M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2247 Press ~~Mis.~~
459-60.

Dated 27- 11- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th November 1860.

No. 459. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore 5th November 1860, No. 59 :—

SIR,

1. I beg to acknowledge the Government "order" of 28th September 1860, No. 1,731, in which you say, I have "made an important mistake" in the intention of Government in their Order of 16th March 1860, No. 396.

2. I understood, from the Government order, and from Sir Charles Trevelyan's own observations when on the Hills, that my inquiry had reference to the claim of the Nellambúr Rája's title to any part of the Neilgherry Plateau, lately made over to this District, and though Mr. Ouchterlony's land lies, I am of opinion, entirely within this Plateau, and which he obtained from the Nellambúr Rája, it was not my intention, unless ordered by Government to enter on any inquiry as regarded that gentlemen's titles; it is a matter for Government, not for me to consider.

3. Mr. Ouchterlony in his letter, deals in assumptions and inferences equally uncalled for, and unjustifiable; based on his acquired or supposed knowledge, of a *private* conversation of mine with another gentleman, which conversation, I beg to observe, has been considerably misconceived, and mistaken; and which, if Mr. Ouchterlony had himself overheard, he would have had no possible right, as a gentleman, *thus* to make use of.

4. I beg to repudiate indignantly Mr. Ouchterlony's unwarranted and unwarrantable imputations; he maintains the inviolability of his Coffee Valley at Neddivattam, and deprecates my making any inquiry into his supposed titles. I should be equally anxious to avoid such a task. Mr. Ouchterlony's title, whether valid or otherwise, is for Government consideration, and I had never any intention of going into *it*, beyond giving my opinion, as called for, on the Nellambúr Rája's limits and rights, which *perhaps* involve Mr. Ouchterlony's.

5. If Mr. Ouchterlony's Valley remains a part of Malabar, of course I have nothing to do with it; while, if the real and fair boundary of the Neilgherries be found to include it, I cannot well avoid referring to it. Such boundary ought to have been decided long ago. It was *Captain* Ouchterlony (ten years Hill Surveying Officer of this District) who surveyed that Valley, aided, I believe, in its purchase, and had a share in the estate. A reference to Captain Ouchterlony's surveys shows the survey of the Kundah side of the Neilgherries was never completed.

6. Having served more than 11 years in Coimbatore, and nearly 2 in Malabar formerly (*with* Mr. Conolly, Mr. Chatfield and others), I had of course *heard* of this estate; but when Mr. Ouchterlony insinuates, as he plainly and unjustifiably *does*, that I could not enter on this or any other public inquiry (if ordered) with an unbiassed and honest desire to elicit and declare, without fear or favor, the simple *truth*, he assumes and insinuates what no gentleman or public officer (and Mr. Ouchterlony has been one) has a right to do, from any such imputation of Mr. Ouchterlony's, I feel confident my own character and the opinion of Government will relieve me; but as Government have thought fit to print and send me Mr. Ouchterlony's letter, I trust they will excuse my thus far replying to its unwarranted tone and tenor.

7. To its details, some of them entire error (*ex gr.* I never went to Mr. Lascelles' estate at all; but I *did* see, in the course of a long ride, the whole area alluded to, and much more than Mr. Ouchterlony supposes) I do not think it necessary to advert, I had as much right to seek for local knowledge and information regarding the Plateau, from Mr. Lascelles, as had Lord Harris and Sir C. Trevelyan; both of whom *desired* that gentleman to accompany them, as one *best* informed of *any*, of Hill boundaries and localities, and alone knowing the Todar language. What Captain Begbie's case has to do with this, I am at a loss to discover; and only regret Mr. Ouchterlony's going out of his way to draw so many false conclusions, his allusion to the case is unfortunate, as an official reference made to Lieutenant Stewart, the Engineer who traced the disputed road, gave it in favor of my decision and *against* Mr. Ouchterlony's; but the decision has *nothing* to do with the present case.

8. I have been unable to reply to the order of 29th March, No. 484, paragraph 18, from not having yet received any papers (for which I wrote as directed) from the Collector of Malabar. So soon as I do, I shall immediately reply.

No. 460. ORDER THEREON, 27th November 1860, No. 2,247.

1. Mr. Thomas is certainly mistaken in supposing that the land referred to inMr. Ouchterlony's letter is included in the tract transferred to Coimbatore. In order to make that plain to him, a copy of the map defining the space so transferred will now be forwarded for his information. He is mistaken also in regarding that land as a part of the Neilgherry Plateau. It is on the western slope, and no part of the Plateau.

2. Mr. Thomas' denial of Mr. Ouchterlony's imputations was unnecessary. Had the Government considered a reply to those charges to be necessary, they would have called his attention to them.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary to Government.

R. D.

No. 2247.

edings of the Madras Government

Under date the 27th Nov. 1860

Read the following letter

from the Coll. of Coimbatore.

Submits explanation

e to Govt. order of

1860, respecting a

occupied by Mr.

on the Koondahs.

(Here enter 5th Nov. 1860 No. 59)

Mr. Thomas is certainly

mistaken in supposing that

the land referred to in Mr.

Ouchterlony's letter is included

in the tract transferred to Coim-

batore. In order to make that

plain to him, a copy of the map

defining the space so transferred

will now be forwarded for

his information. He is mistaken

also

also in regarding that land as
a part of the Neilgherry Plateau.
It is on the western slope, and
no part of the Plateau.

2. Mr. Thomas's denial
of Mr. Chesterton's imputations
was unnecessary. Had the
Government considered a
reply to those charges to be
necessary, they would have
called his attention to them.

1 Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore with Govt. Circ. 28
12 " Board of Revenue &c

Regarding the Land occupied by Mr Ouchterlony on the Nilgiris

(11)

Revenue 1860 Sept.r
Pro: of Govt for Nov.r

No. 2247.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 27th Nov.r 60.

5-9-62
20-3-60
497-8
28-9-60
104-5"
31-3-60
34 6
24-6-59

No. 459 & 460.

Observing that Mr Thomas Coll.r of Coimbatore is mistaken in supposing that the land referred to in Mr Ouchterlony's letter is included in the tract transferred to Coimbatore—