

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	331	Press Mis.
Dated	13-3-	19-1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
13th March 1868.

No. 100. Read the following letter from the Acting Principal Assistant Collector, Chicacole, to the Collector of Ganjam; dated Chicacole, 18th February 1868, No. 9.

I have the honor to forward to you a statement I have procured from Mr. Thomas Reay, the Jailer here, regarding an encounter he had on the 9th ultimo with a panther under circumstances which call, I think, for more than usual notice.

2. The animal, according to all accounts, was a particularly savage beast, and on the morning in question broke into the town, being within one hundred yards of the Jail, when Mr. Reay came upon it. It wounded no fewer than four persons, first the owner of the field behind the Jail, upon whom it came unexpectedly. He escaped away from it, and gave the alarm at the Jail, and then followed the circumstances detailed in the enclosed statement of Mr. Reay. After Mr. Reay was removed by the Apothecary in order that his wounds might be treated, one Lalamiah advanced towards the panther with a sword. The animal at once closed with him and gave him such a severe bite on the sword-arm that his life was for some days despaired of. A number of people then advanced with clubs, and a Constable with his bayonet, and the panther was despatched. As stated by Mr. Reay, pensioned Havildar Doorga Persaud has died since the encounter, though it was not thought at the time that he was so severely wounded as either Mr. Reay or Lalamiah.

3. The death of the panther was undoubtedly due chiefly to Mr. Reay, and he is entitled to the usual reward for killing it. The highest reward I am empowered to give is Rupees 17½, but I trust you will agree with me that the intrepidity displayed by Mr. Reay, as well as the peculiar circumstances of danger to the inhabitants, require that a higher reward than this should be bestowed on him. I would, therefore, suggest that sanction for a special reward of, say, Rupees 50 be obtained, and that Lalamiah also be recommended to receive a reward of Rupees 15.

4. I should have drawn your attention earlier to this subject, but I have been out on a Jamabundy tour nearly all the time since I joined the district.

—
No. 144.

Copy submitted, with enclosures in original, for the favorable consideration of Government.

RUSSELCONDAH, (Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
21st February 1868. Collector of Ganjam.
To the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

—
STATEMENT.

I beg to furnish particulars regarding the panther shot by me, and the injuries caused on the morning of the 9th of January. On my return from the Jail a Native informed me that a panther was in the adjacent fields (back of the Jail), which had already bitten two Natives. On receipt of information I went home, loaded, and went after the animal. On reaching the spot I found a vast number of Natives surrounding the field in which the animal was, but out of the number not one would venture into the cholum field, which was above six feet high. I directed two Constables to follow me into the field, but they withheld on reaching. I entered at once, and was about firing when I gave instructions to the Constables to clear the crowd; while doing this the animal made for me; as it was coming I fired and struck it on the right shoulder; immediately after the animal sprang on me, and caught me by the shoulders; I then threw him full on the ground; he immediately rushed on to me and attempted to fasten to my throat; I, however, forced my right hand under his jaws and

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

13th March 1868.

loosened the hold on my throat; he then fastened on my left shoulder; this time I received a bite on the throat, and he sunk five or six teeth on my left shoulder, one of which was about 1½ inches deep; this happened after he had thrown me. The way I got rid of him was by twining my leg around his body to throw him; he then slipped and ran into an adjacent brinjall field. I again loaded, and went after him. On reaching the place I could not get sight of him. A pensioned Rajpoot Havildar,* who had just come, took a sword and entered

* Doorga Persaud.

the bush where the animal was, when it sprang on him unawares and bit him. I ran up and fired at the animal, and put the bullet through his left side. I then brought the Havildar out, and Mr. Gillespie, who was at that time at the spot, dressed the wounds which, however, caused his death on the 22nd ultimo. I then got tom-toms to try and beat the animal out of the bush, but it was of no avail. I loaded again and went into the bush, searching for the animal, but before I could observe him he sprang at me; as he was in the act of doing so I fired, he was on me; twice I again threw the animal, and the third time he threw me, and caught me on the left shoulder again and sunk five or more of his teeth. The animal would very likely have killed me, but that he had been wounded and was weak from the loss of blood. On my twining my right leg on him the third time to attempt to throw him off, he left me and made off for the bush. I followed, but could not sight him. I felt then very weak and went under a tree, when Mr. Gillespie, the Medical officer in charge of the station, saw me and advised me to return as I was bleeding profusely, but before doing so I advised the village authorities not to meddle with the animal, as I would return and kill it after my wounds were dressed; but after half an hour the animal was brought to me dead. On inquiring I found that during my absence an inhabitant of Chicacole ventured at the animal with only a sword, it made for him and bit him too while it was on him a Constable of the Jail guard ran up and bayoneted him. The animal was at its last stage when this occurred.

The animal is of the panther class, full grown, being in length six cubits.

I beg to attach a certificate from the Medical officer regarding the state of my wounds.

CHICACOLE,
13th February 1868.

(Signed) T. REAY,
Jailer.

This is to certify that Mr. Thomas Reay, Jailer at Chicacole, suffered severely from the bites of a panther; one of the wounds was about an inch or more in depth, and about an inch in length, and several other smaller wounds on the left and right shoulders, and one on the right side of his throat; these wounds were, in my opinion, of a dangerous nature.

(Signed) D. GILLESPIE,
Apothecary in Medl. charge,
Civil Station, Chicacole.

CHICACOLE, 13th February 1868.

No. 101. ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1868, No. 331.

The Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the payment of a reward of Rupees (50) fifty to Mr. Reay for his gallant conduct in attacking and disabling a very dangerous panther, and also of a reward of Rupees (15) fifteen to Lalamiah for the assistance he afforded on the occasion.

(True Extract).

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.
„ Accountant General.

Ezd, F. B. Bantleman.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter

from the
Collector of Ganjam.

Received in the 24th Feb 1868. No. 114.

Order thereon 13 March 1868 No. 331.

The Governor in Council
is pleased to sanction the
payment of a reward of
Rupees (50) fifty to Mr.
Reay for his gallant conduct
in attacking and disabling
a very dangerous panther.
and, also, of a reward of
Rupees (15) fifteen to Lala-
miah for the assistance
he afforded on the occasion.

now
by

To the Collector of Ganjam
for the purpose of
disbursing
24 Feb 1868
J. B. Bantleman
C. W.

Feb 1868. Department

No. 331

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 13 March 1868.