

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

258

Press

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Dated

3. 7.

1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 6th July 1858.

Read the following letters.

No. 1. From ROBERT LONEY, Master of the "Rose Ellis" of London; to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated 24th June 1858.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship in Council that I in common with the Masters of the "Thompson Hankey Junior," "Victoria Regina" and "Antipodes" waited on the Master Attendant of Madras, to request permission for us to take a Boat previously hired to convey us to our Ships. I should not have considered such a step necessary had I not on the 13th of June last, when waiting to proceed on board the "Rose Ellis" at 6.30 A. M. been told I could not get a Boat, as the Government were seizing all the Boats to Coal a Steamer. After waiting on the Beach sometime I was about to leave it when the Master of the "Empress" called me and said he had been down to the Master Attendant's Office, and by the permission of the Superintending Peon was allowed to take a Boat off the Beach and by that means we got on board our respective Ships. Later in the week I had engaged a Boat to take Ballast to the "Rose Ellis" and to go on board myself, it was seized upon by a Master Attendant's Peon and as a favor my Ship being very light the Peon allowed me to take off the Ballast.

On coming to the Master Attendant's Office this afternoon to beg as a favor to be allowed to go off to my Ship, I was received by the Master Attendant with his heels on the Table leaning back on his Chair, no notice being taken of our entrance and to Mr. Lyall's request to be permitted to have a Boat a most insulting answer and question was given, and at last the Master Attendant so far forgot himself as to seize him by the shoulder and push him out of the Office, he then called for the Police and his Peons "to turn these Men out of the Office" and himself leading the way we were ejected before a large concourse of Natives.

I have had the honor of being in constant communication with public functionaries of all grades from Ministers, Governors of Colonies and other Officials to Custom House Officers and in an experience of twenty-five years of official life, I never beheld such a scene in a Public Office, and I must beg your Lordship in Council to call on the Master Attendant to apologize at once for his conduct or to allow me to lay the whole matter before the Court of Directors in London.

No. 2. From JAMES LYALL, THOMAS MOORE, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, and ROBERT LONEY, Masters of Ships; to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, dated 24th June 1858.

SIR,

We the undersigned Master Mariners of the Ships "Thompson Hankey Junior" "Victoria Regina," "Antipodes" and "Rose Ellis" have the honor to request that you will be pleased to call upon the Master Attendant of Madras to explain the reason of his committing a personal assault upon Mr. James Lyall, the Master of the Ship "Thompson Hankey Junior," on his appearing at his Office with us to request that a Boat hired by Mr. James Lyall should be permitted to leave the Beach and convey him to his Ship, then lying in the roads and cleared by the Custom House, he wishing to sail in the morning to complete his Cargo up the Coast.

Mr. James Lyall had hired a Boat at three o'clock to wait for him and to put him off, he had promised a passage to Mr. William Lawrence of the "Antipodes" and afterwards to Mr. Thomas Moor and Mr. Robert Loney, the two latter Gentlemen had been along the Beach trying by all means in their power to get Boats and were told by their Dubashes and Natives that the Boats would go with them but that the Government were seizing all the Boats to go off to the Steamers and if a Boat was to leave the Beach without permission the Boat people would be punished.

On Mr. James Lyall going to the Beach to his Boat he found most of the Boatmen there, but they would not go off as a Master Attendant's Peon, (a man with an Anchor and Master Attendant's Office on his sash) was watching the Boat, and a Boatman out of the Police Boat was there for the same purpose.

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Finding that the Boat would not put off (although they would have received twelve Rupees) without the permission of the Master Attendant, and it being of consequence that the Master of the "Thompson Hankey Junior," should not delay on shore, he being very anxious to proceed on his voyage, and also as the Master of the "Rose Ellis" had received Official Notice that he was to embark Coolies at 7 A. M., in the morning and the Masters of the "Victoria Regina" and "Antipodes" were anxious to be on board to facilitate their despatch, those Gentlemen proceeded to the Master Attendant's Office and requested to be allowed to speak to him, no answer was returned to three different requests to be admitted to his presence, and seeing him in his Office they entered, and Mr. James Lyall asked him why his Boat was not permitted to leave the Beach, as he understood that his Peons had refused to allow her to go with him. The Master Attendant's without enquiring into the Statement asked if he was supposed to find Boats to put him off to the Ship, it was replied that it was understood that the Boats were under the Master Attendants' orders and if that was not the case would he *be good enough* to give a promise in writing to be shewn to the Boatmen that no punishment should be inflicted on the Men, who would in that case put us on Board. This was refused most contemptuously and we were told to go and bring the Men to him who stopped the Boat, this was offered to be done if the Master Attendant would go with us, but he refused and on being further remonstrated with, rose from his Chair and made a violent assault upon Mr. James Lyall pushing him out of the Office, saying "get out of my Office: "I will not be insulted in my Office, Police turn these Men out:" and we were hustled out by the Master Attendant and his Officials; the Master Attendant leading the way.

After we were out of the Office the Master Attendant said I have sent for the Beach Master to enquire into this.

As it would have been very unseemly in us to remain in the Office wrangling with a high Official of Government; we have the honor to request that your Lordship in Council will be pleased to call upon that Gentlemen to explain his conduct and to apologize for it.

No. 3. From Mr. ROBERT LONEY, Master of the "Rose Ellis"; to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, dated 27th June 1858.

MY LORD,

On the 24th Instant I did myself the honor of addressing a letter to your Lordship in Council relative to the conduct of the Master Attendant of Madras; as I am compelled to sail before an answer can be forwarded, will you have the goodness to allow a copy of the same to be sent to the Right Honorable the Court of Directors in London, and the original to Messrs. Bainbridge and Co., the Agent of the Ship, who will forward it to me.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 258; dated 3rd July 1858.

Referred to the Master Attendant for report.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 258

Read letter from Mr. R. Loney - 24 June 1858.

" " " Messrs James Lyall & Co. - 24 June 1858

" " " Mr. A. Loney - 27 do

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Fort St George
3rd July, 1858-3

D. G. L.

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