M.R. O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1884 Press Mis.

25-26

Dated 2 — 12 — ~~19~~ 1863

16/17

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## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 2nd December* 1863.

No. 25. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General Madras Police, and Magistrate in Malabar; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 20th November 1863.

1. In continuation of my letter noted marginally, I have the honor to make my report on the detection of the Burglary with theft of 12,000 Rupees, from the Civil Cash Chest of the Military Paymaster of Cannanore, between the dates 6th and 30th June last. It was committed on the night between the 10th and 11th. The case will be tried at the next Sessions at Tellicherry.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 16th September 1863, No. 4362.

2. The District Magistrate and myself have felt the necessity of going into the matter vigorously and clearing it up. We both, as the Government is aware, suspected the Paymaster's officials; and Mr. Ballard assented readily to the anxious wish of Mr. Bates, Deputy Collector of Malabar, in charge of the Account Department, to accompany me and sift the matter. I thankfully accepted the aid of his experienced sagacity with reference to the direction in which suspicion then lay. Mr. Ballard further placed at my disposal two of his ablest Officers—whom I have long known and tried—Onden Amboo Sheristadar (now on leave at Cannanore) and Upput Kunnen, Tahsildar of Wynaad; both men of influence and weight in Cannanore. The Acting Tahsildar of the Taluq, Kristna Patter, has also lent his active and very efficient aid.

3. We first directed our attention to the Paymaster's Office. The suspension by Government of the officials gave the fullest facilities for a sifting and unchecked inquiry. But the more thoroughly each assumed possibility of guilt was gone into, the more the clear and unmistakeable indications of innocence and care in the transaction of business on the part of these Officers, met us.

4. The result we have arrived at is, that not the slightest suspicion of crime or privity attaches to any official in that office, save the Peon (Ramen), as hereafter to be described. All the appliances at their disposal were faithfully used to ensure security; the locks, &c., though not of the best and most recent kind, were those which have been in use for many years; and the length of time that it took the thieves to tamper with them, shows very clearly that they had to surmount many obstacles, and to elude considerable vigilance.

5. In the meantime the conclusion that the Guards on duty alone could have committed the crime became irresistible. And on information obtained, the persons named in the margin were taken charge of by the Police.

Changali, No. 2553, Havildar No. 1 Company of 18th Regiment.
Lutchmiah, No. 1304, Havildar No. 4 Company of 18th Regiment.
Gulam Moideen, No. 2123, Sepoy of 1st Company of 18th Regiment.
K. Ramen, Peon in the Pay Office.
Appu, Locksmith of Cannanore.

6. On search of Lutchmiah's house, Rupees 2916 were found carefully concealed in the roof. The money had been filled into the hollow bamboo joists. After this discovery, Lutchmiah at once confessed and gave up his accomplices. And one after the other, all the remaining participators in the crime confessed, and gave up what remained of their respective shares. Rupees 7331 were recovered within a few hours. Next morning, on information given by the Locksmith, two of the false keys that had been used were recovered from the well in his compound; and a few days later the third was likewise recovered by the divers from the same well. The Locksmith confessed that he had dropped the false keys into his well. He destroyed the counterfeit seal.

7. There is a set of evil doers in the 18th Regiment; not entirely confined to the Privates. The ringleaders of the gang are the two Havildars implicated in this crime, and Gulam Moideen, a powerful ruffian of the Grenadier Company. They have several confederates, and others are privy to their crimes, which have been many. The crime, that has occurred in the Regimental Lines,—and possibly some that has been committed in the Cantonment is attributable to men of this gang. The Regiment has been long at the station, and these men have become intimate with the rogues of the locality.

8. The design of robbing the Paymaster's Cash Chest seems to have been entertained and deliberately planned for months before the crime was committed, by these men.

9. There is a little doubt that long before the crime came off, overtures had been made by some of them to a Massalchee of the Pay Office, and perhaps to a Theyen servant of the late Paymaster, Captain Magrath; with a view to surreptitiously obtaining the keys of the Cash Chest for a single night. The death of the Massalchee frustrated this design.

10. Sometime in February or March last these negotiations were renewed by Lutchmiah and others of the gang, with one Ramen, a Peon on the establishment of the Paymaster; with the same view of obtaining surreptitiously, through the Paymaster's servants, the keys of the Cash Chest for a single night. Ramen lent himself to the plan; but the knowledge that an examination of the Cash Chest would certainly take place on transfer to Captain Douglas on the 31st March last, made him hesitate. And the care subsequently taken of his keys by Captain Douglas, who never let them out of his possession, frustrated any design in that direction. They were forced to have recourse to false keys and seal.

11. The Cash Chest is fastened with a large country made imitation Brahma lock and two padlocks. One of these is an English brass padlock; the other a large country-made double padlock. The keys of the large box lock and the brass padlock are kept by the Paymaster; the key of the country lock by the Cash-keeper. A tape was passed over the front of the box and sealed at both ends—one seal being on the lid and the other on the front side of the box—and strips of paper were passed round the Cash-keeper's padlock and a seal placed over the key hole. No seal was placed on the box lock or the Paymaster's brass padlock. The seal was kept by the Paymaster. The thieves had thus to make three false keys and counterfeit one seal, in order to obtain access to the contents of the Chest.

12. The Paymaster's cash boxes (one containing the bulk of the silver, another the copper; a third a Military chest, seldom containing any money, and a fourth the petty Cash Chest) are placed in an inner room of the Bungalow used as an office. The officials are in an adjoining room, which does not however command a view of the treasure chests. A sentry stands in the treasure room; the Havildar of the guard having a small room adjoining, with a door always open between. The rest of the guard is in a verandah room beyond that of the Havildar, from whence however they cannot see what takes place in the treasure room. During the day the sentry is alone in the treasure room, save when any of the officials come in to take out and put in money. From the time the office is closed in the evening until the Writers attend next morning, the building is in the charge of the guard. No official of the Paymaster's establishment whatever enters it. Thus, during the day, the guard had ample opportunity of observing the locks and seals of the boxes, and becoming aware of their contents, as they were always opened in the presence of the Havildar and sentry. And during the night, in the event of collusion between the sentry and the Havildar, every facility offered for obtaining access to the contents of the boxes by means of false keys. Hence was suggested the design of packing the guard and making false keys. As the gang had confederates amongst both Havildars and Privates, the thing was easy.

13. An impression of the key hole, &c. of the brass padlock (Paymaster's) was readily taken by some of the gang while on guard over the boxes in the treasure room; probably by Gulam Moideen, when on guard under the command of Lutchmiah. Shangali's bad character was so notorious in the Regiment, that he carefully avoided going on the Paymaster's guard; as they all felt that suspicion would instantly attach to him when the theft was discovered. The false key was made by Appu, a Locksmith of Cannanore. He possibly was not *then* aware of the purpose for which it was intended; but he was soon let into the secret. This was the easiest and the first key counterfeited. This first step towards the crime was probably completed, some two or three months before the theft took place.

14. They then undertook the large box lock. It is deep and gave much trouble. Successive impressions were taken; and wax was thrust into the key hole to obtain an impression of the wards of the lock. But Appu, the Locksmith, failed at least five or six times to make a counterfeit key that would open it. It was altered five or six times; and each time was taken by

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some one of the gang on guard over the chest, and tried in the lock. Lutchmiah being generally the Havildar in command of the guard, and Gulam Moideen the Agent in effecting this; the Havildar taking care that he was placed as sentry in the treasure room, at the time when a favorable opportunity was likely to present itself. At length the key was made to fit. A little advice having been obtained about it from a Locksmith named Kellapen, to whom the counterfeit key was shown by Appu.

15. Kellapen was acquainted with the genuine key and lock. He had them to repair and clean on the 8th April, when an accident occurred to the key. It broke in the lock; and there is little doubt that this was in consequence of some wax having remained when an impression was being taken by the guard. Kellapen however was not privy to the actual crime. He had his doubts at the time, the key was shown to him, and warned Appu against fabricating a key for the Sepoys; but his fears were removed by Appu's assurances. His suspicions no doubt may have been revived on by the occurrence of the offence; but he feared to come forward. He has now made a clean breast of it. The second key was thus provided.

16. The Peon Ramen took several impressions of the Cash-keeper's key—the third and last required—on wax and gave them to the Havildar Lutchmiah. Ramen had an opportunity of doing this, when the Cash-keeper's bunch of keys was given to him, to open another small box in the Cash room. And at length, after several abortive attempts, Appu succeeded in making a key to fit the lock. The same system was pursued of entrusting the false key to the Havildar or others of the gang, when proceeding on guard, in order to have it tried in the lock.

17. And lastly, Ramen gave Lutchmiah on another occasion the Paymaster's seal—an ordinary much defaced old seal, bearing the E. I. Company's Arms. From it he (Lutchmiah) took an impression on sealing wax, which enabled Appu to produce a fair counterfeit in lead. Ramen had an opportunity of doing this, as he was generally entrusted to re-place the seals in the presence of the Havildar and sentry, after the boxes had been locked up by the Paymaster, when the business of the day was over.

18. All was thus ready early in June. A full set of fitting counterfeited keys and a seal were in the possession of Lutchmiah. They only awaited the opportunity.

19. On the 6th of June the cash was counted by the Paymaster and found correct. It had been counted every month since he took charge.

20. Lutchmiah Havildar was told off for Regimental duty on the evening of the 9th of June. But before proceeding on duty next morning, he arranged through the Havildar Major for an exchange, by which he was placed on Garrison duty at the Paymaster's Office. He took Gulam Moideen with him. To effect this likewise, an exchange was arranged by the Havildar Major for Gulam Moideen, who had been told off for the Commissariat guard. And thus he was placed on the Paymaster's guard. During the day it was agreed among them that the money should be removed that night. In the evening Gulam Moideen was sent to bring up the Locksmith Appu. Ramen joined them on the road. At length a chance offered of creeping up to an empty godown, behind the office where Ramen and Appu lay concealed until midnight. Lutchmiah arranged to put Gulam Moideen on sentry over the boxes from 12 to 2 (midnight). Ramen and Appu got into the office through a back window, which had either been intentionally left unfastened by Ramen over night, or was opened by the Havildar or Gulam Moideen to enable them to enter. They were brought into the Cash room by Lutchmiah. The Cash Chest was unlocked and opened by Gulam Moideen and Ramen, by means of the false keys: the Locksmith being at hand. Twelve bags containing one thousand Rupees each, were lifted out by Gulam Moideen and Ramen, and removed by them into a dark adjoining room, in the direction of the open window. The Chest was then re-locked and sealed. During this time Lutchmiah Havildar kept watch, and engaged the attention of the sentry on guard outside the building. When the money was safe in the adjoining room, he came and counted it.

