M.R.O. 1—32,400—22-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 437 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 29. 10. 1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 24. From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 18th October 1858, No. 4184.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward the accompanying Petition from Mr. Thomas Norton, late Superintendent of the Point Devy Light House, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

2. Mr. Norton was dismissed in June last, for repeated inattention to his duties. The inefficiency of the light under his charge was a constant source of complaint, and since he has been relieved an improvement has taken place. There were however certain statements, advanced in his endeavour to shew that the Master Attendant at Masulipatam was proceeding against him from private pique, which required investigation. The annexed correspondence will explain satisfactorily circumstances which at first gave color to Mr. Norton's charges. Mr. Maiden shews that the sales he effected were not on his own account, but that, to save loss on a consignment intended for a brother, he undertook to dispose of the articles, and he distinctly avers that he has never been in trade whilst holding the appointment of Master Attendant; a statement which the Collector confirms. Mr. Maiden likewise proves that the complaints regarding Mr. Norton's performance of his duties were long anterior to the transactions which the latter brings forward as the cause of illfeeling against him.

From Superintendent of Marine to Collector, Masulipatam, 17th August 1858, No. 3219 paras: 2 and 3.

From Collector, Masulipatam, to Superintendent of Marine, 28th August 1858, No. 88, with enclosure from Master Attendant, Masulipatam.

From Superintendent of Marine to Collector, Masulipatam, 7th September 1858, No. 2623.

3. Finally I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the able manner in which Mr. Maiden himself conducts the duties entrusted to him.

To the Right Honorable GEORGE FRANCIS ROBERT LORD HARRIS, Governor and President of the Council, Fort Saint George, dated Masulipatam, 4th October 1858.

The humble Petition of Thomas Norton, late Superintendent of the Point Devy Light House, in the Zillah of Masulipatam.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That your Petitioner begs leave most respectfully to appeal to your Lordship in Council in the last resort, against his dismissal from Office by the Collector of the Zillah Masulipatam, and confirmed on primary appeal by the Superintendent of Marine, as will appear from the accompanying copies of Documents, (Nos. 1 to 23,) the details of which *seriatim* are as follows:

2. That your Petitioner was under express sanction of the Supreme Government appointed to the Office of Superintendent of the Point Devy Light House in the year 1851, from which period he had endeavoured to discharge his duties to the satisfaction of his several Official Superiors generally.

3. That unfortunately on the issue of your Petitioner's pay for February 1857, Captain Maiden, Master Attendant at this station, took upon himself to stop a portion of it, on account of *Liquors* sold by him to Petitioner; whereupon your Petitioner questioned his right to mingle such private with public transactions, on which Captain Maiden, with a view to annoy Petitioner, attempted to introduce a new method of disbursing the pay, *viz.*, that your Petitioner should depute a person to his Office to receive it, while the practice theretofore observed for a period of nearly 7 years was for the Master Attendant to draw and forward the pay to him, that a reference having eventually been submitted to the Collector, the old system was ordered to be continued, and as your Petitioner's pay for February 1857 was issued in full *without* any stoppage, Captain Maiden's design was baulked.

Vide Enclosures Nos. 3, 4, & 5.
Do. do. No. 8.
Do. do. Nos. 6 to 9.
Vide Enclosure No. 10.
Do. do. ,, 11.

Vide Enclosure No. 12.
Do. do. „ 13.

4. That in the very next month Captain Maiden made a report against your Petitioner of absence from duty, to which an explanation was afforded to the Collector.

5. That subsequently the Captain of the "Graham" complained of the Light not being visible on the night of the 2nd May 1858, (Sunday and a leave day with Petitioner,) that your Petitioner afforded an explanation, under date the 14th June 1858, from which among other things your Lordship will observe the lowness of the Pillar, and other local obstructions, are the chief causes, that similar complaints were made in the time of former Collectors also, and they were explained in almost the same way, but without any unfavorable result to your Petitioner, who respectfully solicits a consideration of the divers matters adduced in his representation of the 14th June 1858 alluded to.

Vide Enclosure No. 14.

Vide Enclosure No. 15.
Do. do. „ 16.

