

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

**Government of Madras.**

*Political* **DEPARTMENT.**

|          |      |                |
|----------|------|----------------|
| G.O. No. | 741  | Press          |
|          |      | <del>Mis</del> |
| Dated    | 7-9- | 18.8           |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 741.

*Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 7th September 1857.*

Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Tanjore, 1st September 1857, No. 212.

SIR,

I have the honor to state that in conformity with the instructions conveyed to me in the Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated the 27th ultimo, No. 689, I today transmit to Madras by post, the original documents specified in the list A. which accompanied my letter to your address marginally noted.

2. The whole of the, so called, Manuscript History of the ~~Rajahs~~ of Tanjore is forwarded, as the Honorable Company's Solicitor has suggested.

3. This Officer has also suggested that, in respect of the examination and search of the records of the late Rajah, those of the Commissioner's Office, and those of the Tanjore Residency, I should furnish information which will enable you to make an affidavit bearing upon such search and examination.

4. My object has been conscientiously to bring to light all papers tending to assist the decision of the points now at issue between the Plaintiff and the Government, and with the aid of the Residency Sarishtadar Vencutrow, I have caused the adoption of such measures as seemed best calculated to secure that result. But my means have been extremely limited, as the feelings of the former servants of the Raj are the reverse of cordial, and the aid of persons well acquainted with the old records of the Rajah has not been available throughout the search. Still, what could be done under the existing difficulties, has been done. Thoroughly to examine and sift the masses of bundles of papers which compose the Raj records would involve the labor of a very large establishment of Mahratta Goomastahs for many months, if not years. After the cessation of their duties, little good would result, unless the papers were separated, sorted, endorsed and English purports prepared, and under these arrangements even, it might eventually prove a mere waste of time and money, as heaps of the bundles now supposed to contain records would, in a more or less degree, crumble to pieces and dust when moved ; and thus disappoint the expectations of the searching parties.

5. Under the request of the Plaintiff's Solicitors recently communicated to me, I did call in the individuals named by those persons ; but I am strong in the belief that the papers for the discovery of which their assistance was particularly pointed to, had been placed conveniently for that end, when they were serving in the Rajah's record department ; and it is very likely owing to that having been done, that the searchers employed under my instructions to Vencutrow Sarishtadar, had found them before the suggestions of the Plaintiff's Solicitors had been acted on.

6. There can be no doubt, however, that more might have been done, if I could have brought into action the services of the Raj Goomastahs who are now pensioned, and who are all indisposed to work under my orders.

7. Whether or not, no documents, papers or writings have been discovered, so far as I am aware, other than those specified in the list A, adverted to in the Honorable Company's Solicitor's letter under notice.

8. This gentleman remarks that I have not alluded to the lists of property made subsequent to the death of the Rajah. I am not aware that mention of them by me, was necessary. The Government are in full possession of the facts under which those lists were framed, and nothing that I could have stated would have augmented or improved such knowledge. I however, enclose a Memo : of the lists so made, and would remark that it is in English only, as, where a

Vernacular one was made, the English list would be its translation. Such lists are necessarily to be found either in the Office of the Commissioner, or the Resident.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS,  
Commissioner.

Ordered that copy of the foregoing letter be furnished to the Honorable Company's Solicitor for his information, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 27th ultimo, No. 689.

(True Extract and Copy.)

To the Honorable Company's Solicitor.  
Copy of order to Commissioner of Tanjore.

Acting Chief Secretary.

N<sup>o</sup> 741

Ordered that copy of the foregoing letter be furnished to the Honorable Company's Solicitor for his information with reference to E. M. C. of 27<sup>th</sup> ultimo No. 689.

For to George, &  
7 September, 1857.

Me

To The Honorable Co's Solicitor.  
with Copy of Letter.  
Copy of Order to Commr of Tanjore. } Disptd 7<sup>th</sup>

Exd. H. Morgan.