M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 398 Press
75-76 ~~Mis.~~

75-76.
Dated 31 · 3 · 1860 ~~19~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 75. Read the following letter from Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 24th March 1860, No. 35.

1. I have the honor to forward for submission to Government a Memorial which I have received through the Superintendent of the Penitentiary from one Provenzano an Italian sailor of the British Ship "Golconda," who was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labor for 2 years, at the Sessions of October 1858. The facts of the case may be briefly summed up as follows:

2. On Tuesday 5th October 1858 the Petitioner, with two others, George Benson and Thomas Britton, were brought up at the Sessions upon two Indictments.

First.—Feloniously and piratically stealing from the Ship "Golconda" the property noted below:

One Writing Desk.

Two Sovereigns.

One Case of Scales and Weights.

Three Photographic Pictures valued 101 Rupees, the property of a shipmate Wm. Goode.

Second.—Feloniously Stealing

One Boat.

Two Oars.

One Mizen Royal.

Two Studding Sail yards.

Three Water Kegs.

Three Barrels Biscuits valued Rupees 170, the property of the Ship.

3. Provenzano has yet 6 months and ten days to complete the period of his imprisonment. By reason of the high character given him by Mr. Owen the Superintendent of the Penitentiary, I am induced to forward his Memorial, and to request for it the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

To His Excellency the Honorable Sir C. E. TREVELYAN, K. C. B.,
Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, Madras.

The humble Petition of MICHELE PROVENZANO, Prisoner in Her Majesty's House of Correction, Madras.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That Your Excellency's humble Memorialist was convicted, at the Oyer and Terminer Sessions of October 1858, of Larceny and Desertion in a ship's boat, from the ship "Golconda;" he accordingly received sentence of 2 years' imprisonment in the House of Correction with hard labour.

Your Memorialist begs to express a most fervent hope, that his Petition may meet with Your Excellency's serious attention. It may be necessary to premise that Your Excellency's humble Petitioner is of Italian extraction; and his knowledge of the English language is exclusively confined to remarks of the most ordinary description. The grave irregularity attendant on his trial may now, perhaps, merit a cursory allusion. The irregularity referred to, was of a nature which effectually precluded the remotest possibility of an honorable exculpation. Your Excellency's humble Petitioner (as already mentioned), possessed a very superficial and limited knowledge of the language; and was, consequently, incapacitated from comprehending the investigations instituted against him. Granting, that circumstances existed, admitting of material palliation, the absence of an Italian Interpreter, intervened as an insuperable obstacle. Your Excellency's most humble Memorialist begs to suggest that this apparently abnormal proceeding be taken into consideration.

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

Your Excellency's humble Petitioner has now completed upwards of 17 months of his term of incarceration; and his long confinement has affected his constitution, and impaired his health. Moreover, during his imprisonment, he has, on two several occasions, suffered from the fearful convulsions of Epilepsy.

It is with feelings of deep and intense humiliation that he views his present sad and degraded position. For the past he deeply feels and now expresses a genuine contrition, and eventually hopes to remove, by assiduous perseverance, the stain which has so darkened and embittered his happiness. In conclusion, *he implores most earnestly* Your Excellency's generous clemency. The prayer of his Petition he would fain express in language of intense entreaty. He humbly ventures to beseech that Your Excellency be pleased to remit the remainder of his long and severe sentence, and he will never, never cease to cherish a high and grateful sentiment of Your Excellency's benevolence.

And Your Excellency's Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) MICHELE PROVENZANO.

No. 76. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1860, No. 398.

The Governor in Council regrets that looking to the nature of the offence of which Provenzano has been convicted, he is unable to authorize any mitigation of his sentence.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

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Character

Not to be printed

Sir

I do hereby certify that the conduct of the Seaman Michael Provenzano of the Ship "Golconda" who was sentenced to Two (2) Years imprisonment from the 5th October 1858 has been in every respect most satisfactory. I cannot speak too highly of the cleanliness, order and respectful demeanour he has always evinced and the uniform good example he invariably set before his comrade in Prison, for a period of One Year five Months and four days of his confinement in the Penitentiary

I beg to remain
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
J. Bowen
Supt. of the Penitentiary

Madras
Penitentiary
6th March 1860

To
Col. J. C. Boulderson
Commissioner of Police

Dist
Convict
30/3/60

Order thereon 31st March 1860. No 398. 31

The Governor in Council expects
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of Headmen Police
Dists

JP

31 January
Judicial 1860 Dept.
No
Colonel J. C. Bonnycastle
Commissioner of Police
&c

T. Lycroft Esq.re
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Dated 24th
Rec.d } March, 1860.
No. 35.
Encl.s Two.

No. 477

Gives cover to a Memorial from a Prisoner named Provenzano praying for a mitigation of the unexpired portion of his confinement from His Excellency the Governor in Council, and states that by reason of the high character given the Petitioner by the Superintendent of the Penitentiary he is induced to request for him the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

W. Kennedy
JP

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