M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 927 Press ~~Mis.~~

-26-

Dated 9—7—~~19~~ 1888

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 13*th July* 1858.

No. 26. To the Secretary to the Government of India; dated Fort St. George, 9th July 1858, No. 927.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Chapman's letter of 24th February 1858, No. 334, forwarding an Extract from a Despatch from the Honorable the Court of Directors, and requesting to be furnished with the information therein required respecting the operation of the Hindoo Widows' Marriage Act, No. XV of 1856.

2. This communication was referred, on its receipt, to the Magistrates in the Provinces and the Commissioner of Police at Madras, and they have all reported, with one exception, that the Act does not appear to have had any practical effect, and that no authenticated cases of the Marriage of Widows of respectability have been brought to their notice. The exception alluded to occurred in the Salem District when a young Widow of 13 years of age, whose first husband had died before she was united to him in life, was married to a man of 22. Her parents belong to the Soodra caste and the Siva sect, and her father is Head Gomastah of the District Moonsiff's Court at Salem. Although the relatives of the young woman protested against the marriage, still it took place, and was celebrated in accordance with the rules of their caste and the ceremonies were concluded in the usual manner by the Brahmins. The Tahsildar of the Salem Talook, a man of the Naidoo caste, as also other influential men of the town, countenanced the marriage by being personally present on the occasion; but the relatives of both the Bride and Bridegroom were not present, nor have they, or any other person belonging to the caste, had any communication with the parents or the young couple since their marriage. The parents are at present treated as persons excluded from the caste.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd, F. Cartledge.

2

Chingleput District
Magistrate's Office
Syoapet 29th March 1858.

From,
C. J. Shubrick Esqre
Magistrate of Chingleput.
To,
T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to stat
for the information of the Right Hon
-rable the Governor in Council, in reply
to Extract from Minutes of Consult
-tion No. 383 of the 23rd Instant, that Ac
No. XV of 1856 respecting the marriage
of Hindoo Widows, has had no practical
effect in this District, and no case
of such marriage have been brought
to my notice.—

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant.

Magistrate.

Trichinopoly District Moosery Magistrate's Circu
Cutchery 29th March 1858

No 10.

From J. Bird Esquire
Magistrate of Trichinopo
To, T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George.

Sir,

Judicial Department.

1. I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation No 383 under date the 23rd Instant, calling for a report whether the act respecting the Marriage of Hindoo Widows has had any practical effect.

2. I may safely state that as f as this District is concerned the Act XV of has fallen as a dead letter upon the co=munity, and no marriage of a Hindoo Wi=dow has taken place.

Trichinopoly District
Moosery
Magtes Ct Cutchery
29th March 1858

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servan

J Bird
Magistrate

T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

C 23rd March 1858 No 25 & 26.

Judicial. 1858 Departt.

From
The Magistrate of
Chingleput
To
The Chief Secretary
to Govert.
Fort St. George

Lib. 18 No 927.

Dated 29th
Recd. 30
March 1858.

No 22.

No 592.

Stating that Act No XV of 1856 respecting the Marriage of Hindoo Widows has had no effect in this District

Judl 1858 Depts

From

The Magistrate of
Trichinopoly

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

S. L. No. 927

Dated 29th March 1858

Received 1 April
Do. 10

Do.

No. 602

States that no Marriage of Hindoo Widows has taken place under Act XV of 1856.

No 4

Guntoor Distr
Magistrate's Offic
Tenally 31st Ma
1858

From
H. Wood Esquire
Magistrate of Guntoor

To
H. Forbes Esqre
Acting Secretary to Governmen
Fort St George

Sir,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation under date the 23d Instant, Judicial Department No. 383, I have the honor to report for the information of the Rig Honorable the Governor in Council that the Act XV of 1856 has had no practical effec no cases of the Marriage of Hindu Widow appearing to have occurred in this District sinc the promulgation of the Act.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Serva

H Wood
Magistrate

Guntoor District
Magistrate's Office
Tenally 31st March
1858.

Exd
A H Raw

Judl 1858 Departt

From The Magistrate
of Guntoor
The Acting Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

S. L. No. 927

Dated 31st March
Received
} 1858.

No. 610

No. 4.

