M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 88 Press ~~Mis.~~

12—13

Dated 27—1—1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 12. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated Calicut, 5th January 1857, No. 2.

SIR,

In submitting the following Depositions on the subject of an outrage committed on the Six Islands, the property of the family of Duparrel of the Mauritius, I have the honor to state, that ere acting on this first intelligence, I referred to the Joint Magistrate for further information, and he states that the result of further enquiry has been to satisfy him of the truth of the fact alleged, and that a murder had been committed on the Island. Further enquiry is being made and steps are being taken for the apprehension of the Coolies who, it appears, were led by a Mopla of the name of Moideen Cootty. In the mean time I conceive that it is desirable to be in direct and official communication with the Mauritius on the subject, and request the instruction of Government as to what Court has cognizance of the offence, if established, as it was committed on the High Seas.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 and 12. From the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, dated 24th Ultimo, No. 265.
To do. dated 27th do., No. 4164.

P. S.—The statement of the female Ochita will be read with interest as shewing what these inveigled Coolies have to undergo, and I regret to add that at this moment I am in correspondence with the Governor of Mahè relative to two ships now lying at Mahè and engaged in this clandestine Cooly trade from the Coast.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

From E. CULLIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Cochin; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Magistrate of Malabar, dated Cochin, 24th December 1856.

SIR,

I deem it proper to furnish you with a copy of a Deposition which has this day been given before me by Mr. Roman Rodriguez, the Master of the Schooner Alexander Auguste, of the Mauritius.

Three months having elapsed since the Vessel arrived at Cochin, I am afraid that the persons implicated in the transaction mentioned in the Deposition, have dispersed, and that it will be difficult if not impossible at this late period to discover any of them. The Police of Cochin are, however, on the alert.

I have forwarded a copy of the Deposition to the British Resident with a view to his adopting such measures as may appear to him to be necessary. The men landed from the Schooner either in the Travancore or Cochin Territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

P. S.—I purpose taking a further Deposition from the Master, and Depositions from persons belonging to the Crew of the Schooner.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to E. CULLIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate, Cochin, dated Calicut, 27th December 1856, No. 4164.

SIR,

In acknowledging your letter of the 24th Instant, I have the honor to request that you will take every possible step to trace the perpetrators of the alleged outrage, brought to light in this

7th September —
2. The ship anchored in the Cochin Roads

extraordinary manner. The tale itself however requires most thorough sifting that its truth may be judged of, with a view to corroborating the story. The precise nature of the intelligence, &c. alluded to as received from the Mauritius ought to be learnt likewise. Had the Islands been visited again from the Mauritius, after this Schooner left? Had no definite intelligence of the murder of the European Superintendent reached the Mauritius? If you find good grounds for crediting the Master of the Ship, I think the most accurate descriptive rolls of the appearance, &c. of each of the men landed must be taken. Having been some time at sea with the men, it cannot be difficult to get this, at least of all prominent characters. The offer of a reward of 50 Rupees for each ring-leader and 25 for each of the others would be of importance. They were probably Tamul, I conceive, and communication should be made to the Magistrate of Tinnevelly. I look anxiously for further intelligence ere reporting the matter further.

N. B.—For any very marked ring-leader 100 Rupees might be offered.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

Acting Magistrate.

From E. CULLIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Cochin; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar, dated Cochin, 1st January 1857, No. 1.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th Ultimo, No. 4164, on the subject of the alleged Murder and Outrage at the Six Islands.

2. The Six Islands are situated in the Indian Ocean, Lat. 6°40′ S., Long. 71°25′ E. Distance from Cochin S. by W. ½ W. 1030 miles. Distance from the Mauritius 1140 miles. They are said to be Dependencies of the Government of the Mauritius.

3. I am particular in respect to their position, as I find on the Chart another group called also "Six Islands" in the same Ocean, near the Island of Madagascar.

4. According to the statement of Captain Roman Rodriguez, he sailed from the Mauritius for Cochin on the 20th of August 1856, in the Schooner Alexander Auguste, with instructions to call at the Six Islands, to land money and supplies. On his arrival at the Six Islands he found them in the posession of Indian labourers. They made a Prisoner of him, took possession of 4900 Dollars in money which he had in the Schooner, and compelled him to convey them to the Malabar Coast.

5. He landed 31 men, 3 women and 3 children at some place on the Coast, South of Cochin, on the 30th of September 1856. He arrived at Cochin on the 2nd October 1856.

6. He heard when on the Islands that the Head Overseer or Superintendent, Mr. Paul Hugon, had been murdered twenty days before his arrival, by the Indian labourers.

7. He did not make any disclosure on his arrival at Cochin, being in apprehension that his life and the lives of members of his family would be endangered if he did so, as the Indian labourers had made him take an oath that he would not divulge any thing that had occurred.

8. The news reached Mr. Ruffin of Cochin, the Agent of the Schooner from the Mauritius, and this Gentleman induced Captain Roman Rodriguez to appear before the Joint Magistrate on the 24th December 1856, when a deposition was taken from him.

9. The statement of Captain Roman Rodriguez has been confirmed by the Depositions of six persons belonging to the Schooner.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 27th January 1857.

