

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	176	Press
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Dated	14-2-	1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
for the month of February 1860.*

No. 23. Read the following letter from WILLIAM KNOX, Esq., Magistrate of Krishna District; to the Secretary to Government, in the Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Bejavada, 3rd February 1860, No. 42.

1. I have the honor to submit translation of an Arzi from the Head of Police of Jagayapeta Taluq in this District, from which you will observe that a dacoity was committed on the night of the 28th November 1859, on the house of Koya Seshna a resident of Ammapeta in the Nizam's dominions; and that property consisting of gold and silver ornaments &c., valued at Rupees 2,215-0-6 was stolen. Some of the offenders have however been apprehended by the Head of Police within his jurisdiction with the stolen property in their possession which the complainant and his son-in-law have identified as belonging to them. They recognized the offenders while in the act of committing the outrage, and the charge has been brought home to the perpetrators of this deed.

2. Under these circumstances, I request you will be so good as to obtain the orders of Government whether I should surrender the offenders to the authorities of His Highness the Nizam, the offence having been committed within his dominions, or to commit them for trial before the Session Court in the usual manner, under the provisions of Acts No. I of 1849 and VII of 1854.

*Translation of an Arzi addressed to W. Knox, Esq., Magistrate of the Krishna District by
M. Venkata Raddi Naidu, Head of Police of Jagayapeta Taluq, dated 9th January 1860.*

Koya Seshana a resident of Ammapeta in the Nizam's country, gave in a declaration on the 2nd instant, that a gang robbery was committed on his house at midnight on Monday the 4th increasing moon of Margasera of this year, corresponding with the 28th November 1859, and property belonging to him and his son-in-law valued at Rupees 2,215-0-6 consisting of gold and silver ornaments, ready cash in Rupees and Pagodas, &c. was robbed; that ever since he has been trying, through the medium of many people, to obtain traces, he was given to understand that 10 persons living in Ponnavaaram a hamlet of Venkatapuram within this Taluq, viz., 1 Arukula Lachegadu, 2 do. Chintadu, 3 do. Venkadu, 4 do. Bakkadu, 5 Alurilachigadu, 6 Kotturi Jaggaya (who came to Validurtipadu a hamlet of the said village, they being the inhabitants of Gummididurru,) 7 Arukula Viraraghavulu, (who is in Mullapudi), 8 do. Lachigadu, 9 Kotigadu (inhabitant of Anganaikunipallem in the Naudigama Taluq) and 10 do. Muttigadu, had, in company with certain others, committed the gang robbery on his house, and concealed and sold a portion of the stolen property with and to the inhabitants of Ponnavaaram in this Taluq, viz., 11 Chakalabundi Venkadu, 12 do. Bala Krustudu, 13 Dudila Nagulu, 14 Numburi Venkasetti, 15 Duggidavara Viranna and 16 Ramesetti Kotappa, 6 individuals, and prayed that a warrant may be issued to the houses of the offenders enumerated above, to detect the stolen property, of which the complainant presented to me a list. I have consequently and with reference to a letter received from the Dasapondia of that country, in which he stated that the complaint in question, is a true one, issued warrants to the houses of the offenders and found certain stolen property in the houses of the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th and 15th offenders and in the huts of the Arukala people (fowlers). Whilst the warrant was being executed in the houses of the offenders referred to, stolen property was also discovered (on suspicion entertained by the complainant) in the houses of the inhabitants of Gummidurru, viz., 1 Aluri Muttigadu, 2 Settipogu Venkadu, and 3 Arukula Muttigadu, who is in Ponnavaaram, these 3 persons were entered in extra numbers. The complainant and his son-in-law identified the things as belonging to them, and proved as such by witnesses. Moreover Bokkamuttula Venkaya, an inhabitant of Validurtipadu a hamlet of Gummidurru, has reported to the Village Munsiff that while he was cutting the jonna crop in his field on the 5th instant, his attention was attracted by a rag which seemed to be of a bundle buried under the ground in that field. The Village Munsiff proceeded to the spot in company with certain mediators and others and examined the bundle in which a small brass box containing gold ornaments, silver &c., as well as a bundle of cloth containing certain other jewels were found, all of these being secured in a bag called "Katla Sunchi" which was wrapt in a small piece of cloth called "Angastrum" which was delivered to

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me on the 6th instant with a list of the said things, some of which were identified as belonging to them by the complainant and his son-in-law, who proved them as such by witnesses, these things correspond with the description of those specified in the list of the stolen property presented by the complainant.

It was proved by the witness named Bokamuntala Venkaya referred to above, that the bag which contained the above things and the one made of the skin of male antelope in which Terichurnam (yellow powder) is secured, as well as the looking glass and the comb all belonged to Potturi Jaggia the 6th prisoner, who having no house &c. to live in, had, it is firmly to be believed, thus concealed the stolen ornaments secured in the said bundle.

