

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 380

Press
Mis.

Dated *Dec 12* 19*18*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
24th December 1863.*

No. 38. Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Bellary; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, Political Department, dated Hadagalli, 4th December 1863, No. 57.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 23rd November 1863, No. 347, returning a letter from the Agent to the Rajah of Soondoor, who is to be instructed to send through the Collector and Magistrate all communications to the Madras Government, and that the letter now returned, should have been addressed to the Magistrate, I have the honor, in re-transmitting the same, corrected as required, to state that Mr. Macartney acted by my advice in addressing Government direct in reference to Sections 1 and 2 Act VII of 1854.

2. In forwarding copy of his letter, I have the honor to recommend that his application be complied with, and that the late guardian be directed to return without loss of time to Soondoor, failing which to be sent by Police, and to render up, or cause to be rendered up by her people, all documents connected with her management of the estate.

3. On my delivery of the Sunnad to the young Rajah, he voluntarily entered into an agreement with Mr. Macartney as his Agent, and, though in a previous communication to Government I advised that this arrangement be left to the parties themselves, and am still of opinion that the sanction of Government was not required, I have no doubt that Mr. Macartney's agency will be for the benefit of the estate, and that he is entitled to all the moral support of Government in his undertaking.

4. Under Native management, an estate goes to ruin; debts are contracted to the utmost extent of credit; ryots fleeced to the utmost of their endurance; legitimate means of revenue and improvement neglected; the rulers live in sloth and self-indulgence, and the only parties who thrive are the money-lenders and parasites.

5. Under Mr. Macartney's management, a good and efficient forest conservancy may be established. The ruinous system of cutting trees by contract controlled, and perhaps plantations organized. Dr. Balfour, the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, has brought to my notice the great difference he has observed since 17 years in the vegetation of these hills, and the importance of further planting and control, in order to preserve to this sanitarium the advantages of rain-fall and springs. Under the intelligent management of Mr. Macartney, and with his co-operation, this desirable object may be fulfilled.

6. Agriculture may be also developed. New and remunerative products may be introduced. The wasteful and clumsy system of iron smelting (here there is abundance both of ore and sand, the latter quite neglected), improved.

7. I consider it a fortunate occurrence that the young Rajah has engaged an agent of Mr. Macartney's intelligence and energy. The presence of Mr. Macartney will also have the best moral effect on the young man, and I anticipate the best results from the arrangement entered into.

8. I have only further to add that the late guardian has acted in the most illegal and contumacious manner. Had I not considered myself restricted by Act VII of 1854, I should have countersigned the warrant which Mr. Macartney proposed to issue for the delivery of the Seals of Office, which the guardian illegally retained after she was formally apprised of the presentation of the Sunnad, she being then a resident of Bellary, and in possession of accounts and documents relating to Soondoor. The guardian being surrounded by legal agents, and litigiously inclined, I declined to take any steps in the matter, which appears to me to be governed by the Act above quoted, as I did not wish to afford a loophole for a Civil suit, for any action not authorized by the letter of the Law. Consequently, the guardian has taken advantage of this leniency, removed to Madras, to the great detriment of justice and to the obstruction of the final settlement of the affairs of the Soondoor estate.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
24th December 1863.*

From Mr. J. MACARTNEY, Agent to His Highness the Rajah of Soondoor; to the Acting Magistrate of Bellary, dated Soondoor, 13th November 1863.

I have the honor to bring to your notice the following facts, and to request the immediate action of Government thereon in accordance with the provisions of Act VII of 1854.

The Ranees Bhi Saib of Soondoor, late guardian to His Highness the Rajah, and her Manager, Aichuppa Naick, after refusing to give any account of their administration, and mortgaging part or whole of the State jewels in their possession, the property of the Rajah, have proceeded to Madras. They are accompanied by Swamy Row, their Moonshee, and Meyralu, their Cash-keeper, against both of whom there are charges of embezzlement, and against Swamy Row, in addition of bribery. I have the honor to request that the said offenders against His Highness' Government, shall be taken into custody, and sent to you, and on your being satisfied that the charges against them are well founded, that they be further handed over to me as Magistrate of Soondoor, to be dealt with according to law.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Acting Magistrate.

No. 39 ORDER THEREON, 24th December 1863, No. 380.

The Governor in Council does not consider the Jaghire of Soondoor to be a foreign State, in the sense in which that term is used in Act VII of 1854, and he is of opinion that, if it should be necessary to take any steps for the apprehension of the party referred to in the foregoing letter, it must be done by the Magistrate in the ordinary course of law.

2. Mr. Wedderburn, however, should endeavour to bring about an amicable adjustment of the differences which have arisen between the members of the Soondoor family, and to avoid all occasion of taking legal process against the person of the Ranees herself.

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

Edw. T. O'Connor.

Political Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following
letter from the Acting Magistrate
of Bellary.*

(See letter to Secy. 1863 No. 57)

Order thereon dated 24 December 1863 No. 380

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Official 1863. Department.

No. *582*

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated *21 December 63*