

1857

POLITICAL-D

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7-7-1857

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	524	Press
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Dated	7-7-	1837

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 7th July 1857.

No. 40. From H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Kodycara, 27th June 1857, No. 702.

SIR,

In compliance with an application made to me at Negapatam on the 23rd Instant, by Venkatasawmy Raja, adopted son of Lutchmydavee Ummal, widow of Gallibilysawmy Raja, Uncle to the late King Mootoosawmy, Raja of Kandy ; I have the honor to forward, for transmission to the Ceylon Government, a Memorial and Enclosures, of which the object is the procural for the Memorialist of the Pension enjoyed by his deceased adoptive Mother.

2. The Memorial is, in fact, an appeal against the rejection in this Office of the Memorialist's claim to that Pension. It does not appear to require notice from me, I have acted on what the Records show ; but, adverting to the fallen condition of the Candian Pensioners and to the difficulties which they undoubtedly experience at the present time, in providing for their increasing families and the number of their dependents and retainers, it will afford me sincere pleasure to learn that the Government of Ceylon have resolved to grant to the Memorialist what I could not justifiably have taken on myself to recommend.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS,

Acting Collector.

From S. VENKATASAWMY, RAJAH ; to C. N. POCHIN, Esq., Head Assistant Collector and Magistrate, Negapatam, dated 5th April 1857.

SIR.

In submitting a Copy of my last Will to be forwarded by you to the Collector and through that Gentleman to the Ceylon Government, most respectfully solicit the favour of your kind recommendation with it as I sincerely hope that yourself, the Collector and the Ceylon Government will take into consideration that my late Husband forfeited his life in active service while defending his Nephew the late King Mootoosawmy Rajah and the British Government from their enemies, the Usurper King of Candy and his Followers. Leaving behind me as I will have to leave such a number of poor relatives and dependants and who with myself through the chances of War been bereft of all our property, I do not believe that the Ceylon Government will be so ungenerous as to withhold from my adopted son the small sum of 87 Rupees and 8 annas at present enjoyed by me when it is considered that all our property and rights and immunities are now enjoyed by them and the favour sought for is one which has been granted to several members of my families as allies and also to our very enemies the Usurper's family.

When I adopted Venketasawmy Rajah on the 6th of December 1846, according to custom I daily informed the then Acting Collector, J. Cotton, Esquire, and J. T. Bishop, Esquire, instituted an enquiry, then the Taseldar if the adoption had been performed according to our ancient usages and customs, when a deposition was sent with that Gentlemen by the Taseldar as I then made a simple request that same might be entered into the Diary. I have reason to believe that a record to that effect will be found.

In conclusion, I beg that a sufficient sum of money be deposited in the Taseldar's Treasury for my funeral expences as awarded according to the rank of each member of the family of late King.

(Signed) LATCHMEEDAVY AMMAL

Wife of Late GALEBELESASMY,

Rajah of Candy.

To H. FORBES, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of Tanjore, Tranquebar.

The humble Memorial of Venktasawmy, Rajah of Kandy.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That in consequence of the endorsement made by your honor on the 26th Ultimo, the Memorialist again takes the liberty of addressing your honor in hopes that after the explanation now afforded, your honor will be graciously pleased to reconsider his case.

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 7th July 1857.

1st. That in pursuance to the circular proclamation of the Circar under date the 16th March 1846, my late adopted Mother complied with the orders of the Government and immediately adopted your Memorialist, which adoption she requested might be inserted in the then Collector's Diary, upon which the Taseldar of Keevalore was instructed to ascertain the truth of the adoption which the said functionary did, by the enquiries he instituted from the Merchants and our relatives, and finding the same legal, he reported the same to the Collector, an order was received some time back by the Collector from Ceylon Government to the effect, that he could not interfere in recommending any of the Kandian People for Pension, which the then Collector informed my adopted Mother through the Taseldar of Keevalore, so that my late adopted Mother had no other motive when she apprized the Collector of my adoption, than by getting a simple insertion of it in his Diary for future proof if necessary.

2nd. On the 4th December 1854, your honor wrote to the Sea Custom Manager desiring him to apprize us that we could hold no communication with the Ceylon Government, except the same be forwarded through your honor, my adopted Mother knowing this when sick took the precaution of getting the Head Assistant Collector and the Merchants of this place to testify to her last Will, wherein she desires your Memorialist to act in accordance with it, and prayed that her pension might be transferred to me, to enable me to act accordingly, and requested the Head Assistant Collector to recommend your Memorialist to your Honor's notice, a Copy of which is now enclosed for your Honor's perusal. The Will simply states, that with event of my succeeding to her pension according to her dying request, that I should act up to the premises, and that all the allowances she made to her Servants and other Members of the family might be continued by me after her death, the same as if she had been living. It is not the intention of the Will that the Government should split the Pension, but that the Division should be made by me when I received the same nor would there be any likelihood of others or even of her Brothers' or Sisters Son's coming forward, though their pension are inadequate to their wants, and it was simply to assist them that she made a request to me; as for the Servants they are mine as well as hers, which was the reason She made a provision for them in order to serve me and not that they have any claim on the State or Pension as pointed out by your Honor.

