M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2166 Press ~~Mis~~

5-6

Dated 1-12, ~~19~~1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st December 1863.

No: 5. Read the following Petition of the undersigned Natives residing in Madras, to His Excellency the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 23rd November 1863 :—

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

1. That having been informed that a Petition has been or is about to be presented to your Excellency in Council by the leaders of Tengalay sect residing at Madras, under pretence of its having emanated from the mass of the Hindu community, and suggesting certain measures towards the carrying out of the Act No. XX of 1863, your Petitioners humbly hasten to protest against the Petition and the suggestions therein contained, for the following among other reasons.

2. That before entering upon the discussion of the main question on hand, your Petitioners beg leave to premise that far from representing the sentiments and feelings of the Hindu community at large, the Petition aforesaid was got up by a few influential officials of the Tengalay faction, who anxious to exercise in one capacity their power and influence in another, have succeeded in gulling a handful of Tengalay people to sign such a Petition; that the said Petition speaks of the feelings of a very small portion of the community; that the arrangements therein suggested are as uncalled for and opposed to the letter and spirit of legislation, as they are calculated to produce infinite mischief both to the Religious Institutions and the people therein interested.

3. That as your Petitioners have not had the advantage of looking into the Petition aforesaid, they are not in a position to meet all the trivial positions, that may be set out therein. But believing as they do that the main scope of their Petition is either that there should be one single Committee for all the Districts of Madras, or that there should be a Central Committee at Madras over all the Divisional Committees in the Districts or for the District at least of Chingleput, and that therein the few Government officials should lord over the destinies of the Institutions and the community interested in them.

4. With regard to the first hypothesis, viz., the establishment of a single Committee for the whole District, your Petitioners submit that nothing can be more absurd than such a measure. The members of the Committee having other avocations of their own, cannot and will not attend to all the minute of the numerous Pagodas in the District, and the little that they do must inevitably be unsatisfactory. They are not likely to be conversant with the rights and liabilities of the people interested in the Pagodas, nor can they from the great distance judge of the details with the same interest and accuracy as those located near the Pagodas. The duty being an amateur one, they could not be expected to discharge it with that amount of satisfaction which the interest of the Institution calls for. Surely it cannot be the intent of the legislature to gratify the best of power aimed at by a few, at the expense of the interest of the community.

5. As regards the other hypothesis, your Petitioners humbly but earnestly submit that it is not in the power of your Excellency in Council to grant it. Section VII of the Act provides that "the local Government shall once for all appoint one or more Committees in every "Division or District, &c.," thereby expressly excluding the idea of an appellate Committee. The Act no where provides for two Committees for one and the same Institution; and this construction is further borne out by Sections XIV to XXI which provide for legal and constitutional remedies in Civil Courts, for any misconduct of the members of the local Committees. On the one hand your Excellency in Council cannot in the teeth of the express enactment grant such an unlawful request; on the other, the transgression can be of no earthly benefit, except it were to create an *imperio in imperium*, and thereby jeopardize the peace and interests of the Institutions.

6. That your Petitioners further beg to be furnished with a copy of the Petition aforesaid, in order that they may show in a clear point of view, the fallacies of other positions, if any advanced therein.

7. Your Petitioners regret that before concluding this Petition they feel compelled to beg the attention of your Excellency in Council to a very disagreeable observation expressed by some of the gentlemen during the Meeting. They assured the Meeting, and your Petitioners are unable to say whether they have gone the length of assuring also your Excellency in Council, that the gentries in the provinces are one and all disqualified on the score of want of education information and experience for sitting in the local Committee of management. Your Petitioners cannot but condemn the observation as unfounded. They must say that actuated by love of having the entire power centralized in themselves—these gentlemen have also chosen to set aside all feelings of decency and decorum.

8. Your Petitioners are informed that some of the gentlemen who brought about this Meeting are Government officials, and your Petitioners ask whether they can in conscience deny that if it was not for their official influence the Meeting would have gone on without opposition even from those who were present, though it must be admitted that a large majority of the Hindu community of Madras have purposely avoided the Meeting. Your Petitioners are also

informed that a few of the leaders of the Meeting are Trustees of Patchayapa's Charity. Would they say that that trust is conducted to the satisfaction of the Hindu community? But your Petitioners have the fact that some gentlemen who were once on the Committee have since retired from it with no other object than to avoid being said that they were parties to some of the proceedings of the Trustees of the day.

9. That in conclusion your Petitioners pray that your Excellency in Council will on consideration of these among other reasons be pleased to reject the preposterous propositions contained in the Petition aforesaid, and carry out the arrangements of the Collector, who, from his great experience has suggested a measure, which is as just and reasonable as it is calculated to carry out the real intent of the enactment.

Your Petitioners shall ever pray.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 1st December 1863, No. 2,166.

Referred to the Board of Revenue, with reference to G. O. 20th November 1863, No. 2,092.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Suggested a measure, which is as just and reasonable, as it is calculated to carry out the real intent of the enactment.

Your Petitioners shall ever pray.

No. 2166. 4

Referred to the Board of Rev.
with reference to G.O. 20th
November 1863 at No. 2092.

Fort Ste. George
1st December 1863

14 Copies Lake B. of Revs Despatch Car

18-1-11 ✓

Revenue 1863 West
Pres: of Govt for Decr
No. 2860

From

Natives resi:
ding in Madras.

Dated
Recd 24 November 1863

No. 2166 - 1st Decr

Pray that Government
will not for reasons stated contained
the proposition contained in the
Petition lately presented to them
by the Zemindary of the Inhabi-
tants of Madras regarding the
appointment of Commissioners for
the management of religious
Endowments in the Madras Districts
but carry out the arrangements
suggested by the Collector of
Madras for the same.

William Taylor Esq

No 546.