Public ([illegible]) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

1452

G.O., No. 1452 – 54.

DATED 12-7-86

12 sheets

[Despatch Abstract.]

<u>Traffic in Human Beings</u>

Passing orders in review of certain papers received on the subject of — to exist between the Continent of India the Tenasserim Coast and forwarding Copies thereof to the Government of India to the Chief Commissioner in Burma

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் :
செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக்-
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் :
செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள் :

சரிபார்க்கும்
முதல் மு.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

சரிபார்க்கும்
இரண்டாம்
மு.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

ஆ... உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Govt. of (1886) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., &c., 12th July 1886, Nos. 1452—1454.

JULY.

Traffic in Human Beings.

Passing orders in review of certain papers received on the subject of — said to exist between the continent of India and the Tenasserim coast, and forwarding copies thereof to the Government of India and to the Chief Commissioner in Burma.

12TH JULY 1886, Nos. 1452—1454, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers:—

Letter, dated 16th October 1885, Mis. No. 2447, Public.
G.O., „ 29th „ „ „ 2506, „

G.O., dated 10th December 1885, Mis. No. 2878, Public.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the British Consular Agent, Pondicherry, to take no further action in the matter of traffic in human flesh, and directing the Collector of South Arcot to furnish any available information.

G.O., dated 10th December 1885, Mis. No. 2891, Public.

Read—the following letter from H. THIRKELL WHITE, Esq., C.S., Officiating Junior Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Rangoon, 12th November 1885, Mis. No. 292—171-N:—

In reply to your letter, Mis. No. 2447, dated the 16th ultimo, I am directed to say that the vessel referred to in the newspaper extract which you enclose (herewith returned) was a native barque called the *Shagool Hamed.* Her master's name is Modbar, and she arrived in Moulmein on the 15th September.

2. The matter of the alleged traffic in human flesh attracted the attention of the Chief Commissioner when the subject was first mentioned in the local newspapers. Careful inquiry is being made, and steps are being taken to test the accuracy of the statements made on the subject and to prosecute any wrong-doers. The results of the action taken will be communicated to you in due course.

Order—dated 10th December 1885, Mis. No. 2891, Public.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

G.O., dated 19th December 1885, Mis. No. 2961, Public.

Read—the following letter from the Hon. R. W. BARLOW, Protector of Emigrants, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 1st December 1885, No. 578:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Under Secretary's official memorandum, dated 30th November 1885, No. 2029, requesting me to send an early reply to G.O., dated 29th October 1885, No. 2506, Public, and beg to state that as my "attention" only was ordered in the same, I did not understand that a report was expected, but now beg to submit what I have done for the information of Government.

2. Native passengers proceed from this port to British Burma by the British Indian steamers, and, so far as my inquiries have reached at present, I see no reason to suspect that any traffic in human flesh, similar to that brought to notice by a Mr. Armstrong, is carried on from here.

3. I, however, on the receipt of the Government order, at once telegraphed to Moulmein where the *Tenasserim News* is published, and obtained the address of Mr. Armstrong and wrote him a letter, copy of which I enclose for information, asking

for further particulars, and on receipt of his reply, I shall, if necessary, make further inquiries and submit the result to Government in due course.

Order—dated 19th December 1885, Mis No. 2961, Public.

Recorded, pending further report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.

From Lieutenant-Colonel B. FISCHER, M.S.C., British Consular Agent, Karikal, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Karikal, 1st December 1885, No. 1708.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O., No. 2506, Public, of the 29th of last October (which reached this office about three weeks ago), together with an extract from the Calcutta *Statesman and Friend of India* regarding the "traffic in human flesh" which is said to obtain between this coast and the Tenasserim coast.

