

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 27

Press
~~Mis~~

Dated

9-1-1927

19/27

Not to be folded or roughly handled

From J. B. Norton Esq^{re}
Agent Genl
To H. Forbes Esq^{re}
Resident at Tanjore. -

Sir, I have the honor to enclose
in a sealed packet, a Petition to Govern-
ment signed by Aboo Sahiba Ramachis
Bhoys Sahiba, thirty eight of the ladies
of the Mangahwasum, and Soorah Row
and to request that in accordance with
the instructions of Government you will
personally verify these signatures and
return the same to me. -

2 The matter presses and should
either the state of your health or your
other avocations prevent your verifying
these signatures in the course of the pre-
sent day, I have further the honor to request
that the accompanying packet may be
returned to me in its present state. -

J.

3. They to request that Corials
Row may be present at the verification,
if it takes place. -

Tanjore }
3rd Jan'y 1857. } I have ^{Yeo}
1447 Colm Bruce Norton

Agent ^{Yeo}
Tanjore Residents Office
3rd January 1857.

To Mr Norton Esq^{re} Agent ^{Yeo}
Tanjore

Sir,
I have the honor to receive your letter
of this date, without number. -

I shall be prepared to verify their
signatures to any Petition the Bhoyas Sahibs
may wish to submit to Government, but
for this purpose it will be necessary that
their signatures should be open to view. -

The sealed packet enclosed in
your letter is returned. -

I have ^{Yeo}
Signed W. Forbes
Resident

From

From
I B Norton Esq^{re}
Agent ^{Yeo}
To Mr Forbes Esq^{re}
Resident at Tanjore
Sir,

I regret that I should have
failed to render my meaning clear in
my former letter of this day's date. -

2. Only in event of your not being
able to comply with the request contained
in the first paragraph, did I request you to
return me the sealed packet in the condition
in which it was sent. The very request
to you to verify the signatures appears to
me, and does so still, to imply that you
were perfectly empowered to take all steps
necessary for that purpose, among which
it would have been superfluous to enu-
merate that of the Ladies seeing the signatures
they were asked to admit, and the consequent
necessity of opening the packet. -

I

3. I beg to return that packet:
and again request that if the signatures cannot
be verified this day, it may be returned to
me in its present state. If it can, I beg to state,
since it seems necessary, that you are perfect-
ly at liberty to break the seal -

I have Y^{rs}
Sampore } / signed / John Bruce Norton
3rd January 1857 }
Agent Y^{rs}
Sampore Residents' Office
3rd January 1857
To J. B. Norton Esq^r Agent Y^{rs}
Sir, }
Sampore

I have had the honor to receive
your second letter of this day's date, without
number.

On proceeding to the Palace to
verify the signatures to the petition which
you enclosed, having previously sent word to
your Clients that I should come, I was in-
formed on behalf of Namatcha Bhojee Sahib
that

that she declined to see me, and as after
waiting for some time, I could obtain no
answer at all from the Aroo Sahib and the
ladies of the Mangalarassum, I left the
Palace and have now to return the encl-
sure of your letter, having been prevented
by the acts of your Clients from verifying their
signatures as you requested -

I have Y^{rs}
/ signed / W. Forbes
Resident
From
J. B. Norton Esq^r Agent Y^{rs}
To H. Forbes Esq^r
Resident at Sampore
Sir,

I have the honor to acknow-
ledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd
instant and its enclosure.

2. I regret the trouble to which
you have been put in your effort to verify
the Petition which I forwarded, and I am
and

aware that I cannot expect you to be going
backwards and forwards to the Palace on
such an errand. At the same time I beg
to transmit you two letters received by me
from Asoo Sahiba and Namachi Bhoje
respectively, explanatory of the circum-
stances under which you left the Palace
without seeing them.

3. Namachi Bhoje represents
that she did not decline to see you, but that
on being informed by Sawany Row of your
approach, she asked if I accompanied you,
and that the only reply was, that Sawany
Row did not know, where upon he went
away.

