MRO. C. L.—22,000.—16-10-28.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 270 Press Misc.

Dated 15 — 9 — 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department, 15th September 1863.

No. 28. Proceedings of Government, dated 15th September 1863, No. 270.

The Governor in Council has had under his consideration the case of Moozuffer Khan, late Nawab of Kurnool, who has been confined in the Fort at Bellary as a State Prisoner since the year 1824, for the murder of his wife.

2. The heinous nature of the crime committed by Moozuffer Khan which apparently was not the first of the kind he had committed, forbids his being granted a full pardon; but in consideration of his long confinement extending to nearly 40 years, the Governor in Council is disposed to modify his imprisonment by allowing him to live in the town of Bellary under the surveillance of the Police, provided that the Magistrates of Bellary and Kurnool do not apprehend his abusing this indulgence.

3. Should this proposal be carried out, public quarters should be assigned to Moozuffer Khan, and he should be granted the allowance of Rupees 140 per mensem, which is now expended in providing for his wants.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Ed. T. McMootry.

My dear Sir

The pardon is granted to Mooney for whom a Mr. Gardner is still drawn. It has been passed by our Office up to the last 7 July last.

I am truly

yours

3 Sep. A. Hunt

R. Upton Esq.

My dear Cornthwaite

The Man referred to in the enclosed - Mooza-ffer Khan - was on the point of being proclaimed Nawab of Kurnool when - as he was proceeding from Bellary to Kurnool, he murdered his Wife within our territory! This was in 1823 - Campbell, the Com[r] then held the provisional authority - Made him a prisoner & reported to Govt. his acts - as well as the subs. Govt. considered Mooza-ffer Khan guilty - For political reasons it was determined not to bring him to trial before a Court of Justice but to make him

a State Prisoner - which accordingly was done - He is now 66 years of age and has been 40 in prison - He has sometimes had the range of the whole Fort but trying to Escape was restricted to the upper one - He passes the day & night up aloft - where there is an Europ: guard - Morning & Evening he comes down with a Soldier to the foot of the rock - has his chat with visitors &c - He has an allowance - that was first paid in money but, as he made improper use of this - he is now supplied with what he wants - I saw the man - a Big fine

like person - He was described by all the family & current likely to come home - if he did. His chief hope he said he was a Cyphen - Ah Bellary of Cuttack he is that already - & Wedderburn advocate mercy - maintaining that he was innocent & improperly convicted - That question of course cannot now be reopened - The papers are all in the Political Dept.

Yours
L D Smith

I enclose three others for Lady which I read & was much from me -

Meerzuffer Khan Rajah of Kurnool 5

When I was at Bellary my attention was called to the fact that there were 8 prisoners in the Fort who had been retained there for upwards of 240 years, for a civil not a political offence. The circumstances may be briefly stated as follows. —

Meerzuffer Khan ~~The Rajah~~ of Kurnool was arrested for a crime committed within the British territory, he having been suspected of the murder of two men within our boundary — he was tried and condemned to death the evidence being principally circumstantial, but being dead as clear both as to doubt of his Guilt

he was incarcerated in the Fortress Bellary and there, as I said before, he has remained for two years & upwards: being confined in the upper Fort: & has been allowed to visit the lower Fort -

I do not discuss any enquiry into the case. His character convicted, his property forfeited & given to another, but I think that under the circumstances & looking to the fact that he was in the employ himself & his friend hardly a crime - that in England even a life sentence is commuted to 20 years, & may be even less than the remainder of the

sentence as a penalty for favour -

I have spoken to the Collector of Kurnool who does not imagine that any political feeling would be excited should the Prisoner return to Kurnool -

It would be necessary to allow to furnish the man with some means of maintenance and a reference might be made to the Collectors of Bellary & Kurnool as to the amount of the allowance required for his maintenance.

J Pollock

20/11/63

- The nature of the offence committed by Nawzeffar Khan forbids, in my opinion, pardon being extended to him. - Even if the remainder of his sentence could be remitted, I should consider it a matter of prudence not to allow him to return to Kurrook or Hyderabad country. - In consideration however of his long confinement I should not object to his punishment being modified by his being allowed to live in the town of Bellary under the surveillance of the police provided the Magistrate of Bellary & Kurrook express no fear of his observing this obligation. - The allowance of Rs 140 per mensem now given to him seems sufficient for his maintenance suitable quarters the people to live. -

4 Sept-1863

Considering

the heinous nature of this murderous crime – apparently not the first of the kind that he had committed – his general character (see letter from Collector of Bellary 27 Nov: 1823), and the fact that the Political considerations he would probably have effected his release with his life, I would not go beyond what has been proposed by the Authority at the end of the foregoing Min: – 5/9/63 JP

Political Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the **MADRAS GOVERNMENT.**

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To the Mag^te of Kurnool 4
" " of Bellary 4
" Asst Surg^n of Mud Police 1 each
" Civil Paymaster 1

P.C. 1863. Department.

No. 270

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Dated 16 September 1863

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