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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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G.O. No.	<i>154</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>21-4</i>	18 <i>57</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 50. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 31st March 1859, No. 9180.

SIR,

In communicating the Minute of the Commander-in-Chief of the 24th Instant, and para. 2 of the order of Government No. 719, of the 26th Instant, to the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, lately on tour of Inspection, I deemed it my duty to demur to the first intention of that Officer to sit in silence under his unexpected reproof for imputed officious interference, and to point out that it might justly be regarded as a want of respect to the exalted position of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, if Captain Orr were not to submit, for the favorable consideration of Government, such explanations as he might reasonably expect, would clear his official conduct from the impropriety that has been attached to it alike by Lieutenant General Sir P. Grant, K. C. B., and by His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. It is under these circumstances that Captain Orr has forwarded to me the despatch,* I now do myself the honor to transmit in original, and in doing so, I venture to express an earnest hope that an Engineer Officer of Captain Orr's conspicuous professional ability and merit, and who has served for more than a quarter of a century, may be exculpated from all blame, in regard to the manner in which he has lately discharged the duties of his important office.

3. It should not perhaps be altogether overlooked, that his brief observations on the proposed defensive post at Bangalore by the Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle, were not submitted to Government before the 8th of January last, and therefore that they could not have exercised any influence whatever over the opinions of the Government of India, as conveyed by the Departmental Under Secretary in his despatch No. 192, of the 13th idem.

4. Moreover I would beg leave to respectfully point out on my own part, that whatever obtrusion or presumption there would unquestionably have been, had Captain Orr canvassed either the principle on which a fortified post at Bangalore had been recommended by the distinguished Officers enumerated in His Excellency's Minute, or had criticised constructive or even alignment details of the work embodying such Military principle, yet, that the conduct of the Superintending Engineer would not seem obnoxious to similar blame, when in the discharge of inspecting duties, his brief comments were confined to subsequent arrangements, and of a nature so obviously detrimental to defence as the supposed encroachments he describes, and which so far from carrying with them the high authority of the Lieutenant General Commanding the Madras portion of Her Majesty's Indian Army, and of the professional authorities who had the honor of being associated with His Excellency, might well be deemed, local proposals, having regard more to local convenience, than to the important defensive project they apparently militated against.

5. I personally would on every account avoid observations on a subject belonging exclusively to the Commandant of Engineers, and to the most distinguished Engineer Officer in the three Indian Armies; but considering that the Executive Engineer at Bangalore, is under the Madras Government and independent of the Mysore Department Public Works, I cannot but think that, the Superintending Engineer deputed to inspect the Military Buildings in the Cantonment, would not have fulfilled his duties, had he not pointed out that permanent Officers' Quarters if established close to the entrenchments would not only musk the fire from the Garrison, but would compromise the personal safety of the Commissioned Officers, whose services it might be as necessary to ensure within the lines, as the men. I am however so ignorant of the deliberations that took place respecting the extension of the Cantonment and of the results, that I am alike incompetent and unwilling to offer any further opinion than that, the Superintending Engineer did not exceed the strict limits of his official duty, that as Captain Mayne will doubtless have to construct the fortified post, Captain Orr was bound to pay attention to that Officer's representations, and that finally, the Superintending Engineer Northern Circle is the last Officer I am acquainted with, who willingly or wilfully, would act in a manner displeasing to His Excellency, or adopt any line of conduct that should seem deficient, in the unfeigned res-

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 29th April 1859.

pect, loyalty, and obedience so justly due to the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, Lieutenant General Sir P. Grant K. C. B.

Letter from Captain C. A. ORR, Superintending Engineer Northern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 30th March 1859, No. 25.

SIR,

As by para. 2 of Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 26th instant, No. 719, communicating a Minute by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief under date the 24th February 1859, it would appear that the Government considered I had overstepped the line of my duty in making any remarks whatsoever on the Military Buildings in progress at Bangalore, except in so far as their executive management was concerned, and as from the terms employed by Sir Patrick Grant, K. C. B., I am led to believe that he is under the impression that I had taken it upon myself to question his plans for the defence of that Cantonment, I beg to state, for your information, and for communication to the Government, and to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief if you think necessary, that nothing was farther from my thoughts than to give an opinion whatever on those plans, and that on reading my brief observations again, I cannot perceive how they have been construed into so broad a meaning.

