Archives 1—10,000—6-10-76.

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2693B	Press. / Mis.

Dated 10.9.1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

10th September 1877, No. 2,693-B.

Famine Relief.

Read the following papers:—

No. 166-C. From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 27th August 1877, No. 291.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the Proceedings of Government, No. 4,794, dated the 22nd instant.

2. I forward copies of the correspondence which has passed on the subject and beg to report as follows.

3. On the 17th ultimo, Mr. F. Harvey addressed me, sending me at the same time the woman who complained that she had had her hair cut off.

4. I requested the Sub-Magistrate to take her deposition. She could not give any names.

5. I therefore referred the matter for report to Major Thomas for explanation.

He acknowledged that the woman, being an old offender, and a regular vagrant, he had, to frighten her, ordered the Inspector to go through the motion of hair-cutting with the back of the blade of a knife; then, finding that the threat produced no effect, he ordered the sharp end of the blade to be used, and this resulted in a small piece being cut off, not longer than a couple of inches.

6. I thereupon addressed Major Thomas, pointing out to him what an undignified position he had placed himself in, and requesting him to be most careful in future.

7. I felt convinced that such an act would not occur again, and I therefore did not think it necessary to pursue the matter further.

From E. HARVEY, Esq., to the Collector of Bellary, dated 17th July 1877.

I request to have to bring to your notice that the destitute village woman (accompanied by two children) whom I send herewith complains that she has had her hair cut off in a tope near the Telegraph Office here by some peons in presence of two gentlemen whom she did not know. From the description she gives, it appears to me that the alleged offenders are some of Major Thomas' the town inspecting officer's subordinates.

Of course, I do not know as to the truth of her statements, but such a complaint justifies a thorough enquiry into her case, and this I trust you will be good enough to institute, as any person, especially an Officer of Government, who would mutilate a woman by cutting off her hair, should not escape severe punishment.

DEPOSITION of VARDA DASAMMA of Handrohall, dated the 19th July 1877.

About five days ago, one day at about 8 o'clock A M, while I was coming back from the B[illegible]y station after having picked up grain on the floor there, a Musalman peon who had a belt on, beat me twice and brought me to the tamarind tope near the Cutchery, where there were some coolies and a gentleman (Dora). The peon who brought me there and another tall Musalman peon who had a belt on said that they would cut my lock of hairs and brought a pair of scissors and cut my lock but the hairs could not easily be cut. However they cut my lock with a razor which had a white handle, then I cried. Another gentleman (Dora) came there and released me. When my lock was cut there was a gentleman (Dora). Afterwards second gentleman (Dora) came and released me. There were many coolies and other people present, but I do not know them, I do not know the names of the peon who brought me from the station and the one who cut my lock with the former. I can recognize them if I see them. I can also

recognize the gentleman who was present at the action and the one who released me. After I was released those gentlemen and others went away. I was begging in the town for two days. Afterwards I went to the former place where I was receiving meals and reported the matter to the gentleman (Dora) who had given me meals there. As I was helpless in the first instance having nobody to speak on my behalf, I did not complain. I now pray for food and cloths and also for my expenses to rejoin my caste again.

FORWARDED to Major Thomas, Assistant Famine Officer, with a request that he will be good enough to state if he knows any thing as to the woman's complaint of having had her hair cut off by a peon.

20th July 1877. (Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector and Magistrate.

From Major E. H. THOMAS, Assistant Famine Officer, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector and Magistrate, Bellary, dated 23rd July 1877.

I AM in receipt of a translation from your office, embodying a statement of one Vadda Dassama; this gross misrepresentation, if not an attempt to extort money and victuals as the concluding remarks might at first sight lead one to suppose, can be only regarded as the result of conspiracy when viewed in the light of internal evidence afforded by the document, which points to this woman having been put up to prefer a complaint by certain irresponsible meddlers, whose names, although they do not appear, may be guessed without the smallest difficulty.

II. Assuming the latter hypothesis to be the correct one, this complaint would only be fit to be coupled with previous systematic attempts to cast discredit upon the management of famine matters in this district whether by means of sensational communications to the press or of frivolous and vexatious charges against Government Officers, which the authors, I have reason to believe, in every case failed to make good.

