

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 302	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated 9-5	1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
for the month of May 1860.*

No. 45. Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 28th April 1860, No. 1091.

I have the honor to submit for consideration by Government, a statement of circumstances connected with the position of Sivubala Bhat, Govinda Bhat, Bhatgósámí, No. 241, on the Dowlat Pámlók pension list, which seem to indicate the absence of any necessity for continuing to that person, the pension of Rupees 10 per mensem formally sanctioned early in 1857, and which, since then he has been drawing.

2. When in that year, the three minor establishments were abolished by the assignment of pensions and gratuities to the many individuals composing them, a pension of half his pay of Rupees 20 was allotted, under the rules prescribed by the Supreme Government, to this Sivubala Bhat.

3. It was necessary, however, when dismissing all the members of these establishments, to retain on allowances distinct from their pensions, which were thus placed in abeyance, such few servants as were positively necessary and urgently required to prevent personal inconvenience to the widows of the late Rájá and his immediate relatives, and others for whom no stipendiary provision had at that time been made, and who, in its absence, were, by the Palace practice, entitled to domestic attendance at the cost of the Ráj.

4. Accordingly, the late Sirkele was instructed by me to select for retention on an establishment to be newly formed, the fewest possible number of attendants. Owing to objections raised by the Sirkele, I found difficulty in bringing the list down to my own idea of its required strength, and if I had then possessed the knowledge of the strict wants of the Palace which, on longer experience, I later acquired, it is probable that I should have lowered it beyond the extent at which, for fear of inconveniencing the Bhai Sahibs and others, I reluctantly left it.

5. Under these circumstances, and aware of the unwillingness with which I assented to his proposed establishment, even after I had reduced it, it was manifestly incumbent on the late Sirkele to have kept in pay only those persons without whom the Palace duties could not proceed.

6. So far from such being his course of action, I now find that the Sivubala Bhat to whom this communication has reference, was one of the new men then entertained as Priests to officiate in the domestic Pagoda of the Palace. But, from that time to the present, Sivubala Bhat has not put foot in Tanjore. He is connected with the family of the Sirkele of the Rájá of Pudukóttá and has there resided; and he has, I am informed, always resided there from many years prior to the demise of the late Rájá in October 1855.

7. Doubtless, the non-residence when the Rájá was alive, of a Pagoda subordinate for whom a monthly salary was being drawn by his agent here, is a point of no importance to my immediate proposition, and I mention it merely to bring forward my belief, that the re-entertainment of Sivubala Bhat for duty which he has not performed and probably was never intended to discharge, was the result of improper influence over the late Sirkele.

8. As to the true cause of the man's employment, I have questioned the present Sirkele, who is the only son of the late one, and by him have had my recollection drawn to the fact, that at the time of Sivubala Bhat's name being entered in the new list, the late Sirkele was weak and suffering from the low fever which carried him off some weeks later, and that, in reality, the work of the Sirkele's Office was in the hands of Venkat Row, late Government Agency Sarishtadar. Such was and is my impression; and I do not hesitate to affirm the strong belief I have already represented, that the late Sirkele was a mere puppet whom Venkat Row moved.

9. Sivubala Bhat, as I understand, is the adopted son of a female who adopted him many years after her husband's death. The ceremony performed, its effect was to induct him to the set of Bhatgósámís, or hereditary Priests of the Tanjore Palace Pagoda, and so to secure for him a right to share any peculiar privileges and occasional emoluments to which this class were entitled. It also secured for him a monthly salary of Rupees 20. The Rájá is said to have offered no objection to the adoption which thus became a tax on his resources, though at the time there were many Bhatgósámís available for duty, if a new one had been necessary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
for the month of May 1860.*

10. Sivubala Bhat is also a connection of Venkat Row's first wife, who was a niece of the father of Sivubala Bhat. Further, since this man's re-entertainment by the late Sirkele in April 1857, his salary (he being at Pudukóttá) has been drawn from the Sirkele's Office either by Saccaram Kristnaji or his brother Rájá Ram Kristnaji, who are nephews of Venkat Row's wife.

11. This salary was part of the allowance assigned to the Saraswati Mahal, to which the priests belonged, and was there disbursed to the so called agent of Sivubala Bhat. The present Sirkele, however, stopped it in November 1858, consequent, it seems, on an enquiry I then made, which led me to intimate to him, that if I discovered that his duties were in any wise affected by outside influence, I must employ in his office a man of independent spirit.

