Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th May 1872.

No. 263. Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vellore, 18th May 1872, No. 18 :—

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt this day of the Proceedings of Government dated the 14th instant, and respectfully to beg the consideration, by Government, of the following remarks, which I consider it but due to myself to offer in view to the withdrawal, even now, of the sweeping and, in reality, undeserved censure with which the Government have suddenly visited me.

2. If I had in any way acted as the Government appear to imagine, if I had held any sort of communication direct or indirect with the Regimental families or the Native Officers attached to them, or if I had communicated with Captain Johnston, the officer specially in charge of the families in the Mahals, or with the Colonel Commanding this station, or with the General Commanding the Division when he came here, and had in any way put myself forward or attempted to urge my own private views in opposition to those of Government, or if I had even written officially to Government raising objections to the move of the families, then I certainly should not have any right now to object to the rebuke bestowed upon me by Government. But seeing that I never did or thought of doing any of these things, and was perfectly passive (or next door to it) in the matter, I do feel that Government are viewing me with a displeasure that is undeserved.

3. I have already informed the Government that I only knew of the order for the move of the families late on Friday evening, and I then heard that the people were unanimous in their objection to the transfer. On Saturday I took no action whatever. On Sunday, at about 12 o'clock, Captain Mayne told me that the objections were as strong as ever, and that the families were protesting to every officer whom they saw against the move to Arcot. I then wrote my demi-official note to you, and there ended absolutely all my action of whatever kind in the matter. At the time when I so wrote to you the General Commanding the Division was actually in Vellore, and had seen the families, and they had protested to him against the move as vehemently as they had done to Captain Johnston and Captain Mayne. This is a fact that is susceptible of easy proof, if the Government are pleased to inquire, and it will show that the objections raised by the families were in no way connected with me or any thing that I thought or did or said. I here again most emphatically and solemnly deny having in any way expressed to any body an opinion adverse to the wishes of Government in the matter, or in any way endeavoured to cause people to believe that I favoured the expression of objections to the orders of Government. If I had held any such objections when replying to your demi-official note requesting me to aid in the move, I should assuredly, instead of replying that I would not fail to render every assistance in the matter, have endeavoured at once to show cause why the move should not take place. But I never thought of doing such a thing. I thought the objections raised by the families were only what was to be expected, and never imagined that Government would regard me as their instigator or fomentor.

4. I may have asked Captain Mayne on Sunday to find out whether any other arrangements were possible, but I know that nothing was done by him in

any way compromising him or me, for at that time the families had been visited by the General Commanding the Division, and they had then protested to him.

5. When, moreover, the Native Officer of the Department Public Works in charge of this range twice on that Sunday referred to me, once in person and once by letter, on the subject of the move, I expressly declined to interfere and referred him, on the first time, to the General who was then in Vellore and again to the Station Staff Officer.

6. I respectfully ask the Government to consider what *less* could I have done in this matter than I did do. I wrote my demi-official letter to you on Sunday morning simply as a sort of protection to myself, having been previously referred to by Mr. Ellis in person when here, and by you in writing demi-officially. I thought that when I knew of the dissatisfaction that existed I ought at any rate to make the Government aware of it; but I did not feel justified in writing officially about a matter that did not strictly pertain to the Civil Department. If I had so written officially then undoubtedly I should find it difficult now to say I had not interfered in the matter. My demi-official note to you was very possibly an indiscretion, but it was written simply with the intention of giving Government all the information I could; and I submit that it is not just to me to view that note as proving that I had been actually guilty of the gravest insubordination, and was wilfully encouraging opposition to the wishes of Government.

