

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

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Dated 5-6-1918	

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th June 1858.

No. 41. Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Special Commissioner, North Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Jugglebett, 24th May 1858, No. 304.

SIR,

*Letter from Captain Schneider, No. 104, dated 20th May 1858, with enclosures.

I have the honor to enclose for the information of Government, transcripts of some further demi-official correspondence* connected with operations on the Soopah frontier.

2. These papers tell their own story so well and explain so fully our present posture and prospects on the frontier, that it seems superfluous for me to offer any comment on them in this place.

3. Government will be gratified to learn from these enclosures that Captain Schneider's mission has been attended with real and substantial results, that we have in the Governor General of Goa, an ally whose heart and personal influence at least are engaged in the cause, and that so far as may be predicated from the present attitude of matters on the other side of the border, this tedious and difficult enterprise has now every reasonable chance of being brought to an early and successful termination.

4. Amid so many conflicting influences and such a mass of venality and duplicity, it were hard to say at this stage in the plot from what quarter, and in what shape the final blow will come, but if there are to be results at all, they cannot I think, be much longer deferred.

5. Without speculating further on matters which will probably have an early solution, I shall merely add in conclusion that, I shall lose no time in laying before Government, as I receive it, any information throwing light on the gradual development, and probable issue of the negotiations and plan of operations now being conducted on the other side of the frontier.

No. 104.

Tullawady, 20th May 1858.

MY DEAR ROBINSON,

I have as you will perceive, returned from Goa, in fact, I returned on the 18th, having been only four days or less absent. My mission was most successful, and the Governor General received me with great kindness and shewed himself most anxious in the cause. I would advise your writing him *direct* for any thing you require, as he stirs himself greatly and allows no delay, but his Subordinates do not understand the meaning of the word "time." To save trouble of writing over again all that occurred, I send you the notes I took after leaving the Governor General, these will shew you what passed between us. I left Goa the same day and proceeding to Sunklee, got hold of the Dessai advanced money, made arrangements for arms and ammunition, also for the party of Portuguese Sepoys and "Shetsundies," he had asked for in fact set the whole affair going at once, and I have every hope of success. The fact is I believe the Dessai himself interested in doing business. The Nadkurnee I know is, for he has a great object in view. I have in addition to the five members of the Phudnee's family, promised to pardon five other parties who may be useful in our favor, a promise like this ought to do something. I believe the Dessai I have engaged to have long been in communication with the rebels, and that the demand for men, &c., is all bosh. I think if any thing is done, it is not unlikely that it will come from the Bund Walus themselves, however I may be wrong, time will shew. I know that the Dessais want to treat and have made the offer at Goa, they will give themselves up to the Portuguese without any other condition but that they should not be given up to us. There is something going on below, which I know of, but will not bear writing about. I have some hopes that Dipu Ranai will get frightened and see that it is better to do business, he will be disgusted at the Dessai coming forward, for outwardly friends they are, inwardly the reverse. I cannot help thinking something will be done one way or another before long. My Dessai and Nadkurnee are to get nothing for themselves, unless successful. If nothing more is done, I think the effect of engaging these folks will be to cause the delivery of the Dessais into our hands by some one else, perhaps Dessai himself will be induced to hasten his movements. The only thing I fear is that the state of utter enmity in which the various Goa officials live may upset our plans. The

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 3th June 1858.

old Colonel of the 3rd would be well out of the way. The rebels were in Dessai's village, but my visit to Goa which was known to them, or rather my intention to go there, as soon almost as I passed into Sanklee troubled them much, for they suspected it was in connection with them and Dipu Rannee and they had to go off. I heard this from a party who had actually had an interview on Saturday night with one of the rebels. The latter said that they were wavering very much as to their future proceedings, meaning as to whether they should give themselves up or not to "Goanese" the *Posts* if promised protection. The party in question said they did not approve of me. I am going down there again in a day or two to see what my folks are up to. It will be necessary to stir them up. I will let you know the prospects as they appear from time to time, about the proceedings in the monsoon you can do nothing much, unless you have certain information of the gang. Of course in the finer periods patrols must be made. I think it unjust to wig you for interference in Military matters, if you had not done so, who would have done all the dirty work. Now the Military see their way, they don't care to be advised by the parties who before did every thing for them. I thought you fully understood the footing on which the troops were allowed to remain in Canara, they were not to move till your permission was obtained.

