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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

651-52

Press
Misc.

Dated

13-2-1977

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

KVR

Read the following papers:—

N. 100. Petition from VIZIARAMAR ZU VIR/BAHU NARANDRA RAU Bahadoor, Zamindar of Palconda, at present residing at Vellore, in the Zillah of Chittoor, in the District of North Arcot, in the Presidency of Madras, to His Grace the Most Noble the DUKE of BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, Governor of Fort St. George, and President of the Council thereof, and to the Honorable the Members of the said Council, dated Madras, 22nd May 1876.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That the Zamindary of Palconda, in the District of Vizagapatam, was conferred on Stri Dhunnayanin Garu by the Maharaja of Jeypoor some three hundred years ago.

That the Zamindary was ruled in uninterrupted succession by the representatives of the original donee for nine generations, and that the tenth Zamindar, in the direct line, was Stri Vencatapatirazu Virabahu Narendra Rau Bahadoor.

That the said Vencatapatirazu had one wife named Chirnah Juggiah, by whom he had one son, your memorialist.

That the said Vencatapatirazu had two concubines, by one of whom, a dancing girl, named Gungammah, he had one son named Kurmarazu, and by the other of whom named Lutchmiah, he had a son named Neelathirazu.

That at the date of the death of your memorialist's said father, your memorialist was nine years of age.

That immediately after the death of your memorialist's father in 1828, the then Collector of Vizagapatam recommended the installation of the said Kurmarazu, the illegitimate son of the said Vencatapatirazu, as Zamindar.

That from the time of the death of your memorialist's father, Palconda and the neighbouring Zamindaries were in a very disturbed state, demanding the adoption of special measures for repressing riots and restoring order.

That the state of affairs in Palconda was aggravated partly owing to the supersession of the legitimate heir, your memorialist, by an illegitimate son of your memorialist's father, and partly to the absence of any central authority, except the concubines of the said Vencatapatirazu, the nominal Zamindar being a minor under the authority of the Court of Wards.

That, in consequence, martial law was declared, and the alleged rioters were put down by the troops of the Honorable East-India Company aided by the retainers of the Zamindar.

That, in course of suppressing the disturbances, certain papers were said to have been discovered which, in the opinion of Mr. Russell, who had been specially deputed by the Government of Fort St. George to report upon the state of the District of Vizagapatam, incriminated the family of the late Zamindar.

That the genuineness of the charge of rioting against the people who were said to have been possessed of the crimiating letters was not only called in question by the highest criminal Court in the Presidency, but the fact of their having broken the peace was denied by that Court; while the mode in which the letters were first brought to light, your memorialist humbly submits, deprives them of all value as legal evidence. For policy would prevent a criminal from preserving

the proof of his guilt, and the last place where he would leave there would, under the circumstance, be that in which these letters were alleged to have been found by a sepoy.

That supposing the riot to have taken place and to have been as serious as Mr. Russell thought, still it could not criminate the then nominal Zamindar. He was a minor, the management was said to be virtually in the hands of women of an inferior class, and his own servants were actively engaged in assisting Lieutenant Currie, the Commandant of the troops of the Honorable East-India Company at Palconda.

That, nevertheless, the nominal Raja, whose faults seem to have been youth and inexperience, want of talent and firmness, was brought to trial before a European Court Martial and sentenced to death upon evidence, a portion of which, namely the documentary, was never proved to be in his hand-writing, and the rest open to as grave suspicion as the letters. The sentence was commuted to one of imprisonment for life. The said Kurmarazu was incarcerated at the hill-fort of Gooty, where he died without issue in the year 1834.

That, at the time that the said Kurmarazu was sent to the hill-fort of Gooty, your memorialist, then in his eleventh year, was sent a State prisoner to the fortress of Bellare.

That your memorialist has never been charged with any offence whatsoever against public order, and yet he has suffered close imprisonment for forty years, for an offence alleged to have been committed by the son of a dancing-girl, a man who, on the recommendation of the Collector, had been made to supersede your memorialist as the head of an ancient and honorable family and of unquestionably legitimate descent.

That the closeness of your petitioner's confinement, his scanty means, and his ignorance of everything outside the walls of his prison, have combined to prevent him before now from appealing to the justice, the mercy, and the compassion of the British Government.

That your memorialist was released from jail by His Excellency the Right Honorable Lord Napier, K.T., in the year 1869, and, at the same time, his stipend which had been increased from Rupees 90 a-month to Rupees 110 was again raised to Rupees 150.

That the career of your memorialist is without a parallel in contemporary history, and his treatment by the Government must excite in every British subject of the Queen of England, who shall hear of it, feelings of commiseration. Deprived of his rights, he is cast into jail for the alleged treason of the licensed usurper of those rights who was too young to know what treason was, and then left in jail a victim to ignorance, disease and disappointment.

That your memorialist, relying partly upon Mr. Russell's written testimony, his innocency, (notwithstanding the enormous excitement of the time in which he wrote,) and the recommendation of that gentleman (paragraph 87, page 10, Appendix) that your memorialist should be installed as Zamindar at some future date; but relying still more upon the justice of his cause, as the representative of an ancient and noble territorial family, humbly solicits that your Grace in Council will be pleased to restore him to the honors and emoluments of Zamindar of Palconda.

That your memorialist, knowing little of life outside a jail might be tempted to remain where his abject poverty now detains him, — away from the place of his birth, and the neighbourhood where his name is associated with honor, and the wrongs inflicted on him; but he owes it to the historic fame of his family and to its future representative, your memorialist's son, that he should press upon your Grace's Government an early restoration to his undoubted rights.

That the British power is now so firmly established and the blessings of peace so widely diffused in districts where anarchy might once have been pleaded in extenuation of harshness and even injustice, that the restoration or otherwise of your petitioner to his hereditary position is no longer, if indeed it ever was, of serious political importance, but an act involving simple justice; and your petitioner humbly hopes grace from the strong sovereign power to a weak and unfortunate loyal Subject.

That your memorialist humbly trusts that his petition may meet with the unprejudiced consideration and mercy of your Grace in Council.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

LEGAL OPINION ON THE PALCONDA CASE.

CERTAIN papers have been given to me for perusal relating to the claim of Viziamarazu Virabahu Narendra Rau Bahadur to the Zamindary of Palconda in the district of Vizagapatam, and have been asked to state my opinion upon the legal aspect of the claim. Having perused the papers and considered the questions which seem to be involved, I am of opinion —

1st.—That the District Court of Vizagapatam has jurisdiction to try and determine a suit by Viziamarazu for possession of the Zamindary. The only ground upon which the jurisdiction of the Court can be ousted is by allegation and proof that the seizure of the Zamindary on behalf of the Government of Fort St. George was an act of State, the lawfulness of which cannot be questioned in any Court of Justice. But I do not see how the seizure can be put upon such ground. The seizure appears to have been made in pursuance of the powers conferred on the Government by the law. The Government of the day was satisfied that an offence against the State had been committed by a person owing allegiance to the Sovereign which warranted the forfeiture of the Zamindary. This, upon the face of it, is not an act of State, but a proceeding to be carried out by the law. It is very doubtful whether any proceeding by a Government against one of its Subjects, not possessing any sovereign rights, can be deemed an act of State so as to deprive the Courts of their ordinary powers to grant relief.

2. The next question is whether the Government can legally justify the seizure, and I think they cannot. The Zamindary was declared forfeited by reason of the complicity of the person then in possession, named Kurmarazu, the illegitimate brother of Viziamarazu, in a rebellion against the State then represented by the East-India Company. Kurmarazu was put into the possession of the Zamindary by the Government itself through its Agent the Collector; but such possession was, against Viziamarazu, illegal and wrongful. Viziamarazu was, by Hindu Law

entitled to the Zamindari as the legitimate son of his father in preference to Kurmarazu, an illegitimate son, but Viziamarazu was a minor and was not in a position to assert his title, and before he attained his majority the rebellion broke out, and the forfeiture followed. Viziamarazu was in no way implicated in the rebellion. The offence, if any, was committed by Kurmarazu, and upon every principle of law the estate of Viziamarazu could not be declared forfeited for such a cause. Even if Kurmarazu were a legitimate son, and as such entitled to the possession, a question would arise whether the Zamindari could be forfeited as against Viziamarazu who was then entitled for maintenance from the income of the Zamindari, and would have been entitled to succeed upon the death without male issue of Kurmarazu. If the family be governed by the law of the Mitacshara, then the probability is that such forfeiture would be contrary to law.

3. The third question is whether a suit by Viziamarazu, as plaintiff, to recover possession of the Zamindari would be barred by the Limitation Act. It appears that in 1833 Viziamarazu, then a minor, was imprisoned at Vellore, and was detained in imprisonment there until the year 1869. The period of his imprisonment cannot, in my view, be deducted from the period of limitation applicable to such a suit. But it is stated to me that Viziamarazu's mind became affected soon after his imprisonment; that he was at times insane and at times imbecile; and that he was incompetent to manage his own affairs; and that such incompetency has continued down to a very recent period, and that it exists, to some extent, at present. If these facts can be established, I do not think the suit is barred. The difficulty of limitation may perhaps be surmounted by Viziamarazu renouncing his right in favor of his son, and the son instituting the suit.

It appears that no demand has been made upon the Government for restoration of the Zamindari. I think such demand ought to be made, and a reasonable time suffered to elapse before any suit is brought. The demand ought to be by way of petition to the Government, setting forth concisely the facts upon which the petitioner relies in support of his claim, and praying for the restoration of the property.

HIGH COURT, MADRAS,
21st July 1876.

P. O'SULLIVAN,
Barrister-at-Law.

No. 101. ORDER, 24th June 1876.

THE petitioner is a kind of State prisoner—he has rooms allowed him in the fort of Vellore—80 miles from Madras—and is permitted to live anywhere south of the river Krishna. He used to get 100 Rupees a-month stipend. Lord Napier's Government solicited the Government of India to make it Rupees 250, but 150 Rupees only was assigned.

2. His alleged grievance is this—that on his father's death in 1828, the Government wrongly recognised his (petitioner's) bastard brother as Zamindar, to the injury of petitioner who was then a boy of nine years old; that, a few years after, this brother, being convicted of treason, the Zamindari was resumed as a forfeiture; that he, petitioner, had no part in his brother's treason (of treason

Section 3, Regulation VII, 1808.

it was, but was nevertheless incarcerated in a distant fortress on the ground of State policy; and he contends that he should now be restored to the estate.

3. The *gravamen*, of course, is in the allegation that he was wrongly passed over in the succession by the Government, and that he is a scape-goat for the sins of the usurper.

It is found, however, that, though, on his father's death, his mother first* of all pleaded his better title to succeed—yet shortly afterwards all parties freely acknowledged his brother (who no doubt was illegitimate) to be the lawful Zamindar, and he was installed accordingly.

* Collector's letter, 6th October 1828.
Enclosure in letter to Government from Board,
30th October 1828.
† Government to Board, 17th July 1829, No. 484.

4. The case, therefore, falls to the ground, as one of injustice, on the ground stated. The brother continued as Zamindar till his deposition in 1833, five years after; and it does not appear that petitioner's mother ever took the legal proceedings open to her, to contest the preferable title of her son.

At the same time, much compunction was felt by the authorities of the day at petitioner's position, and it was only after some hesitation that it was decided it was impossible to detract from the effect of the forfeiture, as a warning to mutinous Zamindars, by restoring petitioner to his ancestral estates.

His complaint about his brother being unfairly convicted cannot, of course, be considered now, after a lapse of nearly fifty years. It is observed from the accompanying copy of the *Mail* of 5th instant, that O'Sullivan, the Barrister whom petitioner has been consulting—raised the following point, viz:—"Even if Kamaraz—petitioner's brother—the rebel—were legitimate, could the Government on his conviction of rebellion rightly declare forfeiture of the estate, as against petitioner?"

He is of opinion, for reasons given, that they could not. The Governor in Council resolves to refer this question for consideration and report to the General.

6. It may be stated that it is not the least true, as Mr. O'Sullivan is in error, that petitioner has been incapacitated by lunacy, at any time during his imprisonment or detention.

(The Extracts)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

No. 102. From E. BARCLAY, Esq., Government Solicitor, Madras, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 25th July 1876, No. 108.

With reference to the order of Government, dated 12th June 1876, Revenue Department, which was sent direct to the Advocate-General, I have now the honor to forward herewith, at his request, a copy of his opinion, asked for in the above order, and to return the "book" entitled

* Sent by "Bhangy Post."

"Selections from the Records of the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th February 1877.

Madras Government and the Madras Mail newspaper of the 5th June 1876, which accompanied such order.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

OPINION.

