M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1077 Press ~~Mis.~~

294. 295

Dated 15 - 5 - 1862

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*15th May* 1862.

No. 294. Read the following letter from SHREE VURDARAUZE BUNGE, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 4th April 1862:—

HONORED SIR,

I herewith beg to enclose triplicate copies of my Memorial to the Right Honorable Secretary of State for India, together with a copy of the Report on Gumsoor published by authority, triplicate copies of my petition to the Local Government regarding the celebration of my marriage and copies of other documents; and in so doing I respectfully beg your Honor after the perusal of the same will be pleased to submit the whole, with your kind and favorable recommendation, to the Secretary of State and procure me a speedy and favorable answer, and for which kindnes I shall ever pray.

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No. 295. ORDER THEREON, 15th May 1862, No. 1,077.

Ordered that the Memorial received with this letter be forwarded to its address and that intimation of its despatch be given to the Memorialist.

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

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE
IN COUNCIL FOR INDIA.

*The Humble Petition of* SHREE VURDA-
RAUZE BUNGE.

SHEWETH,

1. That your Petitioner is the legitimate Son and Heir of the late Zemindar of Gumsoor, Danungiah Bunge, and as such the legal and rightful Zemindar of the said Estate of Gumsoor.

2. That after the death of his said Father Danungiah Bunge on the 31st December 1835, your Petitioner, (although an infant and minor at the time), threw himself upon the protection and benevolence of the late East India Company's Government and surrendered himself in February 1836 to the Special Commissioner, the Hon'ble Mr. Russell.

3. That at the time of his so unconditionally placing himself in the hands and care of the said Special Commissioner, your Petitioner was assured and given to understand that he would be duly cared for, protected and kindly treated; but to his great chagrin and sorrow he was looked upon and held as a Prisoner of State and sent up to Vellore where he was immured in the Fort, and treated as a State Prisoner under strong guards and supervision—denying him his freedom—until in June 1859; when, under the benign Government of Sir Charles Trevelyan, he was set at liberty, after an incarceration of a period of more than 23 years; and all for no fault of his whatever, during all the tumults and turmoils that occurred in the years 1832, 33, 34, 35 and 36, in the Districts of Purla Kimedy, Vizagapatam and Gumsoor.

4. That for and in consequence of the cause stated in the foregoing para. your Petitioner found it impossible for him earlier to submit his hard case to either the late Court of Directors or to your Excellency in Council.

5. That as the circumstances attending the resumption of your Petitioner's ancestral Property or Zemindary, are now almost forgotten or lost sight of from the lapse of almost a quarter of a century, he most respectfully begs briefly to relate such points connected with them, (taken from the printed Selections of the Records published by Authority), as would elucidate all facts and lead your Excellency in Council to admit and conclude that your Petitioner's ancestral Estate has been declared forfeited without any apparent cause or in consequence of any actual delinquency or misconduct on the part of his late Father Danungiah Bunge. A copy of the Book is herewith humbly submitted.

6. That passing over the preceding paras. of the Special Commissioner's elaborate first Report as inapplicable to your Petitioner's present Memorial, he begs most humbly and respectfully to crave your Excellency in Council's kind consideration to the 26th para. of it, page 10—wherein it will be evident that your Petitioner's Grandfather, either from old age or other infirmity, was incapable of managing his Estate, and that in consequence and under orders from
1831-32. Government, he retired quietly to Juggurnaut on a pension of Rupees 8,000 per annum, payable from the Public Treasury. This, your Petitioner humbly submits, is an earnest of how submissively and peaceably his Grandfather and the people about him, were disposed towards Government; and how loyally they obeyed Government Orders, without giving any occasion for any hostility on the part of Government and that too in compelling the Head of the Dynasty—the Zemindar to abdicate; than which nothing could have been more galling, bitter or humiliating to his feelings.

7. That by the 27th para. immediately following the above, your Excellency in Council will perceive that consequent upon such retirement of his Grandfather, your Petitioner's Father
1832-33. the late Zemindar of Gumsoor, Danungiah Bunge, was installed as Zemindar of the said Estate, which was restored to him on the same terms as it had been held by his

Father, so far as related to the future annual tribute, &c. of the Zemindary of Gumsoor; but subject to the further condition of his discharging the balance due for former years, "*and that in the event of his failing to pay regularly the Assessment fixed thereon, the lands comprising it should be resumed and transferred from him for ever.*"

8. That your Petitioner submits that according to the said para. your Petitioner's Father, Danungiah Bunge, during the two years that he was allowed to be in the undisturbed possession and management of the Zemindary, fully discharged the Assessment for Fuslies 1242 and 1243—the failure of which *alone* was to have entailed upon him the forfeiture of his Estate as shown in the preceding para. of the Petition, and that in July 1834, "*close of the Fusly*," he, your Petitioner's Father, for the first time, (as far as can be gathered from these Records), entered into arrangement or agreed to discharge the arrears of his Father's mismanagement by an annual instalment of Rs. 10,767. Hence your Excellency in Council will perceive that even so late as July 1834, your Petitioner's Father was not only loyal and submissive, but according to the Report itself was "*anxious to fulfil his engagement.*" As regards the "*wilful manner in which he at last rushed upon his own ruin*," your Petitioner will presume to submit some remarks. 1833-34.

