

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT

**Press
Mis.**

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
14th February 1865.*

No. 126. 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 Kotagherry, 3rd February 1865, No. 252.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit the report of an attempt to break Jail at Tellicherry on 21st ultimo.

2. Shangali, late Havildar of 18th Regiment, gave the information that led to its being prevented. I trust that his services will be recognized.

3 I am in communication with the Inspector General of Jails on the subject; and will again address Government.

From Captain C. G. BLOMFIELD, Superintendent of Police, North Malabar, to Captain W. S. DREVER, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range; dated Tellicherry, 29th January 1865, No. 7.

I have the honor to report the particulars of an attempt at escape on the part of certain of the convicts, which occurred in the Tellicherry Jail, on the night of the 21st instant.

II. It appears (as far as has been ascertained at present) that the actual conspiracy involved 25 of the prisoners, of whom one gave information on the night of the intended outbreak. The Jailer was away during a portion of this time. The plot had been hatching for nearly two months, during which time many articles necessary to effect the escape (files, chisels, rope &c.) were surreptitiously conveyed into the wards, and there concealed, with the connivance of three of the Warders, and of the Deputy Jailer, between whom and the Jailer (Mr. Kenny) there has of late been considerable ill-will, the latter having reported him to the Judge for misconduct.

III. The leader and author of the plan was a Moplah named Palli Kutti, recently sentenced to 14 years' transportation for house-breaking and theft; having been previously twice convicted and sentenced for long periods before. According to the statement of the informer, the design involved the release of the whole of the prisoners (after the murder of the Jailer and the obtaining possession of his keys), the seizure of the Police arms and ammunition in the Jail, and an attack upon the houses of the Doctor, and the Judge; after which they were to separate; and each person make the best of his way to the Portuguese Territory at Goa.

IV. The 25 prisoners composing the gang were confined usually in separate wards, being changed occasionally; but they had opportunities of conferring with each other during the day. On the night in which this attempt occurred, they were in five separate cells, containing altogether 90 prisoners; but whether the remaining 5 were concerned in the actual conspiracy or not, there is at present no evidence to shew.

V. It was discovered, on a careful examination of these wards afterwards, that from each and all of these rooms, a small portion of the ceiling (one plank) had been loosened, so as to admit of the passage of a man, and refitted. Here also the implements required were concealed. Any one reaching the roof in this way, by means of a rope from above, had then only to saw through the thin wooden reapers, and remove the tiles (as was done afterwards, almost in the presence of the Inspector and Jailer), to obtain access to the ramparts. From thence the attack upon the Police guard might have been made from above, under very favorable circumstances: or, if necessary, escape was perfectly easy through an embrasure, by means of a stout club, (concealed close by) placed across the opening, and the rope originally employed.

This was the method employed by the first man who made his appearance, on observing that he was discovered by the Police, and who would have reached the ramparts in safety, had the rope been cut, when he let go his hold and fell.

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VI. The first information received by the Police was at 8 p. m. on the night on which the outbreak was to take place, when one of the prisoners confined in Ward, No. 2, informed Deputy Constable Doorga Persaud of the Jail guard, that he had a communication to make to the European Inspector in charge, Reserve and Jail. This Inspector (McIntosh) is at present residing with the Jailer. The prisoner turned out to be Shangali, late Havildar of the 18th Regiment, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, on account of the Cannanore Pay Office case. In consequence of the statement made by him, that the prisoner had arranged to break out in the course of the night, through the roof of the Jail, corroborated by other suspicions that had arisen during the day, Inspector McIntosh and Mr. Kenny (as also Mr. Murphy from Calicut), with a sufficient number of Constables, themselves, watched during the night on the ramparts, as far as possible from view, while the Town Inspector with his men formed a cordon round the outside of the Jail and Fort.

