

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1580	Press Mis.
Dated	6/6	11/18/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th June 1868.*

No. 148. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th May 1868, No. 3,860.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 8th April 1868, No. 956, Revenue Department.

Read the following letter from the Accountant General to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 4th April 1868, No. 2:—

1. With reference to the 5th paragraph of the Order of Government in the Revenue Department, No. 686, dated 16th ultimo, in which I am desired to explain how "the most clumsy alteration in words and figures in Voucher N., which was part of the Cuddapah frauds," came to be passed unnoticed in my Department, I have the honor to state, that it has never been the practice in this office to audit the Deposit Vouchers, as it is a duty which, from its imperfect information, the Central Office of Account is incompetent to perform.

2. The audit of the Deposit Vouchers, to be really effective, must, of necessity, be made by an officer possessing a full knowledge of the circumstances connected with the payment or receipt of the money, and who is acquainted also with the signature of the party making or receiving the payment, of both of which alike this Department is necessarily altogether ignorant. For the genuineness of the signature attached to the Deposit Vouchers, and for the correctness of the amount entered therein, (the two essentials in the audit of the Voucher,) the Central Office is compelled to rely upon the Collector and his Treasury Officer, and in order to insure that proper attention is paid to the examination of these important accounts, the former officer is required to append a certificate to the effect that he has, by personal examination, found that they have been kept with the utmost care and regularity.

3. To require the Central Office to audit the Deposit Vouchers, therefore, would simply be to shift the responsibility from a Department which is really competent to make the audit, and to throw it upon one which has not the means of undertaking that duty. All that this office can effectively do in the matter of deposits, is to see that the amounts, alleged to have been received or paid away, are duly entered in the Registers, and that no account is ever overdrawn, and this duty is most carefully performed, our Deposit Registers shewing, with the greatest accuracy, the exact state of every Deposit Account in the Presidency.

4. Since the discovery of these Cuddapah frauds, I have indeed required the Auditors of my office carefully to examine each Deposit Voucher, and to reject all those which may appear to have been in any way tampered with. But it must be obvious that a superficial examination, such as this, will be no real check upon fraud, for it will be quite as easy to support the entry in the accounts by a wholly fictitious document which would pass unchallenged, as it would be to alter the original voucher; a circumstance of which the Treasury Department in the Collector's office must be as well aware as I am.

Miscellaneous.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue and to Mr. Lilly.