Reporting that the Act XV of 1856 regarding the marriage of Hindu Widows has had no practical effect in the District -

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No.

From H. Murray Esquire
Magistrate of Cuddapah

To T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

1. With reference to the Extract Minutes of consultation under date the 23d Instant No. 383, requesting the Magistrate to report whether Act XV of 1856 respecting the marriage of Hindoo Widows has had any practical effect and whether any authenticated cases of the marriage of Widows of respectability, have been brought to notice, I have the honor to state, that no case of a Widow of respectable connections, or even amongst the lower classes, having contracted a second marriage has come to my notice and I firmly believe that nothing of the kind has taken place -

2 I have repeatedly spoken to respectable

parties on the subject of Act XV of 1856. and they, in reply, stated they had no objection to the Act as it was not compulsory, it left parties to do as they please. the marriage of a Widow, however, appears to be repugnant to their feelings and I do not think it probable that any remarriage will take place until some of the most respectable inhabitants lead the way when others may be induced to follow their example. but at present, they seem to consider the marriage of Widow objectionable. The prejudice being once broken through, parties may avail themselves of the act, but this is not likely to occur for some time to come.—

3. There seems to be a considerable difference in opinion amongst the Hindoos with regard to the time of a widow being married. some hold, there is no objection to widow contracting a marriage prior to her attaining the age of maturity, after which period no marriage can take place. others again object entirely to the marriage of a Widow at any time, no matter whether an

infant or after she has reached the age of womanhood. all condemn the marriage of a Widow after she has once lived with her husband.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servt

M Murray
Magistrate

Cuddapah District
Magistrate's Office on
Circuit Vempully
31st March 1858

To T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Lisl 1858
Magisterial Department
From
The Magistrate of
Cuddapah
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George
L. S. No. 927
Dated 31st March
Received 1858.

No. 9.

No. 609

Submitting opinion
with regard to the opera-
:tion of Act XV of 1856
as directed in Extract
Minutes of Consultation
dated 23rd Instant No. 383 -

No 15 -

From,
G. N. Taylor Esqre
Acting Collector of South Arcot

To
T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

In obedience to the order conveyed in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 23rd instant, I have the honor to report that no authenticated case of the remarriage of a respectable Hindoo widow since the passing of Act 15 of 1856, has been brought to the notice of the Authorities in this District - nor is it believed that any such case has occurred -

2 The law in question will, I think, have little practical effect until education becomes more general, & until men with power & influence have the courage to take the lead & risk the innovation. - As knowledge advances, & men with liberal views & of enlightened understanding, succeed to the generation

of bigoted & prejudiced Hindoos who now occupy high positions in native society, the good results anticipated from the measure will undoubtedly be realised.- At present however, in this part of the country at any rate, not one of those who bitterly lament the prohibition so far as their own daughters are concerned, will consent to infringe the custom of their tribe - followed as they believe their act would be by the deprivation of all social intercourse with their relations & friends.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.

North Arcot
Collrs Circuit Cutchery
Punrootty
31st March 1858.

Acting Collector

Judl. 1858. Departt.

From
The Ag. Collector of
South Arcot

S. L. No. 927 To The Chief Secretary to
Government
Fort St. George

Dated 31st March 1858.
Received

No. 15 — No. 605

Reports that no authenticated case of the marriage of a respectable Hindoo widow since the passing of Act 15 of 1856 has been brought to the notice of the authorities in this District nor is it believed that any such case has occurred

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No. 24

Bellary District Magistrate's Office
31st March 1858

From C. Pelly Esqre
Magistrate of Bellary

To T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
in the Judicial Department
Fort St George

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract from the Minutes of consultation under date the 22nd Instant No 383 communicating a letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of India to the Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort St George dated 24th February 1858, with Extract paragraph 15 of a Despatch in the Legislative Department No 1 under date the 6th January 1858 from the Honorable the Court of Directors and directing the Magistrates to report whether the Act XV of 1856 respecting the marriage of Hindoo widows has had any practical effect and whether any authenticated cases of the marriage of widows of respectability have been brought to their notice - In reply I beg to state that no marriage of widows of respectability has been brought to my notice -

