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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 571 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 22-9-~~19~~ 1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 80. Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL; Esq., Government Agent of Tanjore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated September 1860, No. 334.

1. I have the honor to forward for the consideration and orders of Government a communication from their Highnesses the Avoo Sahiba and Camatchi Bayee Sahiba, protesting against the gardens called the "Dástan Mahál" and the "Hoozzoor Mahál" garden having been made over to Succaram Sahib and the Princess.

2. The object of Mr. Phillips in making over these gardens to Succaram Sahib and the Princess (and in the propriety of which I, at the time, fully concurred) was simply for the comfort and recreation of the Princess who had hitherto been entirely secluded and who, not unnaturally, expressed a strong desire to see something more than the walls of the apartments where she had hitherto dwelt.

3. As remarked by Mr. Phillips, the Avoo Sahiba and her party have never entered the gardens in question for 3½ years, but shortly before Mr. Phillips' departure and after that they had learned that the gardens were to be made over temporarily to Succaram Sahib and the Princess, the Avoo Sahiba and the other ladies took possession, and now continue in the occupation, of the apartments known as the Vejaya Velás which look directly in the garden called the "Dástán Mahál" "or Vejaya Velás Mahál" garden.

4. There cannot be a doubt but that if the gardens had not been made over to the occupation of Succaram Sahib and the Princess, the grievance which forms the matter of the enclosed communication would never have been heard of and the removal of the ladies to the buildings overlooking the garden, it will be observed, was altogether an act of their own doing. Still, adverting to the position which these ladies occupy as the heads of the family and to the desire expressed by Government that their wishes should meet with every consideration, the Government may be of opinion that their request in this matter may be complied with as regards the Vejaya Velás garden leaving the Hoozzoor Mahál garden for the Princess and Succaram Sahib.

From Her Highness M. AVU SAHIB, and Her Highness M. KAMATCHEE BAYEE SAHIB, the mother and Queen of the late SEEVAJEE MAHA RAJAH of Tanjore, to the Right Honorable W. A. MOREHEAD, present Governor of Fort Saint George, dated 25th August 1860.

We regret for the necessity under which we have now unnecessarily been put of addressing your Lordship on a subject of no importance and for the disposal of which according to our convenience and comfort the Government Agent of Tanjore and the Commissioner, have had standing orders from higher authorities.

2. We have now been led to believe that after the demise of the late Maha Rajah, the British Government, in ordering the settlement of the affairs of our Raj, have taken a particular care to secure to us, all, every ease and convenience and accordingly issued orders to the Local Authorities scrupulously to see our wants are supplied and the rank and dignity maintained.

3. It is true that we have appealed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India against the acts of the late Honorable the Court of Directors towards our Raj and yet this proceeding on our part, would never we believe properly create an enimical feeling on the part of the Madras Government and their local representatives at this place and thereby induce them to offer oppositions to all our comforts and conveniences.

4. There exists a spacious garden in our Palace by name Dastan Mahál. This garden is intended for no other purpose than for the free use and refreshment of the Bayee Sahibs and other female members of the Maharajah and sometimes the Rajah himself would accompany them in their recreations and no one else enter the garden except the female servants employed for horticultural purposes. This is known, after all, to be the place of female recreation.

5. It is natural that no one would seek for personal comforts when he is mentally injured. So after the demise of the late Maha Rajah we never wished to enter the garden and other buildings which were our frequent resort.

6. This Dastan Mahal garden is now without our knowledge made over to Sakharam Sahib by the Commissioner Mr. Phillips, who of course thinks himself to be in the place of father-in-law to the former inasmuch as he has managed to procure him the hand of the young Princess and thereby created much inconvenience to our personal comfort, intimating, as it were, to be the result of our having declined to accede to arrangements in the matter. The garden has now been turned as a public resort of all the male dependants and servants of Sakharam Sahib and we have not only been deprived of the use of the garden now, when we wish to take air as usual, but also have been prevented from keeping open even the windows of our apartments which presents a view of the whole garden, as it is frequently peopled by Sakharam Sahib's servants.

7. Is it proper for the Commissioner *as a representative of the Government*, to throw such obstacles towards our personal convenience? *Is this the political view of the Government? Has the Commissioner been authorized to do such things? Has he received any instructions from your Government to exercise control even over the places in our occupation?*

8. *What we regret more, is that the very Dastan Mahal garden in which the funeral ceremonies of some of the Bayee Sahib's deceased near kins are usually performed*, were refused us, when we wished to carry on in it the obsequies of M. Aroonamba Bayee Sahiba who died lately, and we leave it to Government what would be the heart-burning of all of us at the flat refusal of the garden under the Commissioner's orders and for the purpose and at such a critical time?

9. We first addressed the Commissioner† and then the Government† Agent on the same subject and the copy of the said address and the answers‡ from them have been herewith enclosed for the perusal of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council and hope that they will afford detailed information of our present request.

