

11/15/19
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 10th March 1857.

No. 39. Read the following letter from H. B. HUDDLESTON, Esq., Covenanted Civil Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated Camp Masulipatam, 17th February 1857.

SIR,

In submitting the enclosed painful correspondence which has taken place between the Chief Engineer and myself, I do myself the honor to request you will be pleased to lay the same before the Madras Government with as little delay as convenient, together with my reasons now given for adopting this course.

Since I had the honor to enter on my Engineering duties in this country I have met with numerous causes of annoyance so serious and so wounding to my feelings as a man of honor, that had it been possible to have retraced my steps (which from circumstances it is unnecessary here to state) I should have done so.

A very minor matter arising out of one of these causes brought about a difference of opinion between the then Civil Engineer of the Arcot District and myself which that officer submitted to Government for decision resulting in an order for my removal to the Kistnah Division. Had the correspondence submitted related to one of the many sources of unpleasantness to myself there might have been room for great difference of opinion but when the trivial nature of the case amounted to whether I should be responsible for the acts of a man appointed and placed in full charge of a work, and the conduct of such work entrusted to that Subordinate again dependent on the available coolly labour of the District I think the declining on my part a responsibility dependent upon so uncertain a basis could but bear one interpretation and that anything but amounting to Insubordination a term with which it has pleased the Chief Engineer to stigmatize my name and circulate even among my intimate acquaintance. This however did not occur till after I had been some time in the Kistnah Division and when the following circumstance had arisen. Being ordered on the 24th of September 1856, to carry out among other things an estimate for repairs to the work of Saint Mary's Church at Masulipatam which estimate was prepared by the Division Engineer after a personal inspection of the roof and building generally. It became my painful duty to report the Division Engineer's own estimate insufficient. This I did in letter No. 11, dated 1st October 1856 a copy of which is now enclosed in which I confined myself in the mildest terms simply to the facts of the case not even alluding to the want of practical or indeed common Engineering knowledge displayed by the framer of such an estimate and who from his high position should have been better qualified than myself to decide in this or any other Engineering matter. This most unpleasant circumstance caused me on the visit of the Civil Engineer to Bunder on account of the above work to come under his marked displeasure and I was not only publicly insulted before Gentlemen resident in this station on the occasion, but again at my own house when Captain Orr was my guest. The enclosed correspondence on this head will show that I not only approached a (to me) most wounding and galling subject in a spirit of moderation and forbearance but acted in a manner anything but indicative of one in any way inclined to Insubordination. It was after the occurrences now narrated that I was then stigmatized by the Chief Engineer and now am by that officer's refusal compelled to put myself on my trial to obtain that simple redress which I would have thought it would have been the pride of any English officer to have given to erase the wounding expression and unmerited treatment I had received. During the time occupied by this correspondence and a subsequent delay made in the hope of receiving some communication from the Chief Engineer on the subject I find my public character, rank and attainments placed, after unremitting attention to duties of no trivial or unimportant nature the very last among the Covenanted servants of this Presidency and though declared by the Honorable the Court of Directors a Covenanted employé I am officially styled a Supernumerary. This to my mind conveys a very inaccurate meaning to that declared in my Indenture with the Honorable Company.

The facts I am now in justice to myself compelled to state from their intimate connection with the subject of this letter induce me to conclude that my honest and practical labour on behalf of my employers in the conduct of my duties has only, not met with the approval of my superiors but caused me to be the recipient of calumny. In conclusion I have the honor to call the particular attention of Government to the concluding facts in this letter shewing in one instance

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(out of many I could enumerate) the want of Engineering knowledge among those who have placed myself the very last and that a Supernumerary among the Covenanted servants in the Madras Presidency.

