M.R.O. 1—80,0'0—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	70	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	8 — 2 —	19 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 24. Read the following letter from J. B. NORTON, Esq., Agent, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 24th January 1860.

I have the honor to forward you a memorial on behalf of Her Highness Avoo Sahiba and Her Highness Kamachie Bhoyee Sahiba expressive of their wishes respecting the infant Princess, and I may say of the wishes of the entire family on that subject.

I shall feel obliged by your laying this before the Council with the least possible delay as the matter is one of a very pressing nature.

To the Honorable Sir CHARLES EDWARD TREVELYAN, K.C.B.,

Governor in Council of Fort Saint George.

The respectful Memorial of Her Highness AVOO SAHIBA and Her Highness KAMACHIE BHOYEE SAHIBA, Mother and Senior Widow of the late Rajah of Tanjore, by JOHN BRUCE NORTON, Esq., their Agent and Legal Adviser.

Sheweth,

That Mr. Caddell, the Governor's Agent, lately informed your memorialists that, in reply to their memorial touching the young Princess, the Government of Madras was anxious that the Princess should consult with her female relatives on the subject of her marriage with Suckeram Sahib and that there existed no obstacle to the freedom of intercourse between her and your memorialists.

Acting upon this information your memorialists at once determined to visit the Princess personally and to consult with and advise her after having from her own mouth ascertained whether she is really desirous of marrying Suckeram, or whether as they cannot but believe she has been tutored to say this by the Durbar and creatures of Suckeram.

Your memorialist Her Highness Avoo Sahiba therefore sent a verbal message to the Cirkele, such as it is usual for him to act on, requesting him to prepare palankeens for the passage of your memorialists and some of the other ladies from their own apartments to the part of the palace inhabited by the Princess.

The Cirkele refused to act without a written order which, though contrary to custom, your memorialist Her Highness Avoo Sahiba despatched to him.

Thereupon he went to Mr. Phillips, and they together proceeded to the apartments of the Princess, who, your memorialists are informed, personally told Mr. Phillips that she would not see your memorialists or the other ladies, and that sooner than speak to them if they came she would bite her tongue out.

Mr. Phillips departed, and the Cirkele sent a verbal message to your memorialists that they could not see the Princess.

Upon the arrival of the Governor in Tanjore he was taken in the first instance to the apartments of the Princess, who, your memorialists are informed, stated to him her desire to marry Suckeram Sahib, and repeated much what she is stated above to have told Mr. Phillips.

Upon the Honorable the Governor visiting your memorialists they presented him (*A*) a memorial expressive of their desire to visit the Princess, copy of which accompanies.

In reply thereto they have been favored with a letter from Sir Charles Trevelyan, copy of which is herewith sent. (*B*) This it will be obvious is the mere personal reply of His Excellency; and your memorialists submit that it is in direct antagonism to the order of the Government of Fort St. George declaring that the Government is desirous that the young Princess should consult with her friends about her marriage and that there exists no obstacle to freedom of intercourse between your memorialists and her.

Your memorialists are now in the greatest alarm lest this hateful marriage should be hurried on without their being permitted to avail themselves of the liberty which your Government has stated to exist of their having intercourse with the Princess; and they are well assured that, unless direct peremptory orders are issued to the Resident or Agent that your memorialists and the ladies are to be permitted to see the Princess when and as they like, obstacles will continue to be thrown in the way of any interview. They submit that the infant Princess can have no right as against her natural guardians of refusing to see them in which she is to be protected. The very point to be decided is whether or no the Princess has declared her wishes in an "unmistakeable" manner.

They will not presume to argue with the Government the soundness of the decision at which it has arrived on the subject of the Princess' marriage, or to go over the old grounds which they have already laid before the Government and on which the Government has already deliberated and formed its own judgment, but they would respectfully ask to be permitted to ascertain for themselves that the asserted affection of the Princess for Suckeram Sahib is real and not the result of simple tutoring. And further that no marriage may at any rate be solemnized until after the result of your memorialists' forthcoming appeal to England for the restitution of the Raj and the private property be ascertained

The status of the Princess may be vastly altered by the result of that appeal. If the Raj should be restored, the hope of a successor may depend upon her being married to a gentleman of her own age instead of to a worn out debauchee. The time in which the result of your memorialists' appeal must be known cannot in all probability exceed six months, and they therefore pray that this request also may receive the favorable consideration of the Government and that orders may be issued in accordance with their reasonable desire. So much time is requisite for obtaining the verification of your memorialists' signatures, and the occasion is so pressing that they trust the Government will not be offended at their Agent signing this memorial for them per procuration.

They protest against the intended marriage as contrary to law and the custom of their family; as being a matter in which the Government has no right or legal power of interference; as one on which at any rate full time ought to be allowed them to appeal, which it is their intention to do, to the Governor-General and the Secretary of State for India against the decision of the Government of Madras and its right of interference in their domestic affairs.

They have this moment been placed in possession of a letter having a most important bearing on this subject, which they presume cannot have been laid before the Government. It is the letter of the late Resident Mr. Forbes to the Acting Cirkele, under date 6th January 1857, in which he writes, "I need not I am sure remind you that the late *Rajah positively forbad the marriage of the Princess with the husband of her sister*, and I am sure that you are too loyal to your master's house to do any act of which you know that he would have disapproved."

Fortified by this fortunately discovered evidence of what they have long known, they protest against the Government sanctioning a marriage in direct opposition to the express wishes of the late Rajah, and hereby signify their intention of appealing

against the order without delay, and for which they ask time before the irrevocable step of the infant's marriage be completed.

And your memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray, &c.

For Her Highness AVOO SAHIBA, and
Her Highness KAMACHIE BHOYEE SAHIBA,
(Signed) JOHN BRUCE NORTON,
Agent, &c.

MADRAS,
24th January 1860.

