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M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 4

(2) Date of repair 28.3.66

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 139		Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated 22.9-1873	196 .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 10. Read the following letter from Colonel H. K. BURNE, Secretary to the Government of India, Marine Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Marine Department, dated Simla, 28th August 1873, No. 45 :—

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Bombay, the accompanying copy of a despatch* from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, and of its enclosures, regarding an alleged want of courtesy towards the Senior Naval Officer on the occasion of the visit of the Viceroy and Governor-General to Bombay in November 1872.

* No. 139, dated 17th July 1873.

2. The Governor-General much regrets that there should have been any appearance even of a want of courtesy to Captain Grant in any of the arrangements made under His Excellency's directions for the conduct of the ceremonies at Bombay, and he feels assured that nothing could have been further from the intention of any of those charged with the arrangements on that occasion.

3. With regard to the general question of the precedence to be assigned to Officers of the Royal Navy, and the mode of conducting correspondence, I am desired to remark as follows :—

In the Royal Warrant of Precedence, dated 6th May 1871, published in the *Gazette of India* of the 8th July 1871, provision is made for an officer of the rank of Commodore only, but as since that warrant was framed, though before it was actually published, Her Majesty [illegible] placed under a Flag Officer holding the position and designation of Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency in Council is of opinion that he should take the precedence assigned in the previous Royal Warrant of the 21st May 1862, viz., below the Commander-in-Chief in India, if not also a Member of Council.

4. As regards the position of the Senior Naval Officer in the absence of the Admiral Commanding-in-Chief, the Governor-General in Council is unable to discover any authority for granting him, unless holding the recognised position of Commodore, any higher position than that which attaches under the Precedence Warrant and Regulations to the rank he may hold in the Royal Navy, and in the Army there is no special rank assigned to the Senior Officer of any body of troops, however large, unless he is commissioned in consequence as a General Officer.

But on extraordinary occasions, such as Durbars, Processions, or other public ceremonies, the Governor-General in Council thinks the representative of the Royal Navy should be specially recognised, and that on such occasions a distinctive place should, in the absence of the Naval Commander-in-Chief, be assigned to the Senior Naval Officer present, irrespective of his rank in the Royal Navy.

It is the intention of the Viceroy also to confer on the Senior Naval Officer the privilege of the *entrée* to Government House.

5. As regards the mode of conducting correspondence, I am to observe that the Government of India has always been accustomed to correspond (as prescribed by the Secretary of State) through the Secretary to the Government in the Military Department (which embraces the old Marine Department), and no other channel has ever been adopted. The Government in Council begs that a similar practice may be observed at Bombay.

6. Should the Naval Commander-in-Chief at any time see fit to address the Governor-General, or the Governor direct (as the Bishops do), there can be no objection, but it is considered convenient to reply (as is done in the case of the Bishops) through the Secretary to the Government in the particular Department to which the subject of the correspondence pertains.

7. Should the Naval Commander-in-Chief desire it there would be no objection to such correspondence being carried on, in any particular case in which it might be convenient to adopt such a mode, between His Excellency's Secretary and the Secretary to the Government in the Military (Marine) Department.

8. I am to request that His Excellency in Council may be moved to issue such orders as may be necessary to carry out the views of the Government of India and the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, to whom a copy of this correspondence will be forwarded.

No. 46.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, and for guidance.

(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Colonel,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 47.

To His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.

No. 48.

To the Government of Bengal.

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, 10th September 1873, No. 234.

Communicated to all Departments of the Secretariat and to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Military ,,
,, Public Works ,,
,, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

Exd. J. Wright.

Revenue 1873 Dept
No 2909

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

MARINE.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 10th.

Recd. —th —19 Sept 1873.

G.O., 10th September 1873, No. 234.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 10-11.

Royal Warrant of Precedence.—Copy of a letter addressed by the Government of India to the Government of Bombay, requesting that such orders as may be necessary may be issued to carry out the views of the Government of India with regard to the general question of the precedence to be assigned to Officers of the Royal Navy, and the mode of conducting correspondence, communicated to all Departments of the Secretariat and to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

With Ordr

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