M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 794-95 Press
~~Mis.~~

191-194

Dated 23.5.1863 ~~19~~ .

10/11

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 191. Read the following letter from Messrs. A. REGNAUD, & Fils; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Vypeen, in British Cochin, 12th May 1863.

We consider it to be our duty as merchants, in behalf of ourselves, and that of our constituents to bring to the especial notice of the Madras Government direct, certain singular circumstances which have transpired regarding the mysterious disappearance of the British Schooner "Sphynx," 99 tons burthen, of Mauritius, bound from that port to Cochin, after arriving off Colombo on the 8th last, with specie, in gold on board, viz., 3,756 Sovereigns, and some empty casks, to our consignment to be laden with Cocoanut Oil from Cochin. Captain Eugene Puren, having signed the Bill of Lading (for the money) which was received by us per Brig "Ibis" which left Mauritius about a week after the "Sphynx." The Master E. Puren, and Mate Louis Astyanax DuVerge, were on board as she was quitting Mauritius, and seen by the Master and Mate of the "Ibis" at that time.

2. We were consequently taken by surprise on receiving the marginal* telegram from Mr. DuVerge at Colombo, who styles himself as Captain of the "Sphynx," and that he directed the Mate to remain off that port, until his purchase of provisions, but that on his return the vessel had left, &c., &c.

3. We forthwith communicated with the Collector of Colombo, on the 14th April last, on the subject of Mr. DuVerge's singular telegram, to elicit some information thereon. When we received another telegram from Mr. DuVerge dated 15th April last, that Captain Puren was on board of the "Sphynx."

4. We received the marginal† reply from the Collector of Colombo, by telegram dated the 16th April last, which we submit for the information of your Government.

5. On the 28th April last, Mr. DuVerge makes his appearance at Cochin per Bark "Shahool Ameed;" the Joint Magistrate of Cochin took down Mr. DuVerge's deposition, but, not on oath, which we furnish you as per margin* also for the information of your Government.

6. Mr. DuVerge, however, absconds from Cochin on the afternoon of the 29th April last, and we were not aware where he had gone to until the arrival of the return boat and coolies, who stated that he had gone to Chowgaut. The Joint Magistrate desired the Police Inspector of Cochin to keep a vigilant watch over Mr. DuVerge's movements; but due vigilance does not appear to have been taken, while Mr. DuVerge was apparently afraid to stand the test of further sifting or inquiry into this mysterious affair. The Schooner "Sphynx" not having yet made her appearance at this port, though she was off Colombo on the 8th ultimo, a period of 35 days.

* From Captain DuVERGE, Schooner "Sphynx." Jolombo, to A. REGNAUD, Cochin.

Arrived off this Port on the 8th. Short of provision, went on shore to purchase. Instructed Mate to remain off the Port till my return. Vessel gone away having three thousand seven hundred Sovereigns on board for you; think crew must have murdered the Mate. Make inquiries on the Coast. Telegraph should she arrive and send me instructions. 11th, 12-26 P M.

VYPEEN, 13th April 1863. (Signed) T. W. FERNANDEZ, Asst. in Charge.

†From Collector of Customs, Colombo; to Messrs. REGNAUD, and Co., Cochin.

The Master of the Schooner "Sphynx" wanted me at this port on the 10th instant to purchase provisions. While he was on shore the Schooner disappeared and as there was three thousand seven hundred Pounds in Sovereigns on board he says that the crew has carried her off and requests that she be detained if she reach your port of which information is required. DuVerge states that he is Master of the Schooner that he signed the Bill of lading for the money, and that Puren is the Mate. DuVerge leaves this for Cochin on the Eighteenth. 16th 5-24 P M.

VYPEEN, 21st April 1863. (Signed) T. W. FERNANDEZ, Asst. in Charge.

* The deposition of Mr. Louis Astayanax DuVerge.