9. That the report lays great stress upon the circumstance of the Ameen deputed by the Collector *not having been allowed to proceed beyond the frontier village of Gongoo.* Without attempting in the least to gainsay this statement in the Special Commissioner's Report, your Petitioner humbly submits that it is founded upon the bare assertion of the said Ameen. The Ameen, a Native and a servant of the Cutcherry, like all others of his class, was a man disposed to arrogate unto himself greater power and authority than he was actually invested with, and taking advantage of the impaired state of your Petitioner's Father's intellect, spoken of in this very para. 27th, he, the Ameen entered the Estate with such arrogance and presumption, seeking to lord it over the people, and that in defiance of all power prerogative and authority of the Zemindar, that he found very soon that he had made to himself a false position; and impelled more by fear than by threat from the inhabitants of Gongoo, he fell back of himself, and then, as a plausible reason for not proceeding upon his errand, he coined the version that now stands as a charge in the said Report against your Petitioner's Father. That such has been the fact your Petitioner humbly submits that the circumstances related in para. 32 of the said Report inferentially fully substantiate.

10. That your Petitioner humbly submits that at this time, that is, the end of Fusly 1244, notwithstanding the fearful famine that prevailed in these years and which quite devastated the country, (whereby many if not all the Zemindars in those parts fell into arrears and which were in subsequent years remitted to them and written off,) the Collector recommended to Government to deal with your Petitioner's Father's Zemindary in the same manner as is usually done with the other defaulting Zemindars—that is, to sell it "*in common with other lands then in arrears*"—and the Government of Fort St. George by a Minute of Consultation, dated 24th July 1835, instructed the Collector if he was fully prepared to undertake the management "*to warn the Zemindar, that if the arrears were not discharged within one month from the date the announcement was made to him, the Zemindary would be resumed agreeably to the terms of his Sunnud; and in the event of failure to proceed at once to take possession.*" 1834-35.

11. That your Petitioner begs humbly to submit that up to this point the position between Government and your Petitioner's Father was that of Landlord and Tenant. By the Order conveyed in the Minute of Consultation of 24th July 1835 above referred to, your Petitioner's Father was allowed one month to liquidate it *from* the *date* of the announcement being made to him. This announcement was not made to your Petitioner's Father till the 7th of August, from which time he had time to the 7th of September to meet the demand. As the joint arrears of the current demand, and of the old arrears amounted together to about Rupees 51,000, your Petitioner humbly submits that his Father had *actually despatched Rs.* 35,000 *to the Berhampore Treasury* before the 22nd September, as will be seen by para. 30 of the Report, thus leaving a balance of only Rupees 16,000 to be made good.



12. That your Petitioner most humbly begs to solicit your Excellency's kind attention to the concluding portion of para. 27 of the Report, page 11. Notwithstanding that according to the announcement made to his Father on the 7th August, he had time to the 7th September to discharge the arrears claimed; and consequently on the 20th August the Government or the Collector could not lay to his charge either the crime of contempt or default, *on that day, 20th August* 1835, *before even a month was out from the original date of the Order of Government,* i. e., *24th July* 1835, actually "*a warrant was transmitted to be used if necessary providing "for his your Petitioner's Father's arrest as a State prisoner,*" although "*he had not yet committed any act of rebellion.*" This your Petitioner most humbly submits was a measure on the part of Government for which there was no occasion, particularly when it is seen that on the 14th of August—only 7 days after the announcement above mentioned—he met the Collector at Askah; and, notwithstanding that he had 3 weeks time yet to discharge his arrears, "*he promised to pay all his arrears within 12 days and requested in the mean time that the Ameen might be withdrawn.*" Hence your Excellency will perceive that he was docile and most willing to meet the Government dues, and even prayed and proposed a shorter period for liquidation of the arrears which promise unfortunately he was unable to fulfil. And your Petitioner humbly submits also, that by this quotation of the Report it is evident that an Ameen was actually placed in charge of the Zemindary unmolested, and who your Petitioner's Father prayed "might be withdrawn," which goes to prove the falsity of the Report made by the Ameen that proceeded as far as Gongoo and thence fell back for some cause or other only known to him.

