M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1842	Press ~~Mis.~~
240-241 Dated	21-12-19 1864	

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Mis

No. 240. Read the following letter from P. P. HUTCHINS, Esq., Acting Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Madras, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 8th December 1864, No. 72.

I am directed by the High Court to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Governor in Council a case of considerable importance in the Tanjore Zillah, in which a verdict of acquittal is stated by the Session Judge to have been found by a Jury, "directly contrary to the most clear and satisfactory evidence."

2. The High Court have observed with very great regret that the Jury appointed to try the case was composed of men altogether uneducated. It is still more to be regretted that one member of the Jury was a person who had himself been convicted, and punished for receiving stolen goods. It is quite obvious that the system of trial by Jury must prove seriously defective, if Collectors do not perform the duty cast upon them by the law more carefully than the Collector of Tanjore has done in this case.

3. The Court have not directed me to report this matter with the view of invoking censure of the Collector, who has doubtless very multifarious duties to perform, but that the Government may, if it sees fit, point out to Collectors that scarcely any duty can be more important than that, upon the careful performance of which the due administration of criminal justice mainly depends.

No. 241. ORDER THEREON, 21st December 1864, No. 1842.

The Governor in Council resolves to call upon the Collector of Tanjore to explain under what circumstances the persons referred to in the 2nd paragraph of the foregoing letter was placed upon the Jury list. He also directs that copies of the foregoing letter be furnished to the several Collectors, and that the attention of those officers be drawn to the grave responsibility which devolves upon them, in regard to the selection of properly qualified persons for the office of Juror and Assessor.

2. As the Honorable the Judges of the High Court observe, there is scarcely any duty devolving upon a Collector, the careful performance of which is more important than the selection of really fit persons to take part in the administration of criminal justice.

(True Extract).

A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

To the Honorable the Judges of the High Court.
" Collector of Tanjore.
" Collector of
" Session Judge of

Exd. J. H. Burns.

is more important than
the

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Offg Registrar of the High Court.

Rece'd Enter'd 8 Decr 1864 No 72

Order thereon 21st Decr 1864 No 1842.

The Governor in Council directs that Copies of the foregoing letter be furnished to the several Collectors, and that the attention of those Officers be drawn to the grave responsibility which devolves upon them in regard to the selection of properly qualified persons for the office of Juror and Assessor.

2. As the Honorable the Judges of the High Court observe, there is scarcely any duty devolving upon a Collector, the careful performance of which is more important than the

the selection of really fit persons to take part in the administration of criminal justice.

To the Honble the Judges of the High Court
" Collector of Tanjore
" Collector of adjacent Distts
" Sessions Judge of do

dated 24/12

Judicial 1864. Department.

No. 1842

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

~~Feb. 28/65~~ 164/66
~~" 7 "~~
~~" 46 "~~
~~" 115 "~~
Dated 21st Dec. 1864