M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1808 Press ~~Mis.~~

162-181

Dated 23-11-1873

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd November 1863.

Read the following papers:—

No. 162. From CHARLES W. READE, Esq., Magistrate of South Arcot; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Villapoorum, 23rd March 1863, No. 10.

By an Order of Government, dated 18th instant, No. 422, I am requested to report whether there is reason to suppose that the crime of Female Infanticide prevails in the District under my charge, or in any other with which I am acquainted.

2. In acknowledgment, I am able at once to answer in the negative as regards the District of South Arcot over which I now preside. I believe that Infanticide has not been known in these parts during the present century, even if it ever prevailed at an earlier period.

3. As regards other Districts with which I am acquainted, I can only speak of one where the practice was said to obtain, though of late years, very rarely. I allude to Vizagapatam in the Hill Tracts of which the Government are possibly aware, Infanticide was said to occur occasionally, though no instance of the kind, during my time, was brought to notice; but in those days there was little intercourse between the Hills and the low country, and our laws were almost as little known as they were enforced, so that it is impossible to say that cases never did occur. Until very recently the Vizagapatam District, as well as that of Ganjam, in regard to Infanticide were under the special protection of the Meriah Agency, and no doubt where a case did occur in either District, it seldom escaped the knowledge of that Department, whose vigilance in suppressing the crime was, I believe, tolerably successful; but from the short intercourse I had with the people—and I did make special inquiries on the subject when in the Jeypore country—my impression was that however regarded with superstitious favor in earlier times, the practice was held by the more intelligent of the people in the present day in nearly as great abhorrence as it is by ourselves, and that it existed at all was stoutly denied to me by the then Rajah of Jeypore, as well by every one whom I questioned.

4. I never heard of Infanticide in any other part of India where I have served.

No. 163. From M. J. WALHOUSE, Esq., Acting Collector and Magistrate of Trichinopoly; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Madras, dated Vyganellore, 25th March 1863, No. 45.

In obedience to the Orders of Government, dated the 18th instant, No. 422, I have the honor to state that I do not think there is any reason to suppose that the crime of Female Infanticide prevails, or has been known to prevail, in this District.

No. 164. From J. SILVER, Esq., Magistrate of Tinnevelly; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Tinnevelly, 25th March 1863, No. 194.

In reply to the Order of Government, dated 18th March 1863, No. 422, I have the honor to state that I have no reason to suppose the crime of Female Infanticide to be prevalent either in the District of Tinnevelly, or in any other with which I am acquainted. Infanticide, not particularly female, I believe does occasionally occur, in cases of widows prohibited from re-marrying, and who have lapsed from chastity, but this even I do not think prevails to any great extent in this District, for women who have so sinned are commonly reported to take means to procure abortion. There is nothing in the south of the Peninsula relating to the criminal practice of Female Infanticide, such as used to prevail among the Rajapoot tribes, and which was connected with their own peculiar caste prejudices.

A

No. 165. From D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Acting Magistrate and Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vizagapatam, 25th March 1863, No. 100.

In acknowledging Judicial Order of Government of 18th instant, No. 422, I beg to state that some of the Khond and Saura tribes of the Jeypore country, attached to this District, are known to have been addicted to the practice of Female Infanticide. But by the exertions of the late Special Agency, the evil has been all but eradicated. Since I took charge, a year ago, I have had but one case. The accused, the child's mother, was convicted and transported for life.

2. I see no occasion for any special law, and strongly deprecate any special domiciliary Police.

No. 166. From J. FRASER, Esq., Acting Magistrate of North Arcot; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Pooloor, 25th March 1863, No. 4.

In reply to the Order of Government noted marginally, regarding the existence of Female Infanticide, I have the honor to state that I have never heard of it as prevailing in North Arcot, and do not believe that it exists even to smallest extent.

No. 422 of 18th March 1863.

2. I know that it was believed to be common in some of the jungly tracts of the Ganjam District while I was attached to it. I believe that the portions thus affected were chiefly the tracts in Sooradah above the ghauts, and some parts of the Khond country, the inhabitants of which practised Female Infanticide, instead of the Meriah Sacrifice. I do not know whether the former custom still exists, or has been put down.