13. That your Petitioner humbly submits, that with reference to para. 31, page 12 of the Report, although his Father failed to remit the amount of the arrears within the 7th September, he had by no means committed any act which could be construed into an act of rebellion or mutiny—in fact, he was free of all criminality. Yet barely upon a supposition of the Collector that your Petitioner's Father "*would so use his influence as effectually to prevent its actual and "virtual resumption by any establishment he could send, and that he would not surrender himself "so long as he could in any degree, maintain his authority in the District,*" and that "*with a "view to guard against such a 'purely imaginary' result and to induce the Zemindar at once "to surrender himself, he considered it expedient to advance a body of troops into the country, "at the same time that the proclamation was issued and the Civil Establishment assumed its "duties,*"—the Officer Commanding Berhampore was actually applied to at once for a Military force to support the Collector's establishment, in the meantime that the Government Order was received by the Collector "*to offer a pardon for past offences to any person whose services he "might consider to be essential to the success of his endeavours to procure the surrender of*" your Petitioner's Father, as will be evident to your Excellency by para. 30, page 12 of the said Report.

14. That your Petitioner humbly submits that from the above para. 30, your Excellency will perceive that hostilities were commenced against his Father without any just cause or pretence—and by para. 31 it will further be seen that a Detachment had absolutely reached Askah on the 22nd September—earlier than the Collector in the District could himself get over to it which (the Collector's arrival) did not take place till the 25th of the same month. But what your humble Petitioner would mostly solicit your Excellency's kindest attention and consideration is the fact avowed in it, that "*On his* (Collector's) *road he met a party of the "Zemindar's people conveying as they said* 30,000 *Rupees to Berhampore Treasury: by another "road to Chitterpore, a second party had gone carrying 4 or* 5,000 *Rs. and Lutchmon Mahurtah "as a prisoner. He also received a letter from the Rajah saying that he had done all he had "required of him having seized Lutchmon Bissoy, a proclaimed rebel, who had found an asylum "in his country, and whom the Collector had called upon to deliver up, and sent all his current "balance except the Interest which he wished to be remitted and a further term given for the "old balance.*" This your Petitioner humbly submits is far from being the act of a rebellious or mutinous individual. Not only did he transmit all his current arrears and prayed for remission of Interest and time for the payment of his Father's arrears; but had actually done the State good service by apprehending and handing over a proclaimed rebel who, but for your

Petitioner's Father's loyalty might have eluded successfully the vigilance and search of the Collector's people. The reply that your Petitioner's Father obtained to this letter was perfectly damping to his spirits and by no means such as he had expected—and your Petitioner humbly leaves it to your Excellency to determine whether your Petitioner's Father deserved such harsh treatment from Government.

15. That your Petitioner humbly submits that his Father finding by this communication of the Collector that Government was not friendly disposed towards him, and that a Detachment of troops was at the time in his neighbourhood, he withdrew to Coladah—a remote part of the Zemindary, which in the Report is designated as "stronghold," but which by para. 33 of the Report, page 14, it will be seen, was occupied by the forces on the 9th November, without any effort or force whatever. Hence your Petitioner humbly submits that the object of his Father's retirement to Coladah was not for the object of taking or adopting any offensive or defensive measures—but it was simply an act of dismay and great confusion, (not being very strong in intellect)—not wishing any longer to remain in the Palace that his Forefathers had inhabited before him and where he had himself spent his happier days—most natural course and a practice by no means uncommon among the Native Chiefs and Zemindars on their being deposed and wh are about to be chased out of their possessions.

16. That your Petitioner further humbly submits that according to the concluding portion of para. 31 and also para. 32 of the Report, page 13, two messengers were sent at first to speak to your Petitioner's Father and then the Head Seristidar—all of whom found an easy access to him and had no obstacles thrown in their way and were not stopped on the frontier as reported by the Ameen, as stated in para. 27 of the Report. That, even at this stage as evident in the Report "*he professed anxiety to submit and actually accompanied the Seristidar "from Coladah to Nuttungee.*" Here your Petitioner begs to submit that his act of "*having suddenly jumped upon a horse and galloped back,*" is not susceptible of the construction put thereon. The very fact of a Military force having arrived against him, had filled his heart with dismay—and on his arrival at Nuttungee he heard that a warrant of arrest as a State Prisoner had already been received from Government. Impelled by the impulse of the moment to preserve his liberty at all hazards, he sought to escape the doom that he clearly saw was impending upon him, unmindful of its consequences and which doom was so severely visited upon his unoffending Son, your Petitioner, as set forth in the fore part of this Petition. Your Petitioner's Father having thus got off, retired with his Family to Woodiagherry Jungles, where within two months in sorrow and great distress he closed his mortal career on the 31st December 1835—*without having fired or having ordered to fire one single shot against the Military or Civil Authorities whatever.* That your Petitioner's Father's withdrawal and retirement left his country in a state of perfect anarchy and confusion—and whatever the people *in self-defence or under instigation of the adjoining Hill Chiefs and Tribes* had done, your Petitioner's Father could not have been made responsible for. And indeed, your Petitioner humbly submits that the Collector seemed to have been so fully impressed and convinced of this fact, (that your Petitioner's Father had done nothing to merit the forfeiture of the Zemindary), that he twice addressed the Government about your Petitioner being declared Heir to his Father and the Zemindar of Gumsoor, paras. 37 and 39 of the Report; but the Government took a different view of the matter, and hence the Estate was declared a permanent forfeit.

