and who all left in the "Alexander Auguste" are correctly given in the list signed by Captain Peyton.

(Signed) E. HUGON.

Mrs. Hugon adds that she intends to leave for Seycheles, where her family resides, on the 20th of this month, but that if she should be wanted on any future occasion she will come back to Mauritius when sent for.

Taken on 7th March and read over and interpreted to Mrs. Hugon before signing.

(Signed) W. N. MARSH.

Chaccoc now working with Mr. Berichon in the town of Port Louis.

I came to Mauritius with 5 other men and one woman about six months ago. I am a Native of Cochin. We left the Six Islands in a piroque. We took no food with us, and only two small casks of water. The casks leaked out before 24 hours were over, we had been twenty days at sea when we were picked up by a vessel and taken to Solomon Islands, (they were found at sea nearly dead on 22nd April 1856 by the American vessel Brouce.) We left Six Islands because we had been 2 years and eight months there without receiving any wages, and because we were beaten nearly every day by Mr. Hugon, the overseer. He used to beat us with a rope's end which he generally carried in his pocket. He made four men hold the arms and legs being extended spread Eagle fashion. We were also beaten by another man whose name I do not know but whom I have seen lately at Mauritius. He used to beat us with a tarred rope which he always carried round his neck. Sometimes ten, sometimes 20 blows were given with the rope's end, sometimes the men were beaten till they fainted. Some of the men left at Six Islands have scars. The scar which I shew on my breast was given to me by the other man of whom I spoke but whose name I do not know. It was inflicted with a large bone that he threw at me. One day when Mr. Hugon had beaten a Creole named Gustave, and Madame Hugon had remonstrated, Mr. Hugon beat his wife for interfering. I did not see him beat her. It was done inside the house. I heard the blows, and saw Mrs. Hugon a short time after sitting crying in a corner of the room. The Creoles were beaten the same as the Indians. The other man spoken of always beat the Creoles and Indians with a rope's end. Mr. Hugon used a rope's end or sticks or stones as they came to hand. I came to Six Islands in a ship with Captain Romain, (the witness pointed out, the Alexandre Auguste, Captain Romain Rodrigues, to Mr. District Magistrate Self, when he first arrived at Mauritius, that vessel then being in the harbour.) There were 17 other Indians with me before embarking, we were all told by the Captain through the medium of an Interpreter that we were to be taken to Mauritius. That as they did not understand the work their wages would be drs. 3 at first, but after they had learnt to work they would range from drs. 5 to drs. 15. On their arrival at Six Islands the Captain told them that he would wait three days and that they might go ashore and eat coconuts until he sailed when he would take them on board again. They went ashore and the vessel arrived. In the course of three subsequent voyages 26 more Indians were brought to the Six Islands in the same ship. They all said that they had been shipped at Cochin for Mauritius. The Indians brought to Six Islands were as follows:

	Men.	Women.	Children.
1st voyage of Alexandre Auguste...	18		
2nd " " " " " " " "	9	4	2
3rd " " " " " " " "	1		
4th " " " " " " " "	10		
Total...	38	4	2, 44 in all.

When we left Six Islands we left behind 32 men, 3 women and two boys. 37 in all.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

We never asked Mr. Hugon to come to Mauritius, or yet for wages for fear we should be beaten by him. Our rations were manioc only, when the ship came, we had rice for a few days. We got no salt or tobacco, nor yet any grog. Mr. Hugon had these articles on the Island but he never gave us any. We never bought any, as we had no money. The Creoles used to buy things, they sold fowls to the ships and got money that way. I cannot say whether or not the Creoles were paid their wages. They received the same rations, as we did. We caught fish for ourselves of which there was great plenty.

Signature

Taken through the interpretation of Joachim, and read over to the witness before signature by him.

(Signed) J. M. JOACHIM.

(") W. N. MARD.

Lonen, of Port Louis, in the employ of Mr. Berichon interrogated separately from the man Chakoo, tells very nearly the same story. The only point on which he differs are the following.

