

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

103

Press

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Dated

13-3-1918

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
13th March 1862.*

No. 27. Read the following letter from Major R. S. WILSON, Government Agent at Chepauk, and Paymaster of Carnatic Stipends; to the Honorable T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 25th February 1862, No. 165.

• "It does not appear that the Begum has furnished the list
"of the Nabob's mother's dependants chargeable on her for
"which she has been frequently called."

With reference to Government Order No. 44 of the 1st February 1862, paragraph 4, I beg permission to submit the following statement for the consideration of Government.

2. The affairs of Her Highness Nabob Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum have long been, and are now, in a very unsatisfactory state. The following account will, I believe, by showing how that state has been arrived at, also show how it may be remedied, once for all.

3. The Begum was married to the late Nabob in 1848. On her marriage an allowance of Rupees 5,000 per mensem was settled on her by the Nabob, and a seal was fabricated with her name engraved on it. Both these measures however, were purely *nominal*. No portion of the allowance was ever paid, and the seal, instead of being delivered to Her Highness, was, by the Nabob's order, deposited in the Sirkar Treasury. Her Highness was entrusted with no authority whatsoever, but remained in a state of minority under the charge of her mother-in-law, Ennayut-oo-Nissa Begum, who managed her household for her, and allowed her out of her own (Ennayut-oo-Nissa-Begum's) means, the sum of Rupees 350 per mensem for pin-money.

4. Her Highness was placed in the above position because the Nabob, very soon after his marriage, formed the opinion that Her Highness neither deserved nor was fit to be entrusted with any authority whatsoever. Subsequent events will show how far His Highness was right in that opinion.

5. On the death of Ennayut-oo-Nissa Begum in 1849, Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum's *nominal* allowance of Rupees 5,000 per mensem, was cancelled, and the deceased Begum's allowance of Rupees 12,000 per mensem, was conferred on her, but this second allowance was little more real than the first. It was burdened with the support of the late Begum's dependants; and the Nabob considered himself at liberty to charge it further from time to time, with the support of his own servants and pensioners—the only portion of the allowance which really belonged to Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum, was the sum of Rupees 1,000 per mensem, which was allowed her for pin-money in lieu of the Rupees 350 formerly allowed her for that purpose, nor was she allowed a larger share in the management of the household which was nominally her own, than she had enjoyed during her mother-in-law's life-time. A person called Meer Emam Ali Khan Ittibar Jung, who had been for many years Ennayut-oo-Nissa Begum's head servant, was retained, by order of the Nabob, in the same position in the young Begum's Establishment, and her *nominal* allowance of Rupees 12,000 per mensem was managed entirely by him, under the personal direction of the Nabob.

6. In 1851, the Nabob devolved the duty of supervising Ittibar Jung in his management of the Begum's establishment, on the Dewan.

7. In 1855, the Nabob died. Pending the decision of Government the arrangement mentioned in the preceding paragraph, continued.

8. In 1857, however, the Begum and Ittibar Jung began to quarrel, and in the latter part of that year, the Begum took it upon herself to discharge him. She reported having done so to Dr. Balfour, who acquiesced in the arrangement, apparently under the impression that the Begum had a right to manage the household which was maintained in her name. About the same time the Begum demanded that her seal, which during the Nabob's time had been kept in the Treasury and never used, should be given to her, which was also complied with. The Begum further demanded that the allowance entered as hers in the Sirkar books (Rupees 12,000 per mensem) should be paid direct from the Treasury to persons appointed by herself, without being sent through the Dewan. This request was also granted, and came into effect from June 1858. Government having previously separated from the amount, the sum of Rupees 2,647 per mensem, on account of pensions to the Nabob's servants, payable out of the Begum's allowance. The balance, viz., Rupees 9,350 was ordered to be paid into her own hands, it being understood that the Begum out of this sum would continue to support the servants of the late Ennayut-oo-Nissa Begum, as abovementioned in paragraph 5.

with

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9. By these arrangements the Begum became for the first time in her life, uncontrolled mistress of her own household, and her use of the power thus put into her hands has been such as to give reason for regret that it was ever entrusted to her. She has altogether neglected the support of the late Begum's servants. She has squandered the whole of her allowance in a career of profligacy, and has moreover involved herself heavily in debt.