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servant

C. Pelly
Magistrate

No. 100

Masulipatam Magistrates
Court 1st April 1858—

From
J. J. Knox Esqre
Acting Magistrate of
Masulipatam

To
T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

In obidience to the order conveyed in Extract of Minutes Consultation under date the 23rd March 1858. No. 383, I have the honor to report that the Act No. XV of 1856 respecting the marriages of Hindoo Widows has never been acted upon in this District, for I have never heard of the Marriage of any widow in this or District.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most obedient Servt
J Knox
Acting Magistrate

Judicial 1858 Department
From
The Magistrate
of Bellary
To
The Chief Secretary
to the Government in the
Judicial Departme
Fort St George
Dated 31 March 1858
Recd 8 April
S.L. No. 927.
No. 628. No. 24

With reference to Ex. Min. Con. No. 383 of 22d Instant reports that no marriage of widows of respectabilit have been brought to his notice.

No. 160.

Tanjore Magistrate's Offi
Vellum 1st April 1858

From
H. D. Phillips Esquire
Acting Magistrate of Tanjore

To
T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Governmen
Fort Saint George

Sir,

With reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated the 23rd instant, No. 383, calling for information respecting the operation of the Hindoo Widows' Marriage Act, No. XV of 1856, I have the honor to state that the enactment in question has had no practical effect whatever in this District and that no authenticated case of the marriage of widows of respectability or otherwise has ever come to my notice.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servt.
H D Phillips
Acting Magistrate

Judicial 1858 Department

S. L. No. 927

From the Acting Magistrate
of Masulipatam
To the Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Dated 1st April } 1858
Received Do. }

No. 100 No. 612

Enclosures none
Reporting that the Act
XV regarding the Hindoo
widows marriages
has never been acted
upon in this District

C 3 July
R 8

Judl 1858 Department

From
The Acting Magistrate
of Tanjore
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

L. L. No 927/

Dated 1st } April 1858
Rec 3 }

No 160
No. 611

Reporting upon the operation of Hindoo Widows' Marriage, Act XV of 1836 –

C 3 Judl
126

No 9

Nellore
Magistrate's Office
3rd April 1858

From F. B. Elton Esquire
Magistrate of Nellore

To T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to
Government
Fort St George

Sir,

With reference to an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 23rd March 1858 directing me to report whether Act XV of 1856 respecting the Marriage of Hindoo Widows has had any practical effect, I have the honor to state that from the enquiries I have made, and the total absence of any reports to that effect among Natives of respectability here, it does not appear that the Act in question has had any practical effect at all in this District; or that any Marriage of Widows of respectability has since taken place among those Castes whose widows do not remarry. But there are certain Castes or classes in this part of the country, the Names of some of whom I have indicated in the Margin, whose widows do re-marry.

Washermen
Tank diggers
Shepherds

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Most Obedt Servant,

J. W. Elton
Magistrate

Judicial
1858

Dept.

From the Magistrate
of Nellore
To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

S.L. No. 92 of
Dated 3rd April 1858
Recd 8 "
In C.

No. 627
Enc 9

Replying to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of 23rd March 1858 respecting the Marriage of Hindoo Widows with reference to Act XV of 1856.

No. 131

Rajahmundry District
Magistrate's Office
Cocanada 6th April 1858

From,

A. Purvis Esqre.
Magistrate of
Rajahmundry

To,

H. Forbes Esqre.
Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 23d. Ultimo on the subject of Act XV of 1856, and to state in reply that the Enactment has as yet had no practical effect in this District, no marriages of Hindoo widows of respectability having taken place. –

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
A Purvis
Magistrate

Judicial 1858. Deptt.