2. I have been at very great pains since then to find out how far the Rev. Mr. Armstrong's allegations were based on fact; and I am inclined to believe, from the inquiries I have thus instituted, that something like what he describes really does take place. It would appear, however, from what Mr. Armstrong himself says, that though this is the first time the reverend gentleman has written to the newspapers, he "became acquainted with this traffic some years ago" when laboring "as a missionary to the Telugus in their own country;" and I am positively assured on the authority of an experienced old French official here, who has recently come from Yanaon, that the manner in which "this iniquitous traffic" is carried on in the country in which Mr. Armstrong has so long lived and labored is far greater both in extent and in notoriety than anything he has even heard of elsewhere. The Telugu women are much finer, from the point of view of those engaged in this business, than the Tamil women of the south; and are consequently far more in request.

3. With regard to Karikal—which is the only port Mr. Armstrong, in spite of his experience, thinks it expedient to name—it is, perhaps, necessary to point out that the statement about a native ship that "had just come in from Karikal bringing *more than two hundred coolie passengers*" leaves a good deal to be desired on the score of accuracy; and that the prediction that "more than a score of ship-loads of human freight will be brought into this port" (the name of which Mr. Armstrong does not give) "*for sale* within the next few weeks" does not apply to Karikal. The passenger traffic between Karikal and Moulmein only takes place in the months of August and September; and I have, from the records of my office, drawn up a statement (which I now enclose) specifying the names of the six vessels that were engaged during the last season in this passenger trade; the dates on which they left Karikal; the dates on which the Port officer at Moulmein reported their arrival to me; the number of French subjects, men and women registered in my office for each vessel; the number of French subjects, both men and women, who also embarked on board each vessel; the number of men and women actually landed at Moulmein; and a description of all the women who registered themselves as passengers in my office.

4. It will be observed that out of a total of 93 women who thus went over, no less than 37 were registered as prostitutes; and that they were what they said they were there was not the very slightest doubt. That they were going over, too, on their own account, and not as procuresses, there was also little doubt, as their respective ages ranged from 18 to near 40 years, though there was only one woman of the former age. How far this proportion of professionally immoral women is excessive, or if it is excessive, I am not prepared to say; but I think that every official, from Doctor Garrow Grant downwards, who has had any experience of emigration, will agree with me in saying that nearly all, if not all, the single women who leave India for our colonies are women of very easy virtue indeed, and that they leave their country, consequently, for their country's good.

5. Besides the women thus registered in my office, it will be observed (from the accompanying statement) that there were also 30 women who were allowed to embark, and who had been granted passports, as "French subjects"; but who or what they actually were no one here could tell me: for, as our law has declared the passenger traffic to British Burma to be "free," the French Administration has, naturally, followed our example. I have, however, discovered, within the last few days, that one, at any rate, of these so-called French subjects was in reality a British subject; that she was a young girl of about 12, a native of a village near Tranquebar, who had, while she was living with her grandmother at Karikal, been enticed on board the *Sultan Secunder* by a native tout of this settlement, and sold, on her arrival, at Moulmein, for 56 rupees to a man of the same caste as herself. The father of this girl happened to be at Moulmein at the time; and, thanks to the telegraphic communication between the two coasts, heard of her abduction, discovered her whereabouts at Moulmein, and was eventually able to bring the tout, or pimp, who took her over, to justice.

6. Concurrent inquiries led to the further discovery that, although the passengers who sailed for Moulmein positively declared themselves to be "free," they were all, with the exception of the passengers who went over in the *Abdul Cader Hamid Bux*, recruited by certain well-known touts from this settlement and the Tanjore district, who paid for their board, lodging, and passage, and, on arrival at Moulmein, made them over, "like so many cattle," as Mr. Armstrong would say, to any one who wanted their services and was able to refund, with interest, the money that had already been invested in this speculation. The men who were thus engaged in this "traffic in human flesh" were, in the case of the *Roseneath*, a French subject of this settlement called Vencatachellum; in the case of the *Sultan Secunder* three more French subjects called respectively Vythelingum, Tapoo and Madarsa; in the case of the *Sultany*, two British subjects—Ramasawmy Pillay of Sunnamungalum and Ramasawmy Naick of Negapatam; in the case of the *Sadaia*, another British subject called Cadersa Rowter of Negapatam; and in the case of the *Sagool Hamid*, a fourth British subject called Cadersah Lubbay of Suvaneapoorom in the Nannilam taluk.

