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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 269 Press ~~Mis.~~

231. 282

Dated 12 — 1918 2

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 16th December 1862.

No. 231. Read the following letter from F. DAY, Esq., Civil Surgeon, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Cochin, 27th November 1862:—

SIR,

1. I wish, should I be able to obtain sufficient materials, to publish at some future date a "History of Malabar," similar in the historical portion to a "History of Cochin" now in the Press and of which I enclose a specimen of the proofs.

2. I should feel obliged were the Collector of Malabar, the Collector of Coimbatore and the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, instructed to allow me access to the Government records. And more especially if the Resident could procure me a "Kerula Ulpati" or Native account of Malabar now in the possession of the Rajah of Ambalapaty, which shall be rapidly copied and returned. And also that he will be so good as to request His Highness the Rajah of Cochin that he will kindly assist me in my undertaking.

3. Nothing shall be printed unless submitted to the Collector or the Home authorities and having received previous concurrence.

No. 232. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1862, No. 2,619.

The Governor in Council authorizes the Collectors of Malabar and Coimbatore to allow Mr. Day access to the Government records of those Collectorates. Orders will be passed in the Political Department on the other requests made by Mr. Day.

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

continued, until after the Nair riots, in 1809, when not being kept up, part of it was rented out.

The Rajah of Cochin, appears not to have been best pleased at the change of European Governors in Cochin, although the Dutch supremacy had become extremely irksome to him. It has already been stated, that obtaining evidence from the people of the state of Cochin in 1793, was almost an impossibility. Had the British shortly after the taking of the town, examined the records of the Dutch government, many of their decisions, respecting the claims of certain neighbouring States, to territory, could never have been given. In 1799, it was reported, that the father, and brother, of the vicar of the churches of Edapilly, and Earanakollata, had been confined in two separate tiger cages, at Trichoor, from October or November 1797, for one year and ten months, by order of the Cochin Rajah: that for the whole of that period, they were loaded with irons, and were not released from their dens, until the evening of August 15th, 1799, when on pretence of being required to proceed to Tripoonterah, they were released but immediately murdered, and buried. Two other brothers, had previously escaped, one to Trevandrum, and the other to Calicut. This was one of many acts apparently inflicted, on the supposition, that the parties, had given information to the British.

Government finding that the outbreaks, and disturbances, constantly arising in the Cochin State, and generally over Malabar, extended even into the Town of Cochin, re-imposed in that town and territory the regulation,of July 22nd, 1793, "that no guns, muskets, "matchlocks, or other firearms, tulwars, or swords of any descrip- "tion, nor any bows and arrows, shields, balls, powder, ammunition, "or anything coming under the head of warlike stores, (excepting "for the use of Government,) should be imported" into Cochin, or exported from it, on any account whatsoever. The secret memorandum stated that this was enacted, "in order gradually to discounte- "nance, and extinguish, the spirit of independence, and depredation, "so tenaciously cherished amongst the southern Moplahs, and "other similarly disposed persons, by depriving them of the means "of indulging in it." Saltpetre, and sulphur, were no longer allowed to be sold, excepting on a pass signed by the Magistrate, and no

more was permitted to be imported, unless disposed of to Government Officials.

In 1802, amicable relations between the English authorities, and the Rajah of Cochin, appear only to have existed outwardly, whilst the Dutch prisoners of war, took advantage of this unpleasant feeling, and presented Napoleon's portrait to the Rajah. It was never ascertained, whether any letter accompanied the gift: but the Rajah's people became very insolent, and even went so far, as to arrest British subjects within British limits: the garrison was consequently directed, to "strictly exclude all the servants "of the Cochin Rajah, from the British territory, lying around the "Town."

On October 6th, 1803, secret orders were sent to Cochin, to prepare for foreign invaders, (the French) and informing the garrison that immediately an enemy was perceived anchoring before the town, it must be evacuated as untenable: all the inhabitants were to be removed to the interior, should the boats of a hostile fleet approach the shore: whilst all country boats were to be removed, or destroyed: cattle driven away: and provisions rendered useless. As troops could not be spared, in sufficient numbers to garrison Cochin, and enable it to resist a European force, it was decided that the fort should be blown up: this was carried into effect and ere a month had elapsed this Fortress had ceased to exist. Many of the Government buildings, also shared the same fate: and thus Cochin, after having been an important Military strong-hold, for three centuries, dwindled into a mere mercantile port.

