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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 805 ~~Press~~
~~B.P.~~ No. Mis. ✓

Dated 4. 4. 1876 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

DA

805/1

Tirunevelly collectors office
1st March 1876.

No. 142

From, A. J. Stuart Esqre.,
Acting Collector.
To, Captain P. J. Hankin R.N.,
Private Secretary to,
His Grace,
The Governor of,
Madras,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

In reply to your letter dated 21st January 1876, I have the honor to report for the information of His Grace the Governor upon the petition,× herewith returned.

× A

2 As regards the employment of native Christians, I do not think that religion should make any difference. I look for persons who are best qualified for employment as far as I am able to judge, and it makes no difference whether they are Christians or not. The fact of being so, I do not regard as either in favor of any candidate or against him.

3 I beg to enclose a list x of the native Christians in public employment in this district, and I have added notes showing the proportion this bears to the population and to employees of other religions. x G That they are comparatively few is not surprising & is undoubtedly due to the facts 1. that comparatively few of them qualify by passing the examinations, & or seek employment in Government Offices, 2. That they belong for the most part to the Shanar caste and even when brought up as Christians and educated in the Missionary Schools, seldom turn out as capable for the public service as the Bramins and the Pillais or Vellalahs of this district are. From time immemorial, Bramins & Pillais have filled nearly all Government Offices because they alone were qualified, and until they became Christians, the Shanars never thought of competing with them but were one of the lowest & most ignorant classes of the population. They are beginning now in a few isolated cases to make their way upwards, and I see nothing to prevent them having every chance that any other caste has, provided they can qualify. At the present moment, the highest Tahsildar and I think on the whole the best in this district, is a Christian. Bramins and Vellalahs almost never become Christians and being as a rule naturally more talented than the castes which do become Christians, continue to hold their own against them.

4 As regards the writer of the present petition, there is strong reason to believe that though he calls himself Soloman, he is in reality no other than the David whose career he describes in the petition. Both Mr Glenny who acted for me while I was absent in Madras & Mr Arundel the Additional Sub Collector, are strongly of opinion that this is the case, both from the resemblance of the handwriting of the petition to David's & from the facts that no such person as the Soloman of the petition can be found, and that though he, Soloman, was evidently intimately acquainted with David's career, David declares that he knows nothing about either the petition or the writer & suggests

that some enemy has written the petition in order to get him, David, into trouble.

5 A few days after David was asked what he knew about the petition or its writer, I received another communication from the supposed Soloman purporting to have been written in Ceylon & saying that the writer having heard by means of a bazaar rumour among the emigrant coolies from India, that David had been asked about the petition, hastened to exonerate David from all participation in the writing of the petition. This letter[×] is also enclosed for His Grace's perusal, as is also David's reply[°] when asked what he knew about the petition, for the sake of comparison of handwriting.

×C

°B

I may observe that it is difficult to see how, when David knew nothing of the petition or of Soloman, its supposed writer, and considered him as in all probability an enemy, Soloman obtained information of what David only would know, namely that he had been asked what he knew about Soloman.

DEF

6 I beg to enclose 3 semi official notes from Mr Glenny as showing how the facts strike another mind. I hope His Grace, the Governor, will pardon the liberty I have taken in forwarding the last two notes which would have been otherwise worded, had they been written for His Grace's eye.

7 In conclusion, I beg to say that though the fictitious character of the first petition makes it not the sort of transaction creditable to any officer in the service, I should hardly have thought it worth special attention; but the deliberate attempt to deceive which is represented by the petition (C), in my opinion, calls for notice from His Grace, the Governor, if His Grace is satisfied that David was the writer of all the three papers (A) (B) & (C).

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt. Servt.

A. Vincent
Acting Collector

Compd A H C

1876 Revenue 1876 [illegible]

№ 1362

From, The Ag. Collector Tinnevelly

To. The Private Secretary to His Grace the Governor of Madras Fort Saint George

Dated 14th } March 1876
Recd 4 April

Enclosures 7

Submitting information regarding the employment of native christians in the Revenue Department of the Tinnevelly District

№ 805

File 4 April 1876

The returns are satisfactory. The Memorial seems to have been a concoction of some one or more petitioners. I incline to the opinion that the Memorial was the work of David but I doubt whether it is worth further notice

Carmichael
see the papers

A

805/5

To

The Most Noble the Duke of
Buckingham and Chandos,
Governor of Fort St. George,

The humble Memorial of the undersigned resident inhabitant of Tinnevelly, South India,

Most respectfully sheweth

That your Grace will be pleased to pardon the liberty which your Grace's humble Memorialist has taken in addressing the following few lines to your Grace's kind and serious consideration.

