

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	493.	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	16-8-	1839

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
from 13th to 19th August 1859.*

No. 3. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. G. WOODS, Adjutant General of the Army; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 4th August 1859, No. 841.

Directing that the report from the Government Agent at Tanjore be communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in view to such inquiry being instituted as he may see fit to make into the conduct of the Sepoys on Guard on the night of the robbery.

Agreeably to para. 6 of the Order of Government in the Political Department, dated 11th Ultimo, No. 417, I have the honor by order of the Commander-in-Chief to forward for submission to the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry which His Excellency directed to be assembled to investigate the conduct of the Military Guard on the occasion of the robbery of Treasure from the Government Agency office at Tanjore.

2. I am directed to state that after a careful perusal of the Proceedings, Sir Patrick Grant has arrived at the same conclusion as that recorded by the Court.

OPINION OF THE COURT.

The Court as recorded in the face of the Proceedings, inspected the premises where the robbery had taken place; the exact beats of the Sentries were carefully pointed out, the direction from which the robbers were supposed to have approached the buildings was minutely noted. A Sepoy was sent up into the roof of the buildings and ordered to approach along the supposed track of the robbers, the Members of the Court posting themselves on the Guard Sentries beat, they at once came to the unanimous conclusion that the robbers could have gained the small terraced roof, (not room as erroneously stated in the Extract from Mr. Cadell's letter) on a moonlight night without the Sentry of the Guard, however alert he might have been, detecting them, and from the distance the Sentry's post was from the Agency office, he could not have heard the noise the robbers might have made in removing the tiles; from the other Sentry posted at the back of the buildings being down in a road considerably below the buildings, he could not see, and unless they were exceedingly clumsy and noisy he could not have heard the robbers. A low wall at the southern end of a thatched building connected to the Government Agency office buildings could effectually have concealed the approach of the robbers in that direction and after they had mounted the roof of the thatched building by keeping along the eastern side they could be completely hidden from the Guard Sentry by the foliage of two large trees until they had gained the roof of the Agency office, when, as already stated, by proceeding on their bellies, or even on their hands and knees, the parapet would have concealed them from the observation of the Guard Sentry. The Court cannot conceive on what grounds Mr. Cadell has brought the charges against the Sentries of being remiss and utterly useless, unless he is under the impression that Military Sentries are permitted to leave their posts and wander about, for in no other way could the two Sentries of this Guard have become aware of what was taking place at the Agency office.

(Signed) DOUGLAS HAMILTON, Major,
and President.

(Signed) WILLIAM SAPTE, Captain,
1st Light Cavalry. } Members.
(") F. B. G. GLOVER, Lieutenant,
2nd European Light Infantry. }

TANJORE, 26th July 1859.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
from 13th to 19th August 1859.*

No. 4.

ORDER THEREON, 16th August 1859, No. 493.

Ordered that the foregoing letter and the opinion of the Court of Enquiry be communicated to the Government Agent at Tanjore, with reference to the last para. of the Proceedings of Government, dated 11th Ultimo, No. 417.

2. Adverting to the conclusion at which the Court of Enquiry have arrived, "that the robbers could have gained the small terraced roof on a moonlight night without the Sentry of the Guard, however alert he might have been, detecting them," the Governor in Council is of opinion that arrangements should be made for posting the Sentries in such a manner as to command the view of the whole building.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Political Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

*Read the following
letter from the Adjutant
General of the Army;*

(Dated 4th August 1859/1860)

Order thereon 16th August 1859 No 493

*Ordered that the
foregoing letter and the
opinion of the Court of
Enquiry be communicated
to the Govt. Agent at Tan-
jore, with reference to the
last para of the Proceedings
of Govt. dated 11th Ultimo,
No. 417.*

*2 Adverting to the con-
clusion at which the
Court of Enquiry have ar-
rived*

arrived, that the robbers
could have gained the
small terraced roof on a
moonlight night without
the sentry of the Guard,
however alert he might have
been, detecting them"; the
Governor in Council is of
opinion that arrangements
should be made for posting
the sentries in such a
manner as to command
the view of the whole
Buildings.

J.P.

To the Govt. Agent at Tanjore.
— Adjutant General
of the Army. } Disps-19th

Proceedings of the Court of
Enquiry not to be printed.
only the opinion of the Court
contained in the last two
pages.

Proc. of Acad. 19 Aug
Political 1859 October 14

No 1493.

Proceedings of Acad.

October 1859.