

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

466

Press

~~Mis.~~

4-5

Dated

10 - 6 - 1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 4. Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Camp Kooveng, 29th March 1858, No. 185.

SIR,

Government will be informed by my first telegram of 23rd Instant, of the manner in which the Bellary field force has been disposed of. I regret much that owing to the absence of any direct official intelligence, I was unable from ignorance respecting the constitution of this force,

* The office copy has, I find, been sent to the Magistrate, but its general purport must already be known to Government.

to spare a portion of it, several severe, and harassing marches. Leaving my letter* to Captain Forbes, to explain the circumstances, under which this took place, and our subsequent decision, in regard to the disposal of the Cavalry, and Artillery, I have only to remark, with reference to our location of the Europeans, at Hullial and Yellapoor, that the rapid spread of the rebellion in the easterly and southerly directions, and certain dangerous symptoms, which have latterly manifested themselves, in the more inland Districts, and along the eastern frontier, seemed to Colonel Maclean, Captain Schneider, and myself, amply to justify the disposition we have made of this portion of the Bellary column. The want of medical aid, and the almost insuperable difficulties which would beset us in the Commissariat Department at once decided us against breaking up the European force into frontier out-post parties. As they are now located, Commissariat arrangements become easy, and the moral effect produced by the presence of such a force in these two neighbourhoods can, in my opinion, be hardly over estimated. With the exception of one or two small gangs of Siddy marauders, there are up to the date of my latest intelligence, no symptoms of any of the real rebels having passed the "Kalanudy" nor do I apprehend that, checked thus at Yellapoor, they would attempt a further advance into the interior. Pressed from this side it seems, however, very probable that they may take up positions along the more southern portion of the Goa frontier range, and push their way gradually down the "Umshy Ghât," on and at the foot of which there are some influential Shenny proprietors who may have considerable sympathy with their cause. Under some arrangements now made, I expect to have at my disposal in a few days some forty men economised from other out-posts, whom I propose locating as soon as arrangements can be made at "Noojee," a point commanding the Dhocurpa and Koondel roads, and which will thus become our extreme southern out-post in the Woolny and Sedashighur directions. I have already had the honor to report my proceedings during my absence from the frontier Head Quarters in the Jugglepett and Soopah directions. During that period some good service had been done, and much useful information collected by Colonel Maclean, Captain Schneider and the other Officers here assembled.

The particulars of these operations are so fully and lucidly detailed by Captain Schneider in his letter to the Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government, that I cannot do better than avail myself of that gentleman's courteous permission, and make copious extracts from his interesting narrative.

After relating how my original plan of joining him in a direct movement on Diggy by a detour through Soopah was frustrated, Captain Schneider proceeds as follows:—

"6. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council will learn with regret that the out-break or rather rebellion, as it should be called from the dimensions it has assumed, has extended to the neighbourhood of Soopah and that several skirmishes have taken place in that vicinity. It was to be expected that, as we occupied this portion of the country, the rebels would take a course southwards, but I had not anticipated that they would spread so far as Soopah, nor could they have managed to do so without their party being far stronger than from the information at various times received I had any reasons to suppose. It is not to be disguised that the state of feeling in this District is very bad and that the Dessai party has received a great accession from the ryots. Their numbers are at the present moment estimated according to the latest information at 500 spread over the country in parties of from 25 to 100, each headed by 1 or 2 of the original gang. That which has been so actively employed in the Soopah neighbourhood is stated to be led by Amroot and Ramchendra Row Ranais, the brothers of Nana Ranais Tulgaumkar. On the evening of the 19th Instant, information was brought to me by the Dongurwady Dessai, a person

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of considerable influence in these parts, and who has since the commencement of the out-break been under surveillance, that a body of the rebels under Baba Dessai himself had on that very day been seen in the village of Soolia about 5 miles to the southward of our camp. I immediately brought this to the notice of Colonel Maclean, and requested that an expedition might be organised with a view to the discomfiture or, if possible, capture of the gang alluded to. In pursuance of this requisition all the available Troops, Regular and Irregular, led by the Detachment of the Saventhwady Corps left camp at about 3 A. M. on the 20th, and proceeded en route for a point on some hills over Soolia where the Troops were to separate into several parties for the occupation of the various paths leading into the village and arrived there just at the gray of morning. Here suddenly as I gave the order for the advance, to halt and form up, a dozen or so men decently dressed came out of the jungle a short distance, say 20 yards, to our right front and standing apparently quite unconcerned challenged, us, and being answered, did not appear inclined to move, but repeated the challenge.

