

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *25*

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated *9. 1*

1957

Not to be folded or roughly handled

From

J. W. Norton Esq^r

Agent for Kamachi Bhoye Sahib
and other Ladies of the Palace

To

H. Forbes Esq^r

Resident at Tanjore

Sir,

It is represented to me by Lorrain
Row that the Princess, the wife of Sackaram
Sahib, lies in imminent and indeed im-
mediate danger.

Under these circumstances, I am
requested by the Ladies of the Palace my
Clients, to bring to your notice the necessity
of providing for the immediate residence
and tutelage of the Younger Princess in
event of her Sister's death.

The Government, you are aware,
has sanctioned the measures taken by
the late Acting Resident, Mr. Cherry, with
reference to the Younger Princess.

My Clients, desiring the soundness
of

of the reasoning on which the care of the
Younger Princess has been committed to her
Sister, (inasmuch as estrangement by her
marriage deprives the latter of all legal
claim to guardianship, and inasmuch as
her physical state rendered her incapable
of any actual supervision.) will take the
earliest opportunity of formally protesting
against the measure in question, as well
as against any marriage between Sacka-
ram Sahib and the Younger Princess,
an event extremely offensive to them, at
present it suffices to request you expressly
to take all such measures as may be
necessary, should death deprive the Younger
Princess of her elder Sisters' so called
guardianship.

If I might venture without
impertinence to suggest a temporary
expedient which would give satisfac-
tion to all the ladies in the Palace,
it would be the removal of the
Youngest

Youngest Princess to her grandmother's
apartments, in event of her Sisters un-
fortunately being cut off.

Tanjore

25th December 1856

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Obedient Servant
Signed / John Bruce Norton

Agent for

True copy

Esq

Resident,

From J. B. Norton Esq^r
Agent &c

To H. Stokes Esq^r
Resident at Saigon

Sir

I have received no answer to
my letter to you of the 24th. The mat-
ter was urgent, and I naturally have
felt anxious to know your determination
upon it. Not having been favored with
any communication from you, should
I fall into error in what I am about
to lay before you, I trust I may be
absolved from blame. I shall endeavor
to represent circumstances with the most
scrupulous fidelity.

2. I am informed that you
referred my communication to the
Adj. Larkins, the result is that
instead of the young Princep being
given to the care of her natural
guardian

18/12/27

guardian, her grandmother, as I men-
tioned to suggest, she is now entirely isolat-
ed from the ladies of the Palace, tho'
she is accessible to and has been visited
last night by Luckaram Sahib.

3. She has been placed by French
Row in a room to which there are
three entrances, one thro' the
chariot mahab, another thro' the
Dowleh Salim, and a third thro'
the upstairs of Luckaram Sahib's
apartment.

4. The two former commu-
-nicate with the ladies' palaces: and
over both these entrances sentries have
been placed by French Row.

5. On the occasion of Lieut.
Stewart visiting the Palace, when
the deceased Princep was being pre-
pared for her funeral obsequies, French
Row applied to him for two Sepoys,
Mr. Cherry who was present, but since
you

you have become Resident, in
an official capacity, advised Lieut.
Stewart to furnish the guard upon
French Row's responsibility. French
Row stated that he required the sentries
to guard against the possibility of
the Ladies' obtaining possession of
the young Princep during the absence
of the Durbar at the funeral.

6. The sentries were accordingly
placed at the doors by which the
Ladies could have access. The entrance
from Luckaram's apartment was not
similarly guarded.

7. I am informed that Luckaram
Sahib and Pary Annah visited the
Princep at seven o'clock yesterday
evening, and that French Row was
there at 10 o'clock and slept there.
Whether Luckaram Sahib and Pary-
Annah also passed the night there, or
returned

returned to Luckarwan Sahib's apartments I am not informed.

8. I need hardly point out how distressing this is to the feelings of the ladies; how great a scandal it is; how desirable that no room should be given for even surmises; how easily and naturally all scope for observations and apprehension on the part of the ladies; and all opportunity for Luckarwan Sahib's communication with her might have been cut off, had the charge of the girl been given to her natural guardian, even as a temporary measure, pending a reference to Government; if you did not put yourself authorized by your official position, or did not choose to assume the responsibility of deciding it definitively by yourself.

Iustead

9. Instead of referring this question to your Superiors, you have left it, if I am correctly informed, to the disposal of your Subordinates. You are doubtless aware of the claim which Luckarwan Sahib asserts he has to the hand of the young Prince, though an alleged promise to that effect made him by the late Rajah; rightly or wrongly Pargana-mukh Trunk Row and the rest of the Durbar are charged with aiding him in his intrigues to gain this object; the ladies my clients solemnly protest against the connection, and I call upon you in the name of decency and justice to take immediate measures for placing the young Prince in a position suited to her age & sex & dignity; where she may have the company of her relatives, and where she may not be trifled or tampered with by Luckarwan Sahib.

Sahib and the Durbar

10 I maintain that neither legally, physically, nor morally was the deceased Princep the fitting guardian of her sister. All pretence however for allowing Sucharam Sahib to have access to her has been now removed by the death of his wife and if a point of legal guardianship was insisted on during the life of the late Princep, it is only fitting to insist upon the same now. Sucharam Sahib can have no shadow of claim to the custody of the Princep; yet he is the only person whom the Durbar permits to see her; Sen-tries are placed to prevent the ladies' access to her. She was prevented by the Durbar from seeing her sister after death on pretence that it might frighten her, altho' she saw the corpses of both her father and

and mother and notwithstanding the earnest entreaties of her family that she ought be permitted to stand a while beside the bier.

11. I can assure you that the ladies are extremely alarmed at the present situation of the Princep. I venture to express my own opinion that it is not one consistent either with kindness or respectability, and I stand on behalf of my clients to request that you will take immediate steps for her temporary protection.

12. It appears to me so reasonable that she should reside with her grandmother in her own apartments that I cannot conceive an objection to this course.

13 I have the honor to request that you will forward a copy
of

of this letter with any communication
which you may make on the subject
to the Government.

I have the honour
to be, your obedient servant
Wm. Bruce
Agent &c

(See copy)

Wm. Bruce

Resident

From J. B. Norton Esq^r
Agent &c

To W. Forbes Esq^r
Resident at Tanjore

Sir
With reference to the 5th para of my
letter of the 27th December, I have the honour to
inform you that I have ascertained that Mr. Chery
on the occasion therein alluded to when re-
ferred to by Lieut. Stuart, stated that he
had no authority and could give no order,
and that what passed between him
and Lieutenant Stuart cannot even be
said to have amounted to advice on
the subject.

2 Under these circumstances I have
to regret the impression under which
I wrote, and ^{beg} by that the passage in
question may stand "Tenkut Row applied
to him for two Sepoys. Lieutenant Stuart
furnished the guard upon Tenkut Rows
responsibility

responsibility

Tanjore
28th December
1856.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Obedient Servant

(Signed) John Bruce Norton

Agent ^{Genl}

True copy

H. S. Lee

Resident

St. Louis 13th Jan
Hof 2839 Paris
19021

1844 8-19

Enclosure of a letter
from the President
at Sayre
to the Chief Secretary
at Washington
22nd 29 Decr 1856.
no. 25-28-1000
CA

Mr. Johnston's letter
and the 25th 27th &
28th Decr 1856.