M.R.O. 1—29,000—16-10-27.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1596 Press Mis-

30-32

Dated 23—11— 1929

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 30. To His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor of Fort William at Madras.

Sayva Souprayanaiker of Vannya caste, residing at Pondicherry, and acting for the inhabitants of the same caste of the said place; has the honor with profound respect to represent to you:

That in this city, the Vannyers and the Weavers have for a long time been subjected to unfortunate vicissitudes and to great Law suits concerning their trophies, their standards, their arms and their masks, on the occasion of the festival of Kandasachetty during which the very horrible ceremony of the massacre of a giant named Sourin is made.

At a distance of fifteen miles from Pondicherry, near the Village of Maylon, District of Tindivanum, a dependency of Cuddalore, there is, upon a mountain, a temple consecrated to the divinity named Soupramannya. With the design of conveying at first according to custom the said trophies, &c.; into this temple of Maylon, Mouttiamodely of weaver caste, residing at Pondicherry, insinuated himself into the favor of the monk, head of the monastery of Pommayapalcom, and Director of the temple of Maylon. They both in concert easily gained the friendship of the Tahsildar, the Moonsiff and the Pattimanagar of the said village, after making them a solemn feast, accompanied with rich presents, such as garments and money. Being thus become their favourite, the said Mouttiamodely assembled together with much haste all the weavers of his caste, made them disguise themselves and take all sorts of trophies, &c., and at last he had the boldness to consummate last year the horrible slaughter of the said giant Sourin, during the festival of Candassachetty. He thought by this that for the future this custom would take place without any obstacle at Pondicherry. It was a custom which did not exist up to this time in the country of Maylon, and which gives place to some very certain disturbances (revolutions.) Every body was saying that fresh troubles would no more break out in the world under the most just reign of the Queen Victoria. But very soon a rumour of popular commotions spreads itself in all the countries, since on the 31st October 1859, the said Mouttiamodely with the weavers of his caste is going to perform as in last year the same ceremony.

Your Excellency will have the goodness to make a strict inquiry from all the inhabitants and from all the old men in the environs of Maylon, if it be written in any tablets of stone or copper, or even in any Deed that what has lately occurred upon the mountain of Maylon has taken place at a period other than that in the past year. It is then that your Excellency will very well know that it was a custom altogether contrary to all the castes, and especially to all the Vannyers. If this custom was a reasonable one, would it not be publicly performed in Pondicherry where they reside? And why does he, the chief of the rebels and an inhabitant of Pondicherry, give rise to so many disturbances in the English territory? Besides that, this very horrible act would so provoke the anger of all the Vannyers, that they would not rest till they rose against those unjust weavers.

The Vannyers are a warlike people; they would not be the first to commit an unjust act, and they would exterminate, root and branch, all those who outrage them. This is perfectly well known to all the world. As this great slaughter of Sourin will be made towards night upon the moutain of Maylon, there will follow in effect, between the Vannyers and the weavers, a desperate combat which will not be easily put down. It is not even known to what point they will carry their cruel vengeance. And how will an infinite number of people who have arrived with there children for the celebration of the festival of the God Soupramannyer, be able to flee to save themselves in that moment of peril? Perhaps they will all deserve the inevitable death of the inhabitants of Trichinopoly upon the mountain of the same name, during a festival of the God.

Considering that it is nearly fifteen years ago that, for the least offence against the usual custom in the town of Sidambarom, a sanguinary war arose between the Vannyers and Vellajas which the English Government did not then the less trouble itself in endeavouring to appease them, and to deliver the other people from the danger which threatened them.

Considering that it has often happened in a time immemorial, that, if a king established a new law in his kingdom for the general interest of his subjects these rebelled against him, believing that he invented something obnoxious to there welfare.

Considering that the Government also causes the discontinuance of a practice much in use among the Indians, when it occasions discord and a war between the various castes:—

Your Excellency will be pleased to reprimand the insensate audacity which the weavers have already conceived, and issue at the same time positive orders to the Principal Collector of Cuddalore, in order that he may, on his part, direct the Tahsildar of Maylon to at once prevent all dangerous innovations which may offend any caste whatever, lest the chief of the rebels and also his subordinates merit a signal punishment by the English Government.

This doing, will be justice.

PONDICHERRY. *20th October* 1859. } (Signed) SAYVA SOUPRAYA.

(True translation.)

(Signed) W. KOMARECK.

Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government.

By order,

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, *22nd October* 1858. } (Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Private Secretary.