The passage in Mr. O'Sullivan's opinion on which I am desired to express an opinion is as follows:—"Even if Kamarazu were a legitimate son and as such entitled to the possession, a question would arise whether the Zamindary could be forfeited as against Viziamarazu who was then entitled for maintenance from the income of the Zamindary, and would have been entitled to succeed upon the death without male issue of Kamarazu. If the family be governed by the law of the Mitacshara, then the probability is that such forfeiture would be contrary to law."

2. The doubt suggested in this passage as to legality of the confiscation of Palconda Zamindary as against the offending Zamindar's younger brothers arises from the view which is now taken in the Courts of the nature of the estate known as the Impartible Raj or ancient Zamindary.

6, M. H. C. R., paragraph 105.

This view was explained by the late Chief Justice. Speaking of primogeniture "as the ordinary well-recognised usage of succession to Zamindaries in this Presidency," he adds: "We apprehend it to be clearly the law, that such a usage does not interfere with the general rules of succession, further than to vest the possession and enjoyment of the corpus of the whole estate in a single member of the family, subject to the legal incidents attached to it as the heritage of an undivided family; that being all that the purpose of the usage, viz., the preservation of the estate as an Impartible Raj, renders necessary. The unity of the family right to the heritage is not discovered any more than by the succession of coparceners to partible property; but the mode of its beneficial enjoyment is different. Instead of several members of the family holding the property in common, one takes it in its entirety, and the common law rights of the others, who would be coparceners of partible property, are reduced to rights of survivorship to the possession of the whole, dependent upon the same contingency as the rights of survivorship of coparceners in the undivided share of each; and to a provision for maintenance in lieu of coparcenary shares."

3. According to this view an impartible Zamindary is merely the ordinary undivided Hindu family with extraordinary powers vested in the Manager. Instead of all the members having a common fund and enjoying the joint property in common under the superintendence of the Manager, the whole of the thing in an impartible estate is that the Manager has, for life, the enjoyment of the whole, and the other members are merely entitled to maintenance: none the less are they (supposing no partition to have taken place) coparceners with the Manager and entitled to succeed in due course to his rights.

4. From this it would follow that, as the Zamindar for the time has only a life-estate, any remedy against him personally can affect only that life-estate, and that, if in any way that life-estate should be extinguished, the reversionary estate of the next coparcener would at once vest. Consequently, Mr. O'Sullivan argues, when sentence of confiscation was passed against Kurmarazu, all that was confiscated was his life-interest, and the estate vested forthwith in the next person entitled to succeed, who, if there was no male child of Kurmarazu, was his younger brother Viziamarazu.

5. This argument would be a good one if we could apply to the Proceedings of Government in 1832 in quelling the disturbances of a partially conquered country, the rigid rules of civil law which after the lapse of more than a generation would now be applied to the ordinary transactions of the owner of an impartible estate with his creditors. But no such rule can be properly applied. The ancient Zamindary was an estate which, forty years ago, was regarded far more as a sort of feudal tenure than at present: the right of Government to interfere at each succession and to sanction the new Zamindar was recognised in a proceeding before the Collector and Board of Revenue: in the case of Polliema, a kindred estate, the non-hereditary character of the estate was

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th February 1877.

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distinctly affirmed (3, M. H. C. R., 393), and though Zamindaries descended, no doubt, as a general rule, to the eldest male lineal descendant, there was an assertion on the part of Government and a recognition by the people of a right of the ruling power to deal with the holders of these estates, which sometimes attained the dignity of petty royalties, not as simple proprietors but as feudatories bound to render service for their estates and holding them to a large extent by the good-will of the sovereign power.

6. When one of these "Lords of the Marches" got his retainers about him, broke out into open rebellion, and had to be suppressed by armed force, it is obvious that the rights of the sovereign power would be asserted without a very nice regard to the interests of relatives, who might have a reversionary interest or a claim to maintenance out of the estate; and the dictum of Sir Thomas Munro on which Sir Frederick Adam acted in this case, that "no Zamindary once forfeited for rebellion should ever be restored" shows that the punishment of forfeiture was a familiar and recognised course of proceeding. But if Mr. O'Sullivan's view were accepted confiscation would in the case of an undivided family have been virtually inoperative, as it would merely have transferred the headship of the family to the next coparcener. What the exact powers of Government were when "Martial Law" had been proclaimed under Regulation VII of 1808, and when armies were in the field for the purpose of reducing insurgent districts, it is unnecessary to decide: it is certain that they were deemed to extend to the confiscation of the estates of an insurgent chief not only as against him but against all the holders of reversionary interests. The case of the Hansapore Zamindary (12, M. I. A., 1) seems exactly to meet Mr. O'Sullivan's point. It was governed by the Mitacshara Law. There were relatives who had a customary right to maintenance, but the Government refused to recognise any claim to succession or maintenance, and subsequently, as an act of grace, conferred the estate on a junior member of the family.

7. There can be no doubt that the same right has been repeatedly exercised, and it would be a source of infinite inconvenience if the legality of proceedings clearly recognised as legal at the time were now, after a lapse of forty-three years, to be allowed to be called in question on the strength of a legal subtlety which, though logically defensible, proceeds on an unsound view of the facts of the case, has certainly never received judicial sanction, and is inconsistent with the line of conduct which the Government for a long series of years thought fit to follow.

(Signed) H. CUNNINGHAM

24th July 1876.

No. 103. ORDER THEREON, 13th February 1877, No. 651.

Miscellaneous.

RESOLVED that the order be despatched to the Secretary through the Government of India.

(Here enter, 13th February 1877, No. 652.)

2. Petitioner will be informed that his memorial has been referred to the orders of Her Majesty's Government.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th February 1877.*

Famine Relief.

No. 403.

Dated 13th February 1877, No. 652.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the following Circular
be despatched to all Collectors:—

No. 652.

CIRCULAR.

To All Collectors.

SIR,

It is essential that adequate steps should be taken, without loss of time, for providing that when the works now in progress, or sanctioned but not commenced, are finished, others shall be ready to be gone on with. His Grace the Governor in Council, therefore, resolves to call on all Collectors to report without delay how far the works now in progress, or contemplated in their respective districts, will provide employment for the probable number of persons standing in need of relief during the next seven months.

2. The earliest possible intimation should be given to Government direct of the probability of the failure of all employment on useful works in any district.

GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
13th February 1877.

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

(True Extract)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Executive Government
under date the 10 Feb 1877
Ordered that the following Circular
be despatched to all Collectors
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 652.

CIRCULAR.

To ALL COLLECTORS.

SIR,

It is essential that adequate steps should be taken, without loss of time, for providing that when the works now in progress, or sanctioned but not commenced, are finished, others shall be ready to be gone on with. His Grace the Governor in Council therefore resolves to call on all Collectors to report without delay how far the works now in progress, or contemplated in their respective Districts, will provide employment for the probable number of persons standing in need of relief during the next seven months.

2. The earliest possible intimation should be given to Government direct of the probability of the failure of all employment on useful works in any District.

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

GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
13th February 1877.

(True Certified)

Signed J. Parson
Add Secy Govt

Recd. To the Secy to Govt
on the 15th Feb 1877
21 The Secy to Govt

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REVENUE
GOVT. OF INDIA
1877
No. 652
Circular
To all Collectors
Under date the 10 Feb 1877
Ordered that the following Circular
be despatched to all Collectors
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
13th February 1877.

No. 104.

No. 652.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

* No. 9, dated 13th February 1877.

the Vizagapatam District. As compliance with his prayer for the restoration of the estate would entail a considerable loss to the revenues of British India, the

From Government of India, Home Department,
17th June 1872, No. 2,546.

Sir,—I am directed to enclose, for transmission to the Secretary of State, a despatch* covering a Memorial from Viziam Raz, the head of the family of the ex-Zamindars of Palconda, in the matter appears to be one of those in which the Governor in Council is precluded from corresponding directly with Her Majesty's Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL
Secretary to Government.

1877 Department

Government of Fort St. George.

Dated 13th February 1877. } No. 652.
Received } Enclosures.
5 spare copies.

D. No. Page.

Forwarding for transmission to the Secretary of State a Despatch covering a Memorial from Viziam Raz, the head of the family of the ex-Zamindars of Palconda in the Vizagapatnam District, praying for the restoration of the same.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

No. 9 of 1877.

TO THE MOST HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—We have the honor to transmit, for the consideration and orders of Her Majesty's Government, the accompanying petition* from Viziam Raz, styling himself ex-Zamindar of Palconda. The memorialist prays for the restoration of the Zamindary, which was forfeited for rebellion in 1833. We certainly could not give an answer assenting to this prayer without reference to the Secretary of State; and, on the other hand, a decision rejecting the petition would probably lead to a suit being brought against Government. We consider, therefore, that, before any step is taken by us in the matter, we are bound to lay a complete narrative of the case before you; in order that your Lordship may be aware of all the circumstances and of the answer which this Government will have to give. If the question were simply one of administration or of the good government of the Presidency, we should dispose of it at once, leaving the memorialist to appeal, if so advised; but the case is not of that nature.

2. The ancestors of Viziam Raz were for some generations the Zamindars of Palconda, in the district of Vizagapatam. In 1802, when the Permanent Settlement was made in this Presidency, the usual grant was issued in favor of his father, the Peshkash being fixed at 55,000 Rupees. This grantee died on the 29th

Kurma Raz	...	...	...	...	14	September 1828, leaving three sons, all
Viziam Raz (the petitioner)	...	...	...	...	9	minors: their names and ages are
Niladri Raz...	...	...	...	...	6	entered in the margin. The Collector

reported that the first and third were illegitimate, but that seven out of the eight widows of the deceased unanimously supported the claim of the eldest to succeed, the remaining widow insisting on the better title of her lawfully begotten son, the petitioner. The Collector promised a further report, which the Board of Revenue 'awaited'; observing that the question of succession was not of any urgency, as the estate was under attachment for arrears of revenue.

From Board to Government, dated 30th October 1828.

3. The further report by the Collector was furnished on the 9th May 1829. It is now stated the jealousies and disagreements of the widows had been laid aside.

and that all parties freely acknowledged Kurma Raz—the eldest, but illegitimate son—to be the lawful Zamindar; upon which understanding the Government resolved to recognise him as Zamindar, accordingly.

4. Kurma Raz was a minor, the estate was placed under the control of the Board of Revenue in their capacity of Court of Wards (Regulation V of 1804) until he attained his majority in 1831. It was then made over to him; but, serious disturbances immediately supervening, owing to his neglect to disburse their usual allowances to his retainers and relatives, the Collector reported in August 1831 that it had been necessary for him to continue the management.

5. About this time the general condition of the Vizagapatam District was very unsettled; two dispossessed land-owners and their adherents being in arms against the State. Before the close of the year the Government, acting under the authority committed to them by Regulation VII of 1808, proclaimed martial law. Undeterred by this proceeding, the malcontents in the Palconda Zamindary made an audacious attack on the public authorities and fired on the troops. The young Zamindar was brought to trial before a Court Martial of European officers for complicity in these offences, convicted and sentenced to death; this sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. The Zamindar was confined in the fort at Ghooty, where he shortly died; the nine women and seven children of the family—including petitioner, then about 14 years of age—were committed to Vellore, as State prisoners, under a Warrant of the Secretary to Government (Regulation II. of 1819). Here the petitioner remained imprisoned, with liberty only to take exercise within the ramparts, till 1869, when permission was given him to leave Vellore and reside at any principal town he might select south of the river Kistna; his stipend being at the same time raised from 110 to 150 Rupees a-month.

6. The Regulation above mentioned, under which the Zamindar was tried for rebellion, enacts that every conviction shall carry with it the "forfeiture of all property and effects, real and personal, which the convicted party shall have possessed within its territories at the time when the crime, of which he may be convicted, shall have been committed." Accordingly the Zamindary of Palconda was at once treated as the property of Government. Mr. Russell, the Commissioner in the disturbed districts, was at first "disposed to recommend its restoration to Viziam Raz" (the petitioner) "the next brother of the late Zamindar, who is too young to have been personally implicated in the crimes and intrigues for which its forfeiture is a just penalty;" but in deference to the dictum of Sir Thomas Munro, that "no Zamindary, once forfeited for rebellion, should ever be restored," he refrained from doing so; remarking, however, that the "forfeiture will, of course, be revocable at any time if Government should deem it advisable at a future period to extend such an act of grace to the family," and in due course the forfeiture was formally promulgated by the Governor in Council.

Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, No. 1067, dated 1st September 1835, paragraph 13.
Vide Volume I, Selection XXIV, Records of Madras Government.