21. Some little altercation took place about the future custody of the false keys. When locking up and sealing the Chest, the keys came into the hands of Appu. Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen wished to recover them. Ramen objected; lest they should go on helping themselves. It ended by Appu's retaining possession of them.

22. One bag of a thousand Rupees was given to Appu; and Ramen took two bags as his share. They got out of the same window through which they had entered, and escaped unseen behind the godown and stables of the adjoining premises, with their booty.

23. Gulam Moideen and Lutchmiah then removed the remaining bags through the same open window into the empty godown. And as soon as the former was relieved, at 2 A. M., he was sent by Lutchmiah in undress, to remove the bags to the sea side and bury them. This he completed by gun-fire in the morning; having buried them at three several spots.

24. The following evening Gulam Moideen and Lutchmiah privately conveyed four bags from the Sea beach to the house of Lutchmiah. They then called their confederate, Changali Havildar: and, having told him that they had only taken eight instead of twelve bags, allowed him to join them in removing from the Sea beach, and dividing the remaining five bags. They told him that Ramen and Appu had, as was the case, got three bags.

25. These three confederates each took one bag the same evening. The next night they divided the remaining two bags between them; giving a further small share to the blacksmith Appu.

26. The loss of the money was discovered on the 30th June. The usual monthly examination of Cash Balances took place on that date; and twelve bags of 1000 Rupees each were found deficient. A diminution in the number of bags had not been observed at the time; because the appearance of the contents of the Chest was changing from day to day, and the amount of money and number of bags in the Chest were very considerable. Care was also, no doubt, taken by Ramen in removing the bags, to leave little or no external appearance in their position, which could excite suspicion.

27. The money, save what was taken by Ramen and Appu, has been in the Lines of the 18th Regiment ever since. And it is clear that much altercation has taken place with those of the gang who ought to have participated; but were cheated. The actual thieves bought off several parties with small shares. Mahomed Khan, a witness in this case, whom, though a general confederate, I have under the authority of Government accepted as a witness, states that they found his importunities and knowledge so inconvenient that, with the active and powerful aid of the Subadar Major, a false charge was trumped up and witnessed against him by some suborned Fakeers of equivocal character. He was brought to a Court Martial and dismissed. Every exertion has since been made to get him removed out of the country.

28. The actual theft was confined, as above sketched, to a few; but there is no doubt that many in the Regiment knew of the design, and who executed it. The affair was thoroughly "blown" in the Lines; and the Native Officers, *well* as they must have been acquainted with the position of the guards and sentries, could not fail to have had their convictions as to the perpetrators of this crime. The exchange between Havildars Lutchmiah and Laul Homed, on the 10th of June, and the transfer of Gulam Moideen from the Commissariat to the Pay Office guard, on the same day, could scarcely have failed to have been talked of in the Regiment; nor could the frequency with which Havildar Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen had themselves put on this guard fail to have attracted the attention of their comrades. Why then under these circumstances did this matter not at once come to light? Why has it devolved upon Civil detectives to discover a crime planned and carried out by the men of the Regiment? Why has the crime prevailing in this Regiment neither been prevented nor successfully detected?

29. Prisoner Gulam Moideen states that he gave a bag containing one thousand Rupees to the Subadar Major Mooneelal, and confided the whole transaction to him. He also gave five hundred Rupees to the Havildar Major.

30. Prisoner Changali states that he gave to the Subadar Major two hundred Rupees and certain cloths: and that he likewise conversed with him on the subject of this crime and was told to keep quiet.

31. Through the kindness of the Colonel Commanding the Regiment, I had a private interview with the Subadar Major. I pressed him earnestly in regard to his duty. I am accustomed to observe those peculiar indications of guilty knowledge which the demeanour of most persons implicated in crime, rarely fails to manifest when under close examination. I was most

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unfavorably impressed with the demeanour of this Officer, and the hopelessness of looking for aid at his hand. It is a remarkable fact that, while he could not suppress the name of so notorious a character as Changali Havildar, he carefully avoided all mention of Lutchmiah Havildar and Gulam Moideen as suspected persons. He suppressed their names, although that of the first had transpired very generally as a culprit, and was already known to the outside Police; and although Gulam Moideen had been living for some time in so profuse and wasteful a manner, as to have attracted the attention of Arrack Shop-keepers and others, wholly unconnected with the Lines. Gulam Moideen is a man of the Subadar Major's own Company. The Subadar Major further named to me, as a suspected character, Havildar Oomer Khan, from whom, as he was then probably aware, I and my detective Officers were already obtaining some of the effective information, which has led to the detection of this heinous crime. He indicated as the Locksmith, who he asserted might have been employed, a person who was wholly unconnected with the crime, and who he knew had already left the place. And what little this reluctant examinee would say, was of such a general and discussive character as to be wholly useless, and rather calculated to divert my attention. He withheld every single fact, such as the exchanges of guards above alluded to, which might have served in my hands as a clue towards the detection of the crime.

32. The Jemadar Adjutant was likewise sent to aid me. I rallied him as to his duty to the State; but he maintained the most stolid reticence. I felt that he was withholding information which he could have given. These interviews and information obtained, satisfied me that there was nothing to be done with the Native Officers of this Regiment. They had not aided their own Officers in exposing so disgraceful a crime. No Native Officer gave me the slightest aid.

33. The frequent interviews of the Subadar Major and other Native Officers with Captain Blomfield, the Superintendent of Police, when the crime was fresh, were of an equally futile character. Did they not know that in the returns of Guards given to Captain Blomfield, Lutchmiah's name, as having been on duty over the Pay Office, and that of Gulam Moideen, as having been one of the sentries, *were carefully suppressed*, and other names furnished in their stead? Did they not know that men were being brought before him to state falsely that they were on duty on that date?

34. The Havildar Major, Sawmy Rajoo, made the exchanges which placed Lutchmiah Havildar and Gulam Moideen, out of their proper turn over the Pay Office. And it is clear that on other occasions, men of this gang got themselves placed on this guard, to enable them to take impressions of the locks and seal and to try the false keys. These arrangements could only be made with the sanction and aid of the Havildar Major. Did he suspect nothing before the offence? Why did he not report these indications of crime after the offence had transpired? Did he not know that he was making an incorrect return of the men on that guard, when furnishing Captain Blomfield some time in July last, with a statement of the men on duty between the 6th and 30th June? He induced Havildar Mootoosawmy falsely to state that he had been on duty at the Pay Office on the day that he (Havildar Major) had effected the exchange between Havildars Laul Homed and Lutchmiah. And lastly prisoner Gulam Moideen states that he gave to this Non-Commissioned Officer, 500 Rupees.

35. Captain Blomfield has been instructed to see whether a criminal charge may not be framed against Havildar Major Sawmy Rajoo, under the Indian Penal Code. He is in the custody of the Police.

36. I did not see any way to arresting the Subadar Major with fair prospect of convicting him under the Indian Penal Code. But in a case of this importance it may be desirable to take legal opinion. On this point I request the instructions of Government.

37. I deem it my duty to exonerate Captain Douglas from all blame. Under similar combination, almost any Officer might find himself in the same predicament. In the Departmental arrangements, so far as his personal duties were concerned, all reasonable precautions were maintained. The Military arrangements are those which have obtained for years; and had the guard been trustworthy, crime was impossible. No personal responsibility attaches to this Officer. Captain Douglas has afforded the most active aid in detecting this case, and the readiest facility for tracing any want of care on his part. Captain Douglas further placed at my disposal

five hundred Rupees to advance the ends of justice. I therefore trust that the Government will undertake the loss, which this crime has entailed. I urge this with great confidence in the justice of my recommendation.

38. The only point open to remark in regard to Captain Douglas, is the fact that he allowed the Peon Ramen to seal up the chest occasionally after he had locked it up. This menial duty is naturally entrusted to a man in Ramen's position; and in this case there was the additional guarantee that the Havildar and sentry on duty, who saw the boxes locked up, remained there until the seals were re-placed; and as soon as that operation was completed, the Havildar came to the Paymaster and reported that the seals having been correctly affixed, and that he had taken charge. A more perfect guarantee could scarcely be devised.

39. I beg that the officials of the Paymaster's Office, who have been suspended under the Order of Government, dated 1st October 1863, No. 639, Financial Department, may at once be re-instated. No blame attaches to any one of them. These Officers have no doubt been put to inconvenience and anxiety: but they must themselves feel that such a measure was called for under the then existing circumstances of uncertainty; and that it has had the advantage of preventing it from being ever asserted, that their influence in the office, might have impeded the thorough inquiry which has resulted in their entire exoneration from privity or blame.

40. The only point open to remark in regard to the Cash-keeper, is that the Peon Ramen had an opportunity of taking an impression of the key of the Cash-keepeer's padlock of the large Cash Chest. This occurred in consequence of this key being attached to the same string as the key of the small box, in which the Cash-keeper keeps the few Rupees to meet petty expenses. I do not attach any reprehensible neglect to this. It is an occurrence that might befall any ordinary person in the transaction of his daily duties; and naturally the presence of a Military guard inspired a confidence which was in no wise unreasonable.

41. The detection of so important a case has of course, called for more than ordinary exertion on the part of all who have been engaged in it. To Captain Blomfield, the Superintendent of Police, and Mr. Bates, who have been indefatigable, my best thanks are due. I have rarely seen good detective qualifications more zealously and successfully used than those of Onden Amboo, Sheristadar, of Upput Kunnen, Tahsildar of Wynaad, of Kristna Putter, Acting Tahsildar of Chericul and of Coonhy Kristna Menoky, Inspector of Police. Without their aid the criminals would probably never have been brought to justice. I have also had most useful aid from Carrai Cooty, Abkerry Contractor, Mr. John Boyer, Superintendent of Sea Customs at Mondol, Coony Amboo Head Constable, Andrew D'Souza and others.

