M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 937 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 31-10-1887

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 19. From H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vellum, 21st October 1857, No. 244.

SIR,

22nd August 1857. I have the honor to reply to Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 27th August last, No. 683, forwarding a copy of a letter to the Military Secretary to the Governor from Lieut. McNeill, of the 15th Regiment N. I., and requesting me to offer any remarks I may have to make on the general subject of the proposition of the Officers and Men of the late Rajah's Regiment to serve the Government, whenever and wherever required, with reference to my letter of the 5th August last, No. 205.

2. The Government are aware from the tenor of my communication above mentioned, that I had difficulty in satisfying myself of the real object of the Memorial from the persons belonging to the Dowlut Lushker Puttuck List, who had lately, to a certain extent, been drilled as Sepoys: and I was unable, though submitting their application, to offer an opinion as to the manner in which advantage could be taken of their expressed readiness to serve the State.

3. Of the origin of the Memorial there can be no doubt, I think, the writing is that of Mr. Norton's servant, and I understand that at the time it is supposed to have reached Tanjore, the servants of the Dowlut Lushkur Puttuck Department were cited by M. Kamatchee Bhoyee Sahib and the Avoo Sahiba from their villages and places of residence in and about Tanjore to attend at the Palace and there hold communication with those ladies. Then, however, although aware of the gathering, I was unable to learn its precise object and for some weeks I remained in ignorance of it. Later, I was led to infer that the two ladies in question had persuaded the Officers of the Department to support the Memorial and that thus the other Dowlut Lushkur Puttuck men had fallen into their views.

4. In order to ascertain their wishes I had two formal communications with them as reported to Government. These interviews were attended by, I will not say the nearly 800 Men borne on the Dowlut Lushkur Puttuck List, but, at all events, by a large body of the persons composing the Sepoy part of that Establishment, and my conversation with them was of no inconsiderable length. Still, although after talking with each of the Officers in succession in his own language, whether Tamul, Teloogoo or Hindustani, and then selecting at random from the rear ranks of the crowd round the Residency some of those who were not Officers and taking the same course, I did not arrive at the conclusion which Lieut. McNeill has formed from the one casual conversation he has had with some of them in the street.

5. With the fact of the origin of the proposal resting with Mr. Norton, assuming my surmise to be correct, I am not disposed to quarrel; for, considering the state of Political affairs at the time of its reaching Tanjore, it was well the minds of the Dowlut Lushker Puttuck Men should be drawn in the direction they took, rather than that they should have been subjected to a contrary tendency. In the case of our Regiments volunteering for service, I apprehend the first step taken is generally consequent on a suggestion by a favorite Officer or a popular Adjutant to one or the other of the Native Officers, and that through this medium the sentiments of the Corps are elicited. But I believe that if each Trooper or Sepoy were called to the front and asked after the Volunteering proposal had gone to Head Quarters, whether he was willing and personally glad to volunteer, that *mutatis mutandis* sentiments would be expressed somewhat in unison with those of the persons whom Lieutenant McNeill met in the street, but whether those men formed part of

the essentially Military Members of the Dowlut Lushker Puttuck or not, I have had no means of ascertaining.

6. I believe, then, I am justified in regarding the offer of the Dowlut Lushker Puttuck Men as of the ordinary kind and my best endeavours were given to ascertaining the sincerity and truthfulness of it. I particularly put to one of the Officers the question whether he would relish a rip to Sea on Boardship. He certainly did pause before giving me a reply, but so far as I cant recollect and gather, that reply was, that in all respects he would abide by the wishes of the Authorities. I have no doubt whatever that my conversation was heard and generally understood by the Men assembled in a large crowd, for I was standing slightly raised above their level, on the step leading into the Residency Verandah.

7. I do not, however, mean to question the correctness of what Lieut. McNeill has felt called on to report to the Government through the Military Secretary to the Governor. But I do submit that nothing that passsed between me and several hundreds of the Men and Officers of the Dowlut Lushker Puttuck List, at all tended to indicate the existence of the feelings expressed to Lieut. McNeill on the Public Road, by the persons with whom he appears to have conversed. Whether the Dowlut Lushker Puttuck offer was made with a strong conviction that nothing would come of it further than perhaps securing on the part of the Government, an indulgent feeling towards the Establishment, is a point on which it would be difficult to form an opinion and justify it. Knowing as they must have done by contrast with the regular Troops of whom some have always been stationed at Tanjore, that they possessed none of the essentials for active service, my own impression is that the Dowlut Lushker Puttuck never expected that their offer would be accepted. As yet I have not communicated to them the reply of the Government, which perhaps may as well be allowed to remain, as it is, in my Records.

Min. of Cons. 15th August 1857, *No.* 634.

8. I cannot conclude this letter without expressing regret that Lieutenant McNeill, instead of preserving silence until the 22nd August last, regarding a fact in his opinion of sufficient public importance to be made matter of report to the Governor of Madras, should not have communicated it to me when it first reached him.

9. My second communication with the Dowlut Lushker Puttuck was on the 31st July, at which time Lieutenant McNeill was in Tanjore. He had previously been my guest for some three weeks though a stranger on his arrival,* but on that date† was in a Bungalow of his own. However, he was at my house on the 30th July, and he dined with me on the 2nd August, and sat talking till late at night. I cannot ascertain whether I saw him on the 1st and 3d July, but my belief is that I had a conversation with him outside the Residency Verandah, on the former of the two dates. However, on the 4th August, Lieutenant McNeill was again my guest at dinner, and it was on that day and from my House at night, that he quitted Tanjore for Trichinopoly and Madras.

* 23*rd May* 1857.

† 31*st July* 1857.

10. The Government will judge the motives which have induced this Gentleman to withhold from me what he then knew, in order to place it in a more prominent manner before the highest personage in the Presidency.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS,
Commissioner.

No.20. ORDER THEREON, No. 937; dated 31st October 1857.

The Commissioner is requested to adopt the course proposed in para: 7, of his letter and to refrain from communicating the reply of Government to the address sent in the name of the late Rajah's Regiment, offering their Services.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

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No. 937

The Commissioner is requested to adopt the course proposed in Para 7 of his letter and to refrain from communicating the reply of Government to the address sent in the name of the late Rajah's Regiment offering their Services.

Fort St George,
31st October, 1857.

To the Commissioner of Tanjore - Dispd 31st