

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1023	Press
15-16	~~Mis.~~
Dated 28-7-1905	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

me

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 3rd August 1858.

No. 15. Read the following letter from the Reverend E. E. JENKINS; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Royapettah, July 22nd, 1858.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge a communication from you, containing an "Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 21st July 1858," in the 2nd para. of which I am requested to inform the Government what communication I had with the Police on the afternoon or evening of the day on which the riot, which took place on my premises in Royapettah occurred.

2. As I am in possession of all the facts relating to the conduct of the Police on that occasion, may I beg permission, through you, to lay them in order before His Lordship in Council, that the Government may want no information which may enable it to prosecute the inquiry upon which it has resolved.

3. I take up the narrative two days before the riot occurred, because a knowledge of what transpired during this time is necessary to a clear understanding of those charges which have been preferred against the Police.

4. On Tuesday morning, at half-past six o'clock, about fifty Natives appeared before our house, demanding that I should give up a youth, who, the day before, had placed himself under my protection. Upon my refusing to comply with their wish, they became exceedingly violent; two of them rushed into the house, ran upstairs, and were with difficulty restrained from committing outrage. The mob was only prevented following them by our immediately fastening the doors. There were no Peons on the ground when the people entered the compound, and when they did arrive, the men refused to lend us help to suppress the disturbance until their superiors should give them orders. The Rev. Mr. Stephenson, who resides in my house, gave one of the rioters into the hands of a Peon, but the man refused to take charge of him. A Duffadar or two soon appeared on the ground, and the disturbance was quelled. A European Constable followed, and desired me to draw up a brief statement of the dispute between the people and me, for the inspection of Colonel Boulderson, which I immediately did. At half past nine, Mr. Lafond the Deputy Commissioner of Police, came to the house to make enquiry about the tumult. I related to him what had happened, and he requested me to accompany him to the gate of the compound, where some of the people still lingered. There four persons were identified as having taken part in the riot, and Mr. Lafond placed them in custody. The prisoners were examined the same day by Colonel Colbeck. I stated before the Magistrate, that I did not wish to urge their prosecution, and begged the Court to protect me against the recurrence of the scene that had taken place that morning.

5. In the evening of this day (Tuesday,) I received a summons from the Chief Commissioner of Police, requiring me to attend at his Court the next morning, to answer a charge preferred by a man named Bemana Moodelly, who affirmed that I was detaining his son, aged 12 years, against the boy's will. The summons demanded the presence of the youth at Court. When Colonel Boulderson saw the lad, he remarked that he had been misinformed by the parents as to their son's age; it was his, the Magistrate's opinion, that the boy was old enough to exercise his own discretion; adding however that he thought I had done wrong in encouraging the lad to come to my house, that I ought not to have given him asylum, that I had no right to separate children from their parents, &c. As a Magistrate however he could do nothing but give the boy his liberty. He then ordered a Peon to take the youth to some distance, and let him run where he pleased; retaining the parents and myself in Court until sufficient time had elapsed for the boy to follow his own will. The Commissioner explained that this arrangement would convince all parties that not the slightest restraint was used on the lad's freedom. I found however on my return, that he had escaped to the Mission House. I should have said, that, before leaving the Court, I hinted to the Magistrate the possibility of the boy's returning to me, and begged him to protect our premises from another assault. He distinctly promised he would do so.

6. The next morning, Thursday, the day of the *second* and *greater* riot, Inspector Stuart called at the house, not officially, so far as I know, and entreated me to send the boy away. He hinted that there was a good deal of unpleasant feeling in the minds of the Natives about it,

that no case he ever remembered had given the Police so much trouble, that his own situation was not a very enviable one, *he having to go his rounds at night, &c. &c.* I may not have given here his precise expressions, except in the words underlined, which I can distinctly recall; but that the above is the purport of what he said I have no doubt. I told him, I would think the matter over, and as he wished that the father and mother of the lad should once more see their son and apply for him in person, I consented that they should come at 5 o'clock in the evening, with the understanding that no one came with them. I would then give them my answer. In the course of the day I consulted with one or two friends, and resolved to abide by my first decision, not to allow the youth to be carried off against his will. He had fled from his friends, he thought he had reason for so doing; I thought so too; he sought the protection of my house and I gave it. Apprehending that when my decision should become known in the evening to the friends of the young man, they would make another attempt upon the house, I wrote in the afternoon to Colonel Colbeck, praying him to send me help, as I anticipated a disturbance about 5 o'clock. This note, as the Colonel afterwards informed me, was immediately given by him to Inspector Stuart with positive instructions to have it forwarded to the Commissioner. I felt assured there would be no riot, if the Police were on the ground at the right time, for I had not seen on the previous Tuesday any attempt on the part of the people to resist the Peons in the discharge of their duty.

