

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1804	Press
17-18	~~Mis~~
Dated 23-7-1958	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 28th September 1858.

No. 17. Read the following letter from Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 7th September 1858, No. 128.

SIR,

1. Agreeably to the orders of Government, under date 21st Ultimo, No. 1152, Judicial Department; I have the honor to report the arrival at the Presidency, of Jonan, the Nestorian Christian, who was arrested in the district of Tanjore, by the Magistrate Mr. Phillips, and to forward
* With 7 original papers. copy of a statement* made by him before my Deputy, Ramachendra Row.

2. Jonan is an intelligent person, in the prime of life and able-bodied; he speaks Hindoostanee with fluency, so fluently, that Major Taylor, my Assistant, was surprized, as the inhabitants of Syria, the country wherein he says he was born and bred, do not speak nor understand Hindoostanee, their language being the Syriac or Turkish. His knowledge of the Hindoostanee could not have been acquired within the short time he says he has been in India. Hence his statement may be unworthy of credit.

*Madras } The statement of Jonan Joseph, now at Madras, taken this 6th day of September 1858,
to Wit. } before me, Tanjore Ramachendra Row, Deputy Commissioner of Police and a Justice
of the Peace in and for the Town of Madras aforesaid, who saith as follows:—*

I am a cultivator in the village of Vazeerava of Oormeah, near Tabriz, in the dominions of Persia. My father Joseph, who was a padree of Nestorian Christians, is dead. My mother, wife and children are now living with my brothers, named Shurzish and Javeyah, who are also padrees in the above said village of Vazeerava. Having been reduced to poverty and being myself involved in debt, I left my country alone, upwards of 2 years ago, for the purpose of begging and raising subscriptions from charitable persons. The paper now produced, No. 1, which contains my distressed circumstance, was given to me by the Bishop of Syria, when I left my village. In about 2 months afterwards, I arrived at Bagdad, where I stayed one month and got some money for my expences. I then left it with the Passport No. 2, now produced, which was given to me by the authorities of that place, and arrived at Bushire by sea, where I remained 3 months and acquired a few Rupees. At Bushire I procured the Passport No. 3, and from thence, I went to Bombay, where I was told that a Missionary, by name Doctor Wilson, was a charitable gentleman, taking much interest in behalf of the poor. I waited upon Doctor Wilson, for a few days and then represented my grievances to him, when he took compassion on me and favored me with the subscription paper No. 4, also now produced. I remained 2 months at Bombay and obtained 38 Rupees by way of subscription, which money, I delivered to Doctor Wilson, for his safe custody. From Bombay I went to Mangalore by sea, where a German Missionary, by name William Hook, patronized me, and gave me a fresh subscription paper, No. 5, now produced, by means of which, I procured 130 Rupees, which sum was transmitted at my request by Mr. Hook to Doctor Wilson, at Bombay. After remaining for a month at Mangalore, I proceeded to Coonnoor, via Cannanore, where another Missionary named Lazeron, favored me with the subscription paper No. 6, now produced, by means of which, I acquired 40 Rupees at Coonnoor and the Neilgherry Hills. This money was also remitted to Doctor Wilson. I then went to Bangalore, where I got the Syriac paper No. 1 aforementioned, translated into English, which is No. 7, now produced. From Bangalore I proceeded to Trichinopoly, where I got a few Rupees, from thence, I went to see the Rujh of Poodocotah who gave me 5 Rupees; from Poodocotah, I went to Tanjore, where I was arrested by a native Police officer, being myself a foreigner, and forwarded to the Magistrate of the district, who was then at Negapatam. That gentleman detained me there for 10 or 12 days and then sent me down to Madras, escorted by peons.

I am anxious to stay at Madras for some months, to enable me to collect some money and then to go to Calcutta for the same purpose. If I were to return to my native land without sufficient money to discharge my debts, my creditors who are Mussulmen, will either torture me to death by bastinading or convert me with my family into Mahomedanism, according to the

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 28th September 1858.

custom prevalent in Persian territories in such cases. Otherwise, I will be very happy to join my family, from whom I have been separated for the last two years. If I could get any employment here under the British, I shall be glad to serve them. I do not know any persons named Abraham Musatoff and George Vardriff, nor have I any relations or friends of that name.

Taken and acknowledged at the Office of the Commissioner of Police at Madras, the day and year first above written, the contents having been first explained by
(Signed) T. RAMACHENDRA ROW,
Deputy Commissioner of Police,
and a Justice of the Peace.

The signature of
JONAN, of Oormeah, in Syriac.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. C. BOULDERSON,
Commissioner of Police.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, No. 1304; dated 23rd September 1858.

The Commissioner of Police will be instructed to release from custody Jonan the Nestorian Christian referred to in the above communication, and he will be allowed to remain at Madras unmolested so long as he does not misconduct himself. The Police will however keep an eye on him.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

2
Judicial Depto
No 1614.
From the Commissioner of Police.
Dated 7 September 1858
For orders

There is nothing suspicious about
this man. His papers seem to be
genuine & his story correctly
told. { a reference to D. Wilson
I will please him unconditionally

11/11/58

No 130/1

The Commissioner of Police will be instructed to release from custody Louan, the Nestorian Christian referred to in the above communication, and he will be allowed to remain at Madras unmolested so long as he does not misconduct himself. The Police will however keep an eye on him.

For the Secy. }
23rd September/58 }



Copy to Commr of Police } Disp 28th
" with original letter }

Col^d Aug^t 1858. 41042 Judicial
1858 Sept

Sub^d L^y 18 Dec^r No 2 of 1858
Para 33

To
Colonel J. C. Roullet
Commissioner of Indian
Affairs
Chief Secretary to Gov^t
Fort St. George

Dated
Sept 7th 1858
Rec^d

N^o 128
Encl^d 8

From the Commissioner of Indian Affairs
of 20th Dec^r 1858

No 1614.

Reports the arrival of
from the Mexican
Commissioner & forwards copy
of a statement made by him
at this office with original
papers.

With an answer

-c 13 Sep
R 17
C 17
R 23