M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-25

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1699	Press ~~Mis.~~
122-123	
Dated 9 - 8 -	1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 122. Read the following letter from Mrs. JESSY MORISON Madras, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Kilpauk, 2nd August 1862 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to beg you will be so good as to lay the following painful circumstances before His Excellency the Governor in Council, regarding the recent order of Government, authorizing the Magistrate of Cuddapah to prosecute my husband Mr. Roderick Morison, Assistant Conservator of Forests, under the Code of Criminal Procedure for certain irregularities in the Department.

2. In accordance with this order Mr. Morison was summoned by that Magistrate through Major Wilson to attend at Pootoor; but such has been his sad state of health as to entirely preclude the possibility of his doing so.

3. It is not in my province to enter into the entire question of the irregularities attributed to my unfortunate husband; nor to point out to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor in Council, how utterly impossible it would have been for a person in Mr. Morison's then state of health to have had even a knowledge of the malpractices of his subordinates, much more to have himself wilfully participated in any of them; but I would only crave the kind consideration of His Excellency in Council for Mr. Morison in his present helpless condition.

4. Weak, and bed-ridden for nearly twelve months; if subjected to the additional pain of a public trial, however incapable he may be of taking a part in it the result will certainly be to unsettle a mind already much shaken; Taking into consideration the disastrous effects which must inevitably result from such a course to Mr. Morison himself, and the ignominy and disgrace it would bring on his distressed family, I would earnestly beg His Excellency in Council's re-consideration of the Order relating to Mr. Morison's trial.

5. I have anxiously consulted some of the ablest Medical men in the Presidency, and they assure me that Mr. Morison is not only mentally incapable of giving any correct evidence but he is so physically debilitated that nothing but an immediate sea voyage will save his life.

6. I have the honor to enclose the following Certificates :—One marked (A) from Assistant Surgeon Chipperfield, showing the weak state of Mr. Morison's health so far back as November 1861 and the severity of the remittant fever which has since so tenaciously clung to him. (B) is a Certificate from Assistant Surgeon Shortt, M. D., corroborating the former statement from personal testimony.

7. On finding that Mr. Morison was in no way improving I deemed it necessary to consult Surgeon-Major Porteous, and I have now the honor to enclose a Certificate (*C*) given by that Medical Officer and Dr. Chipperfield, after a careful personal examination and review of Mr. Morison's case. I need not urge on the consideration of His Excellency in Council how painful has been the result of this last enquiry; nothing but a sea voyage, and that immediately, will save my husband's life. This alternative induces me to address you with the deepest anxiety, and should His Excellency in Council deem it necessary that prior to permitting Mr. Morison to proceed to sea, the deficiencies amounting I believe to about Rupees 2,000 be paid up, I will with the assistance of my friends engage to do this—if I can by this means save his life.

8. I need not further allude to the painful circumstances of the case nor mention for the information of His Excellency in Council that not only does Mr. Morison's life depend on their decision on this appeal, but the future prospects of a young family, and the honor of a family long known and respected in Madras, are involved in the result of this petition.

9. In conclusion I would earnestly beg that the matter may have the early consideration of His Excellency in Council, as every day is of vital importance, and begging your kind sympathies

A.

1. Mr. Roderick Morison came under my medical care in July 1861. He was then in an emaciated, debilitated condition, and walked with difficulty, partly on account of weakness and partly on account of a painful eruption on the feet and legs. He had previously suffered from fever, and in August he had a relapse of remittent fever of a very severe form. The paroxysms were marked by continued delirium, and in the intervals of fever (an hour or two every morning) his mind scarcely recovered its equilibrium. After several weeks, during which his life was in great jeopardy, he recovered from the fever; but the shock to his nervous system had been so great that his general mental condition was very unsatisfactory, and his memory especially was much affected.

2. He gradually improved in strength and began to walk about with assistance; and I recommended a change of air and was prepared to extend his sick leave for the purpose of his proceeding to Chingleput. I frequently mentioned that, under no circumstances, should he be permitted to return to his duty. I considered at this time, that he was neither bodily nor mentally in a condition to perform the duties of his appointment. But upon the 4th of November upon visiting the house where he was residing I found that he had that morning without my leave and against my wish, left for Pootoor.

3. He came under my care again on the 3rd of May, instant, and he was then and is now, unable to walk on account of contraction above the knee joints and soreness of the feet; and his mental condition, though improved since I saw him in November 1861, does not appear to me to be that of a perfectly healthy-minded man, nor of one competent to manage any intricate business matter.

MADRAS,
12th May 1862. (Signed) W. N. CHIPPERFIELD, Assistant Surgeon.

B.

1. I Certify that I saw Mr. Roderick Morison at the time alluded to in the statement of Mr. Chipperfield, when he was suffering from remittent fever, and I agree with him as to his mental condition at that time.

2. I saw him again this day and entirely concur with Mr. Chipperfield in the opinion he has expressed with reference to his state of health.