III. With regard to your question, I have the honor to reply that as misleading impressions are apparently being here wilfully conveyed by means of a disingenuous approach to facts, a reply *seriatim* to this complaint would impart to such impressions a fictitious importance and a degree of credibility of which I am prepared to prove they are quite unworthy.

From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector and Magistrate, Bellary, to Major E. H. THOMAS, Assistant Famine Officer, dated 23rd July 1877, No. 2,168.

IN acknowledging your letter, dated the 23rd instant, I have the honor to request that you will give me a plain answer to the question put, and return all the papers connected with the same.

From Major E. H. THOMAS, M.S.C., Assistant Famine Officer, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector and Magistrate, Bellary, dated 25th July 1877.

THE woman Vadda Dassamah since such is her name, is known as a confirmed vagrant and Railway thief to my Town Inspectors and to the Police respectively. She goes about with a child in arms, which a month ago was in a bad condition, and it is owing to this fact that she herself being able-bodied was originally sent to the relief camp instead of to a civil road.

It is one of my duties to clear the town of vagrants from outlying taluqs. This has proved an ever increasing task, and with the miserably insufficient means placed at my disposal, I have found myself compelled from time to time to have recourse to threats and intimidation towards persons of this class. Upon one of the occasions referred to, a number of able-bodied vagrants of both sexes were driven down to my cooly parade by the Police who had been making a raid upon the railway thieves. Among these latter and loaded with stolen grain, also in possession of an implement for cutting sacks open, the whole concealed all over her person, appeared again before me the woman in question. These reappearances were becoming rather frequent on her part. Upon this occasion the child was in a deplorable condition and had evidently undergone much neglect and rough usage. I must here mention that the threat which I had generally found successful in the case of women vagrants was to threaten them with cutting their hair if they returned to infest the town. Finding this woman obstinate and evidently aware of the emptiness of the threat, I handed my pocket knife to an Inspector (Syed Nubbee) who does not wear a belt (with instructions to give a fright by going through the motion of hair cutting with the back of the blade. As this however produced no effect beyond a sneer on her part, I directed

him to use the other side of the blade, and this resulted in the cutting off of a small piece not longer than a couple of inches of the matted tangle which she calls her "lock." By this time some by-stander had produced a pair of scissors which appeared to me unfit to cut any thing with, and even by her own account they were not used for cutting, in fact they were not used at all. She was perfectly unconcerned and indifferent throughout, so far from crying that upon being told off to the Aramah's tope party as a working pauper, she moved away from the spot with a leer. With regard to a razor, I declare that no such thing was produced or dreamt of nor was any cutting instrument used throughout save my pocket knife which has not got a white handle.

I have never seen any Peon or Inspector under me with a belt. One of the latter however does wear European clothes and a helmet. This is positively all I know of the affair and I am sure nothing else happened to her from my subordinates.

From J. H. MASTER, Esq, Collector of Bellary, to Major THOMAS, Assistant Famine Officer, dated Bellary, 28th July 1877, No. 635.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter, dated the 25th instant.

I am aware that your duties in clearing the town of vagrants have been most difficult, and while giving you every credit for successfully carrying them out, I regret exceedingly that in the present instance you should have placed yourself in such an undignified position as to lay yourself open to be called upon to answer to a complaint, such as has been made by the woman Bassamma.

The fact of her having been put up to make it or not is immaterial.

I beg you to be most careful in future.

No. 166-D. ORDER THEREON, 10th September 1877, No. 2,693-B.

Miscellaneous.

MAJOR Thomas has acted in a thoughtless manner, which was not to have been anticipated in an officer of his standing. The Governor in Council has grave doubts as to the propriety of leaving Major Thomas in a position of responsible authority, but, having regard to the fact that it is but a short time since an occurrence indicating similar indiscretion was reported which led to Major Thomas' removal from Bellary, resolves that this record of his feeling on the point be communicated to Major Thomas, and also to the Acting Collector of Kurnool, with whom he is now serving, with the intimation that any further instance of such behaviour will be severely dealt with.

(True Extract.)

Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Bellary.
" the Collector of Kurnool.
" Major Thomas.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. A. Raitt

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

10th September 1877, No. 2,693-B.

