M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	884	Press ~~Mis~~
Dated	14 - 10	~~19~~ 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1126-11

No. 7. From Mr. H. B. SAUNDERS, Constituted Attorney to MOOTOOMUD KHAN AMED DOWLAH, and others; to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, 8th October 1857.

SIR,

At the request of several Mahomedans and others, I beg to be favored with the orders of Government in the following case.

I hold from Mahomedans and Hindoos, Powers of Attorney to a considerable extent, and amongst them, similar Instruments from certain Mahomedan individuals and families to enable me to receive from the Chepauk Agent, certain arrears of salary which accrued during the life of the ate Nabob; which this Government as an act of grace and favor have been pleased to order to be discharged.

The necessary papers have been sent in and an acknowledgment of the payment being made by your Government as an act of "grace and favor" has been duly subscribed to by the individual parties with their own hands and Seals; and 2 Mahomedans, to whom Vouchers were deliverable for payment in accordance with a notice posted by the Chepauk Agent, having instructed me to appear as their Attorney and receive them, I attended the Chepauk Agent's Office for the purpose.

About two days since, I was informed by Dr. Balfour, that grounds existed for demurring to payment in this mode, but that the parties might receive their Vouchers by attending personally; but nevertheless a reference would be made to Authority for final instructions on the subject.

I then made an offer to my Clients to cancel the several Powers of Attorney, requesting at the same time they would inform the others that they must attend in person; which communication caused general dissatisfaction, and a desire on their part to Petition Government in a body on the subject.

It was for the above reason that I ventured to submit this application without waiting for the promised decision of Dr. Balfour: as the refusal simply resolves itself into two questions, *viz*: Whether these particular individuals are to be deprived of a right exercised by all others; that of selecting a person to represent them; or, whether, after the conditions on which this money was offered by Government are fully subscribed to, it ever could be the intention of the State to add

any humiliating form of payment not recited in the Document itself and quite unknown in other transactions.

Nearly all the sums disbursed by the Carnatic and Tanjore Commissions, a large portion of which consisted of claims for wages, were paid through Vakeels, both Native and European, Mr. Ouchterlony (now living) being one of the latter.

The whole, or nearly so, of the Carnatic Stipendiaries draw their monthly Stipends by Vakeel.

I believe not one of the Mahomedans I represent ever yet received any Pay in person during the life of His late Highness the Nabob, nor during their own lives at any period.

Had they been merely required as witnesses, or to give explanation, they would have readily attended, but as their claim was passed as payable, such attendance could not be required.

I perceive that one Client resides at Nellore and another at Guntoor, and six others are Gosha women; and I most respectfully submit to Government that to deprive such persons of the right of choosing their representative would be most arbitrary and unjust, and I apprehend with all submission that it would be scarcely less so as regards residents in Madras; sickness or other engagements, or, what may be deemed unreasonable prejudices only when measured by an European standard, are nevertheless entitled to respect, and have at all times hitherto received respect from your Government. The money in question, though gratefully accepted, must necessarily be associated with reminiscences far from gratifying to a large portion of the Recipients; and to require these men to spend hours in waiting outside the Palace to receive the last sum they will ever draw in connection with a dynasty to which they fancy they owe their former importance, is to revive impressions that perhaps might be better avoided; or, to say the least, is inflicting unnecessary pain; and I therefore venture respectfully to solicit from Government an order that these harmless individuals for whom I appear may be allowed to be represented on their Vakaluts being duly attested, the same as other subjects of the Honorable Company; as it is not pretended they are under any Political restrictions.

(Signed) H. B. SAUNDERS,
Constituted Attorney to Mootoomud Khan Amed Dowlah and others.

No. 8-10 ORDER THEREON, No. 884; dated 14th October 1857.

The Chepauk Agent is requested to state whether in his opinion objections exists to these parties being permitted to receive their Allowances through their accredited Vakeel.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