MADRAS,
12th May 1862. (Signed) JOHN SHORTT, M. D., Zillah Surgeon, Chingleput.

C.

1. We, Henry William Porteous, Surgeon-Major, Surgeon 4th District, and William N. Chipperfield, Assistant Surgeon, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, Medical College, do hereby Certify that Mr. Roderick Morison, Assistant Conservator of Forests, is in a bad state of health; and we solemnly and sincerely declare that, according to the best of our judgment, a change of air by means of a sea voyage is essentially necessary for him; and that the circumstances of his case are such as to render leave of absence for the period of six months, for the purpose of proceeding to the Mauritius, absolutely necessary.

2. We further Certify that Mr. Roderick Morison is totally unfit, both bodily and mentally, for the performance of any official duty; and that his state is such that he is unable to proceed to Pootoor or to undergo examination before a Magistrate touching the late defalcations in the Conservator of Forest's Department; and that his health is so shattered that there is great doubt of his ever again becoming fit for official employment.

3. We find that this state of health is the result of a very severe attack of remittent fever which he suffered in August and September 1861, whilst in a reduced condition from previous attacks of fever; and we consider that his disability has been aggravated and prolonged by his having returned to duty at a period before his recovery was pronounced.

MADRAS,
25th July 1862. (Signed) H. W. PORTEOUS, Surgeon-Major,
" W. N. CHIPPERFIELD, Assistant Surgeon.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th August 1862.

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, 9th August 1862, No. 1,699.

1. In paragraph 2 of the Government Order No. 1,105, dated 19th May last, the Governor in Council under Section 167 of Act XXV of 1861, sanctioned the prosecution of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mr. R. Morison, on a charge of embezzlement. Mr. Morison was also suspended until further orders.

2. The Magistrate of Cuddapah has for some time past endeavoured to procure through the Commissioner of Police at Madras, the attendance of Mr. Morison who has been held to bail; but Mr. Morison's health has been in so precarious a state, as certified by his medical attendant, as to render it impossible to have complied with the Magistrate's requisitions.

3. In the above letter Mrs. R. Morison on behalf of her husband, prays that the case of embezzlement, in which he is Defendant, now pending before the Magistrate of Cuddapah may be still further delayed as Mr. R. Morison is both mentally and physically incapacitated from proceeding to the Cuddapah District and answering the charges brought against him.

4. Mrs. Morison offers on behalf of her husband, to pay to the Government, the amount of defalcations, 2,000 Rupees, and prays that he may be allowed to proceed to sea as the only chance that remains of saving his life.

5. In support of this prayer Mrs. Morison submits Medical Certificates signed by Surgeon Major Porteous and Assistant Surgeons Chipperfield and Shortt.

Vide Certificates marked A. B. C

6. From these certificates it would appear that since July 1861, and probably for some time previous to that date, Mr. Morison was in a state of health, mental and physical, which should have prevented his continuance in the office of Assistant Conservator of Forests—the duties of which it was impossible he could discharge efficiently. The medical opinions contained in these certificates completely support that expressed by Mr. McQuhae, the Head Assistant Magistrate, "that Mr. Morison has been for some months in a state bordering upon insanity."

Paragraph 5, letter No. 11, dated 1st May 1862.

This condition would appear to have been produced partly by severe remittent fever, and partly by intemperance. It afforded every facility for malpractices on the part of Mr. Morison's subordinates, of which they largely availed themselves.

7. Almost immediately after the discovery of the irregularities which prevailed in Mr. Morison's Office, his writer Mr. James who was gravely implicated and who signed Mr. Morison's name, and during his illness transacted all business in Mr. Morison's name, committed suicide.

8. The irregularities and frauds would seem to have commenced from December 1861, some months after Assistant Surgeon Chipperfield considers Mr. Morison to have been neither mentally nor bodily in a condition to perform the duties of his appointment. With this further evidence before them, on the state of Mr. Morison's health at the time at which the frauds in the Cuddapah Forest Department took place, the Government do not think that the prosecution of Mr. Morison on a charge of embezzlement would lead to any advantageous result; and that it will be sufficient that he should be dismissed from the service of Government. His habits of confirmed intemperance, of which there is abundant evidence, disqualify him for any office of responsibility.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

...edings of the Madras Govt.

Under dates the 9th August/62

3

Brown.

I Lan only bun
ABC for curiosity
in this matter, but
from glancing on
the papers it seems
to me as to Mr Ellis,
that nothing would
be gained by going
on with the prosecution,
...nds took place. - This is

...ceedings of

...d 19th May

...n Mrs R.

...nd August 1862.

...Govt order

...May last

...67. part XXV of 1861

...uncil June -

...execution

Conservator

Munson,

on a charge of embezzlement.

Mr Munson was also suspended
until further orders. -

2. The Magistrate of Madras

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Under dates the 9th August/62

My dear Mr Lycett

On looking through ~~the Proceedings~~ relating to Mr R. Morrison's case, it seems to me almost certain that a charge of Embezzlement would break down, in consequence of the state of health in which Mr M was in, when the frauds took place. This is

proceedings of

d/19th May

Mr R.