10. A female of the name of Ochita, a native of Cochin, and her son, a boy about 9 years of age, who returned to the Coast in the Schooner Alexander Auguste from the Mauritius, have been arrested. The woman states that she, her son, 3 women and 9 men were conveyed from the Coast by Captain Roman Rodriguez and landed on the Six Islands about a year and a half ago.

The period for which they had engaged to serve had expired, and from the severe treatment which they experienced, they were unwilling to remain longer on the Islands. Six or seven labourers (she gives the names of six) were sent to work on another Island of the group. The Head Overseer used to visit this Island occasionally. He went there some time before she left the Six Islands, and he did not return. The Mauritians or Creoles, who rowed him to this Island, said he had been murdered by the labourers. Captain Roman Rodriguez on his arrival at the Six Islands paid the labourers the arrears of wages due, and they paid the Captain passage-money at the rate of 10 Rupees per man and 5 Rupees per woman to convey them to the Coast. Captain Roman Rodriguez was unwilling to bring them back, but the Indian labourers compelled him to do so. He landed the whole party on the Coast. This woman and her son are the only persons of the party who have up to this date been apprehended. This woman states that she believes all the Indian labourers on the Islands were conveyed there from this Coast by Captain Roman Rodriguez.

11. There is no Government Officer of any description on the Six Islands.

12. As far as I can learn there were at the time of the alleged outrage on the Islands 15 or 16 Mauritians or Creoles (persons born at the Mauritius), 2 Superintendents or Overseers and some women and children.

13. I am disposed to believe that the Head Superintendent or Overseer was murdered by some of the Indian labourers but under what circumstances, I cannot say.

14. I am of opinion, that many if not the whole of the Indian labourers, who are said to have returned to this Coast in the "Alexander Auguste" had been at different periods taken from this Coast to the Six Islands by Captain Roman Rodriguez in violation of existing laws, and that a consciousness of the illegality of his proceedings connected with the labourers, made him unwilling to bring the Case forward.

Act. No. 14 of 1839.
Act. No. 15 of 1842.

15. The paper, No. 12, which forms one of the enclosures of this letter, will shew you that the news of the outrage at the Six Islands was conveyed to the Mauritius by a letter from Cochin from Captain Roman Rodriguez.

16. It was quite possible that the alleged violent proceedings on the part of the labourers may have been the result of long continued ill-treatment of them by the Overseer. There was apparently no person on the Islands to whom the labourers could apply for protection and redress.

17. I am proceeding with the enquiry from day to day. I am in communication with the British Resident, and have solicited his assistance in the Provinces of Travancore and Cochin.

18. I have issued the necessary orders to the Heads of Police at Cochin, Chowghaut, Tangacherry and Anjenjo.

19. There are grounds for believing that all the labourers belong to Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. It is, however, possible that some of them may have passed into Tinnevelly. I have therefore, in accordance with your suggestion, communicated with the Magistrate of that District on the subject.

20. I have also in accordance with your advice issued a Proclamation offering rewards for the apprehension of the labourers, copy of which accompanies this letter.

21. Being fully convinced that Captain Roman Rodriguez has been guilty of illegal conduct in having clandestinely conveyed to the Six Islands Natives of India, I have taken security from him in the sum of 2000 Rupees for his appearance when required. I have taken this step in the hope that eventually there may be sufficient evidence to establish a Case against him.

22. I may be permitted to observe that no amount of vigilance on the part of the local authorities can prevent the removal of Indian labourers to such places as the Six Islands. The labourers may be received on board at sea from fishing boats after Vessels have left the Harbour, and from any part of the Coast.

23. I venture to suggest that if the different Islands were visited periodically by an Officer of Government and the inhabitants numbered and registered, an effectual stop, I conceive, would be put to a practice which must be attended with great evil. There is at present no guarantee that Natives of India at such places may not be kept for years in the worst and most cruel state of bondage.

24. I transmit herewith the original papers noted in the margin. May I request you will have the goodness to return them to me. I beg to apologize for not having sent copies. I am influenced in not doing so by a desire to save time, and in consideration of the heavy work which the Writers have at present to perform (the end of a Quarter and of a year.)

1 Deposition of Captain Roman Rodriguez, Commander of the Vessel.
2 Do. do. do.
3 Do. of Captain Ruffin, the Agent of the Vessel.
4 Do. of John D'Costa, Mate.
5 Do. of Alfred Perrera, an Apprentice.
6 Do. of Bava, Syrang.
7 Do. of John Peter, Butler.
8 Do. of Chekoo, Cook.
9 Do. of Cochoo Bava, Seacunnie.
10 Do. of Ochita, a female labourer before the Fiscal.
11 Do. of Ochita before the Joint Magistrate.
12 Captain Ruffin's answers to certain queries put to him and Extract from a Mauritian Paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

(Enclosure 1.)

The Deposition of Mr. ROMAN RODRIGUEZ, Master of the British Schooner Alexander Auguste, of the Mauritius.