From

The Magistrate of
Rajahmundry

S.L. No. 927

The Secretary to Govt.
Fort Saint George

Dated 6th }
Recd. 13 } April 1858

No. 131

Enclosure
none

No. 662

Reporting, with refe-
-rence to Extract
Minutes Consultation
of the 23d. Ultimo, that
no marriages of Hindoo
widows of respectabi-
-lity have taken
place in this District

No. 90

Madura 8th April 185

From

A. Hathaway Esqre.
Acting Magistrate of Mad

To

T. Pycroft Esqre.
Chief Secretary to Govern
Fort Saint Georg

Sir,

In reply to an Extract Mi
Con No. 383 dated 23d. March 1858
have the honor to report, that no au
-thenticated case of the marriage of Hi
-doo Widows of respectability has been
brought to the notice of the Authori
-ties of this District since the passi
of the Act XV of 1856 - Such marr
-ages are however usual amongst th
Maravers, Agamoodias, Kullers and
some other Castes.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obt. Serv
A. Hathaw
Ag. Magistrat

1858
Judicial Dept

J. L. No. 927

From
The Acting Magistrate
of Malabar
To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George
Dated 14th April 1858
Received 17 "

No. 665.

In reply to an Extract from Con No. 353 dated 23rd March 1858 states that no authenticated case of the marriage of Hindoo widows of respectability has been brought to the notice of the authori of this District.

17

Malabar Collector's Office,
Calicut, 14th April 1858.

No. 60
1858.

From,
W. Robinson Esqre.,
Acting Collector
of Malabar,
To,
T. Pycroft Esqre.,
Chief Secretary to Governme
Judicial Departt.
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to an Extract from the Honble Court of Director's Despatch dated 6th January 1858, No. 1, conveyed in Extract Minutes of Cons. dated 23d Ultimo, No. 353, I have the honor to report that no instances of the re-marriage of a Hindoo widow have occurred in this District.

2. Unhappily the marriage relation is not in existence among the great body of the Hindoos of Malabar.

Numbudries & foreign Brahmins excepted, and with these exceptions there can be no widows properly so called in the country.

3. In Malabar the very basis of society rests on recognized concubinage, and the law of the Land follows the principles of the law of bastardy. The son succeeds thro' his mother who is sufficiently certain, tho' the father is not.

4. Among the Namboodry Brahmin families one son only marries to keep up the race, and this male is paid very highly by the bride's family for saving at least one of its daughters from hopeless maidenhood.

There are one or two instances of two brothers of the same family marrying, but it is rare & always leads to family dissension Occasionally the marrying member of the family when in needy circumstances will marry more than one for the sake of the premium he gets with her.

5. The very business of the lives of the other males of the Nambidy race is concubinage with the females of the Sudra (Nair) family of rank or wealth. The offspring of these unions are

Sudras

Sudras, inheriting nothing from their father, but succeeding thro' their mother to the property of their family.

6. Such being the manners & morals of the twice-born heads of society, it is natural that this condition so contrary to nature & good citizenship should run thro' the lower grades of society.

7. Sudras, Nairs &c. contract no marriage, but form connexions of shorter or longer duration according to the choice of either party. The woman lives in her own house & is generally supported by her own family. The man visits her, but he has no legal claim over the person of his consort, nor over his own undoubted offspring. Death brings with it no disabilities, as regards cohabiting with another.

There

8. There are thousands of instances in which fidelity & untainted honor of couples have lasted throughout life, where the woman has followed her husband de facto wherever he was called, & where the husband has supported the female in health and in sickness. But the law does not recognize her as a wife. She is turned out of the house with her children on the death of her protector without dower or provisions. The heirs at law of the deceased are his nephews (sister's children by any connexion) & not his own offspring.

9. Many many respectable men throughout the District feel painfully the unnatural disabilities under which they labor, and the discredit that attaches to their domestic relations. Jealousy prompts half the

the

the murders &c. for which the District has a painful notoriety, while the natural endeavor to provide for children at the expense of the heirs at law lights up half the family feuds which prevail. Time alone will effect a general change of feeling when perhaps the Legislature might interpose to declare Hindoo marriage with those conditions that flow from it, to be legal among Malabar races.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
J. Robinson
Acting Collector.

To,
T. Pycroft Esqre,
Chief Secretary
to Government
Judicial Departt,
Fort St George

Exd. Tr. Sd

Judicial 1858 Depart.

From
The Acting Collector
of Malabar
To the Chief Secretary
to Government
Judicial Depart.
Fort St. George

S.L. No. 927/15

Dated 14th April 1858
Received 20 " " 1858

Enclo. None No. 60

Précis.

