M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 352 — Press Mis.

379.380

Dated 26.2.1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th February 1864.

No. 379. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th January 1863 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of the Vizagapatam District, to the Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, dated 5th January 1863, No. 4.

1. Ordered that the above letter be forwarded to the Secretary to Government to whom it is addressed.

2. The Board need scarcely say that it was far from their intention to deprive so valuable a class of Officers as the Deputy Collectors of any customary or appropriate title of respect, and that their Order was prompted solely by a desire to prevent the use of an uncustomary, inappropriate, and incongruous form of address : such a form as is calculated to produce a grotesque and ludicrous effect, rather than to add prestige to the position of the individual.

3. No native gentleman of intelligence and proper sense can fail to perceive that the combination of European courtesy prefixes with Oriental names and designations conveys anything but the impression that the person making use of such combination desires to offer an acceptable testimony of respect to the person addressed or referred to, and where the contrary notion exists, it is desirable to dispel rather than to encourage it if the self-respect of the class is to be developed.

4. The Board do not admit that the custom is generally adopted, as stated by Mr. Carmichael. It is a very recent, very partial, and in their opinion very ill-judged innovation, and they are not aware that it has ever been sanctioned or approved by Government either expressly or tacitly.

No. 380. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st October 1863, No. 6,217.

Read the following letter from D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Bolarum, 4th September 1863, No. 687.

SIR,

1. Some little time ago, in writing to the Board about one of my Deputy Collectors, I alluded to him as "*Mr.* Jaggannayukulu." By return of post, an Official Memorandum reached me from the Secretary, observing that "the combination was most incongruous," and desiring me not to repeat it. Other Collectors lately have added the affix of Esquire, when addressing their Deputies; and the Board have now requested these gentlemen and myself "to take care that "this incongruous and absurd use of the English honorific title of Esquire be avoided in all "official notices, in connection with the names of Native Deputy Collectors."

2. Both my esteemed friends, the Deputy Collectors of this District, are aggrieved at being thus shorn of the courtesy prefix and affix to their names; and it is also painful to me to be required to discontinue modes of address, which I have heretofore adopted towards native gentlemen of their standing and education. I venture therefore to lay this appeal against the Board's Order before Government through the Board.

3. I submit that the objection raised by the Board of "incongruity" can hardly stand in the present day. We have Indian Baronets and Indian Knights; why not Indian Esquires and Indian Masters? The two latter designations are always accorded in England to untitled Indian gentlemen visiting that country, and are never refused by Englishmen in this country to any member of that class, who, by studying our language and adopting, as far as may be, our manners and customs, entitles himself to be addressed as one of our own countrymen in a similar rank of life. And if this class of the native gentry choose it, why should official authority step forth to interdict the practice? To anglicized Hindu gentlemen, like my Deputy Collectors, to be spoken to or written off as plain *Venkatuswami* or *Narsing Row* conveys a positive slight. In addressing them, orally or in writing, I should be obliged in the vernacular to add an honorific. In the same way they

observe that we never speak to Europeans or East Indians above the grade of a menial, without the Mr., and that we never omit the Esquire to the address of Europeans or East Indians above the grade of Shop-keeper; and they are naturally aggrieved to meet with treatment less kind.

4. It may be doubted indeed whether these terms *can* legally be withheld; whether to do so is not contrary to law or to usage having the force of law. We are no longer, Europeans or Natives, the servants of the East India Company, but of the Queen; and if Mr. Justice Blackstone can be relied on for his authorities, it is clear that these Indian gentlemen, though not what he calls *armigeri natalitu*, nor yet Esquires by patent, are still Esquires of the fourth class, *i. e.*, by *virtue of their offices*; "such as," continues the learned Commentator, "are Justices of the Peace, and others who bear any office of trust under the Crown." Now, that a Deputy Collector and Magistrate holds an office of far higher importance and trust than the office specified, requires *no demonstration; and if they are Esquires, they must needs be Masters too, for that is the next lower grade; being the equivalent of gentleman, and "gentlemen" says our text "be made good cheap in this Kingdom."*

5. *In Bengal the practice appears to prevail of affixing "Baboo" to the names of all respectable Hindu officials, and "Maulavee" to those of all respectable Mahomedan officials.* But this would not be acceptable here; where the coveted titles amongst these classes are the English ones. These titles are universally granted to non-official Native gentlemen at Madras, and even to officials on non-official occasions they need not, the Board have ruled, be denied. Is it worth while to keep up the distinction?

6. One point more deserves special notice. There is a gentleman named Srinivasaya, who is a District Moonsiff or Acting Principal Sudder Ameen. It has been remarked to me that he alone of all native gentlemen appointed to the Bench has been styled "Mr." by the High Court Registrar in Notices in the "Fort Saint George Gazette."

7. Mr. Srinivasaya, it seems, some eight or ten years ago, became a convert to Christianity. Surely *that* can give him no claim to the title. If it does, then the state of the case is this. There is a designation coveted by a large number of educated native officials of cognate rank but granted solely to that native official who has embraced the faith of the paramount nation. It cannot of course be intended that any favor should be shown to the one above the other, and i the two titles of Mr. and Esquire or either of them are considered inadmissible at all, they should be declared so in the case of every native official, of whatever creed. But I trust that they wil be allowed to all office-holders of the higher grades who are sufficiently anglicized to desire t adopt them.

