

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *311*

Press
Mis.

Dated *12. 8.* 19*58*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 17th August 1858.

No. 3. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq.; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 7th August 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor, in behalf of the Committee of the Biden Testimonial Fund, to submit the accompanying Memorial to the Honorable Court of Directors, praying that a Special Pension be conferred on Mrs. and Miss Biden, and to solicit that Government will be pleased to forward it.

The humble Memorial of the Community of Madras; to the Honorable the Court of Directors of the East India Company, dated 7th August 1858.

Your Memorialists humbly submit to your Honorable Court copy of the Resolutions passed at a General Meeting of the Inhabitants of Madras, held on the 29th March last, to take into consideration the best means of testifying their respect and affection to the memory of the late Captain Biden. In pursuance of the third of those resolutions, your Memorialists now beg to submit their prayer that, in consideration of his loyal and zealous services, a special pension may be conferred on his widow and daughter.

Your Honorable Court are doubtless fully aware of the long and arduous services performed by the late Captain Biden, in his capacity as Master Attendant at this port; the zeal with which he was himself imbued and which he infused into those under him; and the consequent vigour and energy with which all his duties were carried out. Your Memorialists have been given to understand that the Government of Madras have fully informed your Honorable Court on all these points. They will not therefore recapitulate these grounds for the application of a pension to his family, believing that it is rather the province of the Government under whom he was employed, to bring such services prominently to notice. Your Memorialists rather base their appeal on Captain Biden's character as a general and unceasing promoter of all that could tend in any way to the benefit of the community with which he was associated for so many years; sparing neither time, labor nor money in advancing those objects, which, while they ameliorated the condition of the governed, reflected credit on their rulers, and thus gave to him and his family a claim on their sympathy.

The Sailors' Home at Madras, so admirable an institution, not only for the relief of distressed seamen, but for the opportunity it affords to respectable men of that profession to avoid the haunts of iniquity in the shape of Sailors' taverns so common to all Sea-port Towns, was mainly indebted to Captain Biden's vigorous advocacy for its present prosperous condition.

The establishment of the Marine School which, in the course of nearly seven years, has been the means of enabling 230 boys to commence a respectable career in the Sea service, was wholly due to Captain Biden's exertions. Through it, numbers of Soldiers' sons who had no other prospect of gaining a livelihood, have been fitted out and sent into the world in a respectable position. Large subscriptions were likewise collected by him in aid of the "Dreadnought" Hospital Ship. These are the three institutions more directly connected with Captain Biden's profession; but all others shared his attention and in advocating the claims of the Soldier, the Sailor or of others in need of assistance, he was always foremost. There has hardly been a charitable Fund raised at Madras during the last twenty years in which Captain Biden has not been the prime mover. Witness: the Fund for the relief of the poorer inhabitants of Madras whose property was destroyed by the inundation of 1846—The Wellington Testimonial Fund—the Patriotic Fund—the Clothing Fund for the Madras Fusiliers in the field against the rebels—the Funds for shipwrecked Seamen—for the Madras distressed Boatmen—for the sufferers in Afghanistan—for the sufferers at the Cape of Good Hope—for the relief of the destitute Irish,—for Mrs. Waghorn—and many others of minor importance for the relief of parties, Sailors or others, who happened to be at Madras in distress.

Your Memorialists further submit that his strenuous and persevering exertions for the better lighting of the Eastern seas peculiarly entitle their appeal to favorable consideration. They need but mention the Light House now in course of erection on the Great Basses which, but for Captain Biden's unceasing advocacy, would in all probability not have been undertaken for years. The rapid transmission of the mails is acknowledged to be a matter of vital impor-

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 17th August 1858.

tance to the Government as well as to the public. This light will enable the Mail Steamers to save much time which was formerly, and is still, lost by their having to give the rocks on which it is to be raised a wide berth during the night; and he who was the means of bringing about so desirable result is, in the estimation of your Memorialists, deserving of especial consideration.

Having now laid before your Honorable Court the grounds on which the community of Madras consider the late Captain Biden has earned a title to a generous and liberal sympathy for the family who, but for his unwearied philanthropy, would have been left in better circumstances, your Memorialists will conclude with a sincere hope that their appeal will meet with that attention which they believe it deserves, and that some special provision by way of pension may be granted to both his widow and daughter.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

(Signed) FRED. COTTON, Lieut. Colonel,
Engineers,

(„) H. D. E. DALRYMPLE,
Master Attendant,

(„) RICHARD R. BELL,
Merchant.

(„) ROBERT FRANCK, Junior,

(„) J. J. FRANKLIN,
Secretary to the Marine Board,

(„) J. R. BOYSON,
Honorable Company's Solicitor,

(„) C. A. ROBERTS,
Madras Civil Service.

Memo:—Dr. SANDERSON, absent on duty.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 311; dated 12th August 1858.

Resolved that the Memorial submitted with the foregoing letter be forwarded to the Honorable the Court of Directors in reference to the Despatch from this Government, dated 27th March, No. 10 of 1858.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 311.

Resolved that the Memorial submitted with the foregoing letter be forwarded to the Honorable Court of Directors in reference to the Despatch from this Govt. dated 27th

March No 10 of 1858.

*Fort St George,
12th August, 1858.*

Copy to Mr Franklin. Disptd 17th 1858.