7. I confess that the more I look back at what has occurred th[illegible] surprised do I feel at the accusation made against me by Government, and the anger manifested towards me. Never was there less real occasion for either, and I respectfully but most earnestly beg that the Government, before they finally determine to retain upon record such a censure as that they have expressed, will, in simple justice to me and my reputation as a zealous and faithful public servant, hold some inquiry and satisfy themselves as to whether my positive and emphatic assurances of having abstained from all interference with the families is true or not. Therein lies the real gist of the matter. My demi-official note to you was no act of insubordination, and the dissatisfaction of the families was in no way connected with it. The note may have been uncalled for, and for having written it at all I now apologize; but putting aside that note, there remains literally no act of interference of mine to be censured. I trust that these remarks will suffice to induce Government to withdraw the censure they have passed on me, and which is the first rebuke I have received in the course of upwards of sixteen year's service in this country.

8. If the Government, until the receipt of my demi-official note of the — instant, were in ignorance of the fact that the families relied for their support mainly on the employment they obtained from the grain-merchants here, I submit that that is no fault of mine, but rather of those officers in the Military Department who were in a position, and who ought to have furnished the Government with all possible information bearing on the question of the removal of the families to Arcot; and the fact that, even at the last moment and at the risk of a renewed censure from Government, I ventured to lay that information before them for consideration, I respectfully submit, is an argument in my favour showing my anxiety to do my duty earnestly and honestly. I may add that I stated the fact

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th May 1872.

in a demi-official note because I was then replying to a communication of the same kind from the Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. Hudleston.

9. As regards the delay that has occurred in the submission of my report on the recent cyclone, I must remind the Government that the storm was not felt at Vellore alone; its ravages extended over the whole district, and the damage that has been done to public and private property of all kinds is immense. As soon as I knew of the event on the 4th instant, I sent out orders to all Tahsildars and divisional officers calling for full information as to the extent of the injury their taluqs and divisions had sustained in view to my reporting it to Government, and since then I have received many reports containing statements of the damage done by the cyclone, but subsequent reports have again shown that the information contained in those previously sent in to me, and which were based on the vague statements given by frightened and excited village officers and ryots were grossly exaggerated and incorrect. Thus, for instance, the Deputy-Collector on general duties on the 6th instant reported to me the entire destruction of the village of Vythiarancuppam said to have been swept away in a flood in the Gudiathem Taluq, attended by loss of human life, an enormous number of sheep and cattle, and property worth Rs. 10,000. Subsequent inquiry shows that the village was not by any means so much injured as was originally asse[illegible]ted; the loss of human life dwindled down to one infant, who was drowned, [illegible] than a fourth of that first reported, and the value of the lost property, it was admitted, only amounted to about Rs. 5,000. Again, in the Arcot Taluq, the Tahsildar had first reported that no less than 200 tanks had been breached or swept away in his taluq, and he estimated the damage so done to amount to Rs. 10,000. He has now reported that only 91 tanks are breached in this taluq.

10. The Government, of course, expect me to furnish them with a clear and truthful report of all that has occurred, but I do not think I would have been justified in laying before them a report based on the hasty, exaggerated reports sent in to my office at first, and which I should almost immediately after have had to modify to a very great extent. The Government, I am quite certain, on the receipt of such a statement from me, would not have hesitated to rebuke me severely for my inaccuracy or carelessness in assuring myself of the fact I professed to detail.

11. I can assure the Government that I shall submit my report as speedily as I possibly can, but even now I have not obtained all the information I require, although I have been constantly issuing orders on the subject. I wished to let the Government have one comprehensive report for the whole district, but, as they now appear to impute negligence to me individually, I will send in a report on the cyclone as felt at Vellore alone, and will submit an account of what happened in other parts of the district when I am in possession of information that I know to be correct. I may mention that yesterday afternoon I had a long conversation with Colonel Moberly, the Superintending Engineer of the Division, on the subject of the damages caused by the cyclone, and he spoke of his dissatisfaction at the hasty and inaccurate information supplied to him on that point by the local officers of his department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,

28th May 1872.

No. 264. ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1872, No. 833.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government accept Mr. Whiteside's disclaimer of all intentional or practical interference, but must remind him that their censure was based on his own words in his demi-official note of 12th instant to the Officiating Chief Secretary, in which he said "I have therefore requested Captain Mayne to ascertain distinctly from the families whether they are prepared to do this," namely, "find house-accommodation for themselves in and around Vellore," instead of moving to Arcot as the Government desired on the score of the health of the families themselves and of the town.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

No 18

North Arcot

Collector's Office

Camp Vellore 18th May 1872.