The rations of the Indians and Creoles were maize not manioc. The Interpreter states that both men in telling their story made use of the French names for these articles and not of the Tamil names. This man states further that they had a small quantity of tobacco given to them twice a week and grog occasionally when they were hard worked. He has heard the Creoles complain that they got very low wages. The Indians had no wages at all. He has heard that Mr. Hugon beat his wife for interfering when he beat the labourers. On an occasion this man was tied up and got 24 lashes with a rope's end from a Creole "Commandeur," whose name he does not know and who is now in Mauritius. These blows were inflicted by orders of Mr. Hugon and in his presence. This man shows also a small scar on front of leg made as he says with a hatchet that was thrown at him by the Creole Commandeur. When he left in the piroque with his companion they trusted themselves entirely to the winds. They had no idea of going to any particular place. They hoped to arrive at some land or to fall in with some vessel. Their reason for leaving was that they got no wages and were ill-treated. He gives the same account as the other man of their introduction at the Six Islands. He was one of the first lot that came there.

7th March 1857.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Six Isles. 4. Les Six Isles ainsi nommées de leur nombre, sont situées par 6°35' de Duperiel. latitude Sud et par 71°25' de longitude Est, a soixante et douze milles dans le No. à peu pres de Diego Garcia et à 1,188 milles dans le NE quelques degrés est de Maurice, ces Islets placés en fer à cheval, formant un mouillage de huit a neuf milles de tour, dont l'entrée se presente au Nord et qui n'a que deux brasses et demie d'eau.

Il s'y trouve des cocotiers, la pêche y est assez abondante, leur terroir peu étendu n'est qu'un composé de sable et corail peu élevé au dessus du niveau de la mer.

Un habitant de l'Isle Maurice, M. Duperiel, s'y est établi depuis environ vingt ans avec quelques noirs, sans qu'il apparaisse* d'aucun titre qui lui ait été delivré à cet effet.

Sic in original. quelques noirs, sans qu'il apparaisse d'aucun titre qui lui ait été delivré à cet effet.

Certifié exact et conforme aux renseignements et aux recensements existants.

(Signed) D'UNIENVILLE,

Archiviste Colonial.

Port Louis, le 18 Aoust 1826.

Certified to be a true Extract of the list of the dependencies of Mauritius deposited in the Colonial Archives.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

Au nom de Sa Majesté Guillaume IV, Roi du Royaume Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande.

Son Excellence Le Lieutenant Général, l'Honorable Sir Charles Colville, Chevalier.

&c.

&c.

&c.

Sur la demande d'Alphonse Dupérel, tendante à obtenir la confirmation de la jouissance des Six-Iles qui avait été accordée à feu Victor Duperrel, son père.

Vu la Requête du dit Duperrel sous la date du vingt-un Novembre dernier au dos de laquelle est notre approbation.

Nous, en vertu des pouvoirs à nous donnés par Sa Majesté, avons confirmé le Sieur Alphonse Duperrel dans la jouissance des six-Iles accordée primitivement à feu Victor Duperrel son père, à la charge.

1°. De ne transmettre la dite jouissance à qui que ce soit sans l'agrement du Gouvernement.

2°. De faire dans les premiers mois de chaque année au Commissaire de Police-Générale de l'Ile, Maurice une déclaration par Etat détaillé et nominatif des noirs Esclaves, personnes libres, bateaux, ustensiles et tous autres objets employés sur son Etablissement.

3°. De payer d'avance au commencement de chaque année la contribution imposée sur les esclaves de l'Ile Maurice et toutes autres qui pourraient être établies comme ci-devant.

4°. De se conformer non-seulement et strictement quant à lui et aux personnes de sa dépendance aux dispositions impératives et prohibitives du Bill concernant l'abolition de la traite et commerce des Esclaves, mais encore de s'opposer à ce qu'il ne soit rien effectué ni entrepris sur les côtes des dites Iles qui soit contraire au Bill ci-dessus, s'obligeant de dénommer sans aucune réserve tout ce qui est spécifié au dit Bill du Parlement d'Angleterre comme une infraction à icelui, à peine en cas d'inexécution des clauses, charges et conditions ci-dessus d'être déchu de la présente Jouissance et même suivant le cas et la matière des délits, de la confiscation des objets attachés et servant à l'exploitation de la sus-dite concession sans préjudice des autres et plus grandes peines prononcées par la loi.