Reports with reference to Ext. Mins. of Cons. of 23d March 1858 No. 383 that no instances of the re-marriage of a Hindoo widow have occurred in the District of Malabar

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No. 6

20

From

Captain J. G. Russell
Offg. Agent to the Governor of
Fort St. George at Kurnool

To.

T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir

With reference to the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 23rd March 1858 No. 388, I have the honor to state that in this District the Act XV of 1856 respecting the marriage of Hindoo widows has had no practical effect, & no authenticated cases of marriage of widows of respectability have been brought to my notice.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your Most Obedt. Servt.

Kurnool District
Agents Office
Circuit Cutwah
17th April 1858.

[illegible] Russell Captain
Offg. Agent to the Govr.

No. 22

Coimbatore Magtes. Office
23rd April 1858.

From
J. W. Cherry Esqre.
Acting Magistrate
of Coimbatore.

To
T. Pycroft Esqre.
Chief Secretary to Governt.
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 23rd ultimo No. 383, relating to the marriage of the Hindoo Widows, and in reply I beg to state for the information of Government, that no re-marriage of Hindoo women of respectability has hitherto taken place in this District under Act No. XV of 1856.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedient Servant
J W Cherry
Acting Magistrate.

Coimbatore }
23rd April 1858. }

Copied by
L.D. Kristnasawmy.

Exd. Vencatasingh
Hd Actt

Judicial 1858 Departt

From
The Offg. Agent to the
Govr of Fort St. George
at Kurnool

To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George.

Dated 17 April 1858
No. 26 — "

S.L.C. No. 927.

No. 734.

No. 6.

Reporting that there are no instances of Hindoo widows of respect:ability marrying in this District.

No. 131.

Salem Magistrate's Office
Salem 6th May 1858

From
H. A. Brett Esquire
Magistrate of Salem

To
T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation dated the 23rd March 1858, No. 383, forwarding copy of Para 15 of a Despatch from the Honorable the Court of Directors No. 1, under date the 6th January 1858 regarding the operation of Act. No. XV of 1856, and requesting the several Magistrates to report whether the Act has had any practical effect, and whether any authenticated cases of the marriage of widows of respectability have been brought to their notice;

Judicial
1858
Department

From the Actg Magte
of Coimbatore

J. L. No. 92 To the Chief Secretary to
Government

Dated 23d
Received 28d April 1858

No. 22 No. 758.

Reports that no re-marriage of Hindoo women of respectability has hitherto taken place in this District under act XV of 1856.

I have the honor to state that in the Salem District there has been one case in which a Hindoo widow of respectability was married conformably to the Act above referred to.

2. In this instance the widow named Tylummal was the daughter of Coolla Pillay, Head Goomastah in the Court of the District Moonsiff at Salem. The parents are of the Soodra class and the Siva sect. The widow's first husband died before she was united to him in life. When her parents revealed their intention to get her married again, the relations protested against the measure, and threatened to disconnect themselves from the family if the second marriage took place. Notwithstanding this opposition on the part of the girl's relatives, the marriage was celebrated at Salem on the 7th November 1856. No opposition wa offered by any party at the tim of the Marriage, but, on the contrary, the Tahsildar of the Salem Talook (one of the Naidoo caste) and other influential men of the town of Salem countenanced the measure by personally attending on the occasion. The girl was 13 years of age at the time of her 2d marriage. The husband, a young man of 22 years of age, was living with the girl's parents previous to the marriage and was dependent on them for suppor

3. It appears that this marriage was performed according to the rules of the caste to which the parties belonged, and that the marriage ceremonies were conducted in the usual manner by Bramins. It howev

24

appears that the relatives of the bride and the bridegroom did not attend at the celebration of the marriage, and that since the marriage neither the relatives nor any other persons belonging to the caste have had any communication with the parents or the young married people.

At present the parents are treated as persons excluded from caste.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Salem Magistrate's Office }
Salem 6th May 1858 } Your Most Obedt Servt

C. F. Rich
Magistrate.

To
T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Govert
Fort Saint George.