I sailed from the Mauritius in the Schooner Alexander Auguste, about the 20th of September 1856, for Cochin, with instructions from my Owners to call at the Six Islands (Dependencies of the Government of Mauritius) for the purpose of supplying the Gentleman in charge of the Establishment with money to pay his people. I accordingly anchored at the Six Islands and went on shore with my Jolly boat and five men. I saw the Oil Mills working as usual and a Gentleman dressed up to receive me. I thought this person was the Overseer or person in charge of the Establishment. I landed and followed the said person into the house. Directly I entered the house, the men belonging to the Establishment pulled my boat up on shore. They made me a Prisoner. They made me sit down on a chair. They surrounded me and demanded from me the sum of 12000 Rupees, threatening to take my life if I did not pay them that sum. As they had taken the life of the Head Overseer or Head Gentleman about twenty days before. I told them that I had not so much money. They told me that they would give me time until the next morning at 7 o'clock to think about it. They sent certain tokens to the Mate in the Schooner, as if coming from me. The tokens were a pocket handkerchief and a plaited straw string or band which was round my hat, and they told the Mate to give them all the money on board. The Mate would not do so, but came on shore with the box containing the Vessel's papers. They made a Prisoner of the Mate, and they told the Mate and myself that unless we delivered up the money they would immediately murder us. I then told them where the money was, and they went on board and took the money amounting to about 4900 and odd Dollars, mostly in gold (Sovereigns). There were thirty seven persons implicated in this business, including three women and two children. They were Natives of India, and belonging to the Madras Presidency. The money was divided among them in my presence. They took possession of the Schooner five days after this occurrence, and they compelled me to navigate the Vessel to the Malabar Coast and land them at a place where there would be no persons in authority to notice them. They threatened to take my life, and to kill the whole of my Crew, if I did not do as they wished.

I made the land, the Malabar Coast, between Allepey and Cochin, about the 30th of September 1856. They called fishing boats at about 10 A. M. and landed. I proceeded to Cochin and saw no more of them.

The Six Islands were the property of the family of Duparrel of the Mauritius. There are Cocoanut plantations on them, and there were two Gentlemen with their families on the Islands, looking after the property for the Duparrel family. I was told that the Head Gentleman had been killed about twenty days before I called at the above Islands. There were some people

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belonging to the Mauritius, probably about 14 or 15 persons, on the Island who took no part in the murder or in the seizure of my Vessel. Some of these persons told me that the Head Gentleman had been murdered. I do not know the names of the persons who disembarked from the Schooner on the Coast between Allepey and Cochin.

I did not come before a Magistrate immediately on my arrival at Cochin and make a Deposition stating the whole Case, because I was forced to take the most solemn oath that I would not do so, and they said they would take my life if they heard I had taken any steps to get them apprehended. I immediately wrote to the Mauritius. My Agent at Cochin, Mr. Ruffin, received a letter from the Mauritius a few days ago, in which the occurrence was mentioned.

He spoke to me, I told him all, and he induced me to come to this Office.

Most of the men appeared to understand Malayalam. I saw one of the men about twenty days ago at Vypeen, and he ran away when he saw me.

The Crew of the Schooner including myself, numbered sixteen; I believe they are all now about Cochin.

There was a Seacunnie by name Tommy D'Cruz. They made me leave him on the Islands. This man was my wife's relation, and they did not wish him to be with me.

(Signed) R. RODRIGUEZ.

The men concerned in this transaction were Indian Emigrant Coolies. I do not know to what caste they belonged.

(Signed) R. RODRIGUEZ.

Taken before me on oath, this 24th day of December 1856.
(Signed) E. CULLIN, *Joint Magistrate.*

(True Copy.)
(Signed) E. CULLIN, *Joint Magistrate.*

(Enclosure 2.)

The Deposition of Mr. ROMAN RODRIGUEZ, Master of the British Schooner Alexander Auguste, of the Mauritius.

The money mentioned in my Deposition of yesterday as having been taken by the Malabar men, was partly for disbursement on the Islands. I was to have given 300 Dollars in Sovereigns to the Overseer. The first Overseer, the man who was murdered, was Mr. Paul Hugon. The widow of this Gentleman told me that he had been murdered. The name of the second Overseer was Dumasell. I left him on the Islands. The Six Islands are situated about 1000 miles from the Mauritius. There are no Government Officers or Police Officers there. I think the largest of the Islands is about 3 miles by 2. I have said the part of the money was for disbursements on the Islands, part belonged to the Ship, viz. 3000 Rupees in gold Sovereigns and the remainder to myself and others. Mr. Dumasell, the 2nd Overseer, and all the Mauritians were Prisoners when I landed on the Islands.

I stated dates yesterday, from memory. I can now give the correct dates. I sailed from the Mauritius on the 2nd of August 1856, and not *September* as stated in my Deposition of yesterday. I arrived at the Six Islands on the 14th of September 1856, left them on the 19th of September 1856, at 10 A. M., and arrived on this Coast on the 30th of September 1856, and two days after arrived at Cochin.

The whole of the occurrences during the whole voyage, the way I had been treated and the fear I was in for my life and my family, prevented me from disclosing anything, but I wrote at once to my Owner at the Mauritius and told him all, as much as I could write in a letter.

I think Moideen Cottee, or Cottee Moideen was the leader of the Malabar men.

(Signed) R. RODRIGUEZ.