6. That your Petitioner was not a little surprised and concerned to receive a Memorandum from Captain Maiden, dated 25th Idem, annexing Extract of a letter from the Collector of the same date, notifying your Petitioner's dismissal and the nomination of a successor, before he knew either of his impeachment, or the grounds of his removal.

Vide Enclosure No. 17.
Do. do. „ 19.

7. That *subsequently* on application your Petitioner received from the Collector copy of a letter addressed to him by Captain Maiden, whereon your Petitioner's dismissal is based, that in the said communication Captain Maiden, 1stly, adverts to certain unfavorable reports made by the Commanders of two Vessels, of which your Petitioner, though deeply interested, was never apprized *previously;* nor any explanation required, that with regard to this complaint, your Petitioner since had only to refer to his explanatory statement of the 14th June 1858, adverted to in para: 5 of this Petition, representing eventually that such complaints will never cease until the pillar on which the Light is exhibited be raised 10 or 20 feet higher; that 2ndly, Captain Maiden vaguely asserts your Petitioner's frequent absence from duty, without specifying any dates, or adducing any evidence; and boldly avers that although there will be some difficulty in finding direct proof he has every reason to believe that your Petitioner still continues these irregularities.

Vide Enclosures Nos. 20 *&* 21.

8. That your Petitioner in vain remonstrated to the Collector against his removal.

Do. do. „ 22 *&* 23.

9. That an appeal to the Marine Board having been equally unsuccessful, your Petitioner has no other alternative left than to seek redress from your Lordship in Council.

10. That the facts elicited in your Petitioner's case are that Captain Maiden had exercised undue authority, in attempting to stop a portion of your Petitioner's pay for Spirituous Liquors sold by him without any License, that on being thwarted in such attempt, he then tried to resort to petty annoyance, and not succeeding in this too, he next had recourse to indefinite complaints of your Petitioner's absence from duty, of which he himself freely admits *it would be difficult to find direct proof.* That it is clear Captain Maiden was actuated by a private pique: while the Collector upon such vague accusations, emanating from unworthy motives, unsupported as they are by any evidence, but resting solely on the groundless foundation of mere assumptions; and without any open enquiry, or apprizing your Petitioner of the charges laid against him, or affording him an opportunity of defending himself, a course of justice not denied even to Criminals! entirely coincided with the views of your Petitioner's oppressor, that on these defects and informalities being prominently brought to his notice, he mainly adverted to the unfavorable exhibition of the Light, a subject of many complaints ever since the Establishment of the Light House even up to the *present time,* and a circumstance over which your Petitioner had no direct control, as repeatedly represented, that even the Superintendent of Marine in like manner summarily disposed of the questions, by confirming the Proceedings of the Collector, with reference to the single point of the badness of the Light, passing over unnoticed the other point adduced of your Petitioner's frequent absence from duty.

11. That thus in the sequel an Individual holding a responsible situation under Government has not only engaged in trading speculations, contrary to his tenure of Office, and also transgressed the Penal Law of the land, by the *illicit* sale of Spirituous Liquors, with impunity; but has further succeeded in revenging a private pique on a helpless Subordinate, by effecting his dismissal on insufficient grounds.

12. That finally relying on the profound wisdom, liberality, and justice, of your Lordship in Council, your Petitioner humbly implores a deliberate review of all the Proceedings held against him, with a firm hope that your Lordship will not in the present enlightened times suffer might to triumph over right; but see the propriety of ordering his restoration to Office, wherein he has served for the space of about eight (8) years.

For which act of benevolence, your Petitioner as in duty bound.

Shall ever pray,
THOMAS NORTON.

No. 1.

MR. NORTON,

MY MR. NORTON,

I have a few Cases of one dozen each at 20 Rupees per Case if you would like a Case you can have one we have not any in broach.

SUNDAY.

Your's truly,
(Signed) J. W. MAIDEN.

No. 2.

MR. NORTON,

DEAR SIR,

My French Brandy is out, I have received advices of some having been shipped for me on the "Amelia" expected hourly, of a very superior quality. I at present can supply you with any quantity of the kind you have had and for Cash can let you have it at 18 Rupees the dozen. I can pack you up the quantity if you like or shall be glad to supply you with French Brandy on arrival of "Amelia."