25

No. 72.-

From, G. Thornhill Esquire
Prin.l Assistant Magte. Incharge
Ganjam

To, T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 23: March 1858, I have the honor to report that the Act XV of 1856 respecting the marriage of Hindoo Widows has had no very practical effect, and that no authenticated cases of the marriage of Widows of Cn respectability have been brought to the notice of the magistrates in this District.-

Ganjam District
Governor Magte. Office
Chetterpore 12: May 1858.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servant
G Thornhill
Prin.l Asstt. Magte. Incharge

Judicial
1858 Depts.

P. L. No. 927

From
The Magistrate of
Salem
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George
Dated 6th May 1858
Recd. 11
No. 131
No 832

Reporting that in the Salem District there has been one case in which a Hindoo widow of respectability was married Conformably to the Act No XV of 1856.

C 3 July
58

Judicial: 1858. Septr

From,

G. Thornhill Esqr

Prinl Asst Magte

Incharge

Jaygun

S. L. No 927.

To,

The Chief Secreta

to Government

Fort St George

Dated 12th May } 1858

Recd: 26 " } 1858

No 899.

Reporting that the act XV of 1856 respecting the marriage of Hindoo Widow has had no any practical effect

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North Arcot 26

No 28

Magistrate's Office

Chittoor 25th May 1858.

From,

C. Whittingham Esquire

Magistrate of North Arcot

To,

T. Pycroft Esquire

Chief Secretary

to Government

Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor with reference to an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 23 March 1858, requiring Magistrates in the Provinces to report with reference to an Extract, Para 15, from the Honorable Court of Directors, in the Legislative Department No 1 under date the 6th January 1858 therewith circulated, whether the Act XV of 1856 respecting the marriage of

to

of Hindoo Widows has had
any practical effect & whether
any authenticated cases of
the Marriage of Widows of
respectability have been
brought to their notice, to
state for the information
of Government that no such
cases have hitherto occurred
in this District.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obdt. Servant

Magistrate

to

C 3 July
R8.

Judicial. 1858. Deptt
No.
From
The Magistrate of S. Arcot
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government

Dated 25th May } 1858.
Recd 27

No of letter 28. No 938.

S.L. No 927

With reference to the
Ex. Mi: Con: of 23d March
1858. States for the in-
formation of Govt.
that no authenticated
Cases of the marriage
of Widows of respect-
ability have hitherto
occurred in this Dis-
trict.

No. 211

From C. S. Mayne Esqre.
Ag Magistrate

To T. Pycroft Esqre.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to Extract from Minutes of Consultation of the 23d March No. 383 Judicial Department, I have the honor to report that the Act No. XV of 1856 respecting the marriage of Hindoo Widows has not had any practical effect in this District, nor have any authenticated cases of the marriage of Widows of respectability been brought to the notice of the Magistrate up to this time.

2 It is reported that there are 230 Widows in the District

to whom the benefit of the Act might be considered more especially to apply namely those whose affianced husbands died during their Childhood –

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed Servt

G. Mayne
Actg Magistrate

Tinnevelly
25th May 1858.

Judicial 1858 Dept
From The Actg Magistrate of Tinnevelly
To The Chief Secretary to Government Fort St George
No. 927 Dated 25th May 1858
Recd 31st
S. L. No. 211
Enclosure None
No. 948.

Reporting that the marriage of Hindoo Widows had not had any practical effect in the District and that there are 230 Widows in the District to whom the benefit of the Act XV of 1856 might be considered more especially to apply namely those whose affianced husbands died during their Childhood.

No. 46.

Magistrate's Office,
Mangalore,
4th June 1858.

From
W. Fisher Esqre
Magistrate of Canara
To
The Chief Secretary to Governmt.
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to the orders of Government which accompanied Extract Min: Con: No. 383 under date 23d March 1858, I have the honor to state that, no marriage of any widow of respectability has been brought to my notice; and that Act XV of 1856 has had no practical effect in this District – at the same time, there is reason to believe that mothers would often willingly give their widowed daughters to a second husband, could any one be found to marry them –

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

Wm Fisher
Magistrate

Judicial 1858 Dept.

From
Magistrate of Canara
To
Chief Secretary to Govt
Fort St. George
Dated 4th June } 1858.
Recd. 10th — " }

No. 46

S. L. No. 927

No. 1023

States with reference to Govt. orders dated 23rd March 1858 that no marriage of any widow of respectability has been brought to his notice and that Act XV of 1856 has had no practical effect in this District.