Letter from Mr. H. B. HUDDLESTON, Civil Engineer to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Camp Masulipatam, 23rd January 1857, No. 6.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to enclose copies of a correspondence which has taken place between the Chief Engineer and myself and to request you will be pleased to submit the same for the consideration of Government, Colonel Faber having declined to reply to my letter on the ground that "it is couched in improper language." This censure, I deeply regret as I cannot think the communication merits it, having been written with no spirit or feeling other than that which induces a Gentleman to be jealous of his name and reputation. I am sorry the communication should have gone out of the prescribed course, which was an error committed in the absence of any specific rules on the subject of correspondence, but having considered it simply a matter between the Chief Engineer and myself, I sent it to that officer's address. On other occasions public matters have invariably been sent by me through the Division Engineer.

In conclusion I have the honor to say that I regret being compelled to bring this correspondence before Government but together with various circumstances which have lately occurred, I feel I can adopt no other course than this in justice to myself.

Letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to Captain CHARLES A. ORR, Civil Engineer, in charge of Kistnah Division, dated Fort St. George, 29th January 1857, No. 9863.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to return the letter addressed to the Secretary to Government D. P. W., by Mr. Covenanted Civil Engineer Huddleston being unable to see the smallest ground of reference to Government; and unwilling therefore to take upon myself the responsibility of intruding upon the valuable time and attention of the members of Government.

2. I beg the favour of your pointing out that by this non compliance on my own part Mr. Huddleston will be exempt from all liability to censure for addressing Government direct should he still think proper to do so.

Forwarded for the information of Mr. Huddleston whose attention is directed to paragraph 2.
Bozoarah, } (Signed) C. A. ORR,
2nd February 1857. } Civil Engineer, in charge of the Krishnah Division.

Letter from Mr. H. B. HUDDLESTON, Civil Engineer; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Masulipatam, 7th January 1857, No. 4.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that it has come to my knowledge on reliable information that you have been pleased to circulate that the cause of my removal from the Arcot District was Insubordination, a statement so at variance with the Extract Minutes of Consultation under date the 20th of March 1856, No. 451, that I respectfully beg to direct your attention to it, as I feel deeply aggrieved by this statement emanating from and bearing the weight of so high an official as yourself. Your last letter to me under date the 22nd July 1856, was galling enough to my feelings, but I had hoped it might have been written when suffering annoyance. The correctness however of this conclusion I am now led to doubt from the foregoing statement, and a fur-

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ther one communicated to me by Captain Orr, when at Bunder, that you had written requesting that officer to remove me from Masulipatam and permit Major Snow to reside there in consideration of his family.

In conclusion I do myself further the honor to request you will be pleased with as little delay as possible to relieve my mind from the painful impressions left upon it by the subject of this letter.

Memorandum.

The Chief Engineer has the honor to decline to reply to Mr. Huddleston's letter of the 7th Instant as it is couched in improper language. Moreover the Covenanted Civil Engineer is directed to correspond only through the head of the Department Public Works in the Kistnah Division.

Central office of P. W., }
Fort St. George,
14th January 1857. }

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,

Chief Engineer.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN ORR,

I have delayed writing earlier fearing the impulse of the moment might betray me into saying anything wounding to your feelings, but after a careful consideration of the circumstances and injustice to myself, I feel called upon to draw your attention to the very wounding and hard expressions you made use of to me personally as well as to the other members of my profession in this country when staying with us on Saturday last. The topic of conversation between us I feel sure you will now think did not call for such contemptuous language, more particularly considering your position as my superior and whilst honoring us with your company. Believing that a hasty impulse induced your conduct, I trust you will not allow me to remain in doubt for want of an explanation or permit the existence of any feeling that could militate against a zealous discharge of any public duties.

Masulipatam, }
4th November 1856. }

(Signed) H. B. HUDDLESTON.

MY DEAR MR. HUDDLESTON,

As before parting from you on Saturday evening, I expressed my regret if any thing had fallen from me either rude or hurtful to your feelings in reply to the disparaging and considering to whom you were addressing, the very extraordinary terms in which you were pleased to speak of the professional qualifications and performances of the corps to which I belong, it seems to me that your letter of the 4th which I received yesterday, was unnecessary, since I cannot say more than I then did, except to add that nothing that was said by either of us can make any difference in my sentiments towards you.