VII. At 12-30 p. m., the rasping of a small saw against wood was heard by a Police watchman, as proceeding from No. 2 ward, abutting on the ramparts; and shortly afterwards the head and shoulders of a man appeared on the roof, could hear and see nothing. This man (Kotten) was suffered to come out on to the ramparts; and when he came to the door of a Policeman who unluckily put his head up at the time, and immediately withdrew again to his comrades, telling the man outside to run for it, as it was all up. This man, who had with him a club and stout rope (since found to be the rope belonging to the well, brought in a bucket of sand by a Punniar prisoner, with assistance of a Warder), lost not an instant in letting himself down from an embrasure (distant not six feet, from the place where he had broken out) by means of this club placed across it, and the rope. Inspector McIntosh fearing that the man would escape, immediately gave the alarm, at the same time seizing the cross-bar and pulling up the rope. The man then dropped from it, and fell heavily on the ground outside, severely injuring his spine. Here he was, after proceeding only a few yards captured by the Town Police. Some shots were fired at him from the ramparts by Messrs. Murphy and Kenny, but no one was hit.

VIII. Of course all chance of the thorough surprise and capture expected was now over. The whole of the wards were however immediately searched, and the prisoners counted, when no others were found missing. Most of the prisoners in No. 2 ward, from which the man captured escaped (having crossed over on the roof to No. 3), had carefully enveloped their irons in the clothes worn round their waists, several of which, which they had not time enough to remove, were found up in the roof, where they had evidently been perched waiting their time to escape.

IX. The 24 prisoners charged with conspiracy, all strong, powerful men, were picked out next day by Shangali Havildar, whose conduct throughout the affair, up to date, has been very meritorious. Both the Judge and Joint Magistrate were on the spot early next morning, and the Police are now engaged, under their orders, in hunting up evidence, and conducting the prosecution of the prisoners (including the Deputy Jailer and Warders), on the investigation being carried on by the latter officer. Valuable information has also been received from the convict Tycanden Kotten, who has received injuries, from which he is not likely to recover. It is probable that ere the close of the trial, one or more of the prisoners will apply to be received as approvers against the others. One Policeman, a recruit, is said to have been cognizant of the intended out-break.

X. I arrived at Tellicherry on Friday last (the day before yesterday), from Wynaad. The same night eight of these convicts, including Palli Kutti, confined in one cell, were found to have divested themselves of their hand-cuffs.

No. 8.
They received 150 lashes each, for this yesterday.

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and to have expressed to other convicts their intention of escape, by bursting open the door of their cell. This I found on examination to be perfectly practicable.

XI. It is I believe the intention of both the Judge and Joint Magistrate to address the Inspector General of Jails specially, on the subject of the general craziness and insecurity of the whole building used as a Jail, and the necessity for its prompt re-construction. It appears to have been originally intended as a Factory,—is full of nooks, corners, galleries and windows, and requires incessant patrolling and supervision on the part of Police to guard adequately. The cell No. 8 referred to above, was selected as the strongest in the Jail, and yet it was perfectly possible for two strong men (there being 8 in the cell) to knock the whole door-way down, wood-work and all, simply by dashing themselves against the bars.

XII. Both the number and class of prisoners confined are very different from what they were in former days. I have made for the present, under the instructions of the Judge, such arrangements as will, I trust, ensure the safe custody of these men while under my charge, but I trust that the Inspector General may be respectfully requested kindly to bring to notice promptly the present insecurity of the Jail building, and also that consideration may be given to the representation made in the Commission Report regarding the necessity for the sanction of a higher rate of pay, to secure the services of a dependable class of men to perform the onerous duties of Jail and Reserve in the executive District.

XIII. Further report will be made as the case progresses.

Forwarded for Inspector General's information.
2nd February 1865. (Signed) W. S. DREVER.

No. 127. ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1865, No. 247.

The Governor in Council will await the further Report promised by the Inspector General of Police, and the Report of the Inspector General of Jails, which should be submitted as soon as possible.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Police.
of Jails.
Magistrate of Malabar.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

No 7

Now

Office of the Supt. of Police
North Malabar District
Trichy 29th January 1865

Captain. E. G. Hornfield
Superintendent of Police
North Malabar.

My Dear Sir,

Copy to Secy. Genl. of Police
Western Provinces.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the particulars of an attempt at escape on the part of certain of the Prisoners, which occurred in the Trichy Jail on the night of the 24th Inst.