2.— That in the old days of Tinnevelly, before Christianity had made any considerable progress in it, only a few of the Sudras were tolerably well educated, and none of them was able enough, or found to be so, to hold an appointment under the Government. All the low and high appointments were exclusively appropriated by the Brahmins throughout, with only a few of the heathen Sudras (e.g. Vellalars, Naicks, Mudalies, &c.) here and there.

3.— That such

—policed—

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Mis.

80½

3.— That such should be the case also at the present, would surely strike your Grace as very strange and anomalous. Tinnevelly now numbers her Christians by thousands. It is the only District in the whole of India which can be called Christian. The majority of its Native Christians are more educated than their heathen neighbours; and a great many of them have acquired superior training, and secured high places in the Government Examinations and Tests. They are besides — what is, alas! sadly wanting in many a heathen — honest, painstaking, and faithful in the discharge of their duties.

4.— That in spite of such favourable circumstances, the Native Christian community should be so meagerly (or perhaps not at all) represented in the Government Service, would naturally appear to your Grace as a great wrong done to that body. Your Grace's most humble Memorialist begs to assure your Grace that it is so considered by all the Educated Native Christians in this District. The fact is — the heathen being numerically largely employed, and being also in high, influential positions, prevents the Christian from having

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having access to the European Officer, and does all he can to nip at the root the Collector's idea of employing a Christian, however eligible he might be; and if by chance (for thus only do such things happen here), any Christian is employed, he is put in such out-of-the-world place, and in such insignificant post, as to preclude his ever again being brought to the Collector's Notice.

5.— That in illustration of the above, your Grace's humble Memorialist begs leave to mention the following: In the Revenue Department in this District there are employed Messers V. Gnanapiragasam, S. Gnanapiragasam, J. Savaviroyen, Samuel Daniel, A. V. David, and one or two other Native Christians. The case of the last mentioned Officer will, your Grace's Memorialist humbly trusts, be highly interesting to your Grace:— He is a son of a Native Clergyman, and has been to Madras, Bombay, Ceylon and many other places. In his travels, he has acquired a considerable amount of Knowledge. He has a good character, and is well spoken of for his strict principles of honesty. His testimonials are many and speak volumes in his favour. He is reputed as the best English Scholar

and the

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and the most highly educated among the Native Christians in Tinnevelly. He is a First Class F. A. of the Madras University; but knowing that the B. A is of no use in the Revenue Department, he appeared for the Special Tests, and in 2 years after his appointment as a Taluq Clerk, successfully completed all the Tests prescribed for the post of a Deputy Collector and Magistrate! His success was great — for in some of the Tests, his name ~~should~~ stood first in the list of passed Candidates — and his rising high was apparent to every one. The whole District was astir, and the heathen awoke in trepidation. The poor man was, for all his knowledge, endeavours and painstaking, put as an Asst. Superintendent of Sea Customs in an insignificant port, on a monthly salary of Rs 30!!! His name is never mentioned in the Huzur Cutcheries, his qualifications are never brought to the notice of the Collector when vacancies occur, and he is personally unknown to the Collector, the Sub. Collector, the Hd. Asst. Collector, the Asst. Collector, the Deputy Collector; in fact to every one of the European Revenue Officers here he is unknown. Other cases similar to the

above

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above can be related; but they will perhaps be tedious and irksome to your Grace.

6. — That your Grace will discover from ^ foregoing that the Christians here are sadly neglected. Your Grace's Predecessor evinced great interest in the Mahomedan population, and issued orders throughout the Presidency to have the Mahomedan's position raised, and to have Mahomedans appointed to Government posts. But none seems to think of the Native Christian. Christian England has, however, now sent out one of the noblest and greatest of her Christian sons to govern Christian Tinnevelly; and your Grace's most humble Memorialist, therefore, and all the educated Native Christians here look up to your Grace only, as their would-be champion and benefactor, and humbly trust that your Grace will be pleased to lift the position of the hundreds of educated Native Christians (especially here in Tinnevelly), by devising such means as would afford them easy, free, and ample access to European Gentlemen, and by issuing orders to employ deserving Christians largely.

7. — That in

— policed

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Mis.

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7.—That, in conclusion, your Grace's most humble Memorialist begs leave to add that though he does not expect he will be favoured with a reply to this, yet he rests assured that his representations are real facts, that he submits them in the name of all the Educated Native Christians in this District, and that he does so in the sure and certain hope of Providence blessing this humble, prayerful undertaking of his, and inspiring your Grace to just exertions on behalf of His faithful children and your Grace's dutiful servants.

Your Grace's most obedient
and faithful Servant
D. Solomon.

Tinnevelly,
29th Decemr 1875.

