

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	592	Press
		~~Mis.~~
	72-73	
Dated	69-4	1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
for the month of April 1860.*

No. 72. Read the following petition from VENKATARAMANIAH, Karnam of Valumputty, in Salem District, to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated 24th February 1860.

I beg respectfully that you will be pleased to forward to its destination the accompanying

* *In triplicate.* Memorial* to the address of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

No. 73. ORDER THEREON, 19th April 1860, No. 592.

Ordered that the Memorial submitted with the foregoing letter be forwarded to the Home Government and that intimation of its despatch be given to petitioner.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

justice the injustice I have suffered at the hands of the Collector of Salum.

The following statement is against his dismissal, and begs either to be restored to the Commission Office or to have his name appointed to that post.

The second office is that of Collector of Salum District, and that is a very important office, and one of the highest in the Province. It is a position of great responsibility, and one which requires a high degree of integrity and ability. I am sure that I am qualified for this office, and I am sure that I am qualified for the office of Collector of Salum District.

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From the endorsement of the Collector copied in the margin, His Lordship in Council will perceive that I was Commissioner of Alupatty in the Histingherry Taluk of the Salum District, and was deprived of my situation on two distinct charges of having been concerned in concealed cultivation and of having fraudulently obtained possession of certain land belonging to another party.

These charges I admit are very grave ones, and if founded on truth deserve to be punished very severely, but they are by no means true. They were fabricated by certain parties inimical to me, and there was insufficient evidence of this fact both circumstantial and documentary but, as the Collector cared little or nothing for an unfortunate individual in my humble circumstances, and took no pains to institute a searching enquiry, he was not duly informed of the truth, and led to order my dismissal unjustly. This assertion would appear to His Lordship in Council as one usually advanced by Petitioners from self partiality, imperception of their own guilt or ignorance of the means employed by the investigating authority to convince himself of its correctness. I humbly beg to state that none of these faults affect my declaration. The charges brought against me and the

assertion made in the Collector's endorsement that they were strictly required into and proved to be true, cannot stand strict examination. I say this on the following grounds, and trust that His Lordship in Council will consider them to be good and just.

Adverting to the 1st charge alleged against me of concealing cultivation, I beg to state that long before any such complaint was preferred I presented to the Tahsildar of the taluk the difficulty of detecting concealed cultivation, owing to the want of information as to the actual extent of cultivation and waste, and that officer promised to write to the Collector and obtain orders for a temporary survey. While waiting for this an instance of fraud of the above nature was brought to the notice of the Collector, and though I was as ignorant of its existence as he himself he punished me with a fine. The discovery of this fraud led me to suspect more and I succeeded in bringing a few cases to light. I at the same time urged again the necessity of a Survey. Displeased with this proceeding which subjected certain Ryots to increased assessment they charged me with connivance at previous frauds, and their malicious complaint was readily taken up and without due consideration I was thought guilty and dismissed from my situation. If all the papers including my first report to the Tahsildar and his reports to the Collector previous to first complaint against me were sent for and looked into by the Government it will be quite evident to them that no good grounds existed for punishing me as has been done. With regard to the 2^d charge I need not say much to prove its falsehood. The land of which I was accused to have obtained fraudulent possession, formed the subject of frequent complaint, it was repeatedly required into by the Collector and pronounced to be fraudulent.

from there. The land which I was accused to have
obtained fraudulent possession of ~~was~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~ ~~owner~~
~~of the land~~ ~~which~~ ~~was~~ ~~transferred~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~ ~~owner~~
~~of the land~~ ~~which~~ ~~was~~ ~~transferred~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~ ~~owner~~
had been
transferred to my name, and enjoyed by me four years before
the first complaint of fraudulent possession was preferred.
If the owner of the land had not consented of his own
free will to transfer the land to me and if I had obtained
it by means of a fraudulent Rajamaniam, why was
there no complaint for long period of four years he had
been dispossessed of the land, and why was I not prosecuted
for such fraud? I beg to enclose the several endorsements
passed on this subject by the Collector after enquiry, and
humbly entreat that the Right Honorable the Governor
in Council will be graciously pleased to call for a
special report on my complaint to be submitted
with all the original papers on the subject, and
pass a decision accordingly.

