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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	610	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	4-6-	1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

4th June 1867.

Read the following papers :—

No. 12. From the Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Bombay Castle, 23rd April 1867, No. 1421.

Political Department.

I am directed to forward to you, for submission to the Government of Fort Saint George, the accompanying translated substance of a letter, dated the 10th instant, from the Persian Consul General at Bombay, complaining that the (? Police) authorities at Madras prevent the removal of the body of one Hajee Mahomed Bakur Sheerazee on its way to Kerbella.

2. In forwarding the above communication, I am to express a hope that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be informed of the decision arrived at by the Government of Madras on the matter brought to notice.

Referred to the Commissioner of Police for report.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
4th May 1867.

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

No. 316 of 1867.

PERSIAN DEPARTMENT,
13th April 1867.

Substance of a letter from Mirza Mahomed Ali Khan, Persian Consul General, to C. Gonne, Esq., Secretary to Government (Political Department); dated 4th Zilhuj 1283 Hijree (10th April 1867), and received and ordered to be translated on the 12th April 1867.

A. C.

Some time ago Hajee Mahomed Bakur Sheerazee, alias Nimazee, a respectable Persian Merchant of Madras, died at that place. The members of his family have simply deposited his remains in order that they may, according to the Persian custom, be ultimately sent to Kerbella; but the authorities at Madras prevent the body from being sent to that place.

I, therefore, beg you will obtain a letter from His Excellency the Governor to the authorities at Madras, requesting them not to raise any objection to this long-established custom, and to permit the remains to be sent to Kerbella.

(Signed) VENAYEK WASSOODEW,
Oriental Translator to Government.

No. 13. From the Commissioner of Police, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 18th May 1867, No. 60.

With reference to letter, No. 1421 of 1867, from the Secretary to the Bombay Government (with enclosure), herewith returned, I have the honor to enclose the statement of the Municipal Commissioners regarding their prohibition of the removal of the body of the late Hajee Mahomed Bakur.

2. I may observe that Hajee Mahomed Bakur was a naturalized British subject and not a Persian subject—Vide Extract from Minutes of Consultation, No. 773, dated 23rd June 1858, and letter from this office, No. 89 of 3rd July 1858.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th June 1867.*

3. I sent for Abdoo Samed Sheerazee, the son of deceased, who stated that his father's body was properly embalmed and encased in a tin coffin. I advised him to apply again to the Municipal Commissioners, which he has done, and I enclose a copy of the Resolution passed by them.

From the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras, to the Commissioner of Police, Madras; dated Madras, 11th May 1867.

In returning the enclosures of your letter of 6th instant, we have the honor to inform you that, on the 12th February, application was made to us by Auga Abdoo Samed Sheerazee for permission to exhume the body of his late father Hajee Mahomed Bakur Sheerazee, which was interred at the Mahomedan burial ground at Cassemode, with the view of sending it to Mecca, to which we replied, on the same date, that we were unable to grant the request.

2. On the evening of Monday the 18th March, Janay Jahan Khan Bahadoor, an Honorary Member of our Board, informed the President that arrangements had been made by Mahomed Bakur's son, and Executor, to remove the body the following day notwithstanding our refusal to permit it, and we immediately solicited your assistance in preventing the parties from carrying their intention into effect.

3. On the 19th, our Sanitary Inspector went to the Cassemode Cemetery by our orders, and found the vault in which the corpse was first deposited opened, and the coffin placed over it on planks, ready for removal. On his objecting to this the coffin was replaced in the vault, where it still remains.

4. On the 20th March, we prosecuted the son and Executor of the deceased at the Town Police Court for opening a vault containing a corpse without our sanction, contrary to Bye-law No. 4 for the regulation of burial and burning grounds, and the Magistrate inflicted the full penalty of Rupees 25 with costs. On a previous occasion, 23rd November 1865, a similar application was made to us by one Gholam Dustagheer, for permission to remove the body of his grand-mother from a Cemetery at Kistnampett to Arcot, for interment in the family burial ground, and before passing orders thereon, we made a reference to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, a copy of whose reply we enclose, to the effect that the removal of bodies after interment is objectionable on many accounts, and we accordingly refused to permit it.