"I was First Officer on board the British Schooner "Sphynx." We sailed from the Mauritius on the 25th February 1863, bound for Cochin; the vessel was commanded by Captain E. Puren; the crew consisted of four sailors (apparently Africans), a Steward (a Native of India), an apprentice who was the son of the Captain, the Boatswain (a Muletto from the Seychelles) and myself. I am a Native of Mauritius. We had contrary winds, at last we reached Perhos Banhos, an Island in 6° south latitude. We had in some water there. We then proceeded on to Colombo. We encountered contrary winds. At Colombo the Captain sent me on shore in a fishing boat, the vessel was then three miles about off the shore; he gave me £20 and told me to purchase provisions, &c. I purchased some provisions and sent a boat off. I remained on shore to make further purchases; before the boat which I sent off reached the vessels, the vessel went on the shore tack and put out to sea; they must have seen the boat on board the "Sphynx;" the boat was near the "Sphynx." She tacked and stood to sea; there were 3,756 Sovereigns in gold in the vessel in four bags; two of the crew at the Mauritius took the bags of Sovereigns from a boat and placed them in a case under the Captain's bed in the Cabin. I cannot account for the non-appearance of the vessel. We were not in want of provisions or water when we called at Colombo. I merely went on shore to get fresh provisions. I never told any one that I was the Captain of the "Sphynx." We reached Colombo on the 8th April 1863."

COCHIN, 28th April 1863. (Signed) L. DuVERGE FILS.

(Signed) J. REGNAUD, Interpreter upon oath.

† From FRYER SCHULTZE, & Co., Colombo; to A. REGNAUD & Co., Cochin.

"Your telegram received. We send you by post copy of Mr. DuVerge's protest sworn before a Notary in which he distinctly calls himself Master of the "Sphynx" and Eugene Puren, Chief Mate." 29th 3-9 P. M.

COCHIN, (Signed) T. W. FERNANDEZ.
1st May 1863.

7. We received on the 1st instant the marginal† telegram, from Messrs. Fryer Schultze & Co. of Colombo, to our address, which we submit also for the information of your Government, this goes to show that Mr. DuVerge passed himself off at Colombo as the Master of the Schooner "Sphynx."

8. We were, further, much surprised to receive a letter, direct, by post, to our address, dated Tellicherry, 2nd May (instant), from Mr. L. Astyanax DuVerge, in French, a true copy of which is herewith submitted also for the information of your Government. In that, he refers us to other letters which were left in his coat pocket, and also in a small box he left behind him at Cochin, at the hotel he was stopping at, about twenty-eight hours only, while here; these letters were also in French addressed to Mr. Charles Mauvis at Mauritius, another to Captain Eugene Puren, and another to us; these were opened and read by the Joint Magistrate in our presence, and who holds possession of the said box and said three letters. Wherein he, Mr. DuVerge, asserts that Barratry had been committed, and that the Captain's share of the specie was buried on shore, in one of the Perhos Banhos Islands, named île du Coin, in the Chagos Archipelago; and that his own share £1,200 (twelve hundred) Sovereigns were left by him on board, which the Captain wanted him to bury in the said Island, saying that it was the intention of the Captain to run the Schooner on shore, on one of the Salomons Islands about twelve miles distant from the Perhos Banhos, and, that the Captain and his son and Mr. DuVerge attempted, also, to scuttle the vessel, but failed to accomplish it.

‡From Collector of Customs, Colombo; to Messrs. REGNAUD, & Co. Cochin.

"Your telegram received and laid before Government. DuVerge made the statement sent to you on oath before the Magistrate, and in consequence Government communicated with the Indian authorities at his request. Messrs. Fryer Schultze & Co., of Colombo in some measure supposed and may have been supposed on by DuVerge, he said that he landed to purchase provisions." 6th 4.26 P. M.

VYPEEN, (Signed) J. BANFORD,
7th May 1863. For Asst. in charge.

9. We beg also to place the marginal‡ telegram dated the 6th May (instant), from the Collector of Colombo to our address for the information of your Government.

10. From all these prevarications and inconsistencies of Mr. DuVerge, the Chief Mate, which is clearly manifest from the above telegrams, and his letter to us from Tellichery, &c., His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council of Madras will be enabled to draw their own inference. We solicit you will be pleased to lay this communication, as early as may be practicable, before that high authority.

11. We are evidently of opinion that Mr. DuVerge is a principal actor in that nefarious affair, and he must be, now, at the French Settlement of Mahé, on the Malabar Coast, where he states he is going to, in his letter he sent us, by post, previous to his intended embarkation for France, and vainly imagines he is there quite clear out of British jurisdiction.