August 1862.

Govt order

May last

67. Act XXV of 1861

annul Sane-

prosecution

Conservator

Morrison,

on a charge of embezzlement.

Mr Morrison was also suspended

until further orders.-

2. The Magistrate should state

clearly shown by the
opinions
~~Evidence~~ of the people in
Cuddapah
~~Kistna~~;
including the
Ho. Assistant and Sup
Mr Anticipates of
Chipperfield & Nelsons
both in by Mrs Monson.
Under these circumstances

No 1099

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Under date the 9th August 1862

...oceedings of

...d 19th May

...n Mrs R.

...th August 1862.

...Govt order

...May last

...167. Sect XXV of 1861

...Council, Sene-

...prosecution

...Conservator

...Monson,

...on a charge of embezzlement.

you may perhaps consider
it best simply to dismiss
Mr Monson from the
Service and I have
prepared a draft for
your approval accordingly

I send this now as it is
Monson is to be obtained

Mr. Monson was also suspended
until further orders.-

2. The Magistrate of Cuddapah

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Under dates the 9th August 62

Read again Proceedings of the Madras Govt d/ 19th May 1862. – No 1105

Read letter from Mr R. Morison d/ 2nd August 1862.

In para 2. of the Govt order No 1,105 d/ 19th May last under Act No 167. of Act XXV of 1861 the Governor in Council sanctioned the suspension of the applicant Conservator of Forests Mr R. Morison, on a charge of embezzlement.

Mr Morison was also suspended until further orders.–

2. The Magistrate of Madras apply

W M

Esq:– the Govt in the letter.

I quite agree with Collector – that Morison was a sick man – now

the first & three Months have been exhausted.

Mr Debat must be in a fault Date – to show cause why he should not be dismissed.

has for some time past endeavoured
to procure through the ad Comm
-issioner of Police at Madras,
the attendance of Mr. Morrison
who has been held to bail,
but Mr. Morrison's health
has been in so precarious
a state, as certified by
his medical attendant, as
to render it impossible
to have complied with the Magistrates
requisitions.

2. In the above letter Mrs
R. Morrison on behalf of
her husband, prays that the
case of Embezzlement, in
wh he is dependant, now
pending before the Magistrate
Cuddapah
may be still further delayed

both mentally & physically
incapacitated from proceeding
to the Cuddapah district and
answering the charges brought
against him.

4 Mrs Morrison appeals on behalf
of her husband, to pay into
the Govt. the amount of
defalcations, 2000 Rs., and
prays that he may be
allowed to proceed to sea
as the only chance that
remains of saving his
life.

5 In support of this prayer
Mrs Morrison submits medical
certificates signed by Surgeon
Major Porteous and Assistant
Surgeons Chipperfield &
Shortt.

6 From these certificates it

would appear that since July ~~August~~ 1861. and probably for some time previous to that date, Mr. Morison was in a state of health mental & physical which should have prevented his continuance in the office of Assistant Conservator of Forests, the duties of which it was impossible he could discharge efficiently.

The medical opinions contained in these certificates completely support that expressed ~~statement~~ made by Mr. McHale, the Head Assistant in which he says "that Mr. Morison has been for some months in a state bordering upon insanity." This condition would appear to have been produced partly by severe remittent fever, and partly by intemperance

. Vide Certificate marked A.

~~page~~ - para 5. Letter No 11. d 1st May 1862.

It ~~was decided~~ afforded every facility for malpractices on the part of Mr. Morisons ~~own~~ subordinates of which they largely availed themselves.

& almost immediately after the discovery of the irregularities which ~~were~~ prevailed in Mr. Morison's office, his writer Mr. James who was gravely implicated and who ~~from~~ signed Mr. Morison's name, and during his illness transacted all business in Mr. ~~memorandum~~ ~~exhibit~~ ~~executed~~ all documents Morison's name, committed suicide -

& The irregularities & frauds proved seem to have commenced from December 1861. some months after Asst Surgeon Chipchase considers Mr. Morison

14 Copies Letter Bo of Revd Dec'd to
4 — do — Conservg Forests
1 — do — Magistrate of Cudd
1 — do — Commissioner of Po
1 — do — Civil Pay master
1 — do — Mr R. Harrison

10

8

to have been
neither mentally nor bodily
in a condition to perform
the duties of his appointment
With this further evidence
before them, on the state
of Mr. Harrison's health at
the time of the transfer in
the Cuddapah Forest depart-
-ment took place, the
Govt do not think that
the prosecution of Mr. Harrison
on a charge of embezzlement
would lead to any ad-
-vantageous result; and
It is that it will be suf-
-ficient that he
shall be dismissed from
the service of Govt. His
habits of confirmed intemperance

Revenue 1862 Septr.
Pro: of Govt for August

№ 1699.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dt 9: Augt: 62.

Dismissing Mr R.
Morison, Assistant Conser:
vator of Cuddapah Forests,
from the Service of Govt.