7. Besides his petition to us, Viziam Raz has laid his case before Counsel who advised that the forfeiture of the estate, is against petitioner, an illegal act. We enclose copy of our Proceedings referring the petition and the legal opinion just stated to our Advocate-General, who for the reasons given by him some of which are derived *ab inconvenienti*, reports against the contention urged for Viziam Raz, which however he admits to be logically defensible."

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient
humble servants,

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS,
(") W. ROBINSON,
(") R. S. ELLIS.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
13th February 1877.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

Copy.

Letter to the Most Honorable
the Secretary of State for
India.

Dated 13th February,
No. 9 of 1877.

FORWARDING, for consideration and orders,
Petition from Viziam Raz, styling himself
Ex-Zemindar of Palconda in the Vizagapatam
District, praying for the restoration of the
Zemindary—and giving a complete narrative
of the case.

From

VIZIAMALAZU VIRABHU NARANDRABU R. JADOOR,

EX-ZEMINDAR OF PALACONDAH.

To

THE HONORABLE W. HUDDLESTON.

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

FORT SAINT GEORGE, MADRAS.

HONORABLE SIR,

I forward herewith a Petition to you addressed to the Government of Madras, praying that I may be placed in possession of the Zemindary of Palacondah, in the district of Vizagapatam, in the hope that I may have the benefit of your kind offices in laying the matter before His Grace in Council.

My father, as you will see, was the Zemindar of Palacondah. At his death, my half-brother who was older than I but illegitimate was, on the recommendation of the Collector, appointed or installed Zemindar.

This brother was convicted on evidence, called in question at the time of treason, and his Zemindary confiscated.

I respectfully submit—

- I. That he was wrongfully in possession of the Zemindary; I am the rightful heir to it as the legitimate son of my father in preference to him an illegitimate son and that no act of his could vitiate my title to it.
- II. That he did not commit treason.
- III. That I am acquitted of all offences, and have a right to succeed now as the sole representative of my father.
- IV. That my long imprisonment has prevented my making an application to Government earlier.

I have extracted in the appendix to my petition such portions of official reports as His Grace, the Governor, and the Honorable Members of His Grace's Council may wish to refer to.

I have the honor to be,

Honorable Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

22nd May 1876
MADRAS

From

VIZIARAMABAZU VIRABAHU NARANDRABAU BAHADOOR,

EX-ZEMINDAR OF PALACONDAR.

To

THE HONORABLE W. HUDDLESTON,

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

FORT SAINT GEORGE, MADRAS.

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The Zemindary was confiscated.

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Your most obedient Servant,

22nd May 1876
Madrass

To

HIS GRACE THE MOST NOBLE THE
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

Governor of Fort Saint George

and President of the Council

thereof and to the Honorable

the Members of the said Council.

THE HUMBLE MEMORIAL OF VIZIARAMARAZU
VIRABAHU NARANDRA RAU BAHADOOR,
ZEMINDAR OF THE ZEMINDARY OF PALACONDAR AT
PRESENT RESIDING AT VELLORE, IN THE ZILLAH
OF CHITTOOR, IN THE DISTRICT OF NORTH ARCOT,
IN THE PRESIDENCY OF MADRAS.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That the Zemindary of Palacondah, in the District of Vizagapatam, was conferred on Stri Dhunpayanin Garu by the Maharajah of Jeypoor some three hundred years ago.

That the Zemindary was ruled in uninterrupted succession by the representatives of the original donee for nine generations, and that the tenth Zemindar in the direct line was Stri Vencatapirazu Virabahu Narandra Rau Bahadpoor.

That the said Vencatapirazu had one wife named Chinnah Juggiah, by whom he had one son, your Memorialist.

That the said Vencatapirazu had two concubines by one of whom a dancing girl named Gangammah he had one son named Kurmarazu, and by the other of whom named Lutchmiah, he had a son named Neelathirazu.

That at the date of the death of your Memorialist's said father your Memorialist was nine years of age.

That immediately after the death of your Memorialist's father in 1828 the then Collector of Vizagapatam recommended the installation of the said Kurmarazu, the illegitimate

That from the time of the death of your Memorialist's father Palacondah and the neighbouring Zemindaries were in a very disturbed state demanding the adoption of special measures for repressing riots and restoring order.

That the state of affairs in Palacondah was aggravated partly owing to the supersession of the legitimate heir, your Memorialist, by an illegitimate son of your Memorialist's father, and partly to the absence of any central authority except the concubines of the said Vencatapirazu, the nominal Zemindar being a minor under the authority of the Court of Wards.

That, in consequence, Martial law was declared and the alleged rioters were put down by the Troops of the Honorable East India Company aided by the retainers of the Zemindar.

That, in course of suppressing the disturbances, certain papers were said to have been discovered which in the opinion of Mr. Russell, who had been specially deputed by the Government of Fort St. George to report upon the state of the District of Vizagapatam, incriminated the family of the late Zemindar.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound, will ever Pray.

22nd May 1876.
Inadras

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IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS GRACE THE MOST NOBLE THE
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS,

Governor of Fort Saint George

and President of the Council

whereof and to the Honorable

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That immediately after the death of your Memorialist's father in 1828 the then Collector of Vizagapatam recommended the installation of the said Kurmarazu, the illegitimate son of the said Vencatapirazu as Zemindar.

That from the time of the death of your Memorialist's father Palacondah and the neighbouring Zemindaries were in a very disturbed state demanding the adoption of measures for repressing riots and restoring order.

That the state of affairs in Palacondah was aggravated partly owing to the supersession of the legitimate heir, your Memorialist, by an illegitimate son of your Memorialist's father, and partly to the absence of any central authority except the concubines of the said Vencatapirazu, the nominal Zemindar being a minor under the authority of the Court of Wards.

That, in consequence, Martial law was declared and the alleged rioters were put down by the Troops of the Honorable East India Company aided by the retainers of the Zemindar.

That, in course of suppressing the disturbances, certain papers were said to have been discovered which in the opinion of Mr. Russell, who had been specially deputed by the Government of Fort St. George to report upon the state of the District of Vizagapatam, incriminated the family of the late Zemindar.

That the genuineness of the charge of rioting against the people who were said to have been possessed of the incriminating letters was not only called in question by the Criminal Court in the Presidency, but the fact of their having broken the peace was denied that Court; while the mode in which the letters were first brought to light, very humbly submits, deprives them of all value as legal evidence. For policy Criminal from preserving the proofs of his guilt and the last place where he would, under the circumstance, be that in which these letters were alleged to have been by a Sepoy.

That supposing the riot to have taken place, and to have been so thought, still it could not criminate the then nominal Zemindar. He was a minor and his management was said to be virtually in the hands of women of an inferior class, and were actively engaged in assisting Lieutenant Currie the Commandant of the Honorable East India Company at Palacondah.

That, nevertheless, the nominal Rajah whose faults seem to have been his experience, want of talent and firmness, was brought to trial before a European Court and sentenced to death upon evidence, a portion of which, namely the documents proved to be in his hand writing and the rest open to grave suspicion. The sentence was commuted to one of imprisonment for life. The said Kurmarazu was incarcerated at the hill fort of Gooty where he died without issue in the year 1834.

That, at the time that the said Kurmarazu was sent to the hill Fort of Gooty, Memorialist then in his eleventh year was sent a State Prisoner to the fortress of Vellore.

That your Memorialist has never been charged with any offence whatsoever against public order and yet he has suffered close imprisonment for forty years, for an offence alleged to have been committed by the son of a dancing girl, a man who on the recommendation of the Collector had been made to supersede your Memorialist as the head of an ancient and honorable family and of unquestionably legitimate descent.

That the closeness of your Petitioner's confinement, his scanty means and his ignorance of everything outside the walls of his prison have combined to prevent him before now appealing to the justice, the mercy and the compassion of the British Government.

That your Memorialist was released from jail by His Excellency the Right Honorable Lord Napier K. T. in the year 1869 and at the same time, his stipend which had been increased from Rs. 90 a month to Rs. 110 was again raised to Rs. 150.

That the career of your Memorialist is without a parallel in contemporary history and his treatment by the Government must excite in every British subject of the Empire a regard who shall hear of it feelings of commiseration. Dispossessed of his rights and cast into jail for the alleged treason of the licensed usurper of those rights who too young to know what treason was, and then left in jail a victim to ignorance, and disappointment.

That your Memorialist, relying partly upon Mr. Russell's written testimony of his innocence, (notwithstanding the enormous excitement of the time in which he was arrested) and the recommendation of that gentleman (para. 87 page 10 Appendix) that your Memorialist should be installed as Zemindar at some future date; but relying still more upon the justice of his cause, as the representative of an ancient and noble territorial family, he solicits that Your Grace in Council will be pleased to restore him to the honours and emoluments of Zemindar of Palacondah.

That your Memorialist, knowing little of life outside a jail might be content with a life where his abject poverty now detains him, away from the land of his birth and his neighbourhood where his name is associated with honour, wealth and the wrongs inflicted on him. But he owes it to the historic fame of his family and to its future representative, Memorialist's son, that he should press upon Your Grace's Government an early restoration of his undoubted rights.

That the British power is now so firmly established and the blessings of peace so widely diffused in districts where anarchy might once have been pleaded in extenuation of harshness and even injustice, that the restoration or otherwise of your Petitioner to his hereditary position is no longer, if indeed it ever was, of serious political importance, but an act involving simple justice, and your Petitioner humbly hopes, grace from the Sovereign power to a weak and unfortunate loyal subject.

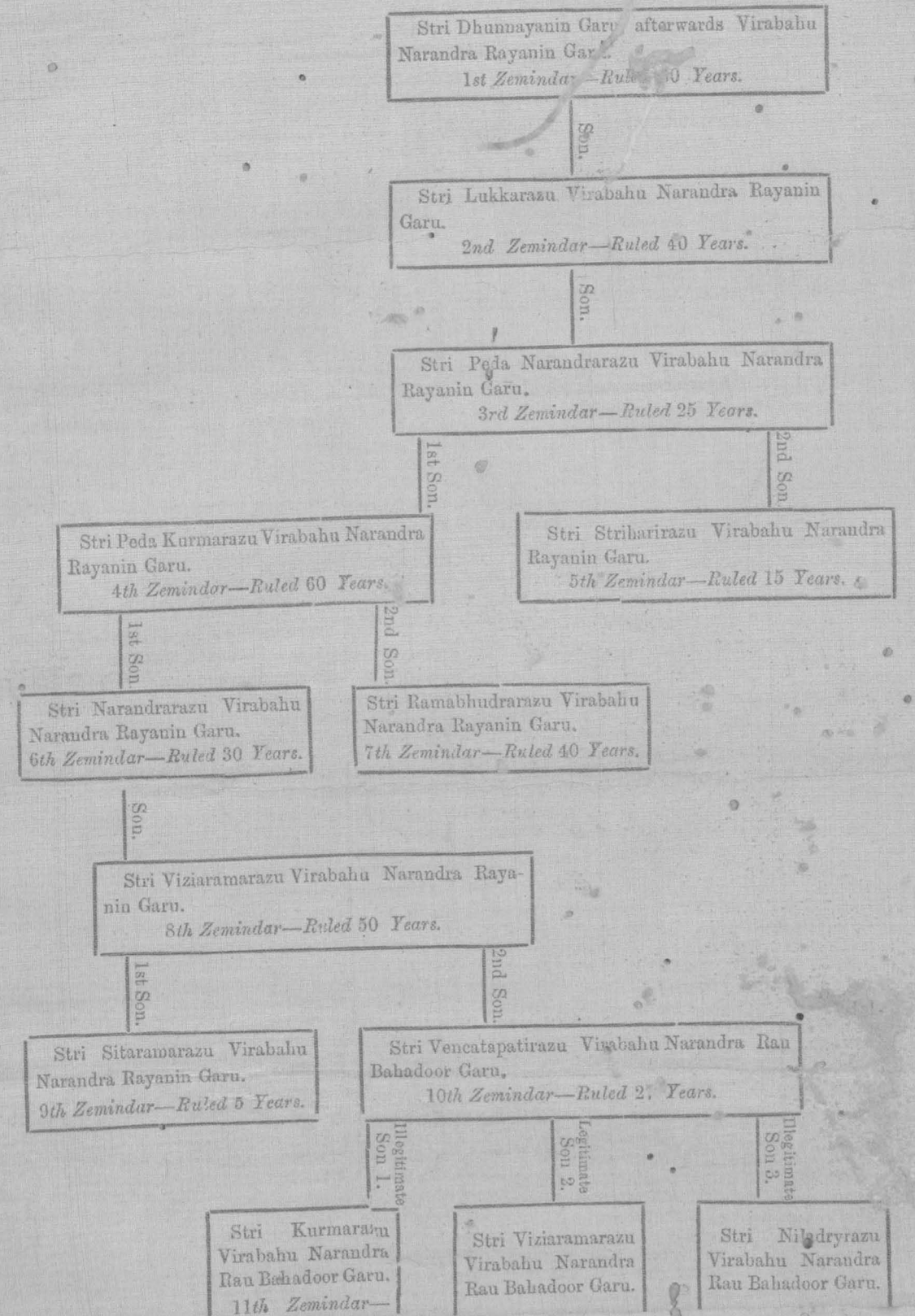
That your Memorialist humbly trusts that his Petition may meet with the unprejudiced consideration and mercy of Your Grace in Council.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever Pray.

