

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	34	Press
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Dated	9 - 1 - 19	1958

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 12th January 1858.

No. 1. Read the following letter from M. MURRAY; Esq., Collector of Cuddapah; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George; dated Jamulmudgoo, 22nd December 1857, No. 40.

SIR,

1. In acknowledging the receipt of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 5th Instant, No. 1588, calling for the opinion of the Collector of Cuddapah, whether the Acting Government Vakeel, Venkatadry Sastree, was a fit and proper person to receive the permanent appointment, I have the honor to state, that under existing circumstances, there appears to be considerable objections to his nomination. Since he has held the acting appointment, I have had great difficulty in obtaining replies to the motions presented through him to the Civil Judge for the release of property from attachment or its sale on account of arrears of Revenue, and I have further learned he does not bear a high character for respectability among his fellow townsmen.

2. Besides these, it has come to my notice, that grave charges have been preferred against him before the Civil Judge which, if correct, will incapacitate him not only from holding the appointment of Government Vakeel but ought to exclude him from practicing as a Vakeel in the Court. I have been informed that in a suit or suits, in which Gazoolapoory Ramasawmy, Lutchmanah and Venkatamah were complainants, Venkatreddy and Gerdareddy were defendants, the present Acting Government Vakeel was pleader for the complainants, he wrote a letter to the complainants, stating he had agreed to pay a considerable sum of money to the Sudr Ameen who was to try the suit or suits, and a smaller sum to the defendants' Vakeel, and desiring them to send the money soon. This letter fell into the hands of the defendant as well as another, in which he stated he had made arrangements with the witnesses of the defendants and requesting complainants to send the money soon or he could do nothing. These letters were presented before the Civil Judge in 1856, and I have not learnt that any order has yet been passed upon them. It is further stated that stamp papers have been filed in the Court for copies of the orders passed upon the letters which have not yet been granted, and last month when Mr. J. B. Norton, Barrister in the Supreme Court was in Cuddapah, defending one Dootoo Chinna Shashoo, on a charge of being concerned in a case of murder, application was made for copies of the letters to be shewn to him as the defendants wished to employ that gentleman in pleading their cause, but copies were not granted. Under these circumstances, I do not consider myself justified in recommending the appointment of Venkatadry Sastree as Government Vakeel. I must in justice state, I am not prepared to come down with proof in support of the charges, but from what I have learnt, I have reason to believe there is much truth in them, though in some of the minor points my information may be incorrect. To clear up any doubts on the subject, Government may call for the original letters, the motions filed with regard to them and the decision passed by the Civil Court upon them together with the date on which such decision was passed. Until the character of Venkatadry Sastree has been cleared of even suspicion of being guilty of such nefarious transactions, he, in my opinion, cannot be allowed to hold the situation for which he is recommended by the Civil Judge.

3. The Civil Judge states, that this individual has been acting for 21 months as Government Vakeel and that he considers by his "character and capacity best qualified for the situation:" I would beg to represent that when Custooray Ramachundra Row, the late Government Vakeel, was promoted to the situation of District Moonsiff, one Shashacharry was nominated to act in his room. This Shashacharry, was subsequently deputed to act as District Moonsiff of Cudree; on his being relieved by the return of the Moonsiff, he resumed his former occupation of Vakeel in the Court and applied to be restored to his former Acting Government Vakeelship, this was not acceded to by the Civil Judge and the present acting Vakeel was continued. If the

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said Shashacharry was deemed a fit person to perform the duties prior to his being deputed to act as District Moonsiff, he may surely be considered eligible to transact the duty of Government Vakeel when he has been considered competent to fill the responsible situation of Acting District Moonsiff.

(Signed) M. MURRAY,
Collector.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 34; dated 9th January 1858.

Ordered that the above letter be forwarded to the Judge of Cuddapah, who will report on the statements made in it relative to Vencatadri Sastree. He will send his report to the Sudr Adawlut within three days after the receipt of this order, and the Sudr in forwarding it to Government will accompany it with any remarks or explanation that they may deem necessary.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Ed. P. Cartledge.

7:34

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Chief Secretary

To the Secy
9 January 1858

To the Secy

Can 8th December 1857 to 27th 1858

Dr. H. to Com^{rs} 12th Dec 1857
Medical 1857. 28th Dec 1857
Revenue. Disbursement

From the Collection
of the Hospital
of the Hospital to Com^{rs}
Revenue Disburse

7th Dec 1857

Dec 22nd Dec 1857

2nd 40.

No 2165

Advancing opinion with
regard to the character of
the body, viz. the
Acting Government: But
of the Civil Society, viz. the
with reference to the
Council of the 5th Dec 1857

1-2

Can 8th Dec 1857