42. The persons from whom our working clues have been obtained are named in the margin; together with the rewards for which I recommend them.

| | |
|---|---|
| Omer Khan, Havildar 5th Company 18th Regiment N. I. | |
| Coonhi Pari Mopla | Rs. 340 |
| Mahomed Khan, late Sepoy 18th Regiment N. I. | „ 340 |
| Cherikul Coren | „ 195 |
| Mahomed Caza Peon | „ 75 |
| | „ 50 |
| | Rupees 1000 |

43. Omer Khan is the only Petty Officer of the Regiment who has been of any use in putting me in the right direction. His information was accurate so far as it went. He indicated the right persons. He did his duty in the face of many obstacles and much obloquy. To him is chiefly to be attributed, so far as the men of this Regiment are concerned, the successful detection of a case, which, for the sake of the service, and a variety of other considerations that will readily suggest themselves to Government, it was all important should be brought to light.

44. Mahomed Khan no doubt belonged to the gang, as regards other crimes. And, as he admits, he had foreknowledge of the design; but he had nothing to do with the actual offence. He was cheated by his confederates; and has now lost his service. Detective Officers must occasionally ply such equivocal sources for their information; and in this instance, the aid has been very valuable. His subsequent conduct entitles him to consideration.

45. Coonhi Pari is a Mopla of this country, well acquainted with what goes on in the Lines, and able to obtain information of the rumours current amongst the men. Through him Mahomed Khan's aid was obtained, and he well deserves to be liberally rewarded.

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46. Chericul Coren is an influential man, from whom most useful information and aid was obtained in tracing the manufacture, &c., of the false keys used.

47. Several crimes have occurred in the Lines of the 18th Regiment during the last two years. And some of those that have been committed in the Cantonment and Lines of the other Regiment have, with or without sufficient grounds, been thought to have been perpetrated by men of this Regiment. I have drawn the attention of the Superintendent of Police, and likewise of the Adjutant of the 18th Regiment very earnestly to this matter, and I trust that the measures taken will have the effect of preventing, if not of successfully detecting, these offences.

48. The Adjutant, Lieutenant Clubley, under the kind instructions of the Commanding Officer, lent me his active aid, when the true clues were presented to him. And he ably unravelled the frauds that had been practised on himself and others, in the exchanges of duty and preparation of the Returns, &c., that were placed before Captain Blomfield at the time when the first inquiry took place.

49. I have never met with a more interesting crime. The boldness of the design which was so ably and persistently followed up to full success, and the cleverness of combination in associating with themselves all persons whose co-operation was indispensable, indicate the experience and confidence that are acquired by a long course of crime. But the more painful, and at the same time *gravely important*, feature of the case obviously is the long successful suppression of all proof and information of so disgraceful a crime—not only on the part of those Native Officers of the Regiment to whom the statements of culprit and reasonable inferences clearly point *as corrupt;* but of the others, who could not have failed to entertain grave suspicions, and might have aided their Officers and the Police. Surely the conspirators must have counted upon this criminal aid and neglect of duty, to tide them over their difficulties.

50. I beg to forward herewith copies of the depositions taken from the prisoners named in the margin; as well as of that of the late Private Mahomed Khan.

1. Peon Ramen.
2. Havildar Lutchmiah.
3. Sepoy Gulam Moideen.
4. Locksmith Appu.
5. Havildar Changali.

51. Two plans are also enclosed to show the position of the Paymaster's Office, and the adjacent buildings.

P. S.—I have taken upon myself to disburse the rewards named in paragraph 42 to such men as are not witnesses in the trial.

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*K. Ramen, late Peon in the Paymaster's Office at Cannanore.*

About six months ago Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen came to me to my house; they said for some medicine, but would return again. They came back a couple of days later. They came together again, said they had much to talk about with me, but did not allude to this matter. They said they would return the next day. Next day or the day after, Gulam Moideen came, he was alone. It was in the evening. He (Gulam Moideen) said that Lutchmiah Havildar had sent him to call me (K. Ramen) and took me away to the neighbourhood of the Lines of the 18th Regiment. I stood on the road near Mr. Jacob's house. Gulam Moideen went to call the Havildar, and brought him, they came together; it was about 6 P. M. Lutchmiah Havildar then said we are thinking of taking twenty bags of money out of the Cash Chest in the Paymaster's Office. Could you get us the gentleman's keys? I said that it would be difficult to get at the Paymaster's keys; they are always in his box, so that I am not able to get them; he said could you not go to the Paymaster's house, and gain over his servant, and get the keys? I said that would be difficult. He then asked me to talk it over with the gentleman's servant and see. This took place in the time of Captain Magrath, late Paymaster. He said if you can only get them this evening, we will do it and give them back at once; we parted. I said I would consider and see to-morrow. I did not make overtures to the servants. The gentleman locked up the keys in his box; so I did not mention it to his servants, and said nothing about it to him.

Next day in the evening at 5 P. M., Lutchmiah Havildar came to my house with a Sepoy named Oosman Khan, and asked whether I had seen about it. I said that the keys could not be got, the gentleman was going in a fortnight. He said well, when the new gentleman comes will you be able to arrange it with his servant? I said I don't know what servant he may have, but if he entertains the present Paymaster's servant, Poken, I will try to arrange it. He added if you can get the keys, I have a locksmith ready to make the keys. I will take an impression of them, and return them immediately. He did not name him. Some six or seven days later, Havildar Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen, came again to my house, they said we have made another arrangement; we have made the shape of the key in wax (of the shaft of key) we put the wax into the key hole, and got the impression which we have given to locksmith Appu to make a key. Both men mentioned this. Lutchmiah said I will try it the next time I am on guard, or Gulam Moideen will do it, or Oosman Khan.

Some days later they came back to my house and said they had tried the new keys but they would not open the lock, neither of them fitted. They would get it put right, and try it again the next time they went on guard. That they had taken some further impressions which would enable them to make them fit next time; that now they wanted the impression of the Cash-keeper's key and asked me to get it for them, as their attempt to make a false key had failed; that they would next time they were on guard bring wax on which I was to get an impression of the key. About four days later Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen came to my house and told me that they would go on guard next day. They then brought three keys, said that the two smaller keys fitted all right, the larger key did not, so I must get the Cash-keeper's key and get an impression of it on wax. They showed the keys that had been made and had failed; they said that only Gulam Moideen would be on guard; that he would take the impression.

Next day Gulam Moideen was on guard, the Cash-keeper gave me his bunch of keys to open the small box; the keys of the large Chest is attached to the same string, and I took an impression of it on wax given to me by Gulam Moideen; this was about 10 o'clock A. M.

About two days later these two men, Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen, came to my house. They brought the counterfeit of the Cash-keeper's key and a seal. They did not bring the other two keys before described, they said they were all right; that Kellapen had put them right. I did not speak to Kellapen about it. They said the impression of the key I had given them, did not answer. I had given the impression of the bottom of the key. They wanted me to get one of the side; the next day Gulam Moideen would be on guard when, if I would give him the key, he (Gulam Moideen) would himself take the impression. Next day Gulam Moideen came on guard. I gave him the key when the bunch was given over to me by the Cash-keeper to open the small box; he took the impression and returned it immediately.

That evening they brought the key and seal as above described. They said the seal had not turned out right, that they had picked up one of the seals (wax impressions) that had been broken off when opening the box, but it had not answered because the impression was on black sealing wax, that they would bring wax on which I was to give them a clear impression of the gentleman's seal; that Lutchmiah Havildar would be on guard next day.

Next day when sealing up the boxes at 4 P. M., I made an impression with sealing wax (Office wax) and gave it to Lutchmiah, he looked at it, said it would not do, took some wax out of his Pouch, and while I was sealing up, made a seal on the top of the box: Oosman Khan was sentry. The Havildar Lutchmiah told him to look out that no one came while he did it, and he told him to stand by the door. Some days later Lutchmiah came to my house and told me that the seal had been made all right; he was alone then. He said that same day he (Lutchmiah) would go on guard with Gulam Moideen or Oosman Khan, or get both of them on the guard, and they would take the money; that I must come and they would bring Appu Blacksmith at the same time. I had not seen Appu all this time.

Some ten or twelve days before the deficiency was found out, one evening Lutchmiah came to my house, and said I go on guard to-morrow, with either Gulam Moideen, or Oosman Khan. Next

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day Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen were on guard. Lutchmiah told me at 3 P. M., that Gulam Moideen had tried all three keys one of them was a little wrong; that Gulam Moideen would go and get it filed, and as he returned would call me, he would bring the blacksmith also; that evening I met Gulam Moideen and Appu on the road. They were coming for me; I accompanied them to the office. Gulam Moideen left me and Appu on the road and said he would come and fetch us, within half an hour he returned, (it was past gun-fire) and called us in, we went into the godown behind the house, it was open.

About 10 o'clock Gulam Moideen came and called us, it might have been later, and we entered through the window of the Paymaster's room, the hook had been undone, and the window opened. Lutchmiah was in the room, and told us to sit down there; it was dark, there was no light there. The keys were with Appu, at about midnight (12 o'clock) after the guards were changed, and Gulam Moideen came on sentry he (Gulam Moideen) came and took two of the keys from Appu, saying he would go and see if they answered, the remaining key and seal remained with Appu. About half an hour after Gulam Moideen came and called us, and said that two locks had already been opened, and took away the other key. We had arranged that eight bags only were to be taken. Gulam Moideen said the Havildar wished eleven to be taken; I objected, as there was then not much in the box. The Havildar came and insisted on eleven being taken. I still objected, we went in, and opened the box, then Appu stood at the door. Gulam Moideen took out four bags, I took out four bags, I objected to more being taken out, he lifted out four more, they were placed in the writer's room. The Havildar was outside diverting the attention of the guard, we closed the box, locked and sealed it, Gulam Moideen locked it, I put one seal that on the lock, Gulam Moideen put the other on the box, Lutchmiah came where the cash was lying, and counted it, he told me to take two bags, and Appu one; he told Gulam Moideen to give them. Appu got the keys and seal, from Gulam Moideen, he wanted them back, but I refused as they would help themselves again, the keys remained with Appu, we took the bags and put them near the window. The Havildar told us to stop till the guard was changed when he would send Gulam Moideen with us, but we would not stay. Appu got out first, and I after. The bags were on the window sill, and we lifted them down. We then passed close to the walls of the godown behind the stables of the next house, and out at the gate, and then I and Appu came together along the road, as far as Munam Pediga (3rd Bazar) when we parted. I got two bags, he (Appu) got one. I buried them at once in the garden of my house in a quarry.. Some was buried elsewhere for expenditure. I saw Lutchmiah one day after this and Gulam Moideen another day. They told me to keep it all close. This was before the loss was discovered; about 5 or 6 days ago, I took fright that search would be made and took the money out of the first place and put it into the house of Keery.