22nd May 1876
Munro

Signed and sworn to by the Petitioner

THE GENEALOGY OF THE PALACONDAH ZEMINDARS.



LEGAL OPINION
ON THE
PALACONDAH CASE.

Certain papers have been given to me for perusal relating to the claim of Viziamarazu Virabahu Narandra Rau Bahadoor to the Zemindary of Palacodah in the District of Vizagapatam and have been asked to state my opinion upon the legal aspect of the claim. Having perused the papers and considered the questions which seem to be involved, I am of opinion—

1st. That the District Court of Vizagapatam has jurisdiction to try and determine a suit by Viziamarazu for possession of the Zemindary. The only ground upon which the jurisdiction of the Court can be ousted is by allegation and proof that the seizure of the Zemindary on behalf of the Government of Fort St. George was an act of State, the lawfulness of which cannot be questioned in any Court of Justice. But I do not see how the seizure can be put upon such a ground. The seizure appears to have been made in pursuance of the powers conferred on the Government by the law. The Government of the day was satisfied that an offence against the State had been committed by a person owing allegiance to the Sovereign which warranted the forfeiture of the Zemindary. This, upon the face of it, is not an act of State but a proceeding to justify itself by the law. It is very doubtful whether any proceeding by a Government against one of its subjects not possessing any Sovereign rights can be deemed an act of State so as to deprive the Courts of their ordinary powers to grant relief.

2. The next question is whether the Government can legally justify the seizure, and I think they cannot. The Zemindary was declared forfeited by reason of the complicity of the person then in possession, named Kurmarazu, the illegitimate brother of Viziamarazu, in a rebellion against the State then represented by the East India Company. Kurmarazu was put into the possession of the Zemindary by the Government itself through its agent the Collector; but such possession was, as against Viziamarazu, illegal and wrongful. Viziamarazu was by Hindu Law entitled to the Zemindary as the legitimate son of his father in preference to Kurmarazu an illegitimate son, but Viziamarazu was a minor, and was not in a position to assert his title and before he attained his majority the rebellion broke out, and the forfeiture followed. Viziamarazu was in no way implicated in the rebellion. The offence if any was committed by Kurmarazu, and upon every principle of law the estate of Viziamarazu could not be declared forfeited for such a cause. Even if Kurmarazu were a legitimate son and as such entitled to the possession, a question would arise whether the Zemindary could be forfeited as against Viziamarazu who was then entitled for maintenance from the income of the Zemindary, and would have been entitled to succeed upon the death without male issue of Kurmarazu. If the family be governed by the law of the Mitacschara then the probability that such forfeiture would be contrary to law.

3. The 3rd question is whether a suit by Viziamarazu as plaintiff to recover possession of the Zemindary would be barred by the Limitation Act. It appears that in 1833 Viziamarazu then a minor, was imprisoned at Vellore and was detained in imprisonment there until the year 1869. The period of his imprisonment cannot in my view be deducted from the period of limitation applicable to such a suit. But it is stated to me that Viziamarazu's mind became affected soon after his imprisonment; that he was at times insane, and at times imbecile; and that he was incompetent to manage his own affairs; and that such incompetency he continued down to a very recent period, and that it exists to some extent at present. If these facts can be established I do not think the suit is barred. The difficulty as to limitation may perhaps be surmounted by Viziamarazu renouncing his claim in favour of his son, and the son instituting the suit.

It appears that no demand has been made upon the Government for restoration of the Zemindary. I think such demand ought to be made as soon as a reasonable time suffered to elapse before any suit is brought. The demand by way of Petition to the Government setting forth concisely the facts of the case, the Petitioner relies in support of his claim, and praying for the restoration of the property.

HIGH COURT, MADRAS.
21st January, 1876.

P. O'SULLIVAN,
Barrister at Law.

APPENDIX.

Regarding the rights of illegitimate sons to succeed to landed property in the Vizagapatam District, the matter was raised before Mr. P. B. Smollett, Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George, by an illegitimate elder son of the then late Kurupam Zemindar, and was decided against the applicant. The following is an extract from the decree, dated 11th July 1856 and Review No. 41 of 1855, in which that officer alludes specially to the case of Palacondah Zemindar.

33. Reference has been made to a succession in the Palacondah Zemindary. This occurred in the year On the death of the then Zemindar, there were left behind six or seven women calling themselves wives or concubines, and Mr. Gardiner the Collector acknowledged the eldest boy though the son of dancing girl. This youth it is said had been adopted by one of the wives of the Zemindar as a son. He was then about 14 years of age, and there were younger sons born in wedlock. Most of the Members of the family acquiesced, but the mother of the eldest legitimate son remonstrated without effect. The selection by the Collector cannot be regarded as an authoritative decision. On the contrary, it is doubtful if such a proceeding would have been upheld in Courts of Law. It may be added that during the continuance of the minority, Palacondah was in a state of great disorder and shortly afterwards an insurrection broke out, and Military law being proclaimed, the Zemindary was declared to have been forfeited to Government.

Extract from the report of the Collector, Mr. Gardiner, announcing the death of Vencatapatiazu, dated 6th October 1828, No. 90.

2. The deceased Zemindar's sons are three:—

1st Kurmarazu Narandra Row.

2nd Veziaramarazu Narandra Row.

3rd Neeladrirazu Narandra Row.

The first just . . . years of age and illegitimate, but said to have been adopted by Camaliah the first wife of the surviving wives of the deceased Zemindar, after the death of the boy's natural mother. The second [memorialist] is a legitimate son by Juggiah, the second wife, and according to the best of my information I can get, has not yet completed his ninth year. The third is illegitimate and said to have been adopted by Soondariah, one of the wives, though the natural mother is living.

Extract from the special report on the Vizagapatam District, Mr. G. E. Russell, dated 18th November 1834.

15. In October the Zemindar, who had long been in an infirm state of health, died, leaving three sons named Kurmarazu, Narandra Row, Veziaramarazu, Narandra Row and Neeladri Narandra Row and three daughters—also eight widows, as it is usual to call them, most of whom were never married to him.

1.—Pedda Lutchiminursiah—his married wife.

2.—Pedda Juggiah, a dancing girl.

3.—Seetiah, a Gentoo woman.

4.—Camaliah—of the same class.

5.—Chinnah Juggiah—Sister of Camaliah and Mother of the 2nd Son.

6.—Soondariah—Sister of Camaliah and Chinnah Juggiah.

7.—Vencata Lutchmiah, of the cultivating class, Mother of the 3rd Son.

8.—Soobadriah of the Silversmith caste.

The arrear due to Govt. at this period, the beginning of Fasly 1233 was Rs. 45,000-13-1

16. The mother of the eldest son was a dancing girl, but upon the representation* of the Collector that he was acknowledged by all parties to be the proper heir to the Zemindary, he was recognised as such by Government and as he was then a minor, the Zemindary was placed under the charge of the Court of Wards.1

*From the Collector, 9th May 1829, para. 16.

1. 'Surely no legitimate son can be dispossessed of his rights on such evidence as this.' V. N. B.

* I deny that the attack was made. My mother says that the judgment of the Fonjdarre Court is correct. Mr. Russell could only have exparte account of the case. V. N. B.

32. In a note written to me by Lieutenant Currie on the 2nd day after this occurrence, he mentioned that a number of letters had been found in the house of the rebel chief which deeply implicated some of the principal members of the Samustanum, and asked instructions as to the disposal of them. I requested in reply that he would send them to me which he did, and I immediately numbered and affixed my initials to each, and ever after kept them under my own seal. There were in all one hundred and four documents, among which were ninety three letters written on paper and one on a palm leaf, and nine cowles. On examination of these papers, I found numerous notes and letters addressed to Atsapawulsa Kistamah Dora by members of the Raja's family, and others attached to the Samustanum, shewing that a confidential correspondence had been carried on with him from 1830, and had continued up to the present time. I shall insert in the appendix the letters of most importance, as illustrative of the continuity and complexity of the intrigues of which Palacondah was the centre during this period, and of the countenance and support given to this rebel,

where each party in turn applied to for the accomplishment of their own purposes, by any means however crafty. It will be seen by these letters that the right of the Zemindar in possession

Para. 25 of this report. was not undisputed as stated by Mr. Gardiner, and that there was a party in favor of Viziamrauz, his younger brother, who supported his claims by the usual expedient of raising disturbances. The letters of more recent date which show that the late rebellious conduct of A. Kistnama Dora was instigated and directed from within the walls of the Samustannam, I think it proper to notice particularly in this place:

33. In a letter dated 30th January 1833, Pedda Juggiah tells him she sends him a large quantity of powder and ball and presses him in the strongest terms to come with a band of armed followers and forcibly rescue from the custody of the Government Officers, the prisoners taken in the daring attack made upon the Ameen 4 days before. In another dated the 4th February, she tells him that the Ameen would never be brought to liberate the prisoners, that she sent 20 Rupees for his (Kistnama Dora's) expenses, and that only hope that remained of effecting the release of their friends was for him to come with his followers at midnight and kill the Ameen. She particularly indicates the way in which he should proceed for this purpose; mentions that Pudmanaba Charloo is the only one likely to assist the Ameen; that people will be in readiness in that event to support him, that he must also be disposed of some other day, and that she herself will manage to prevent Somana Dora from interfering.

34. Bayree Kittiah, her confidential servant writes on the same day; mentions the money having been sent by P. Juggiah; suggests to him as the means of making the Ameen comply with their wishes, to prevent the public grain from being sent in, tells him that Somana Dora is come to assist the Ameen, urges him to send for all the Doratnams on the following day without reference to the expense, which, he says, he will get P. Juggiah to furnish, and refers to her letter as to the manner in which Pudmanaba Charloo and the Ameen are to be disposed of.

35. A letter from two of the Rajah's brothers-in-law dated the 5th February 1833 shows that the rebel chief had written to them also for funds to maintain his followers. Pedda Juggiah, they tell him in that the money sent by Pedda Juggiah would, ere then, have reached him, and promise to join him if he will come and release the prisoners, an object which they say, is of great importance and must be effected at any risk; they tell him that all in the Fort are on their side except the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo, and that in 2 or 3 days B. Narasiah Patradoo will get the Dewan's ship and Pudmanaba Charloo will be excluded.

36. On the 9th Pedda Juggiah sends a quantity of provisions and more money. On the 11th Barscoory Narsiah or Narshunna Patradoo (for he was called and signed himself both ways) whom the Rajah had just appointed Dewan, in a letter which marks strongly the influence the rebel chief possessed, after acknowledging that it was through him he had obtained his situation, tells him Somana Dora is going away, and presses him, as the only way of preventing the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo from sending the prisoners to the Court, to come and "by any means take care of them." "So long as they remain here, he says, you cannot come here, if we could get an Ameen who would attend to our wishes, you might frequently come here."

37. On the 19th February Pedda Juggiah tells him of the arrival of the detachment under Lieutenant Curre, and of a report that two more Companies were coming; desires him to be on his guard, and promises to effect the release of the prisoners, by means of money.

38. The Dewan writing again on the night of the following day (the 20th) tells him he had been to Cheepoorapillay* where the Collector was, to speak about getting the Ameen removed, and that he had then gone to Chicacole to get the prisoners off, but that Pudmanaba Charloo being there, he had been unable to gain over the witnesses, "you write," he adds, "that the Companies (meaning Lieutenant Curre's detachment) are come, and that I should send powder and ball—I send you by Makala Kotiah 3 Coonchams of powder and 4 Viss of lead—you should look to its receipt. The Officer of the Company is very alert—if this Officer comes against you, be on your guard, and when he fires upon you, you should fire upon him."

39. The youngest of the Rajah's brothers-in-law, Neeladree Raidoo on the 21st February, writes "I received your letter, and am very glad to hear of the contents there."