† *3rd August* 1860.

‡ *4th do. No.* 1,339.
11th do. No. 289.

10. Mr. Phillips in the 1st para. of his answer plainly (in a tone of opposition) states that the matter we complained of should be disposed "when our appeal to Her Majesty's Secretary of State reaches his hands, because we have expressed our disinclination to come to any specific arrangement proposed by him. By this the Government will easily observe that under what just grounds he has first made over our garden to Sakharam Sahib in the name of young Princess and then refused us when we wanted it for sacred purposes enumerated in the letter to his address.

11. In the 2nd para. of his letter above alluded to he starts as a reason in vindication of his act that the garden was not in our use from the past 3½ years and we wanted it on a sudden when young Princess has been permitted to use it, and we beg to observe, that the possession of a thing can justly be denied to one as the thing has not been used by him? In that case the several or whole of our property has been withheld from us after the Rajah's demise and this our non-possession for the past 3½ years, we fear, shall perhaps also be taken to forfeit our right to all at the instance of your Lordship's able Commissioner, and also beg to remark that the life and death are not put in the hands of men and consequently we were obliged to ask *suddenly* the use of the garden on the *sudden* death of M. Arunamba Bayee Sahib.

12. As it is well known to your Lordship that certain acts of the Commissioner are not always to be approved of by the Government Agent, the Government Agent to avoid vain discussion on the matter (as it appears to us) has merely referred to us to the Commissioner's answer.

13. So is the case of the Hoozoor Mahal gardens, &c., which were unjustly left under the possession and management of Sakharam Sahib by the said Commissioner in the name of the young Princess.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
22nd September 1860.

14. We therefore beg that your Lordship in Council will please to take this matter into your serious consideration and issue full and express orders to your Lordship's representative at this place so that not only the Dastan Mahal and Hoozoor Mahal gardens as they were the only open and comfortable places where the females of the Palace may use exercise to refresh themselves in question, may at once be restored as before to our exclusive possession, but also that all our wants in other matters may be scrupulously attended to without putting us now and then under the necessity of addressing your Lordship on such trivial matters.

From Her Highness AVU SAHIBA, and Her Highness KAMATCHEE AMBA BAYEE SAHIBA, to H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore, dated 3rd August 1860.

We have not received any answer from you up to this date to a letter which we have under date the 12th July last written to you in regard to the funeral expenses of the deceased, M. Aroonamba Bayee Sahiba, which should have been supplied separately from the Durbar according to the custom long existed on any such occasion among the members of our family.

What we can say further, is, that, during the time of the late Rajah, some of the Bayee Sahibas had died; whose funeral rites and other ceremonies had been according to our custom performed within the garden of Dastan Mahal which is very near situated and attached to our Palace; accordingly we had the desire to perform, the funeral ceremonies of the deceased Aroonamba Bayee Sahiba on the 13th day of her decease, within the garden of Dastan Mahal; and informed the Serkele about to prepare the place for the performance of the said ceremonies within the said garden; but he did not act so as it was the custom: afterwards, we have sent our Afarathee to the Serkele in order to ascertain from him the reason of delay and prevention of preparing the place for the performance of the ceremonies said above; he in answer told the Afarathee to inform us that he had sent his men to prepare the garden; but they were prevented by Paria Annah, who declared that the said garden is given to the young Princess by the Government; consequently the garden was not prepared for the performance of the ceremonies; which information had excited a great deal of sorrow to all the members of our family; because the said garden is belonging to our house; and it was formed and placed for the use of the ladies, as a private place of retirement under our possession and enjoyment until the time when the Government had interfered with our property.

We beg to state that we had free access to the garden, and celebrated ceremonies and Poojahs to some sacred trees in the garden; and Vanabojanum feast; Sherbet Pooja, and other ceremonies were performed by us in the said garden; we had freely entered it and gathered flowers, &c., for our Poojahs, besides our servant women had gathered flowers, &c., for us from the said garden; we had taken air and free walks in the garden; except this, there is no other convenient place or garden for taking air and walk; where if the late Rajah, during his lifetime had occasion to come in, he had first informed us of his attending the garden, when we had withdrawn from it, until he had come in and returned from thence, and then we took it into our use again. As the said garden was merely formed for our use and employed only women servants for working in it and who were dismissed subsequent to the death of the late Rajah; of which the Durbar accounts can show if required. By all the reasons stated as above, it is clear to understand that our long possession of the said garden is strong and undisputable; consequently can it be given to others? In giving the garden to others, what inconvenience and prevention are to occur to our customary use and performance of our Poojahs and other necessary ceremonies which should be observed by us now and then in the garden.

Please to take this into your consideration.

By the continual habits of men in the garden, what inconvenience and prevention are to occur to the ladies residing very near to it, and to the ladies of Mungalavelasum who are also very near to it.

You know well that our family is too large consisting young ladies, so that it is the duty of ourselves and of the Government to protect the members of our family with due honors and respects.

