

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1642	Press Mis.
¹⁴³⁻¹⁶⁴ Dated	16-11-1864	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
16th November 1864.

No. 143. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 20th October 1864, No. 2153.

General Department.

In his report dated 22nd August, paragraph 9, the Agent of Vinagayutam states, that he has reason to believe the Gomango of Pattasinghee at his arrest was handled by our Constables "in a manner in the highest degree contumacious."

2. I append an extract from the "diary of Captain Gallwey, dated 17th September, and his subsequent report dated 26th September, with enclosures. He discredits the rumour. The deceased was a good and efficient officer of some standing in the public service, and of experience in the Police, as Sirdar of the old Sibbundy Force. He threatened the Gomango, thereby exceeding his powers; but he did not wantonly insult his prisoner. Those who were present at the scene declare that this did not take place.

3. The simple facts seem to be these:—The Sowrah Hill tribes are regular robbers and cattle-lifters. They have been the scourge of those parts from time immemorial. They descend from the hills and drive away the cattle into their fastnesses. They have hitherto done so almost with impunity; and their headmen, or Gomangos are notorious receivers and abettors of crime. Crime has been on the increase; and the Inspector of Police went on the occasion under consideration to one of the worst of these haunts, Pattasinghee, to bust up these criminal parts, and bring the offenders to justice. He found stolen property and arrested, with a view to bringing him before the Magistrate, the person who gave it up; in short, the receiver; for even if the Gomango had given some grain for the stolen property, it is not likely that this headman did so without guilty knowledge. The offence was one for which under the law, Section 411, Code of Criminal Procedure, arrest may be made without warrant. A rescue naturally enough took place.

4. No special indignity or want of judgment on the part of the Police was necessary to bring about this result, under such circumstances. The same thing precisely occurred in the Khond hills last year. Persons were then arrested for killing their offspring. The Khonds rescued the prisoners, and declared their determination to throw off the yoke of Government and of the law. The circumstances of these cases only differed in this, that the Sowrah Highlanders are thorough savages, and are far more reckless of human life than the Khonds. They put the men who had to execute the law to death, in addition to the offence of rescue and act of insurrection.

5. The Inspector very properly released his prisoner when he found himself outnumbered, and that he could not without bloodshed enforce the law. The attempt to assassinate the headman, in order to save his own life, and that of the men with him, from the blood-thirsty savages who surrounded him, was if not a very gallant act, not unbecoming.

6. The subsequent butchery—attended as it was with robbery—of the Inspector and a number of others, was an act of wanton and savage brutality; of the same

hands, and began to pull, to try and take him away. The women were making a good deal of noise. At this time the Sowahs were beginning to surround us; first 10 or 12, then some more, until we were perfectly surrounded. We then moved off, first losing go the Gummings.

The remainder of this Constable's deposition is the same as before.

(Signed) H. PORTEOUS, Lieutenant,
Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Pudumallu Peraiyala, 2nd Dependent.

I accompanied the Inspector to Pottungil. On arriving there, he asked me which was Damma Gummings's house. I pointed out to him those of Damma, Jattar, and Boudharappa's houses. We sat down on the roof of his house. The door of his house was shut. We knocked and it was opened by a little boy who sent for his father while waiting for him. Jattar Gummings came up and asked what we wanted. The Inspector said he wanted property; you have got a buffalo and you must give it to me. The Gummings said he had not, but that there was one in Onjalingham's and he would show it. The Inspector said, "so you have one and must give it to me." The Inspector then said to the Constable, to fix laymans and load, which they did. The Inspector then said to the Gummings that if he did not give up the buffalo he would shoot him, by way of frightening him. The Gummings got frightened and said stop stop. I have got one buffalo, I paid one piece of paddy for it, I will send for it for you, which the Gummings did. In a few minutes it was brought. The Inspector said to me, now Peraiyala, isn't this man a thief? I answered you have lost. He then ordered a rope to be brought, which was done. Some Mahant brought it and tied it round one of his arms quite loosely. Two or three Constables caught hold of his waist-cloth in front and behind and also of his arms. We then took him a short distance from the village into a round breastwork of stones; we here set down the Gummings in the middle. While we were coming to the breastwork, some of his women came and began to call out and say, why were we taking him away when he had given up the buffalo. They made a great noise which brought the Sowahs round us. While sitting in this breastwork, the Inspector said, he would make arrangements with the Gummings and let him go, and took out a book (Register I suppose) and looking at it, asked him if he had any more stolen property; he answered "no." I then said to Inspector look here, here the Sowahs are all round us, and if we don't let the Gummings go they will kill us all. The Inspector said, no I won't, he is a thief, why should I let him go; the Sowahs who were all round us called out saying "let go our Gummings, or we will fire on you." I then again told the Inspector to let him go as we had got the buffalo. He then let him go, tied a piece of red turban round his head and told him to go. He asked for his bow, arrows, and sword, which the Inspector refused to him. He handed them to his sister who went off with them. The Gummings also went away. While going away, the Inspector called out to him to send one of his servants to drive the buffalo. He answered they had gone away and we must drive it ourselves. I drove off the buffalo. We went on about 100 yards off they began to fire on us; about another 100 yards off Constable Goudak was struck in the stomach by an arrow. The Corvenculak who was carrying Inspector's boxes, things, and Constable's blankets, threw down his load and ran off; the Jattar Gummings also ran off now. A Jattar Gummings also helped at this time, but came running back again with an arrow in his back and fell down. At this time the Inspector looks down to spot his box; and while opening the box, an arrow struck him in the middle of his leg; he looked it off short, and went on leaving his box behind; he seized a musket from a Constable, and fired at the Sowahs who shot him. I can't say whether it hit him or not. We went on some little way further, when a Jattar Pika (singing) and a shepherd ran off. We have got into low jungle up to our waists which was full of Sowahs who fired away at us. At this time there were only about 15

Constables with us, the rest had run off; here the Inspector got another wound in the pit of the stomach. The Constables who were with us, seeing this, all ran off. I hid myself under a bush. I did not see the Inspector fall. When last I saw him, there were about 9 or 10 Constables with him; he was going along firing his musket. What became of him and the Constables, I did not see. I only saw Goudak and the Sowah fall. I also saw the Inspector wounded twice, and Nardindoo Constable and another wounded; many of us were hit with stones.

