No. 14. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Eramangalom, 19th February 1858, No. 28.

SIR,

I have the honor to report a case in which I think the Mopla Act ought to be put in force.

2. In 1843, there occurred that very serious Mopla out-break known as the "Cheroor case." It was one purely fanatical in its character, it occurred near the Tiroowangaddy Tangul's own village, and no doubt was conducted under his auspices; and its suppression was attended by an unhappy check on the part of the Troops, which led to the Court Martial on Captain Leader in 1843. The well known Cheroor Ballad was composed in honor of the heroic martyrs, &c., a Ballad showing how much the whole Mopla race approved of and considered itself honored, by the course of this formidable out-break.

3. Within a year of the death of the fanatical band, the land, the scene of the death struggle, was purchased by a Mopla, a man from Mahé, and a small mosque was at once commenced, a festival instituted, and a day set apart in honor of the sainted miscreants. The Moplas of the neighbourhood have gradually been in the habit of resorting to this feast with their votive offerings, and in rapidly increasing numbers.

4. Notice was attracted to the matter in 1849. The object and character of this Mosque and institution were clearly ascertained, and the threatening character of the whole transaction was too fully appreciated, but, as the Government is aware, little could be done for want of due Legislative power. Mr. Collett however examined the case and established its objectionable features. He forbade the continuance of the feast, except under express sanction of the Magistrate, which it was of course intended should never be given. His decision was upheld in the Sessions Court.

5. The order has however been a mere dead letter. Those were years of great difficulty. The feast was under the auspices of the Tiroowangaddy Tungal, and our Mopla* officials countenanced the irregularity. Hindoos were afraid even to whisper the thing.

* A Moplah Peshkar of the Talook (since dismissed) was in the habit of attending it with great pomp.

6. The feast, &c., has therefore gone on almost uninterruptedly. Yearly its imposing and threatening character has increased, and this year there were collected some 5 or 6,000 Moplas from all parts of the neighbourhood, and it was conducted with great solemnity and show of fire-works, Elephants, &c.

7. Respectable Moplas even feel that the propriety of such a feast is more than doubtful. I am satisfied that such a feast is seditious and most menacing in its character. Its recurrence is calculated to keep alive fanaticism, and breed disaffection and ridicule in respect of the ruling power. I have therefore determined to grapple with the case at once under the Act, and I beg to report my proceedings for the approval and sanction of Government.

Every one feels that it is likely to take the place of Mambarut (the Tangul's Mosque) itself, &c.

8. The man at the head of the matter is the individual named in the margin. He owns the land. He built and maintains the Mosque (a very insignificant little place.) He draws the profit of the votive offerings which are considerable. He manages the feast and employs the Moplas who conduct the ceremonies, among which doubtless the recital of that seditious murder-inciting epic, the "Cheroor Ballad," takes a prominent place. The removal of this individual from the country is clearly the first step to be taken, and I have therefore given him the option under the Act of leaving the country for 3 years. His return after that period being dependent on the sanction of the Governor in Council. He has elected to leave India.

Pootoloth Mamod Cootty.

9. The Government and Local authorities are well aware of the very dangerous influence exercised by the Moolahs of Malabar over the Mopla race. They exercise the most complete control, are the preachers of all the dangerous doctrines inculcated, and are the instigators of fanaticism, and they are indispensible to such seditious institutions and ceremonies as that under consideration. It is rarely indeed that these men can be reached by the Law, and when we get

a good case, I consider it indispensibly necessary, as well on account of the case itself, as to impress upon the minds of this seditious class generally their responsibilities, that we treat their case with decision and some severity.

10. Two Moolahs named in the margin, have engaged during the last 12 years in these seditious meetings, and have conducted the worship in the little Mosque, both must therefore, I think, be removed from the country. I have given them likewise the option of retiring from Malabar which they have accepted.

1 Mandotil Athen.
2 His younger brother's son, Ithuan.

11. The first is an elderly man and I propose to permit his return in the autumn of 1859. The other is a younger and less safe man, and I have forbidden his return for full 3 years, when, with reference to the state of the country, permission may be granted or withheld as appears best.

12. I have to ask the indulgence of Government in the case. Promptness is much required in dealing with such matters, and this now is the season when pilgrim ships are touching on the coast on their way to Jedda weekly. But the season is fast closing, and by awaiting orders, I might lose the opportunity of sending them off this year. I shall therefore hurry them off by the very first opportunity, trusting confidently to the approval and sanction of Government.

13. Might I request sanction to disburse to each of the three, a small sum of money say within 50 Rupees each.

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, No. 254; dated 25th February 1858.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council fully approves and under the provisions of Act XXIII 1854 sanctions the proceedings of the Acting Magistrate of Malabar, as reported in the foregoing letter in regard to the three* individuals who have been required to leave India. Mr. Robinson will report the departure of these men and the places to which they have proceeded, and will warn them most distinctly of the punishment which they will incur by returning before the periods assigned to them. He will disburse to them a sum not exceeding (50) fifty Rupees each.

*1 Pootoloth Mamod Cootty.
2 Mandotil Athen.
3 Ithuan.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No. 254

21

The R^t Hon^ble the Gov^r in Council fully approves and under the provisions of Act XXIII 1854 sanctions the proceedings of the Acting Magistrate of Malabar as reported in the foregoing letter in regard to the three individuals who have been required to leave India. Mr Robinson will report the departure of these men and the places to which they have proceeded and will warn them most distinctly of the punishment which they will incur by returning before the periods assigned to them. He will disburse to them a sum not exceeding 50 fifty

1 Pootoloth Mamod Cootty.
2 Mandotil Athen
3 Ithuan

Fort St George, 25th February 1858.

J.P.

Actg Mag^e Malabar. Disp^d 25^th
Officiating Asst to Audr Genl. Disp^d 1^st March

In Dy to Govt 2d March
Judicial 1858

Judl Dept Letr Engd 30th June
No 9 of 1858 - Para 35

Depart
From The Acting Magistrate
To, The Chief Secretary
to Government
Judl Depart
Fort St George
Dated 19th February
Recd 24 - " - 1858

No 28

Encls None

No 347.

Reports in which
he thinks the Regula
tion ought to be enforced
& under circumstances
stated, solicits the approval
of Govt in regard to
the steps he has taken
in the matter

T.E. No 4035-

14 — 15

C 24 Feb
R 25 "

Write an Order

M.R.O. 1—38,0f0—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	952	Press ~~Mis.~~
14-15		
Dated	25. 2 — ~~19 68.~~	

Not to be folded or roughly handled