The Malabar men brought on board the Schooner, Swords, Cutlasses, &c., from the Islands. I have them now with me, and will deliver them over to the Police. The Malabar men left them on board in their hurry to get away from the Vessel on this Coast.

(Signed) R. RODRIGUEZ.

Taken before me on oath at Cochin, this 25th day of December 1856.
(Signed) E. CULLIN, *Joint Magistrate.*

(True Copy.)
(Signed) W. ROBINSON, *Acting Magistrate.*

of September -
2. The Ship anchored in the Cochin Roads

(Enclosure 3.)

The Deposition of FRANCIS RUFFIN, Esq., of Cochin.

I am a Merchant residing at Cochin. I am Agent for the Owner of the Schooner Alexander Auguste. I recollect when she arrived here early in October this year. She came to be repaired. I expected, from letters which I received from the Mauritius, to receive from the Captain 3000 Rupees to pay off the Crew and begin with the repairs, but I found the Captain had no money on board. I asked for the money, and he said he had left the money behind. I thought there was something wrong. The Captain declared to me that he had not a single Rupee on board and he asked me for money to pay off his Crew, and to begin the repairs. I suspected there was something wrong, but as I have known the Captain for a long time, and have a high opinion of him, I at once placed money at his disposal.

Since that time at different periods, I questioned him respecting the money. On two or three occasions he was on the point of telling me, but restrained himself, and said he could not speak then, but I would know soon. He told me that he had written to his Owners by the Emma Louisa, which he met on the Coast, as he was coming up to Cochin.

I got a letter from the Mauritius a few days ago, informing me of what had occurred, and upon my telling the Captain about it, he exposed the whole matter before me, and I advised him to lose no time in laying the same before a Magistrate. He told me that the reason why he did not do so before, was that he had taken the most solemn oath not to divulge what had occurred, besides being threatened to have his life, and the lives of his family taken, if he divulged any thing. I have known the Captain for thirteen or fifteen years. I have had a great deal of dealings with him, and his Owners. I have a high opinion of the Captain. He has always borne a good character. I have not the least suspicion against the Captain in the present case. I believe the story is as he tells it.

(Signed) F. RUFFIN.

Taken on oath before me at Cochin, this 25th day of December 1856.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

(Enclosure 4.)

The Deposition of Mr. JOHN DeCOSTA.

I am Mate of the British Schooner the Alexander Auguste. We left the Mauritius on the 20th of August 1856, bound for the Six Islands and Cochin. We called at the Six Islands on the 14th of September 1856. The Captain went on shore. He did not return that evening, the next morning between 10 and 11 a boat came from the shore to the Schooner with two water-casks in it, and a Creole came in the same boat, and brought tokens as if from the Captain, viz. a handkerchief and a straw hat band, and told me to send all the money on shore. I did not know where the money was kept, and I suspected there was something wrong. I took a box belonging to the Captain containing the Vessel's papers, and I went on shore, and I saw the people on shore with arms in their hands. I then heard they wanted to kill the Captain. As soon as I landed they made a Prisoner of me. They demanded a heavy sum of money from us and they kept us Prisoners until the next day. The next day they sent a boat to the Schooner and they brought every thing on shore that belonged to the Captain. They opened a box belonging to the Captain, and found plenty of money in it, and they distributed the money among themselves in my presence. They wanted to send me on board to take the Vessel to the Coast, and to kill the Captain. I told them that I was not capable of taking the Vessel to the Coast, unless the Captain was with me, so the next day they sent all the Prisoners on board, and put me on board. I again told them that I did not know the way to take the Vessel to Cochin, and after much talk they brought the Captain on board. They told us on the Islands that the Head Overseer, a Manager, had been murdered twenty four days before we went there. Before we left the Islands they made us swear we would not tell any one what had occurred, and that we would land them at any place they wished on the Malabar Coast, or they would kill us. We all swore, a book on Mechanics was used for a Bible. We sailed from the Islands on the 19th of September 1856.

We left on the Island our second Mate by name Tommy. They would not allow us to take him with us. I saw some Creoles (Mauritians) on the Islands. I cannot say how many, and Mr. Dumasell, the 2nd Overseer, and his wife and 3 children, and his sister-in-law, and the widow of the man who was killed. We made the Coast of Malabar, some place between Aleppee and Cochin, about the end of September 1856. The Malabar men called the fishing boats and went on shore in them. They all landed at the same place. There were a few small huts there. The place is about half way between Aleppee and Cochin.

There were 31 men, 3 women, and 3 children of the party. They were all Malabar people, I mean all from this Coast. They were of different Castes, Mussulmen, Tiers, and low caste men. Some dressed in gowns, some in the Malabar dress. I did not know any of them. I never saw any of them before. They speak the Malayalim language but different from the Malayalim as spoken at Cochin. They used to talk secretly among themselves. I saw one of the men about twenty days ago, my Captain was with me. He told me to seize him. I ran towards him and he escaped into a boat. We did not give notice because we passed an oath that we would not do so, and they told us that if we told any thing they would come to our house and kill us. And for this reason we were afraid and did not speak about the affair when we arrived. They took arms from the Island and left part of them in the Schooner, and the Captain has them. I only saw one man of the party since I came to Cochin. He was a Mussulman. They were Cooly men working in the Islands. We were all afraid of them. They would not allow us to talk to each other. They kept watch over us night and day.