(*A*)

TO THE HONORABLE SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN, *Knight*,
Governor, &c.

The respectful Memorial of Her Highness AVOO SAHIBA, Her Highness KAMACHIE BHOYEE SAHIBA, and the undersigned members of the family of the late Rajah SEWAJEE.

SHEWETH,

That in reply to the memorial lately presented by us to your Excellency in Council touching the young Princess we have been informed by Mr. Caddell, the Government Agent, that your Excellency's Government has advised the young Princess to consult with her family, and that there exists no obstacle to freedom of intercourse between her and her family.

Acting upon this information your memorialists, on Thursday the 12th ultimo, determined to visit the young Princess in her apartments for the purpose of personally ascertaining her wishes and giving her the benefit of their advice.

Accordingly Her Highness Avoo Sahiba wrote to the Cirkele requesting him to make the necessary preparations, but they are informed that the Cirkele thereupon took Mr. Phillips to the apartments of the young Princess, and that she informed him she did not desire to see your memorialists, whereupon this interview has not been permitted.

Your memorialists will not renew the representations and arguments so lately addressed to your Excellency's Government, but they now prefer their request, which they are sure must be deemed reasonable, that they may be permitted to see the Princess without let or hindrance.

Her statement to Mr. Phillips it is evident may well be part of that same tutoring of which they complain, and they are desirous naturally of ascertaining by personal communication the real state of the Princess' affections.

But even if her desire be really not to see your memorialists, they submit that even her reluctance however strong ought not to be listened to. She is an infant; some of your memorialists are her natural guardians; and while all respect is due to her exalted rank, the feelings of her relatives ought not to be outraged and intercourse denied at the caprice of a child.

Your memorialists can never have their doubts as to the sincerity of the feelings of the Princess set at rest except by personal intercourse with her; they are quite willing to visit her, or that she may be brought to them, in your Excellency's presence.

They seek to exercise no coercion over her desires, but they submit that it is due to them that the amplest opportunity should be afforded them of ascertaining what those desires are, and of placing before her the wishes of her family.

This is nothing more than what your Excellency yourself, or any other father of a family, would desire and adopt as his course in the event of a child determined upon a marriage which did not meet with your approval.

They seek no more than what your Excellency would yourself seek if the case were your own, and they cannot but hope that your Excellency will decide that what they ask is only reasonable and just, and the course best adapted for preventing unhappy dissensions in the family.

They pray, therefore, that leave may be at once given for your memorialists seeing and conferring with the young Princess either in her own apartment or theirs, either in your Excellency's presence or not as may seem to you most expedient.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

(*B*)

To Her Highness AVOO SAHIBA, Her Highness KAMACHIE AMHA BHOYEE SAHIBA, and other Ladies of the Family of the late Rajah SEWAJEE of Tanjore.

LADIES,

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter in which you state that you had sought and been refused an interview with the Princess, daughter and only remaining child of His Highness the late Rajah Sewajee, in order that you might personally ascertain her wishes and give her your advice in regard to her marriage, and you request that leave may now be given for you to see and confer with her notwithstanding her reluctance however strong.

2. The Princess is of an age and character to judge for herself, and she has for many months consistently declared her preference for Suckeram Sahib in a manner which leaves no doubt as to the real state of her affections. She has also signified her opinion that intercourse with those ladies of her family who are opposed to her marriage would not at present be attended with advantage, and has declined to see them.

3. However much the existence of a difference between the Princess and other members of the family is to be regretted, the Government has declared its resolution to protect that young lady in the exercise of her rights. As, therefore, she has determined not to see at the present time those of her female relatives who are opposed to her marriage with Suckeram Sahib, she cannot be forced to do so.

I remain, &c.,

VELLUM,
17th January 1860.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 25. MINUTE by His Excellency the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, dated 26th January 1860.

I think that, in reply to the memorial which they have submitted through their Agent, their Highnesses Avoo Sahiba and Kamachie Bhoyee should be informed that the Madras Government has not interfered authoritatively, nor does the Government intend to interfere one way or the other, in the matter of the marriage of the young Princess of Tanjore.

So far as the Madras Government is concerned the Princess is free to choose who she will make her husband, and further the Government has *advised* the Princess to take counsel with the ladies of her family on a point of such importance.

This advice the Princess has uniformly declined to follow, and, in like manner, the Madras Government must decline to have recourse to compulsion to induce the young lady to submit to an interview to which she has deliberately objected.

In short, as she has been repeatedly told, the Princess is a free agent, and the Madras Government will not, on its own part, have recourse to coercion on the point under consideration, nor will the Government consent to any such course on the part of the members of the Tanjore family.

(Signed) P. GRANT.

No. 26. MINUTE by the Honorable W. A. MOREHEAD, dated 26th January 1860.

In my remarks on the former memorial presented by the same ladies, I observed that I considered that the Government had no right to interfere in the matter of the young lady's marriage. I am still of the same opinion.

In the memorial presented to this Government it is stated that Mr. Phillips was the person who communicated with the young lady in reference to the proposed visit of her relatives, and that it was through him that they were informed that the young lady refused to see them. Why Mr. Phillips thus acted I know not; Mr. Phillips has in every way done all that he could to forward the marriage and thwart the memorialists, and his proceedings in the instance in question were in my opinion most objectionable.

I am decidedly of opinion that the ladies, the memorialists, should be told that they may see the Princess, and that the Princess should be told that the Government deemed her refusal to see her relatives a most unbecoming and improper proceeding.

(Signed) W. A. MOREHEAD.

No. 27. MINUTE by the Honorable E. MALTBY, dated 30th January 1860.