17. That your Petitioner will not any further presume to follow the Report in all its various modulations and conclusions. There cannot be a doubt that your Petitioner's Father was by no means hostilely disposed or inclined towards Government—that he had done his best at the time (August and September—the two most unfavorable months for making collections in the Revenue Districts) to meet the Government demand—*the default in the payment of which constituted his only delinquency*—that he had arrested and sent over a rebel Chief that was sought after in vain by the Authorities and that even to the last he was anxious to act submissively—and what is far above all, throughout the Military operations, *they failed to discover a single spot where your Petitioner's Father had concentrated his forces—or that he had any thing like an Army—or that he had at all put himself in a position to make a defence.* Hence your



Petitioner humbly submits that his Father's memory cannot be in any way taxed with either rebellion or mutiny—nor even of disloyalty. The loss of liberty and its bitterness were duly estimated by him and which has been but too keenly experienced by his Son, your Petitioner, from his boyish days, as set forth above.

18. That your Petitioner submits, under all the foregoing circumstances, his Father's Zemindary having been undeservedly declared forfeited, his own particular case deserves your Excellency's best and commisserate consideration.

19. That your Petitioner submits, that immediately after he had performed all the funeral obsequies and ceremonies upon his parents, according to Hindoo custom, and conscious that no acts of delinquency were done by either his Father or himself to apprehend, he came voluntarily and of his own free will and accord and relying chiefly upon the "*assurances of kind treatment "if he should come in*" and "*not to follow the advice of those whose evil counsel had brought "ruin upon his Father,*" (although ignorant of any such act that his Father had perpetrated), your Petitioner threw himself upon the protection of Government and surrendered himself to the Commissioner—not doubting in the least that he would have been recognized and admitted as the rightful heir and successor to his Father, whose fears and apprehensions had driven him to the Jungles and where he miserably ended his existence, although perfectly conscious of his own innocence and quite easy in his conscience on the point. Your Petitioner fully expected that when the then existing tumult and confusion were over, and an impartial enquiry and investigation were made that his Father's guiltlessness would have been perceived and that he, your Petitioner, would have been restored to his Patrimony—the Zemindary of Gumsoor, and also of Sorada which Estate was purchased by his predecessors for valuable consideration from Government. But to your Petitioner's great sorrow and regret he found that the moment he delivered himself up—young as he was at the time and incapable of committing any act of depredation, being only 13 years old—he was held as a *State prisoner* and duly consigned to perpetual incarceration and close confinement in the Fort of Vellore, whence he was emancipated by the benevolence of Sir Charles Trevelyan.

20. That your Petitioner begs humbly to submit that the matter of his illegitimacy is altogether untrue—the Authorities at the time had many plotting and intriguing informants (unconscious of their being such characters) whose aim and object were to increase the difficulties then existing rather than to convey faithful tidings that would lead to a settlement—the latter not being conducive to their own private interests. This point, your Petitioner humbly submits, will be at once set at rest when your Excellency finds that his own Mother was one of the four wives that committed Suttee on the funeral piles of his Father—a sacred rite that no kept woman would ever be permitted to perform or profane.

