M.R.O. 1—33,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 86 Press ~~Mis.~~

52. 53

Dated 18 — 1 — ~~19~~ 1885

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 52. Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Tanjore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vullum, 6th January 1858, No. 7.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to report that I purpose bringing into operation the provisions of the Act XXXIII of 1857. law marginally noted, by transmitting to the Commissioner of Police at Madras, an individual named Hyalt alias Moosafur Khan.

2. This person was brought before me a few days ago by a local head of Police at a village between Trichinopoly and Combaconum, on the road to Madras, where I had pitched my tents on business, on the plea that, although he had clearly been guilty of an assault, yet that his manner was so strange, as scarcely to justify his commitment for the offence, or punishment on account of it.

3. Entering into conversation with the man, who is a well-built erect Cashmeeree of about 5 feet 9 inches in height, I found myself wholly unable to gather any intelligible account of his reason for being in these parts, of his late place of residence, of the country whence he came, of his associates, of his mode of life or his means of existence.

4. He would at first answer a few questions in a sufficiently respectful, quiet manner, but when pressed, became suddenly irritable and vehemently broke out into rapid, loud incoherent language, partly Hindustani and as I believe Pooshtoo. Whether or not, he was unintelligible to myself and those about me, and I felt satisfied that he was wrong in his mind.

5. The circumstances, too, of the assault charged against him went to prove that his intellect is not quite sound; for on the plea that he had given some one 2 Rupees to buy him food, he forced his way by night into a private house, alarmed a female there, and when seized by one of its male inmates, inflicted on him a slight wound on the forehead with a small English clasp knife.

6. This knife, two transcripts on thin paper of a few phrases from the Koran and a copy of the Koran itself, with a cotton sleeping carpet and 2 Rs. were the only articles found in his possession.

7. He had stated that for 5 months past, he had been residing at Iyempettah, a village 8 miles from Tanjore, where dwell some 400 Mussulmans, whose habits are quiet and peaceable. I have since ascertained that a Cashmeeree answering to his description, had certainly been there, and as mentioned to me by a Cauzee of the Lubbay class, a permanent resident of the village, Hayat alias Mussafur Khan applied to him for instruction in reading the Koran.

8. The villagers became accustomed to his eccentric manners; but the children of the village were afraid of him, and on certain occasions he is said to have assaulted people. After a time, he became intimate with a half-witted man, who is now a beggar at Iyempettah, but latterly disappeared, and the Cauzee knew not where he had gone.

9. A Caboolee, for many years a resident in the Tanjore Fort, with whom I have communicated, had heard, I find, that one of his "people" had got into trouble, but under the peculiarity of Hayat's mind, temper and habits, will not undertake to receive him in his charge, and does not suppose that any one else will.

10. Under these circumstances, I have sent Hayat to the Combaconum Jail, in order that the Zillah Surgeon may bring him under professional observation, and after an appropriate period furnish me with his opinion as to the man's sanity of intellect.

11. Should this opinion declare that Hayat is of unsound mind, it will be necessary to forward him to the Presidency for confinement in the Lunatic Asylum there. If on the other hand the Zillah Surgeon deems him in his proper intellect, I must, I submit, still send him to the Commissioner of Police, as an adventurer who has no means of livelihood here, for whom no one will come forward as guarantee for his good and peaceable conduct, and who ought, it appears to me, to be shipped to Kurachee or some other port, whence he can easily return to his native country.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS,
Acting Magistrate.

Judl. Letr. Engd. 30th June
No. 9 of 1858 - Para 8

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1858

Judicial - Department

From

The Acting Magistrate
of Tenjore

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Dated 6th
Read 11 3 January 1858

No. 59.

No. 7.

Expressing his intentions
as to an Forgeries found
in the District.
With an order

Letter to Lodged