The course to be adopted regarding the Princess' marriage was decided upon before* I became a member of the Government, and it is sufficient therefore for me to observe that I regret the embarrassing position in which the Government has become placed in this matter. The Tanjore Raj having been declared extinct, the marriage of this lady became a private domestic arrangement, which, in my opinion, ought to have been left to her family; and had the young lady been restored to her former guardians after she was taken by the Resident's order to see her dying sister, the present difficulties would have, apparently, been avoided. She is at present in the anomalous position of a young Hindu female acting independently for herself, instead of being under the wardship and guidance of her natural guardians. It is now more than two years since she has been living apart from her female relations and she has attained an age (14 years) when it would be out of the question to make any arrangements for her marriage which did not suit her own judgment and inclinations. Under all the difficulties which beset the case I do not, therefore, propose any impediment to her repeatedly expressed desire to marry Suckeram Sahib, but the memorial now presented in the names of Avoo Sahiba, her grandmother, and Kamachie Bhoyee, her father's senior widow, seems to me to merit attention. These ladies, though dissenting from the decision of Government which leaves the Princess to select an husband for herself, limit themselves on this occasion to two requests.

* See Chief Secretary's letters to Mr. Caddell of 31st May and 19th November.

I. They claim an interview with the Princess in order that they may hear from her own lips that she has decided in favor of Suckeram Sahib. I agree with the Honorable Mr. Morehead that this request is reasonable and ought to be complied with. It was insisted formerly that the Princess, though averse to the measure, should visit her dying sister, and it ought now, I think, to be insisted on that she discharges the duty of making known to the heads of her family the wish which she has formed regarding her marriage. This course, too, seems the only one by which the embarrassing position of Government can be modified, otherwise the interference of Government about this young lady's marriage will cause suspicion as well as irritation to the family.

II. The memorialists claim that the marriage should be deferred pending an appeal which they are sending to England for the restoration of the Tanjore Raj. I am not aware that any immediate time has been fixed for the marriage, but I conceive that it ought not to be celebrated at least until the Supreme Government express their approval of the general arrangements proposed by this Government for settling the affairs of the Tanjore family. These arrangements include, according to the President's minute, a provision for performing the Princess' marriage "in a manner becoming the late Rajah's daughter," and a few weeks delay seems unimportant in a

matter of so much delicacy and consequence, and in which whatever step is taken cannot be retraced.

(Signed) E. MALTBY.

No. 28. MINUTE by the Honorable the PRESIDENT, dated Dindigul, 5th February 1860.

A.

1. Memorial from Mr. Norton.
2. Minutes of the Commander-in-Chief and the Honorable Messrs. Morehead and Maltby.
3. Proceedings of Government, Political No. 59, dated 2nd February 1860.

B.

1. From Commissioner, Tanjore, dated 26th January 1860.
2. Minutes of the Commander-in-Chief, and Honorable Messrs. Morehead and Maltby.
3. Proceedings of Government, Political No. 58, dated 2nd February 1860.

The papers noted in the margin have reached me at this place.

2. The question at issue is the marriage of the only surviving daughter of the late Rajah of Tanjore.

3. Some months since the Government resolved that this young lady should be allowed to exercise her choice in the selection of her husband, and this resolution was reaffirmed by us after an appeal from the young lady's grandmother and step-mother and some others of the widows of the late Rajah. We also, in reply to an application from those ladies, expressed our hope that the Rajah's daughter would freely communicate with them on the subject of her marriage.

4. In this state of things I visited Tanjore in the course of my official tour, and in a long conversation conducted by me with the Princess in the presence of Mr. Bourdillon, the Secretary to Government in attendance on me, the Special Commissioner, the Political Agent and my personal staff, she expressed, in the most emphatic terms, her resolution to marry Suckeram Sahib and not to see her step-mother and grandmother. We could see, through the cloth which separated us, that the young lady was unassisted in the conversation, and the same was evident from the manner and substance of her answers.

5. So far from this choice being an "unnatural one which can only be the effect of improper influences," I am of opinion that it has naturally and properly arisen out of the circumstances of the case. As Suckeram had been her sister's husband, she had known him, as she told us herself, since she was a child, and had entire confidence in him. He is reputed to have been a kind husband to her sister. So far from being a decrepit and worn out debauchee as he has, from interested motives, been represented to be, I can say from my personal observation of him that he is a handsome, active man, in the vigor of life. Moreover, the Princess entertains a profound dread of the designs which her step-mother has in preparation for her in marrying her to a creature of her own.

6. The extreme desire exhibited by the step-mother and her party to prevent the marriage with Suckeram is prompted by far deeper motives than an affectionate interest in the young lady's welfare.. If this marriage takes place, they will return to the retirement which properly belongs to them as the widows of a deceased Hindu Chief. If, on the other hand, they succeed in marrying the Princess to a youth who is unknown to, or disliked by her, and who can have no support except what he derives from the step-mother and her friends, the late Rajah's daughter will become a tool for the ambitious designs of the party. *In this state of circumstances* the birth of a son would only place her more completely in the power of the party. Their object would then be attained, and, as has often before happened, the mother would be set aside.

7. It is certain that plans of coercion have already been contemplated by the party. In the first exultation of the receipt of the answer from Government expressing our hope that the Princess would see her step-mother and grandmother, the former proposed to our Commissioner that force should be used if the young lady declined the interview. Serious apprehensions were expressed by the Cirkele to

Mr. Phillips if the covered conveyances which Hindu females of rank use passed between the apartments of the step-mother and the Princess. It would be impossible, he said, to exercise any check upon what took place in the private apartments or upon what was carried out in the enclosed litters; and, considering the excitement, and the critical state of the affair, he feared the worst consequences.

8. I cannot agree with Mr. Morehead that the Government was wrong in interfering, as it has done, in the matter of the Princess' marriage. As the Rajah was dead, and the Ráj had been declared to be an escheat, the British Government was bound to interfere to protect the surviving members of the family in the exercise of their rights. If it had not done so, the palace at Tanjore would have become a scene of violence and oppression which would have been disgraceful to us. All we have done has been to protect the late Rajah's daughter in the choice of her husband, which, at her age and with her intelligence, is her undoubted right. But for our interference, a gross outrage would be perpetrated upon her by forcing her to marry a person whom she disliked instead of the person to whom she has, for fifteen months past, consistently and strongly affirmed her devoted attachment.