10. During the three and half years in which she has been thus conducting herself, Government has repeatedly remonstrated with her, and more particularly has many times called on her to furnish a List of the late Begum's servants, who are entitled to support from her allowance, in order to see whether Her Highness was doing her duty to them or not. These remonstrances have produced no effect whatsoever, and as to the List, Her Highness has evaded furnishing it with a dogged pertinacity, which I feel myself bound to say ought to have been brought to the notice of Government before now.

11. When I took charge of this Office 6 months ago, finding that Her Highness had been repeatedly and very urgently called on to furnish this List and had evaded doing so for nearly three years, I applied to Her Highness for it in a manner which rendered further evasion impossible. Her Highness then told me plainly that she *would not* furnish the List, because she knew that the intention of Government in demanding it was to pay the late Begum's servants according to it, out of her allowance—that Government had already acted in this way when (as abovementioned) they separated from her allowance the sum of Rupees 2,647 on account of the Nabob's Pensioners and that she would not submit to this further deduction.

12. On receiving this reply I became aware that applying to Her Highness was a mere waste of time. I therefore enquired whether the desired information could not be obtained in some other direction, and I found documents in the Office, from which all that is required may be gathered and by application to which the correspondence with the Begum on the subject might have been altogether obviated.

13. It appears that the late Nabob some months before his death, was desirous of effecting some retrenchments. With this view he desired the Dewan to prepare, through the medium of Ittibar Jung, a statement shewing the manner in which the Begum's allowance was distributed. The desired document was prepared and approved of, and the allowance was paid according to it from April to August 1855. Some changes in the details having then been effected, a revised statement was prepared, according to which the allowance was distributed in September 1855, and this system would no doubt have continued, had not the Nabob died, as above stated in the next month.

14. These statements shew the amount of the Begum's pin-money, the expenses of her household, the sums paid out of the allowance to the Nabob's servants by his order, the amount set aside to defray the late Begum's debts, the pensions allotted to her servants, in fact, the manner in which every farthing of the allowance was expended, and with a document in hand so full, and so well authenticated, I am really at a loss to know why this Office should have persevered for three years in requesting the Begum to furnish information which it must have been quite evident she was determined not to furnish.

15. Besides the two Lists above mentioned, there is in this Office, a List furnished in 1857 by Ittibar Jung who then managed the Begum's Establishment, in which the distribution of Her Highness' income is shown. It was from this List that the amount chargeable on that income on account of the Nabob's servants was prepared, and there is no difficulty in preparing from it and the two others, a similar account showing the sum with which the said income is chargeable on account of the servants of the late Begum.

16. I beg therefore to recommend that a List be prepared in this Office from these documents, showing the servants of the late Begum entitled to support from the present Begum's allowance, as they stood on the day of the Nabob's death, that a copy of this List be furnished to the Begum for any remarks she may choose to offer, that the List and the Begum's remarks be then submitted for the consideration of Government, and that, if it be then found expedient, Government will direct the payment of those now surviving whose claims are established to be made direct from this Office, a corresponding deduction being made from the amount paid to the Begum. I am not aware of any other course by which those concerned can be secured in their just rights.

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17. In support of the above recommendation, I enclose an abstract of the documents in this Office, showing the distribution of the Begum's allowance during the Nabob's life-time and in explanation of paragraph 2 of this letter, I beg to add the following remarks.

18. The confusion of Her Highness' affairs is attributable to her having been permitted to assume a position which she was never allowed to occupy during the late Nabob's life-time. It is to be remedied by replacing her, as far as possible, in her original position. Government has already removed from her charge the servants of the late Nabob and has given permission to sue Her Highness in Court, on cause shown. If the servants of the late Begum are now removed from her, Her Highness will be exactly in the position she occupied during her late husband's life-time with the exception that she will be in receipt of an income twice as large as that which she enjoyed during his existence.

