

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	75	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	18-1.	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

18th January 1868.

No. 121. Read the following letter from C. E. R. GIRDLESTONE, Esq.,
Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief
Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort William, 23rd
December 1867, No. 1271.

Foreign Department.
Political.

The attention of the Governor General in Council having been drawn to a leading article, which is herewith enclosed, regarding the state of affairs in the feudatory State of the Rajah of Bustar, I am directed to request that copies of the papers referred to may be submitted for the information of His Excellency.

The admirers of Native administration, including many of the members of the new East India Association and Lord Lyveden, are recommended to take a glance at the state of affairs in the feudatory State of the Rajah of Bustar. A very competent observer, the late Agent to the Governor of Fort Saint George in Vizagapatam, has put on record the following interesting sketch of the manner of life and habits of the reigning Rajah of Bustar:—

“I am of opinion that it is altogether hopeless to look for any amendment so long as the Bustar territory continues without a Police, and the Bustar Rajah is the Chief Magistrate of his country. I do not find that the late Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, in the course of his annual tours, extensive as they were, ever penetrated to this outlying District, or ever saw the Bustar Rajah. The man can neither read nor write, and is, indeed, but one stage removed from idiocy. The sole idea he has is that of remorseless animosity to the Jeypore family in consequence of this Kotapad feud. Having sucked in this with his mother's milk, he follows it out, regardless of consequences. Though only five-and-twenty, the sensualities of the table have rendered him so enormously fat and unwieldy that he seldom leaves the house. However, being persuaded last year to attend the chaso, he had the good luck to wound a small cheetah, which so prodigiously elated him, that he gave an order for the release of all the prisoners in his Jail, and was with great difficulty got to countermand it. When awake, and not sufficiently alert to foment plots against Jeypore, he handles a waxen doll of European manufacture, which, by a simple machinery, familiar enough to the little women of our nurseries, but believed by this childish potentate to be altogether miraculous, will open and shut its eyes at the bidding of its fortunate possessor.

In all matters of business he is in the hands of a Moonshee and a Cutwal, two of the most consummate villains on the face of the earth. After the Rajah puts his seal to the warrant, all the rest is left to them; and our ryots, on their return from captivity at Bustar, averred that they were never brought before the Rajah, were confronted with these myrmidons only. The amount and nature of the iniquity that goes on in such a territory, under color of legal process, will be readily imagined. The following extract from a letter of the Assistant Agent, dated 15th February last, gives a recent sample of it:—“Two Berhampore cloth-sellers returned a few days ago from Bustar, and said that a Brinjary had murdered a man in the Bustar country, and was arrested and confined by the Rajah for one month, while negotiations were going on for his ransom. The sum agreed on was Rupees 1100, which the man's relations raised and brought to the Rajah, on which the murderer was released. The cloth-sellers said they saw the money paid, and that the Rajah's debt to them of Rupees 400 was paid out of it.”

These observations are made, as we said above, on very competent authority, and it is hard to believe that Mr. Carmichael can have been in error regarding the distinct facts of the special cases to which he alludes. But it is only fair to add that the late Officiating Commissioner of the Central Provinces, under whose administrative control the Bustar Rajah is in a purely political point of view, has recorded that “so far as he was at the time informed, the Bustar Chief, though imperfectly educated, and perhaps even obstructive, is not so imbecile or incapable a person as some passages in the Vizagapatam Agent's letter might give ground for supposing.”

Apparently he is capable of quaint doings in connection with murderers and cloth-dealers.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
18th January 1868.

No. 122. From the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, c. b., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department; dated Fort Saint George, 18th January 1868; No. 75.

In acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Officiating Under Secretary Girdlestone's letter, dated the 23rd ultimo, No. 1271, I am directed to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, the papers noted in the margin, regarding the state of affairs in the territory of the Rajah of Bustar, and to request attention to the report from Mr. Carmichael, the Agent to the Governor in Vizagapatam, dated the 22nd

Proceedings of Government, 25th June 1867, No. 1012.
27th June " Nos. 1033-1034.
29th July " No. 1201.
3rd Sept. " " 1416.
25th Oct. " " 1701-1702.
22nd Nov. " " 1895.
2nd Dec. " " 1962.
5th do. " " 1988.
11th do. " " 2045.
31st do. " " 2124.

April 1867, No. 81, embodied in the Proceedings of this Government, dated the 25th June 1867, No. 1012, and to the reply from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, dated the 16th August last, embodied in the Proceedings of this Government, dated the 3rd September 1867, No. 1416.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

despatched with the
reply to No. 22/

Judicial Department

No. 75-

To the Secretary to the Government of India
Foreign Department

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Genl St. George }
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