12. We are aware that an extradiction Bill, or Act, was passed not long ago, between the Governments of England and France, and which gives full authority to apprehend parties, or subjects of either Governments, who have committed serious offences, and who have sought refuge in the territories of either States, to evade the law, and screen themselves from punishment, as evil doers.

We beg therefore that His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to act upon the extradiction Bill passed between the two Governments, by communicating with His Excellency the Governor of Pondicherry in order that he will take the requisite executive steps, to authorize the Governor of Mahé to forthwith apprehend and arrest Mr. Louis Astyanax DuVerge, the Chief Mate of the Schooner "Sphynx" at Mahé, when, no doubt, if well searched, much of the consignment in specie, in Sovereigns, which were shipped on board that Schooner, will be found, either about his person, or in his boxes; while he should be doubtless called upon to give full and correct information, as to what has, actually, become of the Schooner "Sphynx" aforesaid, her Master, his son, and her crew, consisting of six natives of Mauritius and Seychellis, and £3,756, the three thousand seven hundred and fifty-six Sovereigns in gold on board; and, to be held in custody until he can satisfactorily clear himself of this very serious

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

offence, in which he has involved himself, and that by such steps a proper example or check be made to deter others, for the future, before Barratry and piracy become outrageous in the Indian Seas.

P. S.—We beg to state that just after finishing this letter we received by post from Messrs. Fryer Schultze, & Co., of Colombo, a letter dated the 2nd instant, from them, to our address, transmitting true copies of an Affidavit, sworn to by Mr. L. A. DuVerge before a Justice of the Peace of Colombo; also a copy of a Protest declared before a Notary Public of that place, and likewise received a telegram from Messrs. Fryer Schultze & Co., dated the 11th instant, true copies of all the above documents we beg also to append herewith for the information of the Madras Government.

(Signed) A. REGNAUD & Fils.

From Monsieur DUVERGE; to Monsieur A. REGNAUD, Cochin, dated Tellicherry, 2nd May 1863.

A vos yeux, je dois vous paraître bien coupable, car au lieu d'aller de Cochin à Maurice, je suis venu ici m'embarquer pour France. Je suis né, il est vrai, à Maurice; mais, je suis Français. Dans cette malheureuse affaire du Sphynx, j'ai signé tout ce qu'on a voulu me faire signer à Colombo: je vois à présent que j'ai fait un faux.

Reparaitre aux yeux de ma famille après un acte semblable, je ne le ferai jamais. Je suis venu sous mon pavillon implorer assistance, je vais en France. J'ai déjà servi sous les drapeaux de cette belle nation: j'y retourne pour y mourir.

Qu'un jour l'Etre Suprême pardonne à Mr. Eugéne Puren la lâche conduite qu'il a tenue envers moi: Je l'ai sauvé par ces papiers que l'on a faits à Colombo; mais sa conscience lui reprochera toujours ma perte.

Je joins ici un reçu pour les effets que j'ai laissés à Cochin; veuillez, je vous prie, les faire prendre et les envoyer à Maurice à mon oncle.

Il y a une lettre dans la poche de ma redingote adressée à ce Monsieur. S'il vient à Cochin, comme je le présume, après avoir été rechercher l'argent qu'il avait enterré à Perhos Banhos, remettez lui cette lettre, et surtout qu'il vous la lise à haute voix. Il y a une autre insignifiante adressée à Mr. votre frère, et une à mon oncle; vous pouvez la lire, mais en me promettant de la lui faire parvenir, car je me considére comme mort pour tous. Il y a aussi de l'argent à moi à bord du Sphynx, dans mon nécessaire: j'y ai une masse d'effets, livres, instruments, &c., je viens vous prier de bien vouloir vous en charger, vous priant encore une fois de les faire parvenir à ma famille: mon jeune frère en profitera.

Je crois que Monsieur Puren sera assez loyal pour ne pas, après mon abandon, soustraire mes effets à mes, ...

Avec cet espoir et l'espérance que ma famille sera instruite par vous des faits qui se sont passés.

Je suis, &c., (Signé) DUVERGE FILS.

(Vraie Copie.)
(Signé) A. REGNAUD et FILS.

P.S. J'oubliai de vous dire qu'a bord il y avait 1,200 livres, que Mr. Puren m'avait données, en me disant que c'était ma part.

