39.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REV DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 39 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 8-2-1873 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Revenue Department

No. 229.

To

The Acting Chief Secretary to
Government

Sir,

Para 1. I am directed by the Board of Revenue to request that you will submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the accompanying letter from the Principal Collector of Madura reporting the death of the Zemindar of Ramnad.

24th April in Cons. 3d May 1830

2. It appears that the Zemindar died of small pox on the morning of the 21st April. He has left two daughters, minors. The Zemindar was desirous that the Zemindary should be left under the charge of his adoptive mother during the minority of his daughters. Mr. Viveash states that this person has great abilities and is

fully capable of directing the affairs of the Zemindary - the family he says have expressed objections to the Estate being placed under the management of the Court of Wards, and he himself does not see the necessity of interference.

3. In cases of small estates it has been thought consistent with the scope of Regulation V of 1804 to leave them during the minority of the proprietors under the charge of their nearest relations and friends without the interference of the Court of Wards. In the case of large Zemindaries however with a view to which undoubtedly the provisions of the Regulation were framed, it appears to the Board both to be required by a fair construction of the law and to be in itself highly expedient that they should be put in force when such properties devolve to minors - They recommend accordingly that they may be authorized to assume charge of the Zemindary of Ramnad in their capacity of Court of Wards in behalf of the infant daughters of the late Zemindar.

I have &ca

Signed D. Eliott
Secretary

Revenue Bd. Office
Fort St. George.
3d May, 1830.

(True copy)

Ag: Under Secy: to Govt.

Compd M.C.

No. 1.

Copy of a Letter from Board
of Revenue dated 3 May 1830.

Rev: 3 60/73 1

Extract from the Register of Petitions submitted to Government.

No. of the Petition.	From whom received	Date of Petition.	Date of Receipt	Subject	How disposed of.
1410 E & J.	From Vizia Ragoonada Moottoochella Tavor late manager of the Rannad zemindary	1st July 1843	5th July 1843.	States that the party opposed to him are meditating the marriage of the minor Proprietrix of Rannad with an unsuitable person - they acting contrary to the will of the late Zemindar. - Prays that such an alliance may be prevented.	Revenue Dept. Referred to the Board of Revenue in their Capacity of Court of Wards dated 15th July 1843. -

/True Copy/

As Under Secy to Govt.

Compd.

3/39

No 3

Extract from the Petition
Registra.

Rev: 2/360/23

Extract from letter to the Honorable the Court of Directors of the East India Company dated 25th June 1844. —

(True Copy)

Rev: Cons. 12 Mar 1844 Nos 68 to 73.
4th June " " 33 & 34
11th Do " 3 to 10
25th " " 613a

4. We take this opportunity of transmitting for the information of your Honorable Court a copy of a correspondence which has taken place with the Board of Revenue on the subject of the espousal of the minor Heiress of the Ramnad Zemindary Dorarajah Nachyar by her relative Mootoo Vizia Ragoonatha Thaver, together with copies of Minutes recorded by the Members of Government. Your Honorable Court will observe from the Minute of our President dated the 5th Instant that he does not concur in the proceedings of Government recorded in the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 8th June 1844 No. 552. —

(True Extract)

(Signed) G. D. Drury
Chief Secretary to Govt.

(True Copy)

Actg. Under Secy. to Govt.

& J.A.S.

No. 4.

Copy of a Letter dated
25th June 1844.

Rec: 3/360/73

Will left by Rajah Vezya Ragoonada Ramasawmy Sadoopady to his Elder Brother Mootoo Chella Tevar.

1. I being attacked by the small pox and being extremely ill, if I should die by the will of God, my Mother and my Wife being immured in the Seraglio and being unable to appear abroad, according to the custom of our Zemindary and to manage the affairs of the same, and as I have nominated my daughters to succeed to the Zemindary, you are, until they come to age and are able to manage its affairs to be the manager and receive the honors connected with it like myself, and to disburse the charges regularly, and to protect my adopted mother Rawny Mootooveroy Natcheyar

who is your sister, and my Wife and the Wives of my Father and to give them the salaries and Cuttalays as I have fixed them and according to your wish. Besides which you are to receive Rupees 500 for your expenses.