It is our misfortune that the Government had taken possession of all our property, and we have thought that the Government would have been pleased and restored to us all of our property. Now on the contrary the Government had taken possession of the said garden; which excited us all a great deal of concern and anxiety.

As we know not, any one besides you to get relievance, and to whom we can refer the matter of having been deprived of a garden which is formed as a place of retirement for the ladies. We request therefore that you will take all the matters into your consideration and please to recommend to the Government with respect to the garden for an order to restore it to us and protect us kindly without any diminution of our rights, rank, honor, and dignity.

What can we say more.

From H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner, to M. M. AVU SAHIBA and M. M. KAMAKSHI BHAI SAHIB, dated Tanjore, 4th August 1860, No. 1,339.

MESDAMES,

In reply to your letter, dated the 3rd instant, I beg to observe that your communication of the 12th ultimo has never been delivered at my Office. In respect of the Dastan Mahal garden, I have the honor to state that as, on several occasions, you have expressed a disinclination to come to any specific arrangement relative to certain Palace affairs, consequent on your appeal to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, it seems desirable that this matter, also, should be disposed of when the orders you appear to expect may reach the Commissioner or Government Agent's Office.

2. I would, however, remark that from my own knowledge and observation, the Dastan Mahal garden has not in the last 3½ years been used for exercise or other purposes by any of the ladies of the Palace and that it seems strange that it should now suddenly be wanted just after the young Princess has been permitted to have free access to it.

From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Government Agent at Tanjore, to H. H. AVUSAHIB and H. H. KAMATCHIEMBA BAYISAHIB, dated Vallam, 11th August 1860, No. 289.

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 3rd instant, and in reply beg to state, that as I am given to understand that a communication addressed by you to the Commissioner on the same subject has been replied to by that gentleman, I consider it unnecessary to furnish you with any further reply.

No. 81.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd September 1860, No. 571.

If Succaram Sahib on his marriage to the Princess, his first wife, had access to the Hoozoor Mahal garden, which it is now proposed to make over to him and to his wife, the Government authorize the suggestion to that effect made by the Government Agent. But if as asserted both gardens have always been reserved for the exclusive use of the Petitioners, no alteration should be made in respect to their rights.

2. The Agent will communicate the above order to their Highnesses Avoo Sahibah and Kamatchee Boye Sahibah, in reference to their Petition to Government.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

J.A.C. P. Cartledge.

4 There cannot be a doubt but that if the gardens had not been made over to the occupation of Europeans solely & the Prince the grievances which forms the matter of the enclosed communication would never have been heard of and the removal of the Ladies to the buildings overlooking the garden it will be observed would altogether cut off their own doings & still adhering to the position which the Ladies occupy as the Heads of the Family and the desire of Government that their wishes should meet with every consideration the Government may be of opinion that their request in this matter may be complied with as regards the Viziya Velas gardens leaving the Dooggoon Bachali gardens

for

[illegible]

To

[illegible]

Government Agents Kandy

Sir

Your memo 11th August 1860 No 289 - [illegible] with the subject of the protection of the Dooton Bachel garden was duly received.

And it is indispensably necessary that the garden in question should at any rate be kept in our exclusive occupation for no other purpose than to ensure to us privacy & personal comfort & consequently and as there is no other open place within the place which can supply the deficiency said shades of frequent [illegible] by the male servants and others, is detrimental to our peace & our [illegible] apartments, as the windows thereof presents a direct view from the garden we are obliged to seek redress in this matter and therefore beg to make [illegible] to the Government and to

if as essential both gardens have always been reserved for the use

[illegible] early [illegible] to
Government with your opinion recommending thereon
and obtain their orders.

Wishing to be informed of the date in
which you shall forward the same to Government.

I am &c

25th August 1860.

(Signed)

Chief Engr.

[illegible] Botanic Gardens
leaving the Dawgoon Bucheti garden

for —

[illegible] to the Resident
Assistant Engr. Quarter Master
[illegible]

Order thereon 28 September No. 571.

If Lucman Saheb
his marriage
& the Princess his
first wife have accep-
to the Dawgoon Bucheti
for the - with it
how proposed to make
over to him & to his
wife - the fort & to-
-gether & suggestions
the effect made by
the first Agent - the
if as resolved both
Gardens have always
been reserved for the
exclusive use of

the Petitioners
no alteration should
be made in Respect
to their rights -

Govt Agent Tanjore Dispd 25th JP -

2. The Agent will
communicate
above Letter to the
Board Schools & Mr.
Natchea Boya Sahib
- Cost in reply
to this Petition to
Govt

JP

Political 19th December

№ 571.

Pros: Government

Dated 22d September 1860.

Respecting the
Complaint of Mr. Arumukha
Boya and Ramakrishna
Boya Sahib of two gentlemen
in the Palace having
been made over to the
Superintendence of
the young Princes.

Ret: 10th Oct/60