No. 35. "of. Narasimma Patradoo asked the Commissioner's Officer who came to Palacoudah, what led to his coming there, who replied that our enemies had reported that the rebels have seized the Town and were burning the villages. Narasimma Patradoo said that was entirely false. The Officer, believing this, was very angry, on our enemies, who are intriguing against us. Narasimma Patradoo is going to Hoozoor to-morrow morning. Be well on your guard until his return."

40. The Dewan Barscoory Narsiah Patradoo in a third letter dated also the 21st February, assuring him that he considered him in the light of a friend, tells him that Pudmanaba Charloo had been the cause of the troops coming, informs him that he is going to the Collector on the following day and will procure orders for their removal, and recommend him to be well on his guard in the meantime, and particularly not to let it be known that he was in force at Woney.

41. Yellamahanty Sooria Narasiah Patradoo, writing on the 24th February in the absence of his Uncle Runganatha Patradoo, and in reply to a letter in which the rebel chief appears to have said that if the removal of Pudmanaba Charloo and the Ameen could not be effected by other means, he would send the hill people to take care of them both, tells him that his uncle Rungiah (meaning Runganatha Patradoo) and Rajahm Chinna Appiah had gone to the (the Commissioner) that they would get the Catcherry people over to their side, even if it should cost 4,000 Rupees and would, by some means or other, throw the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo into a pit; but that if they should fail he might then send the hill people "to take care of them." He adds "you boasted that our Woney people would certainly take care of the Ameen in his Outcherry; but the business had not sooner commenced then they not only failed to kill him, but they ran, every man his own way: some also were taken. How much trouble do we experience to get them back. I am afraid our people may fail again. If two of your brothers come, the thing will be done; it cannot be effected by any other means. My uncle will be back in two days. When we know the result of his endeavours, if our people have cast them into a pit, well and good, if not we can try the other way."

Note.—They visited me at Kimeedy at this time.

No. 38. in reference to a report which A. Kistnama Dora had heard turning some liquors and other things sent from Vizagapatam to wait my arrival at Palacoudah, into supplies of ammunition, "Mr. Russell's liquors have arrived, but no tubs of ammunition," and then proceeds to tell him that the witnesses had spoken for their friends; that Pudmanaba Charloo's cooking brahmin was confined, and that he (Pudmanaba Charloo) was trying to get him released by bribing the people there.

43. On the 1st March Cheekaty Baupaloo, a confidential dependant of the Samustannam, tells him the Dewan has gone to Chepouppully and from thence was going to Chicacole—that the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo were in the habit of going daily to the Officer (Lieut. Curre) and that he should be on his guard against their plans of which he promises to give him information daily. Pedda Juggiah, on the same day, after engaging to give him notice if the Officer Commanding the detachment should intend to attack him, informs him that the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo are gone to Chicacole, where the Collector then was, and are only slightly escorted, and urges him to way-lay them on their return and "take care of them."

44. In a note enclosed in a letter dated 6th March 1833, she tells him I (the Commissioner) am expected immediately, and recommends him to write to me "that Pudmanaba Charloo and Somana Dora are meditating to plunder the fort and throw the blame on him, and that if I would give him leave, he would kill them, or to bind and send them to me, he would do so."

On the 7th March the youngest brother of the Rajah's wife, in reply to a letter in which Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora appears to have expressed suspicions that his brother-in-law (the Rajah) was in secret communication with Pudmanaba Charloo, assures him that he has nothing to fear on that score. The Dewan writes him on the same day that he returned from Chicacole on the 5th; that some of the witnesses having deposed falsely, the Gentleman (meaning the Criminal Judge) entertained suspicions (of the guilt of the prisoners), but that he would get them off when the Circuit Judge should come, and that he would write further on my arrival.

46. Pedda Juggiah, two days afterwards, referring evidently to the suspicions which are alluded to in the above communication, assures him that "we (meaning obviously herself and the Rajah) will never deceive him."

47. On my arrival at Palacondah on the 1st of May 1833, I found the condition of public affairs precisely such as the perusal of these documents had led me to expect. The Rajah who was then in his 20th year, was a weak man and had neither talent nor firmness to manage the Country; since the death of his father it had been a Government of women. The Rajah possessed little influence, the Collector and his establishment even less. The real authority had rested with the widows of the late Rajah, who had different advisers and different views and interests to serve.

52. In all that had hitherto taken place, I avoided any indication of a suspicion against the Rajah but though less directly implicated than those about him, his letters shewed, not merely that he had been holding intercourse with Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora although possessing a knowledge of his criminal designs and proceedings, but also that the Chief exercised an influence over him which was dangerous to the peace of the country. In a letter dated the 4th February 1833, to Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora,* then at Woney in open hostility to the Government, he said, alluding to the appointment of the Dewan, "if you do not like Narasiah Patradoo being appointed to the Management and wish any other person to be put in your place immediately write me his name." In the same letter he advised him to return home, and make no disturbance for the present, lest his being at Woney at the head of a large force should endanger them both when I arrived, and promised to effect the release of the prisoners himself.

53. In a subsequent letter dated 14th March 1833, he referred to some communication of Pedda Juggiah as containing his own sentiments. It is not possible to say to what letter he here alluded. If to that of the 1st of the month, (the expression used shows it could not have been that of the day before) he must have been aware of all her guilty designs.

54. From other letters of an earlier date it appeared that, notwithstanding the proclamation of Para. 23 of this report, the Magistrate denouncing Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora as a rebel, the Rajah continued to be friendly to him. A letter written by him on the 31st July 1832, being little more than a month afterwards, shews him to have been in the habit of dealing with money and provisions, and that he was at that time endeavouring to prevent his being endangered by Pudmanaba Chari and others who were hostile to him. In an order of date to the merchants at Veragattum, a large village about thirteen miles from Kimeedy and two from Atsapawulsa, he tells them that the order he had before given prohibiting them from furnishing that chief with supplies, was to be no longer in force. These two last letters having been written before the promulgation of Martial Law, could not be made matter of charge before a Court Martial, but it appeared to me that the fact of his having secretly held friendly intercourse with a person whom he knew to be the head of an armed body of men in open hostility to the Government in a manner to assure him of his support, would be an instance of abetment sufficient for his conviction, while the influence which his letter of the 4th February 1833 showed to be possessed over him by the daring chief who had so long defied all authority, precluded the hope of subduing the insurrection so long as he remained in power. I therefore sent the letter last mentioned to the Collector, Mr. Mason, with a request that he would communicate with the Deputy Judge Advocate, Lieutenant Sprye, and ascertain whether, in the opinion of that Officer, the document in question formed sufficient ground for his arraignment before a Court Martial, and upon his answer in the affirmative, the Government having concurred in my opinion as to the expediency of bringing him to trial, I proceeded to arrest him. This was not done, however, until all the other trials had closed.

55. The persons brought to trial were the Dewan Bausoory Narasiah Patradoo and Pedda Juggiah before the Native Court Martial at Vizianagrum, and Bayree Kittiah, Bandungy Yerrakaraidoo and Sooriah Narrain Patradoo, and lastly the Rajah, before a Court Martial composed of European Officers at Palacondah. The Proceedings in the case of Pedda Juggiah were quashed by order of Government before the trial was brought to a conclusion, and she was made a state prisoner. The others were all convicted and sentenced to death. The sentence upon the Dewan and Bayree Kittiah was commuted into imprisonment. Those upon Bandungy Yerrakaraidoo and Sooriah Narrain Patradoo were commuted to transportation for life. The sentence upon the Rajah was commuted, upon my advice to imprisonment for life. Considering his youth and inexperience and the influence under which he acted, it was always my intention to save him from the extreme penalty of the law, but I deemed it of great importance to prove to all the Zemindars, by the example of his trial and conviction, that conduct like his was punishable capitally, and to warn them that, in enforcing the law, there would be no respect of persons, or rank or station.

* Kistnama Dora was a rebel against the family and held no communication with them. The letter was a fabrication. It is alluded to again in para. 54. V. N. B.

56. Having at the time reported specially on the trial of P. Juggiah before the Court Martial, and pointed out what appeared to me to be causes of failure on the occasion, in consequence to the comments of the Deputy Judge Advocate, Lieutenant Sprye, it would be a needless repetition to enter upon the subject again in this report. I beg leave therefore to refer to my letter dated the 15th July 1833 and to my Minute of this date relative to the letters of P. Juggiah. I have further to observe with reference to Lieutenant Sprye's statement that this woman could only write a single letter of her name which she used as her signature, that it is notorious on the contrary that she was in the habit of writing with her own hand, and that some of the letters among those sent to me by Lieutenant Sprye were written entirely by herself. One of them will be found in the appendix *—See No. 25.

57. With respect to the documents impeached by Lieutenant Sprye it appears to me impossible for any impartial and candid person to read them in connection with the other letters which are given in the appendix, without being convinced by the internal evidence he will find in them of their genuineness. A conviction which I conceive must be irresistible, together with the history of the events otherwise known to have occurred during the period they relate to. If the apartments of the women could have been searched when Pedda Juggiah and Chinniah and her sister were taken into custody, there can be no doubt that we should have obtained possession of many interesting letters addressed to them by A. Kistnama Dora and others, but the delicacy which, under the circumstances, it was necessary to observe towards the Rajah, who, if he had been led to apprehend any danger to himself would probably have placed himself under the protection of the rebels, rendered it impossible for Mr. Mason to make a minute search at that time, and he therefore merely brought away such papers as he found in their rooms and sealed up the doors, a precaution which he afterwards found to have been of no use, the Rajah having broken the seals and abstracted several of the valuables belonging to the females, and with them, doubtless, all the documentary evidence of their intrigues.

58. It only remains for me to add in regard to this subject that it was deemed necessary for the peace of the country to remove to a distance all the Members of the Rajah's family who had not been put upon their trial, and that they are now residing at Vellore with allowances sufficient to command every comfort.

72. PALACONDH.—The revenue derived from the Zemindary, now a forfeiture to Government by the rebellion of the Zemindar and his family during the year 1832, amounted to Rs. 1,18,409 9 11, less the charges of management, Rs. 1,18,409 9 11, exceeding the total amount which would have been payable to Government if the country had continued to be the property of the Zemindar, by Rupees 12,022 3 0.

76. I should here mention that although the Zemindary of Palacondah is bounded on the west by the large chain of high hills which separates it from Purlah Kimeedy, it is in other respects an open country, and has no disadvantage of climate or difficulty of management which can at all interfere with the successful administrations of its revenues. It has been the interest of the Zemindars and public servants to prevent the European authorities from obtaining a knowledge of these Zemindaries by exaggerated reports of their unhealthiness, and they have hitherto succeeded but to a small extent.

86. The Zemindary of Palacondah became a forfeiture to the Government by the judgment of the Court Martial which convicted the Zemindar of a violation of his allegiance, and has since been treated as the property of Government; but the forfeiture has never been formally proclaimed. I beg to suggest for the consideration of the Governor in Council whether a proclamation should not be published "by order of Government" declaring the conviction of the Zemindar and the consequent forfeiture.

87. I have always felt the greatest regret for the necessity which compelled me in the fulfilment of my duty to Government and for the paramount consideration of its authority, for which a signal example was indispensably requisite, to adopt the strong measure whereby this ancient family has been reduced from the high station to which it was so long occupied, and deprived of its hereditary possessions, and were I now to yield to the impulse of my feeling for them, I should be disposed to recommend the restoration of the Zemindary to Vizianagrum the next brother of the late Zemindar.

* My mother assures me that Pedda Juggiah could not write. V. N. B.

† This opinion and others regarding the letters shew the prejudiced state of Mr. Russell's mind. V. N. B.

‡ That is to say I understand to an estate yielding three-quarters of a lakh a year, could command every comfort out of a stipend of Rs. 90 a month. The present renters Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. pay considerably more than that fixed at the Permanent Settlement. V. N. B.

¶ This may be the reason why Palacondah was sequestered, and Purlah Kimeedy spared. V. N. B.

Zemindars who are too young to have been personally implicated in the crimes and intrigues for which forfeiture is a just penalty. But I am convinced in my judgment that such indulgence would so detract from the force of the example, that it would be without the desired effect, and that to make the requisite impression upon the turbulent Zemindars of these provinces generally and their adherents, it is necessary to declare the forfeiture absolute. It will of course be revocable at any time, if Government should deem it advisable, at a future period, to extend such an act of grace to the family. It is I believe generally acknowledged that in consequence of the measures lately taken, the authority of Government in the Northern Circars is at the present more respected and more effectual than at any former period, and it is to be hoped that a good and vigorous administration for a few years will bring all classes into habits of order and obedience to the laws. It may then, perhaps, be expedient to restore the Zemindary to either of the surviving brothers whose conduct may be most deserving and may give the best promise of good management. The indulgence of Government would then be appreciated.