She had gone to another house at the time. She was an acquaintance of mine. I told her after I had done it, but she did not know when I put it there. I admitted when asked all this, and like the others who gave up property pointed out the spot and gave up the money. It was the same money that I had taken out of the box as above described, it was in two bundles, one in a basket, and one in a cloth belonging to me, it came when counted before me at the station house, to about Rupees 1767. The balance has been spent, I lost some in play. The bags had rotted before they were removed from the place when first buried. I see the two bundles, the cloth and basket are mine.

MEMO:—*Then the two bundles as discovered and covered with the basket and cloth as they were found when dug up are shown to him, and he recognizes and acknowledges them.*

*Question.*—Did you ever see Changali Havildar or have any communication with him?

*Answer.*—I know Changali by sight, he comes to the guard, and I was told by Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen that he Changali and Oosman Khan were also in the plot, for counterfeiting the keys and obtaining the cash. I had no direct communication with Changali.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

*6th November* 1863.

*Lutchmiah, No.* 1304, *Havildar of 4th Company of the* 18*th Regiment N. I.*

*Question.*—Have you any thing to state in regard to the loss of money from the Paymaster's Cash Chest?

*Answer.*—The plot appears to have been long designed some three months before the occurrence. Mahomed Khan came and told me that he and others had arranged to get some money out of the Paymaster's Chest and invited me to join them. I observed that the keys were English keys and it would be difficult. He said that they had a good man to make keys, that they could do it without danger and would not be caught. We have often done such things, what is this? He said that Changali Havildar, Shekh Ally and Umer Khan knew about it and told me to ask them, I never spoke to Shekh Ally or Umer Khan about it. One day I spoke to Changali Havildar. He said that they had been consulting about opening the Cash Chest and had seen the locksmith, but he seemed mad and to be a coward and thin, and not fit, and added "I don't think he will do. You better see him yourself." About ten days after I saw Mahomed Khan again, and he said that there was no fear and that they could do it. I asked him to show me the locksmith that it would require a man of strong heart; I then said "I shall see about it. Let me see him (the locksmith). We had arranged to get the impression of seal and keys with the former Massalchy but he is dead, or we would have done it before." He promised to show me the locksmith that I might judge.

Next day after roll call I accompanied Oosman Khan, Mahomed Khan's brother to the house of Appu the locksmith, he was not at home and we returned together. Some time after I saw Gulam Moideen. He belongs to the same set of Changali, Mahomed Khan and others. He spoke to the same effect but said we must get some of the peons of the office to join and then it could be done. So we arranged, I and Gulam Moideen, to see if we could get the peon. One day we went to the peon's house. We had been trying to get a plant (Veli parti). We wanted to sound him and spoke to him about this plant. He said he would get it and come to-morrow. Next day we went again, I and Gulam Moideen. Gulam Moideen said he had some business with him and wanted to speak to him and I told him so too, but we would return and so we went away. Shortly after I and Oosman Khan went to sound him. We went to his (the peon's) house. We thought to make him our friend. We asked him what kind of workman Appu was, whether he (the peon) knew him. He said he was a clever man, a good locksmith, and employed in the General Stores. The peon then said you have some other object what is it? You seem to be keeping back something in your mind. I think I know what you mean, speak out, dont fear. I said I cannot, I must know your mind. We will talk again about it. He said he would not tell any one. We left him without explaining ourselves. I know that Gulam Moideen went next day but I did not go. At 7 P. M. Gulam Moideen came to me and said that he could not find Changali and Mahomed Khan, and called me to the road near the barracks, and then I found Ramen the peon standing. He said he (Gulam Moideen) had fully told Ramen all about it. I might now speak to him safely. When I spoke to Ramen about the plan, he asked me how I felt myself. I said my mind is not quite sure. I don't know what kind of man the smith is, and whether we can now effect the plan of taking money out of the Cash Chest that failed when the late Massalchy died. He said the locksmith Appu is a good man. In future you must not come to my house many together to consult but one at a time. Either of you can come. He said he could not get the gentleman's keys, but would secure the Cashkeeper's and the seal. He never got the gentleman's key in his hand. We then separated. When I next saw Mahomed Khan he said the locksmith could make the keys if he could only see the lock; that he would manage to show the lock to the smith while I (deponent) or Changali were on guard. One day the locksmith (Appu) was brought to the premises by Mahomed Khan. But I could not admit him, all the guard would have seen. I spoke to him near the privy and told him to go. Sometime after Gulam Moideen while on guard took the impression of the key-hole (inside) with a long piece of wax and brought it to me. I took it from him and took it to the house of Appu. Oosman Khan accompanied me. I saw the locksmith, he said that he had confidence now as some of the big people had joined. He said he would make it. I used to go after that every two or three days especially when it

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was my turn for guard to see if it was ready. He made the keys and gave them to us. Oosman Khan and I were together. Oosman Khan gave them to Gulam Moideen to try them. He did so when on guard and told us after that the small padlock key fitted. The box key did not suit. They took it again to Appu. He altered it. One of them either Gulam Moideen or Oosman Khan again tried it when on guard, but still it was not right, and they brought it back. It was thus changed four or five times; still it was not right. I was on guard when the gentleman broke his key and sent for the Mission house smith. The peon told me to tell Appu to go and see it as the key had been taken to be repaired by that smith who lived near Appu's house. I sent Oosman Khan to tell him (Appu) to see it. Ramen afterwards told me that Appu did not see it, as it had been returned before he could see. On one occasion Ramen showed me while I was on guard the broken key which had been thrown into the Paymaster's drawer with other papers. I described it to Appu and he made five keys of different sizes and gave them to Gulam Moideen to try. Still they were not right. He then said he would show it to the smith who had made the key when the Paymaster's was broken. He told me that he had shown it and brought one and told me to try it. It was right this time. Gulam Moideen tried it. The peon had told him to press it in before turning it. The last key which fitted Appu kept, thus two keys were right.

Then Ramen promised to get the Cashkeeper's key. He could not get it but asked for wax to take an impression. Gulam Moideen gave him the wax; he brought the impression to his house. I and Gulam Moideen went there and fetched it away and gave it to Appu. He made two keys and asked us to try them; Gulam Moideen tried, they did not answer.

With a view to counterfeit the seal, I, Gulam Moideen and Oosman Khan picked up when on guard the seals that were daily cut off and took them to Appu the smith. He made a seal, but it would not do. One day when Ramen was sealing up the boxes and I went round to take charge, I gave Ramen a piece of wax and he gave me an impression of the seal. He used the Paymaster's seal. I sent it next day to Appu by Oosman Khan. He made a pewter and a leaden seal for us to try. It was right, that is one was right. The Cashkeeper's key was still wrong. Appu told us to get a second impression which Ramen gave to Gulam Moideen. On one occasion Gulam Moideen brought in Appu by night and showed him the lock itself. I was the Havildar of the Guard, and so I objected because Changali and others were about. This Gulam Moideen told me. The others were Mahomed Khan, Kassim Khan. I did not see them. Ramen brought Appu. I went to Ramen and told him they were all ready to seize the money, when taken out. He said it would not do if there were many, but if I would make all ready and keep it quite from the others he would come.

Appu made the key according to the side impression. We showed it to Ramen and he said it was all right, now there was no doubt. Gulam Moideen tried the key and found it right. Changali and I talked it over. Changali said don't let it be while I am on guard for they all suspect me. Ramen and I did not want all the gang to come, so we told Oosman Khan that the key was not right. I also told Mahomed Khan.

When all was ready one day some time before the Mohorum I went on guard. I forget whether I changed with Laul Homed or not. In the evening I sent Gulam Moideen inside to call Appu and Ramen. He brought them about 8 P. M., and concealed them in a godown behind the house. Ramen had left the window unfastened. Sometime between 12 and 2 A. M., Gulam Moideen brought Appu and Ramen in by the window and made them sit down in the Paymaster's room. I went and saw them. They were sitting there. It was then Gulam Moideen's turn of sentry. I put Gulam Moideen on that sentry, the Naik put him on under my order. I sat outside to see whether the Field Officer might come round. Ramen and Gulam Moideen lifted out the money after opening the box, and put it in the room at the side of the door. They then came and told me that they had taken twelve bags. I came and saw them. Ramen had set his 2000 aside. I told Appu to take his bag and they went away. I did not see the road they took. They got out of the window by which they had entered. There remained nine bags. Gulam Moideen said he would hand them out of the window if I would put them in the godown behind. I did so, but as I was slow he also got out, and helped me. After he came off guard, Gulam Moideen undressed

and took the bags and buried them on the beach, and came and told me he had done so. He went round by the privy and stables.

Next day Gulam Moideen and I strolled down to the beach in the eve about 7 P. M., and he showed me one place. We brought away each one bag. Again about 8 P. M., I and Gulam Moideen with Changali who now joined us went down and brought away three bags. Next day I and Gulam Moideen and Changali went again and brought away the rest. I don't recollect how many each brought; we each took them to our own houses. I took three bags, Gulam Moideen took three and Changali got two. There was one over. Changali took this bag and divided it between Shekh Ally, Mahomed Khan to each 200 and to Appu 100 more, to Oosman Khan 200, to Mootoomiah Rupees 100, and 200 to Umer Khan. They all came there one by one.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

MEMO:—*This prisoner took the Magistrate over the whole scene of the affair and pointed out every step taken. The property, &c., taken out of deponent's house are shown to him.*

*Question.*—Was your house searched?

