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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Judical. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1855 ~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Press~~ Mis.

Dated 22.11.1890 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

RP

BETATPIBLIOTHEQUE DE MADRAS
12th July 1890.
31 JUL 90
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

To

His Excellency, the Governor in Council,

MADRAS.

THE humble petition of the inhabitants of the Ponnani Taluq in the District of Malabar.

The petitioners learn that the office of Deputy Collector and Deputy Magistrate of the southern Division of Ponnani is to be transferred to the Head Assistant Magistrate of Malabar, Palghat, which is approximately 100 miles away from the Jurisdiction of Ponnani Taluq.

2. In the event of this proposal being carried out, the ends of justice are likely to be thwarted, the public put to difficulties, loss of money, loss of honor and be deprived of the good they now enjoy under the present administration.

3. We most earnestly pray that due deliberation be once more had before the intended tranfer, and in so considering this important subject, the following points be also considered.

4. We respectfully submit that it is a matter of the highest moment to establish, to alter, or to take away, a Division. In such a matter like this, our representative and the immediate person interested in the welfare of us all and who has the appellate powers over the Division, viz the Collector of Malabar, Mr. Dumergue, is the best person to be consulted. That this has not been done, has become the source of the highest grievance to us.

5. Though we are not in a position to submit that that consultation was not had, we are led to believe that there was no consultation of the kind; sure if there was any, the Collector would have particularly made a reference of it to us, and that was not done.

6. In the Southern Divisional officer is combined the powers of a first class Magistrate exercising his powers over the Taluq of Ponnani and of the Escheat work of the whole of the District of Malabar. The Taluq of Ponnani is about 126 miles in extent North to South and 20 or 30 miles East to West. It is bounded on the East and South by the Cochin territory, on the West by the Arabian Sea. The Taluq which has innumerable rivers, backwaters, cocoanut topes and gardens, is second in importance but to one in the whole Presidency of Madras. The Divisional officer is in charge of this Taluq which yields an annual income of four lakhs of Rupees to Government.

7. The houses of the Taluq are situate far and between and scattered here and there, and are very dissimilar to those of the Eastern Districts, and their villages and towns. Thus positioned, we are apart from the help of neighbours in time of peril and on attacks of ruffians and murderers. The only refuge and protection from lawless men as above described is the fear generally imported into the minds of people by their being often carried through the Taluq handcuffed, by the Deputy Magistrate's occasional tours, and by our being furnished with facilities of representing our grievance then and there, whenever subject to atrocities and whenever necessary, to the Divisional Officer on the spot. This, and this alone, has all along been our shelter and consolation.

8. The inhabitants of the Taluq are also very dissimilar to those of other districts of the Presidency. They materially differ in their time-honored and peculiar manners and customs. The Nambudiris, the Nairs and the Tiyyars, and others with their thousand peculiarities are nowhere found except in Malabar. The Mohomedan population also differ from their brethren of the other districts. The existence of a Division like the present is therefore a matter of absolute necessity for the preservation of our rights and religion and also the welfare of us all.

9. The Taluq of Ponnani is an extensive one comprising 73 Amshoms. For the public of this Taluq alone, there are three Districts Munsif's Courts, a Tahsildar Magistrate, a Sherestedar Magistrate, two Second class Sub-Magistrates, seven Sub-Registrar's Offices, two hospitals, seventeen Police Stations, three Police Inspectors, four Revenue Inspectors, besides other Public Officers. This Taluq has many criminal cases as the records and reports can testify, and the Division has heavier criminal work, if we may say so, than any other Division; and it is the Divisional Officer from whom we have been getting good for so many years that we are now to be deprived of.

10. The major population of this Taluq are Moplas who are generally known to the Government as illiterate. Amounts and amounts of money are dedicated for purposes of their education, inducements are held out to them by bestowing on them Government appointments. Such of them that deserve to be taken notice of for their atrocities are severely dealt with. To distinguish the good from the bad, the deserving from the undeserving, a local Division becomes a matter of sheer necessity.

11. In the event of this Division which is adjoining the Sea, being transferred and thrust into the interior, the cases relating to customs and maritime incidents requiring the First Class Magistrate's interference cannot be gone into without untold inconvenience and delay. The existence of the Division is useful for us in these respects also.