The leading men of the local Corps on first seeing the men raised their Fuzils to fire into them, but from the cool manner in which the latter stood I was afraid that they might be some "Shetsendies," of whom we had a number with us, and who might probably have missed the path, but as soon as I saw my mistake rendered evident by the movements of the rebels on our reply to their second challenge, I ordered the Sepoys to fire and the result was that one was killed and the rest fled in the utmost confusion, throwing away their arms, clothes, shoes, &c. Of the former we recovered 3 Guns, 1 being a Fuzil with a Bayonet attached belonging to the Belgaum Police, and a considerable quantity of the latter. There is some reason to suppose that a second man was wounded.

7. It became certain we had surprised an out-post, the particular business of which was to give notice of the movements of Troops about our camp which is clearly visible from the position taken up by them. They did not suppose it likely we should move at night and consequently were most completely surprised.

8. Although we had so far been successful it was clear that we had disturbed those in the village below as on an advance they were seen moving off rapidly in an opposite direction. Nevertheless we proceeded to the village and searched through the place where the rebels had been, but found nothing but a few scraps of a torn note, which I most fortunately preserved as they turned out to be important, as I shall hereafter shew.

9. After the village had been searched, Colonel Maclean with the Regulars and Mr. Sauter with the Belgaum Police, who had other views for the next day, returned to camp, while I myself with my men and a party of the Dharwar Police, marched on towards Diggy, in the hope of seeing Mr. Robinson of whom for several days I had not heard.

10. On the road I came upon a number of fresh foot prints leaving it quite certain that the rebels had fled that way, and when close to the top of the Diggy Ghât the foot prints of a single person were visible and ultimately in the jungle close to the road. Some of my party arrested a man who was concealed in the jungle and on whose person some iron bullets and powder were found. There could be no doubt as to this individual being one of the rebels and as such he has been handed over to Mr. Robinson, the Special Commissioner, for the trial of such persons.

11. On arrival at Diggy and finding no signs of Mr. Robinson nor any Troops, I determined to bivouac in the village for the night, and had just halted, when a Brahmin ignorant of the presence of British Troops in the village meeting a Sepoy in undress, thought he must be one of the rebels and enquired for Baba Dessai. The Sepoy being a shrewd man met him on his own terms and taking him to one of my Jemadars, who feigned to be a Sirdar of the Dessais, the Brahmin gave up to him a sum amounting altogether to Rupees 420, for transmission to Baba Dessai, being the aggregate of his own and other persons subscriptions on account of the expenses of the rebellion. This man was kept in a state of delusion for some days during which he gave us much valuable information as to the persons who had been supplying the Band with money and food.

12. The same night at about 11 o'clock some rebels came down through the jungle, probably with the intent to fire at my party from an advantageous position. Their plans, however,

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were frustrated, for a picket of the locals, I had concealed in a strickel in front of bivouac, waited till they got comparatively close as far as they could judge by sound and then fired. This was the signal for firing on both sides for some minutes, after which the enemy made off.

13. In the morning on searching the ground round about the picket, we found 2 loaded guns and several articles of clothes, &c. from which it was clear that the rebels had been unprepared for the presence of any Sepoys in the jungle, and that those who had been in advance had fled in confusion.

14. A little later in the morning, as I was leaving Diggy, a second Brahmin who turned out to be a custom Carcoon on Rupees 20 a month, fell into a similar trap as the one on the evening before, and he also was made a prisoner.