3rd. In your honor's endorsement your honor states that I request your honor to establish the will, and that your honor cannot recommend it to the favorable notice of the Ceylon Government, your Memorialist has no such object in view but as he has been entirely brought up by the deceased lady from his youth he has no other means of support for himself, his large family and Servants as well as any other means of liquidating the debts of his late adopted Mother or the debt that he has now incurred for her funeral expenses, and these imperative demands cannot be met but by my receiving the Pension. Your Memorialist therefore throws himself entirely on your honor's mercy for a support for himself and family, and your honor's favorable recommendation will not be wanting to obtain for me the funeral expenses as granted to the other Members of the Royal family.

4th. In conclusion, your Memorialist begs to subjoin a list of the persons who are similarly situated as himself, but have been so fortunate as to obtain Pensions of their adopted Parents.

NEGAPATAM.

Comarasawmy Rajah, adopted son of the late Queen Alamaloo Ammal, receives her Pension, His Highness Soobrial Rajah, adopted son of the late queen Vengdasammaul, receiving her Pension and one thousand Rupees funeral expenses.

TANJORE.

Soobbanaranundrasawmy, adopted son of the 2nd Queen of Veekrasawmy Rajah, receives her Pension, and also he received through your honor's recommendation a sum of 1500 Rupees for her funeral expenses.

Dorasawmy Naick, adopted son of Kondasawmy Naick, receives his Pension and several others in different Zillahs who have been adopted receive their adopted Parents' Pensions, and an instance of this has occurred in this month at Vellore, namely: the adopted son of the 4th Queen of the late Vickmmasinga Rajah has through the recommendation of the Brigadier received her Pension. The Pensions allowed are so small that none of the Members of the Kandian family are able to assist each other and consequently must all depend upon your honor's Generosity and favour for our needful support.

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 7th July 1857.

And your honor's humble Petitioner as in duty Bound.

NEGAPATAM,
5th May 1856. }

(Signed) S. VENKETASAWMY Rajah.

When Lutchmadavy Ummal adopted Petitioner, she was informed by the Collector that the adoption would give Petitioner no claim to her pension.

Petitioner rests his present claim solely on his adoption.

The Collector is unable to alter the decision he communicated to Petitioner on the 26th

Ultimo.

(Signed) H. FORBES, Collector.

From S. VENKATASAWMY Rajah; to H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, dated 29th January 1857.

The Humble Petition of Venkatasawmy, Rajah, of Negapatam, Grandson of Prince, Mootoosawmy, and adopted Son of Lutchmedavee Ammal, Widow of Galibilyawmy, Rajah, Uncle of Prince Mootoosawmy of Candy.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That your Petitioner was adopted by the said Luchmee Ammal, with reference to verbal instructions given her by her late husband, that he has been under her protection ever since his birth, that he has on her death performed her Funeral Ceremony as her rightful heir out of Funds borrowed from Merchants of Nagapatam, and has been protecting all the Members of her family just as she has been doing. One Chinien Coopen, one of her Servants, actuated with fraudulent motives, refused to render service as usual; he was consequently dismissed from employment by Petitioner, thereupon he set up one Chinnasawmy, who was employed in Sevagunga, Zamindary as heir of the deceased Luchmedavee Ammal, in question; and began to claim her Pension, in his name. The question was referred by your predecessor for enquiry to the Tasildar of Keevaloor who I understand has accordingly instituted an enquiry and reported to you the truth of the case on the 10th Instant, viz., that Chinnasawmy's claims are false, and preferred altogether by fraudulent motives; and that your Petitioner is the rightful adopted Son of the deceased Lady, and that the adoption is supported by the will left by her attested by respectable witnesses, among whom is Mr. Pochin, Esq., the then head Assistant Collector of Tanjore; is established by evidence given by many of the respectable inhabitants of Nagapatam, under these circumstances, Petitioner solicits that a recommendation may be made to the Government of Ceylon, for the transfer in his name of the Pension of 25 Pagodas which is adopted Mother had been enjoying; and that the sum of 1000 Rupees may be given him for the expenses incurred on account of Funeral Ceremony of the deceased. To this effect a recommendation has been submitted to your Office by the Manager of Sea Customs soon after the death of Petitioner's adopted Mother. Petitioner and other relatives of Candian Princes stationed in different localities in India are dependant on the Government of Ceylon for their support, and he may be supposed therefore, to have a right of referring his claims direct to that Government but he is prevented from doing so, by an order issued lately by the then Collector, Mr. Forbes, Esq., notifying that such claims must be brought to the notice of Ceylon Government through the medium of the Collector of Tanjore. Petitioner is therefore, obliged to trouble you for a just and impartial consideration of his right. In support of his claims, he states that his adoption is valid according to usage and dictates of Hindoo Law, and he is capable of citing various instances in which adoption made by Candian Princes and their relatives, has been recognized and parties made to succeed to the property and Pensions of their adopted parents, and due allowance made for expenses on account of the Funeral Ceremonies, &c. The Candian Princes and their relatives stationed in different places in India, consist of two classes, viz., those connected with Prince Mootoosawmy, an Ally of the British Government, and those connected with Veerasimma Rajah, an enemy of the British Government. Your Petitioner is one the former class, being Grand-Son of Prince Mootoosawmy, and adopted Son of Lutchmedavee, Ammal, Widow of Galibilyawmy, Rajah, Uncle of Prince Mootoosawmy. The indulgence of the description which your Petitioner seeks was allowed to Soobah Narandasawmy, adopted Son of the Widow of Veerasimma Rajah referred to. While it is extended to a Member of the family of the enemy of the British Government, your Petitioner trusts that it will not be refused to your Petitioner, who is the rightful descendant of the family of Prince Mootoosawmy their Ally. The particulars of Prince Mootoosawmy and his family, would be clearly known to you by a perusal of the copy of a Treaty and other correspondence herein enclosed.