Extracts from Minute of Sir Frederic Adamson, Mr. Russell's Report, dated 30th June, 1835.

33. With respect to Mr. Russell's suggestion that it may be expedient to restore the Zemindary at some future period, as an act of grace, to either of the surviving brothers whose conduct may be most deserving, and may give the best promise of good management, I will only refer to the opinion expressed by Sir T. Munro, that "no Zemindary once forfeited for rebellion, should ever be restored."

34. A petition was presented to me at Palacondah purporting to be from the inhabitants of the town, praying for the restoration of the Zemindary to Viziamarazu abovementioned. No doubt the towns people have suffered by the cessation of the large expenditure for the maintenance of the Zemindar's Establishment and numerous retainers, and many of them probably have been thrown out of employment by the reduction of the establishment. It is likely therefore that they willingly subscribed the Petition with a view to their own private interests, but it was understood that it had been got up at the instigation of Padmanabha Charloo, the person mentioned in Mr. Russell's Report as the Guardian of the late Zemindar during his minority, who appears always to have taken an active part in the affairs of the Zemindary, and the intrigues connected therewith.

35. His object in endeavouring to bring about the restoration of the person of the young man Viziamarazu, is doubtless to aggrandize himself. The family of Padmanabha Charloo were not originally inhabitants of Palacondah, his father is understood to have been the first settler there. Under the circumstances to which I have adverted there seems to be a state necessity for requiring him to change his residence. I think that both he and his brother should be obliged to fix their abode at some place to be appointed by the Magistrate at a distance from Palacondah, and to bind themselves not to return within its limits without his leave.

It is worthy of consideration whether with the single view of giving Government the power to determine the succession, every opportunity should not be taken to bring these Zemindaries to sale, to be retained on a new sunnad when there may not be particular reasons for retaining them in the Government.

PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the late Kurmarazu Narraindra Row, Zemindar of Palacondah, having been convicted of rebellion against Government by a European Special Court Martial assembled at that place, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to declare his Zemindary a forfeiture to the State, and in order to warn all Rajahs, Zemindars and other Landholders from being guilty of similar conduct, as well as to shew the determination of the Government to assert its authority, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is further pleased to declare the forfeiture of the Palacondah Zemindary to be absolute and unconditional, and all Under-tenants, Renters, Ryots, &c., are required to pay their rents to the Collector and to obey his authority.

APPENDIX.

Regarding the rights of illegitimate sons to succeed to landed property in the Vizagapatam District, the matter was raised before Mr. P. B. Smollett, Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George, by an illegitimate elder son of the then late Kurupam Zemindar, and was decided against the applicant. The following is an extract from the decree, dated 11th July 1856 and Review No. 41 of 1855, in which that officer alludes specially to the case of Palacondah Zemindar.

33. Reference has been made to a succession in the Palacondah Zemindary. This occurred in the year On the death of the then Zemindar, there were left behind six or seven women calling themselves wives or concubines, and Mr. Gardiner the Collector acknowledged the eldest boy though the son of a dancing girl. This youth it is said had been adopted by one of the wives of the Zemindar as a son. was then about 14 years of age, and there were younger sons born in wedlock. Members of the family acquiesced, but the mother of the eldest legitimate son remonstrated with effect. The selection by the Collector cannot be regarded as an authoritative decision. On the contrary, it is doubtful if such a proceeding would have been up held in Courts of Law. It may be added that during the continuance of the minority, Palacondah was in a state of great disorder and shortly afterwards an insurrection broke out, and Military law being proclaimed, the Zemindary was declared to have been forfeited to Government.

Extract from the report of the Collector, Mr. Gardiner, announcing the death of Vencatapatirazu, dated 6th October 1828, No. 90.

2. The deceased Zemindar's sons are three:—
- 1st Kurmarazu Narandra Row.
- 2nd Veziamaramazu Narandra Row.
- 3rd Neeladhirazu Narandra Row.

The first just 14 years of age and illegitimate, but said to have been adopted by Camaliah the first wife of the surviving wives of the deceased Zemindar, after the death of the boy's natural mother. The second [memorialist] is a legitimate son by Juggiah, the second wife, and according to the best of my information I can get, has not yet completed his ninth year. The third is illegitimate and said to have been adopted by Soondariah, one of the wives, though the natural mother is living.

Extract from the special report on the Vizagapatam District, Mr. G. E. Russell, dated 18th November 1834.

15. In October the Zemindar, who had long been in an infirm state of health, died, leaving three sons named Kurmarazu, Narandra Row, Veziamaramazu, Narandra Row and Neeladhirazu Narandra Row and three daughters—also eight widows, as it is usual to call them, most of whom were never married to him.

- 2.—Pedda Juggiah, a dancing girl.
- 3.—Seetiah, a Gentoo woman.
- 4.—Camaliah—of the same class.
- 5.—Chinnah Juggiah—Sister of Camaliah and Mother of the 2nd Son.
- 6.—Soondariah—Sister of Camaliah and Chinnah Juggiah.
- 7.—Vencata Lutchmiab, of the cultivating class, Mother of the 3rd Son.
- 8.—Soobadriah of the Silversmith caste.

The arrear due to Govt. at this period, the beginning of February 1835, was Rs. 1235.

16. The mother of the eldest son was a dancing girl but upon the representation of the Collector that he was acknowledged by all parties to be the proper heir to the Zemindary, he was recognised as such by Government and, as he was then a minor, the Zemindary was placed under the charge of the Court of Wards.

1. 'Surely no legitimate son can be dispossessed of his rights on such evidence as this.' V. N. B.

On the 20th January 1830 the Collector reported that, in consequence of the death of the person who had become security for Camaliah, he had considered it requisite for the safety of the revenue to depute Ameen and the necessary establishment "to act under his own name and orders, with instructions to consult Camaliah generally in conducting the revenue details, and especially in realizing the collections of the hill villages, still permitting her to continue the ostensible manager of the estate." Camaliah subsequently, about the middle of 1830, made an arrangement with Coormautha Patradoo, the then head of the family of the Dewan who was murdered in 1828, by which it was settled with the concurrence of the Collector that he should be entrusted with the revenue administration under her, and bind himself to realize and remit to the Collectors' treasury (without forestalling the revenues of future years) the amount of the settlement for Rs. 1240, or to make good the deficiency. The fulfilment of the engagement having been further guaranteed by the security of two other persons named Rajam Ratha Kistnama and Yellachunttee Soorianarraina Patradoo, the attachment was withdrawn.

From the Collector, 2nd May 1831, para. 3.

Board's Proceedings 27th June 1831, para. 18.

* Para. 13.

From the Collector, 2nd November 1831, para. 10.

5th August, 1830.

"treasury (without forestalling the revenues of future years) the amount of the settlement for Rs. 1240, or to make good the deficiency." The fulfilment of the engagement having been further guaranteed by the security of two other persons named Rajam Ratha Kistnama and Yellachunttee Soorianarraina Patradoo, the attachment was withdrawn.

22. It appeared also from the report of the Acting Collector that the right of the Zemindar to succeed which Mr. Gardiner had stated to be admitted by all parties was now questioned. Since his rupture with Camaliah he had given himself up entirely to the guidance of Pedda Juggiah and had written to the Acting Collector on the 11th July stating that he had made over the management of the country to her.

23. Mr. Gardiner was quite right in saying that it is difficult to trace with accuracy the particular causes which led to commotions in the hill Zemindaries. The greater part of the outrages committed on the people never come to the knowledge of the public authorities, but the records of Palacondah, incomplete as they are, exhibit a scene of violence and disorder little less than that which existed in Purlah Kimedy.*

26. I have been thus particular in stating what occurred because I observe that the Foudaree Udalt in their proceedings upon the trial of Pudmanaba Dora and his followers, advert to the detention of the prisoners at Palacondah, came to the conclusion that the alleged attack never took place at all, but that the whole story was a fabrication of the Ameen for some sinister purpose, that the disturbed state of the country was a mere pretext to account for his not having sent the prisoners to the Criminal Judge at an earlier period, and that his real and sole purpose in detaining them was "to get up the case against them," assuming that the "Magistrate was not ever informed of the alleged attack." All the evidence of the witnesses was fairly digested and arranged, and that the "intelligence received by him of any attack having been made was upwards of one month after all the prisoners had been apprehended," whereas in truth, Lieutenant Currie's detachment which was not applied for till my inquiries had satisfied me that the public authority could not be maintained by other means, and actually arrived at Palacondah by that time. In respect to the attack upon the Cutcherry, the object of those by whom it was perpetrated, and the motive attributed to the Ameen for refusing to forward the offenders to Chicacole, I have no hesitation in stating, from careful personal enquiry on the spot, and a knowledge of local circumstances, that the conjectures of the Foudaree Udalt are totally destitute of foundation, and that the order of the Government to detain the offenders as a state prisoner, would have produced the worst consequences to the public peace, and would have greatly aggravated the difficulty of subduing the spirit of insurrection then prevailing, even if it had not altogether frustrated my endeavours to apprehend the yet more dangerous characters who were still in arms against us. The Court appear to have overlooked the facts that the disturbed state of the country had obliged the Government to proclaim Martial Law in the Vizagapatnam District and to send me with powers to do the same in Ganjam, before the commission of the attack they were trying, and that the long existence of rebellion in Purlah Kimedy (the Zemindary immediately adjoining Palacondah) was judicially and fully within their knowledge, in the cases of the persons whom they had sentenced to transportation for life beyond seas, for firing upon the troops of Government when proceeding to the support of the Collector in August 1831, and for taking forcible possession of the western and southern division of the Zemindary in the early part of 1832. They have since convicted and sentenced to a similar punishment Batharasinghee Towty Dora for having, almost

Calendar of Chicacole, Special Commission No. 1 of 1833. See my report of the 1st instant on the affairs of Purlah Kimedy, para. 78.

* Calendar of Chicacole Special Commission.

* Purlah Kimedy was not sequestered, V. N. B.
* I deny that the attack was made. My mother says that the judgment of the Foudaree Court is correct. Mr. Russell could only have ex parte account of the case. V. N. B.

committed a similar offence in the Heramundalum Talook which also belongs to Vizagapatnam. He assembled a body of armed men who plundered and burnt a Village just mentioned within a few miles of Palacondah and for having forcibly rescued from the custody of the Police Officer, one of his followers who had aided and abetted in that outrage, and had been taken prisoner on that occasion. If anything further were wanting to complete the proof of the then situation of the Country, and of the unprotected condition of the people, it will be found in the evidence on this latter trial where it will be seen that the Police Officer was afraid to report what had occurred to the Collector, lest he should thereby bring upon himself and the inhabitants the vengeance of the rebel chief—fears, for which the history of these districts shews there was but too much ground.

30. The persons who first observed and gave notice of the flight of the rebels, were 4 sepoys who were on picket—near the wicket by which they escaped—as soon as the place was attacked, these men and a pensioned sepoy, the father of one of them, went in. The only things they found there were a looking glass, a box of letters and some vessels containing rice, tamarinds, jagged &c. provisions being too bulky to be carried away, they left them and took only the horse, glass and bag. The man who obtained the latter, considering the letters of no value, threw them on the floor of the house. While still in the fort they were joined by a small party under the Zemindar of the Company, whom Lieutenant Currie had sent back to secure any persons or property which the fugitives might have left. One of the sepoys of this party picked up the letters which had been thrown down by the person who had taken the box, and tied them in a cloth. Another sepoy found a second box containing 5 or 6 letters, which he secured in the same way; and two others, on searching the premises more minutely, got a guitar and a drum.

+ Note.—In my report of the 15th July 1831, I mentioned that one of the sepoys the picket fired a shot into the house of the chief before he fled, in order to ascertain whether it was entirely deserted. The point is of some importance as the question is totally irreconcilable with the supposition that the place was then occupied by our Arms.

31. It was clear from the account given by these men, all of whom were subsequently examined personally that, at the time the letters were found and secured, no one but our own men and the pensioned Sepoy before alluded to, had entered the fort—that the main gate and the second wicket remained fastened and that the rice, tamarind and other articles of provision were still untouched—they quitted the place—that on their leaving it, they took the letters to Lieutenant Currie, then standing at a distance in conversation with Pudmanaba Charloo, and the Sirdar of Sibbendies, that that Officer on receiving them caused them to be immediately tied up in a handkerchief which he delivered to the charge of the Sibbendy Sirdar, who being unable to walk, in consequence of a thorn having run into his foot, was directed by him to mount the wounded Soobadar's horse, and that the Sirdar accordingly rode with Lieutenant Currie until they reached that Officer's tent at about 3 o'clock in the morning, when he gave the bundle to him and took his leave. In respect to the subsequent custody of the letters, it appeared from the concurring testimony of the Zemindar and Drummer of the Detachment and the Sirdar of the Sibbendies, that on the morning of the following day, the 10th March, and on the two evenings next ensuing, they were called by Lieutenant Currie into his tent for the purpose of reading and explaining them to him, when Lieutenant Currie having previously caused every one else to go away, took the bundle of letters from his box and gave them one by one to the Sibbendy Sirdar, who read them, while the Zemindar and Drummer interpreted the contents, the letters so read being kept separately from those which had not been read, and that on each day, after the reading was concluded, Lieutenant Currie locked them up in his own box.