9. I do not consider that I have taken any responsibility on myself in acting as I have done. The Government, of which I am the chief, had repeatedly declared its resolution to protect the Princess in the choice of her husband, and the matter was considered so fully settled that nothing remained but for the marriage to take place. The step-mother and grandmother afterwards complained that the Princess had not consulted them about her marriage, and they were told that we had expressed a hope to the Princess that she would see them. The expression of this hope, however, was not considered in the least as impairing the liberty of choice which had been previously promised to her. When, therefore, it became more apparent than ever that the Princess was determined to marry Suckeram, and when she had expressed a decided resolution not to see her step-mother and grandmother until after her marriage, it was my plain duty to give effect to the resolution of the Government that the Princess should be allowed to marry Suckeram.

10. After all that had passed, the other ladies of the family could not doubt the determination of the Princess to marry Suckeram, and to satisfy themselves on that point could not, therefore, have been their object. The Princess and the Cirkele apprehended that they had other objects; and without entering further into the subject, I am of opinion that, considering the fixed determination of the Princess not to comply with the object of the proposed visit, the state of excitement of the adverse party, and the circumstance that all their interested and ambitious prospects hinged upon what took place on that occasion, the refusal of the Princess to see her step-mother and those who would have come with her, instead of being "a most unfortunate circumstance which nothing can justify," was a wise and prudent resolution.

11. The day for the celebration of the marriage was not fixed while I was at Tanjore; but I told Mr. Phillips that the Government had for months past resolved to protect the Princess in marrying the husband of her choice, and that whenever she and Suckeram fixed the day, it would be his duty to make proper provision for the purpose out of the abundant means which had been left by her father. After making every deduction from the four lacs of rupees recently handed over from the Rajah's treasury to ours, the portion remaining to the credit of the late Rajah, will (if I recollect right, for I have not the papers) be more than four times the amount which has been named by Mr. Phillips after communicating with the Cirkele.

12. I cannot see that the present position of the Government is in the least "embarrassing." We are simply doing our duty in protecting the daughter of the late Rajah, and in preventing a violent oppression from being practised upon her. Neither would there be any "confusion and dissensions" in the family, if it was fully understood that we are resolved to adhere to that plain line of duty. The unsettlement of people's minds in the small circle of the palace at Tanjore is entirely owing to the support which the widows of the family have received in maintaining a position which does not at all belong to them.

13. For these reasons I entirely adopt the resolutions of the Government of the second instant, by the first of which 35,000 rupees have been placed at the proposal of

the Commissioner as an advance for defraying the expenses attendant on the marriage of the Princess, daughter of the late Rajah, to Suckeram Sahib; and by the second, her step-mother and grandmother are informed that the Government cannot constrain the Princess to see them or to converse with them on the subject of her marriage in opposition to her distinctly and repeatedly expressed determination.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 29. MINUTE by His Excellency the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, dated 8th February 1860.

I continue to think that the young Princess should be allowed to marry the husband of her choice, whoever he may be.

I also continue of opinion that, in advising the Princess to consult with her nearest relations, Government has, in that particular, done all that is called for, and that anything approaching coercion on that point, or in influencing the Princess in her choice of a husband, would be most unbecoming and improper.

I am, however, constrained to state that I consider the President, in his individual capacity as head of the Government, and while separated from the Council, has exceeded his legitimate authority in the course he has pursued on this occasion.

(Signed) P. GRANT.

No. 30. MINUTE by the Honorable W. A. MOREHEAD, dated 8th February 1860.

In the President's minute I can discover no arguments to lead me to alter the opinion which I have already expressed in regard to the marriage of the late Rajah's daughter. The original removal of the girl from the protection of her natural guardians was an error, and the subsequent and continued interference with the private arrangements of the family of the late Rajah is a further mistake.

The instructions issued by the President to Mr. Phillips, referred to in the 9th and 10th para. of his present minute, I must still view as irregular. The Government had not authorized Mr. Phillips to make arrangements for the marriage. The question in this form had really never been before Government, and the President, it appears to me, ought not to have acted as he did. Removed from his Council the President could not, legally, desire Mr. Phillips to exceed the formal instructions which he had received from Government.

(Signed) W. A. MOREHEAD.

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, 8th February 1860, No. 70.

Resolved that the ladies on whose behalf the above address has been presented be referred to the Order passed under date 28th December last on their previous memorial of the 17th idem.

2. The Madras Government have not interfered authoritatively in the matter of the young Ranee's marriage, but as she is of full age to judge for herself, they have left it entirely to her to decide whom she will marry and when the ceremony should take place. She has availed herself of this liberty of choice, and the Government cannot now place any restrictions upon her in her exercise of it.

3. The Government have, further, always been desirous that the Princess should communicate personally with the chief ladies of her family and consult them on the question of her marriage, but she has uniformly refused to see or converse with those ladies on the subject, and the Government cannot constrain her to do so in opposition to her distinctly and repeatedly expressed determination.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

5

No. 5.