Disturbances in the Rajah's territory, rumours of rebellion, and the encroachment of the Dewan on the British power: gave the authorities, and troops, sufficient employment for some time. In 1808, the Travancore Dewan openly commenced war against the British, and the Paliat Achen, or Cochin Minister, favoured his views, and seconded them as far as he was able. Cochin then became the scene of an atrocious attempt to murder the British Resident, *Colonel Macaulay*, who had with him, a guard of only about 25 sepoys.

On December 29th, 1808, at half past 2 A. M., nearly six hundred armed sepoys, belonging to Travancore, arrived at the southern side of Cochin: and rushing to the Resident's house, then occupied by

Colonel Macaulay, at once obtained possession, and destroyed everything they could discover, including all the Public Records, both of the Magistracy, and Revenue. They searched every where for the Resident, but he was enabled to escape, with his escort of sepoys, and got on board a Pattimar. The jail was broken open, and the prisoners set loose: consternation, and fear, were so universal, that no resistance was at that time attempted, * But by the evening, many of the Travancoreans, had become perfectly intoxicated, and a body of one hundred sepoys, and police, were sent to arrest, as many as they could, but they made but few captures.

Troops were sent for from Quilon, and preparations made, to resist a second attack, which was anticipated. The officials of the Cochin Government, had on January 10th stopped all provisions from entering Cochin, and on the 12th, 2,000 armed men in the pay of the Rajah, were reported as collected a little to the north of the town on the margin of the backwater, with 5 guns, mounted on the banks: whilst about three Malabar miles to the south, 1,000 armed Travancoreans, were in readiness, to advance.

Col. Macaulay, feeling his insecurity at Cochin, embarked in the grab *Snow*, taking with him the treasure, and also the men, of H. M. 12th foot. He lay off Cochin, in hopes that should reinforcements arrive, he might be able to land the few men with him, who alone, were insufficient to defend the place, but might be serviceable, in conjunction with other troops. Many of the inhabitants, removed to Calicut. But on the following day, matters did not appear so serious, and accordingly, the resident and his escort re-landed.

About this time, twelve European soldiers, and thirty-three sepoys, were proceeding from Quilon to Cochin, and the sick wife of Colonel, C—— took advantage of the escort, and the presence of an Assistant Surgeon, to accompany them. When they had arrived half way, as far as Allepey, and had reached the narrow canal, the sepoys wished to land, and cook; the natives on the shore, who appeared friendly, enticing them to do so. No suspicions were entertained, the soldiers arms were lying unloaded in the bottom of the boats, and the rowers were all on shore: the sepoys then

* *Official Report to the Judge of Malabar.* Government records,. M S. S.

landed, but perceiving treachery, they called out, to warn the Europeans: but it was too late, a rush was made from the banks, and the whole party was overpowered. A horrible scene then ensued, the prisoners' hands were tied behind them, after which, they were most unmercifully beaten, then their eyes were destroyed, and they were finally put into sacks, and drowned in the canal. The only person spared, was the lady, as it is considered illegal, in this part of the country, to put a woman to death, under any circumstances, and thus one alone survived, to give an account of this horrible tragedy. On this spot, British justice executed the Dewan's brother, who appears to have assisted the murderers. But the Dewan himself escaped this fate by flying to an inland pagoda, where he died of his wounds.

On January 21st, 1809, the Nairs had advanced so close to Cochin, that they broke into the house of the late Dutch Governor, and plundered it, as well as destroyed his garden. On the 25th, the Travancoreans again attacked Cochin, but this time the troops were ready to receive them, and barricades had been thrown up across the principal streets. The enemy, however, advanced from the eastward, instead of from the south, as had been anticipated. In their course, they set fire to, and burnt the Custom's house at Muttencherry, and murdered several Christians. The Muttencherry bridge was broken down, but this was probably done by the troops, to check the enemy's advance. They came on with their guns adorned with crimson shoe flowers, *Hibiscus rosa sinensis*, sacred to Siva, and the gods of Blood. They did not, however, approach with any bravery, and were without much difficulty, forced to retreat, many being taken prisoners. It was deemed unadvisable, to call out the Dutch Militia.