Si j'ai fui, c'est par ce que Mr. votre frère et le beau Capitaine de Port s'étaient entendus pour me faire mettre en prison. Un homme qui a entendu la conversation est venu me la rapporter moyennant 10 Roupies.

Je suis maintenant le coupable aux yeux de tous; mais Celui qui commande la haut jugera un jour ma conduite, et celle du lâche Mr. Puren que j'ai sauvé en me perdant.

(Vraie Copie.)
(Signé) A. REGNAUD et FILS.

From Messrs. FRYER SCHULTZE & Co.; to Messrs. REGNAUD & Co., Cochin, dated Colombo, 2nd May 1863.

We have duly received your telegram of the 29th ultimo, by which we learn to our great surprise that Captain DuVerge denies before the Magistrate all his telegrams in which he styles himself as Captain of the "Sphynx." The telegrams in question were verbally translated to him before he signed them, in fact we were very careful in asking him several times if he really was the Captain, when he replied to your telegram in which you stated that Captain Puren was the Captain and not Mr. DuVerge. We at the time most positively asserted that he had the entire charge of the vessel and navigated her as far as Colombo. These statements were not only made before us, but before other parties, and if required we can send you Affidavits to that effect; but the enclosed Protest and copy of Affidavits sworn by him before a Justice of Peace, will speak for themselves, and we are entirely at a loss to understand the proceedings of Mr. DuVerge who must be either a madman or a swindler and impostor. Being a perfect stranger in this place, he addressed himself to us and asked us for advice; he told us that he was a cousin of Mr. Charles Daniel of Mauritius, and as Messrs. C. Daniel & Co. are correspondent of ours, we did all we could for him in the matter, and we thought it our duty to take such steps as appeared necessary to trace the vessel. In doing so we have incurred considerable expenses in telegraphing, &c. We paid his passage to Cochin and paid him (£5) Pounds in cash; for the amount of our charges account of £31-9-9 Mr. DuVerge drew a Bill on Messrs. Charles Daniel & Co., Mauritius, which we now fear will not be accepted.

If this person turns out to be an impostor, and he has deceived us, we hope you will get him punished, and we look forward to yourselves, which no doubt will give us full particulars, meanwhile we remain.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. REGNAUD & Fils.

No. 976.

By the public instrument of Protest hereinafter contained.

Be it known and made manifest unto all people, that on the fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, personally came and appeared before me Archibald Stephen Andree of Colombo, in the Island of Ceylon, Notary Public, by lawful authority duly admitted and practising Louis Astyanax Barthier Du Verge, Master of the British Schooner or vessel the "Sphynx" belonging to the port of Port Louis in Mauritius, who did duly and solemnly declare and state as follows, that is to say, that this appearer and the rest of the crew of the said vessel, set sail in her from Mauritius on or about the twenty-fifth day of February now last past, bound on a voyage from thence to Cochin on the Malabar Coast in ballast. That the said vessel was Chartered by the Oil Company at Mauritius aforesaid, to load a cargo of cocoanut oil for that port, and the said appearer received from the said Company, as freight, specie amounting to about 18,000 Dollars in gold, consigned to Mr. A. Regnaud of Cochin, that the said amount of money was contained in four bags and put into a box and properly nailed down and sealed, and placed underneath the bed of the said appearer in his cabin, where it remained till the day the said appearer left the said vessel as hereinafter described. And this appearer did further state, that in his passage, he met with very light and contrary winds, and having run short of water, was obliged to put in at one of the Chagos Islands on or about the twenty-sixth day of March last past, and having supplied himself with water set sail from thence without any unnecessary delay and proceeded on his said voyage. That the said vessel still experienced light and contrary winds and in latitude 1° 26′ north, and longitude 80° 34′ east, he spoke the British Barque "Hydaspes," commanded by Captain Irving, bound from Liverpool to Calcutta with a cargo of salt and 145 days out. The weather being calm the said appearer proceeded on board of the said Barque with the object of comparing his time with the Chronometers on board of the said Barque, when he discovered that his Chronometer differed from the three Chronometers on board of the said Barque and that his position by the Chronometer of the said Barque was about 2° 26′ more to the eastward than he appeared to be by his own Chronometer. The said appearer