7. Before calling upon the French authorities to interfere in a system which has, as Sir Stuart Bayley recently declared, when speaking on a cognate subject, "the logic of facts in its side," it would, perhaps, be as well to inquire, first, how for the "free" passenger traffic that obtains in our own ports admits of anything like what I have now alluded to. Karikal is but a small part of all India, and the passenger traffic between this port and Moulmein is conducted on a very petty scale, and only during two months of the year; whereas, unless I am much misinformed, the scale on which people migrate to Burma from Negapatam, Cocanada and other British ports is very great indeed.

8. There is no doubt whatever that this so-called free passenger traffic both to British Burma and to the Straits Settlements affords convenient cover to many most shameful iniquities; and it will be recollected that about two years ago I brought to the notice of Government some very painful cases of abduction of young girls for immoral purposes that came under my notice when I was in the Straits Settlements. But what is the percentage of such cases, or what are their ultimate results, no one—unless it is, perhaps, Mr. Armstrong—knows, or, as far as I am aware, can even guess. Mr. Armstrong declares that "the unnameable effects of this iniquitous traffic on the natives of India in this province are *patent* to every one acquainted with the people"; and it is most desirable, since he seems to know so much about the subject, that he should be called upon to furnish the proofs to which he only alludes. Such statistics, if capable of being authenticated, would, perhaps, furnish the clue that certainly seems now to be wanting as to the proper treatment of a most difficult problem.

9. We have all—*in docti doctique*—written a good deal on this subject of "free emigration"; but no attempt has been made to probe it, and the consequence is that, when called upon to prescribe for it, we find ourselves very much in the position of Mr. Herbert Spencer's now historical "druggist's assistant." There is little doubt that, under this "free" system, contracts are again and again entered into which bring those who are bound by them very much into a state of virtual slavery; but we have answered Mill's doubt as to how far the principle of freedom can require a man to be free not to be free by abolishing the law that was intended to protect him from himself.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT showing the vessels and the number of passengers they carried from the port of Karikal to Moulmein, British Burma.

No.	Names of vessels engaged.	Dates of sailing from Karikal.	Dates on which the Moulmein Port officer reported their arrivals and number of his letters.	Number of passengers registered in the British Consulate.		Number of passengers, French subjects, embarked.		Total number of passengers landed at Moulmein.		Description of the women registered as passengers in the British Consulate, Karikal.
				Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
1	Barque "Sultany"	11th Aug. 1885 ..	No. 51, 20th Aug. 1885.	153	30	15	..	166	30	14 married women with their husbands; 3 women going to join their brothers; 2 going to their sons; 7 prostitutes; and 4 old women of 50 and 55 years old = 30 women.
[illegible]	Do. "[illegible]"	[illegible] " " ..	" [illegible] "	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	12	161	32	2 women with their fathers; 1 with her son and daughter; 1 with her brother; 1 Paria old woman with 2 children; 3 married women with their husbands; 2 chuckler women and their daughters; and 8 prostitutes = 19 women.
3	Do. "Roseneath"	31st " " ..	" 58, 18th " "	100	6	28	9	128	15	1 woman going to her son; 1 going to her brother; and 4 married women with their husbands = 6 women.
4	Do. "Sultan Secunder"	5th Sept. " ..	" 59, 28th " "	142	24	..	5	142	29	18 prostitutes; 5 married women with their husbands; and 1 old woman with her children = 24 women.
5	Do. "Sadelea"	22nd " " ..	" 65, 15th Oct. "	112	13	..	3	112	16	1 married woman with her husband; 1 woman with her father; a mother and daughter; 1 old woman and her grand-daughter; 4 prostitutes; and 3 old women (cake-sellers) = 13 women.
6	Do. "Abdul Cader Hamid Bux" ..	25th " " ..	" 66, 22nd " "	14	1	14	..	28	1	1 married woman with her husband = 1 woman.
			Total ..	576	93	63	30	739	123	

(Signed) B. FISCHER, Lt.-Col.,
British Consular Agent, Karikal.