5°. D'importer à l'Ile Maurice les produits de son Etablissement sans pouvoir les importer en aucun autre lieu où pays à peine de confiscation de la valeur des articles ainsi importés ailleurs et d'être déchu de la Sus-dite Jouissance.

6°. De faire exactement à chaque arrivée de ses navires où bateaux venant des dites Iles le rapport et déclarations au Bureau des archives de tout ce qui pourra concerner la navigation et le dit Etablissement, et surtout les évènements qui auront pu subvenir au dit lieu.

7°. De recevoir sur les dites Iles et sous les conditions dites aux règlements faits du premier juin 1828, ou tous autres qui pourraient être faits à cet égard, les individus atteints de la lèpre qui y seraient envoyés par le Gouvernement.

8°. De faire enregistrer le présent acte au Secrétariat du Gouvernement et au Tribunal Terrier où resteront déposées toutes les pièces y relatives, comme aussi de se conformer aux Règlements faits ou à faire en matière de concession en jouissance.

A défaut d'exécution des clauses et conditions ci dessus qui sont de rigueur et sans les quelles la condition n'eût pas eu lieu, le présent acte sera nul et considéré comme non-avenu, sans qu'il puisse y avoir lieu à aucune indemnité.

Donné au Port Louis, Ile Maurice le 30 Novembre 1831.

(Signé) CHS. COLVILLE,

Par Ordre. (Signé) J. SMITH,

Secrétaire en Chef du Gouvernement, par interim.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

Transcrit au Bureau du Domaine sur le 3me Régistre à ce destiné, folio 81 verso sous le No. 572.

Port Louis, Ile Maurice, le 30 Novembre 1831.

L'Archiviste Colonial, chargé du bureau du Domaine.

(Signé) LEMAIRE,

Enregistré au Secrétariat Général le 1er December 1831, au folio 289 du 3me Régistre sous le No. 274.

(Signé) J. SMITH,

Secrétaire en Chef, par interim.

Enregistré au Greffe du Tribunal Terrier par moi. Signé Greffier par intérim du dit Tribunal, sur le Régistre cote No 9, folio 132 Recto, Verso et 133 Recto, ce jour, premier Décembre 1831.

(Signé) G. LETOURNEUR,

Transferred to Marie Angelina, Trehouart, Widow Duperrel and the undermentioned children of the late Mr. Alphonse Duperrel, by order of the Honorable the Officer administering the Government as per letter from the Colonial Secretary, dated 28th October 1850, with the express understanding that the rights of the Crown will not thereby be affected, viz. Pierre André Gabriel, Catherine Louise Marthe Elizabeth, Marie Victorine Alphonsine, Victor Mari and Louis Alphonse.

Archives Office, 29th October 1850.

(Signed) THOS. PHILLIPPS,

In charge of Archives.

Registered in the Colonial Secretary's Office, in Book No. 4, Folio 21, on the 30th October 1850.

(Signed) C. J. BAYLEY,

Colonial Secretary.

Enrolled at the Registry of the Court of Appeal, Mauritius, this fifth day of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

(Signed) J. SLADE,

S. R. C. Court of Appeal.

Registered and transcribed by me, Secretary to the Executive Council, fulfilling the functions of Registrar to the Land Court in Book No. 7, Folio 132, Recto and Verso and 133 Recto, this eighth day of November one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

(Signed) D. W. RICKETTS.

By order of the Honorable the Officer administering the Government of Mauritius and Dependencies and per letter of the Honorable the Acting Colonial Secretary, dated 29th May 1855, the share of Jouissance belonging to the above mentioned Mr. Pierre André Gabriel Duperrel on the "Six Islands" has been transferred under the same conditions to Miss Louise Tasdebois and the said transfer registered folio 82 Recto of the Volume 3 "Domaine."

