

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 365

Press

~~Vis.~~

Dated

14 . 8 - 1861

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
14th August 1861.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 31. To the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated 2nd August 1861.

The Memorial of JOHN BRUCE NORTON,
Esq., Agent for the Ranees of Tanjore.

SHEWETH,

That your Memorialist's clients have lately transmitted through the Government Agent a Memorial touching the recent robbery of property from within the precincts of the Palace : and calling for a searching investigation.

2. That your Memorialist has since received information on which he believes he can rely, of such importance that he deems it his duty at once to bring it under the notice of your Excellency in Council, with a view to the institution of such inquiries as may be deemed necessary.

3. It is stated that property has been abstracted from the Palace since the Rajah's death of the value of nearly four lakhs of Rupees, that neither of the Commissioners ever compared the Jewels with the official lists kept of them in the Palace Records, but only framed lists of the property which they happened to find at the time such lists were made.

4. The Palace list existed in *triplicate*. The Sirkele is alleged to have destroyed two of these lists, the third, of the existence of which he was not aware, is still in being, and it is believed in the safe custody of Mr. Cadell.

5. Under these circumstances your Memorialist prays that this information may be treated of at the same time as the Memorial of the Ladies to which he has referred.

No. 32. From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Government Agent, Tanjore ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vallam, 30th July 1861, No. 252.

Paragraph 1. I have the honor to forward a petition to His Excellency in Council, presented by Her Highness Kamakshi Bayi Sahiba at an interview I had with that Lady yesterday evening. From the tenor of the Lady's communication, it would seem that she is dissatisfied with the enquiry which has been made into the late robbery at the Palace and particularly as to the Sirkele's having escaped punishment. I may observe that beyond a hint as to the adoption of practises which are repugnant to every feeling of British justice, the subject was hardly alluded to in the interview.

2. Nothing further has, however, transpired to criminate the Sirkele or to shew what concern he had in the late robbery, and although his house in the Mannargudy Taluq was searched by the Police, none of the missing property has been discovered. I trust the Government will be assured that no effort will be wanting on my part to bring the guilty parties to justice, and it is to me a matter of grave regret that our efforts hitherto have been so unsuccessful.

To the Right Honorable Sir W. DENISON, Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated Tanjore, 29th July 1861.

The respectful Memorial of H. H. KAMATCHI
AMBA BOYEE SAHIBA.

SHEWETH,

That your Memorialist deems it necessary to bring to the notice of your Excellency in Council the recent robbery of Jewels and valuables from the Palace of Tanjore.

2. Your Memorialist is aware that certain investigations have been held and certain Sepoys and others declared to have stolen about 100,000 Rupees worth of valuable property to which your Memorialist is entitled and to which she may hereafter be declared to be entitled by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

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3. The late Sirkele has also been declared to be implicated, and in consequence, as your Memorialist has been inferred by the Government Agent, "relieved" from his appointment.

4. A searching enquiry will, your Memorialist believes, bring to light other delinquents implicated in this robbery, and it is in order pointedly to bring under your Excellency's notice the expediency of a most searching enquiry that she now addresses you.

5. Your Memorialist is of course aware that the Government is responsible for the safe custody of every thing which they took possession of; and in that respect, it might be a matter of indifference to her what was lost or stolen while in the Government keeping, as the Government must make it good.

6. But questions may hereafter arise as to the amount and value of the property stolen, and it is, your Memorialist respectfully submits, therefore, highly desirable that the strictest investigations should be made while the facts are recent.

7. It was not until she saw the Sirkele simply "relieved" on account of his complicity that she deemed it incumbent on her to interfere. But she fears that such a mild rebuke may tempt others to plunder hereafter, property which she would prefer to have restored to her *in specie*, rather than its estimated value in money.

And your Memorialist accordingly prays that the robbery may be most thoroughly sifted and that those found to be implicated in it may be brought to condign punishment without reference to their standing or quality.

And your Memorialist shall ever pary.

No. 23.

ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1861, No. 365.

Resolved that the Memorial of Mr. Norton, Agent for the Ranees, be forwarded to the Government Agent at Tanjore for his report on the allegations contained in paragraphs 3 and 4.

* Letter dated 27th May 1861, No. 196, paragraphs 3 and 11.

2. The Agent will also report the result of the trial of the nine Sepoys* committed by him to the Criminal Court on a charge of being implicated in the late robbery at the Palace.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

Political Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

*Read the following
letter:*

*in Mr John Bruce Norton,
Agent for the Ranees of Tanjore (dated 2 August 1861)*

in the Govt Agent, Tanjore. (— 30 July 1862)

Order thereon 14th August 1861 No. 365.

*Resolved that the
Memorial of Mr Norton,
Agent for the Ranees, be
forwarded to the Govt
Agent at Tanjore for
his report on the al-
legations contained in
paras 3 & 4.*

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has been receiving
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city*

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*2. The Agent will
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