4. Asoo Sahiba explains that
Sawany Row having called upon her and
the ladies to be ready to receive you in the
Saurachy Mahoddy, went away again
without receiving her statement that she
was too sick and feeble to go so far.

My

5. My object in pressing your im-
mediate verification of the Petition was to
enable me to dispatch it on Saturday even-
ing by express; that having been pondered
impossible, I have the honor to request that
you will once more endeavour to obtain
the verification of the signatures; as in
event of the Petition being forwarded to Go-
vernment without such verification, it may
either not be received, or may be returned
for verification.

6. I feel satisfied that the
occurrence of Saturday was accidental, and
out of no disrespect to yourself, and that
there will be no hesitation on the part of
my Clients to verify their signatures if you
will have the goodness to give them another
opportunity. With reference to their sug-
gestion that I should be present, I see no
object to be gained thereby, as you will
yourself personally superintend the verification,
though

though I would venture to suggest that
timely notice may be given, which I am
aware circumstances rendered impossible
on Saturday, and that the interview may
take place in the hall in which I have
been usually received by the ladies. —
This room is contiguous to, or forms in fact
part of Ameer Sahib's suite of apartments,
I know that she has for some days past
been very unwell, and that she is still
in a very feeble state, so that she could
not move without the greatest inconvenience,
possibly not at all, to any distance from
the room in which she lies. —

7. I observe that the ladies
suggest that the Durbar and Presidency
Sheristadar should not accompany you,
their presence being personally distasteful.
Mr. Cherry, I believe, availed himself of the
services of Dewajee Row on similar occasions,
dispensing with the attendance of the
remainder

remainder of the Durbar. —

8. I have the honour, under the
circumstances above stated, to return the
Petition, with a request and with the view
that you may verify it in accordance with
the formalities directed by the Government.
Should you not deem it expedient to comply
with the above request, ^{then I have the honor to request} that the Petition
may be returned to me in its present
condition. —

Tanjore

5th January 1857

I have &c

/ Signed/ John Bruce Norton

Agent ^{Genl}

Tanjore Residents Office

5th January 1857

To
J. B. Norton Esq

Agent ^{Genl} Tanjore

Sir,

1. I have had the honor to receive your
letter dated January 1857, enclosing a sealed
packet, and two letters to your address, with
translation

translation, from Aholea Boyce and
Namatches Boyce.

2. In these letters your Clients
offer an explanation of the circumstances
under which they did not receive me on
Saturday, and request that I will again
proceed to the Palace to verify their signa-
tures, stipulating that I should be un-
accompanied by the Sirkele or my Sher-
restaden.

3. I can consent to visit your
Clients for the purpose of verifying their
signatures to an address to Government,
only in my capacity as Resident, and,
visiting them in that capacity, I must
decline to allow your Clients to dictate
to me by whom I shall be accompanied.

4. I have been acquainted with
the Tanjonge Durbar for many years, and
have held the Resident's Office for some
time, and I know that on all official visits,
the

the Sirkele, such Members of the Durbar
as he may please to call, and his Sher-
stadan, have invariably accompanied the
Resident.

5. It is not my intention
on the present occasion, to depart from
the usual practice, or to adopt the innova-
tions which you inform me were intro-
duced by Mr. Cherry.

6. The enclosures of your letter
are returned.

I have the honor
to sign
/ signed H. Forbes
Resident
From J. D. Norton Esq Agent
To H. Forbes Esq

Resident at Tanjonge
Sir, In acknowledging the receipt of
your letter of this day's date, returning me the
Petition and enclosures, I have the honor to state
my impression that the letters of the Ladies
neither

To
The Right Honorable
George Lord Harris.
Governor in Council of the
Presidency of Fort St. George

The humble Petition of the
undersigned members of the
family of the late Rajah
of Tanjore.