The complainant and his 2nd son Ramana, have declared that although no stolen property was discovered in possession of the persons viz., No. 3 Arukala Venkadu who was apprehended on warrant; No. 14* Aluripadaramanigadu who came to Gummididurru and who was apprehended on suspicion; No. 5 Addanki Lingadu; No. 6 Kotayarukala China Venkadu who is in Ponnavaaram; 7 Pottivacka Venkadu inhabitant of Budavada at present residing in Gummidurru; 8 Arukala Kondadu who was apprehended in Ponnavaaram, and 9 Arukala Seshadu who was captured in Mullapadu, yet they recognized and remarked them while in the act of committing the said dacoity, in company with the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th prisoners and with the 1st and 2nd (entered in extra numbers.)

Dudela Nagulu (13) who is entered in the warrant has been acquitted, the charge not being proved against him. Nos. 4 and 11 Arukala Bakkadu and Chakalabandi Venkadu are still at large. No. 3 Arukala Muttigadu (entered in extra numbers) is said to be incarcerated at Bunder, No. 12 Chakala Kristadu, No. 14 Numburi Venkata Setti and No. 16 Ramesetti Kotappa have not been summoned before me, as no property has been found in their possession.

The stolen property has been discovered in possession of the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th offenders as well as in that of the 1st and 2nd prisoners (extra numbers), as stated in the charge preferred by the complainant. Consequently these prisoners as well as the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th,

8th, and 9th offenders* have, it would appear, conjointly perpetrated the crime as alleged by the complainant and his son, who recognized and pointed out each of them. Their declarations therefore are worthy of being taken as evidence against the offenders. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, and 8th offenders as well as the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 8th, and 9th prisoners (extra numbers) have no fixed habitation or ostensible livelihood and are disreputable characters. Referring to their habit and appearance they seem to be above the common run of the people of their class. They are scarcely to be seen in the village where their huts are situated. In the statement given by the villagers of Venkatapuram, Gummididurru and Mullapadu, it is stated that the above offenders and the 5th, (extra number), as well as the 4th, 5th, and 7th prisoners are in the habit of committing robberies and gaining their livelihood by that means.

Under these circumstances it is to be strongly believed that the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th prisoners and the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th (extra numbers) have committed the crime charged against them.

The crime was committed in Ammapeta in the Nizam's country, and the offenders have been apprehended here.

The Acting Joint Magistrate directed in an order, No. 81, issued by him, under date the 13th August 1856, that on the Heads of Police coming to understand that Officers of the Nizam's country are in pursuit, within this jurisdiction, of the offenders who have committed outrages in the Nizam's dominions, should co-operate with them, and render every aid in their power in apprehending culprits.

From this it would appear that the prisoners in question, should be forwarded to the Nizam's authorities, provided they are the residents of that country.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th and 8th, as well as the 6th, 7th and 9th offenders (extra numbers) being 9 in all who have no fixed residence, may doubtless, be also sent at once to the Nizam's authorities. The 5th (extra) 1st, 2nd and 4th offenders as well as the 15th prisoner, who possess-

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ed stolen property are the residents under this jurisdiction. The 5th and 7th offenders are related to the 1st, 2nd and 4th (extra) prisoners. The Order No. 81, is not clear in regard to sending the offenders who are the inhabitants of this Government dominions. Consequently I beg your honor will be pleased to issue such orders as you may deem proper as to the manner in which the said offenders are to be dealt with. I beg to forward herewith the record of the case as per list, and the Hukum No. 81, together with the list of the things seized.

Moreover I beg to state that I understand that the 6th prisoner named Koturi Jagaya was suspected of having been concerned in the gang robbery lately committed in Ibrahimpatam, I therefore communicated on the subject to the Head of Police of Bejavada Taluq. As soon as I receive a reply from him, I shall act myself according to rule, and report the result to your honor. As regards the complaint made against Kotigadu and Muttigadu inhabitants of Auga-nayakunipalem in the Nandigama Taluq, who are stated to have been concerned in the crime, I have informed the complainant, that he should prefer his charge against them before the Head of Police of that Taluq. I therefore beg to state this for your honor's information. Please take this into consideration.

(Signed) M. VENKATAREDDI NAIDU,

Head of Police.

(True translation.)

(Signed) W. KNOX,

Magistrate.

No. 24.

ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1860, No. 176.

It is observed that some of the parties implicated are residents in British Territory, and others have no fixed habitation, being mere vagrants.

Under Section IV, Act I, 1849, Government authorize the Magistrate of the Krishna District to send for trial to the Session Court at Masulipatam, such of the parties, against whom the evidence is sufficient to warrant committal.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

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The Magistrate of the ———
Trishna District. 20 Feb. 1860