

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 366

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
from 11th to 17th June 1859.*

No. 17. Read the following letter from Captain A. C. McNEILL, Agent to the Governor General, Hill Tracts of Orissa; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 27th May 1859, No. 115.

I have the honor to forward for the information of Government copy of my letter, No. 114, of the 26th Instant to the Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William.

From CAPTAIN A. C. McNEILL, Agent to the Governor General, Hill Tracts of Orissa; to W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William, dated 26th May 1859, No. 114.

It affords me much satisfaction to report the amicable adjustment of a dispute of upwards of 20 years standing between the Rajah of Chinna Kimeddy, Sree Adikhondo Deo, and his Subordinate the Thant Rajah of Guddapoor, which at one time threatened to lead to a serious embroilment in the Hill Tracts of Chinna Kimeddy.

2. Government are perhaps aware that the Khond Tracts of Chinna Kimeddy are divided into 18 Districts or "Godoas" each of which again is subdivided into "Goomahs" and Pallies *i. e.* frontier posts. These districts and their subordinate posts are ruled over by Hindoo Chiefs called "Patros" the descendants of Oorlah, placed in Military possession of the several Hill Tracts, after their conquest by a Rajah of the "Nalla Bonso" who according to the tradition now extant, starting from "Juggernaut" conquered and retained possession of the whole of the Chinna Kimeddy Hill Tracts, and finally settled down at "Pretabgherry" in the low country, after establishing at Guddapoor above the Ghauts, a "Thant Rajah" or Commander of the Forces who was supposed to be responsible for the tranquillity of the Khond Tracts, during the absence of his superior.

3. When in 1849 this Agency first visited the Chinna Kimeddy Hills for Meriah suppression purposes, we found the whole country distracted by internal feuds neither "Patros" nor "Thant Rajah" over visited the Rajah of Chinna Kimeddy, who for years was unable to exercise any control over either Khond or Oorlah, and on more than one occasion when attempting to coerce by force his rebellious Hill subjects, his Troops have been defeated and driven back from the Hills with loss.

4. During our intercourse with these wild and barbarous races, we gained their confidence by settling local disputes of long standing and after much difficulty and persuasion reconciled parties who had for years been inveterate enemies, and induced most of the Hindoo Chiefs to visit their Rajah at Chinna Kimeddy. The only exception hitherto, has been the Thant Rajah of Guddapoor, who from the very first has offered a passive resistance to all our endeavours to effect a reconciliation between him and his superior, he has also been constantly embroiling himself with the Oorlahs of Tonnopore a district subordinate to Guddapoor. This dispute was enquired into and adjusted by myself in 1854, but the Mochilka, or agreement, given by the Thant Rajah was broken in the same year. When the late Captain Frye visited these parts in 1855, he took considerable pains in investigating the dispute, and adjusted it, as was then supposed, finally. The Thant Rajah however in defiance of several warnings received from me, that no interference would be allowed on his part in Tonnopore affairs, forcibly ejected the Oorlahs in November 1858, destroyed their village and removed the whole of their grain and a great portion of their cattle.

5. While in the Hills in February 1857, I was waited on by a deputation of the Oorlah chiefs of Tonnopore who brought to my notice the highly irregular proceeding of the Thant Rajah, and solicited my interference on their behalf; I accordingly wrote to the Thant Rajah, to meet me at Sooradah with the view of investigating the matter and reconciling the parties; but the Thant Rajah appeared totally indifferent to all my orders, and neither made his appearance at Sooradah, nor at Russellcondah, where I subsequently requested him to attend.

6. On the 25th March I received from the Rajah of Chinna Kimeddy an Urzee bringing prominently to my notice the conduct of the Thant Rajah, on this, as well as on many former occasions, and stating that if measures were not immediately adopted to punish the Thant Rajah

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for his unprovoked ejection of the Tonnopore people, that he (the Rajah) could not be held responsible, if the aggrieved parties, assisted by the other Hill chiefs, all of whom are inimical to Guddapore, took the law into their own hands and retaliated on the Thant Rajah for his long continued oppression.

7. Immediately dispatched a Guard of Sebundies to Tonnopore; under their protection the village has been rebuilt and occupied, and cultivation commenced.

8. The Thant Rajah evidently now afraid that the next step would result in his being called to account for his previous misdeeds voluntarily came to me at Russellecondah on the 15th April last, without any solicitation on my part, and endeavoured to exculpate his proceedings with reference to Sonopore. I however pointed out to him that no final adjustments of this dispute could be satisfactorily arrived at, until he visited his superior at Chinna Kimedy when a reconciliation would no doubt take place. This step I at last induced him to take, and he has now returned to the Hills after visiting the Rajah of Chinna Kimedy by whom he was kindly received and well treated, and the dispute extending over 20 years has now I hope been finally adjusted.

9. My object in thus entering into the particulars of this dispute is to bring to notice one whole of the Khonds who inhabit the Boree Mootah of Sonnopore commit Female Infanticide. The and 10 cases of this nature were detected in "Boree" in 1857. The guilty parties who are now undergoing at Sooradah the punishment awarded to them were apprehended by the Ooriahs of Sonopore, who by thus acting on the side of Government have raised against themselves a feeling of intense enmity and opposition amongst the Khonds, and the latter with the view either of obtaining the release of those in confinement, or of retaliating on the Sonopore people, have taken the most active part in the late proceedings against the Ooriahs.

10. While matters were thus unsettled, I considered it would be impolitic to address Government on the subject of the Khonds under imprisonment for Infanticide, but as the dispute has now been amicably adjusted, I would beg respectfully to solicit that the remaining portion of their confinement may be remitted. They have now been 2 years, 10 months and 17 days in confinement with hard labor, and have lost half their number by death, viz., 5 out of the 10 first sent to Sooradah in 1857.

No. 18.

ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1859, No. 366.

Ordered to be communicated to the Agent to the Governor in Ganjam for his information.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT.

Chief Secretary.

Order thereon 17th June 1859 No. 366.

Ordered to be com-

*municated to the Agent to the
Governor in Ganjam for his in-
formation.*

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*To the Agent to the
Governor in Ganjam. } Sep 21st*