Respectfully sheweth,

That although, through the letters of your Petitioners' agent and legal adviser to the Acting President and Resident of Tanjore, your Petitioners' wishes touching the young Princess, now the only surviving daughter of the late Rajah of Tanjore, will have been incidentally brought under your Lordship's notice; yet now
yrs m^{ts}

High Museum 28
Sept 24 of 1834
Caracas 93.

Oct. 14 28 of 1834

neither "stipulate" for, nor "dictate" any terms to you.

2. They intimated their desire, and I suggested that it might be reasonably complied with. It was never put forward by me as a *sine qua non* of their receiving you.

3. So much time has however been lost, that I have determined upon forwarding the Petition to the Government in its present state, to be dealt with by His Lordship in Council as he may see fit, together with copy of the correspondence between you and myself on this subject, which will explain how the Petition comes to be forwarded without verification.

I have &c

Wm. James
5th January 1837 } / Signed/ John Bruce Norton
Agent &c

True Copies

/ Signed/ John Bruce Norton
Agent &c

Wm. James

express and direct expression of those wishes, nor any protest against an intermarriage between the Young Princess and Sucharam Sahib has hitherto been placed on record as directly emanating from and signed by your Petitioners themselves.

2. As the question of the disposal of the Young Princess, has by late events, especially the death of her elder sister, again become matter of deliberation, your Petitioners desire now to convey to your Lordship their earnest hope and wish that the Young Princess may once more be restored to her natural protectors and blood relations, and their determined protest against the marriage of the Young Princess with Sucharam Sahib, and indeed against her marriage with any one

one for the present.

3. If the elder Princess were still alive, your Petitioners might feel embarrassed in offering any arguments against the expediency or the legality of her guardianship of the young Princess since that question, as they are informed, has already received the consideration of and been sanctioned by your Lordship's government. But as that guardianship has been terminated by death, your Petitioners are relieved from their difficulty, and they respectfully submit, that one or other member of her own family, many of whom are willing to undertake the charge, is now the natural and proper guardian of the Young Lady henceforth.

4. Why, upon the death of her sister, the Young Princess was

was not at once placed under the
care of her grand mother, as a
temporary measure and until your
Wish was pleasure should be
known; why she should be allowed
to remain under the charge of the
Durbar and the Presidency, Shieista-
dar; why she should be placed under
military guard, or in a apartment
accessible to Sucharam Sahib, why
Venkat Rao should fetch one of
Surfjee Raja's concubines from
Piviar to associate with the Prince,
and why this lady, no relation of the
Prince, should be allowed a privilege
denied to your Petitioners, her own
relatives by blood and marriage,
your Petitioners cannot explain: nor
can they reply to representations res-
pecting their own fitness, wishes, or
capacity for watching over the
Young

17
young Prince's minority, because these
extra statements are made behind
their backs, and never submitted to
them for observation, but they know
that ever since the death of the
Rajah, this young Lady has been
the unceasing object of intrigues on
the part of the Durbar, the Presidency,
Shieistadar, and Sucharam Sahib,
hitherto only too successful in isolat-
ing her from the great majority of
her relatives, and placing her in a
position open to the influence of
Sucharam Sahib, whose avowed
object is marriage with the girl,
notwithstanding that event is opposed
to the wishes of almost the entire
family of the late Rajah.

Your Petitioners submit
that one of her own relatives, either
Aros Sahiba her father's mother, or
her

her own mother's mother or Hamachi
Bhoy Sahiba, the late Rajah's
eldest widow is, at any rate since
the death of the elder Prince, the
proper and natural guardian of the
girl, they implore your Lordship to
issue such prompt orders in respect
to this question as will allay the
apprehensions of your Petitioners, and
they can very truthfully assert
that the compliance with their prayers
than which they submit nothing
can be more reasonable, will be
received by every member of the Rajah's
family with the greatest thankful-
ness and satisfaction. The only
persons who may be disappointed
are the Durbar Servants, the Residents,
Sheristadar and Sucharam Sahib.
Whether their wishes and feelings
are to be put in competition
with

10. 17
with those of your Petitioners, they
confidently leave to your Lordship's
wisdom to decide.

b. A novel theory, your
Petitioners learn, has been started
for separating the young Prince
from her natural friends and re-
latives. It is asserted that she is
the property of the East India
Company, but independently of the
utter untenableness of such a pro-
position, your Petitioners submit that
the abduction of the Prince would
be a novel species of attachment
and they submit that the extreme
authority which the East India
Company can exercise legitimately
with respect to the domestic ar-
rangements of a family, which
they have declared to be no longer
Sovereign, is to interfere, in loco
parentis

parents so as best to secure the happiness of its members.

