

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *479*

Press
Mis.

Dated *24 9*

1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 24th September to 4th October 1859.*

No. 5. From Senior Lieutenant H. A. FRASER, I. N., Commanding Her Majesty's Steamer "Coromandel," I. N.; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras 14th September, No. 79 of 1859.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of proceedings of Madras Government and order thereon, dated 9th August 1859, No. 376.

As these proceedings animadvert strongly on my public conduct, while no opportunity has been afforded me for explanation, and no copy of them has been furnished me till now, late as it is, in justice to myself, I beg permission to tender the following vindication of my conduct.

I beg in the first place to advert to the fact, that in the Government order directing me to receive the "Establishment,—horses, office furniture, baggage, &c., of Mr. G. N. Taylor, Inam "Commissioner" no allusion whatever was made to the "Native Deputy Collector," who is stated in the proceedings alluded to, to be a respectable Native Gentleman, such being the case, and he being moreover, (as ordered on the proceedings,) entitled to be treated with the same consideration, and to be furnished with the same accommodation for himself and family, as a European Officer of the same rank, I beg with deference to submit, that while no European Officer of similar rank is ever included in the same category with the "Establishment, horses, &c. &c.," of a public functionary, but has passage and Cabin accommodation specially ordered for him under similar circumstances, it was impossible for me to conjecture that in this case, other than a Deck passage was required for Mr. Taylor's "Establishment," &c.

Mr Taylor states in paragraph 2nd of proceedings referred to, "that the Commander of the "Coromandel" had positively refused to afford suitable accommodation to the Deputy Native Collector above mentioned, who consequently preferred the fatigue and expense of the long journey to the risk of the "dis-comfort and indignity to which his family might have been exposed on board the Government Vessel." As Mr. Taylor could know nothing of my refusal except from Mr. Franklin, whose statement to the same effect I will presently recur to, I have simply to remark on the implication which appears to be conveyed by Mr Taylor in the last sentence of the paragraph above quoted, and beg to state that if it means any thing more, than incurring the same amount of "dis-comfort and indignity" that numbers of English Gentlemen willingly subject themselves to, on board this and similar Vessels, the imputation is as groundless as it is unjust.

In paragraph 3, the Superintendent of Marine reports, that the position assumed by me is, that I will not give to any Native of India Cabin accommodation for himself and family, whatever his rank, without an *express* order from Government. In the first place I beg to represent that no Official requisition was made, or order issued to me, to afford Cabin accommodation for the Deputy Collector in question, and his family; I was not under the orders of the Superintendent of Marine, nor am I aware that he on any occasion Officially communicated with me on the subject. Mr. Franklin has frequently asked me at his Office, when the "Coromandel" was not under his control, as a personal favor, to afford free passage to sundry individuals on various pleas, to such ports as the Vessel was bound, with which request I invariably complied.

In the same light I viewed his personal request to give the Deputy Collector a Cabin, and as I have remarked, no Official authority having been furnished to warrant my so doing, I declined.—The onus of refusal I respectfully beg to observe should rest, not on me, but on whoever neglected to order, or apply for the required accommodation.

Whatever may be my own views on such subjects, (and Mr. Franklin has not mis-represented them, excepting in reporting my private conversation with him, as the position Officially assumed by me;) I can only state in all such cases, the orders of Government I consider paramount to all other considerations.

With reference to paragraph 4 where Mr. Taylor states, that another Native Deputy Collector was treated during the voyage from Tranquebar to Madras with no more consideration than would be shown to a common cooly; as there can be little doubt that this refers to a Native Deputy Collector who previously embarked on board the "Coromandel," I have no hesitation in pronouncing the accusation to be utterly without foundation.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
from 24th September to 4th October 1859.

The Collector of Tranquebar applied for a *Deck passage* for the Official in question, which was at once granted, he was placed under the Awnings on the quarter Deck,—his wants were attended to by myself personally, and every thing done for his comfort short of giving him a Cabin (which has not been hitherto customary) the Officers of the Vessel freely and courteously conversed with him, and can testify to the truth of my statement, and Major Hunter Commanding Veterans at Cuddalore, and Captain J. Campbell 7th Madras Light Cavalry, Jaulnah, (both on board at the time,) can also testify to the falsity of the accusation, so recklessly made against me.

No. 5 A. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT, dated 20th September 1859.

This explanation is based upon the hypothesis that the verbal requisition made by our Superintendent of Marine was of no validity. Lieutenant Fraser should be informed that any positive requisition made by the Superintendent of Marine, either verbally or in writing, on behalf of the Madras Government ought to be obeyed.

He should also be informed that even if he had acted correctly in not complying with the verbal application of the Superintendent of Marine, the objectionable tone held by him in his communication with that Officer, which also appears in his letter to the Government, cannot be justified.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 6.

ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1859, No. 479.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Memo.

Lieut Fraser was ordered to receive
on board H. Commodore the
"H. High" and of Mr Taylor
Indian Commissioner.

The Deputy Collector was of course
a member of that establishment.

Under this order, the Lieut Fraser was,
as submitted by H. Secy of Marine (letter
1 August 1859) bound to accommodate
H. Deputy Collector according to his
social position.

He was told by Mr. Fraser that when
H. Deputy Collector's position was, but

informed that even if he had acted
correctly in not complying with the verbal
application of the Superintendent of Marine,
the objectionable tone held by him
in his communication with that Officer,
which also appears in his letter to
the Government, cannot be justified

20 Sept 59

Wm. Fraser

I concur - but I would not say more -
It Fraser has not been altogether un-
successful in justifying himself -

Wm.

Pro: 12 Sept 59 Wm 16 @ 20

Pro: 12 Sept 59 Wm 16 @ 20
The off: 14 Sept 59
Marine. 189 Sept 59

From Senior Lieut. H. A.
Fraser. R.N.
Comd. 2nd. Cornwall. 189
79.

189
24 Sept 59.

Notes.

with reference to the Pro
of 14 Sept 59 ult. no 276,
submits explanation as
to the alleged refusal
on his part to provide
a passage for a Marine
deputy collector.

Dist - Council 23/9/59

To be recorded

For: 12 Sept 59 Wm 16 @ 20
24 Sept 1859 J.P.

19 Sept
R 23.

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