15. The manner in which these men talked as long as they were under the delusion, that we belonged to the Dessais, shewed plainly the very worst feeling towards us and the way they would treat all Europeans.

16. It was also clear how the idea had been inculcated throughout the country, that in Bengal Nana Bhettoor had exterminated the English, and that there was little left to be done in this direction. The prisoners both informed us that the English had no Troops to send into these parts, and that the few already here had been driven away like sheep.

17. They also stated that the present rebellion was one in which the whole of the Dessais and Ryots were concerned more or less, for that they were quite disgusted with the English Government.

1st. On account of the prohibitions to cut the jungle for cultivation. (Koomry.)

2nd. Oppressive duty on salt.

3rd. Disproportional duty on paddy.

4th. General oppression of Ryots.

They also stated, that nearly every family had sent one or more of its members to join the gang, and that more intended to join.

This last information is most probably true, for our own from other sources is to the same effect.

18. Altogether I have no hesitation in stating, that the condition of this country is such as to cause great uneasiness. Had the disturbances commenced three months earlier, then a comparatively small body of Troops would have sufficed for the suppression of them, but the case is totally different now. We have but a month clear for operations and then the monsoon follows, during which not only must the operations cease, but I apprehend that some of the out-post now held will have to be withdrawn on account of the difficulty of keeping up communication with them.

19. During the month before the rains then we have to use our best endeavours to restore peace and confidence throughout. This done the real Dessai gang denuded of all local assistance will not be very formidable. I have however great doubts as to the strength of the force now in the field being sufficient for the purpose.

20. I had placed great reliance on the re-inforcement ordered up from Bellary and Hurryhur by the Madras Government, but I have been greatly disappointed, for the constitution of the Bellary Detachment is such as to render it totally unfit for the purpose required of it. It consists of 3 Companies of H. M.'s 74th Highlanders, a squadron of the 8th Light Cavalry, and portion of a Company of Artillery. With two 9-pounder guns and a 24-pounder howitzer, and 55 Rank and File of 47th N. I.

21. It must be quite clear to all who have ever seen or heard of the country bordering on the Ghâts, that such a force as that above described with the exception of the Native Infantry is quite useless, for neither the Cavalry nor Artillery could move, while if the European portion were broken up into small Detachments for out-post work as would be necessary, each would require a medical attendant, and a large member of Native Troops would be continually employed in conveying their provisions.

22. Taking into consideration all the circumstances, it has been determined by Mr. Robinson, supported by the opinion of Colonel Maclean, Captain Forbes, and myself, to order the Cavalry

and Artillery back to Dharwar, while the Europeans are as a temporary measure to be broken up into 2 Detachments, to be placed, one at Hullial and the other at Yellapoor, at both of which places it will be comparatively easy for the Commissariat to act, while the moral effect of the presence of a body of Europeans will be very great. In the meantime, Mr. Robinson has telegraphed his Government to send up a number of Native Troops to relieve the Europeans and supply the place of the Cavalry. It is very much to be regretted, that these were ever sent and had any enquiries been made as to style of Troops required, those who have arrived would have been saved a long and harassing march, and Government a great expence.

"23. No notice was given to Mr. Robinson of the nature of the force or he would have telegraphed to prevent their advance.

"24. The Hurryhur Detachment consists of some 250 men, but these have been stopped and posted about the country to the southward of this, and consequently not a man of the Belgaum force has been relieved, nor do I see any chance of this being so, while on the contrary from what I can learn it is very probable that the Madras Government will apply for more Bombay Troops.

"25. Should such be the case, and any be available in Bombay or on the Coast for Belgaum would seem to be quite denuded, they should be landed at Murmagaon, Goa, whence they would come by water to Sougaum, 15 miles from the scene of operations.

"28. In para: 30 of my letter of the 13th Instant, I requested instructions as to how far I was to operate to the south, and await a reply, in the meantime we are all cordially co-operating with Mr. Robinson to the extent of our means.