It is in your Lordship's power at the present moment by a very simple and straight forward, and as your Petitioners submit the only proper course to provide for that happiness, both as regards your Petitioners and the young Princess herself, for they submit that a cordial unanimity would result immediately upon her being placed under the guardianship they desire and that her future welfare would be best conducted by casting aside for some few years to come all consideration of her marriage. There are many young men of her own age and family within the precincts of the palace who would be in every respect suitable matches for her in the

the course of three or four years. But so long as the young Princess is permitted to remain under the custody of the Durbar, so long as the Presidency Sheristadar is to be the principal person in her disposal, and so long as any remaining hope is cherished by Shekaram Saib, that he can accomplish a marriage either with or without the sanction of your Lordship's Government, so long will these remain in the Palace a fruitful source and element of uneasiness and apprehension, so long will your Petitioners be the prey of fears and alarms, which they submit ought never to have been excited and cannot be too soon quelled.

8. Suggestions, if any such have

have been made, that the young
Princess is not safe with your
Petitioners, are at once so puerile
and so wicked, that they would
not condescend to notice any such
degrading insinuations. They submit
that they are her natural guar-
dians, they appeal to the whole
of their past conduct towards her
while she dwelt with them, as
the best proof of their real feelings
towards her and they venture to
suggest that her future welfare,
as well as the peace of the palace
will be best consulted by restoring
her to them from whom she was
taken, as it was alleged, for a
mere temporary sojourn with her
sister, and by deferring her marriage
to a season when its consummation
is more likely to be productive of
solid

solid permanent happiness than at
present.

9. Your Petitioners therefore
pray that a guardian may be ap-
pointed for the young Princess from
among her own natural relations
by blood or affinity: that she may be
restored to free intercourse with
your Petitioners; that she may be
removed from the influence of
Suekaram Sahib, the Durbar,
and Venkut Rao, and that all
consideration of her marriage may
be for the present postponed.

And your Petitioners shall
ever pray &c.

Amay 2^d 1857.

1st 6/12

11/10/57

To John Bruce Norton Esq.

Mrs. Harry Row appar.
having come to my Park, sent
words that all the Ladies should
be ready at Gadurachy Mchody
or in Hall, for the interview of
Mr Forbes, who comes just now.

And the said appar.
went away hearing of Mr
Forbes arrival before I reply
him that it is owing to my
sickness and infirmity that
I cannot go as far as the mid
Hall and I and all remain
in the vicinity of my Palace.

I am sorry to hear
that Mr Forbes came to the
Palace and returned soon hear-
ing what the Sheristadar said.

You are well acquaint-
ed with the conduct of the
Durbar and the Residency &
Sheristadar. I am extremely
sorry that Mr Forbes believing
their

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Jan 23
1834

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their words to be true went away.

I beg that you will be pleased to inform Mr Forbes with my respects to come alone or in company of you to the Palace in Monday next without the said person giving previous notice of it two hours before.

3rd January 1857 } (Signed)
Saturday } Anulla Boye
Hakil

To John Bruce Norton Esq.
Sir,

Samy Row appah having come to my Bunk at 5 o'clock this evening sent words that all the Ladies with Py Row maunders Row Shorway should be ready for the interview of Mr Forbes who is to come for the purpose.

I asked him does Mr Norton follow Mr Forbes? and said that he is not aware of it and

14 27
and went away to Mookosy Avoosa-hilis Bunk.

