

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	363	Press ~~Mis~~
Dated	8. 5.	19 1837

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Sanjona

Resident's office

4th May 1857

From

A. D. Phillips Esq^r

Acting Resident Sanjona

To

J. Pycroft Esq^r

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George

Sir,

1. I received yesterday evening the
30th April 1857 communication from "John Shaw" of which,
I have the honor to submit a copy for
the consideration and orders of Government.

2. John Shaw is, I infer, the attorney
of Kamatchee Boyer, Plaintiff. As
the readiest means therefore, of placing
Government in possession of the circum-
stances under which I am threatened by

Plaintiff's attorney with a writ of attachment for contempt of Court, I proceed to show that what I have done in the way of sealing the places specified, has been well done and must, I submit, be upheld, as much for the interests of Mr. Shaw's client, as for those of the Government.

3. When the injunction of the Supreme Court under the shade of which Mr. Shaw issues his threat, was received at Tanjore, certain departments containing valuable property were under lock and key and the seal of the Commissioner. Others were not so sealed and they have continued under ordinary lock and key, open and accessible to the native heads and subordinates of the respective departments, until the last few days.

4. Lately, I have seen reason

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to consider it necessary to place a check on such facilities. I do not mean to impugn the honesty and loyalty of the heads of departments who are under my orders and control as Resident.

5. But, as under the last orders of Government many hundreds of subordinates of the several Mahals and departments have been placed on the pension or gratuity list and are now idly and listlessly hanging about the yards of the Palace, awaiting the execution of the promises held out to them by the Agents of Plaintiff Rameshjee Boyer and her representatives at Madras, additional measures of security were imperatively necessary.

6. These men are acquainted in almost every instance with the localities of the several departments. I have therefore, as

a measure of preventive police and as a measure calculated to secure the interests of those concerned in the ultimate disposal of the property in the four khannas named by Mr. Shaw, applied my Presidency seal to their doors. I thus prevent any of the principal officers under my own orders from entering and I similarly prevent from entering the numerous subordinate servants of the departments who until some days ago, were officially attached to them and under my control:

7. The cause of the Plaintiff cannot be served by having the doors fastened in the ordinary way, thus affording opportunities to disguised servants and others of purloining what my act is intended to secure from being touched or interfered with by any one.

8. No new lists of the contents of the makhals has been made, nor were these contents moved by me or any one under me.

My

My seal was placed in a cloth over each of the padlocks of which any public servants had previously the keys: and these keys are now in my hands. The pay of the persons who have hitherto had access to these makhals has been disbursed and will continue to be disbursed by me until Tanjore affairs are closed. Those retained in employ have been and still are under my official control.

9. It is therefore sufficiently obvious that the act which has excited the alarm of Plaintiff's Attorney, is an act that diminishes rather than otherwise, the interference and intermeddling of which until the past few days, I have unwittingly been guilty.

10. I therefore respectfully solicit the issue of instructions by Government to the

proper law officer, to show cause in the proper quarter, why Mr. Attorney Shaw's professional threat should be maintained or recalled.

11. But whilst on this subject, I deem it necessary to submit for the consideration of Government, whether the Supreme Court should not be addressed in respect of so delaying the injunction they have put forth, as to admit of my duties in the limits of the late Raj, being discharged without the prospect of communications being addressed to me of the kind under notice.

12. * The Plaintiff Rannatchee Boyce daily aspires to herself a higher position. Only a few days ago it was necessary to execute some repairs for the comfort of certain ladies of the late Rajah's family, who are not in opposition.

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opposition to the Government. They were opposed on behalf of Rannatchee Boyce whose orders were declared to be required. The Sirkul through whose agency all matters of the kind would be managed, obtained from some of the family the key of the yard door where masons, bricklayers and coolies had to work, and their operations commenced and continued for two days.

I myself visited the yard and was astonished at the filthy state of an under apartment and small garden close by the apartments occupied by the ladies of the late Rajah's father with whom, of course, Rannatchee Boyce can have no possible concern. I urged on the cleansing operations on sanitary grounds and hoped they would be finished by the evening. It was not so, however, for resorting to a trick

Hamatchu Boyce's male domestics caused
the yard to be cleared of workmen on
the plea that "gasha" females were coming
and then closed the gate and fastened it on
the inside.

13. One avenue of access to the ladies
of Rajah Surjoo was therefore closed and
it next day became necessary to ascend a
wall, open the inside lock and thus ad-
mit the workmen. To prevent a renewal
of the obstruction, the door has been taken off
its hinges and placed apart till the work
is at an end.

14. Judging from analogy, I suppose
an act of this necessary character connected
with my duties as Political Agent in the
extensive area occupied by the Palace,
in which reside some hundreds of persons,
will be deemed an invasion of the injunc-

tion.

tion?