"29. It appears to me that that gentleman considers me to be acting in this District as Superintendent of the operations against the Band, but I have told him that my powers do not extend so far, and that I have come so far solely on my own responsibility, in the total absence of Madras Troops, and this measure, I trust will meet with the approval of the Right Honorable the Governor, for by doing so we are assisting the Madras Government and at the same time keeping the Dessaees and their evil influence as far as possible from our own Districts, and this is an important object, for there is no knowing how far the Beedi Ryots may not be disposed to favor the Band.

"30. In para: 8, I alluded to some scraps of a torn note picked up near the Dessaees' bivouac in Soolya. These on being joined together proved to be part of a letter written from one member of the Bund, the handwriting being said by some of the local Corps to be that of Nana Ranais, to another member most probably Baba Dessai and in which Tombuster Dessai is said to have agreed to join the Bund, but that this must be arranged in such a manner as to lead to the supposition that he had been carried off by force.

"31. The plan given in the note is to the effect that Amroot Row Ranais with 30 men were to meet the Dessai at a certain point near Hemerga, and after firing a few shots they were to take him with them.

"32. It is not probable that any of the Dessai would attempt to pawn a false statement on his associates, therefore I am inclined considering the rumour long afloat to the prejudice of the Jambotigar to believe that such a plan as that mentioned was really organised, and consequently that Mr. Sauter and myself were fully justified in requesting the removal of the Dessai to Belgaum. I have furnished the Political Agent S. M. C. with a copy of the letter found for his guidance.

"33. I have reason to believe that Mr. Robinson has applied for my services for the North Canara District, and of course if the Right Honorable the Governor in Council accedes, I shall use my best endeavours to perform the service required of me, but I would respectfully bring to notice, that the line of country with the protection of which I am already charged is very great, and quite sufficient to engage my whole attention, and moreover it is one with which I am somewhat acquainted, whereas of this part of the world I am totally ignorant, and should not be able to act with half the judgment that Mr. Robinson's experience of several years in the District would enable him to do. I therefore would most respectfully urge, that the Madras Government be recommended to relieve him of all his other duties which are very heavy, and having increased his Native establishment now perfectly inadequate, to appoint him Special Commissioner for the suppression of the rebellion in North Canara.

"34. With this arrangement I should be free to keep up a strict watch on our own border from Aee to Hemerga and still be in a position to co-operate with Mr. Robinson in any operations in which he might wish for assistance. Of course Mr. Robinson would have power to make requisitions on the various posts in the Canara country occupied by Bombay Troops."

Heartily endorsing Captain Schneider's remarks as those of an Officer whose experience, knowledge of the language, habits and modes of thinking of the Mahratta population, entitle them to much weight, I must yet beg leave to make a few comments on some of the observations contained in the above quoted paragraphs.

Captain Schneider enumerates four causes to which his informants ascribe this rebellion. The 1st due to the general unpopularity of recent measures connected with our forest conservancy, and especially those which restrict and regulate the so called Koomry cultivation has, I dare say, a good deal to say to the friendly reception and sympathy, which these alien leaders have met with from the inhabitants of this part of the North Canara.

The Koomry question is too intricate and delicate an one to discuss in this place, and has probably ere this been put before Government in all its details by Messrs. Cleghorn and Fisher. In any case the unpopularity of recent local Legislation is no argument, nor do I believe that Government will on a full consideration of the question decide otherwise. This much I can say, that during my Jamabundy tour in these parts in December last, the Koomry outcry had lost much of the vehemence of the two preceding years, and I was in hopes that the necessity of the measure was beginning to be recognised, and that the cultivators would rest satisfied with such assignments as were then directed to be made until the whole system could be put on a more intelligible and consistent footing than it now rests on.

The other three alledged causes of discontent scarcely deserve remark. The salt monopoly instead of bearing heavily on the people of this neighbourhood must rather be to them a source of wealth and profit.

A very few hours scramble among the hills, which form the frontier barrier between Canara and the Portuguese territory will suffice to shew that smuggling to an unlimited extent can and does go forward and that the receipts at our five Chowkies do not at all represent the trade that passes to and fro between the inland Districts and the Goa sea-board.