*Answer.*—My house was searched; the bamboo now produced contained my money, they are in the roof of the inner room. The money taken out of them is the money I took from the Pay Office. All but fifty Rupees of my share was so concealed in the bamboo. Some of the bags appeared not to contain 1000 Rupees each.

*November 6th*, 1863. (Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

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*Private Gulam Moideen, Grenadier Company, No. 2123, 18th Regiment N. I.*

*Question.*—Have you any thing to state in regard to the loss of money from the Paymaster's Cash Chest?

*Answer.*—Changali Havildar was transferred from one of the extra Regiments about two years ago, before that I never thought of such crimes, he belongs to the same Section as myself and is the Havildar of that Section. We first became intimately acquainted about the time of the robbery of the Jemadar's house; from that time he has always tried to be very friendly with me. I borrowed ten Rupees from him. Mahomed Khan and Changali were great friends, and they then asked me to join them as they had a great many things to do. I was connected with them in a case of cattle-stealing committed by Changali and Mahomed Khan, they divided the spoil and gave me a share. I did not go with them; from this time our friendship increased, and we kept together. The Subadar Major was very friendly to me. I joined different persons in several other plots (deponent here enters into numerous other cases irrevalent to the present inquiry, and is directed to confine himself to the latter). Some four or five months before the Mohorum, one day as I was passing Changali's house, he and Mahomed Khan were seated together, they called me and said what use is there in going on with these petty games, let us make a good profit. We might take something out of the Paymaster's Cash Chest. Changali said, I am the Havildar, and when I am there the whole is under my charge. We have got people who can make the keys, the smith is a clever man, and can even imitate the letters on a Rupee. I said, I must see him. Mahomed Khan said, Changali has seen him, and says there is no fear, so I consented. I mentioned the intention to the Subadar Major that evening, about a week afterwards I went to Changali's house, he went for Mahomed Khan, and sent him for Oosman Khan, and we all assembled in Changali's house, Mahomed Khan remained at home, this took place at night, and we arranged that Oosman Khan, would take me next morning to the blacksmith's house. Next morning Oosman Khan brought Lutchmiah. I met them on the road, he said, that he knew all about it, but I gave up the intention of going to the blacksmith's, went back to Changali's and told him about Lutchmiah having joined us, he said it was all right, he was a very good man. While I was there Lutchmiah Havildar, joined us. Changali introduced us to each other, and explained my circumstances to him. Next day Changali sent me to call Lutchmiah to his house. Oosman Khan was at Changali's house, when I brought him there. 'Changali directed Oosman Khan to take me and Lutchmiah to the blacksmith's house, we went there and talked

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over the matters of the keys with him, he said that if we would bring the impression of the keys, he would make them. Lutchmiah then three or four days afterwards was on the Pay Office guard. I was on duty with him, he ordered the Naigue not to put me on the outside, but inside sentry. I should have gone on outside duty, he made the change in order to give me an opportunity of taking the impression of the keys. I then took the impression of the brass padlock and the box-lock about 10 or 11 in the day and gave it to Lutchmiah, he gave me the wax to take the impression. During the night the Havildar and myself examined the locks, and found they had wards inside, next day we went to the blacksmith's, we showed the impression to Changali, the blacksmith made two keys and gave them to us next day, a few days after that Lutchmiah got himself placed over that guard and took Oosman Khan with him, they tried the keys and found them too thick. On another occasion when I was on guard, Lutchmiah gave me wax to take another impression, but I did not succeed, as I was on the outside guard—a few days afterwards I gave the wax to Mahomed Khan, but he did not get an opportunity of taking an impression; about that time Lutchmiah Havildar told me that he would make friends with the Paymaster's Butler, and get me the keys. Lutchmiah made friends with the Peon Ramen, and I saw him speaking to him, he introduced me to him, the next day I went to Ramen's house alone; on the following day I went there again with the Havildar, but had no conversation about the money, we hinted that we had some project in view. We kept Changali informed of all that we did, he did not accompany us because he was always suspected. On another day, I went to Ramen's house, told him all our plans, and we made an appointment to meet the Havildar in the lines, he did not come and I was therefore sent for him by Lutchmiah—as I was bringing him, I told him of all our plans. I took him to the Havildar, when he said he could not get the keys, he however said that he would see and try what he could do with the Butler. I went and told all to Changali, Lutchmiah Havildar and I a few days afterwards went to Ramen's house, he said that as the charge was about being made over to a new Officer, there would be difficulty in getting the keys. Lutchmiah and I visited Ramen several times afterwards, he still held out hopes that he would get the keys, but desired that we should in future come singly. We again gave impressions of the keys to the blacksmith, who made one key for the padlock, and another for the box-lock. I took these two keys the next time I went on guard and tried them, the padlock key fitted. Sheik Ally Havildar was on duty. I took the big key again to the blacksmith. I showed the small key to the Subadar Major. Lutchmiah told me that he had afterwards gone to the blacksmith, who said that he must get another impression of the inside of the lock. I did not see any more impressions taken. On another occasion the Havildar showed me an impression which he said was that of the box-lock. We then took and left it with the blacksmith, who said that he would give us the key the next morning. The next or following day Lutchmiah and Oosman Khan brought the key and showed it to me, but none of our set were on guard on that day, I told the Subadar about this too. About eight or ten days afterwards Lutchmiah and I were on guard together. I then took the key and tried it, it did not fit. I told Ramen of it, who said, it must be well pressed in. I tried it, and so did the Havildar, but it did not answer, the Havildar then told the blacksmith to make the key deeper and wider, he made five different keys, we got the five keys, but for ten to twenty days we did not get on guard together.

Ramen supplied the necessary impressions of the Cash-keeper's key, and the blacksmith made the key, about twenty days after this the Havildar and myself were on the Pay Office guard together, he placed me on the fourth sentry from 12 to 2 at midnight. I tried the keys, one fitted, and I told the Havildar so, he then tried it, and said it was all right. Ramen told us to ask the blacksmith how the seal was to be made. Havildar Lutchmiah got some sealing wax from the bazar and gave it to Oosman Khan, who got Ramen to put an impression on it—the Havildar also told me that Ramen's impression was not a good one, and that he got one taken by himself, he must have given it to Changali, for Changali showed it to me and told me to take it next morning to the blacksmith. Next morning Lutchmiah and I took it to the blacksmith, who said it would take five or six days to make the seal. Some days after Lutchmiah called me and showed me the seal, he made an impression of it, but the letters were not perfect. He said it does not matter, as Ramen is the person who breaks the seal. Lutchmiah told me afterwards

that he took the seal and left it with Ramen. After Lutchmiah got the impression of the Cash-keeper's key, and it was made by the blacksmith, it was given to me to try, during the day the seal is not on the lock, and I took an opportunity of trying it, but it did not fit. I took it back to Lutchmiah, some days after this the blacksmith said that he must see the lock in order to get a key to fit it. Shortly after when Lutchmiah and myself got on that guard, Lutchmiah sent me one evening to bring Ramen and the blacksmith. I did so, and we concealed them in the Pay-master's room till I went on guard at 10 o'clock at night. Ramen and the blacksmith then slipped in, while the Havildar engaged the attention of the sentry outside. Ramen took off the seal on the lock and showed it to the blacksmith, who said he could now make the key, as there were wards above and below. Ramen then took a piece of paper which he had prepared, softened the old seal over the lamp, and replaced it—some ten or twelve days afterwards we got two keys for that lock. Lutchmiah told me that he tried them, they did not answer, we showed them to Ramen, who said that they were not right and promised to get a true side impression of the Cashkeeper's key, he did so and gave it to Lutchmiah, who took it to the blacksmith. Some days afterwards Lutchmiah and I went to the blacksmith's and got two keys which were just finished. Five or six days after this Lutchmiah Havildar and myself got on the Pay Office guard. Lutchmiah arranged it with the Havildar Major. Lutchmiah may have told the Havildar Major what we were about, for Lutchmiah and I got upon that guard three or four times in a month. That day the Havildar brought the keys and told me to try them, I did so during the tour of sentry between 12 and 2 in the day. When I had tried the Cashkeeper's lock a little, the key turned, and I gave it back to the Havildar. He told me to go in the afternoon in my undress to get my food, and bring at night Ramen and the blacksmith. I brought them about 7 at night, and at 8 o'clock I took and put them into a godown behind the house. I was put on sentry by the Havildar between 12 and 2 at night—shortly after the sentry was changed, the Havildar went out and called Ramen and the blacksmith. Ramen had left the window unhooked, and they got in through it and concealed themselves in the Paymaster's room. The Havildar gave me the keys and desired me to open the lock which I did. The Havildar then called in Ramen and the blacksmith. I and Ramen lifted up the lid. Ramen handed out eight bags which I took away two at a time and placed near the door of the writer's room where the Manager sits. Ramen and myself then lifted out two more bags each and placed them with the others, we then shut the box, the blacksmith locked the locks and kept the keys. Ramen put on the seals, the Havildar was standing near, he then went out with Ramen and counted the bags, the Havildar returned and examined the locks and seals and found all right, he then called me out, we gave Ramen two bags and the blacksmith one bag. I asked the blacksmith for the keys, he said he would not give them, and Ramen said they were not to be given to us. I told the Havildar, and they were refused to be given to him. They went out at the same window as they came in by, and took their bags with them. I left the rest of the money in charge of the Havildar and returned to my post. Before I was relieved the Havildar lifted all the bags through the window, and lodged some of them in the godown. After I was relieved I helped him in putting the rest there. We then consulted as to what was to be done with them. The Havildar desired me to take off my accoutrements, tell the sentry that I was going to the privy, and then go and take the bags to the sea side and bury them. I removed them two at a time by the road behind the stables of the next house which I showed to the Magistrate, and buried them in three different places on the beach. I finished by gun-fire and returned to the Pay Office by another road. Next day Changali enquired if we had finished the business I said no, in the evening as it was getting dark, Lutchmiah sent his mother-in-law and her son to the sea side by one road, while he and I came by another. We met at the corner of the compound where I had buried three bags, we took them up and put two into the basket which were taken home by Lutchmiah's mother-in-law and her son. Lutchmiah then took one bag on his shoulder and I took another from the spot where I had buried some of the money in the sand near the Magazine, and we returned by different roads to the lines. As I was carrying it I met Changali near the lines, he said, I knew you had done it. I saw you going away about 6 o'clock, and have been laying in wait for you. I said we have just brought two bags home. I told him to go to his house, and that I would come for him directly. I went and

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placed the money in Lutchmiah's house. Lutchmiah then told me to go and call Changali and take him down to the sea side. I did so, and we all three went together to the sea side, each of us then brought a bag to Lutchmiah's house.