7th November }
1856. }

(Signed) C. A. ORR.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN ORR,

In acknowledging your letter received on the eighth, I beg to say that having written down immediately on your leaving my house, the conversation if not in the exact words certainly in a manner conveying the meaning and spirit of what was said on both sides on reperusal of my notes and on carefully recalling all that then occurred, I cannot recollect one disparaging or extraordinary term used by me with regard to yourself or the corps to which you belong. I shall therefore feel obliged if you will inform me as nearly as possible in my own words what terms you believe me to have used and if unable to recall them to your mind I will not withhold a copy of my notes for your perusal.

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The regret, you believe you expressed at parting, left me under the impression that it was a simple acknowledgement on your part of being rude without any allusion to my feelings which had it been so, I should have been sorry to have made the occasion a subject of correspondence.

Masulipatam,
10th November 1856. }

(Signed) H. B. HUDDLESTON.

MY DEAR MR. HUDDLESTON.

As I have said all that I believe is befitting on the subject concerning which you keep up a correspondence, and perhaps more than was necessary under the circumstances, you must really excuse my declining to enter into further discussion with you regarding the correctness or otherwise of our respective recollections of the conversation referred to.

Bezoarah,
13th November 1856. }

(Signed) C. A. ORR.

Letter from Mr. H. B. HUDDLESTON, Civil Engineer; to Captain C. A. ORR, Civil Engineer Kistnah Division Bezoarah, dated 1st October 1857, No. 11.

SIR,

I do myself the honor in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of estimate and instructions to repair St. Mary's Church Masulipatam to inform you that I at once inspected the roof to ascertain the scaffolding and other things required to carry out your orders and then proceeded to the Arsenal to view the timber and plant of that establishment which proved quite inadequate to the requirements of the case. I then commenced a second examination to find the exact condition of the wood and see whether or not I could scarp the beams and only remove the decayed portions. This however proved a failure and not developed the entire decay of the tie beams in question and led me to a similar examination of the other ones as also of the principals King and Queen posts and struts. These I regret to state with the exception of our principal and a Queen post are all decayed and require moving without delay. This however is not the extent of damage, about one half of the rafters and one third of the ceiling joists are quite gone many of the latter crumbling under my feet whilst walking over them. There are two principal causes to be assigned for this deplorable state of affairs.

Firstly, the roof has been allowed to remain in a leaky condition for some time thus permitting the rain to penetrate and soften the hard red wood beams which in that state had been attacked by the white ants whose depredations have extended from them to the ceiling, joists and roof timbers generally, secondly; the roof which is peculiarly well put together has no beams whatever provided for ventilation between the boarded ceiling and loft of roof, causing a most intense heat and literally baking the wood to a cinder much of which is like half burnt charcoal. This has been a very great oversight and has done much to bring about the result now reported. The present condition of the roof is such that its stability could not be guaranteed for one day and I have the honor to request your instructions for its immediate removal to prevent serious damage to the church in case of a sudden gale or heavy rain bringing it down. I would at the same time suggest the following plan. Removing the entire roof, previously shoring up the church and after a careful examination of the timber select such as can be again used and then submit an estimate for the difference of money required. As in its present state no accurate estimate can be formed or the extent of damage ascertained: much of the paving is in a decayed state viz. The floor from rot &c, requires restoring. This could be effected out of the pieces of wood found good in the roof and of too short a length for use in the new one, at the expense of the cooly only. In conclusion I have the honor to draw your particular attention to this building as delay may be fatal to it and necessitate the construction of a new fabric.

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No. 40. ORDER THEREON, No. 420; dated 4th March 1857.

As the matters to which the above letter refers have received the final decision of Government, no orders on it are now necessary.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

93
in full charge of a work, and the
conduct of such work entrusted to the
subordinate again dependent on the
available only labour of the District
I think the declining on my part a
responsibility dependent upon so
uncertain a basis could but bear an
interpretation and that anything
but amounting to Insubordination
a term with which it has pleased
the Chief Engineer to sign my
name and circulate even among
my intimate acquaintances This
however did not occur till after I
had been some time in the Kistna
Division - and when the following
circumstances had arisen -
Being ordered on the 24th of September
1856 to carry out among other things

an estimate for repairs to the work
of St Marys Church at Desulphur
which estimate was prepared by the
Division Engineer after a personal
inspection of the Roof Building
generally - It became my painful
duty to report the Division Engineer
own estimate insufficient. This
I did in letter No. 11 dated 1st
October 1866 a copy of which is now
enclosed in which I am pinned
myself in the mildest terms
simply to the facts of the case
not even alluding to the want of
practical or indeed common
Engineering knowledge displayed
by the framers of such an estimate

(No. 18)
To the Secretary
to the Government of Fort St. George.

