M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1609 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated November 26, 1859.

61-62

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 61. Read the following letter from W. KNOX, Esq., Collector of Masulipatam ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 29th October 1859, No. 31.

1. I have the honor to forward a petition signed by a very large body of the inhabitants of this town, and trust I shall be excused if I have swerved from the strict line of communication in deference to the wishes of so many, who are deeply interested in the prayer of the petition, the retention of this town as the Collector's head quarters. They think that my sending up the petition, will ensure it greater consideration, and though I know this idea is a false one, I venture to meet their wishes remembering the unswerving loyalty, the quiet and peacefulness of the town.

2. If I might be allowed to express an opinion, I would advocate the retention of this town as the Collector's head quarters, particularly if the port is improved, as I trust it will be, and recovers its old importance, with a canal communication on which two parties are about to run passenger boats and with Assistants and Deputies judiciously located. Access to officers of the higher grades will be nearly as easy as at present, particularly if the táluq of Timmericottah in Guntúr be made over to Karnúl which would also be advantageous in reducing the somewhat unwieldy size of the proposed new district.

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1859, No. 1609.

To be recorded. The order of the 4th instant, No. 1499, will inform the Collector that Masulipatam is to be the head quarters of the new Kistna district.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 31

Masulipatam Collectors
Kacheri - 29th October 1859

From
W. Knox Esqre
Collector of Masulipatam

To
J. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Govt
Fort St. George

Sir,

I have the honor to forward a petition signed by a very large body of the inhabitants of this Town, and trust I shall be excused if I have swerved from the strict line of communication in deference to the wishes of so many, who are deeply interested in the prayer of the petition, the retention of this town as the Collectors' Head Quarters. They think that my sending up the petition, will ensure it greater

consideration, & tho' I know this idea
is a false one, I venture to meet
the wishes remembering the unswerving
loyalty, the quiet & peacefulness of
the town.

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express an opinion, I would advocate
the retention of this town as the Collectors
Head Quarters, particularly if the
Port is improved, as I trust it will
be, & recovers its old importance,
with a Canal communication on which
two parties are about to run passenger
boats & with Assistants & Deputies
judiciously located - access to Officers
of the higher grades will be nearly as
easy as at present, particularly if the
Talugs of Tumurucodu in Guntur
be made over to Karnul which would
also be advantageous in reducing the
somewhat unwieldy size of the proposed
new District.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

Collector

To,

His Excellency Sir Charles Trevelyan K.C.B.

Governor in Council

Fort Saint George.

The humble Memorial of the native population of Masulipatam -

Humbly Sheweth -

Para 1. Your Memorialists have, with consternation learnt that it is the intention of the Government to remove the seat of the Collector from this ancient Town, and to divide the District between its two adjacent ones; so your Memorialists have therefore taken the liberty of submitting to your Excellency this address in the hope that it will receive both sympathy and relief -

2. Your Memorialists earnestly beseech your Excellency to look back for a few minutes at

with

Rec'd 1859 Dated 29 October 1859

The Collector of Masulipatam

to the Chief Secretary to Government Fort St George

Rec'd 3rd Nov 1859

Read

No 31

No 1609-26 Oct 1859

Submitting a Petition signed by a large body of the inhabitants of the town of Masulipatam praying that it may be retained as the Collector Head Quarters -

No 1609

To be recorded - The order of the 4th Instant, No 1469 will inform the Collector that Masulipatam is to be the Head Quarters of the new Kistna District -

Fort St. Geo. 26th Oct 1859.

No 61 1862.

With an order -

at the former history of Masulipatam, in connection with the British power in India. It is now little more than a century, since this Town has come into the possession of the English. It was one of the first Ports, which the English power, in its infant state, had conquerred on the Coromandel Coast. It was, as it were the nucleus of its present vast dominions in India. It was the seat of the Chiefs in Council; the patriarches of the British administration of Justice in India; and it was the seat of the Provincial Court for the Northern Circars. Even in the absence of all other reasons, a restrospective view of the political history of Masulipatam, may, of itself, suggest to your Excellency a sufficient argument against the removal of the Collector Packer from this station.

3. Masulipatam is the largest Town in the Northern Circars, and contains a population of upwards of 40000 Souls. It is a considerable Sea Port affording peculiar advantages to Vessels

of

of moderate burthen; and carrying on trade of some importance. Its commercial importance is likely soon to be enhanced by the Canal, which before long, is expected to connect Masulipatam with Bejawada. Is it not expedient, therefore, that the Zuon Station of the Collector - the highest Revenue officer in the District - should remain in a place possessing so many advantages? The seat of a Collector inspires the people with a public Spirit; it places within their reach the ready means of obtaining political information of an authentic character; in short on all subjects of public and social interest - The removal therefore of the Collector's seat from this Town, will be felt by the generality of people, in whose opinion the seat of a Collector is essential to the Mercantile and political positions of this ancient Town.