From

W. S. Whiteside Esquire,

Collector of

North Arcot

To

The Honorable F. S. Ellis C.B.,

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of the Proceedings of Government dated the 14th instant and respectfully to beg the consideration by Government of the following remarks which I consider it but due to myself to offer now in view to the withdrawal of the censuring and, in reality undeserved censure with which the Government has suddenly visited me.

2. If I had in any way acted as the Government appears to imagine, if I had held any sort of communication direct or indirect with the Regimental families or the Native officers attached to them, or if I had communicated with Captain Johnston the officer specially in charge

No 283 Read 27th May

W. W. in his D.O. note of 12th specially says "I have therefore requested Capt. Mayne to ascertain distinctly from the families whether they are prepared to do this — viz. find house accommodation in and around Vellore" instead of moving to Arcot

people to believe that I favored the expression of objections to the orders of Government. If I had held any such objections, when replying to your Demi-official note requesting me to aid in the move, I should assuredly, instead of replying that I would not fail to render every assistance in the matter, have endeavored at once to show cause why the move should not take place. But I never thought of doing such a thing. I thought the objections raised by the Families were only what was to be expected, and never imagined that Government would regard me as their instigator or fomentor.

4. I may have asked Captain Magrath on Sunday to find out whether any other arrangements were possible, but I know that nothing was done by him in any way compromising him or me; for at that time the Families had been visited by the General Commanding the Division, and they had their protests to him.

5. When, moreover the Native Officers of the D. G. H. in charge of this Range [illegible] on that Sunday, refused to move, or see in person, and wrote by letter, on the subject of the move, I expressly declined to interfere and referred him on the 1st time to the General who was then in Valletta and again to the station staff Officer.

6. I respectfully ask the Government to consider what less could I have done in this matter, than I did do and wrote my Demi-official letter to you on Sunday, [illegible] simply as a sort of probation to myself, having been previously referred to by Mrs Ellis in person when here, and by you in writing Demi officially. I thought that when I knew of the dissatisfaction that existed I ought at any rate to make the Government aware of it; but I did not feel justified in writing officially about a matter that did not strictly pertain to the Civil Department. If I had so written officially then undoubtedly I should find it difficult now to say I had not-

not interfere in the matter. My Demi-Official note to you was, very possibly, an indiscretion, but it was written simply with the intention of giving Government all the information I could, and I submit that it is not just to me to view that note as proving that I had been actually guilty of the gravest misbehaviour, and was wilfully encouraging opposition to the wishes of Government.

I confess that the more I look and the more I look back at what has occurred the more surprised do I feel at the accusation made against me by Government, and the anger manifested towards me. Never was there less real occasion for it, and I respectfully but most earnestly beg that the Government, before they finally determine to retain upon record such a censure as that they have expressed will, in simple justice to me and my reputation as a zealous and faithful Public servant, hold some enquiry, and satisfy themselves as to whether my positive and emphatic assurances, of having abstained from all interference with the Families is true or not. Therein lies the real gist of the matter. My Demi official note to you was no act of insubordination, and the dissatisfaction of the Families was in no way connected with it. The note may have been unadvised for, and for having written it all I now apologize but, putting aside that note, there remains, literally, no act of interference of mine to be censured. I trust that this remarks will suffice to induce Government to withdraw the censure they have passed on me, and which is the first rebuke I have received in the course of upwards of 16 years service in this country.

8. If the Government, until the receipt of my Demi-official note of the 31st ult. were in ignorance of the fact that the Families relied for their support mainly on the employment they obtained from the grain merchants here I submit that that is no fault of mine,

best police of those Officers in the Military Department who were in a position, and who ought, to have furnished the Government with all possible information bearing on the question of the removal of the Franchise to Arcot; in the face of that, even at the last moment, and at the risk of a renewed censure from Government, I ventured to lay that information before them for consideration. I respectfully submit as an argument in my favour showing my anxiety to do my duty carefully & honestly. I may add that I stated the fact in a Demi-official note because I was then replying to a communication of the same kind from me by Chief Secretary Mr. Hudleston.