22nd.

Your's truly,
(Signed) J. W. MAIDEN.

No. 3.

MR. NORTON,..... Dr.

		To 1 Case, 1 dozen Brandy.....	20	0	0
		By Cash paid in part.....	10	0	0
		Balance Company's Rupees...	10	0	0

MASULIPATAM, 14*th August* 1856.

Contents received.
(Signed) J. W. MAIDEN.

No. 4.

MR. NORTON,..... Dr.

July.	30th	To 1 Bottle D. Brandy 2nd sort.....	1	12	0

MASULIPATAM, 14*th August* 1858.

Contents received.
(Signed) J. W. MAIDEN.

Mr. Norton is desired also to have a receipt ready in his house in the Fort for any pay, &c., the Master Attendant may sent there.

MASULIPATAM,
Collector's Circuit Cutcherry at Goodewadah,
27th March 1857.

(Signed) T. J. KNOX,
Acting Collector of Sea Customs.

To Mr. T. NORTON, Superintendent of Light House, Point Devy.

No. 12.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM, No. 38.

Mr. Norton is requested to explain why he left the Ligh House on the 15th Instant without leave. The Acting Collector considers nothing but dangerous sickness can justify such disobedience to orders, and it is his intention to have Mr. Norton removed from his appointment unless the explanation is satisfactory.

MASULAIPATAM,
Collector's Cutcherry,
17*th April* 1857.

(Signed) T. J. KNOX,
Acting Collector of Sea Custom.

To Mr. T. NORTON, Superintendent of Light House, Point Devy.

No. 13.

From Mr. THOMAS NORTON, Superintendent of Light ; to T. J. KNOX, Esq., Collector, Masulipatam, dated Point Devy, 21st April 1857.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your's of the 17th Instant, and in reply beg to state that having received an express on the evening of the 14th from Mr. Offmann, that Colonel Cotton, of the Engineers had arrived in Masulipatam and that he would not make any delay I started off after having seen the Light lit, and arrived at Bunder fort about 12 o'clock, the next morning at daylight without loss of time I went and paid my respects to the Colonel and returned again to the Fort at 9 and immediately wrote off to Mr. Maiden, stating my reasons for having acted as I have done, stating that I should return to the Light as soon as possible which accordingly I did at gunfire next morning having performed the whole distance too and fro on foot, in all 32 miles. I have now given you a true and ungarnished statement and must leave it for your consideration, whether considering circumstances I could have acted otherwise, for had I remained here and waited for a reply from Mr. Maiden I should, in all probability have missed seeing this Gentleman as it would have taken two days or more before I should have had a reply which I was afraid to risk as I might not have another opportunity of seeing a Gentleman who not only knew my revered father, but has been in other respects so kind to me and mine ; in fact, Sir, I may say under God, Colonel A. T. Cotton has been the means of my enjoying the small pittance that I now have.

No. 14.

From Mr. THOMAS NORTON, Superintendent of Light ; to Captain J. W. MAIDEN, Master Attendant of Masulipatam, dated 14th June 1858.

SIR,

With reference to the conversation I had with you this morning regarding the appearance of a letter in the "Examiner" stating that the Light at Point Devy was totally invisible on the night of the 2nd of May, I beg leave to state that I myself saw the letter and was surprised at its contents since there was the usual Light kept up that night, though I was myself absent that night having obtained leave, as you are aware, from the Collector to spend my Sundays in Bunder with my family, but on seeing the above letter I made strict enquires of and about the Lascars whom I left there and find that they were present and attentive to their duties.

On a previous occasion Mr. Lushington, the late Collector of this place, received a letter from the Marine Board on the same subject and desired both Mr. Webb and myself to proceed to sea and see how far the Light might be discerned, but we could make no very satisfactory report though out two separate nights.

