

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1872.*

No. 121. Read the following letter from J. OUCHTERLONY, Esq., to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated London, 19th July 1872 :—

I HAVE the honour to request that you will bring the following circumstances under the consideration of Government with reference to the question of the eastern boundaries of my land in the neighbourhood of Gudalur.

2. In the year 1845 I obtained a grant of land from the Rajah of Nellumboor (having been directly introduced to him as the proprietor by the then Collector of Malabar, the late Mr. Conolly, whose jurisdiction, I may observe, extended at that time as far as the Pykara River), which gave the names of divers hills as the boundaries. It was, however, found that this was likely to cause great confusion in the future from different classes of Natives knowing the hills by differing names; and a supplementary memorandum was therefore added, reciting certain fixed points so well known that they could not be mistaken, or any dispute be raised about them. These were the lofty Nilgiri Peak on one side and Gudalur Mullay, a station of the Trigonometrical Survey, on the other; lines by compass fixing the land embraced between, and the vague expression of "the tops of the Nilgiris" completing the boundary of the area.

3. A plan attached illustrated this, which was directly designed to show the points of intersection between the compass lines from Nilgiri Peak and Gudalur Mullay. The whole was shaded as taken from a Survey Map. It would have been impossible to set out the line of the summits of the Nilgiris without considerable delay; nor was it considered of any consequence in those days when the Peon at the travellers' bungalow was the only human being in and near the place. I admit that the omission creates a difficulty; but at the same time my rights to these upper slopes was never questioned till Mr. Collector Grant's (of Coimbatore) time, and then only partially my right has, in certain cases, been directly acknowledged by the Revenue authority, and I have exercised acts of proprietorship in the *bona fide* belief that I was entitled to do so.

4. In evidence of the foregoing I desire to advance these facts :—

First.—From the earliest date I cut and burnt bricks and made roads from the public one in front of the travellers' bungalow, and unavoidably, in the view of the Collector, without let or hindrance or any hint that the land was not considered mine.

Second.—It must have been at the commencement of 1867, or perhaps earlier, that Mr. Collector Grant first spoke to me about having these boundaries settled, saying, as far as I can remember, that the Government desired it, and would treat all land beyond it as public land. I then and subsequently expressed an earnest desire to have the question settled in some way.

Previous to this, or at the commencement of 1866, Mr. Grant had referred two parties who wished to take up land to me as the proprietor: the one, Mr. J. W. Minchin, in respect of forest land on the road towards Ootacamund; the other, Mr. R. B. Elwin, in respect of forest land on the Gudalur Ghaut opposite the Lodge Gate of the Cinchona Plantation. I have found by me Mr. Grant's letter on the boundary question, dated March 7th, 1868, which I beg to enclose, as well

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1872.*

as copy of my reply. These will show what passed between us, and how I was only desirous to see something definitively settled.

Fourth.—I have, conceiving myself the proprietor, erected considerable buildings where I would, made expensive roads, cut and burnt tiles, experimentalized with Tea culture, etc., without ever hearing one word in any quarter of a denial of my right to do so. And this has gone on during a period of nearly twenty-seven years!

4. With these remarks I would now wish to leave the determination of this eastern boundary of my land in the hands of the Government, confident that it will view the question in a liberal light. Absent as I am now from the country, my natural desire is to see the prolonged suspense (it will be admitted not to be laid at my door) at an end. And my representative, Mr. H. Wapshare, is instructed to do all that is necessary to this end.

5. In conclusion, I may be permitted as what is due to my landlord the Nellumboor Tirupad, as well as myself, to state that what I have written is without prejudice.

No. 122.

ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1872, No. 1,205.

Forests, No. 12.

THE Government have disposed of the question of the eastern limit to which they will recognize claims founded on titles derived from the Nellumboor Tirupad.

2. They have accepted the ridge running from the Nilgiri Peak to the Gudalur Hill, which points are named in Mr. Ouchterlony's deeds obtained from the Tirupad, and which line is delineated in the plans attached to them.

3. In conceding this boundary the Government have waived their rights over a very valuable valley embracing an area of upwards of 40 square miles, and they decline to re-open the question.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To James Ouchterlony, Esq.

„ the Conservator of Forests.

„ the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department.
No. 1205

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 17 August 1872.

Read the following letter from

J. Ouchterlony Esq., London

Requesting that the question of the Eastern boundaries of his Estate in the neighbourhood of Goodaloor may be brought under the consideration of Govt.

J.E. 19 July 1872

The Govt have disposed of the question of the Eastern limit to which they will recognize claims founded on titles derived from the Nellumboor Tirupad.

They

2. They have accepted
the ridge running from
the Nilgiri peak to the
Gudalur hill, which
points are named in
Mr. Ochterlony's deeds
obtained from the Tiru-
pad and which line
is delineated in the
plans attached to them.

3. In conceding
this boundary the Govt.
have waived their rights
over a very valuable
valley embracing an
area

area of upwards of
40 square miles, and
they decline to reopen
the question.

- 1 To James Ochterlony Esqr. ^{through his agent Messrs. Wapsham & Co. 30th Aug 1872}
13 " Conservator of Forests ^{30th August 1872}
3 " Commissioner of the Nilgiris - " "

26-121-122

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]