As regards the delay that has occurred in the submission of my Report on the present Cyclone I must remind the Government that the storm was not felt at Vellore alone - its ravages extended over the whole District, and the damage that has been done to the public & private property of all kinds is immense - As soon as I knew of the event, on the 4th instant, I sent out orders to all Tahsildars and Divisional Officers calling for full information as to the extent of the injury their Taluks and Divisions had sustained in view to my reporting to Government, and since then I have received many reports containing statements of the damage done by the Cyclone, but subsequent reports have again shown that the information contained in those previously sent in to me, and which were based on the vague statements given by frightened & excited village officers and ryots were grossly exaggerated and incorrect. Thus for instance the Deputy Collector on General Duties on the 6th instant reported to me the entire destruction of the village of Pythiancuppam said to have been swept away in a flood in the Gudiattam Taluk, attended by loss of human life, an enormous number of sheep and cattle, and property worth Rs. 10,000. Subsequent enquiry show that the

villages would not by any means so much injured as was originally asserted, the loss of human life dwindled down to one infant who had drowned, of cattle to less than a fourth of that first reported, and the value of the lost property was admitted only amounted to about Rs 5000.

Again in the first Taluk the Subadar had first reported that no less than 200 tanks had been breached or washed away in his Taluk and he estimated the damage so done to amount to Rs 10,000. He has now reported that only 91 Tanks are breached in this Taluk.

10. The Government of course expect me to furnish them with a clear and truthful Report of all that has occurred, but I do not think I would have been justified in laying before them a Report based on the hasty exaggerated reports sent in to my Office at first, on which I should almost immediately after have had to modify to a very great extent. The Government, I am quite certain, on the receipt

of such a statement from me would not have hesitated to rebuke me severely for my inaccuracy or carelessness in assuming my duty of the facts I professed to detail.

11. I can assure the Government that I shall submit my report as speedily as I possibly can, but even now I have not obtained all the information I require, although I have been constantly giving orders on the subject. I wished to let the Government have one Comprehensive report for the whole District, but, as they appear to impede my progress in dealing with the subject, I will send in as Report on the cyclone as falls at Villages alone, and will submit an account of what happened in other parts of the District when I am in possession of information that I know to be correct. I may mention that yesterday afternoon I had a long conversation with Colonel Nuthall the Superintending Engineer of the Division on the subject of the damages

caused by the explosion, and he spoke of his disabilities [illegible] to the body, and inaccurate information supplied to him on that point by the local officers of his Department.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obed. Servant,
L. Mitchell
Lt Colonel

Northern District
Colonial Office
Cape Coast
18 May 1872

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Cape Coast Castle.

No 263

Received 18 May 1872
Dept to Govt
Despatch 240
No 18
Acknowledged 4 J.O.74
Sent Publish Remarks
Reporting the Death
of Lieuts Mitchell
& Quayle Sweden
& Assistant Surgeon
Reid from Gold Coast
-dress the Commander
Forces &c &c &c
S.C.O. No 833-28 May

Vellore
May 18. 72

My dear Headmaster

I will not fail to
attend in my person to fa-
-cilitate the transfer of
the families of the 14th
& 27th N. I. & direct
a Committee has been
formed here for which
the Rev. Dr Jaysen
is Secretary & direct

and I send monies in
relief of the distresses
caused by the late
flood here - She has
has contributed 10,000
to this Fund, and I
was of opinion that
this sum would have
been sufficient if
judiciously & carefully
expended. I have
not been invited
to join the Com-
-mittee and do not
know how the money
is being laid out. I
wrote however & told
Mr. Sayers &
said I thought the
money in hand ought
to suffice as the in-
-jury sustained by the
people (the Rych. Fam-
-ilies excepted) is of
limited extent - but
be satisfied that I
am sorry & that af-
-ter the 10,000 of
Queen's contribution
is spent - that will

still be exempted for the expenditure of private charity as yet about Rs 1000 has been promised or subscribed in addition to the Government money. If on further enquiry I find that Dr Vaux's view of the case is correct I will let you know.