While Samy Row appah was there on his information Resident came to the Palace and hearing what the Khoustadar Vincent Row said suddenly returned, and we hear that Mr Forbes returned before Samy Row appah waited him.

You are well acquainted with the conduct of the Durbar and the Residency Khoustadar - I am extremely sorry that Mr Forbes, believing their words to be true went away.

I beg that you will be pleased to inform Mr Forbes with my respects to come alone or in company of you to the Palace on Monday next without the said person, giving previous notice of it two hours before.

I have also informed the

the said affair) through my
 unpaid to give for the future
 remembrance of the gentle-
 man's coming two hours before.

3rd January
 1837
 Saturday

(Signed)
 Hamachemba Boye
 Sahel.

28/1/37

St. Petersburg 26 Dec 23
 H. H. 1837 Jan 23

will
 then claim to see the
 President alone and
 unattended by the usual
 responsible officers is
 the possession of Mr. Forbes
 might be very much
 misinterpreted were he
 to accede to it -
 I think ~~Mr. Forbes~~ the
 author of Mr. Forbes
 letter should be returned
 to him with an note:
 : mention either by an
 personal or letter that
 any correspondence
 the other hand to make

of the letter of Mr. Forbes
 the subject is the author
 : avoid the name of com-
 : mention the name
 his clerical affairs that
 verification of their
 signatures according to
 the formalities in the
 adopted is in the name
 7-1/57 H. H.

The President seems to
 have acted with great
 anxiety and haste -
 It is so in his letter as to
 the idea in the National
 Council, to have taken
 more direct steps than
 those taken and in re-
 sponse to the Mr. Foster
 after the said course in
 this Council and at the
 suggestion of the other
 to their satisfaction - They
 have been fully of a
 sort all

To
 J. Pycroft Esq
 Chief Secretary to Government
 From
 J. B. Norton Esq
 Agent &c.
 Sir
 I have the honor to request, that you
 will lay the accompanying Memorial
 before the Right Honble. the Governor
 or Council.
 2. I regret that the signatures are not
 verifiable; but as the matter prefaces, and
 considerable time has already been lost
 in the endeavor to verify them, I venture
 to forward the Petition for the considera-
 tion of his Lordship or Council, subject
 to such verification as his Lordship may
 deem necessary.
 3. I forward herewith copy of the
 correspondence which has passed between
 the President and myself on this mat-
 ter, together with the Ladies letter refer-
 red to, which I request may be returned
 with a view to explain what steps
 have been taken, and I would ven-
 ture to submit that if the Ladies are
 unwilling to see the Bishop, their at-
 tendance may be dispensed with,
 since it cannot be necessary

indeed in observance of some old cus-
-tom, which has already been broken through
4. I know that the ladies do enter-
-tain a very deep sense of indignation
at the way in which they have been
treated by the Durbar and the Resident
-of Shrivastadon, especially Her Highness
Kamachi Bhoje, it remains for his
Lordship to decide whether the Ladies
representations are not to be received
without violence done to their feelings,
or whether a form may not be devised
in consonance to their feelings, as the ob-
-ject of the Government - verification
can be attained without the presence
of the parties objected to, especially as
the prescribed formalities are none
of the Ladies seeking.

5. The petition is signed by Anu
Sahiba Kamachi Bhoje Sahiba
twelve of the last married wives
of the late Wajah, and Soorah Rao,
the remaining signatures are those
of the Ladies of the Mungahawam.

Shan the Honourable

Sir

Your obedient servant

Shan the Honourable

Shan the Honourable

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21-11-16

22-11-23

Resident and himself
on the subject of the
contents of the Memorial
signatures.

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Wife on order

No 27
Resolved that the papers wh^{ch} accom-
panied the above letter be returned to
Mr J B Norton through the Resident &
that Mr Norton be informed that the
same channel that the first can-
ny clear no address from his clients
which is not transmitted thru the
Resident according to the establish-
ed course and of wh^{ch} the signa-
ture has not been verified in the
presence of the Resident with the
Resident