The 3rd and 4th causes of grievance are very vague, but if I understand them aright, I am disposed to attach as little weight to them as to the preceding one. The prices of all kinds of produce have of late years been unprecedentedly high and remunerative, and the very isolation and inaccessibility of the villages in this part of the country are their surest protection against the petty tyranny and inquisition occasionally exercised by Native officials in the more populous and highly developed Districts.

How far Captain Schneider is right in supposing that this revolt is of gradual growth, the offspring of long premeditated and well digested conspiracy between the Saventh Sirdars and the Dessaees of North Canara, I shall not now pretend to decide, but my own impression is, that the sympathy is neither so general nor so long seated as may at first appear. There can be no doubt that the state of matters in North India has been grossly misrepresented, that our resources nearer home have been depreciated, that the policy of certain local measures has been placed in its most obnoxious and unpopular light, and that the example of a neighbouring Government held at defiance during two years, and finally compelled to compromise with one of their petty insurgent chieftains has been freely quoted in proof, that revolts of this kind can be undertaken with impunity.

The tactics moreover of these insurgents have been admirably adapted to secure the object they had in view. Distributing themselves so as to appear simultaneously at different points in Bunds sufficiently formidable to overawe and make their own terms with the inhabitants of the all isolated and defenceless villages which they visited, they have yet by scrupulously abstaining from any acts of violence calculated to awaken the resistance of the resident population, by liberally for the assistance and supplies furnished them as far as their means went, and their more overt acts of hostility against the Government and its employes contrived by their own importance and secure a degree of co-operation among a people who had no

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choice left them between acceding to such light and easy conditions, and the sacrifices of their own lives and property. Looking at the movement from this point of view, I am disposed to anticipate the very happiest results from the measure proposed in my 1st telegram of the 23rd Instant, by which free pardon will be extended with certain exceptions to all who may be indirectly compromised, provided they return to their respective villages within 10 days of the issue of Proclamations, such a measure would have the immediate effect of thinning the ranks of our antagonists, would be recognised as a gracious act on the part of a justly incensed Government, and would infinitely simplify proceedings under the Commission by drawing a broad line of demarcation between those who have by force of circumstances fallen under suspicion, and those who have voluntarily taken their place in the rebel ranks. Three days' continuous marching through the Sonally, Mhyra, Diggy, Kurrenzie, and Koonelay neighbourhoods and a pressure of business connected with the Commission and other multifarious duties of my position have left me no leisure to write up the narrative of the last 10 days' proceedings, which although not marked by any great practical results so far as the main Sirdars are concerned, have yet had an excellent moral effect, which is plainly perceptible on all sides in reviving commerce and re-inhabited villages.

A large party of the Saventhwady locals has been left behind to operate against the enemy in the event of his re-appearance in this neighbourhood, and to collect intelligence respecting his present haunts and future plans. My last intelligence from the Umshy neighbourhood was unsatisfactory, and Mr. Fisher had left Mangalore for Sedasheghur on the first alarm of the spread of rebellion below Ghât. My intelligence, however, from that quarter only reaches to the 19th, so that I am in hopes that with the measures adapted by Mr. F. prior to quitting Mangalore, and the force which he will unexpectedly find available at Yellapoor under recent arrangements, he may be able to stop this southward progress of the revolt. I have suggested, that in the event of matters growing worse in the Sedasheghur vicinity, the Sircy Native Detachment be re-placed by an European, one from Yellapoor and the former pushed up to any point where their services can be used to best advantage. In the meantime our principal out-posts throughout the Talook are occupied in sufficient strength, and we only wait to see how far the services of Captain Schneider and his men are available for employment in the more inland and southern portion of the disturbed District. Although I have several Prisoners to be disposed of under the Commission I am unable for the present to complete the enquiry until further evidence is forthcoming, and shall therefore return to-morrow by a forced march to Soopah to place myself in nearer relation with Mr. Fisher in the south, and make provision for the Soopah and Umshy neighbourhood.