Yours very sincerely
H Whitehead

P.S.
Since writing the foregoing I have seen Captain Wagner who tells me that the families of the 2 Rajputs are raising the strongest objections to having recourse to Cremation, & that they declare that, rather than go there, they are prepared to find house accommodation for themselves in, a

around Pellore. It occurs to me that, if this is really the case, the Govt might have themselves the expense of fitting up the Quarters at Pellore for serving the Families. Such would not be inconsiderable.

I have therefore requested Captain Knapp to ascertain distinctly from the Families are prepared to do this & will advise them telegraph to you. I suppose Govt are aware that about 1/3 of the Sepoys, Cooly's & the Artillery & Bullock Drivers around Pellore & it would be difficult to compel them to go over to Cuddapah with the

Their families are
in the Barracks.
The first is to be sent to-
day & will commence
with Lieut. Mc Kenzie
Collegiate.

Yours

[illegible]

Private Telegram

2 Enclosed

Pelham.

Govt. most strongly endorse
action you and Captain
Mayne are taking in
regard Espinosa & Ortal families.
Trust you will further think
desirable from Encouraging
appreciation & Govt. sanction

...cabled by the cyclone, and he spoke of

deliberately
~~unanimously~~ adopted.

[illegible]

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

MONTHLY No. 95

To (STATION) Madras From (STATION) Yellow

Class.	Number.	Number of words and Cyphers.	Date and Hour tendered for transmission by sender.	Official Instructions.
3 S	99	30	13th 15h 45m	

(Addressee's name.)

(Do. Address) Chief Secretary.

Telegram surprises me greatly. Government are strangely misinformed - I request they will distinctly understand that I have not interfered in the matter at all -

Sender's Name [illegible]

Received from ____ Station

at 16 H. 5 M., on the 13-5-72 186

by ____ Signaller.

Transmitted to ____ Station

at ____ H. ____ M., on the ____ 186

by ____ Signaller.

Note of delay ____

Transit.
Receiving. Telegraph Office. Peon Book No.

Telegraph Master.

N. B.—The message should be continued on the back, should this side not suffice. In this case the Sender's name which is always the end of the message will of course appear on the back ONLY, and the blank spaces at foot for Signallers particulars of time of sending &c., must also be filled in on the back ONLY.

(2 1)

Forms 1872 Offices

Vellore

May 13. 72.

My Dear Huddleston

I refer to several contained in my Tele-gram just published was sufficiently clear & decided. I confess myself at a loss to imagine how the Govt. have come to believe that I was in any way misleading or to excite your Telegram

"encouraging opposition amongst the Rejected Families" - whatever may have been the impression that those statements induced the Government to send me that Telegram, I positively assert that this statement is utterly untrue. I have had no instructions or interference in the affair one way or the other - by any should I? - I had not even seen the

at all - Captain Magee informed me that when I returned from Office late on Saturday evening of the 26th the dissatisfaction that existed amongst the families - and upon Sunday last spoke to me about it - I went to your Rent Office, and left an envelope containing a Petition addressed to the Tithe which I was told to see in

...ppn to be sent on to him (it was believed that he was coming here today) as a private letter to his address was visited here (yesterday) and I sent it on to him and there ends my interference in the matter. I have addressed to a single person, good bad or indifferent, on the subject. even to Lang[illegible] I have addressed sentences kindly, and as for "En-[illegible]

...courageing opposition. The thought of such a thing never entered my head. - Yesterday the Hon. Officers of Orange Lodge came to see me and we talked over to find some ...legram to Londres about mats for the families. but I told him the funeral was appointed to be on Wednesday (or indeed was here then) & that he had better find out

never took - or even
thought of claiming -
I was informed by Capt.
Cain [illegible] of the 4-
-teen Regt. & Ristate that the
families were coming
to the more to Lancaster,
as Col. [illegible] of the dist.
then on the Sect; I thought
it not un becoming in
me to communicate the
fact to you - Should you
think that can be
styled interference or
"encouraging Opposition."
Indeed, if I had only
do written to you

that Insurrection for [illegible]
have publicly censured
me, so that I find
it convenient Respect-
-fully to write very
concisely.

