

To the Chief Secretary of Government
Fort St. George.

Sir/ I have the honour to reply to G.O.
 dated 22nd December 1882 Miscellaneous
 forwarding what seems to be an anonymous
 report of certain proceedings of a
 meeting of the Municipal Commissioners
 of Botacama and together with letters from
 Surgeon Major Nauney and the
 Sanitary Commissioner.

2. I cannot charge my memory with having sworn (I am not prone to swearing) or with having used the word "lie" - and, had the inquiry been made of me solely on the anonymous report,

I should have delayed answering until I had asked my fellow Commissioners who were present if I had used what I know was proper language and unbecoming me.

3/ But although I have differed officially with Dr. Nauney in what I considered to be my duty, still, as he has deliberately written down certainly words as uttered by me, I don't feel that I can change his recollection as I can change my own, or see any reason to delay - And I am therefore not prepared to deny his allegation that as regards the first office words quoted in inverted commas in paragraph 3 of his letter to the Sanitary Commissioners.

4/ I remember the circumstances, and that I was exceedingly annoyed at the time at what I considered to be a total denial of the accuracy of written statements of mine made after personal inspection,

and at what I considered to be an avoid-
ance on his part of Dr. Nauney's duty to my-
self and to the other Commissioners - namely
to come with us and test the accuracy of
my statements which I understood him to
deny.

5. The facts are these -

I came to the conclusion that we did not
set our money's worth into the Sanitary
Department at Boston and, and that
the latrines were in a filthy state. Day after
day I inspected them until I was so dis-
gusted that I could not go there more,
and recorded my opinion in a Memo.
-randum. This paper was circulated to
the Commissioners, and Dr. Nauney brought
it to me and asked me to alter one word
which I did -

6/ My paper came up for disposal at a
meeting of the 1st of December 1882 and
along with it was a statement of the

Sanitary Commissioners that the latrines were
in such a state that no decent person would
doubt to use them. I contradicted this, stated
my facts, and added that I had inspected
them until I had actually been sick; and
that the statement was not correct. Dr.
Nanney demurred although he had not
written the statement (the allegation was
Dr. Summell's, not Dr. Nanney's) and told me
that I was wrong. I said "Men, Gentlemen,
and we put on our

"let us go and see" - and we put on our hats and went outside to latrine close by. What we found is recorded, according to my wont, in my pocket book, written on the spot. On our return Dr. Nauney asked what we had found. and I said, no doubt au-fully because he had not come. "Oh! ask him did you not come?"

"These Gentlemen. Why did you not come?"
 Dr. Kamey replied that all this reflected
 upon him. I said "I don't know anything
 about that, but he cannot go on like
 this. at any rate I will not be a party to
 it. The Overseers get too much pay and

"do not force; and as the scavengers they
 "do pretty much as they please, come to
 "work late and make up for it like
 "Charles Lamb by going away early. And
 "then the Sanitary Commissioner tells
 "us that every thing is beautiful when
 "it is not, and you will not come to
 "see" - or words to that effect -

It must have been at this point that I
lost my temper and misbehaved myself.
I know that I was very angry because I had
done my very best in the matter, over and over
described my facts, and was then flatly con-
tradicted by a man who, as I thought, would
not take the trouble to put the matter to the
fairest of all tests - namely - a personal
and unexpected inspection - But I admit
that no very circumstances is any justifi-
cation for vulgar abuse. Whether the
Manager was in the room I do not know.
I remember on one occasion telling him to

an the Birds of America

have it, that was President and not he,
because he was dictating but and wanted
to be kept in his place. But I cannot say
whether this was the time or not. However
I am quite sure that nobody outside the
halls and doors of the room in which we
were sitting could hear anything.
7/ In regards my stigmatising Dr. Furnell's
pamphlet as "stuff" with an expletive
before it I am not aware of having done so.
And Dr. Nunnery, I observe, confines him-
self to the words already treated of. I
remember the pamphlet being discussed
and giving my opinion formed on my
reading it - namely - that it had been
pushed beyond its merits, that it was only
a collection of facts which any Officer knew,
but that it was deficient in the very
thing which our District Officers did
want to know and which the Sanitary
Commissioners should tell us - that is -