(Signed) L. B. MICHEL,

In charge of Archives.

Port Louis, 18th July 1855.

Registered in the Colonial Secretary's Office in Book No. 4, folio 26 on nineteenth July 1855.

(Signed) E. C. TROME,

Surveyor General.

(Signed) THS. CORBY,

Government Surveyor.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

instead. The houses of the whole band of Indians who were on the Six Islands 44 in number and who all left in the "Alexander Auguste" are correctly given in the list signed by Captain Peyton.

(Signed) E. HUGON.

Mrs. Hugon adds that she intends to leave for Seycheles, where her family resides, on the 20th of this month, but that if she should be wanted on any future occasion she will come back to Mauritius when sent for.

Taken on 7th March and read over and interpreted to Mrs. Hugon before signing.

(Signed) W. N. MARSH.

Chacoo now working with Mr. Berichon in the town of Port Louis.

I came to Mauritius with 5 other men and one woman about six months ago. I am a Native of Cochin. We left the Six Islands in a piroque. We took no food with us, and only two small casks of water. The casks leaked out before 24 hours were over, we had been twenty days at sea when we were picked up by a vessel and taken to Solomon Islands, (they were found at sea nearly dead on 22nd April 1856 by the American vessel Brouce.) We left Six Islands because we had been 2 years and eight months there without receiving any wages, and because we were beaten nearly every day by Mr. Hugon, the overseer. He used to beat us with a rope's end which he generally carried in his pocket. He made four men hold the arms and legs being extended spread Eagle fashion. We were also beaten by another man whose name I do not know but whom I have seen lately at Mauritius. He used to beat us with a tarred rope which he always carried round his neck. Sometimes ten, sometimes 20 blows were given with the rope's end, sometimes the men were beaten till they fainted. Some of the men left at Six Islands have scars. The scar which I shew on my breast was given to me by the other man of whom I spoke but whose name I do not know. It was inflicted with a large bone that he threw at me. One day when Mr. Hugon had beaten a Creole named Gustave, and Madame Hugon had remonstrated, Mr. Hugon beat his wife for interfering. I did not see him beat her. It was done inside the house. I heard the blows, and saw Mrs. Hugon a short time after sitting crying in a corner of the room. The Creoles were beaten the same as the Indians. The other man spoken of always beat the Creoles and Indians with a rope's end. Mr. Hugon used a rope's end or sticks or stones as they came to hand. I came to Six Islands in a ship with Captain Romain, (the witness pointed out, the Alexandre Auguste, Captain Romain Rodrigues, to Mr. District Magistrate Self, when he first arrived at Mauritius, that vessel then being in the harbour.) There were 17 other Indians with me before embarking, we were all told by the Captain through the medium of an Interpreter that we were to be taken to Mauritius. That as they did not understand the work their wages would be drs. 3 at first, but after they had learnt to work they would range from drs. 5 to drs. 15. On their arrival at Six Islands the Captain told them that he would wait three days and that they might go ashore and eat coconuts until he sailed when he would take them on board again. They went ashore and the vessel went away and left them three days after. There were no Indians on the Island when we first arrived. In the course of three subsequent voyages 26 more Indians were brought to the Six Islands in the same ship. They all said that they had been shipped at Cochin for Mauritius. The Indians brought to Six Islands were as follows:

	Men.	Women.	Children.
1st voyage of Alexandre Auguste...	18		
2nd " " " " " " " "	9	4	2
3rd " " " " " " " "	1		
4th " " " " " " " "	10		
Total...	38	4	2, 44 in all.

When we left Six Islands we left behind 32 men, 3 women and two boys. 37 in all.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

We never asked Mr. Hugon to come to Mauritius, or yet for wages for fear we should be beaten by him. Our rations were manioc only, when the ship came, we had rice for a few days. We got no salt or tobacco, nor yet any grog. Mr. Hugon had these articles on the Island but he never gave us any. We never bought any, as we had no money. The Creoles used to buy things, they sold fowls to the ships and got money that way. I cannot say whether or not the Creoles were paid their wages. They received the same rations, as we did. We caught fish for ourselves of which there was great plenty.