2. After my children attain their age they must be married according to the desire of my mother and yourself and their Wedding accomplished with the utmost pomp.

3. You are to conduct the Revenue and Police affairs regularly and pay the Circar Kists in full, and act according to the wishes of the Government.

4. As there are in the Zemindary Ramasooveram and other temples to be worshipped by the Hindoos all over the World, you are to protect them and the Chuttrums &c.

5. You are to feed, clothe and protect my public Officers and the other servants who depend upon me as long as they behave properly

6. As there are six Wives of my Father and one of mine in my Palace and as they might cause disagreement even in trifling matters for want of reason. I have appointed you to be liable to all honor and disgrace as there is no Kindred by blood besides yourself to the Ranny Moottooveroy Natcheyar, who is my Elder sister, and my adoptive mother, and your Younger sister, and the Queen of my Father and the other concubines and the other Females you are to make daily inquiry into the affairs of the Seraglio and to give good advices when any of them acts improperly thro' want of sense and to provide them with all necessaries, and to so carefully

conduct the affairs of the Seraglio without any deficiency as not to be ill-spoken of on any account.

7. My Mother Mootooveray Natcheyar ought according to custom to give in daily necessary orders for the Seraglio and to have in possession the Seal called Beera Matteray of the Seraglio, the Key of the Rajah Rajooverry Ammen Covil and the treasury &c. of the Seraglio.

8. According to the custom in our Zemindary of appointing the Wives of the Zemindars as heirs of the Zemindary I have not appointed my Mother and my Wife but my daughters to the Zemindary. My eldest daughter is to be the heir to my Zemindary and to all my other Royalties as soon as she is able to govern and attains sufficient capacity and then my younger daughter Davarajah Natcheyar to have a new

new Palace erected for her use and with the permission of Government to have sufficient landed property conferred on her of her support.

9. As I have from my free Will appointed you for conducting the affairs of my Zemindary you will conduct the above affairs with the utmost faithfulness so that no loss or debt may accrue or troubles arise and will procure much property and honor and will clear up the old debts and will protect the Zemindary

10. My elder daughter and her descendants are to be the first heirs to the Zemindary, in default of which my younger daughter and her descendants are to be the next heirs to it, in default of which and after

their time, my Mother the Rany
Mootooveruy Natcheyar, is, if alive,
to adopt according to her wish a
male child of Mungalasoovary
Natcheyar or Sevayagee Natcheyar
who are sisters to her and myself,
and to make heir to the Zemindary
thereof, if the said Rany Mootoo:
:very Natcheyar is not in being
my wife is to act in this wise
until my eldest daughter and
the other heirs attain their majority
and capacity of governing, you are
to be the manager for Zemindary
and conduct the affairs thereof
with great care and diligence.
In the event of your demise in
the mean time, you must inform
at the time of your death that
first my mother and next my
wife shall act as abovementioned
and

and deliver this Will to
my Mother. I have informed
in my Urzee to the Principal
Collector on this date of my
having appointed my mother
as Guardian and you as Manager.

19 April 1830. (signed) Rajah Vizya
Ragoonada Rama:
:sawmy Sadoopady

(True Copy)

Acting Under Secy to Govt.

Compd

No 5.
Copy of the Will of
Ramasawmy Saithapathy.
Rec: 4/360/73

To

The Most Noble the Governor of the
Presidency of Fort Saint George
&c. &c. &c.

The humble Petition of
Vezya Ragoonada Mootto
Chella Tevar, late
manager of the Ramnad
Zemindary.