21. That great stress has been laid upon the fact of some money having been found in the parts were your Petitioner's Father and Family had concealed themselves and to infer from thence that his Father *had* the money and would *not* pay; and therefore he was rebellious and defiant. Your Petitioner most humbly begs to submit that no charge of the kind can ever be adduced against his Father. Any one acquainted with the habits and practices of Hindoo Families, and particularly of those of the class to which your Petitioner belongs will bear evidence that the Ladies are entitled to certain valuable and even pecuniary perquisites which they are at full liberty to dispose of as it would seem meet unto them. This their receipts they not unusually accumulate not having any occasion to expend them, as all their wants are supplied by their Husbands. Such their savings are looked upon and regarded as sacred and on no account whatever, even at the brink of ruin, will their Husbands enquire about or indent upon any such funds as may be found in the Zenana. Instances have occurred in which the Ladies themselves have come forward to save their Lords from some impending calamity. But your Petitioner most humbly submits that the state of affairs at the time hardly allowed the Ladies in his Father's Zenana to practice any such magnanimity—what with the known fact of the warrant of arrest being issued and of the proclamation announced far and wide of the Zemindary of Gumsoor and the Estate of Sorada being forfeited to Government, and, not the least, of an armed force

being in the country itself, subjugating the inhabitants and carrying fire and devastation into the very houses and huts of the people—they, the Ladies, not unnaturally concluded that every Rupee they then possessed was worth its weight in gold at such a crisis, and with a laudable wish of protecting them, they carried about the money with them throughout their fugitive ramble, until they found it cumbersome and that they were no longer able to do so,—when they abandoned the Treasure and followed their Husband to the Jungles where they immolated themselves as stated above.

22. That your Petitioner begs further humbly to submit to your Excellency, that although under the benevolent orders of Sir Charles Trevelyan, he has been let out of his prison in the Fort at Vellore; yet his freedom is by no means such as an unoffending and innocent subject of Her Majesty ought to enjoy. From the Petition submitted to the local Government, copy of which is humbly annexed for your Excellency's perusal and information, it will be seen that your Petitioner is strictly prohibited from proceeding to his country, to celebrate the most essential of all rites among Hindoos—that of Matrimony—a rité which is imperative upon them and the non-performance of which will, according to their Shastras, consign his Parents' and his own souls to poot—or eternal fire.

23. That your Petitioner humbly submits that at the time that Sir Charles Treveylan had resolved upon emancipating him from incarceration, your Petitioner has reason to believe that a reference was made to the then Collector of the Ganjam District with regard to the safety or otherwise of such a step—and that the Collector, although avowing that the Ryots of Gumsoor had taken no part in former disturbances, based his apprehension upon the conduct of a reprobate person called Chockra Bissoye—an enemy of your Petitioner's and his late Father—as also of the Hill tribes, with whom the Rajah of Gumsoor had no connection whatever and nothing in common between them. Your Petitioner begs most humbly to submit to your Excellency that if your Petitioner be restored to his Estate and possessions, it will be his first loyal duty to apprehend the said Chockra Bissoye and to hand him over to the Government to be dealt with according to his deserts—following in this matter the loyal footsteps and example of his late Father as stated above. The matter of the veneration entertained for the members of your Petitioner's Family, reduced and scattered about the country, can hardly be deemed a ground for fear or apprehension—it is not likely that the dispersed and vagrant members of a Family once so ancient, respectable and illustrious, should fail to awaken the sympathy of the people at large. And again your Petitioner humbly submits that with all the veneration so evinced, there is no trace whatever of any measures having been taken by them, *i. e.*, either the relations themselves or the people that show the veneration, to create a disturbance or resist the Orders of Government—a circumstance in itself a convincing and satisfactory proof (and perfectly consonant with the general tone and good behaviour of your Petitioner's late Father) that they are by no means turbulent or mischievous—and which is of still greater importance, by no means disloyal or enimically disposed towards Government.

24. For and under all the foregoing circumstances your Petitioner most humbly prays that your Excellency in Council will be graciously pleased to direct that your humble Petitioner be restored to his position as Zemindar of Gumsoor, and that Estate together with the one that was purchased by his Forefathers for a valuable consideration, Sorada—be given back to him for the following among other reasons, viz. :—

1st.—That according to the authentic Selections of the Reports no act of rebellion or mutiny has been perpetrated by your Petitioner's Father, the late Zemindar of Gumsoor.

2nd.—That all the charges laid against him are purely inferential and suppositious and founded upon surmises not susceptible of proof.

3rd.—That default in payment of kist should not entail such a fearful punishment as that visited upon your Petitioner's Father and himself, particularly as a large portion of it was paid in before hostilities commenced.



4th.—That your Petitioner's Father even to the very last day of his taking to flight to preserve his freedom acted faithfully and loyally in not only apprehending and delivering up Lutchmon Bissoy, the proclaimed Rebel, but also in submitting to the Orders of the Seristidar and of following him to Nuttungee to meet the Collector. As also in not having ever headed or led any men or armed force to resist the operations of Government.

5th.—That your Petitioner the rightful Heir to the Estates acted as loyally and submissively immediately after the death of his Father as the then circumstances and state of affairs permitted—and that your Petitioner having thrown himself upon the protection of Government, he was entitled to better treatment and consideration.

