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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	80	Press Mis.
Dated	14-2-	19.1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

Read the following papers:—

No. 13. Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore ;
to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated
Tanjur, 6th February 1860, No. 739.

Paragraph 1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yesterday (Sunday) afternoon,
of your communication dated the 3rd instant, No. 62, disapproving the proposed appropriation of
any of the cloths of the Jám dhár Kháná, for the celebration of the marriage of the young Princess.

2. I am under the necessity of replying to this intimation by an expression of my regret,
that matters connected with the approaching ceremony have progressed to an extent which renders
it impossible for me now to adopt measures to yield obedience to the order of Government. But,
I beg to add an explanation of the position of the property in the Jám dhár Kháná which will,
I trust, satisfy the Government that no grounds exist for the belief, that any of the articles in
that department “belong or may be said to belong to the elder Ránis.”

3. The Jám dhár Kháná was the wardrobe department of the Palace. In it were stored
male and female cloths of every quality and kind, sufficient to load some hundred and ten bul-
lock carts. Numbers of these had been bought under the late Rájá's orders, seven, eight, and ten
years ago, but still remained on hand, undistributed. Other cloths of more recent acquisition
and in large quantities had been given away as presents, or used as the necessities of the Rájá's
wives and concubines or of their domestics, arose. The supply, whether recent or remote, was
also available for the presentations of suits and sets of cloths on the festive occasion which so fre-
quently recur in Hindoo families and which, adverting to the character of the late Prince's do-
mestic arrangements, were incessantly occurring in his household. Every kind of cloth appears to
have been kept ready at hand, from the trumpery Manchester red pocket handkerchief for a boy,
to the richest female cloth that the loom of the best weaver in Benares could produce. Madura,
Bangalúr, the silk weavers of this and the neighbouring districts, Ganjam, and Vizágapatam,
had been largely indented on. Cashmere, too, had contributed its quota. In fact, weavers seem
always to have been in active employment for the replenishment of the Jám dhár Kháná and pur-
chases must have been unceasing.

4. Still, nothing was allowed to be taken out of the department without orders from the
Rájá, whether the article was a common twelve Annas cloth given to a Fakír, a piece of English
broadcloth to a sepoy, or a costly garment for a lady of his family: and once sent to this lady,
the article was not returned into store. I mention this because it was otherwise with jewels, gems,
gold and silver or other metal plates, and articles of curious or plain workmanship. These may
have been sent out from the departments to which they respectively belonged and they may have
been temporarily in use by the Rájá's wives or concubines; but their retention was only tem-
porary. After a time, the servants of the proper department applied for and invariably received
authority to demand the surrender of all such valuable or common articles. Hence, it has arisen,
that there are so many female ornaments and household articles of every kind in store. The
Rájá was not liberal in actual gifts. Much jewellery was made up, but little passed permanent-
ly into the possession of any of the females of the Palace. Thus, then, it may be possible that a
lady who has had the enjoyment of a particular ornament for a period, may eventually allege that
it belongs to her. But, no allegation of this kind can, I submit, be made, with the slightest regard
to justice or truth, in respect of the new cloths which have been found in the Jám dhár Kháná.
They appear to me to be as much articles of that property of which the Government, in their
order of date 5th December last, No. 705, have declared themselves the “Ultimus Hæres” as
any thing else which the Government may decide on retaining, rather than, as an act of grace,
make it over to the family.

5. And I have proceeded under this impression to take advantage for the Princess' marriage
of what was ready at hand. I did so for several reasons. As the personal representations against
the marriage which the Avoo Sahiba and the Rájá's widows made to His Excellency the Governor
in a paper presented at an interview at which I was present, did not succeed in inducing His Ex-
cellency to hold out any hope that there would be any modification of the resolution of the Go-

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vernment of Madras to permit the young Princess to select the husband of her choice, it seemed desirable that there should be no further delay in the celebration of her union with Sakkarám Sahib.

