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Date of Repair 22/5/81

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Tamilnadu Archives

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G.O.No: 2079 Judl. Dept.

dt 26-12-1873

G.P.

Extract from a letter from Major-General D. M. STEWART, C. B., *Supdt. of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to* A. C. LYALL, *Esq., Secy. to the Govt. of India,—No.* 102, *dated Port Blair, the* 11*th November* 1873.

PARA. 1. As there is often very great difficulty in identifying convicts transported to this Settlement, I would suggest, for the consideration of the Government of India, that Local Governments be moved to instruct the jail authorities when drawing up descriptive rolls of convicts to define the exact position of scars, moles, and all other marks by measurement in inches from the nearest joint, giving at the same time the size of the scar or mark, so that the identity of the convict may be conclusively established.

2. That these precautions are very urgently required has been proved here in the presence of the Superintendent of the Alipore Jail, from which two men have been received during the last two months with the papers and warrants of other men who are supposed to be still in India.

3. The discrepancies in the case of these two men will no doubt be cleared up when Dr. Lynch returns to Calcutta, and no harm may have been done as both admit that they are life-convicts, but a far more serious instance has just been brought to light under the following circumstances.

4. When comparing the convicts at Port Blair recently with their records, a great number of mistakes and errors were discovered in the Settlement books: men who are now alive in the Settlement lately known escaped were supposed to be alive and still at Port Blair according to the records.

5. With very great trouble the whole of these discrepancies and errors have been cleared up with one exception, and, in his case, it is hoped that the convict's identity will be eventually established, as he has been sent to Madras for that purpose.

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No. 329.

FROM

T. J. CHICHELE PLOWDEN, Esq.,
Offg. Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

TO

The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras.

Dept.

&c.

FORT WILLIAM, *the* 6 *December* 1872.

SIR,

WITH reference to the accompanying extract from a letter* from the Superintendent of Port Blair, I am desired to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, instructions may be issued to the Jail Authorities that in preparing Descriptive Rolls of Convicts, care should be taken to particularize their marks in the manner suggested by General Stewart.

* No. 102, dated 11th ultimo.

2. I am also desired to enquire whether the Madras Government can suggest any further precautions for securing the future identification of transported convicts.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Exd.—C. A. S.