2. I was with the Rajah's Devasi Rajah, when he had an interview with Damma Gummings, Damma (Jattar) Gummings, Raju Gummings, Boudharappa Gummings, Sowah Jattara and 7 Gummings of Talam. It was about 14 miles from Jattara. A Gummings Sowah acted as Interpreter to the Devasi. I understood the Sowah language. Jattar Gummings told the Devasi that the Inspector had tied both his arms together, and had made him bring a sheep and a buffalo, and pointed their laymans at him, abused him, ticked him. This is a lie; both his arms were not tied, only one was tied, and that loosely. He was not abused by any of us. We did not strike him or do anything more than I have already stated. He showed the Devasi where he was tied by at the office. He had no marks on his arms. I was within a yard of him when he showed the Devasi his arms.

3. Ten Gummings Pika, 12 Jattara Pika, 8 Jattara Sowahs, 5 Tervemallu Pika and 2 Sowahs, accompanied the Inspector to Pottungil, with the exception of myself. Jattara Gummings, 1 Gummings Pika, and the Jattara Sowah, and a cowherd of Gummings, and a Jattara Pika, all the rest ran away before the Constables looted their muskets. They said they were going to have their rice at the mill and went away. We did not see them again. The cowherd (Tervemallu) was the brother of the Gummings. This man, the Sowah, and the Jattara Pika were killed.

(Signed) H. PORTEOUS, Lieut.,
Asst. Superintendent of Police.

Gummings, 2nd September 1864.

1st class Constable, Kuchas Elachra Patroli, No. 1563, 2nd Dependent.
Second Deposition.

On arriving at Pottungil, Inspector Major Howells went for "Jattar" Gummings who came and asked the Inspector why he had come. The Inspector said, he had come for him. The Gummings asked what for. The Inspector replied, that two buffaloes had been stolen from Eeragudalur and they were with him. The Gummings replied he had not got them and was beginning to move off. The Inspector then said to him (through the Jattara Gummings) what is he going away, it is very late, and we have had no rice, tell him to give us some. Whereupon the Gummings said all right, he would give them rice, and ordered his sister to bring some, which she did. It was about two kunchams and also a small chutney. The rice was very bad and the Inspector said I don't want this rice, it is not good, we can't eat it. The Gummings then began to move away. The Inspector on seeing this caught hold of his hands and took away his bow, arrows, and sword, and handed him over to Mr. Serimachandrar and Gagguff Beg, telling us to tie him and not to let him go. On this I went and brought a rope and tied it round his left arm. After I tied it, Patta Marah Constable spoke to the Inspector and then turned to me saying "don't tie him yet, we have found out nothing against him, stop a little." On this I untied him again, and we kept hold of him, holding him by his arms and also by his waist cloth, one at his front and one at his back. The Inspector then said, we if he has any stolen property in his house. The Gummings of Jattara had told the Inspector he had a horse, pot, so the Jattara Gummings and Constable Gagguff Beg went to see; and finding the door shut, came back and told the Inspector, who ordered four men to go. I, Serimachandrar, Gagguff Beg, and B. Nardindoo went; we found the door shut, so Gagguff Beg went into another house and brought a small stick. B. Nardindoo told him to knock upon the door, on which he struck the

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16th November 1864.

door, a wooden one, twice, and a woman who was inside opened it. We entered and found nothing, and went and told the Inspector so, on which the Inspector said, go on, take him away. The Inspector then told us to fix bayonets and load. We did so, and walked on; after going on a few yards we pointed our muskets at him and frightened him, on which he said "stop the buffalo is not with me, look there is another village if you will come there I will show it to you." The Inspector said I want go to that village you must send some one for it, which he did. We then walked on some distance where there was a round haystack of stones, where we sat down. While taking him to this place some Sowras were looking on at a short distance off. Shortly after arriving in the haystack, the buffalo was brought. The Inspector then said now there is another buffalo, being it. The Goumanga said there was only this one; the Inspector said you there is, Goumanga said "no." Inspector asked how he came by this one; he replied, some one brought it to him from another village and he had given him a piece of purity for it. The Inspector said he was a thief, and must therefore come to Kapatthoode; the woman then began to make a row and pull at the Goumanga to try and take him away. The place was now surrounded by Sowras. The Jalaia Goumanga and Padmanabha Pradhana then said to the Inspector look, these people are all round us, if we don't let him go, we shall be killed; the Inspector refused, on which they entreated him again, so he released the Goumanga, first tying a piece of red cloth on his head. The remainder of this deposition is the same as before.

Goumanga, 22nd September 1864.

(Signed) H. PORTEOUS, Lieut.,
Asst. Supt. of Police.

No. 144. ORDER THEREON, 16th November 1864, No. 1612.
To be recorded.
(True Extract.)

A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

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From
The Inspector General
of the Police
To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Jock S. George

Dated 20th Oct. 1864.
Recd. 22nd Oct. 1864.
No. 226/
1864

Enclosures. 3

Submitted on 14th inst. from
the Diary of Capt. Culbuck
dated 17th Sept. and his
subsequent Report dated
26 Sept. with enclosures
regarding the location of
Putha Sing's headstone by the
Papers of the 18th Oct. 1864.

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