

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Marine* DEPARTMENT.

|          |       |               |
|----------|-------|---------------|
| G.O. No. | 570   | Press<br>Mis. |
| Dated    | 9-11- | 1859.         |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
for the month of November 1859.*

No. 26. Read the following letter from Captain W. F. MARRIOTT, Acting Secretary to Government; to the Secretary to the Government, Fort Saint George, dated Bombay Castle, 21st October 1859, No. 1298.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 481 of 24th September on the subject of Lieutenant Fraser's resignation of the command of the "coromandel," and to communicate the accompanying copies of the Report of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, No. 1011 of 12th instant and of the Government Resolution thereon.

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*Report by the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy No 1011, dated the 12th October 1859.*

Lieutenant Fraser on leaving the "Coromandel" for the shore under Medical Certificate seems to have followed the course adopted throughout the service in all similar cases.

2 Had there been an Officer of the Indian Navy senior to Lieutenant Fraser present at Madras, the permission of such senior Officer would in the first instance have been obtained; but, as Lieutenant Fraser was himself senior Officer, he gave himself the requisite order, and reported the circumstance to me, at the same time forwarding the Original Certificate in order that the sanction of this Government might as usual be obtained to the proceeding.

3 Lieutenant Fraser would seem by the 1st paragraph of the letter from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras to have reported, the circumstance of his having been necessitated to leave the vessel on account of ill health, to that Government.

4 I am not aware that the fact of the "Coromandel" being placed under the orders of the Madras Government removes the control of the internal economy of that Vessel from the Executive Head of the Indian Navy, but if such is to be the case, it is necessary that I should be so informed, in order that measures may be adopted to avoid a collision of authority in those matters that appertain thereto.

5 In conclusion, I would beg to observe that the order permitting Lieutenant Fraser to reside on shore at Madras on Medical Certificate was submitted for the confirmation of this Government in my letter No 956 of the 26th September 1859 paragraph 6.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief, I. N. } (Signed) GEORGE G. WELLESLEY,  
Bombay 12th October 1859, } *Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy.*

— — — — —  
No. 1297.

*Resolution of Government, dated 21st October 1859.*

The immediate question is whether Lieutenant Fraser, acted regularly in giving over command of his ship without the permission of higher authority and it appears from Commodore Wellesley's report that he acted according to the custom of the service.

2. But the mode in which the Madras Government put the question *viz.*, whether he acted regularly in giving over charge without the previous permission of the Madras Government under whom he is now serving has led Commodore Wellesley to raise another question of whether the fact of a Vessel being placed under the control of the Madras Government removes the control of the internal economy of that Vessel from the Executive Head of the Indian Navy. Undoubtedly it does not; and His Lordship in Council does not suppose that the Madras Government alluded to the authoritative permission of absence which the discipline of the service requires but to that permission which both courtesy and convenience indicate as necessary under the circumstance of the Ship being employed in the service of the Madras Government.

3. Therefore although Lieutenant Fraser did not act irregularly, His Lordship in Council considers that he disregarded obvious considerations of respect to the Government of Madras in not reporting his proposed arrangements and awaiting a reply before carrying them out. The "Coromandel" being at the time in the Madras roads, no delay of importance would have attended this course.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,  
for the month of November 1859.*

4. His Lordship in Council begs that the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy will communicate this view of the case to Lieutenant Fraser.

5. Copy of this Resolution to be sent to the Government of Madras.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. F. MARRIOTT, Captain,  
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 27.

ORDER THEREON, 9th November 1859, No. 570.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,  
Chief Secretary.

*Marine. 1859. Dept.*

*Pro of Govt 10 Nov*

*From the Acting Secy. to  
the Govt of Bombay.  
1298.*

*2/21/59*

*1/28 Oct/59.*

*No 516.*

*28th Oct.*

*Acknowledges receipt  
of this Govt's letter No 516  
of 21 Sept on the subject  
of Lieut Fraser's resignation  
of the Command  
of the "Porcupine" &  
forwards copies of the  
report of the Commander  
in Chief of the Indian  
Navy, and of the Govt's  
Resolution thereon.*

*No. 570.*

*To be recorded*

*9 Nov 59.*

*Pro: 14th Oct 1859 No 9 & 10*

*26 & 27*

*C 31 Oct  
127 Oct*