32. In a note written to me by Lieutenant Currie on the 2nd day after this occurrence, he mentioned that a number of letters had been found in the house of the rebel chief which deeply implicated some of the principal members of the Samustanum, and asked instructions as to the disposal of them. I requested in reply that he would send them to me which he did, and immediately numbered and affixed my initials to each, and ever after kept them under my own seal. There were in all one hundred and four documents, among which were ninety-three letters written on paper and one on a palm leaf, and nine cowles. On examination of these papers, I found numerous notes and letters addressed to Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora by members of the Rajah's family, and others attached to the Samustanum, shewing that a confidential correspondence had been carried on with him from 1830, and had continued up to the present time. I shall insert in the appendix the letters of most importance, as illustrative of the continuity and complexity of the intrigues of which Palacondah was the centre during this period, and of the countenance and support given to this rebel,

in turn applied to for the accomplishment of their own purposes, by any means atrocious. It will be seen by these letters that the right of the Zemindar in possession was not undisputed as stated by Mr. Gardiner, and that there was a party in favor of Vizianamrauz, his younger brother, who supported his claims by the usual expedient of raising disturbances. The letters more recent which show that the late rebellious conduct of A. Kistnama Dora was instigated and directed within the walls of the Samustannum, I think it proper to notice particularly in this place.

33. In a letter dated 30th January 1833, Pedda Juggiah tells him she sends him a large quantity of powder and ball and presses him in the strongest terms to come with a band of armed followers and forcibly rescue from the custody of the Government Officers, the prisoners taken in the daring attack made upon the Ameen 4 days before. In another dated the 4th February, she tells him that she would never be brought to liberate the prisoners, that she sent 20 Rupees for his (Kistnama Dora's) expenses, and that only hope that remained of effecting the release of their friends was for him to come with his followers at midnight and attack the Ameen. She particularly indicates the way in which he should proceed for this purpose; mentions that Pudmanaba Charloo is the only one likely to assist the Ameen; that people will be in readiness in that event to support him, that he must also be disposed of some other day, and that she herself will manage to prevent Somana Dora from interfering.

34. Bayree Kittiah, her confidential servant writes on the same day; mentions the money having been sent by P. Juggiah; suggests to him as the means of making the Ameen comply with their wishes, to prevent the public grain from being sent in, tells him that Somana Dora is come to assist the Ameen, urges him to send for all the Doratanums on the following day without reference to the expense, which, he says, he will get P. Juggiah to furnish, and refers to her letter as to the manner in which Pudmanaba Charloo and the Ameen are to be disposed of.

35. A letter from two of the Rajah's brothers-in-law dated the 5th February 1833 shows that the rebel chief had written to them also for funds to maintain his followers—probably from not having immediately received them from Pedda Juggiah. They tell him in answer that the money sent by Pedda Juggiah would, ere then, have reached him, and promise to join him if he will come and release the prisoners, an object which they say, is of great importance. They tell him that all in the Fort are on their side except the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo, and that in 2 or 3 days B. Narasiah Patradoo will get the Ameen's slip and Pudmanaba Charloo will be excluded.

36. On the 9th Pedda Juggiah sends a quantity of provisions and more money. On the 11th Barsoory Narsiah or Narshunna Patradoo (for he was called and signed himself both ways) whom the Rajah had just appointed Dewan, in a letter which marks strongly the influence the rebel chief possessed, after acknowledging that it was through him he had obtained his situation, tells him Somana Dora is going away, and presses him, as the only way of preventing the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo from sending the prisoners to the Court, to come and "by any means take care of them." "So long as they remain here, he says, you cannot come here, if we could get an Ameen who would attend to our wishes, you might frequently come here."

37. On the 19th February Pedda Juggiah tells him of the arrival of the detachment under Lieutenant Currie, and of a report that two more Companies were coming; desires him to be on his guard, and promises to effect the release of the prisoners by means of money.

38. The Dewan writing again on the night of the following day (the 20th) tells him he had been to Cheepoorapalay where the collector was, to speak about getting the Ameen removed, and that he had then gone to Chicacole to get the prisoners off, but that Pudmanaba Charloo being there, he had been unable to gain over the witnesses, "you write," he adds, "that the Companies (meaning Lieutenant Currie's detachment) are come, and that I should send powder and ball—I send you by Makala Kittiah 3 Coonchums of powder and 4 Viss of lead—you should look to its receipt. The Officer of the Company is very alert—if this Officer comes against you, be on your guard, and when he fires upon you, you should fire upon him."

39. The youngest of the Rajah's brothers-in-law, Neeladree Raidoo on the 21st February writes "I received your letter, and am very glad to hear of your success there." No. 35. "of. Narasimma Patradoo asked the Commanding Officer who came to Palacondah what led to his coming there, who replied that our enemies had reported that the rebels had seized the Town and were burning the villages. Narasimma Patradoo said it was entirely false. The Officer, believing this, was very angry, on our enemies, who are intriguing against us. Narasimma Patradoo is going to Hoozoor to-morrow morning. Be well on your guard until his return."

40. The Dewan Barsoory Narsiah Patradoo in a third letter dated also the 21st February, after assuring him that he considered him in the light of a brother tells him that Pudmanaba Charloo had been the cause of the troops coming, informs him that he is going to the Collector on the following day and will procure arms for their removal, and recommend him to be well on his guard in the meantime, and particularly not to let it be known that he was in force at Woney.

41. Yellamahanty Sooria Narasiah, writing on the 24th February in the name of his Uncle Ranganatha Patradoo, and in reply to a letter in which the rebel chief appears to have said that if the removal of Pudmanaba Charloo and the Ameen could not be effected by other means, he would send the hill people to take care of them both, tells him that his uncle Rungiah (meaning Ranganatha Patradoo) and Rajahm Chinnappaiah had gone to the Commissioner that they would get the Cutcherry people over to their side, even if it should cost 4,000 Rupees and would, by some means or other, throw the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo into a pit; but that if they should fail they might then send the hill people "to take care of them." He adds "you boasted that our Woney people would certainly take care of the Ameen in his Cutcherry; but the business had not yet commenced then they not only failed to kill him, but they ran, every man his own way: we also were taken. How much trouble do we experience to get them back. I am afraid our Woney people may fail again. If two of your brothers come, the thing will be done; it cannot be effected by a single person. My uncle will be back in two days. When we know the result of his endeavours, if our people cast them into a pit, well and good, if not we can try the other way."

42. His uncle Yellamahanty Ranganatha Patradoo writes on the 28th February, apparently in reference to a report which A. Kistnama Dora was circulating about some liquors and other things sent from Vizagapatam to await my arrival at Palacondah, into supplies of ammunition, "Mr. Russell's liquors have arrived, but no ammunition," and then proceeds to tell him that the witnesses had spoken favorably for their friends; that Pudmanaba Charloo's cooking brahmin was confined, and that he (Pudmanaba Charloo) was trying to get him released by bribing the people there.

43. On the 1st March Cheekaty Baupaloo, a confidential dependant of the Samustannum, tells him the Dewan has gone to Cheporapally and from there was going to Chicacole—that the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo were in the habit of going daily to the Officer (Lieut. Currie) and that he should be on his guard against their plans of which he promises to give him information daily. Pedda Juggiah, on the same day, after engaging to give him notice if the Officer Commanding the detachment should intend to attack him, informs him that the Ameen and Pudmanaba Charloo are gone to Chicacole, where the Collector then was, and are only slightly escorted and urges him to waylay them on their return and "take care of them."

44. In a note enclosed in a letter dated 6th March 1833, she tells him (the Commissioner) and expected immediately, and recommends him to write to me "that Pudmanaba Charloo and Somana Dora are meditating to plunder some villages and throw the blame on him, and that if I would give him leave, he would kill them, or if I told him to bind and send them to me, he would do so."

45. On the 7th March the youngest brother of the Rajah's wife, in reply to a letter in which Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora appears to have expressed suspicion that his brother-in-law (the Rajah) was in secret communication with Pudmanaba Charloo, assures him that he has nothing to fear on that score. The Dewan writes him on the same day that he returned from Chicacole on the 5th; that some of the witnesses having deposed falsely, the Gentleman (meaning the Criminal Judge) entertained suspicions (of the guilt of the prisoners), but that he would get them off when the Circuit Judge should come, and that he would write further on my arrival.

46. Pedda Juggiah, two days afterwards, referring evidently to the suspicion which are alluded to in the above communication, assures him that "we (meaning obviously herself and the Rajah) will never deceive him."

47. On my arrival at Palacondah on the 1st of May 1833, I found the condition of public affairs precisely such as the perusal of those documents had led me to expect. The Rajah who was then in his 23rd year, was a weak man and had neither talent nor firmness to manage the Country; since the death of his father it had been a Government of women. The Rajah possessed little influence, the Collector and his establishment even less. The real authority had rested with the widows of the late Rajah, who had different advisers and different views and interests to serve.

52. In all that had hitherto taken place, I avoided any indication of a suspicion against the Rajah but though less directly implicated than those about him, his letters shewed, not merely that he had been holding intercourse with Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora although possessing a knowledge of his criminal designs and proceedings, but that the Chief exercised an influence over him which was dangerous to the peace of the country. In a letter dated the 4th February 1833, to Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora,* then at Woney in open hostility to the Government, he said, alluding to the appointment of the Dewan, "if you do not like Narasiah Patradoo being appointed to the Management and wish any other person to be put in you should immediately write me his name." In the same letter he advised him to return home, and make no disturbance for the present, lest his being at Woney at the head of a large force should endanger them both when I arrived, and promised to effect the release of the prisoners himself.

53. In a subsequent letter dated 7th March 1833, he referred to some communication of Pedda Juggiah as containing his own sentiments. It is not possible to say to what letter he here alluded. If to that of the 1st of the month, (the expression used shows it could not have been that of the day before) he must have been aware of all her guilty designs.

54. From other letters of an earlier date it appeared that, notwithstanding the proclamation of Para. 23 of this report, the Magistrate denouncing Atsapawulsa Kistnama Dora as a rebel, the Rajah continued to be friendly to him. A letter written by him on the 31st July 1832, being little more than a month afterwards, shews him to have been in the habit of supplying him with money and provisions, and that he was at that time endeavouring to prevent him being endangered by Pudmanaba Chetty and others who were hostile to him. In an order of later date to the merchants at Veragattam, a large village about thirteen miles from Palacondah, Atsapawulsa had before given prohibiting them from furnishing that chief with supplies, was to be no longer in force. These two last letters having been written before the promulgation of Martial Law, could not be made matter of charge before a Court Martial, but it appeared to me that the fact of his having secretly held friendly intercourse with a person whom he knew to be the head of an armed body of men in open hostility to the Government in a manner to assure him of his support, would be an instance of abetment sufficient for his conviction, while the influence which his letter of the 4th February 1833 showed to be possessed over him by the daring chief who had so long defied all authority, precluded the hope of subduing the insurrection so long as he remained in power. I therefore sent the letter last mentioned to the Collector Mr. Mason, with a request that he would communicate with the Deputy Judge Advocate, Lieutenant Sprye, and ascertain whether, in the opinion of that Officer, the document in question formed sufficient ground for his arraignment before a Court Martial, and upon answer in the affirmative, the Government having concurred in my opinion as to the expediency of bringing him to trial, I proceeded to arrest him. This was not done, however, until all the other trials had closed.

55. The persons brought to trial were the Dewan Bausoory Narasiah Patradoo and Pedda Juggiah before the Native Court Martial at Vizianagrum, and Bayree Kistiah, Baudungy Yerrakaraiddoo and Sooriah Narrain Patradoo, and lastly the Rajah, before a Court Martial composed of European Officers at Palacondah. The Proceedings in the case of Pedda Juggiah were quashed by order of Government before the trial was brought to a conclusion, and she was made a state prisoner. The others were all convicted and sentenced to death. The sentence upon the Dewan and Bayree Kistiah were carried into execution. Those upon Baudungy Yerrakaraiddoo and Sooriah Narrain Patradoo were commuted to transportation for life. The sentence upon the Rajah was commuted, upon my advice to imprisonment for life. Considering his youth and inexperience and the influence under which he acted, it was always my intention to save him from the extreme penalty of the law, but I deemed it of great importance to prove to all the Zemindars, by the example of his trial and conviction, that conduct like his was punishable capitally, and to warn them that, in enforcing the law, there would be no respect of persons, or rank or station.