Referred for the report of the Magistrate of South Arcot.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, *25th October* 1859. } (Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

No. 31. From ARTHUR HALL, Esq., Magistrate of South Arcot; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cuddalore, 9th November 1859, No. 24.

In conformity with the endorsement passed under date 25th Ultimo, by Order of Government, on the accompanying Petition presented by one Sayva Soobroya residing in Pondicherry, in which he raises objections to the performance of certain ceremonies at Mylum in the Tindevanum Talook of this District, on the grounds of their being an innovation upon established custom and at the same time highly offensive to the people of the Vanyen caste, I have the honor to report that the festival in question was kept last year without any hindrance or opposition being offered by the Vanyens to it.

2. It appears that it was customary formerly to celebrate periodically this festival with the ceremony complained against, at Mylum; but that for the last 10 years it has been discontinued.

3. The "giant" referred to in the Petition whose massacre is termed "a very horrible ceremony" is merely a large figure stuffed with straw which the people destroy by means of wooden swords and small bows, utterly useless for offensive purposes.

4. As this ceremony is not of an objectionable nature in itself and cannot in reality be offensive to the body of Vanyens (oil mongers,) I do not see any necessity for the interference of the Magistracy to put a stop to it. All precautions will of course be adopted to maintain the peace when the festival next occurs.

5. There are no grounds apparent on which to found an opinion that the sham performance of the ceremony of killing the giant will lead to riot or a hostile encounter between the sects of oil mongers and weavers as apprehended by the Petitioner.

6. On the occasion of the festival being kept last year with the giant ceremony, the Tahsildar enquired from the oldest residents at Mylum whether there was any objection to the festival and ceremony being renewed, when they stated that there was none.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, for the month of November 1859.

7. None of the people of the Vanyen caste actually live at Mylum, but they have built a choultry there for the convenience of persons attending the monthly festival of Kártiga. They chiefly live at Pondicherry.

8. I notified to the Petitioner through His Excellency the Governor of Pondicherry, tha his presence was required before me, but although my wish was made known to him and he agreed to come, he has never yet appeared.

No. 32. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1859, No. 1596.

The Government perceive no necessity for their interference. The Magistrate will see that the peace is preserved.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

30032

A Son Excellence
Le très Honorable Gouverneur
du Fort William
à Madras.

A Monsieur le Gouverneur,

A l'honneur de vous exposer avec un profond
respect Sayva Soupreyanaïker de caste vanniya demeu
rant à Pondichéry et représentant des habitants de la
même caste du dit lieu :

Dans cette ville, les vanniyers et les tiffrandis font
depuis longtemps de funestes révolutions et de grands procès
concernant leurs trophées, leurs étendards, leurs armes
leurs masques, à l'occasion de la fête de Mandasouhetty
pendant laquelle l'on fait la cérémonie fort horrible de
massacrer un géant nommé Souren.

A une distance de quinze milles de Pondichéry, près
du village de Maylon, district de Tindivanom, Pargandam
de Goudelour, il y a, sur une Montagne, un temple consacré
à la Divinité nommée Soupramanniya. Dans le dessein
de faire passer d'abord en usage les dits trophées et, dans
ce temple de Maylon, Mouttiamodély de caste tiffrandi
demeurant à Pondichéry, s'insinua avec le Moine, chef du
Monastère de Semmaya pialcom, et directeur du temple de
Maylon. Tous les deux de concert ont gagné facilement

l'année du Chadidar de Mounichuspe et du Sallamanie
gar du dit village ; après leur avoir fait un festin solenne
accompagné de riches présents, tel que des vêtements et d'argen
Etant ainsi devenu leur favori, le dit Montiamadély
assembla avec beaucoup d'empressement tous les tiffrands
de la caste, les fit masquer et prendre toutes sortes de trophé
et enfin il eut la hardiesse d'achever l'année dernière le carnag
épouvantable du dit Géant Souvien, pendant la fête de Condaspache
Il a encore parlé qu'à l'avenir, cette coutume passerait sans
obstacle à Soudichéry. C'était une coutume qui n'existait pas
jusqu'aujourd'hui dans la contrée de Maylon, et qui donne lieu
à quelques révolutions fort certaines. Tout le monde se disait
que de pareilles horreurs n'existaient plus dans le monde
sous le règne le plus juste de la Reine Victoria. Mais bientôt
un bruit d'émotions populaires se répand dans tous les pays ;
jusque le 31 Octobre 1859 le dit Montiamadély avec les tiffrands
de la caste vont faire comme l'année dernière la même émeute
Votre Excellence a mis la bonté de faire une bonne
information par tous les habitants et par tous les vieillards
des environs de Maylon, s'il est écrit dans quelques tablettes
de pierre, de cuivre, ou bien encore dans quelques titres privi-
légiés que a qui s'était nouvellement passé sur la montagne
de Maylon, a eu lieu dans une autre époque que dans l'année
passé. C'est alors que Votre Excellence saurait fort
bien que c'était une coutume tout à fait contraire à toutes
les castes et surtout à tous les Vanyers. Si cet usage était
raisonable, il est pas qu'il doit faire en public à
Soudichéry où il demeure ? pour quoi lui, chef de
rebelles, et habitant de Soudichéry, fait naître tant de désordres
dans le territoire anglais. Outre cela, cette action très offensa
irritant tellement la colère de tous les vanyers qu'ils ne
seraient point tranquilles, sans se révolter contre ces injustes
tiffrands