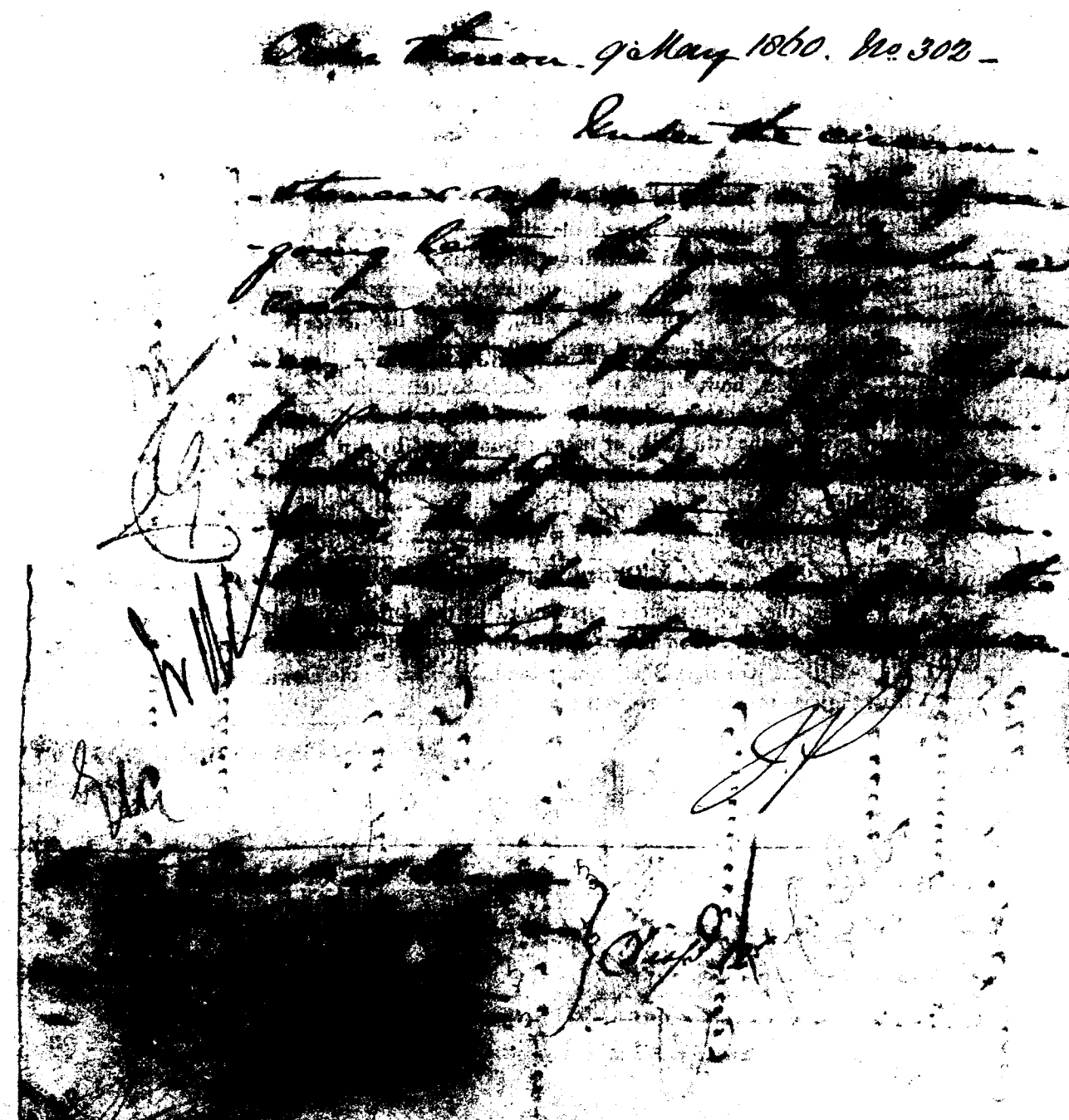
12. Apart, however, from the point whether Venkat Row has or has not exercised his influence for the benefit of a connection, I submit that as Sivubala Bhat's services were in fact never given to the late Rájá, or taken advantage of by that Prince, no just claim exists for the assignment of a pension to him and I therefore submit for consideration that it ought now to be cancelled.

No. 46.

ORDER THEREON, 9th May 1860, No. 302.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Government resolve, as recommended by the Commissioner, that the pension of ten Rupees per mensem assigned to V. Sivubala Bhat, Govinda Bhat, Bhatgosami, No. 241, in the Dowlut Pamlóke list, be cancelled from the date to which it was last drawn.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.



u peruenit ad rem eius &
 eximie per consideratione
 deus p^ruide
 Deo
 Deo p^ruide obsecro deum

Ed Smith
Committee

Secretary
to Government
Fort Saint George