No. 167. From JAMES INNES MINCHIN, Esq., Magistrate of Kurnool; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated on Circuit, Vonkarom, 27th March 1863, No. 7.

With reference to the Proceedings of Madras Government, dated 18th March 1863, No. 422, concerning the crime of Female Infanticide, I have the honor to state that I have no reason to believe that the crime is in any way practised in this District, or in any other in this Presidency, with which I am acquainted.

No. 168. From V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Magistrate of Madura; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Kodaikannel, 28th March 1863, No. 61.

In reply to the Order of Government in the Judicial Department, No. 422, dated the 18th March, I have the honor to report that Female Infanticide is not prevalent in the Madura District, except perhaps in the case of illegitimate children. I have heard the Todas on the Neilgherries practice it.

No. 169. From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Magistrate of Cuddapah; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated on Circuit, at Canamalapalli, 30th March 1863, No. 10.

With reference to the Order of Government, dated 18th March 1863, No. 422, I have the honor to report that I have no reason to suppose that the crime of *Female* Infanticide prevails in this, or in any other District, with which I am acquainted.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd November 1863.

2. The bulk of the population in this District is composed of industrious peasantry of the Koonbi or Sudra caste, who have not the customs or prejudices of the Rajpoot class, which are the chief incitement to the crime, which is said to be prevalent in the North West Provinces.

3. If there be any other race of people in other Districts, where there might be some temptation to this crime, I should suppose it to be the Nairs of Malabar, where polyandry is practised, but I did not hear that it was so when I served in that District 18 years ago.

4. I believe that the crime of criminal abortion and concealment of birth is too common, but the causes which lead to this offence are widely different from those which influence the Rajpoot class. It is the attempt to cover the disgrace of the unmarried, or widows, and not the difficulty and expense of a suitable marriage which causes abortion to be practised.

5. Female children, therefore, are not here looked upon in the same burdensome light as they are among the Rajpoot tribes of the North-west, and Female Infanticide is not likely to be practised without a very strong inducement.

No. 170. From the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C. B., Acting Magistrate of the Madras District; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Saidapet, 31st March 1863, No. 27.

With reference to the Order of Government, dated the 18th instant, No. 422, Judicial Department, I have the honor to inform you that the crime of Female Infanticide of the nature referred to in Sir George Couper's letter is not prevalent in this District, or in any other District of this Presidency, with which I am acquainted. There is no doubt that the murder of infants immediately after birth, by unmarried females and widow mothers, occurs not unfrequently and often escapes detection in this as in other Districts.

No. 171. From A. P. HODGSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of South Canara; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Mangalore, 1st April 1863, No. 6.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, dated 18th March 1863, No. 422, I have the honor to state, for the information of Government, that the crime of Female Infanticide is not prevalent in this District, neither do I know of its being practised in any other District, with which I am acquainted.

No. 172. From P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 4th April 1863, No. 25.

I have received Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, and their Order thereon, dated 18th March 1863, No. 422, calling on me to report whether Female Infanticide is prevalent in this District, or in any other with which I am acquainted. In reply I beg to inform you that I have no reason to suppose that it exists in this or in any other District, in Southern India. There were strong grounds for thinking that it prevailed amongst the Todas on the Neilgherries, but it is believed that the practice has for years been discontinued, and the number of female children to be seen at every Todamund testify to the correctness of the belief.

Countries

No. 173. From E. B. FOORD, Esq., Acting Magistrate of the Kistna District; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Masulipatam, 14th April 1863, No. 137.

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, with reference to their Order in the Judicial Department, dated 18th March 1863, No. 422, that I have no reason to suppose that the crime of Female Infanticide is prevalent either in this District, or in any other with which I am acquainted.

No. 174. From A. PURVIS, Esq., Magistrate of the Godavery District; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cocanada, 14th April 1863, No. 127.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government of the 18th ultimo, forwarding certain papers on the subject of Female Infanticide, and calling on me to state whether I have reason to suppose the crime exists in this District, or in any other with which I am acquainted.