KARIKAL,
1st *December* 1885.

Lodged, pending the receipt of a furthe report from the Protector of Emigrants.

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

26*th December* 1885.

G.O., dated 26th January 1886, Mis. No. 169, Public.

Read—the following letter from Colonel . K. GUTHRIE, Inspector-General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 6th January 1886, No. 83 :—

Adverting to G.O., No. 2506, dated 29th October 1885, Public Department, I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that from inquiries made in the Tanjore district, it has been ascertained that women are shipped on vessels at Negapatam and Tranquebar for Burma and the Straits Settlements as free passengers, accompanied by an agent, who hands them over to certain persons at the port of debarkation.

2. The women are apparently mostly of loose character—dancing girls, concubines and wives who have left their husbands.

3. They are, so far as we can judge from the evidence taken, disposed of as concubines or as laborers; some of them return in prosperous circumstances and induce others to follow their example.

4. In one instance recorded, a girl of 13 years of age was induced to disguise herself and go on board ship at Karikal; the parents, after searching for her in vain, reported the matter to the police, who through the French authorities recovered the girl from the steamer on the point of departure. The culprits in this case were prosecuted and sentenced to the maximum punishment.

5. Women are also induced by plausible tales to go to French settlements as emigrants, and taught by the recruiters to make false statements to the Emigration Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal when questioned by these gentlemen.

6. The Acting Assistant Superintendent of Police (Mr. Hasted) reports a case at Negapatam (amounting to an offence under sections 370 and 371 of the Penal Code) in which some females have been sent to Rangoon in the steamer *Madras* for disposal; he has seized a quantity of telegrams and some books, and the Superintendent has ordered the prosecution of this case.

7. While police supervision may, to some extent, check malpractice in Tanjore, much more might be effected at the ports of debarkation. The great difficulty lies in ascertaining how far the women are free agents; they are induced to see a prosperous future before them, and prepared to lie to any extent to reach the goal. If Government would like to see the full reports, I shall have them printed and submitted as soon as possible.

Order—dated 26th January 1886, Mis. No. 169, Public.

The full reports referred to at the end of paragraph 7 should be submitted to Government, as well as the report of the trial of the prosecution mentioned in paragraph 6.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Police.

G.O., dated 9th February 1886, Mis. No. 280, Public.

Read—the following letter from C. S. BAYLEY, Esq., C.S., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department (Emigration), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 31st December 1885, No. 288—452 E:—

The Proceedings of the Government of Madras, No. 2506, dated the 29th October 1885, recorded in the Public Department, having attracted the notice of the Government of India, I am directed to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the Government of India may be informed hereafter if any information is received from the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, the British Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal, or the Inspector-General of Police, regarding the "traffic in human flesh" alleged to exist between India and the Tenasserim coast.

Order—dated 9th February 1886, Mis. No. 280, Public.

Recorded, pending receipt of further information from the officers concerned.

2. The Government of India will ultimately be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

G.O., dated 17th May 1886, Mis. No. 1008, Public.

[illegible] following letter from Colonel T. K. GUTHRIE, Inspector-General of [illegible], to the Chief Secretary to Government, dat[illegible], 9th April [illegible]

With [illegible] G.O., Public Department, dated 26th January 1886, Mis. No. 169, I have the [illegible] to forward three copies of the full reports on traffic in human flesh. The result of the prosecution will be reported when information on the subject is received from the Superintendent of Police, who has been directed to report directly the trial is over.