6th.—That, as no fault or criminalty can be traced or is traceable against either his late Father or himself, the forfeiture of the Zemindary of Gumsoor and Sorada should not be upheld.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound

WILL EVER PRAY.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR W. DENISON,
GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL OF FORT ST. GEORGE,
MADRAS.

*The humble Petition of SHREE VURDARAJ BUNGE, Rajah of Goomsur.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. That your Petitioner begs most respectfully and humbly to submit this his Petition to your Excellency, and to solicit your kind consideration to the circumstances herein contained.

2. That your Petitioner, adverting to the peremptory order of Government dated 4th November 1859 on his Petition, No. 1497, begs humbly to state that he, ever since sent his messengers to inform the Brother of the Bride, the Zemindar of Kimedy of the ruling of Government, to induce them to come over to Rajahmundry with the Bride to celebrate the contemplated marriage of your Petitioner with his Sister. But after two years of vain endeavours to accomplish it, he regrets to find that according to Hindoo Law and practices as they obtain among his caste, as well as to the usages as prevalent among them it is a matter of aversion and disgrace and of utter impossibility to send out the Bride to meet the Bridegroom in any other than her own Native place and residence. Under these circumstances the solemnization of the matrimony that ought to have taken place, and would have taken place years ago had not your Petitioner been held in exile, has not to this day been accomplished in consequence of his inability to go thither.

3. That, your Excellency is well aware that matrimony is held and is actually one of the most essential duties that the Hindoo Law most pressingly demands, and as such is compulsory upon every one to perform it; therefore, all that your Petitioner asks of Government is to give him an opportunity of fulfilling this his most indispensable and obligatory religious requirement, and to do thus he asks for leave to proceed to his former country for such time as may be necessary for its performance. Your Petitioner submits with deference that he sees no real or fundamental cause for this leave not being granted to him.

4. That, your Excellency will observe, on reference to the Records of Government and the Reports of the Honorable Mr. Russell, the Commissioner, that your Petitioner was not, even for a day, opposed to Government—nor yet was he the cause or incentive of any of the disturbances that unfortunately took place in those parts in 1832-36. On the contrary, the moment he found that the right of Zemindarship of Goomsoor devolved upon him consequent on the death of his father, he voluntarily and without any compulsion came forward and put himself under the protection of the said Commissioner; not without, however, first obtaining his (the Commissioner's) promise and assurance that no harm would be done to your Petitioner; that he would be well received and kindly treated. This fact is borne out by the Honorable Mr. Russell's Report of the 12th August 1836. This assurance although verbally communicated was deemed a sufficient pledge to your Petitioner of its being acted up to. But he has been held and treated ever since as a State Prisoner and kept in exile, and now that he seeks permission to go to Goomsoor and perform his marriage, a veto is put to it and that on bare suspicion by no means warranted by facts, as if the very act of his going of itself would embroil the country in fresh revolts and disturbances—although the records of all the commotions at that time tend to justify and exculpate even your Petitioner's father from the charge of having taken any active part in those atrocities, for he seems to have been actuated more by fear in all what he did at the time, and that the people about him were the actual depredators and not he.

5. That your Excellency will also perceive by the Commissioner's Report above alluded to that even at that time, your Petitioner had "no hold on the affections of the inhabitants who had all along manifested an utter indifference about him, seldom paying him even the compliment

of the customary salutation." This circumstance in itself (that he holds no sympathy in the affections of the people there and no kindly feelings obtain towards him) is quite sufficient to satisfy your Excellency in Council that no risk can possibly be incurred by Government in granting the leave sought. If at an age when your Petitioner was likely to have commanded public sympathy and commisseration, no kindly feelings was manifested towards him, and was treated with utter indifference and not even a salaam made to him, it is not likely that after the lapse of a quarter of a century, his presence there will kindle the revolutionary fire among the inhabitants—particularly that for the last 25 years they have fully enjoyed all the benefits and advantages that the benign rules of Government in territorial managements afford them.

6. That your Petitioner finally begs to submit to your Excellency that according to his religion and faith he will be subject to all the torments of Poot if he fail to perform this most essential and indispensable duty—and although he may be looked upon and held as a State Prisoner he is none the less a member of the same Family that for centuries held high and distinguished position and rank—and as such he cannot by any means form any matrimonial alliance with any other than the girl that by rights he ought to wed, and who is the Sister of the Zemindar of Kimedy. Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays that your Excellency will be pleased to take all the foregoing circumstances into consideration and accord him permission to go and perform his wedding, and thereby relieve him from the tortures of Poot or Hell fire.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound

WILL EVER PRAY.

MADRAS, 22*nd May* 1861.