The rioters continued hovering about Cochin, and on February 28th, again paid the late Dutch Governor's house, an unwelcome visit. The cruizer *Lively*, Lieutenant Gilmore, commanding, arrived from Bombay, to assist against the enemy, but grounding opposite the Muttencherry Palace, during some operations there, the officer commanding her, fearing she might fall into hostile hands, had her blown up.

It was now time, for the British power to put forth its strength,

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and rejecting further pacific measures, to pour troops into the country. In 1809, *secret* orders were received in Malabar, for forces to advance, open communication with the Quilon subsidiary brigade, and act in conjunction with it. But should they experience any resistance, they were directed to seize the Cochin State, and confiscate it to the British. A proclamation was then issued, offering friendship, or war; and the first, as previously detailed (page 57) was accepted. The Paliat Achen, became an exile, his family title of "hereditary Prime Minister to the Cochin Rajah" passed away, and another succeeded to his post; whilst efficient measures were organised, to prevent a repetition of such disturbances.

Near Cochin, in the Travancore district of Paroor, and in Ayroor and Chandroor, the Native Christians, in the month of March, created great disturbances, and British troops had to be quartered in those places, and it was also deemed necessary, to station two armed Pattimars at Cranganore. In April, the Native Christians in the Cochin State, sent in a petition, representing the ill-treatment to which they were subjected, by the Rajah's officials. It was now considered advisable by the Resident, to take forcible possession of the Palace at Muttencherry, which was effected by a party of sepoys, on April 11th, troops were kept constantly moving about the country, a Captain's guard was stationed at Tripoonterah, and a Lieutenant Colonel's at Allepey, matters soon began to quiet down, and by the middle of October, most of the outposts were withdrawn to Quilon and Cochin.

Military operations since this period, have not been necessary, the town of Cochin was, by the convention of 1814, ceded to the British: otherwise the peaceful times, which have succeeded to its former eventful transactions, afford but little historical matter to record. A small guard is kept over the Dewan's Cutcherry, at Ernaccollum, and another at Tripoonterah. In 1860, the last vestige of the military occupation of Cochin ceased, the few sepoys who up to this time had been stationed there, were withdrawn, their hospital turned into a police office, their barrack and magazine being handed over to the latter force, and their lines pulled down and destroyed. Now no troops are seen in Cochin excepting those passing through, or guards of honour, for the purpose of attending at Durbars, or for other professional purposes.

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The *institutions* of Cochin, have gradually changed, from their Dutch form, to that which exists in other portions of the British possessions: but it is strange, that some persons still fancy, that their houses and lands, are not amenable to taxation, because the terms of the Capitulation, state, (Article 4th) "all private property will be sacred," *forgetting that it also declares that the inhabitants will be amenable to British laws.*

In 1847, a permanent ryotwarry system was introduced by Mr. Conolly, and a quit-rent imposed. In many of the leases, no redemption clause exists: they are subject to a revision of rent, every twenty years. The amount of land, outside the fort, exceeds 13,000 acres.

The following* shows the *Collection* in rupees, during the last 5 years in Cochin: but it must be observed, that in 1861, the taxes to pay for the mutinies in Bengal, of 1857, were imposed.

	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.
Collections on landed property	19,122	18,145	17,902	17,073	16,324
„ „ Abkary farm	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150	6,150
„ „ Vypeen ferry	815	815	815	815	815
„ „ Sea Customs	59,177	62,823	51,327	47,879	93,327
„ „ Salt	1,468	1,925	978	602	479
„ „ Stamped paper	3,215	4,040	5,465	3,760	5,330
„ „ Postage stamps	3,500	3,858	4,412	5,315	6,213
„ „ Post office	2,642	3,686	2,427	1,771	1,599
„ „ Telegraph	„	„	4,480	6,234	7,903
„ „ Hoondis, receipt stamps and bills of lading				„	1,937
„ „ Sundries as income tax		„	„	„	49,380

The various items, speak for themselves, and it is only necessary to observe, that the population in 1861, consisted of 11,449 persons, the revenue receipts were upwards of 189,457 rupees: or a rough average, of 16 rupees, or £1 12s, a year, on each individual, of every sex and age.