6. His Excellency was clearly of this opinion: also, the rejection by Government of the widow's protest against the marriage, had been intimated to them some days before His Excellency reached Tanjúr and therefore no obstacle remained to the adoption of measures for doing what was necessary to transfer the Princess, as a bride, to the Palace of Sakkaram Sahib. She herself desired that the ceremony might not be deferred beyond the month of Tai,* and His Excellency the Governor expressed himself of opinion that the Government Agent and myself should see that no avoidable delay occurred.

* January, February.

7. Under these circumstances, matters were left to take their course, and the astrologers and family priests being of opinion that Thursday and Friday next, the 9th and 10th instants, were auspicious days for the marriage, the needful preparatory steps were taken by the Princess' Steward, Periaanna, and the Sirkele, for her union with Sakkaram Sahib. The effect of not accepting the day first declared auspicious, would have been to defer the ceremony to the next one ascertained, that is 45 days later.

8. To enable the Sirkele to secure the quantity of cloths wanted for various purposes, within the first day selected, I met his request for certain of those in the Jámdhár Kháná and they have actually been made over to him and intermingled with those which have been purchased in the Town and elsewhere, and are formed into sets such as, at marriages amongst Máhrattas of high rank, are wanted for use and presents. The value of the cloths so disposed of, is Rupees 4,488-2-0.

9. They are in many instances of a sort not easily procurable here, and certainly, it will be an utter impossibility to find substitutes for them between this and Thursday next, if I now withdraw them from the hands of the persons who have been engaged in making up the sets and presentation bundles. But in this respect, a further difficulty occurs; for, mixed as they have been with a quantity of others of different kinds and a few of the same descriptions, we might be withdrawing what does not belong to the Jámdhár Kháná and throwing it into store.

10. The Government will thus, I hope, perceive that much confusion must arise from my attempting to obey their instructions under notice; and, indeed, I see no way of doing so, unless by stopping the marriage for the present and bringing it on again 45 days hence. A step of this kind, however, would entail serious loss on the Government; for the advances made by the Collector amount to 25,000 Rupees, little of which could now be recovered, whilst fresh additional outlay would be unavoidable when the ceremony actually takes place. I am, however, satisfied that, could the Government have witnessed the extremely serious extent of the destruction of the beautiful specimens of weaving which have fallen under my observation during the past week, they would rest satisfied that I have done well in seizing an opportunity of absorbing what will similarly suffer if further retention of them in the Jámdhár Kháná, should become necessary.

11. My plan had been this. Having set aside all such cloths of every description as in my judgment (and I have personally seen each cloth) fell within the class which the Government will be easy to make 17 portions of it with the value attached. I had intended when this was nearly done, to ask the Government to permit me to make an offer of a portion to each of the sixteen widows and to the Princess; and in the event of their refusing to notice the offer, as they have almost all done with respect to that I made regarding cows and cattle, I should further have sought authority to place the cloths in appropriate boxes with the name on each, of the lady for whom the contents were destined and there leave them, arrangements being made to secure the boxes against the attacks of white ants by means of a few custodians whom it would have been necessary to entertain.

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12. Unless, on a consideration of my intended plan, the Government think it proper for adoption, I shall take the shorter and more simple course they have now pointed out, of merely preparing a list showing the number of the cloths, their description and their estimated present value. The Government will not fail to observe, that, if the measures of liberality intended to be taken as respects the Rájás personal estate be not interfered with, a step such as I have been thinking of will eventually be indispensable.

13. As respects the sale of the damaged and ruined cloths, I have placed myself in communication with the Collectors of South Arcot, Tanjúr, Trichinopoly, and Madura, in view to their giving the utmost publicity to my intention of having sold here, through the Agency of the local Thasildar, on the 23rd instant, what I have been led to consider are "evidently worthless" for any purpose or use to which the Bhai Sahibs or young Princess could apply them. I assume that such must also be the meaning of the term used in the communication under reply and unless otherwise instructed, I shall not modify my arrangements. A cloth which originally cost 60 or 80 Rupees at Benares, is now wholly unfit for use by either of the Rájá's widows, because it has been eaten through and through in parts. Still, such an article is worth more than the weight of gold and silver thread at its ends and along its borders; and perhaps a private individual may find in a ruined scarf, sufficient to make his child a cap and may be willing to buy such an article for that object only. Of cloths of this description, there are six boxes full and each box with its contents will be more than sufficiently heavy for a bullock cart.