Sir. In submitting the enclosed
painful correspondence which has
taken place between the Chief Engineer
and myself - I do myself the honor
to request you will be pleased to lay the
same before the Honorable Government
with as little delay as convenient, together
with my reasons now given for adopting
this course.

Since I had the honor to enter on
my engineering duties in this Country
I have met with numerous causes
of annoyance so serious & so wounding
to my feelings as a man of honor

that had it been possible to have
retracted my slips (which from circum-
stances it is unnecessary here to state)

I should have done so —

A very minor matter arising out
of one of these causes brought about a
difference of opinion between the then
Civil Engineer of the Arched District
and myself which that Officer sub-
mitted to Government for decision
resulting in an order for my removal
to the Kistnah Division — Had the
Correspondence submitted related
to one of the many sources of unpleasant-
ness to myself there might have
been room for great difference of
opinion — but when the trivial nature
of the case amounted to whether I
should be responsible for the acts
of a man appointed and placed

and who from his high position should
have been better qualified than myself
to decide in this or any other engineering
matter — This most unpleasant circum-
stance caused me on the visit of the
Civil Engineer to Bender on account
of the above work to come under his
marked displeasure and I was
not only publicly insulted before
Gentlemen resident in this Station
on the occasion, but again at my
own house when Captain Orr was
my guest — The enclosed correspon-
dence on this head will show that
I not only approached a (to me) most
wounding and galling subject
in a spirit of moderation and

forbearance but acted in a
manner anything but indicative
of one in any way inclined to
Insubordination. It was after
the occurrences now narrated
that I was thus stigmatized by
the Chief Engineer and now am
by that officers refusal compelled
myself on my trial to obtain
that simple redress which I would
have thought it would have been
the pride of any English Officer
to have given to erase the humiliating
expression and unwarranted treatment
I had received. During the time
occupied by this correspondence &
a subsequent delay made in

The hope of receiving some communication
from the Chief Engineer on the subject
I find my public Character rank &
attainments placed, after unremitting
attention to duties of no trivial or
unimportant nature the very last
among the Covenanted servants of
this Presidency and though declared
by the Honble the Comr of Directors
a covenanted employe I am
officially still a supernumerary
This to my mind amounts a very inaccurate
meaning to that declared sick & adienture
with the Honble Company

The facts I am now in position to
myself compelled to state from their
intimate connection with the subject
of this letter induce me to conclude

that my honest & practical labours
on behalf of my employers in the
conduct of my duties has only, not
met with the approval of my superiors
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the honor to call the particular attention
of Government to the concluding
facts in this letter showing in one
instance (out of many I could
enumerate) the want of Engineering
knowledge among those who have
placed myself the very last and
that a supernumerary among the
appointed servants in the Madras
Presidency I have the honor to be

Camp & Hospital Surgeon
17 Feb 1867 } I am
Your Most Obedient Servant
H. B. Boddleston
Cov. C. S.

8960 no 24 - 788.578.9810
- 2000 / 1000 kg 546.

Miss Harb 1854
At Concord Mass

11/3/14

of
from H. C. B. Middleton
Governor of Calif.
Calif.
Feb. 21st 1883
H. C. B. Middleton

Submitting the same
reference that I have
before the City Engineer
Office.

William Crozier
Dec. 11. 20. N. Y. Church

As the matters which
the above letter refers have been

see the final decision of Govt
no orders on it are now near

-very-
 22
 1892

Lord George

4th March 1831

My dear Mr. Cuddihon Esq^r