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 7th July 1857.

Under these circumstances, therefore, your Petitioner solicits that his case may be formally referred to the Government of Ceylon, and he may be favored with the Pension which his adopted Mother had been enjoying, and that the sum of 1,000 Rupees may be allowed him on account of the expenditure incurred by him in the celebration of Funeral rites in honor of his deceased adopted Mother alluded to.

TANJORE, }
26th January 1857. }

(Signed) S. VENKETASAWMY Rajah.

REJECTED — The Petitioner has twice been informed by the late Collector, Mr. Forbes, that his claim could not be recognized; and in that view I entirely concur. If Petitioner is not satisfied, he should appeal to the Government, laying before them the addresses which have led to the rejection of his request by the Local Authorities.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS,
Acting Collector.

From S. VENKETASAWMY Rajah; to his Excellency, Sir H. G. WARD, K. G. C., M. G., Governor, Commander in Chief and the Vice Admiral of Ceylon.

The Humble Memorial of Venketasawmy Rajah, Adopted Son of Lutchmy D. Ammal, Widow of Gallebilly Sawmy Rajah, Uncle to the late King Mootoosawmy, Rajah of Kandy.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That your Excellency's humble Memorialist's adopted mother expired on the 1st February 1856, after having executed a Will on the 13th December 1855, in the presence of C. N. Pochin, Esq., Head assistant Collector and Magistrate of Tanjore. All the Nobles of her family, respectable Merchants and other subordinate functionaries as your Excellency's Memorialist's family is very large, and the funeral expenses of his late adopted mother unpaid, their sufferings are unexpressible.

Your Humble Memorialist therefore begs that his unfortunate case may be taken into your Excellency's kind consideration, and like all other adopted cases, his said adopted Mother's Pension might be made over to him accordingly to her dying request.

Your Excellency's Petitioner is of direct descent from the Royal line, and the pledge made by the British Government to His Illustrious ancestors who have sacrificed their means and Blood on account of the said Government, is a seal which can never be broken by a nation noted for their Integrity and sympathies for fallen and unfurtunate Royalty, who have been bereft of their Country, heir Homes and Revenues through the accidents of War.

The Ceylon Government have up to this period always provided for the Traitor King's family, and who are their Prisoners. Whereas your Humble Petitioner's family was their devoted Ally as well your Excellency's humble Petitioner trust that his late adopted mother's Pension might be conferred on him, and thus relieve them from their sufferings and your Petitioner as in duty Bound shall ever Pray.

NEGAPATAM, }
26th April 1857. }

(Signed) S. VENKETASAWMY Rajah.

From S. VENKETASAWMY Rajah; to His Excellency Sir H. G. WARD, K. G. C., M. G., Governor, Commander-in-Chief and Vice Admiral of Ceylon.

The Humble Memorial of Venkatasawmy Rajah, adopted son of Letchemy Davee Amal, Widow of Gallebellysawmy Rajah, Uncle to the late King Moothoosawmy, Rajah of Kandy.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That in compliance with the Orders of your Excellency's Government your unfortunate Memorialist made several attempts through the Collectors of Tanjore to obtain as customary his adopted mother's Pension in which he has by some unaccountable means failed, as will be seen from their several endorsements which are submitted, together with his addresses to the several Collectors for your Excellency's kind perusal and humane consideration.