It appears as far as has been ascertained at present that the escape was effected by the Prisoners, who were in the Jail at the time, by the aid of the Jailor and the Deputy Jailor, who were both of the name of Mr. Henry. These two have of late been considerable ill-will. The latter having reported him to the Judge for misconduct.

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The leader and author of the prison was a Malabar named P. P. Yathi, recently sentenced to 14 years' transportation for Conspiring and Theft. Having been previously twice convicted and sentenced for long periods before. According to the statement of the Prisoner, the design involved in the escape was to effect the escape of the Jailor and the Deputy Jailor, who were both of the name of Mr. Henry. These two have of late been considerable ill-will. The latter having reported him to the Judge for misconduct.

The 25 Prisoners composing the gang were confined usually in separate wards, being changed occasionally; but they had opportunities of confining with each other during the day. On the night on which this attempt occurred they were in 5 separate cells, containing altogether 90 Prisoners, but whether the remaining 5 were concerned in the actual conspiracy or not, there is at present no evidence to show.

It was discovered, on a careful examination of these wards afterwards,

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a series of ornament

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themselves, they were ever read all of these sermons, a small portion of the cutting, one plan was to do as a substitute of the preaching of a many, and repeated. There are the much more to be read and repeated.

may, by means of a rope fastened above, had them only to lower the thin wooden sections, and remove the tiles (as we done afterwards), a block in the presence of the Inspector and Justice, to obtain access to the safe. I am hence the attack upon the Police guard might have been made, from above, under very favorable circumstances; or, if necessary, escape was possible, although in confinement, by means of a short slack, concealed close by, having a loop for the opening, and the rope originally employed.

There was the mother and by
by the first man who made
his appearance, on observing that
he was discovered by the Police,
who would have caused the
ground on which the conspiracy
in safety had the danger not
eased the way, when all good
word and deed.

with on when the indictment was to take place; when I had a criminal case made to the Comptroller of the Jail (Mr. Smith) is at present residing with the Visitor. The prisoner's name is Mr. Thompson, late a convict of the Penitentiary, but he is now a free man. On emergence of the state, I made him that the Prisoners had arranged to break out in the course of the night, through the roof of the Jail; corrected by other witnesses that had arisen during the day; Inspector (Mr. Smith) and the Jury (as also Mr. Smith by Jury without) with a sufficient number of Constables themselves watched during the night on the ramparts, concealed as far as possible from view; while the Town Inspector with his men formed a circle round the outside of the Jail and stood.

My dear Henry's Murphy on the
evening of May 24th. I expect
Mr. S. will be with you of
the 25th.

III. 1831. 90. A. The sucking of a child was assumed and was just heard by a 30th. Wednesday a procedure was 23. 3rd. "sitting on the 20th. Monday: and starting at the noon no traces of a man appeared thence an operation in the body. The eyes having been in the incubation as usually removed. And the subject although only a few feet off could hear and see nothing. Two

The Chorus had nearly
begun, as if by accident,
a tempo with the first
in March 1821. The
Polem. proceeded not to
advise at the time.

man (young man) then (the) were subject to come out on the
confido and the next man was just appearing, when he caught sight of a Briton
who immediately put his head up at the time, and immediately withdrew again. He
made telling the man outside to run from it, as it was all up. The man, who
had with him a club and a couple of ropes, turned to the rope belonging to the shell,
brought in in a basket of
without in the

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more over. The hotel was however immediately searched, and the prisoners counted, when no other was found missing. Most of the prisoners in No. 2 Ward, from which the man captured, expected having stood over on the roof to No. 3, had carefully enveloped their view. He & his men heard their words, several of which, which they had not time to remove, was found up in the roof, where they had evidently been placed, awaiting their time to escape.

14 February 1865 No. 267.

The Governor in Council will
await the further report promised
by the Inspector General of Police, and
the report of the Inspector General of
Jails, which should be submitted
as soon as possible.

To the Inspector General of Police
Inspector General of Jails
Magistrate of Malabar