The name of the leader was Moideen Coottee, a Mussulman. I do not know what place he belongs to. He is pox-marked, middle size, fair for a Native, about 25 years of age.

There was also a stout, tall man of the name of Krishnen, a Hindoo, dark complexion, about 40 years of age. He was also a Head man. I do not know where he belonged to. He spoke Malayalim also. There was a third man, who took a leading part. I do not know his name.

(Signed) JOHN DeCOSTA.

Taken on oath before me at Cochin, this 25th day of December 1856.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

(Enclosure 5.)

The Deposition of ALFRED PERRIER.

I am an Apprentice on board the Schooner Alexander de Auguste.

On the voyage from the Mauritius to Cochin in August and September last in the Schooner Alexander Auguste, we touched at the Six Islands, to land some money and pay the labourers there. We anchored there on the 14th of September 1856, and at 2 P. M., the Captain went on shore in his boat with 4 Lascars and 1 Seacunnie, and we did not receive any news about them for two days, and then a boat came to the Schooner bringing two casks of water and Cocoanuts, and we asked about the Captain and the Lascars, and they said they had some business on shore. They said the boat was pulled up on shore in a leaky state to be caulked, they brought a handkerchief from the Captain, and a straw hat band. A Creole brought these, and he told the Mate that he was to come on shore to dinner, and to bring with him all his boxes and all the money on board. The Mate brought only a little box containing papers. The next day people from the Island came and told the Butler to bring all the boxes and money on shore, and then the Butler went on shore with all the boxes and money. They told the Syrang also to come on shore, and he went on shore. I was on board all the time. The next day morning they came and said the Captain called me, and I went on shore, and I saw all the Coolies armed with big sticks, and they said they would kill the Captain and set fire to the houses. I was made a Prisoner, all belonging to the Vessel were made Prisoners. After some days we were all sent on board and the whole of the Coolies came on board, and told the Captain to take the Schooner to the Malabar

the September –
2. The ship anchored in the Cochin Roads

Coast. They first wished to leave the Captain behind, and go on with the Mate, and he said he did not know how to take the Vessel, and they were forced to take the Captain. They threatened if they were brought to any other land but the Malabar Coast, they would kill all hands. We made land between Cochin and Alleppy, and the forty men landed in fishing boats, and we came on to Cochin. The Cooly men were counting Sovereigns every day on board, some had thirty, and some forty Sovereigns.

I heard on the Island that a Gentleman had been murdered there.

I did not tell any thing about it on my arrival at Cochin because the fellows said if the news was known they would kill the Mate and the Captain and every one.

There was one man called Moideen Coottee. He was fair for a Native and Pock-marked. He was a tall man, I do not know what Caste he belonged to. There was a man named Kishna. I saw one of the men about twenty days ago at Vypin. He called on the Captain and wanted to know the news if the Captain was going to tell any one here. The Captain sent for a Peon, there was no Peon, and the man went away, I do not know this man's name. I am sixteen years of age and a Native of Mauritius, I never was in Madras until this voyage.

(Signed) ALFRED PERRIER.

Taken on oath before me at Cochin, this 25th day of December 1856.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Magistrate.

(Enclosure 11.)

Examination of OCHITA, daughter of TIOGO PARANGMY, Christian, aged about 30 years, labourer, inhabitant of Ernacollom, Cannayanoor Cowilagatom Vadakel, in the Cochin Rajah's Territory, taken before the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, on the 29th December 1856.

Question.	*Answer.*
Did you ever leave Malabar for any other country, if so, when, and how did you return?	One day, about a year and half ago, one Mopla Coonhan, a Christian, inhabitant of Mattancherry, delivered me and others to the charge of a Captain named Roman, and sent us away for the purpose of serving as labourers at the Mauritius. I and my son who is now standing with me here, were conveyed in a ship. At that time, I was not married. We were not landed at Mauritius but at Six Islands, for the purpose of working there. A Gentleman, whose name I do not know, employed us in carrying granite stones, thatching houses, cutting wood, and upon other works, and thereby subjected us to great hardship. When we arrived at the Island there were 18 men already working there. In the ship in which I was taken (to the Island), there were besides me three other women and nine men. We all worked together. One of these labourers, by name Barrido, alias Anthony, took me into his keeping. The period of one and a half year, for which we had engaged to work, expired, and we were unwilling, from the hard treatment we received, to work any longer. As the aforesaid Captain Roman was often coming in his ship to the Six Islands, we asked him repeatedly to take us back to Malabar. He said he would not do so as the period for which we had engaged to serve had not expired. Two or three months before this, the Gentleman, who was superintending the works at the Six Islands, sent six of the laborers to an adjoining Island called Toorotoo Devy. The parties sent were, 1st Taddian Mayley, 2nd Ismally, 3rd Pandary, 4th Karotah Mayley, 5th Meedeen Cootty, and 6th Ernacollatah Meedeen Chokrah. To inspect the work of these men, the said Gentleman used to go in a Muncheel once a week. Thus he went thither one day, two months ago for the same purpose, but did not return. There was a talk at the Six Islands that he was killed by the aforesaid six Coolies. Ten or twelve days after such rumour had been in circulation, Captain Roman arrived at the Six Islands in a ship and landed there. As the Gentleman superintending the works was absent, the Captain paid our wages as per account. A balance of 7£ and 1 Rupee which was due to me on account of wages, was also paid to me. In the same manner an Alleppee woman named Pressina, and another woman of Ernacollum, by name Annah, were paid their wages by the