Civil, and criminal justice, was at first administered, according to the Dutch laws: and even some of their officials, were retained unchanged. In the year 1812, insecurity of life and property, had

* Return furnished by *Mr. Green*, Revenue Sheristadar.

Emancipation of Slaves

become so great, that many respectable persons were obliged to leave their houses, and congregate within the town of Cochin, for without its limits, no woman or child was safe. A Zillah Court was established in 1812, and done away with in 1817, the records being sent to Calicut. In 1812, it was brought to the notice of Government, that children were being sold as slaves in Travancore, and this course was reprobated in the strongest terms, although it was not until 1854, that slavery was nominally abolished, in the Cochin and Travancore States, owing to the exertions of the British Resident, Lieutenant General Cullen,* who obtained the emancipation of 23,000 Government slaves, and an amelioration in the condition of those belonging to private owners.

* Whilst these pages were being printed, Lieutenant General Cullen, eminent as a scientific observer, and successful administrator, expired at Allepey, October 1st, 1862, regretted by all classes of the community. Rarely, if ever, has a European in Malabar been so beloved by natives; even after his resignation of the office of Resident his opinion was more regarded, and his favour more esteemed, than was that of his successor in the appointment. On his *retirement* all classes vied which should do him most honour, whilst the richer portions of the community strove to perpetuate his name. In Travancore, the natives presented him with an address and expressed their intention, "to "institute in manifestation of their gratitude and regard, one or two annual "prizes in his name to be open to subjects of Travancore only," and for this purpose they subscribed 2,500 rupees. In the Cochin State 6,000 rupees were raised to erect a Choultry at Vaylum Thavalum for the accommodation and refreshment of wearied travellers, which was to bear his honoured name.

The late Rajah of Travancore wrote him a most complimentary letter, from which the following extracts are taken. "Your name is associated in our "memory with many important and interesting events, the most conspicuous "of which, is the provision made through your powerful intercession, for the "continuation of the line of succession to the musnud of Travancore: an "event which nothing can erase from the memory of myself, family, and "the whole country, and for which we cannot adequately feel grateful.

"To preserve the memory of your name in our country, and as a token of "our esteem and regard towards you, we intend to establish a scholarship in "your name, in my free-school here, and for eventual admission into the "Presidency University, for the support of which, myself, and other members "of my family have individually contributed funds for its endowment."

The Rajah of Cranganore, the Syrian metropolitan, the chief of the Mahomedans, the Jewish Rabbi, each headed addresses of regard to the outgoing Resident. The Namboorie Brahmins, and the heads of the Thiroomalla Devasom shenay pagoda, likewise presented addresses to him on his retirement.

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From
W. Blair Esqr.
Chief Secretary to Govt.

Dated 27th. Decr.
Received 30th. Decr.
1862.

Reg.

Requesting that the Collectors of Malabar and Coimbatore and the Board of Revenue may be allowed free access to such records of Government as may be necessary to enable Mr. Day to prepare a "Report on the Land Revenue Settlement of Malabar" &c.

Read Proceedings of Govt. dated 16th. Dec. 1862 No. 2619 - to Mr. Day

W.H.A. Order

No 231 & 232.

Pol. - 269 - The Governor in Council authorizes the Collectors of Malabar and Coimbatore to allow Mr. Day access to the Government records of those Collectorates - Orders will be passed in the Political Department on the other requests made by Mr. Day. —

Jnst. 1st. January 1863

To
C. Boyd Esqr.
1 F. Day Esqr. Madras
1 Collector of Malabar
1 Collector of Coimbatore
1 Board of Revenue -
1 Political Department