My communications to the east and south still continue on a most unsatisfactory footing owing to the difficulty of procuring escorts between Soopah and the Goa frontier, without weakening our out-posts beyond what is expedient at the present stage of matters.

My last post brought with it the accumulations of five days, and I am again nearly as many in arrear since its receipt. I note this irregularity in the hope that Government will accept it as an excuse for any apparent shortcoming in my more recent correspondence.

In the telegram announcing my appointment as Commissioner under Act XIV of 1857, Government have been pleased to direct that reference be made before any capital sentences be carried into effect unless where an immediate example is called for.

The discretion allowed in the concluding part of this message, I have deemed it expedient to avail myself of in the cases of two prisoners captured *flagrante delicto* who were tried and executed by me at Kooneshy on the 24th and 26th Instant.

A few such stern examples at this particular crisis are, in my humble opinion, imperatively called for, and the delay attending a reference would rob them of half their value or moral effect.

The first who suffered was a Mahratta, the Gowd, and a person of some little property in his village. He was captured by the Sawunhawady locals whilst in close pursuit of a fugitive gang of which he was unquestionably a member. He had probably thrown away his matchlock in the water, but on being captured ammunition was found in the wallet, slung over his shoulders and there were other circumstances to prove his criminality.

The 2nd sufferer was a Sirdy, the father of a notorious bandit now in the Honore Jail. He likewise was captured by the locals during the precipitate flight of the rebels from Mhyra on the 25th. He confessed to having been present with the Bund on the occasion of the murder of Dr. Gibson's Karcaon, and various other atrocities, committed within and beyond my border.

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I had written thus far when I received the enclosed demi-official, No. 11, from Captain Schneider, which I leave to tell its own tale.

Although the Sirdars have thus again eluded our grasp the movement is encouraging as it indicates a waning confidence in their Canara resources and their ability to make further head against the force now arrayed against them. The effect of the assertion of the Sirdars from the post of danger will probably be quickly manifested in the voluntary dispersion of the minor leaders in other parts of the Talook. Until however the capture or destruction of the Savantha brothers is effected, not a man should be withdrawn from the country nor any exertion relaxed in bringing matters to a final issue.

It will be for the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to decide, whether the mere registry of Arms in North Canara sufficiently provides for its future security, or whether, as I respectfully beg leave to suggest, the opportunity of the presence of a large Military force in the country should not be taken advantage of, and the Native population disarmed as has been done in the neighbouring Districts of Dharwar and Belgaum.

The case of Canara somewhat differs from the above named examples, as it is far more wooded than either of these Districts, but a small per centage of fire arms duly registered might as has been done in the Beedi Talook be left in the hands of trustworthy persons for the destruction of wild animals and the protection of crops.

The organization of a local armed Police on the Dharwar and Belgaum model, and the construction of watch towers at each of our frontier Custom Houses with increased establishments are questions which naturally arise out of the present crisis, but which I cannot more than allude to in this place.

From Captain SCHNEIDER, Special duty; to the Secretary to Governor General, Goa, dated Camp Kooessee, North Canara, 20th March 1858, No. 9.

SIR,

I have the honor to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General, that yesterday afternoon a Detachment of the Sawunt Warree local Corps attacked a party of the rebels and followed them up to a point in the Portuguese territories adjacent to the village of Sonali.

During the skirmish one of the enemy, who proved to be a Portuguese subject, being a resident of the southern Kurunjolee, was shot within the Portuguese limits, and another, a British subject, was taken prisoner, and will directly he arrives here meet with his deserts.

My object in now addressing you is to show that the rebels have most certainly entered the Portuguese dominions and that it is my intention with the concurrence of the Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the British force on this border to proceed to Sonali in the Province of Phonda and from thence to any other place, where from our information we may have reason to believe the rebels have sought shelter.

I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of His Excellency, that the arrangements for guarding the Portuguese frontier, stopping supplies to the rebels and preventing their seeking shelter in the country below when pressed from above, appear to me to be quite inadequate.