4 Your Memorialists beg most respectfully to impress on your Excellency's favorable Consideration, that the measures intended by your Excellency, will materially tell upon the already decreasing trade of Masulipatam. It only requires

with

requires to remove the offices of the Collector, and of the Commissariat from Ker, to consign Masulipatam to eternal oblivion. It may be argued that the number of families, which may perhaps be necessitated to leave the Town from the removal of the Public offices alluded to above, cannot materially affect the State of the existing trade. In reply, your Memorialists beg to state that the Seat of authority is the focus round which all people gather. It is the magnet which attracts all importance to the place; and it is easy to show this by illustrations from History. For, Rome is still Rome; but not the Rome of the Roman Empire; nor is Moorshedabad in the same flourishing state as it was when it was the Capital of Bengal what is it that raised Calcutta once an insignificant and unknown Village to be the Mistress of the British Indian Empire; or what is it that exalted Madras to its present thriving State! Is it not the removal of the Seat of power from the first two, and the establishment of it in the latter two, that wrought these mighty effects. what is to prevent the same from being the case with Masulipatam?

5 Except Masulipatam there is no other place

place in the District that can sufficiently accommodate for a Collector's Kacherie. Bezorah is rumoured to be the next intended Station. It is a small Village and, but for its noble ancient, worth nothing. There is no room for a large Station.

6. Your Memorialists are at a loss to perceive what reasons could have influenced Government to adopt the hard measure of removing the Collector's station from Masulipatam. Should there be any minor advantages, which, it is hoped, would result from the change, they are, your Memorialists take the liberty of observing, nothing compared with the shock given to this ancient Town and its surviving trade. It is to be borne in mind, that not a few Ships under the Command of Englishmen anchor at Masulipatam, and that between these gentlemen and Native Traders, there is generally mixed business connections, which now and then occasions misunderstanding. Under such circumstances the presence of a Collector is no small guarantee of protection to Native interests, and if the very life as it were of mutual confidence in Commercial dealings between two races

7. Here with the

8. There are besides large and substantial houses owned by the natives of this Town and let to the European residents. These Houses must of course be vacated, if the threatened changes come into operation, and left either to entertain vermin, or be sold at prices infinitely below their real worth, to the no small loss of their landlords. The same losses must be entailed on all the native officials in Government employment, and soon as the removal of their offices shall oblige them to quit their houses for good, and resort elsewhere in their stead. This depreciation of property is sure to be felt, and is perhaps one of the most powerful considerations for re-considering a measure which is fraught with changes of so radical and complete a character as those contemplated by the Government, in connection with Masulipatam.

9. At the School of the Rev.d R. Noble your Excellency gave expression to these encouraging words that it is a peculiar gratification to your Excellency to have met in the streets groups of cleanly dressed little children briskly going to their respective institutions and that you hoped there is in Masulipatam a germ of an Indian Oxford. Your Memorialists take this opportunity to say that one of these Seminaries is supported chiefly by the contributions of the Collector's Native Servants, & consequently its down fall is a matter of certainty if the seat of the Collector be removed from this place.

10. Lastly your Memorialists earnestly pray your Excellency before determining upon any measure which shall tend to the decay of their ancient Town, to take into consideration all the circumstances stated above Viz.t the antiquity of the Town; its earliest connection with the British Government in India; its political and commercial importance; its extent; its population; its eligible position; its susceptibility of improvement; its educational institutions; and the expediency of a Collector's remaining here - when this is done, your Memorialists assure themselves, your Excellency will not be disposed to sanction any thing like the removal of the Collector's Office from their time honored Masulipatam. Before closing, your Memorialists particularly the Mercantile portion of them, beseech your Excellency will attach due weight to their representation - They pray that your Excellency's first good visit to their Town may not be connected with such a baneful event as the removal of the Collector's seat from it; an event should

with the

should it ever take place, will ever be remembered with grief by the posterity of Masulipatam.

We beg to remain,

Your Excellency's most Obedient and humble Servants

Masulipatam
October 1859

Rajah Chandragoola Juggernauth Row
Gopaulrow Bahader Zemindar
of Deevy Purganah

[illegible]

ناظر الدوله [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Buchanan

[illegible]

with

Abstract of the petition from the inhabitants of the Town of Masulipatam.

Adverting to the antiquity of the town of Masulipatam, its early connection with the British Government in India, and its past political history; and considering its being the largest in the Northern Circars, with a population of upwards of 40,000 people, the advantages which its port affords to vessels of moderate burthen, and the prospective improvement of its trade by the extension of the canal to Bezwada, deem it inexpedient that the Collr's Head Quarters should be removed from the town which, besides inspiring the inhabitants with

with public spirit, enable them to obtain readily correct information of a political, public or social nature;- State that the contemplated measure will materially affect the already decreasing trade of the town, and tend to consign it to oblivion as people are naturally inclined to gather round the seat of authority;- that there is no other place in the District but the town that can sufficiently accommodate a Collector's Kutcheri, and that Bijnath (which is rumoured to be the next Head Quarters of the Collector) being a small village, does not contain sufficient room for a large station;- that as misunderstandings do occasionally arise in the course of mercantile transactions between native traders and English Commanders of vessels anchoring at the port, the presence of a Collector will protect the interest of the natives and inspire them with confidence;- that the native proprietors of substantially built houses let to Europeans, and the Native Govt.-officials who have houses of their own, will sustain heavy losses, because the premises in both cases will be thrown out of occupation, and must either be sold at prices considerably below their real values or be allowed to fall to decay and ruin;- and that one of the schools maintained by the contributions of the Collector's Kutcheri servants will have to be abolished with the removal of the seat of the Collector; and

solicit

solicit that Government after duly weighing the above circumstances will not be disposed to sanction the removal of the Collectors' office from the town of Masulipatam.