The light is on a very low pillar, 40 feet high and this situated at about 1½ mile from the Beach, the whole extent of which is nothing but a complete swamp, stretching from the river at the Light to the distance of some miles, on both sides. Besides, on a very clear night with a bright moon, the Light being a white one, it is not visible, or rather from its extreme lowness, appears more like a rising star, and should there be any wind the difficulty of seeing it is greater. Again from this swamp there is frequently a great mist arising which must in a great measure obscure the Light seaward, though I do not mean to say that this was the case on the night referred to by the "Mariner." In conclusion, I beg to state as my humble opinion that these complaints will not cease till the Light is raised to at least 10 or 20 feet higher which I have frequently mentioned to Mr. Lushington.

No. 15.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

In forwarding the accompanying Extract of a letter from W. Knox, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs, of this day's date, the Master Attendant begs to inform Mr. Norton that arrangements will be made for taking over charge of the Point Devy Light Establishment on the date specified and consequently his services will not be required after the 1st Proximo.

MASULIPATAM,
Master Attendant's Office.
25*th June* 1858.

(Signed) J. W. MAIDEN,
Master Attendant.

To Mr. T. NORTON, Superintendent of Light, Point Devy.

No. 16.

From W. KNOX, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs, Masulipatam ; to Captain J. W. MAIDEN, Master Attendant, Masulipatam, dated 25th June 1858, No. 44.

* * *

2. I have also to request that you will notifiy to Mr. Norton that I shall not require his services after the 1st Proximo on which date I hope his successor will be ready to relieve him.

(Signed) W. KNOX,
Collector of Sea Customs.

(True Extract.)

(„) J. W. MAIDEN,
Master Attendant.

No. 17.

From Mr. THOMAS NORTON, Superintendent of Light, Point Devy ; to W. KNOX, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs of Masulipatam, dated 28th June 1858.

HONORED SIR,

I beg leave respectfully to bring to your notice that I was greatly surprised and concerned to receive, on Saturday evening the 26th, an Official Memorandum from the Master Attendant, dated 25th Instant, subjoining an Extract of a letter (para : 2,) from you to his address of the same date, whereby it appears that you have resolved upon dispensing with my services as Superintendent of the Devy Point Light House from the 1st Proximo.

As the above intimation does not exhibit either the substance of any complaint preferred against me, or the grounds on which my removal from Office is based, I request that you will be pleased in common justice to favor me with information on the subject, to enable me to put in my defence, for both the usage of the service, and the principles of equity dictate that no public Servant should be condemned unheard.

No. 18.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM, No. 48.

With reference to a letter from Mr. Norton, Superintendent of Light, Point Devy, dated 28th Instant, the Collector of Sea Custom has the honor to forward copy of the Master Attendant's letter dated 21st Instant.

11. Under all these circumstances, it remains for me to express a humble and confident hope that you will see the expediency of reconsidering the orders for my dismissal, with a view to my restoration as I have a family looking up to me for support.

No. 21.

From W. KNOX, Esq., Collector of Sea Custom ; to Mr. T. NORTON, dated Masulipatam, 13th July 1858, No. 71.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter,* and regret to have to say I see no reason to alter the decision previously come to, I cannot allow that you had not an opportunity of defending yourself, you were called on for an explanation it was not satisfactory, and I felt obliged to dismiss you, the keeper of a light is in a most responsible post, one night's carelessness may cause the loss of many valuable lives, and much property, and had such occurred after what had passed, I should undoubtedly have been looked on as responsible for it, and should not have escaped censure. I have gone over the reports of lights, and find that fully two-thirds of the Captains who have sent them in, have stated that the Light was bad.

* *7th July* 1858.

Captain Sinclair of the "Matanzas" the last arrival, reported, that he saw the Light House at 4 P. M., and yet could not see the Light at all after dark. Captain Meredith of the "Malacca" mentioned to me before he sailed, that the Light had decidedly improved since you gave up charge.

No. 22.

To the Secretary to the Marine Board, Madras, dated Masulipatam, 20th July 1858.

The humble Petition of THOMAS NORTON, late Superintendent of Devy Light House, in the Zillah of Masulipatam.

Humbly Sheweth,

That as the established channel of communication, your Petitioner begs leave respectfully to submit copies of the accompanying Documents relative to his removal from Office, by the Collector of Sea Customs at Masulipatam, with the following grounds of Appeal, for the consideration, and orders of the President and Members of the Board.