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6. I thereupon add[illegible]

DEPOSITION of VADDA DASAMMA of Handrohall, dated the 19th July 1877.

About five days ago, one day at about 8 o'clock A.M., while I was coming back from the Railway station after having picked up grain on the floor there, a Musalman peon who had a belt on, beat me twice and brought me to the tamarind tope near the Cutchery, where there were some coolies and a gentleman (Dora). The peon who brought me there and another tall Musalman peon who had a belt on said that they would cut my lock of hairs and brought a pair

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7. I felt convinced that such an act would not occur again, and I therefore did not think it necessary to pursue the matter further.

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Of course, I do not know as to the truth of her statements, but such a complaint justifies a thorough enquiry into her case, and this I trust you will be good enough to institute, as any [illegible]son, especially an Officer of Government, who would mutilate a woman by cutting off her hair, [illegible]punishm[illegible]

with a razor which had a white handle, then I cried. Another gentlem[illegible]ora) came t[illegible] and released me. When my lock was cut there was a gentleman (Dora). Afterwards second gentleman (Dora) came and released me. There were many coolies and other people present, but I do not know them, I do not know the names of the peon who brought me from the station and the one who cut my lock with the former. I can recognize them if I see them. I can also

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II. Assuming the latter hypothesis to be the correct one, this complaint would only be fit to be coupled with previous systematic attempts to cast discredit upon the management of famine matters in this district whether by means of sensational communications to the press or of frivolous and vexatious charges against Government Officers, which the authors, I have reason to believe, in every case failed to make good.

III. With regard to your question, I have the honor to reply that as misleading impressions are apparently being here wilfully conveyed by means of a disingenuous approach to facts, a reply *seriatim* to this complaint would impart to such impressions a fictitious [illegible] a ever increasing task, and with the miserably insufficient means placed at [illegible] found myself compelled from time to time to have recourse to threats and intimidation towards persons of this class. Upon one of the occasions referred to, a number of able-bodied vagrants of both sexes were driven down to my cooly parade by the Police who had been making a raid upon the railway thieves. Among these latter and loaded with stolen grain, also in possession of an implement for cutting sacks open the whole concealed all over her person, appeared again before me the woman in question. These reappearances were becoming rather frequent on her part. Upon this occasion the child was in a deplorable condition and had evidently undergone much neglect and [illegible] prove they [illegible].

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It is one of my duties [illegible] the town of vagrants from outlying talu[illegible] a [illegible] much [illegible] [illegible] mention that the threat [illegible] found successful in the case of women vagrants was to threaten them with cutting their hair if they returned to infest the town. Finding this woman obstinate and evidently aware of the emptiness of the threat, I handed my pocket knife to an Inspector (Syed Nubbee) who does not wear a belt (with instructions to give a fright by going through the motion of hair cutting with the back of the blade. As this however produced no effect beyond a sneer on her part, I directed

him to use the other side of the blade, and this resulted in the cutting off of a small piece not longer than a couple of inches of the matted tangle which she calls her "lock." By this time some by-stander had produced a pair of scissors which appeared to me unfit to cut any thing with, and even by her own account they were not used for cutting, in fact they were not used at all. She was perfectly unconcerned and indifferent throughout, so far from crying that upon being told off to the Aramah's tope party as a working pauper, she moved away from the spot with a leer. With regard to a razor, I declare that no such thing was produced or dreamt of nor was any cutting instrument used throughout save my pocket knife which has not got a white handle.

I have never seen any Peon or Inspector under me with a belt. One of the latter however does wear European clothes and a helmet. This is positively all I know of the affair and I am sure nothing else happened to her from my subordinates.

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The fact of her having been put up to make it or not is immaterial.

I beg you to be most careful in future.

No. 166-D. Order thereon, 10th September 1877, No. 2,693-B.

Miscellaneous.

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[illegible] Major Thomas.
[illegible] the Board of Revenue.
[illegible] the Financial Department.
[illegible] the Military Department.

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

[illegible]ctor of Bellary.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Harvey & Salahapatty Bellary 17th July 1877.

The
Collector of
Bellary.