In the addresses thus enclosed your Excellency will gather the grounds on which your Humble Memorialist's claims are founded as well as the several precedents quoted in which the members of his family and that of the Usurpers family receive their adopted Mother's Pensions.

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 7th July 1857.

Your Excellency's humble Memorialist again begs to observe that his illustrious ancestors sacrificed their best blood on account of the British Government, and the pledge given by Lord North that the English Government would for ever protect them, is of itself a sufficient ground for one so nearly connected by blood as your Memorialist is to the late King to lay claim to his adopted Mother's Pension.

This Pledge though so solemnly made by the English Government seems scarce to be noticed, or heeded by the Collectors, though they are aware that the Kandian Prisoners enjoy a far higher Pension and Allowances than our family, who have been such faithful Allies to the British Government. The Collectors seem to think even in the small Allowance enjoyed by your Memorialist's family should be curtailed, and it is only by betaking himself to your Excellency that he can have any hopes that justice, though tardy, might at last be administered to him, and his late adopted mother's Pension granted.

In conclusion, your Excellency's most humble Memorialist begs to state that adoption is a right established by Hindoo Law from time immemorial, and it has in all cases been resorted to when a male Heir failed in the family. Your Memorialist's adopted mother was of Royal blood, her Husband was sacrificed with the late King Mootoosawmy Rajah, and your Memorialist being of equal Birth to that of the late Lady, besides the nearest of kin, was brought up entirely by her, and as soon as capable of undertaking the management of her Household, he was duly installed as her Heir and Representative, and the person on whom it devolved to perform the funeral rites.

As your Memorialist much fears that he has already intruded too long upon your Excellency's time, he begs to close this Memorial with one more citation to those already quoted in the enclosures, that in the Madura Zillah on the 21st December 1856, your Excellency was pleased to sanction the Pension of Peracanamah (one of the Prisoners) being continued to her. Your Petitioner therefore prays that the same indulgence might be shewn him, and thus maintain the pledge made to his family with honor and soundness for which the English are so highly extolled.

This Memorial according to the Established Rules is forwarded through the Collector of Tanjore, whom your Excellency Memorialist trusts, after what has now been advanced, will support his prayer for the allowance of his late adopted mother's Pension. Your Memorialist feels convinced that if your Excellency could only view the misery that has been entailed on the family owing entirely to the accidents of a War undertaken to establish British Supremacy in Ceylon, your Excellency would not allow him to remain for any length of time a vain supplan to the generosity of the Government, who now rules and enjoys the Revenues of that ancient soil and kingdom.

Your Excellency's humble Memorialist must invite your Excellency's attention before he closes this Memorial to the facts of his family's cause as recorded by History from which it will be seen the cowardly manner in which Major Davy handed over his noble Grand Uncle King Mootoosawmy to the Kandians and his only observation upon such conduct of a British Officer was "can it be possible that the powerful Arms of England could fear the measures of the Kandians," the delivering up the person who had fled to the British protection as the late King Mootoosawmy did, that very act alone is sufficient to raise the sympathy of all enlightened Governments towards his family, and who could be expected to sympathize more than your Excellency's Government, whose Officer had thus violated all Laws of humanity and honor, and brought the family to ruin and misery.

Your Excellency's Humble Memorialist as in duty Bound,

Shall Ever Pray.

(Signed) S. VENKETASAWMY Rajah.

Nagapatam, }
23rd June 1857. }

Sept 17th

Political Department

V^o 524-

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 7th July 1857.

No. 41. To THE COLONIAL SECRETARY AT COLOMBO, dated 7th July 1857, No. 524.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward, for the consideration and instructions of the Ceylon Government, Copy of
Dated 27th June 1857, No. 702. a letter from the Acting Collector of Tanjore submitting with observations a Memorial, and its original enclosures, addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon by Vencatasawmy Raja, praying for the continuance to him of the Pension of his adopted Mother Lutchmydavee Ummal, widow of Gallibillysawmy Raja, Uncle to the late King Mootoosawmy, Raja of Kandy.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,

Acting Chief Secretary.

13/27 June 1857 N^o 702.

To The Colonial Secretary at Colombo.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward, for the consideration & instructions of the Ceylon Govt., copy of a letter from the Acting Collector of Tanjore submitting with observations a Memorial, and its original enclosures, addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon by Vencatasawmy Raja praying for the continuance to him of the pension of his adopted Mother Lutchmydavee Ummal, Widow of Gallibillysawmy Raja, Uncle to the late King Mootoosawmy Raja of Kandy.

I have &c.

Fort St. George.
7th July 1857.

Y^{rs}

W. M. M. M.

Handwritten date: 12/13/57

Dr. J. J. Smith & Son
1015 E. 10th St. S. W.

12/13/57

W. J. Smith

Dr. J. J. Smith & Son
1015 E. 10th St. S. W.

12/13/57

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File # 1200