The Detachment at Sonali alone to which place and its neighbourhood, from the associations the Dessais, naturally turn when pressed, should be at least one hundred men with as many Officers as can be spared, and other Detachments at small distances from each other under Officers should be scattered along the foot of the Ghauts, with directions to be continually on the move, and to exercise a strict surveillance on all passers to and fro.

With such arrangements and cordial co-operation of the Officers guiding them, I am of opinion that we may soon expect the break up of this rebellion.

I would suggest for the consideration of His Excellency, that the Troops which I anticipated will be ordered out, be kept at the posts assigned to them till such period as the operations against the rebels, cease for the rainy season.

It is a disadvantage for Troops being constantly changed from post to post, as the benefit of the experience and knowledge of the ground around them is thereby lost.

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I trust that in writing thus plainly, His Excellency will acquit me of all presumption, and believe that my anxiety for the public good has emboldened me to do so.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. R.

MY DEAR ROBINSON,

Matters have taken a very sudden turn here, and I think that you will possibly make up your mind to come over here immediately. We have very recent information to the effect, that the Dessais have evacuated these parts altogether and have doubled back to the jungles of north of Kristnapoor in fact to Dissai Ranais old haunts in the vicinity of Satalighur below Parwar. The information in question has been obtained by the Tahsildar through the Koonedey Potal. I send you copies of depositions I have taken on the subject, from which you will see that the whole party have gone in the direction indicated.

The story bears such an appearance of truth and so blends with the speech attributed to Hunnamunth Savantha as to his move in the direction of Warree (Oossuph) that I feel I have no right to remain here any longer, and accordingly have determined to move off to-night to Tullawarree, and so withdraw all my men, those left in the direction of Diggi will follow me by forced marches.

Colonel Maclean is also about to march. The post remaining here for the present will consist of 100 men of the 18th N. I., under Lieutenant Marsh, and they will be sufficient to guard all this neighbourhood.

Lieutenant Marsh will attend to your requisitions. Should you think it necessary on receipt of this to come in here, you can avail yourself of the escort of my men now at Koonaney who I request you will order off here *immediately*, as they are urgently required by me. Grant must manage to hold his post with his 25 men during the absence of the party to go with you to Soopah, should you decide on going there at once. I will keep you informed of the movements of the rebels, and if they return here, I will also return myself at once, if this should not be contrary to Government order.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. SCHNEIDER.

Camp Kooneshy, 29th March 1858.

MY DEAR ROBINSON,

Just a line by your servant to say that we received reliable information last night, that the Head Sirdars of the Bund, (all the brothers with their families, Hannamuth very ill in a Dhooly,) went from Kurrenjolee the day before yesterday to a place called Satalighur, where there is an old fort under CHODA, so you see we are altogether on the wrong scent, and I suspect have been all along misled by that rascally Dessai, (Ramchendra,) your Tahsildar is convinced of it, and that he completely humbugged us as to the locality of the Bund on our former Dhour, and that his anxiety (which was manifest) to take to the two villages he did; was to prevent our going to Myna where he knew they were. Please tell Schneider in case he should still be with you, that I am off tomorrow morning to Hemerga, and that the news of the whereabouts of the Bund was obtained from the men who carried Hanamunth Saventh's Dhooly. They passed hither a few miles of Kristanapoor, I had written so far when Schneider and party made their appearance. We shall all probably be off sharp on the new scent.

In haste, and with best wishes and better luck to us all,

Believe me, very sincerely yours,

(Signed) F. B. MACLEAN,

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. D. R.

No. 5. ORDER THEREON, No. 466; dated 10th April 1858.

The Government approve the Proceedings reported in the foregoing letter from the Joint Magistrate of Canara.

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Govt.

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*The Government approve the
proceedings reported in the fore-
going letter from the Joint Ma-
gistrate of Canara.*

*Forb. Secy, 2
10 April, 1858-2*

*Copy to Magistrate of Canara.
" Lt. Robinson Esq. Lt. Mag. Canara } Dispt. 1/4/58
" Military Dept.*