---

at Palamcottah) a great deal of time
from the Christian Converts ~~there~~, who
one and all bemoaned very much
that the Government service is mono
— polised

Rev 1362/76

From D Solomon
Tinnevelly—

States that in the days when Christianity had not made much progress all the high and the low appointments were monopolized by Sudras and Brahmins that it should be so at the present time is anomalous especially when Tinnevelly can boast of several educated native Christians. that the heathen being numerically largely employed in high and influential positions prevent a Christian however intelligent & deserving he may be having access to the European officers of the District and if they chance [illegible]

(C)

Colombo
13 Febry. 1876

To
The Collector of Tinn[illegible]lly,
Palamc[illegible],

Sir,

A rumour is current today in the quarters of the Tinneve[illegible]ly Settler here, that Mr. M. David, Asst. Superintendent of Sea Customs at Colacepatam is taxed with having submitted [illegible] Memorial in his favour to His Grace the Govr. [illegible] is reported that you have issued an order or "takeed" to Mr. David, calling upon him, to declare whether he had a hand in it or not.

In justice to Mr. David, I beg leave to say that it was I who wrote the Memorial in question. Though personally unacquainted with him, I heard (both at Palamcottah) a great deal of him from the Christian Converts ~~there~~, who one and all bemoaned very much that the Government service is more

— polluted

-polised by the heathen. Much was told me about the few Native Christians in God! simply to shew that their claims are overlooked and not brought to the notice of the Authorities, but the particulars about Mr David were so marked and interesting that I took him as an example & mentioned something about him in detail.

I was anxious to see him at Colatsegrampa on & embark thence to Colombo, but unavoidable circumstances prevented me, & which I greatly regret. In conclusion I beg to mention again that Mr David is an entire stranger to me, & that he does not know a word of what I wrote about him in the Memorial

Your most obed. Serv.
D. Solomon

Rec 13/2/76

My dear Hunt
This clenches the question doesn't it?
After despatch of my ~~letter~~ Chit on this subject it occurred to me to think who on Earth
385/12

DEPARTMENT

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B.P. No.

Press
Mis.

Monday

My dear Mr Glenny

I know no other person of the name of D. Solomon than the teacher in our School here, a most worthy & exemplary man. I have asked him if he knows any of the same name either here or in Ceylon, & he says No. I have no doubt that if such a name is attached

Could Solomon who never saw David have been aware of one circumstance in particular: viz that David was unknown to every one of the Dr. officers except one, viz Arundel. Oh David thou ——— art no ornament to the Xtian faith!

Yours truly

to a petition it is a false name, — but put in as likely to carry more weight.

Believe me
Yours sincerely
Edw. Sargent

3
Rev 1362/6

My dear Stuart,

Indubitably this is David's handiwork. Putting aside the internal evidence of handwriting — how could D. Solomon have heard of the

The whole thing is my friend's transparent [illegible] [illegible]

must have done this.

"talked" when David does not know of the Existence of Solomon.

But the whole story itself *mole ruit sua*

The idea of Solomon having so thoroughly posted himself up in David's history *unknown to David*, and buttering up this youth whom he had never seen and didn't thereafter see, is too ridiculous.

I am so amused with this "*affaire* David—Solomon" that

Rev 4/1362/76

I shall ask Dr Large ~~[illegible]~~ if there ever was a Dr Solomon ~~[illegible]~~ of Colombo who visited Palamcottah? ~~in Tinnevelly~~

Why there again — If ~~Dr~~ Solomon belongs to Colombo why does he misstate his location?

of the letter with the name (on the 8th page — underscored) in the Memorial. There is a striking correspondence in the "A's" "M's" & "N's" in the two manuscripts.

Observe the peculiar
form of the "t's": the
cross-stroke is either
thus "t" or "t" as
a rule in both manu=
=scripts: both peculiar
formations of the letter.
Arundel's first remark
when he saw the

—being struck
with the peculiar good=
=ness of his handwriting
— first took him by
the hand, and employed
him in preparing
Calendars &c.

Arundel Locke.

must have

and I have carefully Compared the letter now Enclosed with the Memorial, and are of opinion that they are written by the same hand. Compare the signature

known in Tinnevelly is a very respectable man called David Solomon, teacher in the Tucker Institute. He declares he did not write or dictate the Memorial. As I have

~~ale~~ already told you,
Locke and Arundel
at once pronounced the
handwriting of the
Memorial to be David's.
Both are familiar
with David's handwriting.
Arundel it was who

(D)