MEMO:—*Deponent asks to correct a mistake that has been made.*

I did not meet Changali when bringing home the first two bags, it was after we had desposited them in Lutchmiah's house, that I went and called Changali, and took him down to the sea side. Lutchmiah accompanied us, and each of us brought home one bag. Changali and I then went back and brought home the two remaining bags which with the others were lodged in Lutchmiah's house. I am not quite sure if Changali was made aware of the first four bags which were brought home by Lutchmiah himself, and his mother-in-law. Each of us, viz., I, Changali and Lutchmiah took one bag the next night about 8 o'clock, we divided the two other bags between us. Lutchmiah called in the blacksmith, at the same time, and we gave him 100 Rupees. We were all three present at the same time with the blacksmith at Lutchmiah's house. Of the first four bags which were brought home, I took two and Lutchmiah two, we said nothing to Changali about these bags, the following night I took one bag from my own share and gave it to the Subadar Major, to whom I made known all about it, and he said, he would protect me whatever might come. On the 3rd I took 500 Rupees and made a present of it to the Havildar Major. I mentioned to him the circumstances, and asked him to say nothing about it, he said very well, all right, and I left. I gave 200 Rupees to Oosman Khan, also Sheik Ally Rupees 200. Some days afterwards, Sheik Oosman the former Jemadar Adjutant sent for me, and asked me to give him some money. I gave him 200 Rupees. I gave also Rupees 100 to Cassim Khan, Naigue of the 4th Company, and the remainder not given up was spent by myself, the balance which I had buried near the tree, I gave up the day before yesterday, the money is the same which I had taken from the Pay Office. I put it in an earthen pot, covered over with a cocoanut shell, the pot is broken, but the shell produced is the same which I had used.

MEMO:—*The above was written to my dictation and was taken in my presence, and in my hearing and contain accurately the whole of the statement made by the Deponent.*

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

*6th November* 1863.

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*This prisoner took the Magistrate over the whole scene and pointed out road and spot and explained what took place—at one of the spots where three bags where buried there is still the signs of the hole in which the bags were concealed, the high tides had washed over and obliterated the signs of holes at the other two spots.*

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*Appu Locksmith.*

*Question.*—Have you any thing to state in regard to the loss of money from the Paymaster's Cash Chest?

*Answer.*—Oosman Khan came to me one day at 8 o'clock in the morning about six months ago. I have known him for more than two years, he came on guard at the gentleman's house where I was working, he asked me to make a key. I said I would do so if he would bring the box, he said the box was a big one, he could not bring it, but would bring an impression of the key in wax, three or four days afterwards, he brought an impression on wax, the key had small teeth. I made a key according to the impression and gave it to him, three or four days afterwards he brought it back, saying it did not answer, the teeth should be filed deeper. I filed it and gave it to him, he returned five or six days later and said it answered, and wanted another key, of which he would bring an impression. I told him to bring it, a few days afterwards Gulam Moideen and Mahomed Khan came and brought an impression of the key hole. I asked where the box was, they said in the Paymaster's house. Gulam Moideen returned and took away the key which I had prepared from the impression, a few days afterwards he brought it and said that the shaft was a little too thick, and told me to reduce it, a few days after he took it away, in this way he took and brought it back four or five times, sometimes saying it was too thick, the wards were not long enough, on each occasion it was put right in the way desired. He, Gulam Moideen and Lutchmiah came to me another time, they said that the first two keys were all right, and that they

wanted me to make a third key. I asked why they wanted these keys. Lutchmiah then told me that they were for the Paymaster's cash box, that they were going to open it and take out some money. I was much afraid and said, I would not make any more keys, the Havildar Lutchmiah said, you need not fear, I am the Havildar of the guard. I am the man to do it. I had known Lutchmiah Havildar some six months before this, he gave me courage and said he would give me a thousand Rupees, that I need take no part in it, that he would bring the money to me. I asked him how are we to get the keys, he replied that the Peon Ramen is with us in this plan, that he would take and give us the impression. Gulam Moideen and Lutchmiah went away, and on four different occasions brought four different impressions on wax of the same key the first impression was the bottom or end of the key. I made the key, it was too thick, they then brought the impression of the barrel, on another occasion they brought the impression of the sido of the key. I made it right and gave it to them, whenever they came they used to talk about the money being taken out of the Cash Chest, they said don't be afraid, you will get into no difficulty. After the three keys were completed, they came another day and said it is true that we have the keys, but we require a seal. I asked what kind, they said they would bring the impression of the Paymaster's seal, at first they brought a wax impression. I said that would not answer, they then brought some pieces of the broken wax seals. I looked at them, and said they would not suit, they then said that they would get the Peon Raman to take a good impression of the seal on sealing wax and bring it over. Lutchmiah said that he would get it done, and send it by Gulam Moideen. One day Gulam Moideen brought it, it was a good thick one, and the seal was well impressed, he asked when the seal would be ready. I said I had two or three days work, after which I would do it, three or four days afterwards Gulam Moideen and Lutchmiah came twice to ask for it, but it was not ready. About ten days after I got the impression I gave them a seal made of lead. I handed it to Gulam Moideen, who gave it to Lutchmiah and they took it away. Gulam Moideen came back and said it was all right, we have all we want, and we must get at the money some day when Lutchmiah is on guard. We cannot do it till his turn for guard comes on. Lutchmiah told him to tell me, that he would send him to call me when it was time, and that I was to come. About five days before we took out the money which was on a Friday, Gulam Moideen came and said that Lutchmiah had sent him to tell me of the day that he would be on guard, and that I and Ramen were then to come. I said I do not know Ramen's house, he replied that he would come and fetch both me and Ramen. One day about 6 o'clock in the evening Gulam Moideen came, and told me they were going to take out the money that night, and that I should come. We started for Ramen's house, but met him on the road, it was then about 8 o'clock, the gun had not fired. We all three went to the Pay Office. We were talking about the plan. Ramen and I stopped at the gate, Gulam Moideen went up to the guard. We sat there till about 9 o'clock, about 10 o'clock Gulam Moideen came back and said that the Havildar had sent for us, he led us close to the wall of the compound, so that no one could see us, up to the godown behind the house, and put us inside a room in it. We were there till about 12 at night after they had struck the ghurry. Gulam Moideen came and said he was sent by the Havildar to call us. We all three went to the window. Gulam Moideen got in first, and then helped us in, Ramen and I remained in the room we got into, the room was quite dark. Sometime after, the Havildar came round, the keys and seal were in his hands, he called Ramen, and took him into the room. I stood near the door, Ramen and Gulam Moideen brought out the money, there were twelve bags. I saw them, the Havildar was then present, either he or Gulam Moideen gave me the keys and seal, the Havildar then wanted them back, Ramen objected, he said they could not be trusted, they would take more money and told me to keep them. I kept the keys, the Havildar then gave me one bag, and Ramen two bags. Ramen and I got out at the same window by which he had entered and we went out by the godown, and through the adjoining compound close by the wall. Ramen showed me the way, we kept together till we reached the 3rd bazaar, we there parted, I went to my house, and Ramen went to his. I lodged the money under a heap of straw in a corner of my house for that night. About ten days afterwards I removed it, buried some in the compound to the west of the house, some in the oven of the kitchen, some in the hollow of a mangoe branch, and the rest in my box—this box, about

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 2nd December* 1863.

four or five days ago, or the day before the search I removed to the house of a woman of the goldsmith caste name Coomba. I did not mention the contents. I kept the key of the box and when required produced it.

MEMO.—*The box and contents are shown to this deponent, he acknowledges them, and states that the silver chain was pledged to him by Goldsmith Kaloo for Rupees* 16, *which together with the rest of the money found was all brought from the Paymaster's Office by him as above described.*

Some days after the money was removed from the Pay Office, Gulam Moideen called and took me to Lutchmiah's house. Lutchmiah told me to tell Changali that we had only taken eight bags, and made an arrangement in order to deceive Changali to give me 300 Rupees, of which I was to give back Rupees 200 to Lutchmiah after Changali had come and left. Gulam Moideen then brought Changali; a bag was then divided into three equal shares, one of which was given to Changali, from each share 100 Rupees was put aside for me. Changali then went away with his share. Lutchmiah took Rupees 200 of my share and gave me Rupees 100 which I took away. Lutchmiah's wife and mother-in-law saw Changali, Gulam Moideen and myself coming in and going out of the house. I have seen the two keys now produced, they are the same which I made for the locks on the Paymaster's Cash Chest, the big key belongs to the iron padlock, a small key is missing, it would fit the English brass padlock now produced. I threw the three keys into the well in my compound the same night on which the money was brought home. I pointed out the well, a Mopla dived for them and brought up two keys in the presence of the Police, the third key could not be found, they have now rusted. I melted down the leaden seal, and made some shot.

*Question.*—Were you ever taken to the Paymaster's Office to see any of the locks?

*Answer.*—One day the Havildar Lutchmiah sent Gulam Moideen to call me about 7 o'clock in the morning to see the locks. I went there about 9 o'clock, the Havildar Lutchmiah said the writers had already come and he sent me back.

*Question.*—Did you ever show the key that you made for the Paymaster's chest to Kellapen blacksmith?

