M.R.O. 1—33,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 233 Press ~~Mis.~~

27-28

Dated 23—2 ~~-11-~~ 1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 27. Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Jugglebett, 12th February 1858, No. 68.

SIR,

Presuming that Government are already indirectly informed through the Magistrate, of the disturbances which have taken place on the Canara side of the Goa frontier, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter this day addressed to the Magistrate of Dharwar, explaining the present position of matters in that neighbourhood, and the necessity under which I am placed of calling in Military aid for the suppression of the outbreak and protection of the inhabitants of this part of my division.

2. The Maharatta Chief who has thus set up the standard of revolt is an inhabitant and land holder of the Goa territory, and Government will I think be prepared to allow even on the meagre evidence now before them that the contingency was not one which I could or ought to have foreseen when advocating the withdrawal of the Hullial Detachment in December last.

3. My faith in the good feeling and the loyalty of the people of this part of the division continues unshaken, and any aid they may give the insurgents is, I really believe, wrung from them by a sense of their own helplessness and inability to resist.

4. Just arrived here and with no very reliable sources of intelligence, I am unwilling to commit myself to any decided opinion on the origin and probable consequences of this demonstration, but general rumour gives to it a political character and siginficance and there are other features which sanction the opinion.

5. In the hope that Government will approve of the measures I have taken and concur with me in the estimate I make of the magnitude of the occasion, I close for the moment with a promise of returning to the subject as soon as ever it assumes a more intelligible and definite shape.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. OGILVY, Esq., Magistrate of Dharwar, dated Jugglebett, 12th February 1858, No. 67.

SIR,

After travelling all day yesterday and the earlier part of this, through a wild and impracticable country, I reached this place about noon. The Tasildar met me at Soopah, and reports that matters are in statu quo in the Tinnay neighbourhood.

2. Hunamuntha Sawantha and his party mustering some 150 strong, and by report well supplied with arms and ammunition, have taken up their position on a lofty hill called Dursengooda, some 4 or 5 miles north of Tinnay on the Canara and Belgaum frontier.

3. The villages in the neighbourhood are panic stricken, and supply the insurgents with what provisions they demand, although there are many of the insurgents caste-people in that and other parts of this talook. I cannot learn that they are in secret intelligence or sympathy with them.

3. The supplies they now furnish would appear to be rather the contributions of terror, and the black mail they pay to save themselves and families from violence.

4. On mustering my Police force, I find I have from 50 to 100 men. Amongst whom there are probably not a dozen who can handle a musket, or upon whom any reliance whatsoever can be placed. They are a miserable ill-equipped timid rabble, and would take to their heels probably on the first shot. I am therefore compelled most reluctantly to look to Dharwar for assistance and request you will without allowing any official informality in my application to stand in the way, despatch on receipt of this, 2 Companies, or if so large a force cannot with safety be spared, one full Company at least to my assistance.

5. Probably if arrangements were made on receipt of my former communication I may look for the arrival of the Detachment at this place some 4 or 5 days hence. In the meantime, I move out on a reconnoissance to the frontier, and I am now endeavouring to effect a meeting or at least open correspondence with any European Civil or Military Officer who may have been detached on this service, from Belgaum. My Tasildar reports that a Detachment is

en route from Belgaum to the frontier, but subsequent rumour has it that finding themselves not strong enough for the occasion, they have returned on their steps, or halted midway until further reinforcements can be sent to their aid.

6. The Goa Government are said to be acting merely on the defensive, and have mustered a considerable force to watch their own frontier.

7. Not foreseeing that matters would assume so serious an aspect, or that I should have to apply for Military aid, I have not communicated direct with my own Government, but copies of all correspondence on this subject have been regularly forwarded to the Magistrate of the district who has doubtless brought the matter with his comments to the knowledge of the Madras authorities. I have yet to learn the exact cause of this demonstration, but hear that it originates in certain unpalatable restrictions, placed at the instance of the Belgaum authorities on Hunamuntha Sawantha's family by the Goa Government.

8. Resenting this interference and also it is said secretly egged on by the Kolapoor Poligar, the family would appear to have converted all their property into money and to have taken to the field in the intention of making good their cause or dying in the attempt. From letters daily expected from the Belgaum and the Portuguese authorities, I hope shortly to have more accurate intelligence. In the meantime, I give this as rumour has it, and as not in substance improbable.

9. Might I request you to do me the favor to Telegraph to the Madras Government the purport of my present application.

10. A copy of this communication shall likewise be forwarded to the Chief Secretary, Fort St. George, as well as to the Magistrates of this and the Belgaum districts.

11. I may add that preparations have been made along the road between Hullial and this for the supplies required by the Detachment whose services I now claim.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Joint Magistrate.

No. 28. ORDER THEREON, No. 233; dated 23rd February 1858.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Ext F. Cartledge.

reliable sources of intelligence I am unwilling to commit myself by any decided opinion on the origin and probable consequences of this demonstration, but general rumour gives it a political character and significance and there are other features which sanction the opinion.

In the hope that Government will approve of the measures I have taken and concerning me in the estimate I make of the magnitude of the occasion I close for the moment with a promise of returning to the subject as documents ever it appears a more intelligible and definite shape.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obt Servt

L. Nolan Dr

Genl Sir H. Maxwell