

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.G.O. No. *S32-33* Press
His?*202-204*

Dated

27.6.1861 10*4/4*
Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

27th June 1861.

No. 202. Read the following letter from the Judges of Her Majesty's Supreme Court at Madras; to the Honorable the Governor in Council, &c., &c., &c., Fort Saint George, dated Adyar, 18th June 1861.

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of your Excellency in Council bearing date the 14th instant, referring to a list of the Barristers and Attorneys of Her Majesty's Supreme Court, and to the circumstance that Mr. A. M. Ritchie's name is entered in it as Registrar and Prothonotary of the Court. This list seems to have been regarded by your Excellency in Council as an official intimation of Mr. Ritchie's recent appointment by the Chief Justice, but in point of fact such list is only an annual return sent from the Registrar's Office in compliance with a practice sanctioned by the Judges since 1829, for the purpose of regulating licences (now obsolete) from the Honorable the Board of Directors of the East India Company, and without reference in any way to Mr. Ritchie's or any appointment. If it had been requisite or usual to send to the Government any official intimation of Mr. Ritchie's appointment, such intimation would have been given in a formal and specific manner.

The Office of Registrar and Prothonotary of the Supreme Court had been vacant for about five months when the Chief Justice arrived at Madras, and the interest of the Public and the Suitors, as well as the efficient administration of Justice made it his imperative duty to fill the office with as little delay as possible. Before, however, appointing Mr. Ritchie, due regard was had to his acceptance of the office subject to all such probable changes connected with the proposed amalgamation of the Supreme and Sudr Courts as could reasonably and properly be anticipated; and in this we think your Excellency in Council will concur after a perusal of the correspondence between the Chief Justice and Mr. Ritchie, a copy of which we beg to enclose.

We now feel that it is not properly within our province or that of the Chief Justice to intimate to Mr. Ritchie any thing further by way of anticipated possible change; and we beg that your Excellency in Council will excuse our communicating to Mr. Ritchie on the part of the Government the intimation as regards compensation contained in the letter of your Excellency in Council to us, which could now have no more effect than a notice sent directly to Mr. Ritchie quite independently of us or of the Chief Justice alone.

(Signed) C. H. SCOTLAND.

(„) A. BITTLESTON.

From the Honorable Sir C. H. SCOTLAND, Knight, Chief Justice; to A. MACDONALD RITCHIE, Esq., dated 30th May 1861.

I have had under consideration your application for the vacant Registrarship of the Supreme Court of Madras, and learning from you that if appointed to that Office you will resign the office you at present hold of Chief Clerk of the Insolvent Court; I feel pleasure, after consulting with Sir A. Bittleston in informing you of my determination to appoint you to the vacant Office. In accepting it however there is a further condition which it is my duty to impose, and which you must distinctly understand. In the event of the anticipated amalgamation of the Courts and the probable legal changes consequent upon it, the duties and practice of the Registrar's Office will no doubt be modified and altered, and your present appointment to the Office must be considered and accepted as made subject to all such alterations and modifications as may be deemed necessary.

Wishing you every success and believing that you will ably and efficiently discharge the duties of your new office with advantage to the public and credit to yourself.

P. S.—I must request you to write me a line resigning the Office of Chief Clerk of the Insolvent Court, first taking care to complete the immediately pressing business of the Office.

Prothonotary

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th June 1861.*

From A. MACDONALD RITCHIE, Esq.; to the Honorable Sir C. H. SCOTLAND,
Knight, Chief Justice, dated Red Hills, 30th May 1861.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of this day's date and to inform you that I am perfectly willing to undertake the duties of Registrar and Prothonotary of the Supreme Court under the restrictions therein referred to.

According to your wish I hereby resign the Office of Chief Clerk of the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

The immediate pressing business of this Office will be completed on to-morrow 31st instant.

No. 203. ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1861, No. 832.

Resolved that the above letter be recorded and that the following be despatched.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 204. To Mr. A. M. RITCHIE, Registrar and Prothonotary of Her Majesty's Supreme Court, Madras, dated Fort Saint George, 27th June 1861, No. 833.

Referring to your recent appointment to be Registrar and Prothonotary of Her Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature at Madras, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to inform you, that you will not be considered by Government to have any title to compensation on account of any measures which may be taken regarding your office, on the anticipated amalgamation of the Supreme and Sudr Courts.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following letter
from the Judges of H.
M's. Supreme Court of
Judicature at Madras.*

(Here enter 18th June 1861.)

Order thereon 27th June 1861, No. 832.

*Resolved that the
above letter be recorded
and that the following
be despatched.*

No. 833.

*To Mr. A. M. Ritchie,
Registrar and Prothonotary of H. M's.
Supreme Court,
Madras.*

*Sir, Referring to your
recent appointment
to be Registrar and
Prothonotary*

Proof Book

Judicial 1861. Department.

No. 832

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Dated 27 June 1861.

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According to the letter from the Judges of R. C. C. Supreme Court at Madras, respecting the Petitioner and Prothonotary of the Supreme Court and addressing a letter to Mr. Ritchie on the subject.

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Prothonotary of Her Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature at Madras, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to inform you, that you will not be considered by Govt. to have any title to compensation on account of any measures which may be taken regarding your office, on the anticipation and termination of the Supreme and other Courts.

I have &c.

JF

Fortham George,
27th June 1861.