Palamcottah
10.2.76

My dear Stuart

I am collecting
the information called
for in the letter covering
the Memorial signed "D
Solomon". At the same
time I think it best

to send you the
Memorial and a letter
from A. V. David.
Since there is, I think
very little doubt but
that David himself
forged the Memorial.
The only D. Solomon

letter has that.
The handwriting
is less than that of
the Memorial like
David's. The letter does
not look as if it were
written currente calamo
in a man's ordinary
hand, I think. There

ite believe that an enem
ust have done this

is rather a *forced* and shabby look about parts of it. However perhaps this is due to the Tremulous Eagerness of an innocent man to assert his innocence. Perhaps

our Suspicions are all wrong. But I must say I think they are well founded. In his disclaimer David attributes the Memorial to an Enemy. How is it in any way

uite believe

little the work of an Enemy? To my thinking, Certainly not. I leave it to You, either to inform this House now of the Suspicious origin of the petn., or to embody

805/97

the result of the Enquiry in the Report

Yours sincerely

J. H. Glenny

uite believe

must have done this.

5
Rev 1362/76

Sea Custom House,
Colasegrampatam,
9th February, 1876.

Honored Sir,

I need hardly say that your letter of the 7th Instant has taken me by surprise. I did not write any memorial to His Grace the Governor. I have no relation by the name of Solomon, and who D. Solomon is I am unable to say.

The very idea of writing a memorial to the Governor, and to mention my own praise in it is, I humbly beg to say, beneath my notice. Besides I have, I think no enemy here who would thus try to injure me. For I quite believe that an enemy must have done this.

With humble respects,
I beg to remain,
Honored Sir,
Your most obedient and
faithful Servant,
A. V. David
Asst. Superint.

To
W. H. Glenny Esqre
Palamcottah

relied by the heathen. Much was

Rev $\frac{6}{1362}$/76

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
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Mis.

4

List of Native Christians employed in the Revenue Department Tinnevelly District

Name of employe 1	Office 2	Service 3 y. m. d.	Salary 4 R. A. P.	Tests passed 5
1. A. V. David Protestant	Assistant Superintendent of Kulasegarapatam Sea Custom House	7 4 — " —	30 — " — "	First Class in the First Arts Examination in 1866 Passed for Deputy Collector
2. A. D. David (Protestant)	3rd Clerk Tuticorin Sea Custom House	5 — 1 — 8	15 — " —	" ——— " ———
3. Chinna Tambi Muthu Gomes (Paravar Roman Catholic)	Weigher Tuticorin Sea Custom House	3 — 9 — 25	7 — " — "	——— " ———
4. Nallatambi Pillai (Protestant)	Dufterbund Tuticorin Dy Tahsildar's Office	2 — 1 — 15	7 — " —	GL Test Vernacular
5. Gnanapathi pillai	Tahsildar of Ettiapuram	12 — 9 — "	295 — " —	Passed for District Munsiff & Deputy Collector
6. David Ramasamy pillai	2nd Clerk Salt Deputy Collector's Office	5 — 1 — "	20 — " —	General Test Anglo Vernacular Prec. Writing Higher Grade & Translation Lower Grade
7. Rajanayagam pillai	Superintendent Tuticorin Salt pans	16 — 7 — 10	100 — " —	General Test Vernacular & Salt Superintendents test in English.
8. Samuel Rhenius pillai	Do of Kuttangully Salt pans.	4 — 3 — 8	50 — " —	Matriculation Examination Passed for Tahsildar
	Huzur Establishment			
9. M. Canthimadi pillai	English Clerk Collector's Office	11 — " — "	30 — " — "	Passed for Tahsildar & Sea Custom Superintendent
10. Savarimuthu Vathiar	English Clerk Collector's Office	7 — " — "	25 — " — "	General Test Anglo-Vernacular

Remarks
6

	Males	Females	Total
Population of the District of Tinnevelly	836,515	857,444	1,693,959
Number of Native Christians	50,442	51,807	102,249
Total No. of Officers in the Revenue Depth on Rs 15 & upwards	268		
Do on receipt of pay below Rs 15 from Attender upwards	36		
	304		
Number of Native Christians in the Revenue Depth	14		

List of Native Christians employed in the Revenue Department Tinnevelly District

Name of employe 1	Office 2	Service 3	Salary 4	Tests passed 5	Remarks 6
		y. m. d.	R. A. P.		Males Females Total
11. S. Gnanapra-gasam	English Accountant Collector's Office	9 " "	20 " "	General Test Anglo-Vernacular	
12. S. Gnanapra-gasam	Local Fund Clerk Do Do	8 " "	30 " "	Translation Lower Grade Precis-Writing Higher Grade	
13. M. Streeniva-sagam pillai	Do Do	12 " "	15 " "	"	
14 S. Vedanaya-gam pillai	Clerk, Palamcottah Dy Tahsildar's Office	5 " "	15 " "	"	

Cmpd

A. Collector