7. At half past five, Inspector Stuart came, bringing with him the father, mother, and grand-mother of the youth. I invited in the two first to see their son, but they would not enter the house, they must have their son and carry him away. At this time I do not recollect seeing any Natives on the premises, except the boy's friends. There were four or five Peons lounging near, and all was quiet. I then stated to Inspector Stuart, that the boy was unwilling to quit my house, and that I should do my utmost to shelter him from violence. He shewed me a letter from the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Lafond, in which he tells his Subordinate that I was not doing right in keeping the youth from his family. There was also a reference in the note to the Commissioner's having given orders to strengthen the Tannah at Royapettah. I replied to the Inspector, that two Magistrates had given judgment in favor of the boy's using his own discretion and I claimed for him *protection* until a higher Court to which his friends might appeal for redress, should decide the case. I said that nothing should move me that if the Police authorities would not shield me from assault, we must needs go higher for assistance, but that I would resist all lawless attempts to force the young man from the asylum my house afforded him. The Inspector then withdrew, leaving the boy's friends behind. He gave us to understand that he was going to consult with the Deputy Commissioner, who it was said was waiting outside the compound gate. Stuart returned in a few minutes, came half way up towards the house, and then sent a Peon to ask me for Mr. Lafond's note, which he had left in my hand. I gave the man the note not having any suspicion that the Police were going to prove false, until to my dismay I saw all the Peons following the Inspector. Mr. Stephenson is prepared to state that he saw Stuart beckoning them away. We protested, and entreated the Peons to remain, but they said they were called away, and would not hear us, and we were left without the help of a single Police servant. The mob which had been evidently waiting outside, and through which these men must have passed on their way through the gate, now came into the compound. They poured in through the eastern and western gates, and in a few minutes there were between one and two hundred. I examined the crowd narrowly, and watched as long as we were able to look out, but not a Policeman was to be seen.

8. When the rioters were trying the principal door, I advised Mr. Stephenson to get if possible unobserved, over the wall of the next compound and from thence into the street leading to the Tannah. He effected this retreat with some risk, for he had been assaulted at the beginning of the affray, and the spirit of the rioters had risen to an appalling fury. Mr. Stephenson informs me that, in addition to the mob inside the compound, there were as he passed between two and three hundred outside the gate, within a few yards of the Police Tannah. He first hastened to Colonel Colbeck's residence, but seeing no one there, he made his way to the house of the Inspector where he found Mr. Clarence Roberts of the Civil Service, calling Stuart to come with his men to the Mission House to suppress a riot. Mr. Roberts had received a note from me apprising him of what was taking place, and on his arrival at the Mission gate finding it useless to attempt to enter the house alone, had driven to the Police station for assistance. Stuart hesi-

tated, he kept these gentlemen five minutes begging him to return with them and threatening him with an action if he did not do his duty; while they stood here, a servant came running up crying, "They have broken into the house, and are beating Mr. Jenkins." Mr. Roberts and Mr. Stephenson then ran towards the house, but seeing the Inspector following, they joined him, and all went to the Tannah to bring on the Peons. Mr. Roberts affirms that Stuart's behaviour throughout evinced marked reluctance.

9. Meanwhile the rioters by the help of a Carpenter had forced their way in the house. They smashed every thing that obstructed them and followed us breaking from room to room, until what with large pieces of brick that were rained upon us from without and the progress of the enemy within narrowing our retreat, we were in very imminent danger. I have little doubt they would have taken my life if they had seized me. Mr. Cockill, another Missionary, and I, ultimately escaped through a back stairs that led down into a bath room from the window of which we jumped into the garden, and ran closely pursued, into the compound of the next house. From observations, I have since made, I am led to think that the riot began to subside after the people knew we had escaped.

10. I will not presume to add any remarks to the foregoing facts, as to whether or not they disclose gross incompetency or unfaithfulness in that important service to which the Government has intrusted the public safety. A desire that the whole truth so far as it bears upon the conduct of the Police, should be laid before His Lordship in Council, must be my apology for the length of this communication.

No. 16.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1023; dated 28th July 1858.

Resolved, that the above letter (in original to be returned) be forwarded to Mr. Clarence Roberts, M. C. S., and that he be requested to state, at what hour of the day he received from Mr. Jenkins the note mentioned in para 8; what steps he took in consequence, and in particular what communication passed between himself and Inspector Stuart, or any other member of the Police.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Resolved that the above letter in
original to be returned / to be forwarded
to Mr Clarence Roberts M.C. said
that he is requested to state at
what hour of the day he received
from Mr Jenkins the note mention-
ed in para 8, what steps he
took in consequence - & in further.

For Mr George
28 July 1858 - } - Can what communication passed
Mr C Roberts between himself & Inspector Stuart
M.C. ^{by the C. Secy.} in any other direction of the Police
J.P. 10/10/58

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

C67 July 1857 No 25
C278 Dec 1858 No 990.

Spd by to Comd^g August
Judicial 1858 Dep^y W

Jud^g L^o to Eng^l 13th Dec^r
No 2 of 1858.
Per^o 43.

From the Rev^d E. Jenkins

21st July 1858 No 1327
Rev^d 24th

States as requested
the facts relating to the
conduct of the Police on
the occasion of the late
riot on his premises.

J. W. 1858

W. L.

15410.

c26 July
1857

With an order