12. The manifold good results of the existence of the Division are so very manifest to Government that it needs no petitioning on our part. The late Mopla outbreak in Ponmundam in the Ponnani Taluq is a striking instance where the necessity of the Division was keenly felt. A number of desperate Moplas broke open into an innocent Nambudiri's Illom after burning some of the Queen's subjects to death. Had it not been for the timely presence of the Division Officer on the spot, the British Soldiers could not have come and quelled the rebellion without much bloodshed and spoliation. All these very well point out to the necessity of the Division.

13. There can be no security of person and property from the attacks of the ruffians and bigoted Moplas, and unless there exists an iron hand of a First Class Magistrate in the Division, our hopes of peace and welfare are but idle dreams. The poor and innocent suffered and paid for the wrongs of a few insurgents at Ponmundam. A heavy fine was levied and collected under the Mopla Act from others who knew nothing about it; all this can to a great extent be averted by a Divisional Officer.

14. Should the Government be so pleased to transfer the Division to Palghat 100 miles away, the difficulty, the expenditure and the convenience of finding out that Divisional Officer on tour, and filing complaints and appeals, can only be imagined than described. The expenditure of summoning witnesses and parties and the Police to such a distance is simply troublesome.

15. The Government cannot be gainers in a pecuniary point of view also by the transfer. We humbly beg to suggest that if it is to finish the Escheat work that the Division is to be transferred, the Escheat work of each Division can very well be allotted to the respective Divisional officers. Then the people, having Escheat business, will not have to travel through the whole District, and public money will not be wasted. It is only highly necessary for the Escheat Deputy Collector to have Magisterial and Revenue charge to facilitate the despatch of Escheat work.

16. We beg permission also to throw in another suggestion deserving of notice. On the staff of the District Collectorate there was no general Deputy Collector till of late. A general Deputy Collector's appointment to do duties at the Collector's office was but newly created. That Deputy Collector may be employed to do this special Escheat work. Calicut being the centre of the District and the seat of the Collectorate, that place may be safely fixed as the head quarters for the Deputy Collector to do his duties.

There is in the Ponnani Taluq alone as much Escheat arrears to be cleared as there is in the remaining eight Taluqs of the District. To the Deputy Magistrate of the Sub-division may be given the Escheat business of Ponani. To the general Deputy Collector may be entrusted the Escheat work of the remaining Taluqs.

In this connection we beg also to point out that the Assistant Superintendents of Sea Customs in the District who have very light work to do and for about 4 months in the rainy season nothing in fact to do, may also be made to assist them in the donig of the business. The adoption of any one of these methods can redress the grievance under which the public are now groaning.

The land survey operations being now carried out in Malabar, and the Ponani Taluq being in contiguity with the Cochin territory both on the East and South, disputes are likely to arise with regard to the tangible inmovable properties on the boundary, and in this wise also, a Deputy Collector and First class Magistrate at Ponnani is highly indispensable.

17. It is a real grievance and hardship to us that in cases of income tax, appeals and minor revenue matters, that we should go over such a distance; not to speak of Schools and Taluq Boards, Public Places, channels, rivers, public roads, all [illegible] occasional inspection by the Divisional officer.

18. The Division was originally established here during the time of M. R. Ry. C. Kannaren Avergal. It was temporarily removed. There was a great agitation at it as the previous correspondence on the subject shews and it was properly appreciated and again established by Government, and we have ever since been enjoying the good. What we got with effort cannot be lost without regret.

19. The people are sorely aggrieved at the proposal to transfer and are united in their grievance.

20. We therefore most humbly and respectfully crave his Excellency in Council to be gracious enough, on a kind consideration of our grievance, to order that the Division exist where it does now. For which act of good we shall, as in duty bound, ever pray for his Excellency's long life and prosperity.

