

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

71

Press

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Dated

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
1st March 1861.*

No. 1. Read the following letter from R. E. MASTER, Esq., Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate, Godavery District, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Narsapoor, 20th February 1861, No. 37.

With reference to my two Telegrams of this day's date to your address, I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that the transport Ship "Chatsworth," Captain Baker, bound from England to Calcutta, having on board 70 Troops and 295 women and children belonging to Soldiers' families, approached the land off Narsapoor point too closely yesterday, and in the act of going about took the ground astern at 1 p.m. The first intimation which I received of the event, was by the arrival here this morning at 1 a.m., of Mr. Neville, Quarter Master in charge of the troops. I started in company with him before day-light, and proceeded on board the ship, which I found lying off the mouth of the Vashista Godavery about 10 miles from this place. She is now aground fore and aft, and every effort made to move her has hitherto proved unavailing. Her cargo consist of Railway iron, and coal, a considerable quantity of the former of which has been thrown overboard, by which means, the ship has been already much lightened. An anchor and kedge have likewise been thrown out ahead, and a hawser made fast to the latter, the strain kept on which, though assisted by every sail in the ship set, has hitherto had no satisfactory effect.

2. I regret to say that Captain Baker is so seriously ill as to be almost incapacitated for business. After consultation with him and the Officer in charge of the troops, it was deemed advisable to land the passengers with the double object of still further lightening the ship, and avoiding the danger which would ensue to them, should bad weather come on, the occurrence however of which is I hope at this season of the year improbable. About 200 of the passengers were landed this afternoon and I have made arrangements for their temporary shelter in huts, and tents formed of sails landed from the ship, at Vemuladivi close to the mouth of the river. The rest of the passengers will be landed to-morrow morning.

3. As this is a most inconvenient place in which to provide the supplies requisite for so large a body of Europeans, and as it is almost impossible to arrange for cooking, &c., on shore, it is proposed that the rations shall be prepared and cooked as usual on board, and brought on shore each day for distribution. I have thought it best to keep the party close to the beach at Vemuladivi, both in order that they may conveniently receive the rations as above mentioned, and also that they may be at hand to re-embark, should the vessel be fortunately got off without damage. I will supplement the means of shelter already provided, by Palmyra leaf sheds as far as in my power.

4. The ship, I believe to be lying in mud, in about two and a half fathoms of water. As she will be still further lightened by the landing of the passengers, and by the removal of more cargo, and as the tides will increase in height daily for the next six days, and as moreover there is a prospect of a continuance of fine weather, and the ship is upright and steady, I hope there is still a chance of her being got off. Should this hope unhappily not be realized, it will be necessary to provide carriage for the passengers to Calcutta, and I request the early Orders of Government on the subject.

5. I have at Captain Baker's request Telegraphed information of the occurrence to his Agents at Calcutta, Messrs. Smith, Fairie and Co.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st March 1861, No. 71.

Communicated to the Superintendent of Marine. It is observed that the Steamer "Arracan" has already been despatched to Narsapoor to render assistance, and to convey to Calcutta, if necessary, the Troops and Soldiers' families sent out by the transport "Chatsworth."

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Order thereon 1 March 1861 - No. 71 -
Communicated to the Sup^t
of Marine - It is observed
that the Steamer Anacapa has
already been despatched to
Kendalport to render assistance,
and to convey to Calcutta - if
necessary - the troops & soldiers
families and one by the train.
- J. M. Chatsworth

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