His Lordship in Council will not fail to see
the change and inconsistency of order of the Collector
directing the transfer of the land from my possession
to that of the party illegally claiming it, after it was
duly proved that the Rajamaniam he presented was his
own and that he never disputed it for four years sub-
sequent to such presentation. It must also be re-
membered that the Collector had no power to dispossess
any party of his property, on the claim of land from it by
another, and that such unauthorized proceedings take place
only when an uncommon interest is felt in the opposite party,
such deviation from the usual course will convince His
Lordship in Council of the little attention paid by the
District authorities to justice. It is not unusual for
the Ryots to prefer false charges against a public servant
when they dislike him. In my case they had that
feeling and accused me falsely. In defending myself
against it I gave clear proofs of my innocence.

represented the circumstances which rendered it
difficult for me to detect concealed cultivation. Some
time after this a case of this nature having been brought
to notice, I was supposed to be privy to the fraud
and on this suspicion I was most severely punished
and to justify such punishment reasons were sought
and furnished, founded on incorrect statements for
while I was the first to suspect and beggled me and to
represent the same to the Tahsildar, and to request the
adoption of necessary measures with a view to guard
against such frauds, it is stated in the endorsement
that I did not make an application to this effect until
several complaints had been preferred against me, &
I was actually punished on a particular charge. This
is misrepresenting facts. If the date of my original
address to the Tahsildar and the date of my punish-
ment just alluded to were compared, it will at
once be found that I was the first of all to represent
the matter to my superiors. Under this explanation
I most respectfully beseech that His Lordship in
Council will be pleased to call for all the original papers
connected with the two charges brought against me,
especially my first letter to the Tahsildar, his reports
to the Collector the Rajamaniam presented by the party
complaining against me for fraudulent possession of
his land, and the several endorsement passed by the
Collector respecting the claim of that complaint, and that
He will be further pleased to take into consideration
the contradictions and inconsistency which are apparent
in these papers and do me the justice of passing an order
for restoring me to the Office of Curium of which I
was unjustly deprived, for which act of justice I
shall as my duty bound be ever grateful.

Petition dated 26th March 1858.

Honorable Sir.

With reference to my address to you
of

of the 18th Instant. I beg to enclose the endorsement of
the Board of Revenue therein referred to which by
an oversight have not been submitted with that
address. Your honor will perceive from the endorsement
of the 14th April 1856 that the Board had not the
least desire to do me justice, and declined to interfere
in my behalf, in the absence of all good grounds, on
the plea that I did not appeal in due time. On re-
monstrating against this injustice, they forwarded
my case to the Collector for disposal and for endorse-
ment on the 2nd March 1857. In complying with
the requisition, the Collector represented that my
disposal had been ordered on charges of concealing
cultivation and of obtaining certain land by frau-
-dulent means. Satisfied with this bare state-
-ment, which is not at all correct, the Board of
Revenue have again refused under date the 9th June
1857 to interfere in my behalf. Hopeless of obtaining
redress from the Collector and the Board of Revenue,
who will not themselves look into the case and examine
the evidence for or against it I now submit my most
respectful appeal to Government and humbly re-
-quest for the sake of justice that they will call for
for a fresh report from the present Collector with all
the original papers connected with my case and
give a decision according to evidence.

In reply to the above Petitions your Lordship's
Petitioners was informed by Government that the deci-
-sion of the Board of Revenue which approved of the Collector's
was final and that they will not interfere. Your Lordship
is now entreated to consider and say whether this is in
accordance with justice. For which act of justice I
shall as my duty bound be ever grateful.

Madras
24th February
1860

James Smith

* in triplicate

Honorable Sir,
I beg to inform you
You will be pleased to forward the
petition to the address of the Right Honorable
the Secretary of State for India.

I beg to remain
Madras
24th February 1860
Honorable Sirs
Your most Obedient Servant
James Smith

Received
24th Feb 1860
Secretary of State
for India
London

Received 1860
Pro of 2000 2000 2000

1328-2-60

From Ven. Father and
Catholicity in
Eastern District

Notes 24 February 1860
P. 210 March 1860

Admitted in 1860
a memorial to the House
of Representatives against
the use of force the
all the way from 1860
to 1860.

1860-19: 1860
with a note

1860-19
Received not the memorial

submitted with the foregoing letter
be forwarded to the House of Representatives
and that information of
its receipt be given to the
House of Representatives

1860-19
1860-19