We beg to remain,
His Excellency's loyal subjects,

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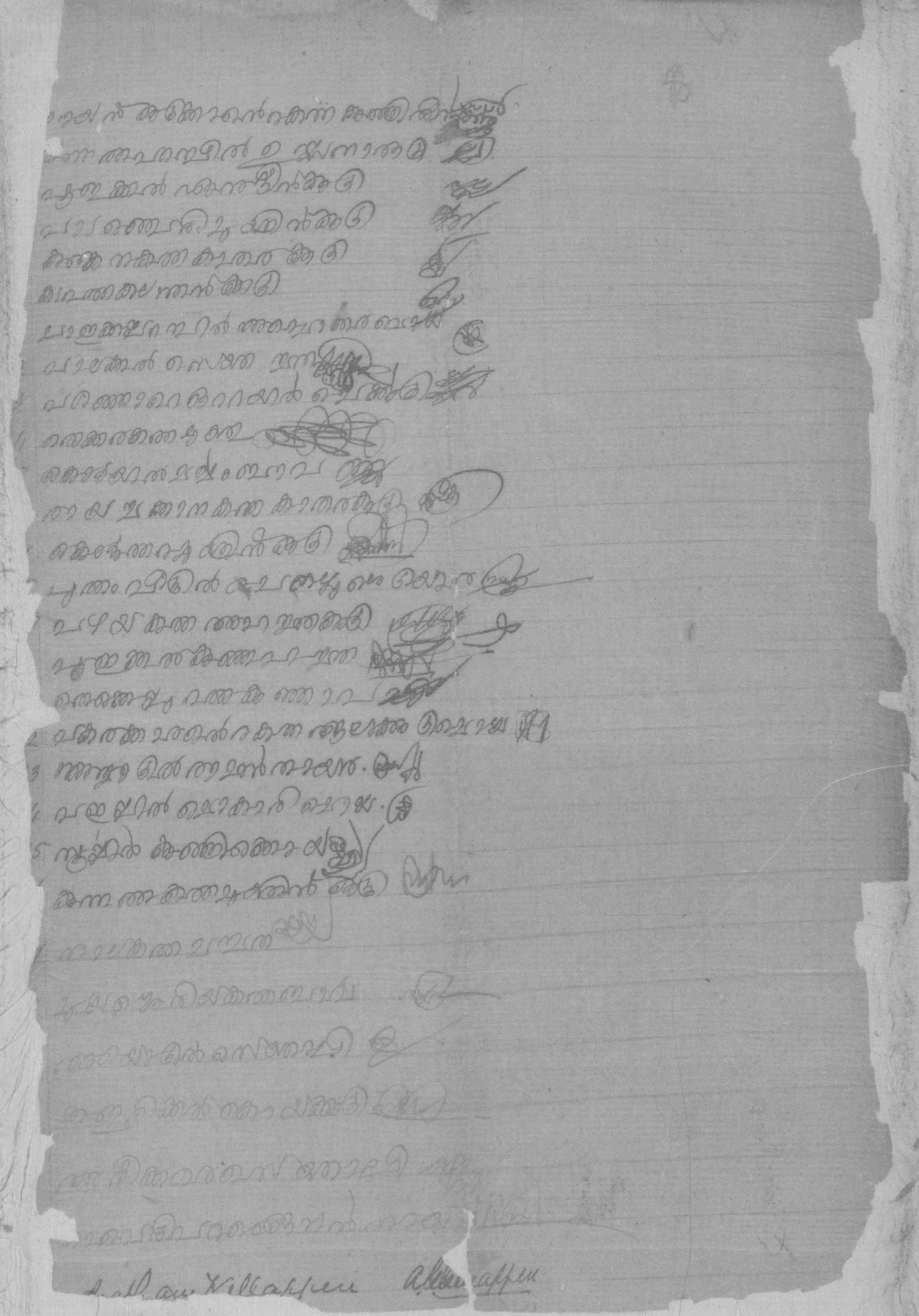

