

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	795	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	17-9-19	1887

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Political Consultation, 22nd September 1857.

No. From the Secretary to the Government of India ; to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 31st August 1857, No. 3538.

Foreign Department.

SIR,

I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a Memorial from Saccaram Row Motha Ambirraih Sahib, Son-in-law of the late Rajah of Tanjore, urging his claims to the vacant throne of Tanjore, and at the same time to intimate that the Petitioner has been directed to await the decision of his case by the Madras Government in the first instance.

(Signed) G. F. EDMONSTONE,

Secretary to the Government of India,

COPY.

To

THE RIGHT HONORABLE VISCOUNT LORD GEORGE CANNING, Governor General of India in Council, Calcutta.

The respectful Memorial of Ry Saccaram Row Motha Ambirraih Sahib, Son-in-law of his late Highness Sevajee Maha Rajah of Tanjore.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That Memorialist reposing every confidence on your Lordship's well known humanity and sense of justice, ventures respectfully to intrude on your Lordship's valuable time and attention with this memorial, in the hope that it may meet with the attention solicited therein.

1. That Memorialist is descended from an ancient Royal Family, and being nearly related to the Rajah of Tanjore on the maternal side, he took an agreement from Memorialist's parents whereby they relinquished all their rights to him in favor of His Highness. He had his education carefully superintended, and invested him with the Poonnool and Waist String, and being highly pleased with his personal and mental qualities, gave him the hand of his elder daughter, selecting him from among a number of other youthful royal aspirants. Some time after that event, being confirmed in the good opinion he had previously formed of him, the late Rajah appointed him as his Viceroy, and delegated to Memorialist the administration and conduct of the affairs of the palace and the state, and desired the Ranees and Queen Dowager to obey his orders. The Rajah not being blessed with male issue, Memorialist was considered in the light of a son, and the representative of his dignity and honors and their appendages ; and he was consti-

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tuted Gurjavoij by the Rajah, an appellation which confers no ordinary claim, the person bearing which is supposed, under Hindu Law, to reside in his father-in-law's house, and to be his lawful heir, taking the place of his own natural lawful born son, which is also in accordance with the unalterable usage of all Hindu States.

2. That His Highness also allowed Memorialist to wear all the insignias of Royalty as himself, and on the occasions of visits of Governors and the Residents to the Rajah, the former paid Memorialist the same respects as they did to the latter; and when questioned on the subject by Mr. Kindersley and Sir H. C. Montgomery, the Rajah assured them that it was with his own free will that he delegated to Memorialist the administration of all the affairs of state and palace, and had constituted him heir to the same, and to his rights and privileges.

3. That moreover, when the late and present Governors of Madras visited the Rajah, the latter, putting Memorialist's hands into theirs, and recommended him to their protection and support after his demise, and by that significant and solemn act, indicating the important position he held in connection with the Musnud. In short, Memorialist was treated by all ranks and classes in the same light as the Rajah, the only difference being that the latter had ascended the Musnud, which the former had not.

4. That Memorialist, to prove himself not unworthy of all the rights, titles, and privileges thus bestowed on him, endeavored to display due zeal, wisdom, and justice, in the conduct of the affairs thus entrusted to him, at the same time that the interests of the Honorable Company received a due share of his attention; he not only gave his hearty and cordial co-operation to the Residents who had been appointed at different periods to Tanjore, from Colonel McLean to Messrs. Forbes and Cherry, but sought and availed himself of their advice on all occasions where he found it necessary.

5. That the above facts, Memorialist doubts not, will be borne ample testimony to by Messrs. Forbes and Cherry, and the Sheristadar of the Residency, and can be also fully proved by the Records of the Palace and Residency.

6. That Memorialist having been regarded and honored in the manner fully detailed above, it was His late Highness' constant and anxious wish that the title, dignity, and honors he had conferred on Memorialist should receive the complete and full recognition of the Government, and on expressing his feelings and sentiments on the subject to Mr. Bishop, the then Resident, that Gentleman fully concurring in the same, recommended the case strongly to the favorable consideration of the Government.

7. That when Mr. Forbes was appointed Comissioner for the carrying into effect the annexation of the State, and to adjust the affairs of the Palace, Memorialist, in accordance with the line of policy which he had always observed, acted in the interests of the Honorable Company and by his personal influence and exertions, prevented any display of popular feeling which such a measure was calculated to call forth, and whereby many thousands would be reduced to beggary.

