M.R.O. 1—50,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 761 Press Mis.

183-184

Dated 18 — 5 — 19 : 8.26

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
18*th May* 1866.

No. 183. Read the following letter from the Officiating Magistrate, Tanjore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Vallam, 9th May 1866, No. 101.

I have the honor to report that two persons so closely answering the descriptions contained in the Roll published on page 638 of this year's *Fort Saint George Gazette*, as to leave but little doubt of their being the convicts therein referred to, have been apprehended at Negapatam, and are now in custody of the Police. Previous to the arrival of the descriptive Roll, the Captain of the vessel from Penang, in which these men were found lurking, handed them over to the Magistracy, on his arrival at Negapatam, and Mr. Hutchins had already written to Penang, conjecturing, from their having got on board surreptitiously at that port, that they were escaped convicts.

2. The receipt of the Roll seems to clear up all doubt. One, it appears from this information, was tried at Mysore, and the other at Belgaum, and that both are sentenced for life. It seems scarcely worth sending them to these distant localities for identification, and considering the strong case against them, the wisest course appears to be to send them to Madras, for subsequent re-shipment to Penang; but I shall be glad of Government instructions on this matter. I enclose abstracts in English of the very vague and unsatisfactory accounts they give of themselves, and I may add that they escaped from Jail the day previous to the sailing of the vessel upon which they were apprehended, and upon which, as I before stated, they had clandestinely embarked. Mr. Hutchins, in the concluding paragraph of his Report, makes the following observations regarding the disposal of these men, and in which I quite concur:—

"As they are already sentenced to the very highest punishment, short of "death, provided by the Penal Code, it does not seem that any object would be "gained by prosecuting them under Section 226 of the Indian Penal Code. It "seems, therefore, necessary only to obtain witnesses to their identity, and have them "returned to Penang, though the circumstances are so conclusive, in my opinion, "that they might be returned without previous sworn identification."

One prisoner states that his name is Rengan; that he is a Native of Neilgherries in Coimbatore District. He is a laborer by profession, cutting grass and carrying loads. He was travelling over several parts of the country, and at last he proceeded to Madras as a carrier with a certain gentleman, whence he embarked for Penang about three years ago, where he was working as a cooly. He was unwell there, and with a view to return to his own country, he embarked on board a vessel. He met the prisoner Muthappa in the ship; while on board he was apprehended as a thief. He had a silver coin worth 2¼ Rupees, and a handkerchief. They are now with the Police. The prisoner adds that he never was convicted before, nor was he in Jail at Penang and escaped.

(Signed) A. R. HUTCHINS,
Acting Joint Magistrate.

One prisoner states that his name is Muthappa; that he is a Native of Thandapettai, Bellary. He is a laborer by profession, cutting and selling firewood. He has been always a wanderer, not staying in any one place for more than eight months. At last, he arrived at Madras, whence he embarked for Penang about six years ago, where he was employed as a laborer. He saw prisoner Rengan at Penang, sea coast, and they both left Penang on board a vessel. In the vessel there was a discharged Peon who asked the prisoner two Rupees. They did not give, and the peon apprehend-

ed them as being thieves, and delivered them over to the authority. Prisoner had six Rupees and odd, and two gold rings which are now in the station. Prisoner further states that he was neither formerly convicted, nor did he escape from custody at Penang.

(Signed) A. R. HUTCHINS,
Acting Joint Magistrate.

No. 184. ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1866, No. 761.

The Acting Magistrate will take measures to send the prisoners referred to in the foregoing letter, under proper custody, to the Commissioner of Police at Madras.

2. On the arrival of the men, Captain Hearn will be sogood as to compare them with the descriptive Roll published at page 638 of the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, 20th April last, and submit his opinion as to their identity, for the information and orders of Government.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Magistrate of Tanjore.
„ Commissioner of Police.

Erd. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Offg Magistrate of Tanjore.

Here enter 9th May 66 No 101.

Order thereon 18th May 1866 No 761.

N. G.P. Wd

The Acting Magistrate will take measures to send the prisoners referred to in the foregoing letter under proper custody to the Commissioner of Police at Madras.

2. On the arrival of the men, Captain Hearn will be so good as to compare them with the descriptive Roll

Roll published at page 632
of the 42nd St George Gazette
26th April last, and Sub-
mit his opinion as to their
identity for the information
and orders of Government.

To the Keeper of Prisons
— Commrs of Police } dated 22/5

Judicial 1866. Department.

No. 781.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Jud. 1209. 62/67
1404

Dated 18th May 1866.

Proc. No. 131-32
17/4/66

183-184.

Press No. 4200, G. M.—12-4-66—500.