38

No. 65

Madras Police Commissioner's
Office, 11th June, 1858.

From
Colonel J. C. Boulderson
Commissioner of Police

To
T. Pycroft Esqr.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

In accordance with the Order of Government under date 23rd March last, No. 383, Judl. Dept., I have caused strict enquiry to be made within the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and have now the honor to report that I have not found a case in which a Hindoo widow of respectability has taken advantage of the Provisions of Act XV of 1856 to remarry.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

Commissioner of Police

C 3 July
R8...

Con 23d March /58. 25:26

Judicial
1858 Dept.

From
Colonel J. C. Boulderson
Commissioner of Police
To T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

S. L. No. 227

Dated 4th } June 1858.
Recd 5 }

N. 65.

No. 986

Reports that no Hindoo widow of respectability has taken advantage of the provisions of Act XV of 1856 to remarry within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

No. 33.

Vizagapatam Government
Agents Office 24th June 1858.

From C. W. Reade Esqre
Agent to the Governor

To T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George.

Sir,

Para 1. In acknowledgment of Extract from Minutes of Consultation under date the 23rd March last No. 383, Judicial Department, I have the honor to state that Act XV of 1856 legalizing the marriage of Hindoo Widows has been wholly inoperative in this District and as far as my information enables me to judge, I believe the Act has attracted very little notice and has not been made the Subject of any particular discussion amongst the Classes whom it is intended to affect.

2. I have not thought it necessary to make any Special Enquiries as to by whom the Act may be approved or by whom disapproved, since in my belief any agitation of the Kind would be likely to create unfriendly feelings and to excite annoying discussion which would be very undesirable. No doubt opinions differ on the question and

while Some may advocate the Act, it is commonly Supposed the majority are adverse to it. this is but natural, adverting to the Circumstances of this part of the Country and to the comparative absence in a Zemindary District of those influences which Elsewhere have an indirect tendency to undermine prejudice and Superstition.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obed^t Serv^t,

Charles Steade
Agent to the Governor.

xd. J. W. Mcmurray.
[illegible]

1858.

Judicial Depart.

No 927.

From

The Agent to the Governor at Vizagapatam

To

The Chief Secretary to Government of Fort St George

Dated 26 June 1858

Recd 29

No 1172. No 33

States that Act XV of 1856 legalizing the marriage of Hindoo Widows has been wholly in-effective in this District.

Desp. 13th

Judicial Department

No 927

To

The Secretary to the Govt: of India

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Chapman's letter of 24th February 1858 No 334, forwarding an Extract from a Despatch from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, and requesting to be furnished with the information therein required respecting the operation of the Hindoo Widows Marriage Act No XV of 1856.

2 This communication was referred, on its receipt, to the Magistrates in the Provinces and the Commissioner of Police at Madras, and they

have all reported, with one Exception, that the Act does not appear to have had any practical effect, and that no authenticated cases of the Marriage of Widows of respectability have been brought to their notice. The Exception alluded to occurred in the Salem District when a young Widow of 13 years of age, whose first husband had died before she was united to him in life, was married to a man of 22. Her Parents belong to the Soodra Caste and the Siva Sect, and her Father is Head Gomastah of the District Moonsiff's Court at Salem. Although the relatives of the young Woman protested against the marriage, still it took place, and was celebrated in accordance with the rules of their Caste and the ceremonies were concluded in the usual manner by the Brahmins. The Tehsildar of the Salem Talook, a man of the Naidoo Caste, as also other influential men of the Town, countenanced the Marriage by being personally presen on the occasion; but the relatives of both the Bride and Bride Groom were not present, nor have they, or any other person belonging to the Caste, had any communication with the paren or the young couple since their marriage. The parents are at present treated as persons excluded from the Caste.

Fort St. George,
9 July, 1858.

12 Cop

J. J. Palm

C 26th March 1858 Nos 25 & 26.

14-8-58 - No 476 -
418

Ind. Ct. & Cons: 13 July
Judicial 1858 Departt

No 927

To
The Secy to the Govt of
India

d/ 9 July 1858 —

F.E. No 1445

26.

3 July
28.