Resident's Office,
Trivandrum 20 January 1860

From

F. N. Maltby Esquire
Resident of Travancore Cochin

To

J. D. Bourdillon Esqre.
Secretary to Government in attendance
upon the Honorable the Governor

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit a Letter to His Excellency the Governor from His Highness the Rajah of Travancore, of which the following is a Copy.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

F. N. Maltby
Resident

To

His Excellency
The Honorable Sir Charles Edward Trevelyan K. C. B.
Governor of Fort St George &c &c &c &c

Sir,

I understand from Mr Maltby, the Resident at my Court, that your Excellency is making a tour through the Southern Provinces of the Presidency, and that your Excellency will shortly arrive in the neighbourhood of these territories. I need hardly say how much I should Consider Myself honored, and what high gratification it would afford me were your Excellency to favour me with a visit, which I am Confident you will do, should your time and Convenience admit of it. This Confidence is of Course founded on my firm belief, as also on the repeated assurances of Mr Maltby, that your Excellency recognises Travancore as the Country of one of the oldest and most faithful Allies of the British Government, and that your Excellency takes a sincere interest in the welfare & prosperity of Myself and my people. Should it however so happen that the pressure of your Excellency's numerous and important engagements make it inconvenient to meet my wishes at present, I hope

I

I may rest assured that your Excellency will take another early opportunity of honoring me with a visit at my Capital.

Wishing your Excellency a pleasant tour,

I remain
Sir,
Your sincere & faithful friend
/Sign Manual/ ———

Palace
Attengal
19th January 1860.

/True Copy/
/Signed/ M. V. R.
/True Copy/
F. Maltby
Resident

From Pol. & Sec. Dept. 1860 No. 244

The Resident of Travancore & Cochin

To

J. D. Bourdillon Esqr.
Secy: to Govt: in attendance upon the Honorable the Governor

Dated 20th January 1860.
Recd: 23rd January 1860.

No. 5.

Enclosure - Original

Recd. from the Governor 4 Feby.

No. 64

Transmits a letter to His Excellency the Governor from H. H. the Rajah of Travancore.

This should be recorded with the Copy of my answer — No 30 Jany 60.

24

31/1/60

Mr. Secretary Bruce

I have the honor to submit herewith a letter which I have received from His Highness the Rajah of Travancore, and to request that you will be pleased to lay it before His Excellency the Governor in Council.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
[illegible]
Resident

has advised the Princess to take
Counsel with the Ladies of her
family on a point of such importance.

This advice the Princess has
uniformly declined to follow,
and in the manner the Indian
Government must direct to have
recourse to Compulsion to induce
the young Lady to submit to an
Intimacy to which She has the
strongest objection.

In short as She has been
effectually taken, the Princess
is a free Agent, and the Indian
Government can not on its
own part have recourse to
Coercion on the point under

Consideration, nor will the Governor
Consent to any such Measure on the
part of the Members of the Zenana
Family.

I have &c.
(Signed) John Malcolm
Secretary to Government

26 January 1861.

To
The Secretary to Government
Fort William

Memorial presented by the Lady
Lodiey Schoolmaster Lal Sircar
Schoolmaster to the Government
Female School to the Governor
Lord Canning Esquire to the
Behalf of the Young Lady Miss
Jane Daughter of the late
Rev. James Long of the Church
Mission.

In the Memorial presented to
the Government it is stated that
Miss Wilkes has therefore taken
some measures with the Young
Lady in reference to the proposed
Circle

If Relations & Friends would
desire that they were informed that
the Youngsters detained on the Train.
Why the Police Force acted
towards us. The Publicity that the
case may have & the interest of the
Friends & Associates of the Prisoners
today with the Conduct of
Questions from the Prosecution
with Regard thereto.
Secondly If Question that
the Evidence to be submitted should
be Tabled that Party Nominated by the
Prisoners, & that the Prisoners
should be Told that the Govern
ment deemed it Refusal to
the Request a Most Unfair
Course & Unjustifiable Proceeding
on their part.

26

Reported England
25 Feby No 11 of 1860

Political 1860 Dept.

No 92

Minute by the Hon'ble W. A. Morehead

Dated 26 January 1860.

Political 1860 Dept.

No 91

Minute by His Excellency the Comdr in Chief

Dated 26 January 1860.

Rano Ichiba, her grandmother, a Tamil lady Rheyee
her father's senior widow, sent to me to meet the deputation
- These ladies, though dispensing p.... the decision of
Govt should leave the Princess to select a husband
for herself, cannot themselves in the meantime
two requests.

I - They claim an interview with the princess in
order that they may hear from her own lips
that she has decided upon the marriage which
I agree with Mr Arbuthnot & the Provincial Govt
- Govt is reasonable & ought to be complied with.
It was insisted formerly that the Princess, though
averse to the measure, should visit her dying
sister & it ought now to think of the succession now
that the Princess discharge the duty of securing
to the family heads of her family the wishes
which she has formed & for disposing her marriage-
This course too seems the only one by which the
embarrassing position of Govt can be avoided.
Otherwise the interference of Govt in the wrong lady's
marriage will cause confusion as well as irritation
to the family..

II - The memorialists desire that the marriage should
be deferred pending an appeal which they intend
- ing to England for the restoration of the Tanjore Raj.
- I am not aware that any immediate steps will be
- fixed for the marriage, but I conceive that it ought
to be celebrated at least until the Supreme Govt has
- had their approval of the general arrangements
proposed by the Govt for settling the affairs of the
Tanjore family. These arrangements include, according
to the Resident's Remarks a provision for performing the
"marriage in a manner becoming the late Raja's daughter"
& a few weeks delay seems unimportant in a matter of so much
30 June [illegible] consequence to which whether this remarkable

Reported England
2nd Octr No 11 of 1860

Political Dept. 1860. Copies
No 93

10. No. 10

Minute by the Governor

Received 5th February 1860.

5/2/60
6. A.M. Gpt
by Arthur.

A.
1. Memorial from Mr Norton.
2. Minutes of — &c Commander in Chief — the Hon'ble Messrs Morland & Maltby.
3. Proceedings of Govt. Political No 58 Dated 2d Feb 4/60.

B.
1. From Commissioner Tanjore. Dated 26th Jan 4/60.
2. Minutes of the Commander in Chief & Hon'ble Messrs Morland & Maltby.
3. Proceedings of Govt. Political No 58. dated 2d Feb 4/60.

The papers noted in the margin have reached me at this place.

