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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Confidential

Judicial

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	568	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
<u>Confidential</u>		
Dated	7. 3. 1894	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Malabar District Office
Cassidy Building 25 February 1914

Herbert ...
By District Magistrate of Malabar
The Honble J. F. ...
Chief Secretary to Government
Judicial Department
Madras.

I have the honor to report that on the evening of the 13th Instant a Moplah boy aged about 20 years named ... murdered a woman of about 60 years of age of the goldsmith caste at Tirurangudi because she having joined the Mahomedan religion had returned to her former faith.

The woman who was called Chittamma, became a Mahomedan some 20 years ago and afterwards reverted. Her eldest son, who was also a Moplah convert, died a Moplah a few years back. Her other children were Hindus. The Hindu Kuttis father was charged by Chittamma with before the Special Assistant Magistrate together with Chittamma's eldest son and 2 other Moplahs with annoying her, by cutting off the tufts of hair from the heads of her other children and with stealing a cow, but he was discharged and Chittamma appears to have reverted before that case. Some of the accused were convicted and sentenced to 3 months rigorous imprisonment.

The murder took place on the evening of the 13th and I heard of it about 10 A.M. on the 14th. I immediately sent out a police guard to bring the accused who had been arrested at once from Tirurangudi to Carappananga di and proceeded to that place by the evening train with the Superintendent of Police arriving at about 7 P.M. I examined the accused for about 2 hours that night and went on to Tirurangudi next morning.

The accused and the deceased woman were very near neighbours and it is clear from the statements of the children of the deceased that the two households were on friendly terms.

4. The accused was a boy, they were seen at the
complexion of a boy. These affidavits were given and it was said
that they were at the house of the deceased
father and the accused members of his family and
to visit their house. The morning of the murder he accused
went to Chittamma's house. He called her to the house
but she could not come as she was preparing food for
the morning and the moon would eat it. He then walked
up to the verandah where Chittamma was and pulled
her from the verandah into the yard of the house. Then he
attacked her with a large knife. Chittamma screamed
and her daughter who had been milking a cow in the
courtyard, and had overheard the conversation came to
her rescue, and endeavored to seize the knife. A toddy
drawer who was attracted by the screams also seized the
knife and they got the knife from him. He then
seized the knife which the toddy drawer was carrying
and again savagely attacked the
deceased, whom he killed. The toddy drawer says that
he moved to some distance when the accused threatened
him with his own knife, and both he and the deceased's
daughter were slightly wounded in the fingers. The
woman also received a cut (not serious) on her back
and a scratch on her chest.

5. The accused having murdered the woman,
ran away, and was met a few yards off by a Moplah
and by the son of the deceased woman who was returning
from his work. These two men seized him, but the
accused managed to escape, and was shortly afterwards
arrested and taken to the Police Station. A Police
Constable asserts that he alone and unaided, arrested the
accused, but the Moplahs say that two of them seized him
and handed him over to the Constable, whom they
accompanied to the station with the accused. I have no
doubt that this is true. The accused gave no account of
his arrest immediately after it and before the Constable
was sent to Mangalore with the body, returned.

6. I did not see a single constable at
the station. He suggested that the Police Station
was empty at the time. It was
light in the morning and the accused was
very much surprised. He said that he
was arrested within a few minutes of the murder and there was
no great merit in arresting an unarmed Moplah.
The Police are seeking to show that the father
of the deceased had a motive for getting the deceased murdered,
and they found a witness to swear that he was convicted
on the deceased's complaint, but this evidence is absolutely
false.

7. The accused was examined by the Tirunagudi Sub-Inspector
immediately after his arrest and stated that he murdered
Chittamma because she reverted from Mahomedanism
to Hinduism. He told me practically the same story. When
I examined him on the 14th I found the greatest difficulty
in getting him to answer questions. He was stolid and quiet
and his brain seemed to be working very slowly. The only
suspicious part about his conduct was his disinclination to mention
names of people. He stated that no one had suggested to him
to murder the woman, but the impulses had come upon him suddenly
from his ~~own~~ demeanour. I formed the opinion that
he was not sane. I examined him on the 15th and found
him talkative and noisy, so much so that I turned him
back to his cell. His behaviour confirmed my opinion,
and the Police guard at Parappanangudi station where he
was the night of the 14th who were men from the Calicut Reserve
under an Eurasian Head Constable, informed me that he
did not sleep at all during the night. One point which
struck me was the total absence of perspiration while he was
under examination in a close little Police Station at Parappanangudi.
I think he must have perspired profusely if he had been asleep then.

8. The boy's father said that he was occasionally insane,
and that he had during three years before he was in the
house, and that he escaped from confinement on the day of the
murder. I sent Constables to fetch the sticks and

I understood that he had been
in the stocks used usually to sit and tie
white rants had sat under it ever since
I saw a way that could not have been imitated
which showed that the spot had been there
since

The knife was a small one, and I
 brought it out, and it was a table
 they arrived at, from the fact that
 the knife was regularly around the
 and was out, and appears to have been used by the accused
 for chopping herbs in the exercise of his trade, as a herbalist. It
 was not particularly sharp when I saw it, and I imagine that the
 woman would have been living on if her wound had not been so severe.
 any one, in his spirit would have selected the first knife to commit
 a murder with, and I therefore believe that no other knife
 was cognizant of the boy's intention to commit the murder at the
 time at which it was done, the wise a better knife would
 have been provided.

I have the honor to be,
 Sir,
 your most obedient servant
 H. M. P. R. S. S.
 Acting District Magistrate

SECRET

1 MAR 1894

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Order: 7th March
1894, No 568.

Forwarded pending receipt

further report

2/3

3/3/94

The District Magistrate
Malabar
The Chief Secretary to
Government
Judicial Department
Madras

DM, Malabar (100)

Dated 25th February 1894
Dy. 27-2-94
Recd. 10 March 94

Reporting on the Tirunanga di
murder case.

ORDINARY, MS.

judicial DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 7-3-94.
No. 568.

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording pending receipt of
further report letter from the At
Muzhi, Malabar, regarding the
Tiruvengad murder case.