*True Copy.*



To

T. PYCROFT, ESQ.,

*Chief Secretary to Government.*

*The humble Petition of STREE VURDARAJ BUNGE, Zemindar of Goomsur.*

HONORED SIR,

I most earnestly entreat your Honor to lay before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the enclosed Petition, and to represent to His Excellency my most lamentable case, and to plead on my behalf, by shewing to what a miserable condition I am brought to, and the great anguish of mind I am laboring under, in consequence of being prevented to celebrate that long contemplated marriage, on the accomplishment of which, depends my entire happiness in this world.

Most humbly therefore I beg your Honor to take my unfortunate case into kind consideration, and to use your Honor's influence and obtain for me from His Excellency the Governor in Council that great boon "*happiness,*" I am now praying for.

For which act of unbounded kindness I shall ever feel grateful, and as in duty bound pray to the Almighty for your Honor's long life and prosperity.

In this Petition Sri Virdaraz Bunje - who styles himself "ex-Rajah of Goomsoor" applies for the restoration of the mittah of Soorada for reasons given-

Petitioner is the son (some say illegitimate) of the last Rajah of Goomsoor, Dammijah Bunje who occurs prominently in the Reports by Mr Russell on the disturbances in that country, published among the selections from the Records of the Madras Govt.

Dammijah Bunje the last Zamindar of Goomsoor in the Ganjam District and who last formerly, been in the possession of the Zamindary, having been subdued for his father Sri Kara Bunje when the latter took up arms against the Govt in 1800-1801 was himself deposed for rebellion in 1815 and died as a prisoner at Chingleput a Province he was recalled in 1832 & took upon himself a second time the place of his father who had been restored in the interim but was again displaced for failing to perform the condition of his tenure-

~~Petitioner~~ Dammijah Bunje ~~or his father~~ it has been fully explained in the despatch from this Govt to the Secretary of State d/ 4 July 1850 - No 43- that the ordinary rules of succession could not apply to this Zamindary. Dammijah Bunje was appointed to the office in 1832 on the same terms and subject to which he held it & his father i.e. that the Zamindary should remain at his death and subject to the further condition

L. 7 2nd Sept

L. 27. 1st Sept

that he was to discharge the balance due for former years and that in the event of his failing to pay regularly the assessment fixed thereon the land comprising it should be resumed and transferred from him for ever.

When in consequence of the Zamindar having failed to act up to this engagement it became necessary to assume possession of the country, the Officers of Govt met with such resistance that no alternative was remained but to use force. The first blow was struck by the adherents of the Zamindar about the 9 November 1835 and on the 12th idem the Collector under instructions from Govt proclaimed martial law and the forfeiture of the Zamindari possessions "including Sooradah purchased by him in 1829".

J.-33. 1st Report.

What followed is matter of history. The Zamindar was not taken but did it was reported at the close of the year. The rebellion continued through portion of 1836 and 1837.

* this plea premature. D.N. was not convicted till 1837.

p.-42- 2d Report

Sooradah is situated south west of Goomsoor. Its history and the mode in which it became the property of the Goomsoor Zamindars are narrated at length in the Reports 1st 2d Reports

p.-8.

p.-44-45

The Zamindary of Soorada was for reasons then stated put up to sale for the recovery of arrears due upon it "in order that it might, "by that means, be transferred legally "to Dinnijaya Bauj who was supposed "to be the only person likely to manage it "with advantage." This appears to have taken place in 1833 — or thereabouts

13

Encl. 9 Sept. 1836- No. 1197. Page 63- 4th Reply

In their orders on this point (p.3) of Mr Russell's the Govt declared the forfeiture of the Goomsoor Zamindary to be absolute and unconditional- but of Soorada, which as already stated came into the Zamindars possession on entirely different grounds — they write as follows —

(Here enter p. 13 of the Encl.)

It is apparently from a doubt expressed in the foregoing extract that the present petitioner has been induced to bring forward his claim.

He commences by giving a brief account of the occurrences of this period which he calls the innocence of his father all acts of rebellion and traitor and that consequently the seizure of all his property, real and personal, and in particular that of Soorada is illegal & unjustifiable and contrary to the provisions of sect 3 Reg VII of 1808. i.e. that as his father was never taken in open rebellion against the Govt and convicted before a Court martial, &c.

Pd 1186/69

Recd on the Memorial of Shree Vinda-
-carje Bungeto the R.H. the Secy of
State for India, for the restoration
of the Zamindary of Goomsur and
Sooradah.