The question at issue is the guardianship of the only surviving Daughter of the late Rájá of Tanjore.

Some months since the Government resolved that this young Lady should be allowed to exercise her choice in the selection of her husband, and this resolution was re-affirmed upon an appeal from the Young Lady's Grand Mother and Step Mother and some others of the Widows of the late Rájá - We, also, in reply to an application from those Ladies, expressed our hope that the Rájá's Daughter would freely communicate with them on the subject of her marriage -

In

4

In this state of things I
visited Lahore on the occasion of my
official tour and there I
Conducted by my friend Mr Ramsay
in the presence of Mr Barnes, the
Secretary, [illegible] in attend-
=ance on me, the Political [illegible]
the Political [illegible]
Personal [illegible], she expressed, in the
most emphatic terms, her resolution
to marry Sakhárám. Shah Amin at
to see her Step Brother & Grand Brother-
We could see, through the [illegible] which
separated us, that the young Lady
was unaffected in the conversation;
and the same was evident from the
manner and substance of her answers.

So far from this choice
being an "unnatural one which can
only be the effect of improper influ-
=ences", I am of opinion, that it has
naturally and properly arisen out of

the

15

the circumstances of the case. As
Sakhárám had been her sister's hus-
=band, she had known him, as she
told me herself, since she was a
child, and had entire confidence in
him. He is reputed to have been
kind husband to her sister. So far
from being a decrepit and worn out
debauchee, as he has, from interested
motives, been represented to be, he
can say from my personal observa-
=tion of him, that he is a handsome
active man, in the vigour of
life. Moreover, the Princess entertains
a profound dread of the designs
which her Step Mother has in pre-
=paration for her in marrying her
to a creature of her own.

The extreme desire exhi-
=bited by the Step Mother and her
Party to prevent the marriage with
Sakhárám is prompted by far

deeper

deeper motives than an affectionate interest in the Young Ladys welfare. If this marriage takes place, they will return to the retirement which properly belongs to them as the Widows of a deceased Hindu Chief. If, on the other hand, they succeed in marrying the Princess to the youth who is unknown to, or disliked by her, ~~Princess~~, and who can have no support except what he derives from the Step Mother & her friends, the late Rajas Daughter will become a tool for the ambitious designs of the Party. In this state of circumstances the birth of a son would only place her more completely in the power of the Party. Their object would then be attained; and, as has often before happened, the mother would be set aside.

7 It is certain that plans of

of coercion have already been contemplated by the Party. In the first exultation of the receipt of the answer from Government expressing our hope that the Princess would see her Step Mother and Grand Mother, the former proposed to our Commissioner that force should be used if the Young Lady declined the interview. Serious apprehensions were expressed by the Circle to Mr Phillips if the covered conveyances which Hindu females of Rank use, passed between the apartments of the Step Mother and the Princess. It would be impossible, he said, to exercise any check upon what took place in the private apartments or upon what was carried out in the enclosed Litters; and considering the excitement, and the critical state of the affair, he feared the worst consequences.

I

5 I cannot agree with Mr Morehead that the Government was wrong in interfering, as it has done, in the matter of the Princess's marriage. As the Rája was dead, and the Rání had been declared to be an escheat, the British Government was bound to interfere to protect the surviving members of the family in the exercise of their rights. If it had not done so, the Palace at Sangore would have become a scene of violence and oppression which would have been disgraceful to us. All we have done has been to protect the late Rája's Daughter in the choice of her husband which, at her age and with her intelligence, is her undoubted right. But for our interference, a gross outrage would be perpetrated upon her by forcing her to marry a person whom she disliked instead of the person to whom she has

has, for fifteen months past, consistently and strongly affirmed her devoted attachment.

9 I do not consider that I have taken any responsibility on myself, in acting as I have done. The Government, of which I am the Chief, had repeatedly declared its resolution to protect the Princess in the choice of her husband, and the matter was considered so fully settled that nothing remained but for the marriage to take place. The Step-Brother & Grand-Mother afterwards complained that the Princess had not consulted them about her marriage, and they were told that we had expressed a hope to the Princess that she would see them. The expression of this hope, however, was not considered in the least as impairing the liberty of choice which had been previously

previously promised to her. When, therefore, it became more apparent than ever that the Princess was determined to marry Sakhárám, and when she had expressed a decided resolution not to see her Step Mother & Grand Mother until after her marriage, it was my plain duty to give effect to the resolution of the Government that the Princess should be allowed to marry Sakhárám

10 After all that had passed, the other Ladies of the family could not doubt the determination of the Princess to marry Sakhárám, and to satisfy themselves on that point could not, therefore, have been their object. The Princess and the Serkle apprehended that they had other objects, and without entering further into the subject, I am of opinion that, considering the fixed determination of

the

the Princess not to comply with the object of the proposed visit, the state of excitement of the adverse Party, and the circumstance that all their interested and ambitious prospects hinged upon what took place on that occasion, the refusal of the Princess to see her Step Mother and those who would have come with her, instead of being "a most unfortunate circumstance which nothing can justify", was a wise and prudent resolution.

11 The day for the celebration of the marriage was not fixed when I was at Tanjore; but I told Mr Phillips that the Government had for many months past resolved to protect the Princess in marrying the husband of her choice, and that whenever She and Sakhárám fixed the day, it would be his duty to

make

make proper provision for the purpose out of the abundant means which had been left by her Father. After making every deduction from the four lacs of Rupees recently handed over from the Rája's treasury to ours, the portion remaining to the credit of the late Rája, will (if I recollect right, for I have not the papers) be more than four times the amount which has been named by Mr. Phillips after communicating with the Sirkels.