Captain. The men were paid 10£ each. On our desiring the Captain to take us back to Malabar, he did not listen to us. But the men who had received their wages frightened him by threatening his life with sticks and war-knives in their hands. Upon this the Captain embarked the men who were 31 in number, as well as 3 women, with my son and Pressina's two children, on board the ship, and weighing anchor, sailed for Malabar. At this time he received from each of us, the women, 5 Rupees, and from each of the men 10 Rupees as passage money. On the sixteenth day of our voyage after midday, we reached Kayomkolom in Malabar. Immediately on our arrival, the whole of the Coolies, with the exception of an old man named Panjeeka, a Chowan (Teean) called Amacha, the aforesaid Barrido who had taken me into his keeping, three women including myself, and three children, got into a Vara or Jangar which was employed in fishing by certain Aravanmars or fishermen, and proceeded to the shore. On the return of the Jangar, we, the remaining party, 9 in number got into it, and were taken across the bar of the river at Kayomkollum and landed there. After our landing when I looked about, I did not see any of those who had landed before us. My husband and some others then parted. I and my son as well as Annah and her husband Ausep, with Pressina and her two children, left Kayomkollum and proceeded viâ Cochin to Ernakollum. Thus the matters occurred.

The men who embarked on board the ship from the Six Islands were: 1st Chogan Karoomben, 2nd Kandan, 3rd Toppy Amanjan, 4th Thomen, 5th Chowgan Ramen, inhabitants of Parrookad and Kayomkollum, 6th Areyanparambil Barrido of Ernacollum, 7th Meedeen Cootty who was employed as a labourer on Toorotoo Island, residing beyond Quilon, the name of his village I know not, 8th Taddian Mayley, 9th Ismaly, 10th Pandary, 11th Karotah Mayley, inhabitants of Alleppee, 12th Meedeen Chokrah, inhabitant of Ernacollum, 13th Barrido whose concubine I was, 14th Panjeeka, and 15th Amachan, inhabitants of Quilon. The names of the remaining men I do not recollect. The aforesaid Barrido came to Ernacollum a month ago and took me to Quilon where he married me. He has now again proceeded to Quilon.

Memo.

The weapons, &c. numbered 1 to 16, which were landed from the Ship "Alexander Auguste" and produced by the Cutwall of Cochin, are shewn to the Deponent.

I have seen the articles. The weapons, Nos. 1 to 15 and the stick No. 16, are those which were shipped from the Six Islands by the men on their embarkation. But I know not who were the particular individuals who brought these articles with them.

Of the labourers who went to the Six Islands, a Negro Cooly, named Gregory, having been attacked with an epileptic fit, fell into fire and died. No one else died.

Question.	*Answer.*
How much money had you on hand when you embarked on board the Ship?	On my embarkation I had only the 7£ and 1 Rupee which the Captain had given me. Of these my husband paid to the Captain 5 Rupees on account of passage money, by exchanging (a £ for Rupees) with other labourers. But I know not the name of the party from whom he obtained the exchange. The remaining money I had in my hands when I landed.

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

Mark of OCHITA.

Taken on oath before me, this 29th day of December 1856.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

Further Examination held on the 31st December 1856.

Question.	*Answer.*
Describe the personal appearance of the Coolies above mentioned.	1st Moideen Cootty of Travancore, is a short man with scanty beard and long face, pock-marked, aged above 25 years, and of brown complexion. 2nd Taddian Moideen Mayley of Aleppee in Travancore, is of ordinary stature and corpulent, aged about 30 years, black, and has the mark of a cut on the left or right hand between the thumb and the forefinger. 3rd Moideen Chokrah, of Ernacollum in Cochin, is of short stature and black complexion, aged 20 years, and his right elbow is somewhat contracted. 4th Ismaly of Alleppee in Travancore, is short, brown, aged about 20 years and has a scar of

