

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	816	Press
	5455	~~Mis.~~
Dated	14-7-1918	(85)

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Handwritten signature/initials

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 14th July 1857.

No. 54. Read the following letter from R. R. COTTON, Esq., Acting Civil and Session Judge of Rajahmundry ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated 7th July 1857, No. 117.

SIR,

1. It is with the deepest concern that I have been made aware of the sentiments of the Judges of the Court of Foujdaree Udaltut, relative to some of my proceedings here, and the step they have considered themselves called upon to take ; my feelings those of a ruined man, with a wife and children to support, will not permit me to afford a lengthened explanation, and although I fear that before the arrival of this letter, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council may have disposed of the case ; yet I lose not a post, in humbly soliciting a careful consideration of the charges made against me. My position here, I have felt to be a difficult one, unacquainted with the language, it has been particularly so, as I found, soon after my arrival, that I could place no confidence in my Court establishment. I found certain parties openly defying the Criminal Courts, and prostituting the Civil Courts, and who, with money and English lawyers, denied the Court's ability to punish them.

A charge of perjury was made against one of the leaders, Rednum Dhurmaroydoo, and when I arrived, I found a warrant issued against him, months after he was brought to trial. He escaped, having engaged an English lawyer ; by this emboldened, he forged and uttered a receipt by a European merchant here, and has been convicted ; his character is notorious, and for it I will refer to the Collectors and Judges for years past, and the public records, to check the proceedings of this man, no ordinary steps could be taken, he knew every thing that took place in Court, and the contents of letters posted secretly, as a convicted felon and one who had successfully for years prostituted the tribunals under me. I seized his papers, wishing to put an end to his power, I did so, through the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, as he was at Cocanada, and I knew, had I applied to the Magistrate, then at a distant part of the district, it would have been vain, as the papers would have been at once removed, the Court of Foujdaree Udaltut have declared my act illegal ; I must submit to their opinion, but I most solemnly deny that aught but the public good actuated me, and I feel fully persuaded, that had the Court perused the letters I sent them, they would not have gone to the extreme measure of recommending my removal.

2. I shall be most happy to explain much, that now appears against me, I have a clear conscience of having done my duty to Government, and to the people under me, and I would humbly solicit that Mr. Purvis or any other officer may be directed to enquire into my conduct in the district, and report with what feelings my administration of justice is viewed by the population at large.

3. The feelings of utter destitution and disgrace will I trust be accepted as my excuse for this hasty appeal to the Government, I never could have contemplated, that my endeavours to do justice and free the Courts under me from the influence of evil doers, would have been so interpreted and rewarded.

(Signed) ROBT. R. COTTON,
Acting Civil and Session Judge.

No. 55.

ORDER THEREON, No. 816 ; dated 14th July 1857.

The Government observe that Mr. R. R. Cotton's zeal, and the integrity of his motives have not been impugned, though it was necessary to notice the illegal and arbitrary act into which he was led.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

For orders.

do good with Mr. Cotton to
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J. M.

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Mr

Mr. St. George, Esq.
14 July, 1857

To Mr. R. Cotton Esq. Secy. of the

7th July 1858 at 57458
Ld. L. L. 24. Du 2
No 31 of 1857
Para 20

Repts in ch. 7 of 1858

In com: 14 July
Judicial 1857
To
Mr. H. Cotton Esq
Chief Justice of the
High Court of Madras
To
Mr. H. Cotton Esq
Acting Chief Secretary to Government
Judicial Department
Fort St George
Madras

Dated 7th July 1857
Recd. 11th

No 117
Enclosure none
No 1057
Expressing his deep con-
cern at the steps the judges of the
High Court should have been
obliged to take relative to some
of his Proceedings in the Court of
Rajahmundry, tendering a brief
explanation in justification of
the same, & soliciting a careful
consideration of the charges.

Flow: 20 July 1858
Cotton