Order—dated 17th May 1886, Mis. No. 1008, Public.

The result of the prosecution referred to will be awaited.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Police.

G.O., dated 17th May 1886, Mis. No. 1009, Public.

Read—the following letter from E. S. SYMES, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, General Department (Miscellaneous), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Rangoon, 21st April 1886, No. 507-62-N:—

In continuation of this office letter, No. 292-171 N., dated 12th November 1885, I am directed to inform you that in February last, prosecutions were instituted in Moulmein against two men who were accused of having sold and bought a minor who had been brought in a native vessel from Karikal to Moulmein. The accused were acquitted because it was found impossible to prove that the woman said to have been sold was a minor. Under instructions issued to the authorities at Moulmein, vessels arriving

from the Madras coast are immediately boarded by an European police officer, whose duty it is to see that no persons are detained on board against their will and to immediately report to the magistrate any suspicious cases.

2. A further communication will be made to you, if any cases of the alleged traffic are brought to light.

Order—dated 17th May 1886, Mis. No. 1009, Public.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

From Colonel T. K. GUTHRIE, Inspector-General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 4th June 1886, No. 2787.

In continuation of my letter of 9th April 1886, No. 1845, and Proceedings of the Public Department, dated 17th May 1886, Mis. No. 1008, I have the honor to report that, on further investigation being made regarding traffic in human flesh, no case for prosecution could be made out.

2. Letter from the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Tanjore, No. 46, dated 19th May 1886, on the subject, is herewith forwarded for information.

G.O., dated 9th June 1886, Mis. No. 1197, Public.

Read—the following letter from T. M. HORSFALL, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate in charge, South Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cuddalore, 13th May 1886, No. 49:—

I have the honor to report, with reference to G.O., Public, dated 10th December 1885, Mis. No. 2878, enclosing G.O., Public, No. 2506, dated 29th October 1885.

2. I received copy of these orders only on the 10th instant, and have been able to make only one or two inquiries, in order not to defer still more a report long overdue and now probably of very little, if any, value.

3. It is, of course, a fact that women leave Southern India for Burma and the Straits Settlements for the purpose of prostitution. It is also a fact that of them, a great many go knowingly and willingly for that purpose. It is very difficult to say how many are enticed away and, so to speak, sold as slaves for prostitution. I have little experience of this district, but the ports of this district do not in any case export emigrants in any appreciable number. Only 63 women left Porto Novo for the Straits Settlements in 1885, and up to date in 1886, only 23. The Superintendent at that place tells me that since Colonel Fischer's visit, he has been specially careful to warn women to consider what they were about, before allowing them to embark. No ships leave this district for the Tenasserim ports.

4. I gained some experience in emigration and kindred matters when I was in Negapatam, and the conclusion I came to was that cases of real abduction happened, but were very rare. It must be remembered that emigrants go in great crowds and would probably resent any gross deceit or ill-usage. The morality of the class of cooly emigrants is low, and probably many of the women sell themselves readily at the other side. They are adepts at deception and their cases should be examined with great care.

5. Government must, I think, be prepared for an extension of the trade in emigrant prostitutes (willing and unwilling) to the Straits Settlements, now that the policy of State dry-nursing has been practically abandoned with regard to those colonies. The Penal Code and a watchful police seem to me to be the only safeguards both on this and the other side of the water.

6. I have no doubt that Colonel Fischer has furnished Government with valuable information on this subject.

Order—dated 9th June 1886, Mis. No. 1197, Public.

Recorded, pending further report from the Inspector-General of Police.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

ORDER—dated 12th July 1886, No. 1452, Public.