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and starvation, and thus rendered the path of that gentleman safe from the dangers which would otherwise have attended it, and Memorialist thus became an object of detestation, vituperation, and odium to the populace and Memorialist's relatives in the Palace, whose ill-feeling, and indignation were excited by the part Memorialist thus took; undismayed by these manifestations, Memorialist has unshrinkingly continued to persevere in the same line of conduct, careless of the consequences, the interests of Government being uppermost in his thoughts.

8. That on the occasion of Mr. Forbes returning to Madras, to take up the situation of Secretary to Government, he was pleased, when Memorialist informed him that he had submitted a Petition to Government, to commend his zeal, to express the value he entertained of Memorialist's services, and assured him that Government would not fail to appreciate the same in a suitable manner.

9. That when Memorialist arrived at the years of maturity, he on proper reflection determined in the line of conduct he has ever pursued in relation to the Honorable Company, who have ever shown themselves ready to befriend and protect those who had been faithful to their interests, as numerous instances can testify, and having since his infancy looked to the Rajah and the Government for protection, he now after the demise of the former is constrained to repose his trust on Government, as both Government and the Rajah united, as his sole stay and support.

10. That Memorialist has thus entered into a lengthened detail of the circumstances under which he has ventured to intrude on your Lordship in Council with this address, which he would not have done if they were not necessary to the full elucidation of the grounds under which the Memorial is submitted for your Lordship's consideration.

11. That on the death of his late Highness, it having been represented to Mr. Forbes, that a daughter was entitled to ascend the Musnud in failure of male issue, and that it was not only sanctioned by Hindu Law, but by precedent, female sovereigns having ruled before in Tanjore and other States, that gentleman on these grounds, recommended the succession of His late Highness' younger daughter, the elder Memorialist's wife, being incapacitated by an incurable malady. This disposal of the crown had Memorialist's cordial assent, but the Home Government, unfortunately, held a different view of the case, and rejected the recommendation.

12. That the ground of their rejection being that it was not customary for females to reign in Native States, has induced Memorialist, after some deliberation, to submit his claims to the Musnud, with a request that your Lordship may lay them before the Honorable the Court of Directors, with your Lordship's favorable recommendation.

13. That Memorialist has detailed above the great regard and affection His late Highness entertained for him, his investing him with the Poonnool and Waist String, his preferring him as a son-in-law to many other youths, the peculiar title of Gurjavoij which he conferred on him, thereby acknowledging him his lawful heir, in the event of his departure without

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male issue, his delegating to him the whole of his authority during his life time, and permitting him to wear the insignia of royalty, and his placing Memorialist's hand in those of several Governors who visited Tanjore, and thereby indicating the position in which Memorialist stood to him. Memorialist would most respectfully urge that all those honors and privileges could only have been conferred on one only who was intended for his successor, without taking into consideration his expressed wishes on the subject above referred to.

14. That it is also the custom in Travancore and other States, for the Viceroy to succeed the Rajah, and under the foregoing circumstances, Memorialist submits, he must justly be considered the lawful and rightful heir of the late Rajah, and which His Highness on every occasion showed he considered him to be, and immediately on the death of His Highness, Mr. Forbes directed all affairs of the Palace should be under Memorialist's authority, as well as the Queen and Ranees, &c., in this manner acknowledging him to be the heir to the Raj.

15. That such being the case, Memorialist ought to be considered as having a rightful claim to the succession, and most respectfully solicits your Lordship will deign to submit the same for the favorable consideration of the Right Honorable the Court of Directors. That Memorialist begs in conclusion to mention that he has forwarded a similar Memorial to the local Government.

And your Memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) RY SACCARAM SAHIB,

Son-in-law to His late Highness Savajee

Maha Rajah of Tanjore,

(A True Copy.)

(Signed) G. F. EDMONSTONE,

Secretary to the Government of India.

No. ORDER THEREON, No. 795; dated 17th September 1857.

To be recorded.

Exd. H. Morgan.

93-34

c 15th Sep
1857

Political 1857 No. 795
From
The Secretary to the Govt
of India No. 3538.

Received 31st August
Dec. 14th Sept 1857

No. 871
Forwarding copy of a
Memorial from Saccaram
Rajah of Tanjore, urging his
claim to the vacant throne
of Tanjore, and intimating
that he has been directed
to await the decision of his
case by the Madras Govern-
ment in the first instance.
To be recorded
17th Sept 1857