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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 798 Press —Mis—

69.694

Dated 11— 8— 1929

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 69. Read the following letter from C. J. SHUBRICK, Esq., Magistrate of Chingleput; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated 6th August 1857.

SIR,

I have had the honor of receiving your letter of to-day's date, calling on me to explain—First, what means I took on the Civil and Session Judge informing me a short time back, that several meetings, in which two servants of his Court were implicated, were being held among the Mahomedans at Chingleput, and that various strangers visited the place in a suspicious manner. Secondly, upon what information I made the observations regarding Sultan Bux in my letter to the Head Assistant Magistrate, of the 1st Instant. And thirdly, what notice has been taken of two Hindoos who profess to prophecy coming events, and collect meetings at night in or near Chingleput.

2. In reply to the first question, I have the honor to state, that the Civil and Session Judge never acquainted me that secret meetings were being held at Chingleput, in which two servants of his court, or any other parties were implicated. The only circumstance he brought to my knowledge in a private note was, that he had been informed, that one of his Mahomedan Moonshees was said to be in possession of a treasonable paper, which he was anxious to obtain; that he had questioned him about it, but the man had denied it, and brought him a Hindustani newspaper of no consequence a day or two afterwards that the man was a useless; lazy fellow, who came to court and did pretty much as he pleased, but that he intended to keep his eye on him and see if he could not catch him tripping.

3. The Civil and Session Judge brought nothing further to my knowledge, and I am not certain if I may not have mixed up something I may have learnt from Mr. Tod, with what I have stated. I made no movement in the matter, but left it to Mr. Dowdeswell to proceed with. There was nothing in Mr. Dowdeswell's note which led me to infer that he wished me to take up the matter. Had he wished me to do so, he could have told me to do so on receiving my reply. On the contrary, he had already expressed his intention of watching his Moonshee himself, and had I proceeded to act on the information he gave me, it is more than probable, the people I should have employed would have thwarted him in his enquiries, and prevented him bringing them to light.

4. I believe it will be allowed that I was only acting with sound discretion in leaving Mr. Dowdeswell, who was on the spot, to proceed with his enquiries alone.

5. In regard to my letter of the 1st Instant, to the Head Assistant Magistrate, I have the honor to state, that I was kept in entire ignorance of his proceedings relative to Sultan Bux, till called upon by you in a demi-official note to report on them, and that his demi-official report did not reach me till 36 hours after Sultan Bux had been confined in the Mount Jail. It was clearly the duty of the Head Assistant Magistrate, to have communicated with me immediately relative to Sultan Bux, and to have sought instructions from me regarding him, instead of from the Commissioner of Police, and I informed him that had he done so, he (meaning I) would not have implicated the Government in his arrest; at the present time, when every action of every authority is scanned and fathomed, it appeared to me peculiarly desirable that the direct action of Government in the arrest of particular individuals should not be seen. I was guided in my observations by the idea that it was the bounden duty of every servant of Government to take the whole responsibility of his proceedings on himself, and that there was nothing in the case of Sultan Bux which had come before me, which had rendered a reference to Government at all necessary, at the time it was made, and it would in consequence have been better if Mr. Tod's telegraphic despatch had not led to their instructions being sought regarding him.

6. I was not aware till now, that Sultan Bux had been called on to furnish two responsible sureties by Government.

7. In regard to the third point which I am called on to explain, I have the honor to state, that I have received no information whatever relative to the two Hindoos, who are said to prophecy coming events and collect meetings at night in or near Chingleput, but will call for a report on the subject. Some days ago (6 or 7) I received a petition purporting to come from a Village Moon-

siff, Curnum, and some Meerassidars, that a Mahomedan residing at Auchary near Chingleput, was harbouring a disguised Fakeer from Hyderabad in his house, and distributing Arms among all the Mahomedans in his neighbourhood, but on my sending a Dufladar and some Hoozoor Daloyets to seize and search the parties, they were unable to find a single offensive weapon, and the people in the village one and all declared, that no one in the shape of a Fakeer had been seen by them, or any Mahomedans collecting and consulting. The whole of the papers seized in the house were submitted to Dr. Balfour, the Hindustani Translator, and were found to refer to domestic matters exclusively. One paper only, written before the disturbance in the North West began, made allusion to the poverty of the Mahomedan population and their having no Nabob.

(Signed) C. J. SHUBRICK,
Magistrate.

No. 69 A. ORDER THEREON, No. 998; dated 11th August 1857.

Government are of opinion that the suspicious proceedings which were going on at Chingleput required watching, and approve generally the course taken by the Head Assistant Magistrate and Session Judge, though they erred in communicating duly with the Commissioner of Police at Madras about Sultan Bux, as it was both fitting and due that the Magistrate of the District should be informed of the steps which they were taking.

2. Under the explanation given by Mr. Shubrick, in para. 3, of his letter, Government consider that he acted with proper discretion in leaving the Civil and Session Judge to watch the conduct of his court servants, until further intelligence reached him.

3. The proceedings of the two persons who under the pretence of prophecying have collected crowds at night, are to be carefully observed.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Wm. H. Morgan.

Extract from the Records of the Court of Probate held at Hartford within and for the District of Hartford on the 2nd day of June A.D. 1857

Present Hon. Origen S. Seymour Judge

Estate of Ann Eliza Bunce late of Hartford in said District deceased

The Executor having rendered to this Court his account of administration of said estate, and the same having been examined and found correct, it is

Ordered that said account be allowed and recorded.

Attest

Thos. K. Brace

Clerk

Recorded June 8th 1857

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