Signature

Taken through the interpretation of Joachim, and read over to the witness before signature by him.

(Signed) J. M. JOACHIM.

(") W. N. MARD.

Lonen, of Port Louis, in the employ of Mr. Berichon interrogated separately from the man Chakoo, tells very nearly the same story. The only point on which he differs are the following.

The rations of the Indians and Creoles were maize not manioc. The Interpreter states that both men in telling their story made use of the French names for these articles and not of the Tamil names. This man states further that they had a small quantity of tobacco given to them twice a week and grog occasionally when they were hard worked. He has heard the Creoles complain that they got very low wages. The Indians had no wages at all. He has heard that Mr. Hugon beat his wife for interfering when he beat the labourers. On an occasion this man was tied up and got 24 lashes with a rope's end from a Creole "Commandeur," whose name he does not know and who is now in Mauritius. These blows were inflicted by orders of Mr. Hugon and in his presence. This man shows also a small scar on front of leg made as he says with a hatchet that was thrown at him by the Creole Commandeur. When he left in the piroque with his companion they trusted themselves entirely to the winds. They had no idea of going to any particular place. They hoped to arrive at some land or to fall in with some vessel. Their reason for leaving was that they got no wages and were ill-treated. He gives the same account as the other man of their introduction at the Six Islands. He was one of the first lot that came there.

7th March 1857.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Six Isles. 4. Les Six Isles ainsi nommees de leur nombre, sont situees par 6°35' de Duperiel. latitude Sud et par 71°25' de longitude Est, a soixante et douze milles dans le No. apeu pres de Diego Garcia et a 1,188 milles dans le NE quelques degres est de Maurice, ces Isles placées en fer a cheval, formant un mouillage de huit a neuf milles de tour, dont l'entree se presente au Nort et qui n'a que deux brasses et demie d'eau.

Il s'y trouve des cocotiers, la pêche y est assez abondante, leur terroir peu étendu n'est qu'un composé de sable et corail peu élevé au dessus du niveau de la mer.

Un habitant de l'Isle Maurice, M. Duperiel, s'y est établi depuis environ vingt ans avec quelques noirs, sans qu'il apparaisse d'aucun titre qui lui ait été delivré a cet effet.

*Sic in original. quelques noirs, sans qu'il apparaisse d'aucun titre qui lui ait été delivré a cet effet. Certifié exact et conforme aux renseignements et aux recensements existants.

(Signed) D'UNIENVILLE,
Archiviste Colonial.

Port Louis, le 18 Aoust 1826.

Certified to be a true Extract of the list of the dependencies of Mauritius deposited in the Colonial Archives.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Fort St. George Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

Enrolled in the Registry of the Supreme Court on the twenty-seventh day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

(Signed) F. HERCHEMODER,
Chief Clerk, for the Acting Registrar.

Registered and transcribed by me, Acting Registrar to the Executive Council, sitting as a Land Court in Book No. 7, folio 133, (Bis) this twenty-eighth day of July one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,

Certified to be a true copy of the original Deed and the subsequent transfers as registered in the Registers of the Land Court in this Colony.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Land Court, at Port-Louis, Mauritius, this thirtieth day of March 1857.

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,
Registrar.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 17th February 1857.

SIR,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to transmit to you the annexed copy of Commander Peyton's Report of his late visit to the Six Islands, and to state that as the laborers to whom he alludes appear to have just cause of complaint. His Excellency expects that you will take the earliest opportunity of having them conveyed to Mauritius as they desire.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. DOWLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,
Asst. Colonial Secretary.

To Mr. LAPORTE, Agent for Mr. GERARD, Rue Desforges.

Port Louis, Mauritius, 26th February 1857.