ulcer on the right calf. 5th Ausep, a Poleyan or slave converted to Christianity, inhabitant of Peroomanoor in Cochin, is of short stature and black complexion, aged 30 years, and one of his ears bored. 6th Carotah Moideen, of Aleppee in Travancore, is of ordinary height and black complexion, aged 20 years, has scanty beard and long face. 7th Bappoo of Aleppee in Travancore, is short, black, pock-marked, and aged 18 years. 8th Toppy Omachan of Coorpoompaddy in Cochin, is aged 60 years, tall, thin and bald headed, has grey hairs and is sickly. 9th Thomen of Coorpoompaddy in Cochin, is tall, thin, fair, and 20 years old, his right hand has six fingers. 10th Ramen Narainan, Nair of Quilon in Travancore, is aged 60 years, of brown complexion and short stature. His mustachios and hair are partly grey. 11th Arayen Banido of Ernacollum in Cochin, is brown, aged 16 years, and thin. 12th Pappadah Shetty Veloo of Porrakad in Travancore, is thin and tall of brown complexion, and aged 30 years. 13th Teean Ramen of Chertalah in Travancore, is black, thin and aged 20 years. 14th Teean Caromben of Chertalah in Travancore, is black, tall, 16 years old and thin. 15th Coonhen Narainen, of Porrakad in Travancore, is of fair complexion and ordinary stature, and 16 years old. 16th Teean Kandah of Chertalah in Travancore, is black and of ordinary stature, thin and 30 years old. Being affected with leprosy he has ulcers on his body. 17th Anthony of Tangasherry is black, 16 years old, and thin, and has scars of ulcer on the elbows. 18th Panjeeka of Quilon in Travancore, is black, ordinarily corpulent, short, and aged 16 years. 19th Chakoo of Coorpoompaddy in Cochin, is brown, thin and 18 years old. 20th Mamod of Alleppee in Travancore, is black, tall and 18 years old. 21st Annah, a woman of Arawan (fishermen's) caste, converted to Christianity, of Ernacollum in Cochin, is fat, short, 16 years old and fair. 22nd Pressina of Alleppee in Travancore, is 18 years old, brown and thin, and has marks of tattoo on the forehead and arms. 23rd her child is 3 years old. 24th Jonagan Pondary, residing on the south of Quilon, is of brown complexion and ordinary stature, aged 16 or 18 years and has the same marks on his body as the No. 22nd.

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

Mark of OCHITA.

Further Examination held on the 1st January 1857.

When the Gentleman was not satisfied with our work he used to flog us with rope and also kick us and beat us with his fists. The Gentleman who died used to give rice to the Coolies only every second day, and even this in small quantities. On other days he used to give us chollum or millet. This food did not agree with us. The deceased Gentleman beat me also. It was by entering into an engagement to serve for two years that we remained on the Six Islands. We stayed there for 1½ year. The statement I made in my Deposition before the Fiscal that the agreement entered into was for 3 years is a mistake. Ausep, a Poleyan or slave converted to Christianity, to whom I alluded in my Deposition before the Fiscal, and Jonagan Pondary whom I mentioned in my Deposition in this Cutcherry, had proceeded to work on the Toorotoo Island where the Gentleman was killed.

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

Mark of OCHITA.

Taken on her former oath before me, this 1st day of January 1857.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

(True Translation.)
(Signed) J. L. PLATEL.

(ENCLOSURE 12.)

Question by MR. CULLIN, and Replies by MR. RUFFIN, the Agent of the Schooner Alexander Auguste.

1. How did the news of the murder, &c. &c. at the Six Islands reach the Mauritius. Was it by Mr. Roman Rodriguez's letter to his Owner sent by Emma Louisa?

By a letter written to the Mauritius by Captain R. Rodriguez per "Emma Louisa" which he met off Cochin, as he was coming in.
It was so.

2. What did the article in the Paper, in hand, say?

"Le Cernéen," a French Paper, printed in Mauritius, in its No. 4345, 6th November 1856, gives the following account of the tragical occurrences at Six Islands:—

Captain Rodriguez of the "Alexander Auguste" writes here, per "Emma Louisa," which he met off Cochin, that having anchored at Six Islands, in September last, on his way from Mauritius, he was seized and made Prisoner, on his landing, by Indians who had murdered the Overseer of the Oil Factory, Mr. Paul Hugon, that the same men, 37 in number, seized his Vessel, and after robbing him of all the money on board, (about 4090 Dollars) compelled him, under threats of death, to convey them to the Malabar Coast, where he was forced to land them.

As soon as Mr. A. LaPorte, Agent for the Proprietors of the Six Islands, received this sad news, he called at "Reduit" to see his Excellency the Governor, to demand justice of this act of piracy, and ask his protection for the other persons who might yet require it. Orders have been issued for the investigation of this affair, all the particulars of which are not yet known.

3. Who wrote to Mr. Ruffin, and was the letter in reply, or with reference to Mr. Roman Rodriguez's letter to the Owners?

Mr. A. LaPorte, the Owner of the "Alexander Auguste," wrote to Mr. Ruffin and likewise to Captain Rodriguez in reply, and with reference to Capt. R. Rodriguez's letter per "Emma Louisa."

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Magistrate.

31st December 1856.

No, 13. ORDER THEREON, No. 88; dated 22nd January 1857.

From the foregoing letter and its enclosures it appears that the British Schooner "Alexander Auguste," set sail from the Mauritius to Cochin, about the 20th of August last. On the voyage, she touched at certain Islands, known as the "Six Islands," (said to be Dependencies of the Mauritius) lying in the Indian Ocean, Lat: 6° 40′ S., Long: 71° 25′ E., and situated at a distance from Cochin of 1030 miles, from the Mauritius 1140 miles. Here the Captain, Mr. Roman Rodriguez, with all his boat's crew, was made Prisoner by a body of forty Indian Coolies, alleged to be in the service of the firm of Duparrel of the Mauritius to whom those Islands are said to belong. The Vessel was taken possession of by the Coolies, who constrained the Captain to work her to the Malabar Coast, where, at a point between Alleppie and Cochin, they disembarked on the 30th of September.

