M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

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Dated	6 - 2 - ~~17~~ 18.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 17. Read the following letter from A. PURVIS, Esq., Magistrate of Rajahmundry; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 30th January 1858, No. 38.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 2nd Ultimo, forwarding copies of certain correspondence from the Military Department, and calling on me to report the circumstances under which I made a requisition for the services of the two Companies of Sepoys referred to in a letter of the 2nd November, from the Brigadier Commanding Masulipatam to the Quarter Master General of the Army.

* 24th September, 30th September, 1st October. } 1857.

2. My letters of the dates given in the margin,* will have previously placed the Government in possession of the grounds under which I considered it absolutely necessary to apply for Military aid, and I have little further to add. It was impossible at the time to say to what extent the rising might spread or by whom, or by what numbers, the marauders might be joined, and I felt at the time, and still feel, that I should have greatly failed in my duty had I not acted as I did, though no one can regret more than myself, the state to which Captain Hodson's Detachment was reduced by sickness.

To Fort Adjutant, Masulipatam, 28th October 1857.

3. Captain Hodson considers the application for Troops "most uncalled for," and Brigadier Cameron intimates his full concurrence in this view, but with every respect for the opinion of an Officer of General Cameron's experience, I may be permitted to remark that Captain Hodson, upon whose report alone, as far as I am aware, the Brigadier must have arrived at this conclusion, was hardly in a position to form an opinion as to the necessities of the case. The "harmless hill people," he speaks of, had, as Government are aware, resisted by force of arms the Civil authority in the person of the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, compelled him to give up prisoners and property and the Moonsiff Soonkara Swamey, whom, though on what grounds I am not aware, Captain Hodson designates as a scoundrel. If any further proof is required that the troops were not needlessly summoned, it is to be found in the fact that, immediately on their withdrawal, a measure which the state of sickness to which they were unfortunately reduced rendered imperative, several villages in the vicinity of the hills were plundered.

4. The application by the Acting Joint Magistrate for the two light field pieces was made without previous reference to me. The information he had received led him to believe that they were necessary and it is not unlikely this would have been the case had the stockade been defended. At the same time considering the state of the roads and the great difficulty of transport I am free to admit that it is as well they were not sent.

(Signed) A. PURVIS,
Magistrate.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, No. 204; dated 12th February 1858.

Communicated to the Military Department in reference to the Extract Minutes Consultation in that Department under date 23rd November last, No. 4164.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Hnd. F. Cartledge.

(No. 2014

Communicated to the Military
Dept. in reference to the 2 M.C in that
Dept under date 23 Nov. last No 4164

Fort St George,
12th February 1858

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