M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-19.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 733 Press
~~Mis.~~
80-81

Dated 15 5 1883 ~~19~~ .

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 80. Read the following letter from H. D. E. DALRYMPLE, Esq., Master Attendant in charge of the Marine Superintendent's Office; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Marine Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 8th May 1863, No. 1,246.

I have the honor to forward for the information of Government a letter* from Captain Castor, Master Attendant Cochin, and copy of a deposition† taken there from Mr. DuVerge, who it appears contradicted his first deposition taken at Colombo and afterwards disappeared.

* Dated Cochin, 4th May 1863, No. 123.
† Without date, and telegram from Colombo.

From JOHN CASTOR, Esq., Master Attendant; to H. D. E. DALRYMPLE, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, Madras, dated Cochin, 4th May 1863, No. 123.

With reference to my former communication* on this subject, I have the honor to place before you the deposition of Mr. DuVerge taken before the Joint Magistrate, and in my presence.

* Letter dated 13th April 1863, No. 99.

2. This declaration is so completely at variance with his telegram announcing the circumstances under which he landed at Colombo, and with the statement made before the Principal Collector of Customs there (a copy of which I enclose) that I am irresistably led to the conclusion, that foul play of a terrible character can alone account for the disappearance of the Schooner.

3. I have personally questioned Mr. DuVerge on this matter, and his replies are replete with contradictions and improbabilities, and afford sufficient grounds for the opinion I have ventured to express.

4. After a brief stay of two days and leading me to suppose that he would embark for the Mauritius on the Brig "Ibis" which is now loading here for that Port, I am surprised to find that he has absconded from the place.

5. The vessel cleared out from, and left the Mauritius, under command of Captain Puren, and Mr. DuVerge, who passed himself off at Colombo as Master of the Schooner, was Chief Officer only of the vessel when she left. I would respectfully suggest that these particulars be communicated to the authorities at Colombo that inquiries may be made how, and from where he landed, for there is a strong suspicion that the Schooner "Sphynx" was never off that Port.

No. 81. To the Colonial Secretary at Colombo, dated Fort Saint George, 15th May 1863, No. 733.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 17th ultimo, No. 9, furnishing copy of an Affidavit made by Mr. DuVerge, said to be the Captain of the Schooner "Sphynx," accusing the Officer and Crew of that vessel of piracy; and to state that the necessary instructions were issued to the Master Attendant of the several Ports of this Presidency, and also to the Magistrates of the several Maritime Districts for the apprehension of the persons charged in the event of the Schooner arriving at any of the Ports of this Presidency.

2. I am now desired to transmit for the information of the Ceylon Government, a copy of a letter from the Master Attendant in charge of the Marine Superintendent's Office at Madras, with its enclosures, from which it will be seen that a deposition has been taken from Mr. DuVerge at Cochin before the Joint Magistrate and Master Attendant of that Port, which is altogether at variance with the deposition taken from him at Colombo. Mr. DuVerge, it appears, absconded from Cochin, after a stay of two days, having previously led the Master Attendant to believe that he intended to embark for the Mauritius on the Brig "Ibis."

Dated 8th May 1863, No. 1,246.

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

Fxd. T. McMootry.

dep.ª 15/5/63 Judicial Department.

№ 733

To the Colonial Secretary at Colombo

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 17th Ultimo, No. 9, forwarding copy of an Affidavit made by Mr. Da Croze, said to be the Captain of the Schooner "Sphynx", according the Officer and Crew of that Vessel of Piracy; and to state that the necessary instructions were issued to the Magistrates & Attendants of the several Ports of this Presidency, and also to the Magistrates of the several Maritime Districts for the apprehension of the persons charged

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Presidency.

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a copy of a letter from the
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of the Marine Superintendents
Office at Madras, with its
Enclosures, from which it
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was taken from one M.
Du Verge at Cochin before
the Joint Magistrate and
Master Attendant of that
Port, which is altogether at
variance with the deposition
taken from him at Colombo.
Mr Du Verge it appears
absconded from Cochin,
after a stay of two days,
having previously led the
Master Attendant to
believe

Dated 8th May 1863 No 1246.

believe that he intended to
embark for the Mauritius
on the Brig "Ibis"

Fort St George
8th May 1863.

date of my Memo

Sir. Bray

Judicial 1863 Dft. A.

No 733

To The Colonial Secretary
at Colombo

Colombo 15th May 1863

Informing in reference to previous correspondence regarding the disappearance of Schooner Sphynx that the Deposition taken from M. Duverge at Cochin is altogether at variance with that taken from him at Colombo.

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