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

thereupon came to the conclusion that his Chronometer was wrong, and consequently altered his course, and proceeded for two days when he should have sighted land at about 10 o'clock on the morning of the second day, but not having done so, and concluding thereby that he was misled by the Chronometer of the "Hydaspes" he altered his course again, and on the evening of the next day sighted the Galle light; the weather at the time was calm, or he would have sighted land much sooner, the said appearer then altered his course for Cape Comorin, but owing to the light winds and the strong northerly current prevailing was drifted along the coast of Ceylon, and sighted the Colombo light on the night of the seventh day of April now last past, at about 11 o'clock. In the morning of the next day, the said vessel being still becalmed opposite the port of Colombo, the said Master landed in a Canoe which had come off to the said vessel from the shore, with the object of purchasing some fresh provisions for the use of himself and the crew of the said vessel leaving directions with Mr. Eugene Puren, the Chief Officer of the said vessel, to stand off and on the port, and in case it should fall a dead calm, to anchor. The said appearer could see the said vessel from the shore, and observed that she was properly sailed and managed, as directed by him. At about 1 P. M., of the said eighth day of April aforesaid, the said appearer sent off one boat laden with fresh provisions intending to follow in another boat, and on his arrival at the jetty was informed by the crew of the boat that had taken off the fresh provisions that on the said Schooner sighting the boat, she tacked and put off to sea although she was hailed by the said boat's crew. The said appearer thereupon forthwith proceeded to the Light House intending to signalize to the said vessel to return, but to his astonishment found the said vessel was nearly out of sight, and the said appearer further declares and states that the said vessel has not since returned or been heard of. The said appearer therefore suspects that the said Chief Officer and crew being aware, as they must have been, that the said vessel had a large amount of specie on board, have made away with the said vessel and money. And the said appearer further declares and states that immediately on the unauthorized departure of the said vessel as above stated, he the said appearer telegraphed to Manaar and Paumben to ascertain if the said vessel had been seen, but receiving an answer that she had not within twelve miles of land, he the said appearer addressed a letter to the Colonial Secretary of the said Island, which he personally delivered, enclosing an Affidavit, duly sworn to by the said appearer setting forth the above facts (a copy of which said Affidavit is hereunto annexed) and requiring that the Government of Ceylon would telegraph to the several Indian Governments to issue instructions to all the ports in India to secure and detain the vessel in case she should put in at any of the Indian Ports; which request the Colonial Secretary promised to forward to the Governor of Ceylon, who is at present residing in the interior of the said Island; and this appearer further declared that on the thirteenth day of April now last past he received an answer to his letter from the Colonial Secretary conveying the Governor's directions that the said appearer should at once appear before the Police Magistrate of Colombo, and make Affidavit before him of the facts, charging the said Chief Officer and crew with piracy, and that thereupon the customs authorities would be directed to forward the necessary telegrams to India, and the said appearer declares that he forthwith complied with the directions of the said Colonial Secretary. And the said appearer lastly declares and states that he also telegraphed to the Consignees of the said vessel at Cochin asking them for instructions, but has not yet received any. And the said appearer doth therefore protest and I the said Notary do also protest against the unlawful, unauthorized and unjustifiable proceedings of the said Chief Mate and crew of the said vessel, and each and every of them, and against the laws of the said specie and against any loss or damage to the said vessel, and all other consequences arising from the conduct of the said Chief Officer and crew or any or either of them, and likewise against all the occurrences hereinbefore stated, and all loss or damage occasioned thereby.

(Signed) L. DuVERGE FILS.

Thus declared and protested in due form of law at Colombo aforesaid on the day and year first above written before me.

(L. S.) ARCHIBALD ANDREE,
Notary Public, Colombo.

COLOMBO, *9th April* 1863.

I the undersigned De Bathier DuVerge of Mauritius, Captain of the English Schooner "Sphynx" bound for Cochin, hereby maketh oath and saith that I arrived in command of the said vessel off this port on the morning of the 8th instant, when I went on shore in order to purchase provisions. Before leaving the vessel I told the Chief Mate, Mr. Puren, to remain off the port till my return and to anchor in case there should be necessity. The vessel, however, after remaining in sight till about 4 o'clock P. M., as up to the present moment not made her appearance, and as I do not think that she could have been carried away by the currents, it is my belief that the Officer in charge does not intend to return to Colombo, and as I have on board of my vessel the sum of 18,000 Dollars which I took on board at Mauritius for the purchase of Cargo at Cochin, I believe that it must be the intention of the Officer and crew now in charge of the said vessel to take possession of this money by improper means.

