

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

General DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	957	Press
	67-69	~~Mis.~~
Dated	18-7-	1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

957

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

Read the following letters.

No. 67. From Captain CHARLES SMITH, Assistant Agent of Ganjam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Russellcondah, 28th June 1858, No. 64.

SIR,

I find I am again compelled to address you with a view of avoiding delay. I beg most respectfully to submit for the consideration of Government, copies of further correspondence which has taken place between the Acting Agent in Ganjam and myself.

2. I humbly submit that, the style and tone of the Acting Agent's letter No. 206, dated 24th Instant, to my address, are such that, I consider it my bounden duty to appeal to Government for redress. I beg to submit for the consideration of Government, whether the Acting Agent is justified in his official capacity to make use of such sweeping and offensive remarks towards his Subordinate.

3. The details of the case having already been referred to Government, I have nothing further to add than to express a hope that, Government will consider that I have just cause for complaint, and take such steps as may be deemed proper to prevent what I conceive most unwarrantable language from a superior to an inferior.

From T. J. KNOX, Acting Agent of Ganjam; to Captain C. SMITH, Assistant Agent, Russellcondah, dated Chetterpore 15th June 1858, No. 187.

SIR,

In reply to your letter, dated 14th June, I have the honor to return the documents sent duly initialed.

2. I beg to enclose you a copy of my letter to Government, from which you will see, I have forwarded to Government every necessary document.

3. With reference to your second letter of the same date, I regret you did not at once send me the emphatic denial it now contains: had you done so, the matter would have at once been settled as far as you are concerned.

4. I trust you will see in my letter to Government that, I made no unjust remarks, I naturally concluded from your silence to a direct question, that you felt unable to answer it satisfactorily, and I can only regret this conclusion was erroneous.

From Captain CHARLES SMITH, Assistant Agent; to T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort Saint George in Ganjam, dated Russellcondah, 21st June 1858, No. 60.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 187, under date 15th Instant, enclosing copy of the letter you have deemed expedient to address to Government. In reply, I hope, I may here be permitted to remark that, I regret exceedingly circumstances should have occurred, rendering it necessary for me to appeal to superior authority; as I felt much aggrieved and mortified at the extreme steps you had taken in bringing my name and conduct in a disparaging light to the notice of Government. I considered at the time that no other course was open to me than, to appeal to higher authority; but I am now much pleased to find from the latter para. of your letter under reply, that you consider the conclusion you then drew was erroneous.

It now rests with Government to decide, as to the propriety of the steps you took in casting, what, I still consider an unjust stigma on my official character, the grounds on which you founded your conclusions having now proved to have been erroneous.

In conclusion, I submit, had I been made aware that, my decision and explanation with reference to the Aska case were considered insufficient, I should as in duty bound afforded the explanation, I subsequently did.

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

Finally, I beg respectfully to submit with all due deference, that if you consider the punishment awarded by me inadequate for the offence committed, it was in your power to resort to such measures as might appear to you best suited to meet the object in view. I solicit that this letter, and your's No. 187 of the 15th Instant, may be forwarded for the consideration of Government.

From T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor; to Captain C. SMITH, Assistant Agent, Russellcondah, dated Chettpore, 24th June 1858, No. 296.

SIR,

In reply to your letter dated 21st June, I have the honor to remark that, you have somewhat misunderstood me.

2nd. Of course when you sent me an emphatic assertion of your entire innocence in the matter, I had but one course left, which was to express my regret that my conclusion from your silence was erroneous.

3rd. Though you have so entirely forgotten, that you ever spoke to the Head of Police as to declare you never did speak to him on the matters as he gave out, for so I understand you, I still hold my belief that some injudicious speech was made, and for its consequences you are liable, and there is no other way of accounting for what occurred.

4th. However the matter is before Government, to whom, unless you repeat your wish, I do not think it necessary to send copies of the letters you name, because, this explanation must also be sent.

5th. I wish you had exhibited as much zeal to clear your reputation when publicly and wantonly slandered by a Subordinate as you exhibit in your letters to me, who am doing a plain duty.

From Captain CHARLES SMITH, Assistant Agent; to T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Ganjam, dated Russellcondah, 28th June 1858, No. 63.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 206, under date 24th Instant, and in reply beg to state that I do not consider you have any grounds on which to justify the sweeping remarks you have thought proper to employ, when I am endeavouring to the best of my ability to prove to you the line of my conduct. It is not the language which the courtesy of one gentleman to another allows in the common communications of life; and I do not think the accidents of office can justify a license which the usages of society do not permit. It only remains for me to point out that, I consider the style of your letter under reply most offensive, and I have no other course now but to appeal to Government for redress.