I am

Sir very sincerely

& Obedient

as I did. It seems
to me Fremont might
possibly have carried
-ried me apathetic or
indifferent to a very
important matter.
I hope that, after pe-
rusal of this letter,
the Fremont will be
pleased to write Ross
the severe terms of
disapprobation in
which they have cen-
-sured me in a

kind one

Service Telegram
was filed in my Office
and that I may be in
formed also who is
the person or persons
information for-
nished when they so
requested me-
I trust that the tone
of this letter will not
be considered intem-
perate or hasty - but
I have been unjustly
accused - & upon

Yellow
Lexington Ky
Sept 4th 62.

Brig Gen Hartsuff
Louisville Ky

Col Ellis has
been directed
to report to me
the Regiments of my
command & Discussed with me
the Matters pertaining
to the barracks at
Camp Wood &c &c
upon which Col Ellis
and Myself do not
agree

ance to test your
wish—to me seems
to permit assistance
in every possible way
and I adopted that view?
with fail to do so.
It appeared to me that, as
Clerk of the Peace, was
looked to some extent, as the
matter and, then I be-
came aware that the
transfer of the families
to Leeds was producing
the worst possible dis-
satisfaction amongst
all concerned, I thought
it merely my duty
to report the fact for
the information of Govt.

I never wanted to
see that it should be
regarded as an act of
improper interference
on my part to address
you. My wish was to the
best of my ability
a matter on which I
had been previously
consulted by a number
of the Govt supporters
and still remained
ready to render the possibil
assistance to the Govt. I was
in the conclusion
that I was actually
required to write
to state I was
desirous of preventing

is subordination and
opposition to the wishes
of Jesus. Imagine the
effrontery. The
presumption. Such will
be for you, but regarded
and indeed have been
unbearable by worldly
lay positions are
pleasing. Selfishness.
Utter lack of consideration
in person and
by instructed me
to take steps to end
it at once. Suspecting
that I had not
written my final
official note to you
on Sunday, and for
had subsequently

I send this addressed to you by a person that you may submit it for the favorable consideration of the Governor.—

[illegible] to state [illegible] information if [illegible] I think we ought to [illegible] may institute [illegible] entitled [illegible] [illegible] as they have [illegible]

Yours
very truly
A Lincoln

We must, I think, accept
Mr White's declaration
of all intentional or practical
interference - reminding him
that our censure was based
on his own words. I have been
told that Mr White's
. was living with Col Wagner
and probably his told the
letter in a private conversa-
tion to find out the wishes
of the families - whereas the
Expedition used in his letter

to Board official instructions which Government would have been highly disinclined.

I. O.L

B/V

Revenue Department

No. 833

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 28th May 1872.

Read the following letter from the Actg: Collector of N. Arcot

Requesting Govt to withdraw the censure passed on him with refce to the removal of the Revd Jamulia Arcot.

H. E. 18 May 1872, No. 18.

The Govt accept Mr Whiteside's disclaimer of all intentional or practical interference, but must remind him that their censure was based on his own words

B/V.

I.O.L

words in his demi-official
note of 12th instant to
the Offg: Chief Secretary
in which he said "I
have therefore requested
Captain Mayne to as-
-certain distinctly from
the families whether
they are prepared to
do this" viz: "find
house accommodation
for themselves in and
around Vellore",
intend

instead of moving to
Arcot as the Govt desired
on the score of the
health of the families
themselves and of the
town.

To
The Hon: Coll: North Arcot Dep: 5th June/72
" Military Dept.

(5)

Mr R Stubbs
Cayenne

Grant

Accepted
Gray