12 I cannot see that the present position of the Government is in the least "embarassing". We are simply doing our duty in protecting the Daughter of the late Rája, and in preventing a violent oppression from being practised upon her. Neither would there be any "confusion and dissentions" in the family, if it was fully

fully understood that we are resolved to adhere to that plain line of duty. The unsettlement of people's minds in the small circle of the Palace at Tanjore, is entirely owing to the support which the widows of the family have received in maintaining a position which does not at all belong to them.

For these reasons I entirely avoid the resolutions of the Government of the 2nd Instant by virtue of which 6 or 8 Rs have been placed at the disposal of the Tanjore Court and encouragement to renew the endeavours attended on the marriage of the Daughter of the late Rája to Sakharama Sástri and by the recognition of her title as Queen Dowager. I am impressed that the Government

Government cannot constrain the Princess to see them or to converse with them on the subject of her marriage in opposition to her distinctly and repeatedly expressed determination.

E. Maltby(?)

Dindigul 6 February 1860

In this difficulty I have deferred the arrangement & [illegible] the Queen [illegible] I have already [illegible] in regard to the marriage of the late Rajah's daughter the original [illegible] of the [illegible] the [illegible] of her natural Guardians [illegible] [illegible] the subsequent [illegible] [illegible] arrangements of the

presently of the late Rajah's [illegible] been their mistake - The [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]

6 Feb 60

Political Departs

Reported to England
No 11 of 1860.

Minute by the Hon^ble
the President

5th February 1860.

No 94

Minute by the Hon^ble
W. A. Morehead

No 96

8th February 1860

by the influencing the Powers
to their [illegible] Northern,
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and
improper.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
to state that I consider the President,
in his individual capacity as
head of the Government, and until
separated from the Council, has
[illegible] his legitimate authority

in the course he has pursued since the
session

[signature] Grant

Galena 8 February 1862.

Rep. des to England
25th Feby Rec'd 11th 1860

Political 1860 Depart.

No 95

Minute by H.E
the Commander
-in-chief

Dated 8th Feby 1860

the Princess' marriage,
& the writing of the enclosed
of Prof. Thomson, either of
wh. which sent & you
were received here.

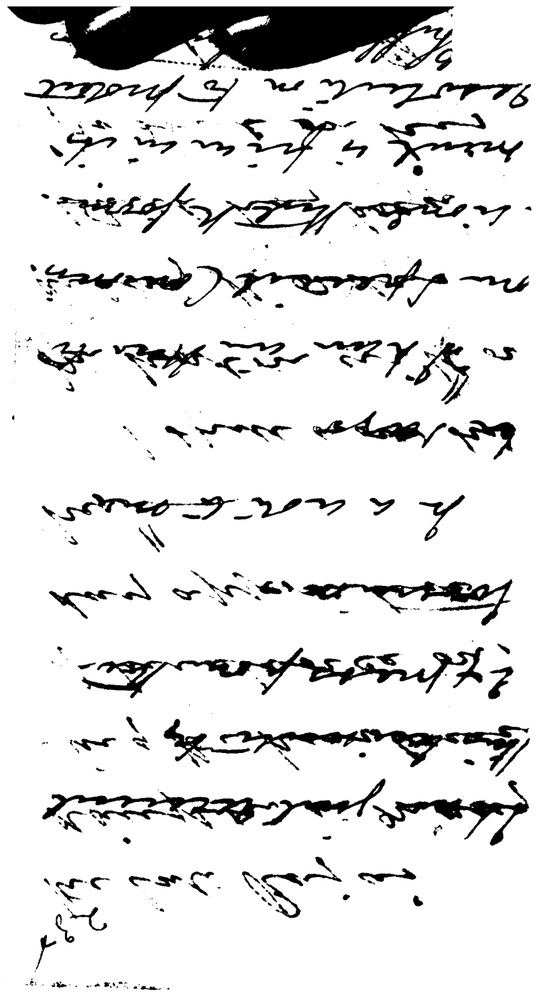
The Prof. desires me
to say that he considers
it is important that
it should be known as
the earliest hostile
date that the Prof. address

2/

to the revolution & suffer
The Princess is showing
a husband for herself,
that he under this helper
& Protector —

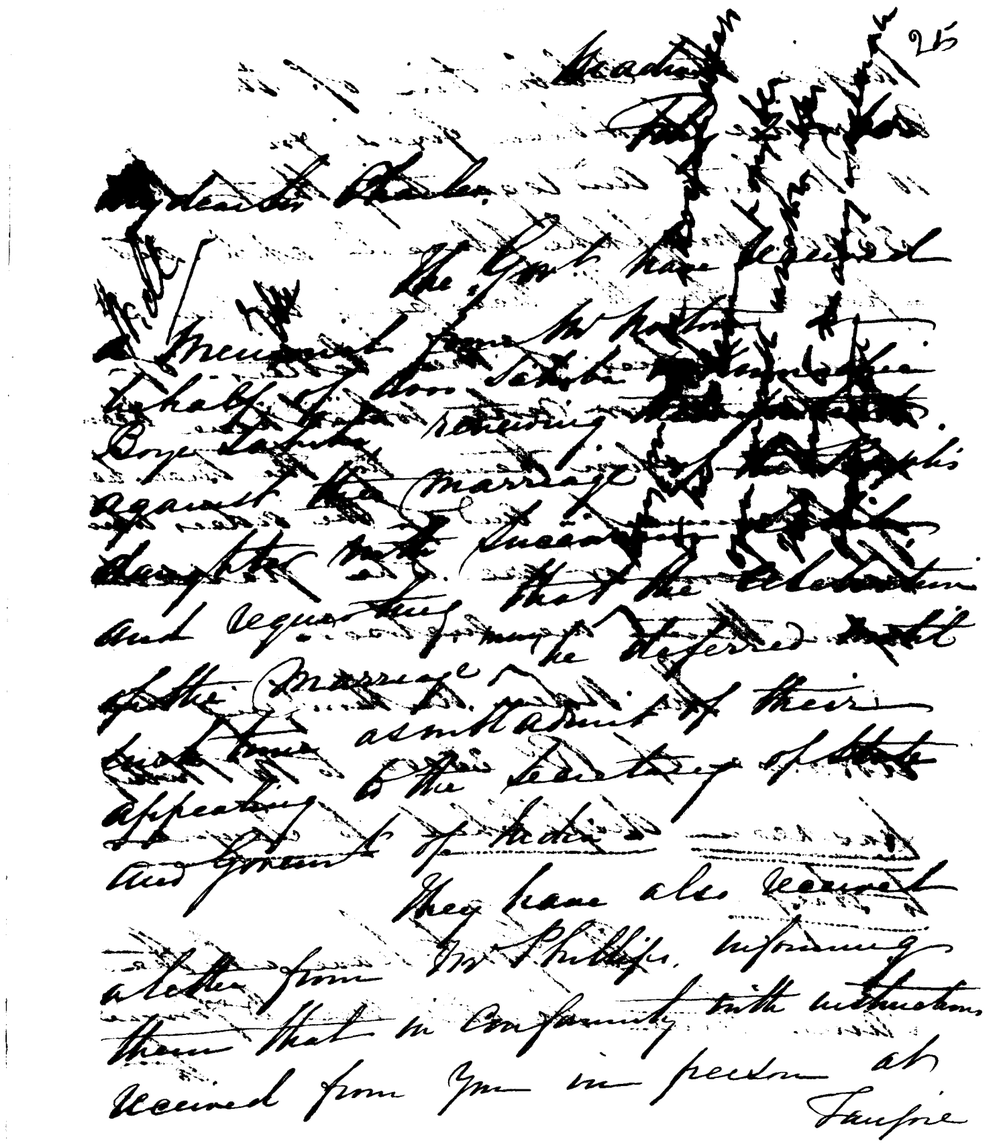
Believe me
Yours very sincerely
J. Hamilton