Now I must conclude, by the bye, the Goa Governor General is transporting to Tunor island, all Bund Walas he has caught, the ship is ready to sail.

Your sincerely,

(Signed) F. SCHNEIDER,

My sudden flight to Goa put off my visit to the "Deersing," it will be all the better a few days hence.

I want to see a list of your convictions and sentences since I saw you.

(Signed) F. S.

Notes taken after an interview with His Excellency the Governor General of Goa at the palace at Calios, Sunday morning, the 16th May 1858.

His Excellency on hearing the object of my mission, without any hesitation, gave his assent to my accepting the services of Naraba Dessai of Renaland any number of men up to 100 on account of British Government and in his own hand addressed an order to that effect, in which the services of Vittal Gunish Nadkurnee of Sauklee are also made available in aid of the capture of the servants. The order also contains a clause promising ample reward to the Dessai in accordance with the nature of his services.

His Excellency also furnished me with an order on the Commandant of the 3rd Battalion for 2 Corporals and 25 men to be placed at the disposal of any person deputed by me. This with the view of concealing the Dessai's name till the proper time comes for acting openly.

An order was also addressed by His Excellency to the Administrator of the 2nd Division directing him to give any assistance required by any person armed with a letter to that effect under my signature.

His Excellency moreover stated that Naraba Dessai was a person who possessed his confidence.

His Excellency informed me that he had deputed an officer from the 3rd Battalion to attend with the British force as a means of communication with the Portuguese authorities but on my representing that it would possibly be better to have some one not subordinate to the Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the 3rd Battalion, and moreover able to speak English, he very kindly cancelled his former order, and promised to send me an officer of the Artillery by name Pacheco who was well acquainted with English, and who from never having been employed in the interior, would not be imbued with any of the prejudices which long residence among the natives of Suthu etc. would be likely to inspire.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th June 1858.

I brought to His Excellency's notice the grave suspicions which exist in fact that there was certainty that Depu Ranni was a friend of the Dessais, and was harbouring them and their families. I found however that my doing so was quite superfluous. His Excellency being already quite convinced on this point and he informed me that he had been tired of the promises hitherto unfulfilled of Manuel Quadivien that he would bring D. R. Mto Punjim, gave him 8 days to do so on peril of removal from his position as Commandant of the 3rd Battalion and the district.

I informed His Excellency that I believed that Manuel Quadivien did not care to enquire into any of D. R.'s actions or his conduct being afraid of his breaking out and thereby compromising him, he having in a measure become responsible to the Government for his (D. R.'s) good behaviour and in this His Excellency concurred. At any rate expressed himself as if he were much dissatisfied with Manuel Quadivien's proceedings.

His Excellency stated he had information of some of the servants families leaving him in the village of Sawurdeen where D. R. resides, and also mentioned that he had also heard that the Rowe Dessai had been harbouring some of them, this I stated I did not believe but that if it should be the case, that it was probably with a view of his carrying out his plans in our favor. I now think it not improbable that the said Dessai may have been concealing the families of the Phudnees.

I stated that I had heard that some of the rebels were desirous of treating, to which His Excellency replied, he had been applied to on the subject but had answered that he would shoot them if he got hold of them, but at the same time expressed his willingness if at any time it should be considered expedient to listen to their applications to be permitted to give themselves over to him. This however, I stated was of course out of my province, I had previously said I did not think the Government of Bombay would ever give its consent to the pardon of any of the parties concerned except any who not having committed murder might be instrumental in the capture or failing that destruction of the leaders.

I alluded to the hopes I entertained of the Dessai being successful in hunting down the Sawents and mentioned that I thought he had been brought forward by Vittal Nadkurnee who was anxious to obtain a pardon for his relatives of the Phudnees family now with the Bund and which pardon had been promised in the event of success.