*Answer.*—When we found it could not be made to fit Lutchmiah told me that Kellapen had made a key for that lock, that I should show him the one I had made, and ask him if it was like the pattern. I asked Kellapen to come to my house and showed it to him, he said it was pretty nearly like it, he asked me why it was wanted. I said that some one had ordered a lock of the same muster, and I wanted to know how to make it. I kept from him the purpose for which it was actually required, and said nothing about it. Immediately after, the loss of the money from the Paymaster's chest was publicly proclaimed, and a reward for the discovery of the robber offered. Gulam Moideen one day called at my house and cautioned me against telling Oosman Khan or any of his brothers of what we had done, in case they should come to him to enquire and try to get a share. Oosman Khan one day called on me and asked me what I knew of the loss from the Pay Office. I said I knew nothing. I believe he then thought that Gulam Moideen and others had gained over the Paymaster's butler and got the keys through him. Oosman Khan's brother Mahomed Khan began to talk about this business, in the place, and to get rid of him. I learnt that Gulam Moideen and the other got up a false charge against him, and brought him before a Court Martial, he was dismissed, and they have tried to get him out of the country. Memo:—*The Paymaster's seal is shown to deponent.* The impression in sealing wax that was given to me appears to have been of the same kind, it was of the same pattern. I made a seal of the same kind in lead.

*Written over to my dictation and in my presence.*

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

*7th November* 1863.

*Further Examination.*

*The key dived for and brought out of his well on the* 10*th is shown to prisoner.*

I recognize the key now shown to me, it is that which I made to open the lock of Paymaster's Cash Chest. I threw it into the well in my compound together with other two keys as stated in my former deposition. The seal cannot be found that I destroyed.

*Question.*—Do you wish to produce any witnesses ?

*Answer.*—I do not wish to produce any witnesses.

*The whole of the above deposition was carefully written to my dictation—verbatim.*

*It was read over to the deponent in Malayalum and acknowledged by him as correct. It was taken down in my presence and hearing and contains accurately the whole of the statement made by the deponent.*

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

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*This prisoner was taken to the Paymaster's Office on the morning of Thursday 5th instant. He then made to me a full and detailed statement of all he did and pointed out on the spot each step taken by him, and the place where each act connected with the affair occurred.*

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

10*th November* 1863.

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*Changali, Havildar, No.* 2593 *of Grenadier Company,* 18*th Regiment N. I.*

*Question.*—Have you any thing to state in regard to the loss of money from the Paymaster's Cash Chest?

*Answer.*—Some two or three months before the occurrence took place, Oomer Khan, Lutchmiah, Mahomed Khan, and Oosman Khan who had made a plot to rob the Paymaster's Cash Chest, tried to get me to join them. Mahomed Khan, Gulam Moideen and Lutchmiah asked me to join them in robbing the Paymaster's Cash Chest. Lutchmiah spoke to me two or three times, also Gulam Moideen, Mahomed Khan, and Oosman Khan, all of them spoke to me about it several times.

They told me that they had got a blacksmith who had undertaken to make the keys—they were always going to his house. I did not myself go, they wanted me to have it done during the time that I commanded the Pay Office guard, but I would not consent, they did not show me the keys or the seal, this went on for two or three months. They told me that the Peon Ramen had given them the impression of the keys and seal.

The day after the robbery which took place some ten or fifteen days before the Mohorum (I do not recollect the date) Gulam Moideen told me that they had taken out eight bags out of the Cash Chest.

This was in the morning at the Barracks, when we were cleaning our accoutrements, about 12 o'clock Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen came to my house and told me that during the tour of sentry of Gulam Moideen, Ramen, the blacksmith with themselves (Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen) had opened the box with false keys and taken out eight bags, they did not then tell me where they had put it, the same evening I was on the parade ground, I observed Gulam Moideen passing me walking as if he had something heavy on his shoulder, coming from the beach. I asked him what he was carrying, he said money, he took it up to the lines. I do not know if it was put in Lutchmiah's or his own house. In about half an hour Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen returned, they said there were three more bags, and asked me to go with them. I went with them by the high road, we came to the drain which is near the European Barracks when Gulam Moideen removed a cubit of sand and took out three bags, each of us then took one, and when we got to the lines we parted, and each took his bag to his own house. Some days afterwards Lutchmiah called me to his house, the blacksmith here present was then in his house, there were besides Lutchmiah's mother-in-law, Gulam Moideen and Lutchmiah himself, they were dividing one bag of Rupees, they were all counted out in lots of 20 Rupees each, they gave me 200 Rupees, but afterwards took back 20 Rupees and left me only Rupees 180, they gave the blacksmith Rupees 200, but took back 100 of it afterwards, they told me on no account to tell any one. I then took my money and went home.

*Question.*—You have said above that you were told eight bags were taken out, you have accounted for five, what became of the remainder ?

*Answer.*—They, that is Lutchmiah and Gulam Moideen told me that three bags were given to Ramen and the blacksmith.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,*
*2nd December* 1863.

When the Police arrested me, I gave up the money which I had concealed in a garden some distance from my house. Out of my share I gave 200 Rupees to the Subadar Major, Rupees 100 to Sheik Ally Havildar, and Rupees 50 to Mahomed Khan. I took Rupees 50 with me to Madura. The Subadar Major told one of the Havildars to write and ask me to bring him four Dhoties (waist cloths) three of six cubits and one of twelve cubits. I brought and gave them to him but received nothing for them. I have the letter from Mootoosawmy Havildar, directing me to bring them. I can produce it. The amount I dug out in the presence of the Police was 889 Rupees, it was buried in a brass lotah, the same now produced which is my property, the money belonged to the Paymaster's Cash Chest. In the search of my house in the lines, forty Rupees were discovered with some jewels, the articles now shown me are the money and the jewels that were so taken.

MEMO:—*The deponent states that the money was not buried in a garden, but in a lane where there is no thoroughfare.*

MEMO:—*The above was written to my dictation, the deposition was taken in my presence and in my hearing, and contains accordingly the whole of the statement made by the party.*

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

6*th November* 1863.

*Question.*—Did you mention the circumstance connected with the robbery of the Cash Chest to any of your Officers ?

*Answer.*—I mentioned it to the Subadar Major, he said never mind, keep quiet. I mentioned it to no one else. No one else was present when I spoke to the Subadar Major.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

9*th November* 1863.

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*Mahomed Khan, late a Private in the* 18*th Regiment N. I., aged* 37 *years.*

*Question.*—What do you know in the matter of the loss of money from the Paymaster's Cash Chest?

*Answer.*—Some six or seven months ago one night I went to Changali's house. Changali Havildar, Gulam Moideen Sepoy, and Lutchmiah Havildar were there; they were talking about the design to take money out of the Paymaster's Cash Chest; they took me also into their confidence. Lutchmiah Havildar told me that he had gained over the Pay Office Peon; they mentioned that they had already got the seal counterfeited; they spoke about the key that had been broken in the lock by the Paymaster, and that they would be able to get at it through the Peon. Some ten days afterwards I asked Lutchmiah Havildar whether they had managed to get the keys; he said we must give that up as we were never able to get at the keys say nothing about it. During the Mohorum in the latter end of June, I observed that Lutchmiah Havildar and Gulam Moideen were spending a great deal of money, before that they had scarcely enough to get their meals. I was sure that they had effected the removal of the money from the Paymaster's Treasury; they would not let me speak to them; they kept me at a distance. But as Gulam Moideen was a great friend of the Subadar Major, they were very intimate. I did not say any thing about it. When the loss of the money was tom-tommed in the place, then I became certain that they and no others had done it. I am in very indigent circumstances. I could not even thatch my house though my wife had been just confined, and I had lost a child.

So I went to each of the three and begged, by laying hold of their feet for some of the money. They refused to give me any, but turned round and accused me of the theft; then feeling that I knew all about it, they made a conspiracy to turn me out of the Regiment. They got a Fakeer to prefer a false charge and another one to give false evidence; the Subadar Major joined with them. These people must have gone and told him to get rid of me, and the Subadar Major, Lutchmiah Havildar and Gulam Moideen got the case up, got me dismissed and turned out of the Cantonment.

I know Ramen; he is the Pay Office Peon. I saw him one morning coming to Lutchmiah's house; he had his cloth drawn over his head; when I saw that, I became certain that he too was

an accomplice with Lutchmiah Havildar in robbing the Cash Chest of the Pay Office. When Ramen went in he shut the door. I tapped at it, but he did not open it. I heard the noise of money being handled inside.

*Question by Havildar Lutchmiah.*—What is your character in the Regiment, and what is mine? did you not bring me into your conspiracy, was I not an honest man?

*Answer.*—He robbed the Cash Chest what else can I say of his character.

*Question by Gulam Moideen.*—Was it not you who told us how to get the seal counterfeited?

*Answer.*—If I had been an accomplice in the matter I should have got my share of 2000 Rupees.

*Question by Gulam Moideen.*—Did you ever take me to Appu's house?

*Answer.*—No.

*This deposition was read over to the deponent in Hindustani; he acknowledged that it is correct; the evidence was taken down in my presence and hearing, and under my personal direction and superintendence.*

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
*Magistrate.*

*9th November* 1863.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, 2nd December 1863, No. 1884.

The Governor in Council desires that the thanks of Government may be conveyed to the Inspector General of Police for the very able manner in which he has detected the perpetrators of the robbery of the Cannanore Cash Chest, and for his full and clear report of the circumstances of the case. The thanks of Government are also due to Captain Blomfield, Superintendent of Police; Mr. Bates, Deputy Collector; and the other Officers named in the 41st paragraph of the Inspector General's report.

2. A copy of Mr. Robinson's report will be forwarded, through the Military Department, to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in order that His Excellency may take such measures as he may deem proper, with reference to the state of things which appears to have obtained for some time past in the 18th Regiment N. I.