In October 1885 the attention of this Government was drawn to a letter from a Mr. Armstrong, addressed to the *Tenasserim News* of Moulmein, quoted in full by the *Statesman and Friend of India* in its issue of the 8th idem. This communication contained allegations in regard to a traffic in human beings said to exist between the continent of India and the Tenasserim coast. Mr. Armstrong gave an account of the arrival of a native ship from Karikal with "more than two hundred coolie passengers," most of whom were found by him, on personal investigation, to have been sold within a few hours of the arrival of the vessel. More than a score of vessels laden with the same human freight were, he asserted, expected within the next few weeks. Mr. Armstrong stated that he had first become acquainted with this traffic "some few years ago" when working as a missionary in the Telugu country, and that this acquaintance had become more intimate since his arrival in Tenasserim. He described the trade as bad enough in the case of men, but in that of women "slavery of the worst kind."

2. The Government thereupon drew the attention of the Chief Commissioner of Burma, as well as of the Protector of Emigrants at Madras, the British Consular Agents at Pondicherry and Karikal, the Inspector-General of Police, and the Collector of South Arcot to these serious and circumstantial assertions. Their replies are contained in the papers read above.

3. The Chief Commissioner of Burma stated that the vessel referred to by Mr. Armstrong was the *Sagool Hamed* from Karikal; that the alleged existence of a traffic in human flesh attracted his attention when the subject was first noticed in the newspapers; and that a careful inquiry was instituted and steps taken to test the accuracy of the statements made in view to the prosecution of the wrong-doers. The result of this action was communicated in his second letter. Prosecutions were instituted in Moulmein against two men accused of having sold and bought a minor who had been brought to that port in a native vessel from Karikal. They were acquitted because it was found impossible to prove that the woman said to have been sold was a minor; but it was added that, under instructions issued to the authorities at Moulmein, vessels arriving there from the Madras coast were now boarded immediately on arrival by an European police officer, whose duty it is to see that no persons are detained on board against their will, and to at once report any suspicious cases to the magistrate.

4. From inquiries made by the Protector of Emigrants, it would appear that there is no reason to suspect the existence of any such traffic from the port of Madras. In view, however, to place the matter beyond all doubt, Mr. Barlow procured from Moulmein the address of Mr. Armstrong and applied to him for further information on the subject on the 14th November, and again on the 4th January last, but received no reply to either communication.

5. The Consular Agent at Karikal is "inclined to believe," after careful inquiry, "that something like what Mr. Armstrong describes really does take place;" but he questions the complete accuracy of Mr. Armstrong's assertions. The native passengers embarked on the *Sagool Hamed* are shown to have consisted of 161 men and 32 women, of whom 2 women were accompanied by their fathers, 3 by their husbands, 1 by her brother, and 4 by their children of various ages, making a total of 11

adult women. Of the remaining women 3 were professional prostitutes and 13 professedly French subjects, in regard to whom no particulars are available. Similar details are furnished in regard to the remaining five vessels which carried native passengers from Karikal to Moulmein during the season of 1885. From these it appears that the total number of women carried was 123, of whom 30 were professedly French subjects and 37 professional prostitutes, leaving 56, of whom 8 were old women of upwards of 50 years of age, 28 were accompanied by their husbands, and the rest by various relatives. It was found, however, that in the case of five out of the six vessels referred to, including the *Sagool Hamed*, the passengers, although they declared themselves to be "free," were in reality recruited by touts who paid for their board, lodging, and passage, and on arrival at Moulmein made them over to persons requiring their services, on payment with interest of the charges incurred. Colonel Fischer points out that in the present state of the law there is nothing to prevent the existence of a similar traffic between any port on the continent of India and Burma, and that, in these circumstances, the danger of abduction and other malpractices is very great. Under Madras Act V of 1866 emigration from the Madras Presidency to other parts of British India is regulated and brought under supervision, but this Act was repealed, so far as relates to Burma, by the British Burma Labour Law III of 1876, which has itself been subsequently repealed by Act VII of 1883. At the present moment, therefore, emigration from the Madras Presidency to Burma is wholly unregulated.