2. With reference to the 3rd para. of your letter, I beg to observe that, my emphatic denial as well as what I did say to the Head of Police, communicated in my official letter No. 32, dated 20th May last, to Mr. Boothby already submitted to you, are patent, and need no further explanation.

3. With reference to the 4th para. of your letter, I again beg to repeat my wish that the whole of this correspondence may be submitted for the consideration of Government. I beg to state that, I have taken upon myself the responsibility to forward all documents connected with this affair direct to Government so as to avoid any delay. I enclose a copy of my letter to the Chief Secretary to Government, for your information.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) CHAS. SMITH,
Assistant Agent.

From CHAS. SMITH, Esq., Assistant Agent; to G. W. BOOTHBY, Esq., &c., &c., &c., Aska, dated Russellcondah, 20th May 1858, No. 32.

SIR,

With reference to your official letter, to myself, dated the 6th of May, also private com-

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

munications dated 4th and 6th of May, to the Principal Assistant in charge, I have the honor to request you will be good enough to state whether the threat of torture and flogging, the Head of Police, his Goomasta, and Duffadar, have represented to have been authorized by myself, was intimated to you in person, by the Head of Police; and if so in what language, and through whose interpretation the circumstance was brought to your notice. I consider this a serious charge against the Police authorities; therefore it is necessary that I should be made acquainted with full particulars. I think right that I should inform you that the Head of Police complained to me of your having attempted to intimidate him in the discharge of his official duties regarding Saradhimaharanah; on whom suspicion rested; and this took place as I stopped at the Police office, on my way to Russellcondah. I certainly asked him whether he was acquainted with his duty, and if so that he should not allow any one to frighten him, and directed him to make every enquiry into the case, and forward me a full report; consequently I am at a loss to understand how the Head of Police could have made such a false statement to you. I have had so much to occupy my attention since my return from Chettpore, I beg you will excuse my not having replied to your letter by an earlier date.

No. 68. From T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor in Ganjam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Chettpore, 29th June 1858, No. 212.

SIR,

I have been requested by the Assistant Agent Captain Smith, to submit for the consideration of Government, certain correspondence that has passed between us regarding the matter reported in my letter to your address, dated 10th Instant. As however Captain Smith has himself forwarded copies, it is needless for me to do so, except perhaps Captain Smith's letter to me dated 28th June.

2nd. If I have used improper language, I regret it, but I am not aware of having done so, and I confess, I am surprized at the accusation, for, my feeling was that, saying as little as I could, I must do my very unpleasant duty and report what I deemed wrong, leaving Government to decide on the facts I reported, and as my letter to Captain Smith shews, I was ready to say anything I could in his favor though I could not allow my opinion to be misunderstood by him.

From Captain C. SMITH, Assistant Agent; to T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Ganjam, dated Russellcondah, 28th June 1858, No. 63

SIR,

1st. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 206, under date 24th Instant, and in reply beg to state that, I do not consider you have any grounds on which to justify the sweeping remarks you have thought proper to employ, when I am endeavouring to the best of my ability to prove to you the line of my conduct. It is not the language which the courtesy of one gentleman to another allows in the common communications of life, and I do not think the accidents of office, can justify a license which the usages of society do not permit. It only remains for me to point out that, I consider the style of your letter under reply most offensive, and I have no other course now, but to appeal to Government for redress.

2nd. With reference to the 3rd para. of your letter, I beg to observe that, my emphatic denial as well as what I did say to the Head of Police, communicated in my official letter, No. 32, dated 20th May last, to Mr. Boothby already submitted to you, are patent, and need no further explanation.

3rd. With reference to the 4th para. of your letter, I again beg to repeat my wish, that the whole of this correspondence may be submitted for the consideration of Government. I beg to state that, I have taken upon myself the responsibility to forward all documents connected with this affair direct to Government so as to avoid any delay. I enclose a copy of my letter to the Chief Secretary to Government for your information.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) T. J. KNOX,
Acting Agent.

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

No. 69.

ORDER THEREON, No. 951; dated 13th July 1858.

The Government observe, that the matter to which the above correspondence relates has been disposed of in Extract Minutes Consultation of the 9th Instant, and they cannot permit it to be reopened.

2. They cannot approve of the tone of the concluding para. of the Acting Agent's letter of the 24th Ultimo, and they consider the style of Captain Smith's reply of the 28th Idem, to be very insubordinate and improper. He was further not warranted in addressing the Government direct and not through the prescribed official channel.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

*The fore observe that
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Agent's letter of the
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consider the style of
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the 28 Idem to be very
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improper - He was*

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