2. That the Board will observe that your Petitioner's dismissal is apparently based ;

1stly. On a complaint made by Captain London of the Ship "Graham" that the Light was not discernible on Sunday the 2nd May last.

2ndly. Upon an allegation of the Master Attendant at this Port of your Petitioner's frequent absence from his duties, for which that Officer himself admits there will be probably some difficulty in finding direct proof.

3. That with regard to the 1st point, your Petitioner would solicit the Board's attention to all the circumstances set forth in the explanation afforded by him through the Master Attendant, under date the 14th June 1858, (among the enclosures,) which the Collector of Sea Customs does not deem satisfactory.

4. That your Petitioner considers it necessary to add that he his doubtful whether the situation, and bearings of the Light are properly known by many, even by those who frequent the coast, much less by strangers who never came to it before ; that an instance may be adduced of Captain Sergeant of the "Defiance" in August 1853, supposing himself at or near Point Devy, ran aground, and a report had spread that she had been off the point, that your Petitioner was even questioned by Mr. Lushington, the late Collector, and Mr. Taylor, the Sub-Collector of Rajahmundry, on the subject, when your Petitioner assured them that no vessel has been stranded off the light, nor any in sight, that shortly afterwards people had gone down the coast for some distance, and came in with the Ship off Nazagoondee.

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 29th October 1858.

5. That the vessels alluded to by Mr. Knox, your Petitioner supposes did not lie to or anchor, as soon as they supposed themselves off the light, but contiuned sailing at least about 5 or 6 knots an hour, and supposing them to have done so, as in the case of the "Graham," whose Captain, says he made the light at 2 A. M., from 2 to 5, when object, became tolerably distincts he must have ran the distance of 15 to 18 knots, and then have seen the pillar, which is about the distance of Nazagoondee from Point Devy, that it stands to reason that both your Petitioner and Lascars would be on the alert, as those two Vessels must have passed the light after the 5th of June, the date on which your Petitioner saw the letter of Captain London in the "Examiner," for they were then under the lash.

6. That besides this, Mr. Alexander, the former Master Attendant, has more than once told your Petitioner that there was some doubt as to the correct situations of the true and false Points. That wreck of the "Emma," is generally supposed to have been at Point Devy ; while on the contrary she lie about 6 or 8 miles to the South, where your Petition saw her some months ago.

7. That the Board will easily perceive from the divers matters reported by your Petitioner from time to time that the circumstances which render the Light undiscernible on some occasions are entirely beyond his control. Had it been otherwise, it is not likely that your Petitioner would have remained in Office for the space of nearly (8) eight years uninterruptedly in the face of similar complaints preferred to Mr. Knox's predecessors.

8. That in regard to the 2nd point your Petitioner begs leave to refer the Board to the representations contained in his letter of the 7th Instant to the Collector of Sea-Customs (enclosed) simply remarking that no such allegation had ever been brought forward either by Messrs : Alexander, or Webb, whom Captain Maiden succeeded.

9. That your Petitioner has now no other alternative left than to appeal on the above grounds to the clemency and justice of the Board for restoration to Office, for which your Petitioner as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

No. 23.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM, No. 3228.

With reference to the Petition from Mr. Norton, late Superintendent of the Point Devy Light House, the Superintendent of Marine regrets that he sees no grounds for disturbing the decision pronounced by the Acting Collector of Masulipatam, removing Mr. Norton from his appointment. It is evident that the Light under his charge was not efficiently attended to, a Vessel having struck on the spit off Point Devy when no light was visible, although the Pillar was plainly seen at day light from her Deck and whether he was present or absent, the fact of the Light not being visible, is sufficient to prove that he was unfit to be continued in a port requiring such vigilance.

2. It is not unlikely that the brilliancy of the light would be increased by raising it 10 or 20 feet, but in any position so near the point as to put a Vessel on shore, and from which the

Pillar was plainly seen at day light there cannot be a question that the beacon light ought to have been clearly discernible.

MADRAS,
Marine Superintendent's Office,
17*th August* 1858.

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN,
Superintendent of Marine.

