M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1092 Press Mis.

203-204

Dated 28-8- N 1860.

3/3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 28th August 1860.

No. 203. Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Malabar, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 14th August 1860, No. 44.

I deem it my duty to bring to the notice of Government, the occurrence of a riot at Cochin during the late Mohurum festival.

2. On the 30th July, the last day of the festival, about half-past 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a party of Mahomedans, composed of Military Sepoys, with a "Tabut," came in procession from the Lines of the Military Detachment of the station, and entering Calvetty, the most populous locality in British Cochin, approached a place where the Mahomedans in that locality were covering their pit, preparatory to concluding the ceremonies of the Mohurum.

A large crowd of people, consisting of various classes, had assembled at the spot. The Military party were desirous of proceeding a little way further into Calvetty, and the Cutwal of the place then present, caused a passage to be opened through the crowd for them. They were, however, soon intermingled with the crowd; sticks were freely used, it is believed, on both sides, stones were thrown, and in a short space of time, the Military "Tabût" was broken to pieces.

3. A few of the Military Sepoys and some of the Calvetty people received injuries, but not of a serious nature.

4. The assumed motives which led to the affray were ill-feelings engendered by the result of a trial of strength, in the forenoon of the same day, between two men who personated tigers, one belonging to the Military, and the other to the Calvetty party. The former, a Hindu, turned out unsuccessful in the combat, his tail having been carried off as a trophy by his adversary.

5. The Military Sepoys naturally viewed this as an insult, and distrust and bad blood were, it is supposed, roused in both parties. But so far as I can judge, the origin of the quarrel, on the two parties coming in close contact as above described, is to be attributed to some evil-disposed men among the crowd at the time, who, availing themselves of the then existing ill-feelings, must, I imagine, have commenced the disturbance, and on the impulse of the moment, blows must have been freely exchanged, and a throwing of stones resorted to, which unfortunately ended in the total destruction of the Military "Tabut."

I am led to this impression from the fact that some of the Sepoys took with them their wives and children during the procession, a fact which renders it highly probable that they did neither intend nor anticipate an affray.

6. I immediately on the receipt of the report from the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, bringing the occurrence to my notice, I requested that Officer to use all efforts in his power to discover the originators and ring-leaders, in the disturbance. I addressed also Captain Barwise, Commanding Cochin, requesting him to render all necessary aid to Mr. Cullin in his enquiry.

7. From the latter's reply, I find that he has no prospect whatever of attaining the object desired. No reliable information can be obtained as to who are the real offenders.

The injuries to person and property were, however, very trifling, and the Military Sepoys were, Mr. Cullin observes, the greater sufferers.

8. As the Military Detachment is about to be withdrawn from Cochin, a circumstance which removes all ground for apprehending any further collision, Mr. Cullin is of opinion, and I agree with him, that it will be wise to allow matters to remain as they are, unless some very tangible evidence is procured.

No. 204. ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1860, No. 1,092.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

In Serial 1866 Pros of Augt

Depart.

From

The Magistrate of
Malabar

To

The Chief Secretary to
Government
Ind. Dept.
Fort St George

Dated 14 Augt 1866.

Received-

No. 44.

No. 1363

Reports the occurrence
of a Riot at Cochin
during the late Mohur-
rum Festivals-

No. 1092 28 Augt 1866.

To be recorded
JP

Sept.
25.

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