how to work Sanitation with our limited re-
sources. I don't reproach myself with
that opinion which it, at any rate, honest -
8/ nor am I aware that I made any remarks
regarding Dr. Furnell's ^{efficiency} ~~efficiency~~ of which I
know nothing. As Dr. Furnell truly says he
scarcely knows me - not always indeed,
when he meets me -
9/ However this may be, as I have said, I do
not feel that I can honestly contradict Dr.
Nunnery's written words without imputing
his veracity which have no wish or intention
to do - I must therefore take the consequences
of having used at least two words which
I know as well as anybody that I should
have used especially in the place
and circumstances reported. I have
therefore only to express my sincere regret,
and to apologise to Dr. Furnell for language
which, however incorrect his statement was

found to be, I was wrong I have used at
all; with the hope that, on this occasion,
His Excellency the Governor in Council
will be pleased to inflict no further punish-
ment than the severe reprimand which
the Proceedings now in reply already
convey.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
A. Atkinson.

I do not think it will be
necessary to punish Mr Brink Atkinson further. His language
was to tally unjustifiable & nothing of the kind can be tolerated
so. I believe him however to be doing excellent work &
make no doubt that all he says of the state of the
Colonies is only too true. Dr Farnell should be directed
to stir up Dr Hannay's enthusiasm. I suppose his turn
on the hills is near its end & that we may be able
to find a thoroughly strong man to replace
him. That district is not blessed in its officials.

Yours
J. M. J.

1.1.83

Mr Atkinson's language

I wish, first, to see
the papers mentioned at
page 2 of Dr Hannay's letter

Dr 3/3

Vide papers recorded
in C.O. 23 May 1882 No
273 Public. etc

As Atkinson expresses
his "sincere regret" Dr F.
will of course be satisfied.

But why is Dr Hannay
so stirred up? The lectures
were, per Farnell's report
certificates in May last,
in excellent order. If the
Commissioners will say
it is different now, let
Hannay be called to defend
himself, but not because
his mal Atkinson says so.

D.V.C. 4/1/83

C.O. 23/5/2

Better let matters slide
for the present until these
sundry propositions have cooled
down. Then call on the
President for a report as
to the general working of
the Sanitary Dept. and
if unfavorable we can
refer it to Dr Farnell for
his remarks.

H. J.

It does not follow that the lectures are in good order now
because they were in good order in May last; but I am
willing to accept the view of my hon. Colleague
or to give time for passion to cool. We might call
on Mr Brink Atkinson to report as suggested a

Make an inspection
on 15th Feb & then
report. Doubtless he
will be able then to
give us a good account
MS



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W Brecks Atkinson
L D Funnell

Confidential

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter.

again G.O. 22nd December 1882, N^o 1635 is forwarded
to Mr. Brecks Atkinson for report. papers con-
taining certain disparaging remarks
alleged to have been made by him in
reference to Dr. Funnell.

Read also letter from A. J. B. Atkinson,
Esq., of 31st December 1882, offering
explanation.

Order. 18 January 1883, N^o 118 is

Mr. Atkinson acknow-
ledges to have used the
first five words quoted
in inverted commas in
para 3 of Dr. Nannay's
letter to the Sanitary
Commissioner of 12th Dec.

last, but cannot charge
his memory with
having made any
remark regarding
Dr. Furnell's efficiency,
nor does he recollect
having stigmatized
that officer's pamphlet
on water in the terms
indicated.

2. Mr. Atkinson's
expression of 'sincere
regret' for having
used the unjustifiable
language acknowledged
by him will doubtless
be accepted by Dr.
Furnell. The Govt
do not wish on the
present occasion to
take further notice of
the matter. Such beha-
vour on Mr. Atkinson's
part

It is hoped that
part will doubtless
not recur.
3. The President of
the Municipal Com-
mission at Cotacacumund
will proceed about the
middle of February
to make a thorough
inspection, and will
then submit a report
upon the general
working of the Sanitary
Dept at that station.

GC

A. J. B. Atkinson Esq.
Presd. M.C. Cotacacumund.
Surgeon Genl. ^{Surgeon Genl.} San Francisco
Dr. Furnell M.D. F.R.C.S.
with Dr. Furnell's original letter etc.

Decd 18/1/83

W Breckin Atkinson
+ D D Farnell

Mr Breckin Atkinson
and D. Farnell

G.O. 18 January 1883
No 118 Mis

At the former

Don't get
Secretary
from