Sheweth,

That the humble Petitioner most submissively begs leave to state to your Honorable the Government that in the course of his having transacted the Zemindary affairs for the space of no less than 12 years as Manager (not temporary) appointed by the Will of his younger brother Ramasawmy Sadoopady the Father of the Minor Zemindar, Mr. Fisher of Salem Annasawmy Iyen who was the dismissed Government Vakeel of the Zillah Court of Madura for Misconduct and other persons Joining Purvathavarthany Nachiyar the Minors mother, and instigating her thro' many ways and then all ingratiating themselves into the favor of the Principal Collector of the Zillah, John Blackburn, Esqre brought to the Petitioner hereby to suffer a great deal and caused his removal from his Office of Manager and broke into his own house called the small Palace and endangered most of his property kept therein of which cases the petitioner has addressed Petitions to your Lordship and the Board of Revenue, and whilst he is with all hope expecting to obtain justice he is compelled at present to detail the further attempt of the abovesaid Annasawmy

Annasawmy Iyer and Company, which will undoubtedly result in depriving the Petitioner even of his superiority connections by blood, and other privileges he is in the family of the Zemindars of Ramnad, unless it is checked in due time by Authorities.

That the said Ramasawmy Sadupady has appointed his adoptive mother Ranny Moottoo Veroy Nachiyar the Grandmother of the present minor and the Lawful wife of the late Moottoo Vezya Regoo:nada Sadoopady and the Petitioner the elder uncle of the Minor to be chiefly conceived as the heads of the Family, in case of finding suitable Spouses for his Minor Daughters and performing their marriages and has also mentioned these particulars in the Will above referred to.

That, notwithstanding the above

Mr3

Mr. Fisher Annasawmy Iyen, Purvatha Vurthaney Natcheyar and others joined together when Petitioner was in Madura under the trial of Circuit Court and attempted against the Will of the Minor's Father and the long standing Rules and Customs of the Zemindary and without the assent of Petitioner and Rawney Moottoo Very Natcheyar to have the present Minor married to an unsuitable person, and Petitioner immediately brought the case to the notice of G. D. Drury Esqre who was Commissioner at Madura, upon which he issued an order to the present Manager of the Zemindary to avoid the said attempt by due means. A short time after, the party again attempting against the above order to begin on the private marriage called in Tamil Serosthaly Cuttel with the same unsuitable man, Petitioner addressed Petitions accompanied by the English Translations of the Will of the late Ramasawmy Sadoopady, on the 1st July 1843, to the presence of the Board and your Lordship, praying that such an alliance may be prevented and the marriage be ordered to be done agreeably to the Will. The Petition to your Lordship having been referred to the Board it was endorsed by them on the 7th September 1843, that the Principal Collector appears from his Report on it that he is not aware of any such intended marriage.

That the above said Annasawmy Iyen has now come from Madura to Ramnad and staying where he and the said Purvathavurthany Natcheyar the Mother of the Minor and her Brother Cottay Taven and some others have agreeably to the wish of Mr. Fisher joined together in devising an evil Council in violation of the Will of the Minor's Father and of the order of G. D. Drury Esqre

In the course of the devise, the Petitioner understands that urzees were addressed to the Principal Collector by Purwathavarthaney Natcheyar and the present Manager who is under the instigations of the party, stating that the Minor is to be married and a sum of 90,000 Rupees is required for the expenses of the marriage, and that the Principal Collector replied the Spouse to be ascertained and the sum of 15,000 Rupees will do the purpose and that Purwathavarthaney Natcheyar and the said Manager have purposed to have the Minor married to an unsuitable man of the Village called Mennandy and have a second time addressed Urzees to the Principal Collector.

That neither the Petitioner nor his relations had ever known whose son the proposed man is and of which branch he is.

No

14/39

No intermarriage has ever been before made between his family and that of Petitioner. As far as Petitioner could judge of his circumstances after he has lately been brought to Ramnad from the said Village by Annasawmy Iyen and Cottay Tavin, he is not one who can be distinguished in any family is not of handsome features, has not any virtues or merits and he is not of course fit to be chosen for the Minor Proprietrix of the Zemindary. He is a stranger who cannot ever be married to the Minor without making a breach of Relational terms and Caste bounds.

That there is a Mampilley (or husband) of the late Minor who possesses engaging features, good merits and talents and who has the first and best claims to the Minor. There are also the sons of the late Ramasawmy Sadoopady's Sisters named Sevayage Natcheyar, Mungala:soovary Natcheyar and Poonatha Natcheyar all of pleasing features and high merits. and it is therefore essential that the Minor should be married, not to the above said Villagers but either to the said husband of the deceased Minor or to one of the sons of the late Ramasawmy Sadoopady's sisters according to the terms of caste.