2. During my inspection of the Buildings within the proposed entrenchment round the Race Course at Bangalore, seeing that the space to be included was comparatively limited, I deemed it my duty to say so, and, without any reference to the plan of defence, to point out what appeared to me the dangerous effect of unnecessarily placing outside houses and gardens in too close proximity.

3. Holding the official position the Government has, without solicitation, been pleased to place me in, I am not aware that I could have said less, and I cannot but conclude that had not my cursory remarks unfortunately come under the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in conjunction with the letter from Captain Fraser, Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, dated 13th January 1859, their meaning would not have been interpreted so much to my disadvantage.

4. To His Excellency's strongly expressed depreciatory opinion of my professional and personal character, I can only respectfully bow, with regret that a long, and let me hope, not useless service of nearly twenty-eight years, has not gained me a higher place in his estimation.

5. In conclusion I wish to say that, constitutionally preferring silence, and averse to writing, I should not have troubled you, nor desired to take up the time of Government with this letter, had you not intimated to me your opinion that it was only becoming in me to offer such explanations as I might have to give in reply to strictures coming from so high a source.

No. 51.

ORDER THEREON, No. 954; dated 21st April 1859.

The Government willingly accept Captain Orr's explanation of his remark on the proposed defences of the Dragoon Barracks at Bangalore. They do not doubt that his motives were good and his proceedings such as he believed to be consistent with his duty.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

For Orders

Public Works Department No 759

From the Chief Engineer 31st March 1859-

Regarding the Military Buildings at Bangalore -

The Commander in Chief will, I hope, accept of Capt. Orr's explanation which appears to be modest & submissive

m 7 April 59
I am quite willing to accept of Capt. Orr's explanation & make no doubt that his motives, though mistaken as I think were good & in his opinion consistent with his duty.

N^o 9180

(Central Office of N.W.)
Fort Saint George
31st March 1859

From
The Chief Engineer

To, The Secretary
to Government. D.O. 1.56

Sir,

Military

Encls. 1

Original letter

In communicating the Minute of the
Commander in Chief of the 24th Division, and Para 2
of the order of Government N^o 719 of the 26th Instant
to the Superintending Engineer Northern Circle, lately on tour
of inspection, I deemed it my duty to dissent to the first
intention of that Officer to sit in silence, under his
unrespected reproach for imputed officious interference,
and to point out that it might justly be regarded as a
want of respect to the exalted position of His Excellency
the Commander in Chief, if Captain Orr were not to submit
for the favorable consideration of Government, such
explanations as he might reasonably expect,
would clear his official conduct from the impropriety
that has been attached to it alike by Lieut. Genl.
Sir P. Grant K.C.B. and by His Excellency
the Governor in Council. —

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2. It is under these circumstances that Captain Orr has forwarded to me the despatch, and as myself the honor to transmit in original and in doing so, I venture to express an earnest hope that, an Engineer Officer of Captain Orr's conspicuous professional ability and merit, and who has served for more than a quarter of a century, may be exculpated from all blame, in regard to the manner in which he has lately discharged the duties of his important Office.

* 8/30 March 1855

3. It should not perhaps be altogether overlooked, that his brief observations on the proposed defensive post at Bangalore by the Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle, were not submitted to Government before the 8th of January last, and therefore that they could not have exercised any influence whatever on the opinions of the Government of India, as conveyed by the Departmental Under Secretary in his despatch N^o 192 of the 13th Idem. —

Lt Col. C. R. 355
29 Feb 1859

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justly due to the Commander in Chief of the all arms
Army. Lieut. Genl. Sir P. Grant K.C.B.

Central Office of PW } I have the honor to be,
T. H. M. }
31st March 1859 } Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
Wm. S. P. Colman
Chief Engineer

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