To the Honorable J. DOWLAND, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

In acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 17th Instant, enclosing a copy of Commander Peyton's report on the Six Islands, I must beg leave to offer a few observations in order to vindicate my character from the charge brought against me of having neglected to pay the labourers their wages regularly.

1. The money for the payment of all the labourers on the Six Islands till the end of the year had been sent by the "Alexandre Auguste" as usual in September last; but that money along with other sums the vessel had on freight amounting in all to about £1,000 was plundered by the Indians on the arrival of the said vessel at Six Islands; a circumstance with which I acquainted His Excellency by my letter of the 30th October last.

2. On the receipt of the news of the murder of Mr. Hugon, I tried by every means to get a small vessel to send to the Six Islands with a manager and men to relieve those who were still on the Islands, but it being crop time I could get no vessel; the only one available was the "Sans Pareil" but she had been chartered by Mr. Lienard to go to Diego and all I could obtain from that Gentleman was that the vessel would call at the Six Islands to take away Mrs. Widow Hugon and her children, but could take no passengers from hence.

Having therefore no one to entrust the money to, nor to make up the accounts of the men, Mr. Dumazel, the assistant manager never having meddled in any way with the money accounts,

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

I was under the obligation of waiting till I could send a manager to send by the same opportunity the money to pay the arrears, due to the labourers, which has been done.

These explanations will, I hope, convince His Excellency that no blame can be attached on me on that account.

With regard to the last paragraph of your letter, I have the honor to inform you that the "Emma Louisa" sailed yesterday for the Six Islands with a manager (Mr. Raibaud on whose character and morality I have had the best testimonials,) and 12 labourers to relieve those now on the Islands.

In concluding, I have to beg of you, Sir, to acquaint his Excellency that I have given Mr. Raibaud, the strictest orders not to molest the men under his charge in any way, and also never to retain any one on the Islands against his will, the same instructions had, I believe, been given by Mr. Gerard to his predecessor.

It being my most eminent desire to meet the views of Government with regard to the management of those Islands, I will always be most happy to receive any suggestion on that subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most humble and obedient Servant,
(Signed) A. LAPORTE.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. G. CUMMINS,
Asst. Colonial Secretary.

Schedule of Enclosures to Colonial Secretary's letter to the Chief Secretary to Government of Madras, dated (D No. 49-9) 30th March 1857.

Date.		Page.
14th August 1856.	District Magistrate Self, to Colonial Secretary	
28th April 1856.	Sub Enclosure, Mr. T. Wilson, to the "Gouverneur de l'Ile aux Salomons."	
21st November 1856.	His Excellency the Governor to Commodore Trotter	
25th November 1856.	Commodore Trotter, to His Excellency the Governor	
27th January 1857.	Commander Peyton, to His Excellency the Governor	
Ditto.	Sub Enclosure, Commander Peyton, to Commodore Trotter.	
March 1857.	Memorandum of Procurer General	
7th ditto.	Declarations of Madame Hugon, and Pierre Dumazel	
	Extract of an Authentic List of Dependencies of Mauritius, deposited in the Colonial Archives.	
	Deed of Concession of the "Six Islands."	
17th February 1857.	Colonial Secretary, to Mr. Laporte	
26th ditto.	Mr. Laporte, to Colonial Secretary	

No. 63. ORDER THEREON, No. 454; dated 21st April 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Honorable Company's Solicitor with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation 21st April 1857, No. 453.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
dated 21st April 1857

15

Read the following
Letter from the Acting Colonial
Secretary Mauritius.

(Here enter 30th March/57 No 296)

Ordered the communication

(In original, to be returned.)

to the Hon^{ble} Company's

Solicitor with reference to.

M. C. 21st April 1857 No 453

Lt Col J. J. J. J.
Chief Secretary

Copy to the Hon^{ble} Company's
Solicitor - with orig^l letter } Disp^d 21st
and 11 orig^l Enclosures

See also: 217 1/2
In the end 1857 Alpha 1/2

No 454

Archaetia Minutissima

431/432 1/2

Fl. 835

just below 6 1/2

No. 26

10-15-57