J. Bryce Esq.



Imperial:

8/26/60 JJP



Tanjore [illegible] Celebration of the
Marriage had been fixed for the
10th Instant and requesting that
35000 might be placed at his dis-
-posal for the necessary Expenses
[illegible] of the Letter
[illegible] or Notes which have been
[illegible] from them by the Members
[illegible] And the orders which
have been or are to be passed
upon that subject.

The Orders Authorizing the
Drawing of Rs 35000 to Mr Phillips
has been despatched to Tanjore
this day.

The Govt have at the
same time directed one Company

2

Copies of all these papers
that you may be aware of all
that has passed. And may have
an opportunity, if you think
it necessary, of modifying your instructions
in the Letter to Mr Phillips in which the Marriage
is to be celebrated.

The Orders on the Memorial
from Gingee despatched this
day is what the Govt propose to
do, if you should not think
it proper to postpone the Marriage -

If the Ceremony should
be deferred, the Notice will of
course not be applicable -

The

The Govt would be glad if you would be so kind as to inform them as soon as possible whether you have issued any further instructions to Mr Phillips in regard to the time on which the marriage is to come off – and if so to what those instructions are –

Believe me

Yours very truly

Sd J. Ryecroft

The Hon.ble

Sir C. Knatchbull K.C.B.

Memo. 27

This was received yesterday evening –

I do not see what is to be done upon it –

The Govt has already said most explicitly that the Princess may marry when – soon as she pleases – and the Governor has told Miss Ladies that if the Princess will not see them, she cannot be induced to do so ——

This post bearing regard for
him or his fault is more pretence
Both Mr Forbes and Mr Cadell
have said that they have no
Caste any interest in him or
care a straw about him. They
object to Sahhasan Saheb
because they have objects of
their own to serve —

A copy of the letter from
Mr Forbes to Mr Sickle — alter-
- ded to at the end of this
Memorial is I believe
among the records — Mr Sickle

wants it has always been said
- known that Mr Forbes disap-
- proved of the match.

JP

25th Jan.

Political Departt.

Proceedings of the Mad: Govt. 29

Read letter with enclosures from Mr J B Norton on behalf of ~~[illegible]~~ their Highnesses Aooo Sahiba & Kamatchee Boye Sahiba —— 24 Jany 1859.

Read the following Minutes —

By H E the C in C — 26 Jany 1860 —

By Hble W A Morehead 26 do —

By Hble ~~[illegible]~~ E Maltby — 30 Jany 1860

By Hble the President — 3rd Feby

By H E the C in C 8 Feby

By Hble W A Morehead 8 Feby

< Order thereon [illegible] February 1860 No 70

[illegible]

Resolved that the Ladies on whose behalf the above address has been presented be informed under date 28 Dec last of the order passed on their previous memorial of the 17th idem —

2. The Madras Govt have not interfered authoritatively in the matter of the young Rani's marriage — but as she is of full age to judge

for hereby, they have
left it entirely to her
to decide when she
will marry, & when the
ceremony should
take place - ~~Thereupon~~
~~last~~ She has availed
herself of this liberty
of choice and the Govt
cannot now plead any
restrictions upon her
in her exercise of it -
3. The Govt has justly
always been desirous
that the Princess should
communicate personally
with the Chief Ladies
of her family and
constituency on the
question of her marriage
but she has uniformly
refused to see or con-
-verse with those Ladies

on the subject. That
the Govt cannot com-
-pel her to do so
in opposition to her
distinctly & repeatedly
expressed determi-
-nation.

[redacted]

Communicated to Sanjore — with copy of memorial } Dispch 8th Feby 1860
to J. B. Norton Esqre " Dispch 8th Feby 1860.
~~Copy to the Highcourt Bombay~~
~~Chief Secretary Bhoyee Sahiba~~

Political 1860 Department

No 270

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Dated 15th February 1860

Reported to England
25th Feb No 11 of 1860
Replied to by the Secy of State for India 9th June 1860

25-7-12
6-7-12

24 to 31