

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 501	Press ~~Mis.~~
116-117	
Dated 12-4-1864	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

WJF
4/8/30

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th April 1864.*

No. 116. Read the following letter H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Cuddapah; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated on Circuit Royachoti, 28th March 1864, No. 9.

In forwarding you the accompanying letter* from Mr. Molony, I have nothing to add except the strongest recommendation that his request may meet with the sanction of His Excellency Sir W. T. Denison. It may seem odd that so

* A copy dated 21st March 1864, No. 38.

many robbers could not perpetrate their object, but that does not detract from the woman's bravery; and from the conversation I have had with the Assistant Superintendent of Police, it seems to be almost an unparalleled affair.

From F. B. MOLONY, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Cuddapah; to H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Cuddapah, dated Madanapalli, 21st March 1864, No. 38.

I have the honor to bring to your notice a case of successful resistance to robbers by a woman. The details are given in the accompanying copies of communications from the Subordinate Magistrate of Kadri and the Assistant Superintendent of Police. I have not myself been able to make any inquiry into the case owing to the heavy Revenue work which accompanies the yearly settlement, and to my having been at the time in a distant part of the District; but there can be no doubt of the main facts of the case which are as follows.

2. On the 10th February a woman named Papamah, wife of one Kadirapah, an inhabitant of Boorajupulli, a hamlet of Charpalli in the Kadri taluq, was alone in an old bastion which stands close to and overlooks the hamlet of Boorajupalli. The bastion is said to be over 20 feet high, and has been used by the inhabitants of the hamlet as a hiding place for their property. It appears to have been usual to leave some one in the bastion during the day time to watch, and for several persons to sleep there at night. On the 10th February, at about 9 P. M., Papamah was alone in the bastion, the others who were to sleep there during the night not having come up to that time: she heard a sound as of persons outside, and as if they were trying to get in at the door which was fastened on the inside. Thinking they were the usual people coming to sleep, she called them by name, but received no answer; she then heard sounds as if a great number of people were outside, and suspecting what was the case she got up on the top of the bastion. The robbers then attempted to break open the door, but Papamah loosed the stones from the old wall and rolled them down on their heads. The robbers pelted her with stones and even fired matchlocks at her, but she maintained her position for, it is said, about a quarter of an hour, and eventually succeeded in driving them off without booty. She appears to have been constantly hit with stones and to have received two very severe blows, one under the left eye and the other on the right arm. From the quantity of blood found at the foot of the bastion there is every reason to suppose that some of the robbers felt the weight of the stones Papamah rolled down on them from the top. The ground underneath is said to have been covered with small stones, so that she must have behaved with the greatest spirit to stand such a pelting and successfully to resist single-handed an armed gang of robbers supposed to have numbered 40 men.

3. The Tahsildar recommends a reward of 50 Rupees to this woman, but I don't think that would be a sufficient recognition of such admirable courage on the part of a woman; and would request that I may be allowed to present her with such ornaments as are suited to a woman of her station, and of the value of 100 Rupees. I have found it necessary to dismiss the Reddies of this village, partly for unpardonable negligence in this matter, partly for equal neglect in former cases, but chiefly because I believe them to be secretly in league with their evil-doers.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. G. SMITH,
Acting Magistrate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th April 1864.

No. 117.

ORDER THEREON, 12th April 1864, No. 501.

The Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the grant of ornaments, of the value of (100) one hundred Rupees, to Papamah, wife of Kadirapah of Boorajupulli, in the Kadri Taluq of Cuddapah, in recognition of her courageous conduct on the occasion referred to. A notice of the affair and of the reward granted should be published in the District Gazette.
(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Cuddapah.

„ Civil Paymaster.

„ Deputy Auditor and Accountant General.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

N^o. 501 — 12 April 1864

The Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the grant of ornaments of the value of One Hundred Rupees, to Papamah, wife of Kadirapah of Boorajupulli in the Kadri Taluq of Cuddapah, in recognition of her courageous conduct on the occasion referred to. A notice of the affair & of the reward granted should be published in the District Gazette.

The Magistrate
Cuddapah
Civil Paymaster
Deputy Auditor General

Editor's Table

25/4/64