That although the management of the Zemindary is at present re:moved from Petitioner to the Court of Wards yet the responsibilities involved on Petitioner in procuring a suitable spouse have not been and removed from Petitioner and Rawney Mootto Veroy Natcheyar or who are the heads of the Family and who are related to the Minor by blood and who are instituted by the Will of the Minor's Father as the Chief persons under whose choice and assent the Minor ought to be married. and it is not a thing which can at any time be withdrawn from them. It is the Petitioner and not any other one, who is the best concerned in finding a suitable Spouse for the Minor and who is entitled to perform the ceremony of Haryoorthal /a Native marriage ceremony/ as the Paternal uncle of the Minor. Your presence can easily understand that this is not a matter entirely to be left to the disposal of those who are of a different religion and caste such as Mussulmen &c. and who are wardly officers.

That it is customary when a Miss of our royal Family and caste is to be married that the persons at the head of the Family will unanimously consider the marriage and choose a spouse who has the immediate and unobjectionable terms and claims to the proposed bride and get the marriage performed. In the same manner the marriage of the heirs and heiresses of the Zemindary have been successively made among one and the same family that had been affined long since but no marriage has been made with a strange family, nor it can be so done.

That there being the Maupillay of the late Minor and the sons of the Minor's Paternal Aunts,

how

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how is it that Purvathavarthany Natcheyar, one dwelling in the Seraglio, having no sense of her own and knowing nothing of the Zemindary affairs, she alone can under the instigations of disturbers undertake the marriage business and propose the said stranger who is entirely unsuitable as he is to the minor, without the assent of Petitioner who is the Minor's elder uncle, and the own elder Brother of her Father and of Rawney Mootoo Veroy Natcheyar who is the Minor's grandmother and the adoptive mother of her Father and of Sevagaga Natcheyar, Munga:lasoorvy Natcheyar, and Ponnathal Natcheyar who are the Paternal Aunts of the Minor and the Sisters of the Minor's Father.

That the said Annasawmy Iyer (who was dismissed the Employment

of Court Vakeel, and who was
the chief cause of all the
injustices which the Petitioner
had lately suffered and
whose misconduct having been
well experienced by by Commissioner
G. D. Drury Esq.re he issued an
order to the present manager
that Annasawmy Iyen being
a writer he ought, whenever he
appears at Ramnad, to be
seized and sent over to Madura,
which order was accordingly
proclaimed throughout Ramnad)
Cottay Tavers and others purposing
that, if the minor be married
according to the Caste terms
and the wishes of Petitioner and
others to one of the educated
young men of good virtues and
talents in the Head Family
of the Zemindary, they cannot
have

have any greater influence
they have attempted of themselves
to propose a Villager, a stranger
and an unsuitable one, contrary
to the will of Ramasawmy
Sadoopady to the order of
G. D. Drury Esq.re and to the
wishes of the Petitioner and Mootoo,
veroy Natcheyar. In all these
improper proceedings the above
said Purvadavarthany Natcheyar
is used as a Machine in hands
considering but a little while
your Lordship will come to
conclude that this is quite
an improper attempt and
liable to bring on disturbances.

That the Petitioner gave
information of the above
particulars to the present manager
desiring him not to agree to
the

the irregular undertake of Arravasawmy Iyen and other but pay due regard to the order of G. D. Drury Esqre and report on the case to the Principal Collector and he having given no direct reply it appears that he is also accessory to the said persons in the attempt highly improper.

That although the English Translations of the Will which treats that the Minor's marriage cannot be performed without the assent of petitioner and Rany Moottoweroy Natcheyar, had been sent for your Lordships perusal with his Petition of the 1st July 1843 he begs to send it again herewith, together with an English translation of the
order

order issued by G. D. Drury Esqre to the present manager on the 1st February 1843, on the subject of the marriage now in question.