Les Vanyers sont des gens gueriers, ils ne commettront
point d'autre injustice et ils se contenteront de faire un comble
tout ce que les indigents a gagné à la fin faite comme Dieu

de tout le monde. Comme a grand carnage de Souvien
se fera vers la nuit, sur la montagne de Maylon ; il en
résultera en effet, entre les Vanyers et les tiffrands, un
combat à outrance qu'on ne pourra facilement compter. On
ne sait même jusqu'à quel point ils pousseraient leur
cruelle vengeance dans ce moment de péril ; pour se
sauver, comment prendraient la fuite une infinité de gens
armés avec leurs enfants pour la célébration de la fête des
Dieux Soupiramanyer. Sont être ils rencontrés, tous les envoit
incontestablement les habitants de Erichnapoly, sur la montagne
du même nom pendant une fête de Dieu,

Attendu qu'il y a, à peu près quinze ans, qu'pour
une semblable cause contre l'usage ordinaire dans la ville
de Sidambarom, il s'éleva entre les Vanyers et les villageois
une guerre sanglante que le Gouvernement anglais ne
s'était pas d'abord mêlé, embarrassé pour pacifier à les
apaiser et pour délivrer les autres fois du danger qui les
menaçait

Attendu qu'il est arrivé souvent dans un temps immé-
morial, que si un Roi établit une nouvelle loi dans son
royaume pour l'intérêt général de ses sujets, ceux-ci se
révoltent contre lui, croyant qu'il a inventé quelque
chose nuisible à leur bonheur ;

Attendu que le Gouvernement fait aussi cesser
un usage fort usité chez les Indous, lorsqu'il occasionne
une discorde et une guerre parmi les diverses castes ;

Il plaira, A Votre Excellence, de vouloir
bien réprimer l'audace insensée que les tiffrands ont
déjà connue et donner en même temps des ordres positifs
à M. le Collecteur en chef de Gondelour, afin qu'il
ordonne, de concert, au Chasildar de Maylon d'empêcher
tout de suite toute innovation inouïe qui puisse
blesser quelque caste que ce soit de crainte que le chef
de rebelle, objet des tribulations, ne mérite une
grande punition par le gouvernement Anglais

Le Juste agira justice. Soudichéry le 20 Octobre 1859

Signé Sayva Soupraya

Judicial.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following letters—

From Sayva Soupraya Esqr 20 Octr 1859.

" the Magistrate of South Arcot — 9 Novr 1859 № 24.

Order. 23d November 1859. № 1596.

~~The~~ Reciepts

The Govt. ~~think there is~~ their no necessity for interference. The Magistrate will see that the peace is preserved.

9 copies forwarded

The Magistrate of South Arcot Dispd 26th

" do: for Comrs & the Pet.rs

Pon of Govt 30 Nov.

Judicial 1859 Depart.t

From Sayva Soupraya of Pondicherry

Recd 24th October 1859.

№ 1763

Petition Govt to interfere to prevent the perpetration of some horrible ceremony (said to be the murder of a girl named Swamy) by the evening called to be celebrated on the 31st Oct 1859, and which is not an old established custom but an invention of similar slaughter having been continued for the last two years.

Enclosures

C 1859 N 224

Read 24th Oct 1859

Sir Master & the Lieutenant & Secretary to Government &c &c &c

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith a petition addressed to me by Swamy Pillay Inhabitant of Pondicherry praying that I will interfere to prevent the sacrifice of a girl named Swamy which is said to be intended to take place on the 31st October 1859 and which is not an old established custom but an invention of similar slaughter having been continued for the last two years.

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

Sayva Soupraya

22 Oct 1859

Power of Atty 30 Nov

Judicial 1859 Dept

No 1596

Proceedings of Govt

of 23rd November 59

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