Sworn to this 10th day of April 1863.

So help me God.

(Signed) C. R. CURGINVEN,
J. P.

(Signed) L. DuVERGE FILS,

To all to whom these presents shall come I Archibald Stephen Andree of Colombo in the Island of Ceylon, Notary Public, by lawful authority duly admitted and practising, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing, purporting to be a copy of a protest of the Master of the Schooner or vessel the "Sphynx" bearing date the 15th of April last, is a true and correct copy of the protest, the same having been carefully examined and compared with the original protest which was made and declared before me.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office this 16th day of April 1863.

(Signed) ARCHIBALD ANDREE.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. REGNAUD & FILS.

COPY.

Louis Astyanax de Bathier Du Verge presently at Colombo, maketh oath that he is the Master of the British Schooner "Sphynx," which owing to light and contrary winds arrived off the port of Colombo on her passage from Mauritius to Cochin on the Malabar Coast on the night of the 7th April instant. That the said vessel requiring fresh provisions, he, this deponent, landed in a Canoe on the morning of the 8th day of April aforesaid leaving directions with the Chief Officer of the said vessel to sail about off the port until his return, and this deponent saith that after having purchased the necessary provisions, and while he was about to return to the said vessel, she had left the port and proceeded to sea against his expressed orders and has not yet returned. That this deponent had as freight on board the said vessel, specie in gold amounting to about the sum of £3,700, wherefore the said deponent charges the Chief Officer Eugene Puren and the crew of the said vessel whose names are named with Piracy in having absconded with the said vessel and specie, and prays that such steps be taken for the apprehension of the said vessel and her Officer and crew as to this Court shall seem fit, proper and legal.

Sworn to before me this 13th day of April 1863.

(Signed) L. DU VERGE.

(Signed) D. E. DESARAM, *J. P.*

Explained by.

(Signed) N. D. SCHULTZE.

(True Copy.

(Signed) A. REGNAUD & Fils.

No. 100.

From Colombo. To Cochin.

From Fryer Schultz & Co. ... .To Regnaud & Co.

Received your letter dated 29th April to-day. We wrote to you on the 2nd viâ Madras with Protest and copies of DuVerge's Affidavits, which like all telegrams were verbally translated

to him on (in) presence of the *Justice* of *Peace*. On receipt of our letter please telegraph if you still require Mr. Schultz's Affidavits, and also from other parties to whom he represented himself as Captain. We hope you will have him punished for Perjury of which we accuse him. Has "Sphynx" arrived? 11th, 5-14 P. M.

NARAKAL.
12th May 1863.

(Signed) T. W. FERNANDEZ,

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. REGNAUD & Fils.

No 192 From JOHN ROBERT BOYSON, Esq., Government Solicitor, Madras; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 21st May 1863, No. 296.

1. With reference to your demi-official communication of the 18th instant, (which did not reach me until the evening of the 19th instant) and to my verbal communication with you of yesterday, I have now the honor to inform you that I have since submitted the papers which accompanied your letter of the 18th, and are herewith returned, for the consideration of the Advocate General, and I have this morning conferred with him thereon.

2. I herewith forward a copy of his opinion from which you will observe that he entirely concurs in the views which I expressed to you yesterday.

COPY—OPINION.

This is certainly a very remarkable case, at first sight it seems to include crimes of the deepest dye—Barratry, Piracy, Felony and Perjury, with a strong suspicion of the murder of Captain Puren and his son; but on fuller consideration there is not a vestige of evidence to be found to support any of these charges.

2. That M. DuVerge fils has told a budget of lies is self evident from comparing his statement on oath, dated 15th April 1863 at Colombo, with his letter, dated Tellicherry, 2nd May.

3. The strong probability appears to be that he and Captain Puren had agreed to rob their owners of the 3,756 Sovereigns; and that, as M. DuVerge seems to have just recollected in time for his P. S., he received £1,200 in Sovereigns for his share; and that M. le Capitaine Puren and fils, not liking so large a deduction from the spoil, hit upon the very smart plan of sending M. DuVerge ashore for provisions, and sailing away leaving him ashore, but taking his 1,200 Sovereigns with him.

