M.R.O. 1—30,000—18-10-27.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 224 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 27 [illegible]

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 33. From Lieutenant A. C. McNEILL, Agent in the Hill Tracts of Orissa; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Russellcondah, 11*th* March 1858, No. 64.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward for the information of Government copies of my letters, Nos. 29 & 42, dated respectively the 28th January and 23rd February 1858, to the address of the Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

From Lieutenant A. C. McNEILL, Agent in the Hill Tracts of Orissa; to CECIL BEADON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William, dated 28th January and 23rd February 1858, *Nos. 29 and 42.*

SIR,

I have the honor to forward my Diary from the 1st to the 15th January 1588.

2. Since the Despatch of my last letter, I have been visited by nearly the whole of the Infanticidal Tribes of Sooradah, they stated that they would have arrived sooner but they had been suffering from small pox in the Hill, and had heard that Cholera was prevalent in the low country; these causes had therefore led to the delay which had occurred.

3. They were addressed in the usual manner as to the necessity of relinquishing their long established habit of Female Infanticide, their replies were very satisfactory and a careful Register is now being prepared of all the Female Children.

4. Although considerable number of Female are now preserved, there is every reason for believing that in the more remote Districts Infanticide still prevails to a very great extent, but the sentence lately passed upon the Khonds of Sonopore, Imprisonment with labor in Irons at Sooradah, will have a most salutary effect as the spectacle of these Prisoners working in Irons appeared to have much greater influence on the Tribes who visited me than all the advice and exhortations which I used with a view of explaining to them the heinousness of their crime, and as these Prisoners will be seen by all the Infanticidal Tribes who visit the weekly fair at Sooradah I am persuaded that the suppression of Infanticide will now progress rapidly and effectually.

5. The party deputed to Chinna Kimedy had been visited by a considerable portion of the Khonds of the Sarrumguddah and Koortelly Districts, the Khonds were contented and had been blessed with an abundant harvest, some trivial disputes had been settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Honorable the President in Council that the sentence of death awarded to "Boye Khond" was this day carried out at "Drekemillah," *alias* "Bodaganna," his Native Village.

2. On my arrival at the Fort of Mahasingha on the 20th Instant, I received information from various sources that the Khonds of the Bulleeguddah District meditated an attack on my Camp with the view of rescuing the Prisoner, and thereby averting the stigma, which they imagined would attach to them if the Prisoner were hanged in their District.

3. I accordingly summoned the Ooriah Chief of the district and informed him of what I had heard. He at first strenuously denied the truth of my assertion, but I warned him that if any opposition was offered to me in carrying out the orders of Government I should hold him personally responsible and would also hang the Prisoner in his (the Patir's) village. This had the desired effect and on the 21st he returned and said "now you have nothing to fear as I have given all my Khonds good advice," thereby virtually acknowledging that which he had so pertinaciously denied

on the previous day. As above stated the Prisoner was this day hanged but every thing went off peaceably though large numbers of Khonds, some armed, and others not, to the number of 600 were collected in small groups on all the eminences which commanded a view of the gallows.

4. I would not have entered so minutely into the circumstances of this case were it not that this "Boye Khond" is the first person that has ever been hanged in the Hill Tracts of Chinna Kimedy and the Khonds were prepared by force to prevent this innovation if so it might be termed, but every thing having passed off quietly I am fully persuaded that this execution will have a most beneficial effect on all clases and will operate the most favorably in the furtherance of our operations for the suppression of Meriah Sacrifice and Female Infanticide as the Khonds and others have now had ocular evidence of the determination of Government to uphold its authority in all cases even though unconnected with the immediate sphere of this Agency.

5. On this latter subject however I shall submit in a day or two a few observations for the favourable consideration of Government.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, No. 224; dated 27th March 1858.

To be Recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

In Dy. Lo Cons: 30th March
Political 1858 Dep. pt.

From the agent in the
Hill Tracts of Orissa
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d/11
2/22d March/58.

No 197
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Forwards for the information of Govt. copies of two letters addressed to the Govt. of India one reporting the execution of the sentence of death passed against two prisoners and the other forwarding with observations his Diary from 1st to 15 Jany/58.

No 224
To be recorded
27 March 58

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23 March
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