Sir

I regret to have to bring to
your notice that the destitute woman
accompanied by two children
whom I send herewith to complain
that she has had her hair cut off
in a tope near the Telegraph Office
here by two persons in presence
of two gentlemen whom she did
not know. From the description
she gives it appears to me that the
Major Thomas the town Inspecting
Officer subordinate.

Of course I do not vouch the
truth of her statements, but such
a complaint justifies a thorough
enquiry into her case and that
I trust you will be good enough
to institute as any person deputed
an Officer of Government who
would mutilate a woman by
cutting off her hair, should be
subject to severe punishment.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt
[illegible] Harvey.

Deposition of Vadda Dasamma
of Bandwahall dated the 19th July 1877.

Sworn

About 5 days ago one day at about 8 o'clock P.M. while I was coming back from the Railway station after having picked up grain in the flour there a Irumban from who had a kattoo, had me twice and brought me to the tamarind tope near the Cutcherry, where there were some Coolies and a gentleman (Dora) the from who brought me there & another tall Irumbalman from who had a kattoo said that they would cut my hair of chairs & brought a pair of scissors & cut my lock. And the hairs could not easily be cut. However they cut my lock with a razor which has a white handle. Then I cried. Another gentleman (Dora) came there and released me. When my lock was cut there was a gentleman (Dora). Afterwards second gentleman (Dora) came & released me. There were many Coolies & other people present but I do not know them. I do not know the name of the from who brought me from the station and the one who cut my lock with the former. I can recognize them if I see them. I can also recognize the gentleman who was present at the action & the one who released me. After I was released those gentleman & others went away. I was begging in the town for two days. Afterwards I went to the former place where I was receiving meals and reported the matter to the gentleman (Dora) who had given me meals there. As I was helpless in the first instance having no body to speak on my behalf, I did not complain. I now pray for food & cloths and also for my expenses to rejoin my caste again.

(True translation)

Forwarded to Major Thomas Assistant Famine Officer with a request that he will write a report that he will be good enough to state if he knows anything as to the woman's complaint of having had her hair cut off by a from.

20th July 1877.

Sd/ J. B. Master
Collector & Magistrate

Bellary 25th July 1877.

From

Major Thomas
Asst. Famine Officer

To

The Collector & Magistrate
Bellary.

Sir

I am in receipt of a translation from your Office embodying a statement of one Vadda Dasana; this gross misrepresentation, if not an attempt to extort money & victuals as the concluding remarks might at first sight lead one to suppose can be only regarded as the result of conspiracy when viewed in the light of internal evidence afforded by the document, which points to this woman having been put up to prefer a complaint by certain irresponsible meddlers, whose names although they do not appear may be guessed without the smallest difficulty.

II Assuming this latter hypothesis to be the correct one, this complaint would only be fit to be complied with previous systematic attempts to cast discredit upon the management of famine matters in this District whether by means of anonymous communications to the press or frivolous and vexatious charges against Government Officers which the authorities have reason to believe, in every case failed to make good.

III With regard to your question: I have the honor to reply that no misleading impressions are apparently being knowingly conveyed by means of a disingenuous approach to facts a reply [illegible] to this complaint & would impart [illegible] impressions a fictitious importance & credibility & danger of credibility of which I am prepared to prove they are quite unworthy.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient
Servant
Sd/ E. H. Thomas Major
Asst. Famine Officer

Below

Ballarat Collectors Office

No 2168 Dated 23rd Aug 1877

To Major Thomas

Sub-Inspector Fawkner Office

Sir

In acknowledging your letter of the 23rd inst I have the honor to request that you will give me a plain answer to the question put, and return all the papers connected with the case

I have &c

J. H. Mackie

Collector

Ballarat 25th July 1877.

From

Major Thomas D. S. C.

To

The Collector Ballarat

Sir

The woman Vadda Dafoamel since such is her name, is known as a confirmed vagrant and Railway thief to my town Inspector and to the Police respectively. She goes about with a child in arms which a month ago was in a bad condition and it is owing to this fact that she herself being able bodied was originally sent to the relief Camp instead of to a civil road.