2. I have no hesitation in declaring my belief that Female Infanticide, as it prevails in the North West Provinces, is not practised in this District, nor have I, during my service in other Districts, ever had reason to believe such a crime to be prevalent.

3. At the same time I am constrained to express my opinion that Infanticide, in the hope of concealing the results of illicit intercourse, to which the usages of Native Society hold forth such grievous temptation, is far from uncommon.

No. 175. From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Magistrate of Nellore; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Doravaripalem Kilpak, 16th April 1863, No. 9.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government in the Judicial Department, under date the 18th ultimo, No. 422, and state that so far as I am aware, here is no reason to suppose that the crime of Female Infanticide prevails in this District, save or the concealment of the birth of illegitimate children.

No. 176. From G. S. FORBES, Esq., Magistrate of Ganjam; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Madras, dated Chetterpore, 20th April 1863, No. 74.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Government Order, dated the 18th ultimo, No. 422, and to report that the Government are already aware that Female Infanticide is known to prevail in parts of the Khond country, and that special attention is being directed to its suppression. The crime is attributable in this case to hereditary policy or superstition. Cases of Infanticide, without reference to sex, are also from time to time brought to light in other parts of the Ganjam District; such instances are not however very common and they are, as might be expected, attributable to the same causes which occasion the prevalence of the crime in more civilized countries. I have as yet met with no evidence of the practice of Female Infanticide from other motives, except in the Khond country, and I believe the subjoined extract from the tables, affords sufficient proof that the crime does not prevail here.

Note.—The proportion nearly corresponds with the established statistical number of 106 boys to 100 girls.

Statement showing the Male and Female population of the several Government and Zemindary, &c., Estates, of the District of Ganjam.

Talooks.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Berhampoor...	39,617	37,731	77,348
Poobacondah...	44,585	42,924	87,509
Itchapoor...	24,642	25,931	50,573
Vizianagrum...	18,058	16,776	31,834
Goomsur...	61,734	61,083	1,22,817
Chicacole...	75,764	72,030	1,47,794
Parlakimedy...	97,320	88,448	1,85,768
Hautghur...	32,987	32,076	65,063
Callicote...	17,485	16,253	33,738
Paloor...	2954	2451	5405
Hoomma...	2012	1925	3937
Pratapagherry...	14,461	13,617	28,078
Sooranghy...	7053	6707	13,760
Mundasah...	10,852	9784	20,636
Beredy...	5426	5002	10,428
Jalantra...	6169	5542	11,711
Boodarsinghy...	395	333	728
Dharacote...	13,691	12,781	26,472
Cheegutty...	17,597	16,986	34,583
Turlah...	8944	7943	16,887
Bodagadah.....	5632	5204	10,836
Seerghur...	5594	5455	11,049
Aska...	3484	3567	7051
Coomarry...	1518	1410	2928
Coorlah..	2010	2007	4017
Haradabadra...	772	731	1503
Barwa.....	4060	4076	8136
Jaradah...	2373	2299	4672
Carakavalsah...	7183	6710	13,893
Oorlam...	4807	4532	9339
Danta...	1121	969	2090
Sowdam...	440	359	799
Teelar...	2213	2065	4308
Rajapoorum...	104	109	213
Soosaram...	153	136	289
Jonnapad...	66	51	117
Siddebaharacottoor...	52	39	91
Malagam...	355	321	676
Akayavulsah...	165	97	262
Santa Latchmipoor...	252	212	464
Talasamoodrum...	377	285	662
Chittevulsah...	2249	1916	4165
Chakipully...	453	434	887
Konoosoolacottoor...	441	350	791
Peddatoongam...	384	430	814
Chinnatoongam...	148	161	309
Jarjanghy...	1344	1158	2502
Boddam...	89	101	190
Balamarapalvalsa...	448	429	877
Gopalpoorum...	2439	2068	4507
Tekally...	22,965	21,008	43,973
Fajalbegpetta, &c...	1104	1182	2286
Coormam Tana...	7476	6685	14,161
Total.....	5,84,017	5,52,879	11,36,926

GANJAM DISTRICT,
MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE, CHETTERPOOR,
April 1863.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Magistrate.