From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine ; to the late Acting Collector of Masulipatam, dated 17th August 1858, No. 3219.

SIR,

1. From the correspondence submitted with Mr. Norton's Petition it would appear that an ill-feeling spring up between the Master Attendant, and himself as far back as March 1857, in consequence of some alleged pecuniary transactions arising out of the sale to him by the former of spirituous liquors. Whether Mr. Maiden's complaint of the Superintendent's irregularities were submitted before this, does not appear, but that they were frequent afterwards is clear.

2. The Master Attendant at Out Ports are appointed on the express understanding that they are not to enter into trade, and I cannot understand how Mr. Maiden should have been mixed up in such transactions as those which the correspondence referred to is intended to prove, I have therefore to request you will do me the favor to state whether it is true that Mr. Maiden has been in the habit at selling liquors, or has been otherwise engaged in trade during the time he has held the Office at Master Attendant at Masulipatam, and if so whether he continues to exercise such calling.

From W. KNOX, Esq., Collector of Mauslipatam ; to J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine, dated Cutcherry, 28th August 1858, No. 88.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward a letter from Captain Maiden, with reference to the statement of Mr. Norton, you will see the first complaint and that a grave one was in 1855, I am not aware of Captain Maiden's being engaged in trade, and he could not be so engaged now to any extent without my knowledge. As Executor to the late Mr. Alexander, he has had to dispose of some supplies, &c., which that Gentlemen left in his Godowns, but this cannot be called trade.

2. I am happy to be able to bear testimony to the intelligence, attention and zeal, with which Captain Maiden conducts his duties, and I may add that this was the character I received of him from my predecessor.

From Captain J. W. MAIDEN, Master Attendant, Masulipatam ; to W. KNOX, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs, Masulipatam, dated 24th August 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Official Memorandum, No. 87, and its enclosures. And beg to state, for the information of the Superintendent of Marine, that Mr. Norton is correct in stating that he was in my debt for some time, and he might also have added that I had much difficulty in getting the cash. I received a Consignment of Goods that was intended for a brother, and to save myself from loss I had to dispose of them. Mr. Norton when pressed for the fulfilment of his engagement became impertinent, and endeavoured to draw me into a correspondence which I declined. These are the facts of the matter. But as to any ill-feeling existing on my part, I can assure you on my honor that had it not been for the letter now before me, I should not have remembered the subject.

I beg respectfully to observe that I am not in the habit of associating or mixing myself up with people of the class to which Mr. Norton may be considered to belong. And I am sorry that after the length of time I have sailed out of Madras, my character should not have been sufficiently known to the Marine Authorities there, to have prevented a supposition that so unworthy a motive as there put forth by the Petitioner should have in any way influenced me in matters of duty. If the Superintendent of Marine will have the kindness to refer to the proceeding which led to Mr. Norton's dismissal, he well see it arose out of an enquiry ordered by the Collector of Masulipatam, and at the same time an enquiry ordered by the Marine Board, on account of a letter that appeared in the "Examiner."

I beg to annex a copy of a letter from me to Mr. Norton, dated 27th April 1855, to show at what period I first endeavoured to bring about a reformation at Point Deevy. Letter on the same subject to T. D. Lushington, Esq., will be found on record in your Office. Mr. Norton was also frequently warned by me both verbally and in writing that his absence from his station and neglect of duty would ultimately lead to his dismissal.

In answer to the last part of Captain Franklin's letter, I beg to state the only business of any kind, independent of any public duties is an Indigo Factory, about 22 miles from Masulipatam, which in no way interfere with my duty, as it is imposible for me to absent myself from my station without leave, consequently I trust there can be no objection to this. Captain Franklin is probably aware that since my arrival at Masulipatam, I have at all times given every satisfaction to the authorities, Civil and Military, in carrying out the duties of my Office, although the number of Troops and Military Stores to this Port during the last 20 months has been unusually large. In proof of which I beg to annex an Extract Garrison Order by Brigadier Cameron. I have at all times exerted myself to the best of my abilities for the public service, and with regard to Mr. Norton, I merely did a duty that he himself forced upon me after repeated warnings.