4. There is nothing whatever to show that the "Sphynx" is not now sailing about under the command of M. Puren and his son; and whenever they may be met with, some very plausible tale will probably be quite ready to account for their proceedings and for the absence of the 3,756 Sovereigns should they not be forthcoming.

5. It is certainly probable that much of M. DuVerge's affidavit at Colombo is false; either it or his Tellicherry letter must be so; but the difficulty is that there is no evidence whatever at present to show which is true, and which is false.

6. At present I do not see that any thing else can be done than to communicate the facts to the French Government, transmitting copies of all the papers, and expressing a strong hope that if M. DuVerge should turn up within their territories they will omit no exertion to bring him to justice, or at least to have the case fully investigated.

(Signed) T. SYDNEY SMYTH,
Advocate General.

21st May 1863.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. R. BOYSON,
Government Solicitor.

No. 193. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1863, No. 794.

The Advocate General's opinion will be communicated to Messrs. Regnaud et fils, and the letter of Messrs. Regnaud et fils and its enclosures will be transmitted to the Governor of the French Establishments with a request that in the event of M. DuVerge being found in the French territories, the case may be fully investigated.

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

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

No. 194. To His Excellency the Governor of the French Establishments in India, dated Fort Saint George, 23rd May 1863, No. 795.

I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed letter from M. M. Regnaud et Fils, Merchants at Cochin, bringing to notice the conduct of one M. DuVerge who appears to have been employed as the Mate of the British Schooner "Sphynx" which left Mauritius for Cochin on or about the 25th of February, stood off Colombo, where M. DuVerge landed on the 8th ultimo, and has not since been heard of.

2. You will observe that M. DuVerge has made statements before the authorities at Colombo and Cochin which are altogether at variance with each other, and labors under suspicion (based principally on the letter written by him to Mr. Regnaud from Tellichery) of having been a party to a robbery of the Sovereigns shipped in the vessel at Mauritius.

3. As it is probable that M. DuVerge will have taken refuge at Mahé, I have to request that your Excellency will be pleased to give notice of what has occurred to the authorities at that place; and should he be found there or any where else in the French territories, that you will order a full investigation of the case.

Accept Sir, &c.
(Signed) W. DENISON.

Exd. T. McMootry.

No. 296.

Madras, May 21st, 1863.

From John Robert Boyson
Government Solicitor Madras.

To The Honorable A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to Government
Madras.

Sir,

1. With reference to your demi-official communication of the 18th instant (which did not reach me until the evening of the 19th instant) and to my verbal communication with you of yesterday I have now the honor to inform you that I have since submitted the papers which accompanied your letter of the 18th and are herewith returned, for the consideration of the Advocate General and I have this morning conferred with him thereon.

2. I herewith forward a copy of his opinion from which you will observe that he entirely concurs in the views which I expressed to you yesterday.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,
J. R. Boyson
Govt. Solr.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers.

From Messrs Regnaud et fils Cochin — R.C. 12th May 1863.

From the Govt. Solicitor. / " 21st — " — " No 296 /

Order thereon, 23rd May 1863. No 794

The Advocate General's opinion will be communicated to Messrs Regnaud et fils, and the letter of Messrs Regnaud et fils and its enclosures will be transmitted to the Governor of the French Establishments with a request that in the event of M. Dulverge being found in the French

French Territories, the
case may be fully
investigated.

W R

Letter No 25 -
Instructions
to the Govr

To the Govt. Solicitor
" Messrs. Reynaud & Co

Rec'd 1863. Department.

No. 2[illegible]

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 23 May 1863

No. 1220.

Communicating the opinion of the Advocate General to Mess^rs Regnaud & Fils and requiring to be informed their Letter with Enclosures to the Governor of the French Establishments with a request that in the event of M. Du Verge being found in the French Territories the Case may be fully investigated.

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Judicial Dep^tt

No. 795.

To

His Excellency the Governor of the
French Establishments in India

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Clerk? 23.

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23d May 1863

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Jud. 1863. Depll.

Nº 795

To
His Excellency the Govr
of the French Establisht
in India

Dy 23d Inay 1863. =

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