6. The inquiries made in the Tanjore district under the orders of the Inspector-General of Police seem to establish beyond doubt the existence of a traffic of the kind alleged. The women who embark as "free passengers" are, it is true, mostly of loose character, but respectable women and girls have also been enticed away under false pretences, and shipped to Burma, the Straits, or elsewhere in ignorance of their rights and without the knowledge of their relatives. An instance is reported in which a Hindu girl of 13 years of age was induced to disguise herself as a Mussulmani and embark at Karikal; her mother and brother, after searching for her in vain, reported the matter to the police, who, through the French authorities, succeeded in recovering the girl, as the steamer was on the point of departure. In this case the culprits were prosecuted and sentenced to the maximum punishment, but in the majority of cases either they evade detection or else the prosecution breaks down for want of proof on essential points. The opinion of the Inspector-General of Police is, that while police supervision may to a great extent prevent such malpractices as have been brought to light in Tanjore, much more might be effected at the ports of debarkation, the great difficulty on this side of the water being to ascertain how far the women are free agents, acquainted with the consequences of their actions, as they have every inducement offered them to believe in a prosperous future in the country of their destination, and are prepared to use deception to any extent in order to reach the promised goal.

7. The Acting Collector of South Arcot states as a fact that many women deliberately leave Southern India for Burma and the Straits Settlements for the purpose of prostitution, and that it is difficult to say how many are enticed away under false pretences and practically sold for the same purpose. He adds that 63 women left Porto Novo for the Straits Settlements in 1885 and 23 up to date in 1886. Special care was taken to warn these women to consider carefully what they were about to undertake before they were allowed to embark. No ships left the district for the Tenasserim ports. The Acting Collector's personal experience while at Negapatam was that cases of real abduction had happened, but were rare; that the morality of the class of cooly emigrants is low, and probably many of the women sell themselves readily on reaching their destination; that they are adepts at deception; and that their cases should be examined with great care.

8. The Government gather from these inquiries that although the real state of things has been exaggerated, there is nevertheless some evidence to show that passengers who sailed from Moulmein and positively declared themselves to be free were actually recruited. At the same time it is clear that the moral character of a large proportion of the women so disposed of is of the lowest description, and that in

the majority of cases there is a complete understanding between themselves and the agents who carry on the traffic, and that they lend themselves willingly to any proposal which appears to them to promise a prosperous future. There remain an undefined number of cases in which the women are deceived in a greater or less degree, and are only gradually persuaded, in ignorance of their rights, to lend themselves to the designs of the persons into whose power they have fallen. The only means of meeting this evil appears to His Excellency the Governor in Council to lie in the combined and watchful exertions of the police and of the emigration authorities on both sides of the water. The Chief Commissioner of Burma is, it is observed, prepared to take all the necessary steps for his province. The Government rely on the watchfulness of the Inspector-General of Police, the Magistrates of Coast Districts, the Protector of Emigrants at Madras, and the British Consular Agent at Pondicherry and Karikal, to cope with the evil so far as this presidency is concerned.

9. With regard to cooly emigration proper, which is referred to in some of these reports, it is suggested that, in order to prevent the abduction and embarkation of women and young persons of both sexes without the knowledge of their families, every recruiter producing such an emigrant for registration should be required to produce a certificate in due form from the village officers of the emigrant's village attesting his or her identity. The untrustworthiness of the statements usually made by emigrants as to their circumstances and connexions is well known, and the suggestion will accordingly be referred for opinion to the Protector of Emigrants, the Magistrates of Coast Districts, and the British Consular Agent.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
„ Magistrates of Coast Districts.
„ Protector of Emigrants.
„ British Consular Agent, Pondicherry and Karikal.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 12th July 1886, No. 1453, Public.

Copy to the Chief Commissioner of Burma for information.

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 12th July 1886, No. 1454, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, for information, with reference to letter thence, No. 288—45-2-E, dated 31st December 1885.

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.