From J. W. MAIDEN, Esq., Master Attendant ; to Mr. T. NORTON, Superintendent of Light at Point Devy, dated Masulipatam, 27th April 1855.

SIR,

I shall be obliged by your answering me the following questions at your earliest convenience.

1st. If on taking charge of the Light at Point Devy, you received any instructions for your guidance as regards the general control of the establishment. The cleaning of the Light apparatus, buildings, &c.

2nd. If any instructions regarding your absenting yourself or permitting the Lascars under you to absent themselves from the Light House for days together.

3rd. If any instructions to keep a journal of winds, weather and the way in which the men on the establishment are daily employed.

4th. What Rules you may yourself have formed for carrying out the duty of the establishment regarding the work to be done each day of the week, the night watch to be kept, the length of time allotted to each man to keep, and where the man is stationed during his watch, with any other particulars.

I require these questions answered with as little delay as possible to enable me in forwarding a report on the Light for the information of the Collector to offer some suggestions for the better management of the Light Establishment.

I also take this opportunity of informing you I shall consider it my duty in drawing out the report abovementioned to represent as forcibly as possible the neglected state in which I found

every thing on my visiting the Point Devy Light. The very imperfect way in which the Light apparatus is cleaned, the little attention paid to this subject by you, your constant absence from your Station, and the way in which the Lascars are constantly absent from or neglecting their duty. I consider it very disgraceful and cannot help expressing my disapprobation in the strongest terms, and have also further to inform you I shall consider it my duty to recommend your removal, unless I have some guarantee for your bettter attention to your duties in future.

Extract from Garrison after order by Brigadier T. M. Cameron Commanding, dated Masulipatam, 11th March 1857.

The disembarkation of the 7th Regiment N. I., and the embarkation of the 15th being now completed, the Brigadier Commanding the Garrison begs to notify and record in orders, that he has been very much pleased and gratified by the arrangements made by Captain Maiden the Master Attendant. The Steamer with the Head Quarters 7th Regiment on board arrived in the anchorage late on Saturday night the 28th Ultimo, and by *day Light* the following morning the Boats were all alongside, and the whole of the Troops landed by 2 P. M. on Sunday the 1st Instant, and by 4 P. M. the same day all the Baggage was landed and placed in the Lines of the Regiment inside the Fort. On Wednesday morning the 4th Instant, the 15th Regiment were embarked, the tide serving about 8, and the men comfortably on board by 10 A. M. and sailed to Madras. On Saturday night the 7th Instant the Transport "Statesman" arrived. On Monday the 8th all the Baggage of the Left Wing, 15th Regiment N. I. were shipped, and on Tuesday morning at daylight the Troops were embarked and reached the Vessel in safety by 10 A. M. notwithstanding there was strong head wind, and considerable surf on the bar, and it was chiefly owing to the activity, energy, and the excellent arrangements of Captain Maiden, that the Troops were as expeditiously and comfortably sent on board without any accident or delay.

The fact of the two Guns being fired in quick succession from the Fort on the appearance of the smoke of the returning Steamer far off enabled the Military Authorities to have everything prepared and ready.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. CHESTER, Captain,

Acting Fort Adjutant.

From J. J. FRANKLIN, Esq., Superintendent of Marine; to the Collector of Masulipatam, dated 7th September 1858, No. 3623.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th Ultimo, No. 88, giving cover to one from Captain Maiden in explanation of the transactions between him and Mr. Norton, which led to the supposition that he was in trade. I am glad to find that this is not the case as it would have been painful for me to learn that one who has always been reported as performing his duties with zeal and attention should have heedlessly incurred the disapprobation of Government.

2. There can be no objection to Captain Maiden's keeping possession of the Indigo Factory he alludes to, as its management must be entrusted to some one else, and cannot interfere with his duties.

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, No. 437; dated 29th October 1858.

The Government see no reason for ordering the re-instatement of Mr. T. Norton, late Superintendent of the Point Devi Light House.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

No. 437.

The Government see no reason for ordering the reinstatement of Mr. T. Norton, late Superintendent of the Point Devi Light house.

Fort St. George
29 October 1858.

Copy to Supt. of Marine Disp. 5th Nov.