19. Government has laid down the principle that no one shall be a loser by the late Nabob's death, but I am not aware of any reason why Her Highness should be (pecuniarily) so great a gainer by it, and it appears to me perfectly clear that in strict justice Her Highness should be deprived of the difference which she has irregularly appropriated, but considering that orders have been passed, and that the present settlement has been in force for a considerable period, Government may, perhaps, feel disinclined to alter it.

20. The same remark will perhaps apply to the sums which Her Highness has converted to her own use, in connexion with her management of the late Begum's servants. Since Her Highness took charge of them, some have died, others have been discharged, great numbers have been paid in part only, or not at all. The sums unpaid are of course due to those who ought to have received them, the lapses ought to have gone to Government, but a settlement of these claims, by this Office would be, I fear, nearly, if not altogether impossible.

21. In conclusion I beg to explain the reasons which have induced me to trouble Government with this detailed statement. Her Highness' character is well known, and no change is to be expected in it. So long as she lives, she will in all probability continue to address to Government, from time to time, petitions as unfounded as those which have lately passed through this Office. In order to show the true nature of her claims, I have found it necessary to go back to the date of her marriage, and trace her career down to the present time. To do so has cost more time and trouble than can be always spared, and I have therefore thought it desirable to put on record a connected statement of the whole question, which will, I hope, furnish data for finally disposing of it, and prevent any necessity, in future, of going through the long and intricate correspondence with which Her Highness has contrived to encumber it.

Abstract of Documents in the Chepauk Agency Office shewing how the allowance of Her Highness Nabob Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum (Rupees 12,000 per mensem) was distributed during the life-time of His Highness the late Nabob of the Carnatic.

Amount paid on account of Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum.		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1	Average Household expenses.....	2,967	0	0	3,967	0	0
2	Pin-money (a fixed sum).....	1,000	0	0			
Amount paid to Nabob's servants.							
3	Stipend of Ashruff-oo-Nissa Begum, mother of Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum.....	500	0	0			
4	Pensioners, as per list.....	2,089	0	0			
5	Singers " ".....	1,827	0	0			
6	Charities " ".....	425	0	0	4,841	0	0
Amount paid on account of the late Ennayut-oo-Nissa Begum.							
7	Support of her servants.....	1,269	0	0			
8	For discharge of her debts.....	500	0	0	1,769	0	0
	Unappropriated floating Balance.....				1,423	0	0
	Grand Total.....				12,000	0	0

(Signed) R. S. WILSON,

GOVERNMENT AGENT'S OFFICE,
CHEPAUK,
25th February 1862.

Government Agent Chepauk.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
13th March 1862.

No. 28.

ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1862, No. 103.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Government approve of the course recommended by the Agent in paragraph 16 in regard to the required list of the dependants and servants of the mother of the late Nabob of the Carnatic, whose pay was made chargeable on the allowance assigned to Her Highness Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum, and they direct that it be adopted accordingly. When this list with the Begum's remarks upon it are laid before Government, they will pass such orders as the case may seem to call for.

2. In submitting the required list, the Agent will note the arrears of wages due to the late Begum's servants, showing in a separate column the amount payable to each. The list should include the servants still with Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum, as well as as those that have been discharged by her, or who have died. If any arrears of pay are still due to the heirs of those who have died, these also should be entered in the list.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Political Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter
from the Government.
Agent at Chhapauk.

Recd letter 25 Feb 1862, No 103.

Order thereon 13th March 1862, No 103.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Govt. approve of the course recommended by the Agent in para. 16 in regard to the required List of the dependants and servants of the Mother of the late Nabob of the Carnatic, whose pay was made chargeable on the allowance assigned to Her Highness Khyre-oo-Nissa Begum, and they direct that it be adopted accordingly. When this List with

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upon it, are laid before go-
-vernment, they will pass
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in a separate column
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each. The List should
include the Servants still
with Shair-un-Nissa
Begum, as well as those
that have been discharged
by her, or who have died.
If any arrears of pay
are still due to the
heirs of those who
have died, these also
should be entered in the
List.

To the Govt. Agent at Chepauk Des^d 13th 5th 1860
S^r C. L. O.

Political 1862. Department

No. 103.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS
GOVERNMENT.

Printed 13 March 1862.

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