Ordered that Mr. Carmichael's letter be submitted to Government.

No. 381. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1864, No. 352.

1. The Governor in Council observes that the question raised in this correspondence wa considered and decided when the appointment of Deputy Collector was constituted, and he se no reason to disturb the Board's Orders on this case, which are in conformity with that decision

2. The titles of "Mr." and "Esquire" are purely English, and the withholding of them in official correspondence from native gentlemen neither implies discourtesy nor affords jus ground of complaint. Due courtesy can be shown to native gentlemen without attaching incon gruous titles to their names.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

STANDING CIRCULAR, No. XXIV.

Board No. 1,665.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th March 1864.

See Order of Government dated 26th February 1864, No. 352, R. D.

1. Under instructions from Government, and with reference to paragraph 11 of Board's Circular dated 10th May 1859, No. 1,689, Collectors are directed to avoid in future the use of the titles "Mr." and "Esquire," in their official correspondence in connection with the names of Native gentlemen in the employ of Government.

2. The Government have remarked that these titles being purely English, the withholding of them from Native gentlemen, can neither imply discourtesy, nor afford just ground of complaint, and that due courtesy can be shown to Native gentlemen without attaching incongruous titles to their names.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Sub-Secretary.

(True Copy)

(Signed) H. M. C. KELLY,
Acting First Assistant.

To All Collectors.

Exd. J. Wright.

STANDING CIRCULAR No. XXIV.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

To All Collectors.

Dated 17*th March* 1864.

Received

Board No. 1,665.

Requesting to discontinue the use of English Titles in connection with the names of native gentlemen.

It is a pity I think that this question has been brought to issue in this way -

It seems true James that as "Mr" & "Esqr" are purely English titles, no Native can make it matter of just complaint that he is not addressed by them - & the reasonable that a Native gentleman can claim as a right is that he shall be addressed by any Native

title which he may have legitimately acquired & which is recognized by the Govt or in the absence of such by the title which is in accordance with the native usage, native sentiment & conversation & with the rules of native courtesy would address him.

On this principle Rear Admiral would in all official correspondence have the honorary style "M.R.R."

prefixed to his name & hereafter it occurred and as a matter of course all Brit Officers as far as ~~Malta~~ Jamaica & ~~Cork~~ Halifax & May inclusive might set this prefix in consideration of their official positions. So the case of Brit Officers of lower grade the guide would be the official status of the individual to which locally & all enough known to such persons could

Noted on Current No. 2,404 of 1863.-

By His Excellency the Governor.-

I should leave the matter alone that is I should leave to Carmichael or any Collector who chose to give such designations or titular distinctions such as he thought fit - it is not a matter which calls for the interference of the Govt - each of us to be left to decide for himself the question.- (Signed) W. S.

By the Honorable E. Maltby.-

Mr. and Esquire are joined to Native names in Bombay, [illegible] Calcutta - due courtesy [illegible] to Native names and I am not disposed to interfere with the Board's order.- (Signed) E. M.

Ist claim the title as Hereditary Right.

Mr. I do not see any reason for letting this question - on which Natives officials are sensitive - such rights should maintain its distinctive title of Courtesy.

In private Correspondence of Civil Servants do not dictate titles - and private petitioners should respectfully decide the title of their rank in native society - For Orders

I. D. L.

By the Honorable Sir Ryeroft -

I agree with Mr Malby.

(Signed) L.P.

By His Excellency the Governor -

I think that as the practice does prevail in Bombay, and is coveted apparently here, there can be no reason why the title or designation should not be bestowed - I do not think that Board is competent to issue the order alluded to - it is altogether beyond their competence to give or take away a title or distinction -

(Signed) W.A.

By the Honorable Mr Malby -

When the Deputy Collectors were first appointed - this question was mooted and I think it was decided not to call them Mr or Esqr. My judgment goes that way and I believe they are not Gazetted with those offices - The new native judge of the High Court at Calcutta is not invested or Esquired I think -

3 W. 357 - C. H. 26th Feby

The Secy observes that C. H. Mr Sheppard
Recited in Other Cases Evidence and
Conducted & decided before the Officers
Empd & Salary Cases was established &
The Govt sees no reason
to disturb the Ord. orders
Copy which are in Conformity
on this Matter with that decision

The titles of "Mr" &
"Esquire" are purely English
and the withholding of
them in official Correspondence from Natives
[illegible]
first proved of Complaint.
Due Courtesy can be
shown to native Gentlemen
[illegible]
of rank & station in Society.

Ordered in Council

L. & L.

14 Copies to the Ps of Revs Mss 5 & 27 Feby
to Khan Bahadoor

Revenue 1864 Letts.
Pro: of Govt. for February

No 352.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 26th February 1864.

The question of the
Collr of Vizagapatam
whether the titles of
"Mr" and "Esquire" to native
Officials, decided.

No 377 & 381.

16/1864