

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

586

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

22-5-1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

22nd May 1867.

Read the following papers:—

No. 164. From G. VANS AGNEW, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Trichinopoly, 11th May 1867, No. 26.

Yesterday, I received from my Assistant, Mr. LeFanu, a demi-official letter, taking exception to certain appointments I am making in my office, and, amongst other impertinences, telling me that he believed the nominations had emanated from a clique in the Cutcherry.

2. I kept no copy, but I wrote to him at once, demi-officially, in almost the following terms:—

“Your experience as an Assistant Collector is but short; I shall, therefore, content myself on this occasion by simply advising you never again to be guilty of the impertinence of addressing to your Collector letters similar to that which I return.”

3. To-day, I have received from Mr. LeFanu the communication enclosed in original.

4. I have the honor to request the Government to take such notice of Mr. LeFanu's conduct as they think fit, and to relieve me of his presence in this District. Pending the receipt of the orders of the Government, I have prohibited Mr. LeFanu's attendance at Cutcherry.

MY DEAR MR. VANS AGNEW,

Nothing but ignorance of the rules of good society can account for your having had the impertinence to address to me such a letter as that which I received yesterday. On the grounds of such ignorance, I shall excuse it.

Yours' truly
(Signed) H. LEFANU.

11th May 1867.

No. 165. Telegram from the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, to the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly; dated 14th May 1867.

Call upon Mr. LeFanu, officially, to furnish you with copy of his first letter and of your reply, and send both to Government.

No. 166. From G. VANS AGNEW, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Trichinopoly, 15th May 1867, No. 27.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of yesterday, and to forward herewith, in original, the two letters therein called for.

MY DEAR MR. VANS AGNEW,

I have been much surprised, on reading the proof sheet of the District Gazette, to observe that my Javabnevis, Chedanunda Rao, is displaced from the post conferred upon him by Mr. Banbury, the late Collector, and that one Chinnasawmy Naidoo has been appointed in his place. The latter has not, I believe, passed any test of any description; whereas Chedanunda Rao has passed the examination for Tahsildar and Sheristadar, and, in fact, all the tests extant, except that for the post of Deputy Collector. He was chosen especially for these qualifications, and, on appointing him, Mr. Banbury distinctly pledged himself, in my hearing, that he should be confirmed in his post, after a fair trial, if I recommended him. At the time of Mr. Banbury's departure, I thought that it would be somewhat premature to confirm him, as he had not become sufficiently acquaint-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
22nd May 1867.*

ed with his duties. Since then, he has given me every satisfaction, and has improved much in the style and speed of taking down depositions, which was the only thing in which I had found him deficient. He has now been acting in his present post for four months, and I request that you will be pleased to confirm him in that post. He is infinitely superior in abilities and acquirements to Chinnasawmy Naidoo. I believe the list, as mentioned in the Gazette, was arranged by a clique in the Cutcherry, and this injustice must have escaped your notice. It would have been an easy thing for me to have caused him to be confirmed in Mr. Banbury's time, as Mr. Banbury was anxious to do so, but, at my request, left the matter in abeyance *in terrorem*, in order that the Javabnevis might hasten to improve his manner of taking down the depositions. If you will take the trouble to recall the last day Mr. Banbury was in office, you may recollect that he particularly recommended this man to your notice, and begged of you to confirm him after trial.

10th May 1867.

(Signed) H. LEFANU.

MY DEAR MR. LEFANU,

You have had but short experience yet as an Assistant Collector. I shall, therefore, content myself on this occasion with simply advising you never again to be guilty of the impertinence of writing to your Collector letters similar to that which I return you.

10th May 1867.

Your's truly.

(Signed) G. VANS AGNEW.

No. 167. From W. J. H. LEFANU, Esq., Assistant Collector, Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Trichinopoly, 16th May 1867.