2. The Ship anchored in the Cochin Roads on the 2nd of October, but it was not until the 24th December that the matter was brought to the notice of the Authorities, when the Captain attended before the Joint Magistrate at Cochin, and a Deposition was taken from him. When called upon to explain this delay, the Captain, his Mate, and Apprentice (who alone of all the Crew appear to have been examined) stated that they were in fear of the revenge of the Coolies, who had bound them to secrecy by a solemn oath. This consideration, however, does not appear to have prevented him, from communicating the whole of the particulars to the Owner of the Vessel, Mr. LaPorte of the Mauritius; and as there is reason to suspect that the "Alexander Auguste" has long been engaged in the clandestine shipment of Coolies to the "Six Islands," it is probable that an apprehension of the discovery of this violation of the law may have weighed with Captain Rodriguez in maintaining the silence he has preserved so long.

3. Besides the act of piracy above recited, it would appear from the papers that the Coolies, previously to the arrival of the "Alexander Auguste" at the "Six Islands" had murdered the Overseer of the Messrs. Duparrel, one Paul Hugon.

4. On receipt of the letter of advise from his Captain, the Owner of the Schooner, Mr. La Porte, is reported to have addressed the Governor of the Mauritius, and orders would appear to have been given for investigation and enquiry. Meanwhile, as the Magistrate of Malabar has requested to be informed as to the jurisdiction the offenders may be amenable to, should the efforts made for their apprehension be successful, it is resolved that the whole of the Papers in the Case be for-

Vide Extract from Mauritian Paper "Le Cernéen," Enclosure 12.

warded to the Honorable Company's Solicitor, for his opinion on that point, as also for any observations that may occur to him on the Case.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Judicial Departt.

No 66

From The Acting Magistrate of Malabar
Dated 2nd January 1857.-

For Orders.

The case sent to ~~for~~ [illegible] to Mr Solicitor - for answer to question respecting the legal proceedings.

Three persons sentenced to the Port of Indian - the two Port of Mangalore - and sentence passed - for any information

they may have obtained on the subject.

J.L.

W.H.M.

W.85 Judicial Dept

Extract Mins. of Cons. Dated 22d January 1857.

Read Letter

from the Acting Magistrate

of Malabar

(Here enter 2 Jan 57)

From the foregoing letter & its enclosures it appears that the British Schooner 'Alexander Auguste' sailed from the Mauritius to Cochin about the 20th of August last - On the voyage, she touched at certain Islands, known as the "Six Islands," (said to be dependencies of the Mauritius) lying in the Indian Ocean Lat: 6.40 S. Long: 71-25 E, and situated at a distance from Cochin of 1430 m. from the Mauritius 1140 miles. There the captain - Mr. Romain Rodrigues - with all his crew, was made prisoner by a body of forty Indian coolies, alleged to be in the service of the farmer of Bourbon of the Mauritius to whom the Islands are said to belong - The vessel was taken possession of by the coolies, who constrained the captain to work the vessel to the Malabar coast, where, at a point between Alleppie and Cochin, they disembarked on the 30th of September -

2. The ship anchored in the Cochin Roads

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of the coolies, who had bound them
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however, does not appear to have
prevented him from commu-
nicating the whole of the particulars
to the owners of the vessel Mr. La
Porte of the Mauritius; and as it
there is reason to suspect
would appear that the 'Alexander
Auguste' has long been engaged in
the clandestine shipment of coolies
to the 'Six Islands' & the Mauritius,
it is probable that an apprehension
of the discovery of this violation
of the law may have weighed with
Captain Rodrigues in maintaining
the silence he has preserved to Govt.

3. Besides the acts of piracy above
recited, it will appear from the papers
that the coolies, previously to the arrival
of the 'Alexander Auguste' at the

the authorities, when the
captain attended before

'Six Islands' had arrived with a body
of recruits for the Creole of Mauritius for pro-
-tection of that settlement — some
-thirteen months, it is related — and
murdered the overseer of the depôt
Duparcet, one Paul Lagon.

4. On receipt of the above intelligence from
his captain, the owner of the schooner
Mr. Laporte, it is reported to have ad-
-dressed the Governor of the Mauritius,
and orders will appear to have been sent
for some investigation & enquiry.
Meanwhile, as the Magistrate of
Malabar has requested to be informed
as to the Jurisdiction the offenders may
be amenable to, & the efforts made
for their apprehension be successful,
it is resolved that the
whole of the Papers in the case be for-
-warded to the Hon'ble Company's
Solicitor, for his opinion on that
point — as also for any
observations &c. 15-1-57.
that may
occur to him on the
case.

Extract
from Mauritius
Paper 'Le Cernéen'
Enclosure 12.

Copy to Magistrate of Malabar Disp. 23.
" to H. Cs. Ag. Solicitor
with letter No. 66 dated 8 } Disp. 23.
Enclosures —

Ind-L.S. to Eng. of 9 June
No 16 of 1857 Par 2

Respects wch. 1 of 1858 Pt 2

Cons: 27th January/57

Judicial 1857 Departt.

No. 88

Extracts Mins: of Cons.

J/22d Jan/57

From the Govt. Kompanys Advt
Solicitors: Jud/57 No: 214
Cl: Jud/57: 1:36

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