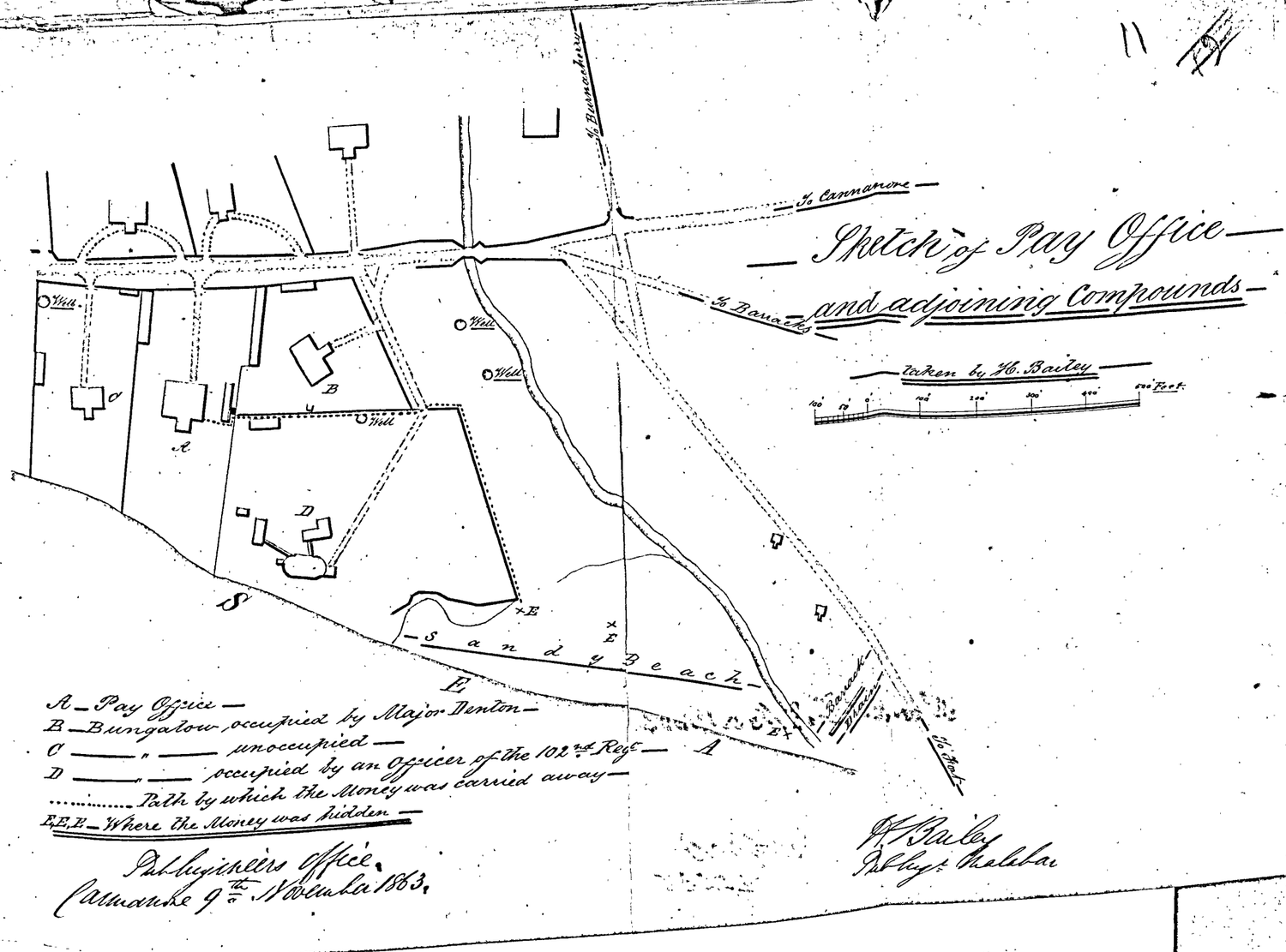
3. A copy will also be forwarded to the Government Pleader for his opinion as to the expediency of prosecuting the Subadar Major Mooneelal under the provisions of the Penal Code. It will probably be advisable to defer any decision on this point until after the close of the trial of the prisoners, who have been committed to the Sessions Court at Tellicherry, after which their evidence will be available.

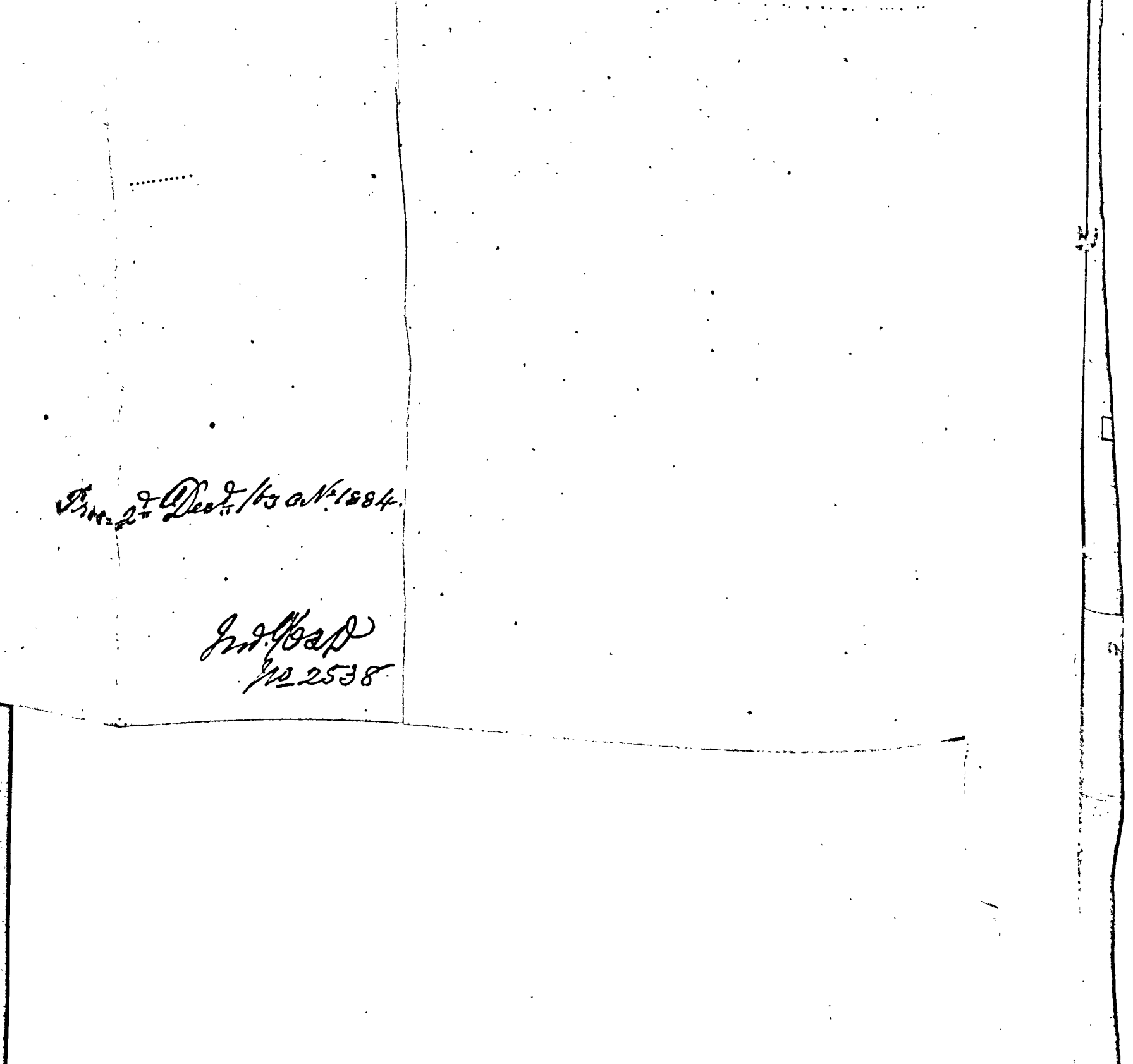
4. The Governor in Council sanctions the payment of the rewards specified in paragraph 42 of the Inspector General's letter.

5. The Cashkeeper and other subordinates who were suspended under the order passed in the Financial Department on the 1st ultimo, No. 639, will now be re-instated in their respective situations; and their salaries for the period of their suspension will be disbursed to them.

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

Exd. T. McMootry.




Fm. 2d Dest. 63 a No. 1584.
Ind. Bd
No 2538

# — Ground Plan —
# of the Bungalow at Canna —
# — now occupied as a Jury Office —

Writers

Cash Room

Treasury

Guard Room

Pay Masters Office

Stores

Stationery

Gumbee

Records

Empty

Covered Passage

Godown

Cookroom

Godown's

Sepoys Privy

Pay Masters Office
Canna 9th November 1863.

Judicial
No 1338

Ans. 9 Dec. 1863



Judicial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Police.

Dated Fort 20th November 1863. No

Order thereon 2nd December 1863. No 1594

The Governor in Council desires that the thanks of Government may be conveyed to the Inspector General of Police for the very able manner in which he has detected the perpetrators of the robbery of the Carnanore Cash Chest, and for his full and clear report of the circumstances of the case. The thanks of Government are also due to Captain Blomfield, Superintendent of Police; Mr Bates, Deputy

Deputy Collector; And the other Officers named in the 21st paragraph of the Inspector Generals report.

2. A copy of Mr. Robinson's report will be forwarded, through the Military department, to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, in order that His Excellency may take such measures as he may deem proper, with reference to the disgraceful state of things which appears to have obtained for some time past in the 18th Regiment N.I.

3. A copy will also be forwarded to the Government Pleader for his opinion as to the expediency of prosecuting the Subadar Major



Major Moneelal under the provisions of the Penal Code. It will probably be advisable to defer any decision on this point until after the close of the trial of the prisoners, who have been committed to the Sessions Court at Tellicherry, after which their evidence will be available.

4. The Governor in Council sanctions the payment of the rewards specified in paragraph 42 of the Inspector Generals letter.

5. The Cash keeper and other subordinates who were suspended under the order passed in the Financial Department on the 1st Instant, No. 639, will now be reinstated in their respective

respective situations; and their salaries for the period of their suspension will be disbursed to them.

To

The Inspector General of Police
The Collector & Magistrate of Malabar.
The Military Department.
The Government Pleader
The Controller of Military Finance
The Financial Department
The Civil Paymaster
The Dy Auditor & Asst. General

dispd 3/12

Revenue Department dispd 3/12

Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Judicial 1863, Department.

No. 1884

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 2nd December 1863

Ref. 12/64

Passing orders on the report of the Inspector Genl. of Police regarding the robbery committed in the cash Chest of the Paymaster at Cannanore.

25426

202/53/88.