

M.B.O. 1-32,400-22-11-80.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Ans 8720. 4. 1858.

G.O. No.	743	Press Mis.
<i>146-147.</i> Dated	<i>20. 4.</i>	1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 20th April 1858.

No. 146. Read the following letter from Lieutenant H. D. TAYLOR, R. N., Commanding Honorable Company's Surveying vessel *Pownah*; to THOMAS PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Sedasheghur, 9th April 1858, No. 9.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Madras Government the movements of my vessel since her trip to Minikoz, which ended on the 28th of February by her return to Cannanore.

On the 6th of March she took His Excellency Sir Patrick Grant to Calicut and reached Mangalore on the 14th of March where I rejoined her whilst at Madras. I had suggested the completion of the Sedasheghur river Survey as the work of primary importance for me to undertake, and obtained the sanction of the Right Honorable the Governor to my proceeding to that river as our first operation on the 19th Ultimo, the *Pownah* was still at Mangalore detained on account of the illness of Mr. Williams and myself when the Collector requested us to take some Sepoys and a European Officer to Sedasheghur, we accordingly left next morning and landed them at that place on the 23rd, the *Pownah* proceeding at once up the river and anchored off Malapore on the 25th. We could then procure no coolies to assist us in clearing the jungles for our Trigonometrical operations, the villagers for miles above this place having fled as the Rebels were said to have been in the vicinity, but during the last week we have been able to proceed with our Survey.

I may mention that we ascended the Ghaut with Mr. Fisher and met Mr. Robinson at Hushy from whom we learnt that the Rebels had doubled back to the North.

I know not whether the Madras Government will attach any importance to the presence of an armed vessel at the very foot of this Hushy Ghaut, for the Rebels may being hard pressed in the North double back in this direction, but I am unable to detain the *Pownah* here beyond the 26th of this month, owing to the order of Commodore Wellesley to repair to Bombay. I wish the vessel to go to Bombay to undergo repairs and to allow of the present crew being paid off, but I hope myself to be allowed to remain and proceed with the River Survey, for now is the time when the rivers being low the rocky obstructions in their beds are most visible and it is essential that if I have to plan and execute works of improvement I should be permitted to watch the effect of the heavy monsoon freshes. It is now nearly three years since I was directed to Survey all the Canara rivers for the Madras Government but almost all the fair season months have been devoted to the Coast Survey, which during the above period has been finished from Goa to Calicut a distance of more than 200 miles. For the survey of the rivers an extra boat and six more men were sent down at my request in September 1855, and I now propose waiting here with this boat and the *Pinnace* (which carries a 3 pounder gun) and six Lascars who being natives of Sedasheghur do not wish to go to Bombay, also one Officer Mr. Williams to assist me in the Survey. Mr. Lewis can take the *Pownah* to Bombay and by this measure I trust our Commander-in-Chief will be satisfied for as mentioned in my last letter to your address I have no longer any chart to prepare for the Marine Authorities at Bombay.

I would beg the favor of a speedy answer to these above propositions as I cannot leave Sedasheghur later than the 7th of May.

A letter, many weeks over-due, from the Chief Engineer of Public Works, Fort Saint George has this day come to hand, calling upon me to meet Lieutenant Goddard, District Engineer of Canara and confer with him regarding the improvements wanted for our rivers and harbours. I would urge this as an additional reason for my remaining in Canara during this monsoon, that the Collector, the Engineer and myself may freely discuss all matters connected with rivers, harbours, and canals, and arrive at some satisfactory conclusion as to what is wanted for the improvement of a District, whose seaboard 200 miles in length possesses a score of harbours without a single Superintendent of nautical experience.

No. 147. ORDER THEREON, No. 743; dated 20th April 1858.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council approves the suggestions of Lieutenant Taylor, Commander of the *Pownah* for surveying the Sedasheghur River in Canara during the time the vessel is under repair at Bombay.

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

From
Lieut. R. S. Taylor Esq.
Comd'g "H. M. S. "Herald"

To
Thomas P. Smith Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government
West Hill House
London

Sir
I have the honor to report to
the information of the Madras Government
the Government of my recent time
trip to India, which ended on the
28th of February by the return of the
on the 6th of March she took her
departure for Madras and reached
Madras on the 14th
of March where I rejoined her
Whilst at Madras I had suggested
the completion of the Suddingh
River Survey at the bank of the
River and for me to undertake, and
obtain the sanction of the Right

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I wrote the Governor to my proceeding
to that river as our first operation
on the 19th ultimo the Poruah was still at
Gangalore, detained on account of the
illness of Mr. Williams and myself when
the Collector requested us to take some Europeans
and a European officer to Vedashepura, we
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the vicinity but during the last week we
have been able to proceed with our survey
I may mention that we ascended
the Ghaut with Mr. Fisher and met Mr.
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will attach any importance to the presence
of an armed vessel at this Bay look of
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in this direction, but I am sensible
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of this month, owing to the order of
Commodore Wellesley to repair to Bombay
I wish the vessel to go to Bombay to undergo
repairs and to allow of the present crew
being paid off, but I hope myself to be
allowed to remain and proceed with
the river survey, for now is the time
when the river being low the rocky
obstructions in these parts are more visible
and it is essential that if I have to
plan and execute works of improvement
I should be permitted to watch the
effect of the heavy monsoon freshes
It is now nearly three years since I
was directed to survey all the Anara
rivers for the Madras Government
has almost all the river last months

have been devoted to the East Survey, which
during the above period has been finished.
from Goa to a distance of 1000
miles. For the survey of
the Rivers are six boats and six
more have been sent down at my request
in Sept 1855 and I have been waiting
here with this boat and the Prince
(which carries a 30 lb gun) and six
Lascars who being natives of Malabar
do not wish to go to Bombay also the
officer Mr Williams to visit me in the
survey. Mr Lewis has taken the Prince
to Bombay and by this measure I trust
the Commander in Chief will be satisfied
for as mentioned in my last letter
to the Admiralty I have no longer any
work to prepare for the Marine Survey
at Bombay.

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and confer with him regarding the improve-
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I should beg this as an additional
reason for my remaining in Madras
during this monsoon, that the collector the
Engineer and myself may fully discuss
all matters connected with Rivers, Harbours,
and canals, and arrive at some satisfactory
conclusion as to what is wanted for the
improvement of a district, whose seaboard
200 miles in length possesses a score
of Harbours without a single Superintendent
of Nautical Experience.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Malabar
Malabar
April 9th 1858
A. D. Taylor
Lieut. Col.