I mentioned that on hearing of the presence of the Sawents in Saverdei, I had determined to make a dour on that village and attempt to seize them and if it should so happen D. R. with them, but that on second consideration I had been deterred from so doing for fear of some misunderstanding as it was not impossible that before I could reach the village the Dessais would receive information of my approach and decamp, and that as on meeting with armed men no discrimination could be shewn, it was very likely some of D. R.'s men of whom a number were always in attendance on him might be shot down and as I did not know the exact footing on which D. R. and his men stood with the Portuguese Government, I was afraid of the consequences of shooting men nominally peaceable subjects of that Government. To this His Excellency replied that so far from any misunderstanding, he would have only been too glad if I had shot the whole of D. R.'s Sepoys and himself too.

I then put the plain question whether in the event of my proceeding to Sawerdai on information of the rebels presence there, and I should come into contact with any of D. R.'s men, the Bundwalas having previously made their escape, I should be absolved from the consequences: to this His Excellency replied that so far from his saying any thing on the subject he should only be too glad as he now looked on D. R. as equally bad with the Sawents, and that to seize or shoot him would be performing a service to the Portuguese.

In addition to the above His Excellency said he had been pressed by both Lord Elphinstone and the Collector of Belgaum to seize the families of the Bund, and he would try his best. I replied that unless the chiefs could be seized with the families I thought it was not our policy to seize the latter alone as it would only leave the former more independent to commit mischief for they well know that once in the hands of ourselves or Portuguese their women would suffer no inconveniences but would be well fed and cared for. There was much conversation besides the above, all in connection with the rebellion, but which it is not necessary to write.

and such tactical results
that

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In conclusion, I note with pleasure that His Excellency received me with the greatest kindness, and by almost every word shewed how very anxious he was to do any thing in his power to forward the one subject in view, viz., the suppression of the outbreak, and capture of the Sawent leaders.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Special Commissioner.

No. 42.

ORDER THEREON, No. 736; dated 5th June 1858.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

N^o 364

Camp Juggelbhatt
24th May 1858. 30

From J. D. Robinson Esqre
Sp. Commissioner
North Canara
To T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras.

Letter from
Capt Schunior
N^o 104. d/20 May
1858. with Encls.
- Encls.

I have the honor to
enclose for the information
of Government transcripts
of some further diary official
correspondence connected
with operations on the Soopah
frontier.

2 These papers tell
their own story so well
and explain so fully our
present position and prospects
on the frontier that it seems
superfluous for me to offer
any comment on them in
this place.

3 Government will be
gratified to learn from these
enclosures that Captain
Schunior's mission has
been attended with real
and substantial results.
that

that we have in the Governor
General of Goa an ally whose
heart and personal influence
at least are engaged in the
cause - and that so far as
may be predicted from
the present attitude of matters
on the other side of the border
this tedious and difficult
enterprise has now every
reasonable chance of
being brought to an
early and successful
termination.

4 Amid so many
conflicting influences
and such a map of
venality and duplicity
it were hard to say at
this stage in the plot
from what quarter
and in what shape
the final blow will
come, but if there are
to be results at all they

Mr. Dalrymple
Wm. Shaw
Whitaker
is worth

2 4a
cannot. I think be
much longer deferred.
5 Without speculating
further on matters which
will probably have an
early solution, I shall
merely add in conclusion
that I shall lose no
time in laying before General
as I receive it any inform-
ation throwing light on
the gradual development,
and probable issues of
the negotiations and plan
of operations now being
conducted on the other
side of the frontier.

I have the honor to be
per
Yours most obedt Servt.

J. M. D.

Lt. Col. Francis P. Jones

Charles Cotton to Lang
 7th Sept 1858
 No 204.

In Dr. & Paul & Lane,
 Justice 1858 department.

From
 J. Robinson Esq.
 of the Court of the
 Curia No. 304.

Robert Henry
 No. 3 Lane 1858

No
 10927

Towards the
 new official carrier
 produce consists
 with operations in the
 Joseph & Thouties.

3 Lane
 No 4

1858.

To be recorded
 1858/59