It is one of my duties to clear the town of vagrants from out of lying taboo. This had proved an ever increasing task, and with the miserably insufficient means placed at my disposal I have found myself compelled from time to time to have recourse to threats and intimidation towards persons of this class. Upon one of the occasions referred to a number of able bodied vagrants of both sexes were driven down to my office by the Police who had been parading the Railway making a raid upon the Railway thieves. Among these latter and loaded with stolen grain also in possession of an implement for cutting parties open, the whole concealed all over her person appeared again before me the woman in question. Her appearance was becoming rather disgusting on her part upon this occasion the child was in a deplorable condition & had evidently undergone much neglect and rough usage. I must here mention that the threats which I had generally found successful in the case of women vagrants was to threaten them with cutting their hair if they appeared to infest the town.

Finding

finding this woman obstinate and evidently aware of the emptiness of the threat, I handed my pocket knife to an Inspector (Syed Rubbee) who does not wear a belt, with instructions to give her a fright by going through the motion of hair cutting with the back of the blade so this however produced no effect beyond a sneer on her part. I directed him to use the other side of the blade and this resulted in the cutting off of a small piece not longer than a couple of inches of the matted tangle which she calls her "lock". By this time some bystanders had produced a pair of scissors which appeared to me unfit to cut anything with, and under her own account they were not used properly in practice were not used at all. She was perfectly unconcerned & indifferent throughout, so far from crying that upon being told off to the Pramalai Kosa party as a nothing trifler, she moved away from the spot with a leer. With regard to a razor, I declare that no such thing was produced or dreamt of nor was any cutting instrument used throughout save my pocket knife which has not got a white handle.

I have never seen any person wear a belt. One of the women wears a belt. One of the latter however does wear trousers and a helmet. This is positively all I know of the affair and I am sure nothing else happened to her from any subordinates.

I have the honor to be
Your most Obdt Servt
(Sd) E. H. Thomas Major
Madras Staff Corps.
Collector of Bellary

Bellary
Dated 25th July 1877.

No 635

From The Collector of Bellary
To. Major Thomas
Spl Commr Offair

Sir I have the honor to acknowledge your letter dated the 25th Inst.

I am aware that your duties in clearing the town of vagrants have been most difficult, and while giving you every credit for successfully carrying them out I regret exceedingly that in the present instance you should have placed yourself in such an undignified position as to give rise to be called upon to answer to a complaint, such as has been made by the woman Rajamma.

The fact of her having been punished up to mark or not is immaterial

I beg you to be more careful in future

(True Copies) (Sd) J. H. Thomas
Collector

Encl
F. 707.5

1933/11

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

No 291. Dated 27th August 17

From

THE COLLECTOR OF

BELLARY.

To

The Additional Secretary to
Government
Revenue Department

I have the honour to acknowledge
the Proceedings of Government
of 1794 dated the 22d Instant.

2. I forward Copies of the Correspondence which passed on the
subject, and beg to report as
follows.

3. On the 17th ultimo, I wrote to Harvey
addressed her, sending her at
the same time the woman, who
complained that she had had
her Ears cut off.

4. I requested the sub Magistrate

to take her deposition. She could not
give any names.
5. I therefore referred the matter
for report to Major Thomas for
explanation.
He acknowledged that the woman
being an old offender, and a regular
vagrant, he had, to frighten her,
ordered the Inspector to go through
the process of hair cutting, with
the back of the blade of a knife;
then finding that the threat produced
no effect, he ordered the sharp end
of the blade to be used, & this resulted
in a small piece being cut off
not larger than a couple of inches.
6 I thereupon addressed Major
Thomas, pointing out to him
that

what an undignified position
he had placed himself in, 23/12/25
requesting him to be more careful
in future.
7. I felt convinced that such an
act would not occur again, and
I therefore did not think it
necessary to pursue the matter
further.
I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obed.t Serv.t
W Master
Collector

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

No. 7075

From Collector of Bellary

Dated 27th August 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

C.O. No 2693 B 7 10 September 77

Respectfully returned to the Collector of Bellary

Dated 7th September 1877.

Acted on

Secretary

Sheriff

Stamp Vendors

Rec'd 1877 Sept 3

No 2693

Dated 27th August 1877

Acted on

Forwarded

Initials

Dated 28th Aug 1877

FOR ORDERS.