I have the honor to request that you will do me the favor to lay before the Government the accompanying explanations, with reference to my letter of the 10th instant to Mr. Vans Agnew, now before Government. These explanations I forwarded to Mr. Vans Agnew yesterday, two hours before the post left Trichinopoly, requesting that he would forward them along with the letters called for. An hour and a half after post time, Mr. Vans Agnew returned my papers, refusing to transmit them. I have, therefore, been denied the power of explaining myself, and am forced to forward the paper myself, as, in consequence of the day which Mr. Vans Agnew has caused me to lose, I fear that Government will have come to a conclusion before my intended defence can be heard.

I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of Government, the following remarks, in connection with my letter of the 10th instant, to Mr. Vans Agnew. In correcting the proofs of the District Gazette, I became aware, accidentally, that my Javabnevis Chedanunda Rao, who had been acting in that capacity for four months, on a salary of Rupees 35, had been placed in another department, on a salary of Rupees 25; while Chinnasawmy Naidoo, who had been in my office for a few days during the month of November, had been appointed to hold his place.

2. As the Gazette would be published the next morning, I wrote to request that Mr. Vans Agnew would be pleased to confirm Chedanunda Rao in the post which he had been holding, recalling Mr. Banbury's reasons for appointing him, and further explaining my motives for so pressing an appeal by the fact that it was owing to me that Chedanunda Rao had not been confirmed in his post previous to Mr. Banbury's departure, as the late Collector had been anxious to do so, but allowed him to continue to act at my request, as a stimulus to improvement in the manner of taking down depositions, which was the only point in which he was deficient.

3. In that letter occurs the passage "I believe that the list, as mentioned in the Gazette, was arranged by a clique in the Cutcherry, and this injustice must have escaped your notice."

4. I wish to explain my meaning in this sentence, as I fear that this misconception may have been the origin of this inquiry.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
22nd May 1867.*

5. I believed the draft of appointments above-mentioned to have been prepared, as is not uncommon, by the Sheristadar, for the Collector's sanction. In this list my Javabnevis, Chedanunda Rao was described as "2nd Treasury Accountant." Now, as he had not held that post for four months previous, my belief was that, by so describing him, it was intended to conceal from Mr. Vans Agnew that Chedanunda Rao was Javabnevis to the Assistant Collector, and that Mr. Vans Agnew, who could scarcely have learnt the names of all the native officials in the short time he has acted here, should suppose that he was promoting the 2nd Treasury Accountant from a salary of Rupees 20 to Rupees 25, and not that he was reducing the Assistant Collector's Javabnevis from Rupees 35 to Rupees 25.

6. I beg respectfully to state that no impertinence was intended by my letter. If the construction is hasty, it is owing to the fact that the Gazette would be published the next morning, and I hoped to induce Mr. Vans Agnew to confirm my Javabnevis before the issue.

7. As regards Mr. Vans Agnew's letter to me, having already stated that no impertinence was intended in my letter, I beg permission to urge that, if my letter was an offence against official regulations, Mr. Vans Agnew had his official remedy; but, waiving this vantage ground, Mr. Vans Agnew took the law into his own hands, and addressed to me the accompanying letter, which I would observe, with due deference, can hardly be warranted by the rules of the Service, and which no gentleman could read without feeling his self-respect severely wounded.

8. The letter which I wrote under this provocation has been laid before Government. That I regret having written it is needless to remark, but I trust that the letter from Mr. Vans Agnew which called it forth may be received in extenuation.

9. Mr. Vans Agnew having prohibited my attendance at office, and having omitted to furnish me with any particulars as to the charges contained in his letter, I am restrained from any further observations; but, in conclusion, I would trust that what I have stated may meet with the kind consideration of Government, in whose hands I beg respectfully to leave the issue.

TRICHINOPOLY,
15th May 1867.

(Signed) W. J. H. LEFANU,
Asst. Collector.

No. 168. ORDER THEREON, 22nd May 1867, No. 586.