14. There is also half such a box full of lace ends and borders which are worth only what they will yield when melted down. Added to these are about two bundles such as a tall man can take up on his arms, of ruined Cashmere and Amritsur shawls.

No. 14. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, dated 11th February 1860.

All things considered, I think the Commissioner should now be permitted to adopt the course he proposes.

(Signed) P. GRANT.

No. 15. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE W. A. MOREHEAD, dated 11th February 1860.

It is a farce Mr. Phillips making this reference. The deed is done and he took care that it should be so, before he communicated his proceedings to Government.

I would desire Mr. Phillips strictly to carry out the orders of Government in respect to the cloths left, of course he will take care and see them safely put away and secured from the future ravages of white ants, as to the mode proposed of dealing with the damaged cloths, I have no objections to urge.

It must be rather an extraordinary sight to behold a Sudder Judge, assorting old cloths.

As soon as the marriage is over, Mr. Phillips should, in my opinion, be desired to confine his labors to ascertaining the amount of the Rajah's debts, and the Government Agent should be instructed to send one of his Assistants to make out the lists of the remaining property.

(Signed) W. A. MOREHEAD.

No. 16. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE E. MALTBY, dated 11th February 1860.

By this time the marriage is over, and all that remains to be done is to take care of the rest of the cloths together with the other property. I have no objection to the damaged cloths being disposed of as proposed.

(Signed) E. MALTBY.

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No. 17.

ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1860, No. 80.

In the above letter the Commissioner of Tanjore explains the reasons which would prevent him from giving effect to the orders of Government of the 3rd instant, paragraph 2, which directed that none of the cloths in the Rajah's Jámethúr Khana should be appropriated for the ceremony of the marriage of the young Raneé of Tanjore. He also enters into details to show that none of such cloths could be considered to belong to any of the ladies of the family.

2. The marriage ceremony will, by this time, have been concluded, and no orders can therefore be issued on this part of Mr. Phillips' letter. At the same time they must inform the Commissioner that the proceeding is not one which they can approve nor warranted by his instructions, to which he must carefully conform for the future. Of the cloths which remain, those which are damaged may be disposed of in the manner which he has proposed. The rest will be dealt with as recently ordered by Government.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

[illegible]

Now if the Govt can find
it should be so before the
annual meeting ~~the~~ his
intending to go out.

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to carry out the order of
Govt in respect to the cloths
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care to see them safely put
away & secured from the
future ~~loss~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~cloths~~
as to the mode ~~the~~ ~~of~~

leaving with the ~~cloths~~
cloths ~~the~~ ~~cloths~~ to
be ~~carried~~

It must be rather another
ordinary right to be held a
sudden judge - almost
old cloths -

~~the~~ ~~cloths~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~cloths~~
one - Mr. P. P. Smith ~~in~~ ~~the~~

He desired to ~~continue~~
his labors to ~~continue~~ the
amount of the ~~cloths~~
of the

Tanjore - He also
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part of Mr Phillips'
letter. ~~The same~~
Of the clothes which
remain, those which
are damaged may
be disposed of in
the manner which
he has proposed. The

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rest will be dealt with
as recently ordered
by me J.P.

Commissioner
of Tanjore - } Dep. 14 Feb in h.s.

After the same time they must
inform the Commissioner that
the proceeding is not one which
they can approve nor warranted
by his instructions to which
he must carefully conform
for the future. The G. M. -

Report to England
24th 25th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st
of 1880

13 @ 14

Attent who report

Oct 80.
7/14. 5. 60.

Proceedings of the
Museum of the
Museum of the

Oct 14th February 1880

Further Proceedings 27th Feb 1880 No 28 & 29

Disposition of the
sets taken by the
Commissioners with
reference to the sets
of the London Museum
of the last 50 years
May