That the Petitioner has forwarded an Urzee to the Board of Revenue stating the above particulars and altho' he should by rule appeal to your Lordship upon their decision yet the case being of the most essential character he is necessarily obliged to submit this Petition to your Lordship so that your Lordship may be enabled to consider it in a fair light, with the report of Board of Revr. which they would in the meantime give to you respecting the case having a previous knowledge of all the customs &c. of the Zemindar and of the Petitioner's opinion and wish
about

about the case.

The Petitioner therefore most earnestly begs that your Lordship will be graciously pleased to well consider the above particulars and order that the attempt of the said Annasawmy Iyen, Cottay Teven &ca to have the Minor married to the aforesaid man of Menuandy who is void of all merits, or education or handsome features might be prohibited and that she might be married to the husband) of the late Manager / Zemindar / who has the first and best claims to the Minor and who is endowed with all virtues, merits and talents or to one of the sons of the late Ramasawmy Sadoofady's three sisters in accordance with the will of the said Ramasawmy Sadoofady, with the desire of Petitioners and Ramy Mootovery Natcheyar, who are at best concerned in the Welfares especially in the marriage case of the Minor and the Relatival terms, Customs and Rules of Caste.

Ramnad
6 February 1844

For which act of Justice and goodness the Petitioner shall as in duty bound ever pray.

/signed/

/True Copy/

C. H. ...
Acting Under Secy to Govt.

Ms.

No. 6.

Copy of Petition Dated
26th February 1844.

Rev: $\frac{5}{360}$/73

Revenue Board Offic
Fort Saint George,
5th December, 1844.

No. 586.

From,
E. C. Lovell Esquire
Ag. Secretary to the Board of Rev

To,
G. D. Drury, Esquire
Chief Secretary to Governmen

Sir,

Rev. Dept.

Para 1 I am directed to acknowledg the receipt of an extract Minutes Consultation of the 12th Ultimo desiring the Court of Wards to state their sentiments on the opinion expressed by the Principal Collector of Madur that the husband of the minor heiress of Ramnad might be placed in charge of the Devastanum propert within the Zemindary, "tho' he would not for a moment accept him as a controlling officer under himself."

2. The Court have no reason to suppose that the husband of the minor is in any way disqualified by mental or other defects from undertaking such a duty. In fact

Mr Blackburne has expressly declared that he is not deficient in natural abilities in comparison with others of his age." They understand Mr Blackburne's objection to be rather of a general than a particular nature and to express his unwillingness to superintend the administration of a person in the position and of the class of the young Zemindar.

3. This view is borne out by a subsequent letter from the Principal Collector since received and herewith submitted, in which he recommends the release of the Estate from the Custody of the Court of Wards, on the ground of the little benefit expected to be secured to the Estate under present circumstances and of the husband, who is her natural Guardian, being as fit now to take charge of her affairs, as he will be two years hence, when the minority legally expires. To this proposition against which the late manager has protested in a petition lately received the Court deem it sufficient to observe, that the section of the Regulation referred to by the Principal Collector, does not seem to leave room for the exercise of any discretion in the matter.

1st in Cons. 21st Nov. 1844

No. 1377 of 1844

Revenue Board Office,
Fort Saint George
5th December, 1844

I have &c.
(Signed) E. C. Lovell
Ag. Secretary

(True Copy)

Ag. Under Secy. to Govt.

Compd M.S.

No. 7.

Copy of a Letter from Board of Revenue dated 5th December 1844.

Reco. 6/360/73

No 708

Collector's O
Mad
4th February

From
W. McQuhae Esq
Acting Collr
Mad

To
The Secretary
to Govern
Revenue De
Fort St Geo

Sir,

I have the honor to ret
herewith a packet of papers rec
with Government Order dated
October 1872 No 52 relating to th
Ramnad Suit which was late
disposed of. None of the pape
were taken by the Court from
this packet.

I have the hono
Sir
Your most Obe
W McQu
Ag Colle

rom— W. 300

The Ag Collr
of Madura
To
The Secretary to Govt
Revenue Departt
Madras

Dated 4th &
Recd 7th Feby/73
No 208
Encl 6

Returning herewith
the packet of papers
received with Govt
order dated 7th Oct
1872 No 52, relating
to the Ramnad
Suit. W. 39.

LODGED