It will be seen from
the correspondence which
to R.H. the Secy of State for India lately passed with the
dated 4 July 1860 No 79. Home Govt in the Revenue
Recd do — 20 Sept. 5 " 65 Department on the Me-
morial of Kankiahan Bungo
that a nearly similar claim
to succeed to the estates
of the last Zamindar of Goom-
-sur was preferred by
another member of the same
family and disposed of
in that Department.
A succinct view of the
past history of the Goomsur
Zamindary is given in
the Revenue Secretary
to the Home Govt dated
4 July 1860 No 79. and I
think that the present
application of Shree Vin-
-daranje Bungo for the
restoration of the said
Estates should be dis-
-posed of in the same de-
-partment

Copy of a Letter to Govt
Pol. Dept. No 33 of 1862

Encloses Memorial from Shri Vindarunje Bungo
Dated 22nd May 1861

Endorsement on Letter
from Shri Vindarunje Bungo
Dated 22nd May 1861

Endorsement Dated 2nd June 1861 on Petition
to Govt from Shri Vindarunje Bungo Rayah of
Goomsur dated 22nd May 1861 — No 1570.

Govt in this order No 1409 Pol. dated 4th
November 1857 distinctly informed Vindarunje
Bungo that on the subsequent Vindarunje
Bungo's death the Govt would not recognize
the right of any adopted son to succeed
to his property, but would assume the management
of his estate on behalf of the Govt
as no grounds for the reconsideration of that
decision.

By order
(sd) W.S. Whitehill
Asst Secy to Govt

2nd June 1861

Department. There is a close connection between the two claims. Kankrikhan Bunga claimed the Estate as the cousin and adopted son of Raja Srikara Bunga said to be the last Zemindar of Goomsur and Shoo Vundalunga Bunga claims them as the legitimate son and heir of the late Zemindar Jenangeah Bunga.

2. In para 82 of his Report dated 12th August 1868 the Honble Sir Russell says, "Vundaranga Bunga the boy "whom Jenangeah Bunga "intended to be his successor "son, is not his eldest son "nor is he in fact of legitimate "birth, but having from "infancy been brought up "as the child of the Patta "Maha Devy, and his bro- "ther also being illegitimate, "he is generally considered "the heir." In the following para Sir Russell de-

-scribes

describes his character. I find from the original papers which were collected for the disposal of the Memorialists claim to the restoration of the Sooradah Estate, pre-ferred in the Revenue Dept. that all his Revs. Sellr's reports were con-sidered and Rds passed in that Department. The present application for the restoration of the Goomsur Zemindary and Sooradah could with propriety be disposed of in the Political Dept., but transferred to the Revenue, in which all the correspondence about the Re-sumption of the Zemin-dary took place. No papers were given to me till late on Thursday evening, and I could only glance to look into them.

As all principles proceedings in regard to the resumption of Goomsur Zemindary in favour of Vundaranga Bunga are mentioned in the Report and he will be fully questioned on it

H.M.S.
25/4/62.

forwarded
or in person
62.3.4

Memorandum on Shree Vira-saranga Bungee's Memorial.

I Mr Russells report of 12 August 1886 mentioned in EMC of 9 Sept 1886 para 3 & 4 [illegible] petition of the pontoon Jutka was 26 years ago declared by proclamation to be absolute & unconditional & compliance with the prayer of the present memorial is opposed on the ground that during the Govt. of Sir C Trevelyan V B was allowed to leave the Zillah of Salem, his permanent place of residence & was permitted to reside at Madras under the general surveillance of the Police - As he has enclosed a copy of his petition of May 1867 about his being prevented from going to Ganjam & to many it might be demanded that the first appeal was considered on its merits and as he considered that V B's appearance in Ganjam would be objectionable he was told that he could not proceed further with the Rajahmundry

25-4-62

Mr Sinclair

Tuda 18 July /57 — No 11 13
Polit. 27 April /59 — 42-89-94
" — 7 June /59 — " — 21-22
Tuda — 4 Novr /59 — 43-44
Endorsement on Petn
of 22 May /61 & 27 June 1861

Copy in a Letter to Govt
dated 4th May /62 No 33 of 1862

No 294 & 295

Revd.
Petn 1862 Depty
Pro. of Govt for May
No 1186.

From

Shree Vindarauze
Bonsle.

Rd 4th
Recd 4th April 1862.
Recd 25th

Memo in triplicate
one book & Copies
of Petn & Govt
& Return Wide
Circ 310/63

No 149

Enclosed for transmission
to the Secy of State memorial
praying that he be restored to
his position as Zemindar of Gum-
soor & that that Estate & Fort
& that of Sonada be given
back to him for reasons assign-
& omits a Copy of the Report on
Gumsoor published by authority

No 1945 15

Ordered that the
Memorial received with this
letter be forwarded to its
address and that intimation
of its despatch be given
to the Memorialist.

J. H. S.

Fort St. George
15th May 62.