15. I would not here moot the matter
were it not that many other padlocks
have been applied to doors about the
palace in the name of Plaintiff Hamat-
chee "gwen", and that much inconvenience
has been in consequence experienced in
making arrangements for a comfortable
change of apartments for the young
Prince whose health has not been good of
late.

16. It would be desirable, I submit,
to ascertain whether the forcible removal
of such locks, on a necessity arising, can be
construed into a breach of the injunction of
the Court; for at the present moment I
am doubtful about permitting a visit to
be paid for a few days to the young Prince
by some ladies who are not with Hamatchu

Boyce

Boyes, lest on their return, we find the doors of their apartments barred and bolted inside. I should not, of course, hesitate in such an emergency to force an entrance, but I would rather avoid the difficulties that would arise from such a course.

17. It seems just to Rameshjee Boye that I should state that I do not believe she is herself aware of what, under the sanction of her name, passes at a distance from her apartments, which she never quits. But, undoubtedly, her agents here are numerous and most disaffected; they are, I believe, in daily communication with agents at Madras and nothing occurs of which advantage would not be taken to compromise the Government officers. These agents, it is, who have banded together the numerous hungry dependants of the late Rajah

but

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but who, hungry as they are, still refrain from accepting the pensions allotted to them by the Government. The duration of the suit in the Supreme Court is much to be deplored, for until it is settled, the excitement here will not subside, and should the litigation not be soon brought to a close, I shall consider the propriety of a proposition for the removal of Rameshjee from Bangalore under the provisions of Act III. of 1819, for whether she is aware or not of what is being done, much is done for which she should be responsible.

Pilay Mahant 18.

As regards one of the Mahants specified by Mr. Shaw, I would, in conclusion, mention, that its contents - and they are valuable, consisting of money and ornaments not made up - have been in daily use up to the date of my seal being affixed to its door,

unless

under the belief that from their character,
they were not affected by the injunction. Con-
sequently that my proceeding is in support,
and not in contravention of the Court's prohi-
bition. X

19. I would also state as an addi-
tional reason for some explanation of
the Court's injunction, that when I visit-
ed the Palace a week ago in order to
renew the seal and cloth on the padlock
of the room where the Raja's most valu-
able property was secured by Mr. Commissioner
Folkes, an agent of Kamatchee appeared and
protested against its being touched, although
I had gone to the Palace under a requisition
from the Officer Commanding the Detach-
ment here, owing to the rust and rain
having so destroyed the cloth that it was
on the point of dropping off the padlock.

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I need not say that the Agents' objection
was disregarded, and the seal and cloth
affixed in as careful a manner as was pra-
cticable, orders being at the same time
issued for the construction of better shelter
for the Sepoy guard and the door from sun
and rain.

20. I have recently also sealed up
a large apartment in which are deposited
the Raja's dusters, selecting only those likely
to be wanted for current purposes. These
had been in daily use previously. If Mr.
Shaw's threat has application now, it would
have applied then. I believe, however,
that the misparies of the Plaintiffs' Agents
at Madras have misstated facts; for it is
absurd to suppose that the Supreme
Court would wish any of these valuables
left in a worse position than that in
which

which I have now placed them, after persons subordinate to me have for months past had daily access to them without let or hindrance from any quarter whatever.

21. Independently however of any view the Supreme Court may take, I deem it due to myself that these Mahants should not remain in an insecure state.

These contents are, at present, sufficiently safe from all but forcible or armed dishonesty and as I shall be shortly under the necessity of moving out into the District, I prefer that what is under my general charge as Resident should be Resident rather than insufficiently secured. and I most respectfully solicit the support of the Government in that position.

22. I beg to state that by today's post, I have transmitted a copy of this

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adms to the Government Solicitor Mr. Weyson.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obed^t Servant

T. D. Smith

Acting Resident

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort Saint George

Compd

Mr. Weyson

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Madras 30th April 1867

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that it has been represented to me that on the 23rd instant you entered the late Rajah Seevajee's Palace at Tanjore and affixed your seal to four rooms therein, known as the Raja Mahal - the Sumudra Khan the Pottery Mahal and the Jematah Khan which contain parcels of the private property of the late Rajah and to bring to your notice that such conduct on your part is a breach by you as one of the servants of the Defendants The East India Company of the writ of Injunction granted by the Supreme Court of Judicature at Madras on the 20th day of December last in a suit wherein Kamachee Boye Sahaba is Plaintiff and the East India Company are Defendants.

The writ of Injunction has as I am informed been already recorded in your office and you have full knowledge thereof but for your better information

I enclose a copy thereof and hereby give
you notice that unless you forthwith
remove your seals from the above men-
tioned rooms and abstain in future from
interfering and intermeddling with the
private property of the late Rajah. I shall
at once apply to the Court for a writ of
attachment against you in order that you
may be committed to prison for contempt
of Court.

To
The Collector
of Tanjore

I have the

Honoured / John Shaw

[True copy]

H. D. Dillit
Resident

Compt.

M. D. Dillit

