

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	268	Press
	15-16	~~Mis.~~
Dated	28 - 2 - 1947	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 1st March 1859.

No. 15. Read the following letter from A. PURVIS, Esq., Magistrate of Rajahmundry; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 21st February 1859, No. 82.

SIR,

I have the honor to report that an European, who gives his name as William Gordon, was found on board the French Barque "*Esperance*," Captain Durand, shortly after the vessel had weighed anchor from Galle harbour in the Island of Ceylon. The Captain could not conveniently return and therefore brought on the man to Cocanada, the port to which he was bound, and on arrival handed him over to the Master Attendant at that place. The story told by the man will be gathered from his statement, copy of which I beg to submit. He declares he left England for Melbourne as a servant to a Mr. Leech, that shortly after arrival at that place he concealed himself on board a vessel bound for Hobart Town; that by the same device he got to Galle and from thence to Cocanada. His story is not very credible. He is certainly not a sailor, and knows nothing of seamanship. Suspicion arises that he may be a deserter from one of Her Majesty's Regiments. It seems to me therefore desirable that his statement and the Descriptive Roll, which I beg to forward, should be transmitted to the Ceylon authorities with the view to ascertaining whether any man answering the description of the party has lately deserted from any Regiment in the Island and whether the statement made by him regarding his stay at Galle can be verified at that place. Meantime he will be detained pending receipt of instructions. The man, I would add, says his Master and himself went in a Steamer from London to Melbourne, but declares they touched at no port on the voyage.

Statement made by William Gordon, aged 22, Native of Stratford near London, son of John Gordon, a Tailor living in Angel Lane, Stratford, before the Magistrate of Rajahmundry.

Before I left England, I was working in the Engine Shed of the Eastern Counties Railway. I left England about 12 months ago as a servant to a Mr. Leech who was a Station Master and who was going to Melbourne. We went in a Steamer, I think it was the "*Alma*," I left Mr. Leech 8 days after our arrival at Melbourne and went to Hobart Town. Some sailors got me on board a Ship the name of which I do not know. Remained at Hobart Town about a month, when I stowed myself away by help of some of the sailors on board the "*Neptune's Bride*" bound for Point-de-Galle. The Captain after he discovered me asked me to work my passage, which I did. I remained three months at Ceylon living at a boarding house at the expense of some sailors. I stowed myself away on a French ship which has brought me to Cocanada. I got on board when the crew were at dinner. Did not enquire to what port the ship was bound. Supposed she was going to France, from whence I could get home. Has never been a sailor, never served as a soldier. The boarding house in which I lived at Point-de-Galle was kept by a black man named John Hoppole.

× The mark of WILLIAM GORDON.

Given before me, this 18th day of February 1859.

(Signed) A. PURVIS,
Magistrate.

Descriptive Roll of William Gordon.

Name.	Residence.	Profession.	Age.	Height.	Father's name.	Particular marks.
William Gordon.	Stratford near London.	Laborer..	22 years..	Feet 5 Inches 8½	John Gordon.	Hair.....Brown. Eyes.....Greyish. No whiskers or mustaches. Fair and rather slight in appearance.

Rajahmundry,
21st February 1859. }

(Signed) A. PURVIS,
Magistrate.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 1st March 1859.

No. 16. To the Colonial Secretary at Colombo, dated Fort Saint George, 28th February 1859, No. 268.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you the accompanying papers, relative to a European, calling himself William Gordon—who is at present under detention by the Magistrate at Rajahmundry—and to request you will, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor, cause inquiries to be made with the view of identifying the man.

2. He was found on board the French Barque "Esperance," shortly after the vessel weighed anchor from Galle harbour, and as the Captain could not conveniently return, he was brought on to Cocanada, and there delivered over to the authorities. The Magistrate does not consider credible the account he gives himself, and under a suspicion that the vagrant is a deserter from one of Her Majesty's Regiments, has detained him, and requested a reference being made to Ceylon.

3. As this man is detained on suspicion, and will continue so pending the present reference, I have to request early intimation of the result of the inquiries you may make.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Judicial Department.

No. 268

The Colonial Secretary @
Colombo

Sir,

I am directed by the Right

Honorable the Governor in

Council to transmit to

you the accompanying

papers, relative to a Eu-

ropean, calling himself

William Gordon, who

is at present under de-

tention by the Magistrate

at Rajahmundry - & to

request you will, with

the permission of His

Excellency the Governor,

cause inquiries to be

made with the view of

identifying the man.

2. He was found on

board the French Barque

"Esperance,"

Despatch No. 1000

Esperance, shortly after
the vessel weighed an-
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could not convenient-
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Magistrate does not
consider credible the
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Yr Obedt Servt,
28 February 1859



Robert Smith, 15th Dec 1877

RS

26 of the National Debt: at
National Co.

Sept 12. 1859. No. 592

15-2-10. [Illegible text]