No. 177. From G. LEE MORRIS, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Tanjore; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Point Calimere, 21st April 1863, No. 116.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, under date the 18th March 1863, No. 422, requesting me to report whether there is reason to suppose that the crime of Female Infanticide is prevalent in this District, I have the honor to state that after communicating with all the Magistracy of this District, I am enabled to state that the aforesaid crime is not prevalent in this District, and that I am not acquainted with any where it is prevalent.

No. 178. From G. A. BALLARD, Esq, Magistrate of Malabar; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated on Circuit, Lakadi, 21th April 1863, No. 41.

With reference to the Orders of Government, dated 18th March 1863, No. 422, I have the honor to state that the crime of Female Infanticide is of very rare occurrence in this District. During the last five years only two cases were reported, one in 1859 and the other in 1862. The last case was dismissed for want of proof. I have no reason to believe that the crime prevails unreported or undiscovered in this District, or in any other that I am acquainted with.

No. 179. From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Bellary; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Bellary, 3rd October 1863, No. 43.

1. With reference to a requisition* calling for a report on the crime of Female Infanticide, I have the honor to state that no such crime prevails in this District. Infanticide is not unfrequently practised, as is shown by the Returns of crime; but this has no reference to the sex of the child murdered, and is only committed by widows, who lose caste on the discovery of their pregnancy, and in almost every case, it is rather to be classed under "criminal abortion" causing the delivery, before the time, and generally the death of the child, whose sex, previous to the completion of the crime, could not have been ascertained.

* 18th March 1863.

2. In my report on this subject for the District of Cuddapah, I stated that there was no inducement in this country to practice Female Infanticide, the condition of society being quite different from that of the Rajpoot families of the North West States, where the practice was said to prevail.

No. 180. From the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Magistrate of Salem; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 10th October 1863, No. 174.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated 18th March 1863, No. 422, calling upon me to report whether I have any reason to suppose that the crime of Female Infanticide is prevalent in the District under my charge, I have the honor to inform you that the practice is not prevalent in this District, nor in any other, with which I am acquainted.

No. 181. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 23rd November 1863, No. 1808.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Wyllie's Circular of the 4th March last, No. 144, requesting to be informed whether His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that any special legislation is necessary on the subject of Female Infanticide in this Presidency.

2. On the receipt of the letter now under reply, the several Magistrates were called upon to report as to the prevalence or otherwise of Female Infanticide in their respective Districts. Their replies show that while Infanticide, attributable to the same causes which lead to it in other

countries, is unhappily not uncommon, Female Infanticide, such as is practised in the North Western Provinces, is unknown in this Presidency, except in the Hill tracts inhabited by the Khonds and other barbarous tribes in Ganjam and Vizagapatam. In these Districts it is hoped that the introduction of the new Police will ere long ensure the entire suppression of the crime. The Governor in Council does not consider that any special legislation on the subject is necessary as regards this Presidency.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

despd 25th Feby
per P&O Steamer
Mooltan

Judicial Dept

No 1808.

To
The Secretary to the Govt of India.
Home Departt

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Under Secretary Hyllie's Circular of the 4th March last No 1144, requesting to be informed whether His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that any special legislation is necessary on the subject of Female Infanticide in this Presidency.

2. On the receipt of this letter now under reply the several Magistrates were called upon to report as to the prevalence or otherwise of Female Infanticide in their respective Districts. Their replies show that while Infanticide, attributable to the same causes which lead to it in other Countries

countries, is unhappily not uncommon, Female Infanticide, such as is practised in the North Western Provinces, is unknown in this Presidency, except in the Hill Tracts inhabited by the Khonds and other barbarous tribes in Ganjam and Vizagapatam. In these Districts it is hoped that the introduction of the new Police will ere long ensure the entire suppression of the Crime. The Governor in Council does not consider that any special legislation on the subject is necessary as regards this Presidency.

Fort St. George
23rd November 1843.

Recd 24th November

Judicial 1863 Departt.

No 1808.

To
The Secy: to the Govt.
of India

Dated 23d November 1863

162 @ 181

Office Memo
121