M.R.O. 1—33,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 645 Press ~~His.~~

220-221

Dated 27.4.1863 ~~##~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th April 1863.

No. 220 Read the following letter from A. MACDONALD RITCHIE, Esq., Registrar, High Court, Madras; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 10th April 1863.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a petition, in Triplicate, from Mr. Felix James, late an employé in Her Majesty's late Supreme Court, Madras, in order that the same may be transmitted in due course to the Secretary of State for India in Council.

To the Right Honorable Sir CHARLES WOOD, Bart., M.P., Secretary of State for India.

The humble petition of **FELIX JAMES**, late an employé in Her Majesty's Supreme Court, Madras.

HUMBLY AND RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That the innumerable people of this empire have no one else to look to, as the last resort of appeal, than to your Excellency, as the Secretary of the State for India, for the redress of their grievances, and your Excellency will therefore be pleased to pardon petitioner for presuming to appeal to so exalted an authority.

That petitioner having failed, through the means of the local authorities, to obtain a recognition of his just claims, has no alternative but to throw himself at your Excellency's feet, and in the extremity of his distress, to implore your Excellency's compassion.

That petitioner was a Clerk in the Registrar's Office of the late Supreme Court of Madras, that he entered the Department at the age of 14 in 1810; that now after an uninterrupted servitude of 48 years he is left destitute with his family; and that this great misfortune has been brought on him from no fault of his, but under the following circumstances.

That inconsequence of certain arrangements in the office, the then Registrar compelled petitioner to retire on a pension he considering him too old, although petitioner felt that he had a few years more work in him, that submitting to power, petitioner took his pension, which he received regularly from 15th of September 1859 to 31st December 1860, when it ceased, in consequence of Mr. Serle's death, that under the circumstances, petitioner appealed to Mr. Serle's successors, either to grant him his pension, or to give him back his place, as his resignation was compulsory; that the former was refused point blank, and the latter evaded on the plea, that "there was no vacancy" that driven to desperation, petitioner laid his case before Sir William Denison, soliciting either a pension or an order to restore him to his situation; that thereupon reference was made to the Civil Auditor, who could not recommend the application as the employés in the several Departments of the Supreme Court, were not paid by the Government; that since the amalgamation the High Court is placed under the direct control of the Government, which is now the Queen's, and petitioner having all his life long served the Crown, he most humbly and respectfully conceives, he has a claim to a pension from the Queen's Government, as a Queen's servant; that as to the restoration of his place, the Government referred petitioner to the Chief Justice as the proper channel to make the representation, that the Chief Justice was accordingly petitioned, but His Lordship excused himself by saying that the appointment of Clerks rests with the heads of the various offices attached to the High Court; and that petitioner therefore addressed Mr. Ritchie the present Registrar in February 1863, but no notice has been taken of the application.

That such is a brief statement of petitioner's hard case; that as a final hope, he humbly appeals to your Excellency, whose administration has proved so beneficial to the Empire as publicly acknowledged by the British Indian Association; that it is a very hard case that after serving without a break, for nearly half a century, he should now be reduced to destitution with his poor family; that the late Supreme Court was as the High Court now is, an institution of the Crown's, that he therefore most humbly and most respectfully hopes, that the circumstance may be taken into your Excellency's merciful consideration and that at all events, the dictates of common humanity may, under Providence, induce your Excellency not to permit an old man and a faithful servant of the State, after serving 48 long years, to beg his bread from door to door.

[redacted]

[redacted]

27 April 1863 No 645

The Registrar of the High Court requested to inform Mr James that his memorial has been despatched to the Rt Hon.ble the Sec.y of State

WM.

GR

Ex.d

[illegible] Majesty

[illegible] order [illegible] 17 [illegible] submitted

[illegible] to H [illegible] State [illegible] India

[illegible]

[illegible] Hindu [illegible]

High Court Madras
Registrar's Office
10th April 1863

Registrar