The Governor in Council has perused the foregoing correspondence with much surprise and regret. The language which Mr. LeFanu permitted himself to make use of in the note addressed by him to the Acting Collector, under date the 11th instant, was most improper, and such as to render it impossible that he should be allowed to serve any longer in the District of which Mr. Vans Agnew is the Acting Collector. Mr. LeFanu will accordingly be transferred to one of the neighbouring Districts. The Government refrain from inflicting on Mr. LeFanu a more severe punishment for the very grave insubordination of which he has been guilty, in consideration of the provocation which had been offered to him. Mr. LeFanu's letter of the 15th instant shows that he is sensible of his fault, and His Excellency in Council trusts that what has occurred will be a warning to him never again to commit himself in a similar manner.

2. But while the Government deem it necessary to mark their displeasure at Mr. LeFanu's disrespectful and insubordinate conduct, in writing an insolent note to his official superior, they are constrained to state that, after an attentive perusal of the correspondence, they regard the course taken by Mr. Vans Agnew, in writing to his Assistant in the terms made use of in his note of the 10th instant, and more especially in returning to Mr. LeFanu his letter of the same date, to be deserving of severe censure. They regret that Mr. Vans Agnew manifested on that occasion so great a deficiency in those qualities of temper and discretion which the Govern-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
22nd May 1867.*

ent have a right to expect from an Officer of his standing in the Public Service. There is nothing in Mr. LeFanu's first letter which necessarily bears the construction that he intended to be impertinent or disrespectful towards the Collector. The tone of his communication to his official superior was not strictly becoming, and he should not have adverted to the alleged existence of a "clique in the Cutcherry;" but this phrase is qualified by the expression of Mr. LeFanu's conviction (which immediately follows) that the injustice, which, as Mr. LeFanu thought, was being attempted, had escaped the notice of Mr. Vans Agnew.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To G. Vans Agnew Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly.
,, W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq.
,, Revenue Department.

*My dear Mr. Vans Agnew,
Nothing but
ignorance of the rules
of good Society can
account for your having
had the impertinence to
address to me such a letter
as that which I received yes-
terday. On the grounds of
such ignorance I shall
excuse it.
Yrs truly
H. LeFanu.*

11-5-67-

Telegram to Acting
Collector of Trechnopol
14/5

Encl upon M. de Tarn
officially to furnish
you with copy of his
first letter and of your
reply and send both
to Government.

145

My dear Mr. Le Fanu
You have had
but short experience
yet as an ~~author~~
Call. I shall
therefore content
myself on this
occasion with

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters:

From the Ag collector of
Machinopoly } Dated 11th & 15 May 1867.
No. 26 & 27.

— Mr W. J. Le Fanu, Asst
Collector, Machinopoly — 16th May 1867.

Order thereon 22 May 1867 No. 586.

The Governor in Council has perused the foregoing correspondence with much surprise and regret. The language which Mr. Le Fanu permitted himself to make use of in the note addressed by him to the Acting collector under date the 11th instant was most improper and such as to render it

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Collector. Mr. Le Fann
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neighbouring Districts.
The Government refrain
from inflicting on Mr.
Le Fann a more severe
punishment for the very
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of which he has been
guilty in consideration
of the provocation which
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Mr. Le Fann's letter of
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correspondence they regard
the course taken by Mr.
Vans Agnew in writing
to his Assistant in the
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in Mr. Le Fanu's letter
to justify the inference
that in that commu-
-nication he intended
to be impertinent or
disrespectful towards
the Collector. It would
have been better if he
had abstained from
any reference to a
clique in the Catchery,
and the use of this phrase
is as Mr. Le Fanu's letter
in his letter of the 15th inst.
expressly guarded from
any appearance of
disrespect

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a deficiency in those
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J. Vans Agnew Esq.
Secy (Ct of M. & C. Affairs)
M. & C. Le Fanu Esq.
Revenue Department } Sept 25/5

Office 1862. Department.

No. 5216.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated. 22 May 1862

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