From the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, to the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras; dated 25th November 1865, No. 3157.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and enclosure. In reply, I feel bound to say that the removal per train of bodies after having been interred for nearly two months is on many accounts to be objected to; no one can predicate that injurious vapours may not emanate from a decomposing mass, which has not been preserved or embalmed in a proper way; had all the large cavities of the body been thoroughly cleared out and cleaned, and then stuffed with spices, camphor melted, or bitumen, and had the limbs been swathed with cloths soaked in the above, decomposition would have been so nearly arrested that there would be no danger to the public, but such a careful method is very different from the rude practice mentioned by the petitioner, which it seems consisted merely in putting spices and camphor into a box with the body. Under the circumstances considered, I am of opinion that the safer course will be to order the deceased person's grave to remain undisturbed, and if the petitioner feels aggrieved, he ought not to have waited so long before he made up his mind to petition, or ought, in the first instance, to have transported the remains of the relative to the place wherein he desired them to rest.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th June 1867.*

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras, under date the 16th May 1867.

Resolution.—The Board have no objection to the corpse being removed in a proper coffin, lined with sheet lead and soldered down, provided the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals sees no objection on sanitary grounds.

(A true Extract).

(Signed) S. JESUDASEN,
Municipal Commissioner.

To Aukha Abdool Majeed Saib,
Ungapah Naick's Street.

(True Copy of an Extract).

(Signed) C. S. HEARN,
Commissioner of Police.

No. 14. To C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay, dated Fort Saint George, 4th June 1867, No. 610.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter, dated the 23rd April last, No. 1421, I am directed to transmit the annexed copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Police at Madras, and of its enclosures, from which it will be seen that the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras have now no objection to the removal, in a coffin properly secured, of the body of the late Hajee Mahomed Bakur Sheerazee. His son has been informed of this.

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

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Extract from the Proceedings of a
Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners
for the Town of Meorras under date
the 16th May 1867.

Resolution. The Board have
no objection to the Corpse being removed
in a proper Coffin lined with sheet
lead and soldered down, provided
the Deputy Inspector General of
Hospitals sees no objection on
sanitary grounds.

(A true Extract)

Signed/ Jesudason

Municipal Engineer

To
Mukha Abdul Majid Saib

Ugapan Nairs Street

(True Copy of an Extract)

L. M. M.

Commissioner of Police

N^o 316 of 1867.

Persian Department,

13th April 1867.

Substance of a letter from Mirza Mahomed
Ali Khan, Persian Consul General, to
C. Gonne, Esquire, Secretary to Government,
(Political Department) dated 4th Zilhuja
1283 Hijree, (10th April 1867), and received
and ordered to be translated on the 12th
April 1867.

A. C.

Some time ago Hajee Mahomed
Bakur Sheerazee alias Minazee, a respect-
able Persian merchant of Madras, died
at that place. The members of his family
have simply deposited his remains in
order that they may, according to the
Persian Custom, be ultimately sent to
Kerbula. But the authorities at Madras
prevent the body from being sent to that place.

I therefore beg you will obtain a letter
from His Excellency the Governor to the
authorities at Madras, requesting them
not to raise any objection to this long estab-
lished custom, and to permit the remains
to be sent to Kerbula.

Signed / Venayek Wassoodew,
Oriental Translator to Govt.

True copy.

A. G. G.

Assistant Secretary.

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N^o 1421 of 1867.

From.

C. Gonne, Esquire,

Secretary to Government,

To.

Bombay--
The Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,
Madras--

Political Department,

Dated 23rd April 1867.

Sir,

I am directed to forward to you, for submission to the Government of Fort St. George, the accompanying translated substance of a letter, dated the 10th instant, from the Consul General at Bombay, complaining that the (? Police) authorities at Madras prevent the removal of the body of one Hajee Mahomed Ratur Sherazee on its way to Kerbella.

2. In forwarding the above communication I am to express a hope that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be informed of the decision arrived at by the Government of Madras on the matter brought to notice.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Secretary to Govt.

24.

Public Department.

No 610.

L. George Esq.
Secretary to Government, Military & Police
Bombay;

Sir,

In acknowledgment
the receipt of your letter
dated the 23rd ^{of Feb} ~~of Feb~~ 1860 No.
1121, I am directed to
transmit the annexed
copy of a letter from the
Commissioners of Police
at Madras, and of its
enclosures from which
it will be seen that the
Municipal Commissioners
for the Town of Madras
have now no objection
to the removal, in a
coffin properly secured,
of the body of the late
Rajah

R.

W. H.

Public 610, 1860

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Commissioners of
Police for report.

Referenced to the

Commissioners of

Police for report.

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It is to be observed
on the subject of the
removal of the body
of the deceased Raja
of Mysore, that the
Municipal Commissioners
for the Town of Madras
have now no objection
to the removal, in a
coffin properly secured,
of the body of the late
Rajah

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Mahomed Bakur Shee-
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informed of this.

Fort St George
4 June 1867

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W. Brown 1867?
depos. to Government.
Richard default
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valid 1867.

c. 29 May
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