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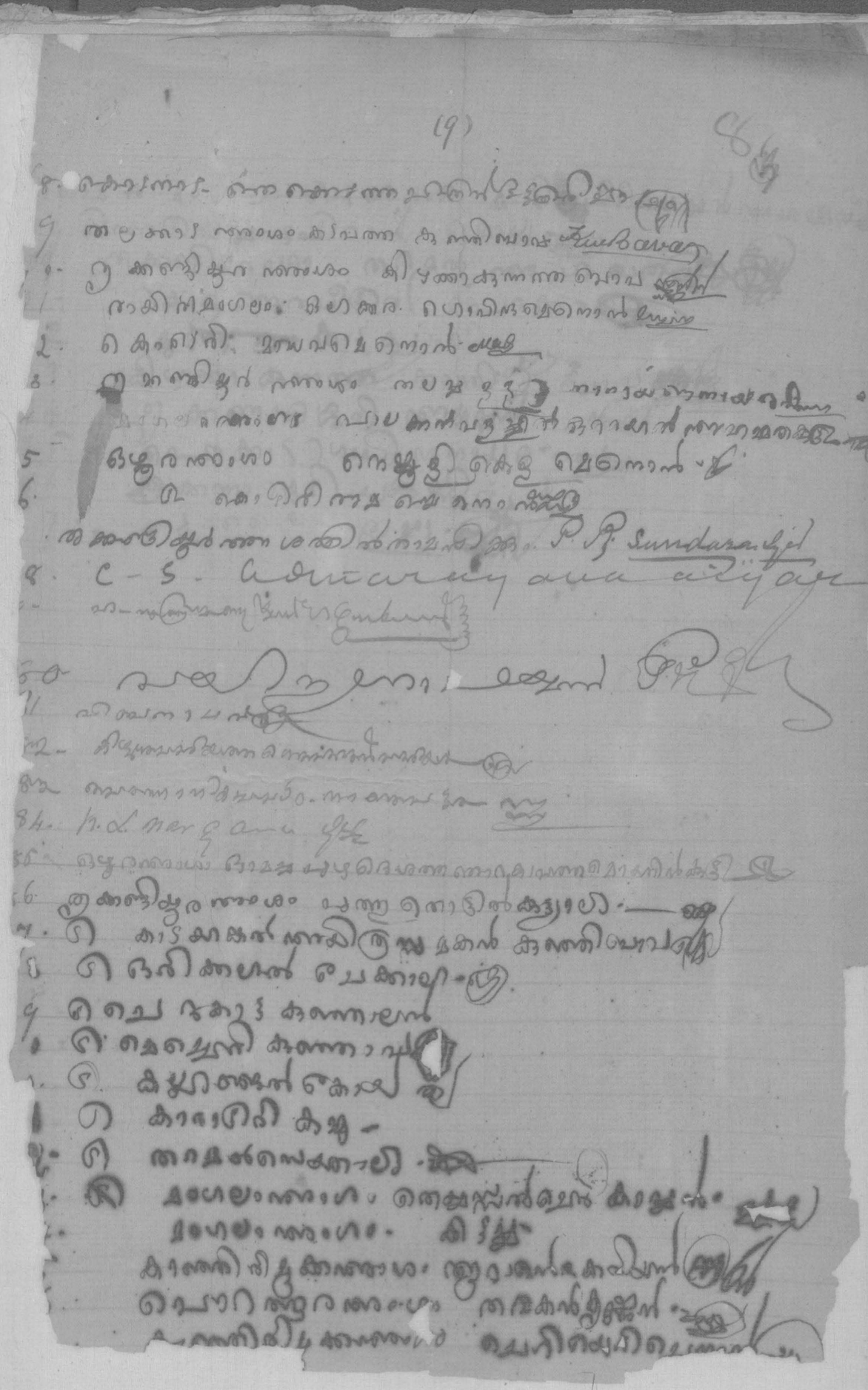

208. ചെറുശ്ശേരിൻ [illegible]

209. [illegible]

210. കുഞ്ചൻ നമ്പ്യാർ [illegible]

211 തുഞ്ചത്തെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ [illegible]

212. [illegible]

213. [illegible]

214. [illegible]

215 [illegible] Sankaran Nambiar

216. [illegible]

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228 [illegible]

229. [illegible]

(1890.)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 5478

From

The Inhabitants
of Ponani Taluk
Malabar District

Dated 12th July 90

Received 31st July 90

Enclosures — 3 Encls.

No. —

SUBJECT.

Representing that the Office of the Deputy Collector of the Southern Division of Ponani should not be transferred to the Head Assistant Magistrate of Malabar at Palghat.

Judicial Dep. 329

ABSTRACT.

Endorsement No 4911.

Transferred to the Judicial Department

SECRETARIAT
13 AUG 90
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Colr's command
9th August 90

Secretary to Govt

C.J.

Send to Board of Rev.

Jud. Department.

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[illegible] Rev. 2 Feb 1882 No 137

[illegible] withdrawn from [illegible] Head Assistants [illegible] on the ground that [illegible] officer could not [illegible] Sub-Customs & Cockeat work in addition to his own duties.

This objection will not however apply with the same force now that the Cockeat work is to be entrusted to a specially Attested.

But in any case it does appear necessary to [illegible] the petition at [illegible] for it will be [illegible]

By 13 [illegible]

under the Crew [illegible] the duty all the orders [illegible] were read [illegible] said in Rev: Reg [illegible] the petition refers & the [illegible] Officer carry [illegible] Otherwise [illegible] the petition to the Customs [illegible] of Peru was [illegible] in charge of the Head [illegible] Peru but was [illegible] division [illegible] petition

[7]

ORDINARY, MS.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 22-11-90
No. 1855

When given for copying 19

[Despatch Abstract].

Passing orders on petition of the Inhabitants of Bonani Malabar district requesting that the Office of the Deputy Collector of the Southern Division of Bonani should not be removed to the Head Quarters of Malabar at Palghat.

Dated 196

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