* Kistnama Dora was a rebel against the family and held no communication with them. The letter was a fabrication. It is alluded to again in para. 54. V. N. B.

56. Having at the time reported specially on the trial of P. Juggiah before the Native Court Martial, and stated out what appeared to me to be causes of failure on the occasion, with reference to the comments of the Deputy Judge Advocate, Lieutenant Sprye, it would be a needless repetition to enter upon the subject again in this report. I beg leave therefore to refer to my letter dated the 15th July 1833, and to my Minute of this date relative to the letters of P. Juggiah. I have further to observe, with reference to Lieutenant Sprye's statement that this woman could only write a single letter of her name which she used as her signature, that it is notorious on the contrary that she was in the habit of writing with her own hand, and that some of the letters among those sent to me by Lieutenant Curro were written entirely by herself. One of them will be found in the appendix *—See No. 25.

57. With respect to the documents impeached by Lieutenant Sprye it appears to me impossible for any impartial and candid person to read them in connection with the other letters which are given in the appendix, without being convinced by the internal evidence he will find in them of their genuineness. A conviction which I conceive will be confirmed together with the history of the events otherwise known to have occurred during the rebellion. If the apartments of the women could have been searched when Pedda Juggiah and her sister were taken into custody, there can be no doubt that we should have obtained possession of many interesting letters, written by A. Kistnama Dora and others,† but the delicacy which, under the circumstances, it was necessary to observe towards the Rajah, who, if he had been led to apprehend any danger to himself, we probably have placed himself under the protection of the rebels, rendered it impossible for

Mason to make a minute search at that time, and he therefore merely brought away such papers as he found in their rooms and sealed up the doors, a precaution which he afterwards found to have been of no use, the Rajah having broken the seals and abstracted several of the valuables belonging to the females, and with them, doubtless, all the documentary evidence of their intrigues.

58. It only remains for me to add in regard to this subject that it was deemed necessary for the peace of the country to remove to a distance all the Members of the Rajah's family who had not been put upon their trial, and that they are now residing at Vellore with allowances sufficient to command every comfort.‡

73. PALACONDH.—The revenue derived from this Zemindary, now a forfeiture to Government by the rebellion of the Zemindar and his family during the Pashy, amounted to Rupees 1,28,600 1 3, or	
* Net Revenue of Pashy 1243.....	Rs. 1,18,409 9 11
Deduct Arrear.....	51,357 6 11
Current Assessment as per permanent settlement.....	55,000 0 0
Total demand as per permanent settlement.....	1,06,357 6 11
Remains.....	12,022 3 0
the country had continued to be the property of the Zemindar, by Rupees 12,022 3 0.	

76. I should here mention that although the Zemindary of Palacondah is bounded on the west by the large chain of high hills which separates it from Purlah Kimedy, it is in other respects an open country, and has no disadvantage of climate or difficulty of management which can at all interfere with the successful administrations of its revenues.¶ It has been the interest of the Zemindars and public servants to prevent the European authorities from obtaining a knowledge of these Zemindars by exaggerated reports of their unhealthiness, and they have hitherto succeeded but too well.

86. The Zemindary of Palacondah became a forfeiture to the Government by the judgment of the Court Martial which convicted the Zemindar of a violation of his allegiance, and has since been treated as the property of Government; but the forfeiture has never been formally proclaimed. I beg to suggest for the consideration of the Governor in Council whether a proclamation should not be published "by order of Government" declaring the conviction of the Zemindar and the consequent forfeiture.

87. I have always felt the greatest regret for the necessity which compelled me in the fulfilment of my duty to Government and for the paramount object of restoring its authority, for which a signal example was indispensably requisite, to adopt the strong measures whereby this ancient family has been reduced from the high station it so long occupied, and deprived of its hereditary possessions, and now I am to yield to the impulse of my feeling for them, I should be disposed to recommend the restoration of the Zemindary to Vizianagrum the next brother of the late

* My mother assures me that Pedda Juggiah could not write. V. N. B.

† This opinion and others regarding the letters shew the prejudiced state of Mr. Russell's mind. V. N. B.

‡ That is to say I understand to an estate yielding three-quarters of a lakh net, could command every comfort out of a stipend of Rs. 90 a month. The present renters of the Rajah's estate, Messrs. Arundell & Co. pay considerably more than that fixed at the Permanent Settlement. V. N. B.

¶ This may be the reason why Palacondah was sequestered, and Purlah Kimedy spared. V. N. B.

Zemindary is too young to have been personally implicated in the crimes and intrigues for which its forfeiture is a just penalty. But I am convinced in my judgment that such indulgence would so detract from the force of the example, that it would be without the desired effect, and that to make the requisite impression upon the turbulent Zemindars of those provinces generally and the adherents, it is necessary to declare the forfeiture absolute. It will of course be revocable at any time, if Government should deem it advisable, at a future period, to extend such an act of grace to the family. It is I believe generally acknowledged that in consequence of the measures lately taken, the authority of Government in the Northern Circars is at the present more respected and more effectual than at any former period, and it is to be hoped that a good and vigorous administration for a few years will bring all classes into habits of order and obedience to the laws. It may then, perhaps, be expedient to restore the Zemindary to either of the surviving brothers whose conduct may be most deserving and may give the best promise of good management. The indulgence of Government would then be appreciated.

Extracts from Minute of Sir Frederic Adam, or Mr. Russell's Report, dated 30th June, 1835.

33. With respect to Mr. Russell's suggestion that it may be expedient to restore the Zemindary at some future period, as an act of grace, to either of the surviving brothers whose conduct may be most deserving, and may give the best promise of good management, I will only refer to the opinion expressed by Sir T. Munro, that "no Zemindary once forfeited for rebellion, should ever be restored."

34. A petition was presented to me at Palacondah purporting to be from the inhabitants of the town, praying for the restoration of the Zemindary to Viziamarazu above-mentioned. No doubt the towns people have suffered by the cessation of the large expenditure for the maintenance of the Zemindar's Establishment and numerous retainers, and many of them probably have been thrown out of employment by the reduction of the establishment. It is likely therefore that they willingly subscribed the Petition with a view to their own private interests, but it was understood that it had been got up at the instigation of Padmanaba Charloo, the person mentioned in Mr. Russell's Report as the Guardian of the late Zemindar during his minority, who appears always to have taken an active and leading part in the affairs of the Zemindary, and the intrigues connected therewith.

35. His object in endeavouring to bring about the restoration of the Zemindary to the family in the person of the young Viziamarazu is doubtless to aggrandize himself, conceiving that it would be then easy for him to gain power and influence, which would place the country completely at his command. * * * The family of Padmanaba Charloo were not originally inhabitants of Palacondah, his father is understood to have been the first settler there. Under the circumstances to which I have adverted there seems to be a state necessity for requiring him to change his residence. I think that both he and his brother should be obliged to fix their abode at some place to be appointed by the Magistrate at a distance from Palacondah, and to bind themselves not to return within its limits without his leave.

76. It is worthy of consideration whether with the single view of giving Government the power to determine the succession, every opportunity should not be taken to bring these Zemindaries to be restored on a new sunnud when there may not be particular reasons for retaining them in the hands of Government.

PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the late Kurmarazu Narraindra Row, Zemindar of Palacondah, having been convicted of rebellion against Government by a European Special Court Martial assembled at that place, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to declare his Zemindary a forfeiture to the State, and in order to warn all Rajahs, Zemindars and other Landholders from being guilty of similar conduct, as well as to shew the determination of the Government to assert its authority, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is further pleased to declare the forfeiture of the Palacondah Zemindary to be absolute and unconditional, and all Under-tenants, Renters, Ryots, &c., are required to pay their rents to the Collector and to obey his authority.

22 May 1836

From

1199
3. June
26/5/76
Kurmarazu Narraindra Row Bahadur
Ex. Zemindar of Palacondah

To

The Honorable

W. Robinson Esq. C.S.I.

Member of Council

Madras

Honorable Sir

Forwarding herewith a copy of my petition I beg to inform you that I have sent a petition to His Grace the Governor, and to the Honorable Members of His Grace's Council of Madras, praying for the restoration of the Zemindary of Palacondah which was unjustly forfeited.

I beg therefore that you will, as a member of the Council, be pleased to consider my case in a favorable light.

22 May 1836
Kurmarazu

It is an honor to be

Yours

Your most Obedient Servant

Kurmarazu Narraindra Row

18
Ex Geminari of Palacandah

Captain Philip James Keane, Royal Navy.
Private Secretary to His Grace the Duke of
Buckingham, the Governor
Madras

General Sir

I beg to bring the following lines to your notice as preliminary
and introductory to presenting the enclosed Memorial for your
kind perusal, and trust that both time and mercy may be spared
in giving my requests a pitiful attention that I may have
your valuable aid in my just cause:-

- 1 That the Geminari of Palacandah is an ancient one
and was ruled undisturbedly by my ancestors for ten
generations
- 2 That the last Geminari Venkatapathiraya was my father
who also ruled the Country peacefully and with all homage
to the East India Company, the then Government.
- 3 That my father died leaving him surviving me the
legitimate son and two illegitimate sons one of whom
was Kurmaraya son of a dancing girl (See my Appendix
to the Petition - vide Collector's report dated 6th October 1828: page 2)
- 4 That after the death of my father, the illegitimate Kur-
maraya was wrongfully put into the possession of the
Geminari by the then Government through its agent
the Collector. (See Appendix vide Order of the Agent Collector.)
- 5 That I was a minor of 9 years; and the illegitimate Kurmaraya
was also a minor 14 years, and therefore the Country was
under the management of the Court of wards. (See Appendix
vide para 16 of Mr Russell's report) "During the continuance
of such minority" disorder arose and

Under these circumstances, I beg that you will
kindly peruse the enclosed Memorial for fuller particulars
that you pity may be moved as to support my very
just cause by explaining the truth of the case to His
Grace; in order that the merciful act of His Grace's
Government will be perpetuated in the minds of the
Palaeosdani family.

22nd May 1876
Marras

I have the honor to be
Honored Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
James O'Connell Esq

Opinion.

The passage in Mr. O'Sullivan's opinion on which I am desired to express an opinion is as follows: "Even if Kamaraizu were a legitimate son and as such entitled to the possession, a question would arise whether the Zemin-dary should be forfeited as against Viziamaramazu who was then entitled for maintenance from the income of the Zemin-dary, and would have been entitled to succeed upon the death without male issue of Kamaraizu. If the family be governed by the law of the Mitashara then the probability is that such forfeiture would be contrary to law."

2. The doubt suggested in this passage as to legality of the confiscation of Palconda Zemin-dary as against the offending Zemin-dar's younger brothers, arises from the view which is now taken in the Courts of the nature of the estate known as the Impartible Raj or ancient Zemin-dary. This view was explained by the late Chief Justice - Speaking of primogeniture as the ordinary well recognized usage of succession to Zemin-daries in this Presidency, he adds - "we apprehend it to be clearly the law, that such an usage does not interfere with the general rules of succession further than to vest the possession and enjoyment of the corpus of the whole estate in a single member of the family, subject to the legal incidents attached to it as the heritage of an undivided family. It being all that the purpose of the usage, namely, the preservation of the estate as an

b. M. H. C. R.
p. 105.

Palconda
Spoke of
additional remarks

an impartible ~~by~~ renders necessary. The unity of the family right to the heritage is not destroyed any more than by the succession of co-parceners to partible property, but the mode of its beneficial enjoyment is different. Instead of several members of the family holding the property in common, one takes it in its entirety, and the common law rights of the others, who would be co-parceners of partible property, are reduced to rights of survivorship to the possession of the whole, dependent upon the same contingency as the rights of survivorship of co-parceners inter se to the undivided share of each; and to a provision for maintenance in lieu of co-parcenary shares.

3. According to this view an impartible *Zemindari* is merely the ordinary undivided *Hindu Family* with extraordinary powers vested in the Manager. Instead of all the members having a common fund and enjoying the joint property in common under the superintendence of the Manager, the state of things in an impartible estate is that the Manager has for life the enjoyment of the whole; and the other members are merely entitled to maintenance: none the less are they, (supposing no partition to have taken place,) co-parceners with the Manager and entitled to succeed in due course to his rights.

4. From this it would follow that as the *Zemindar* for the time has only a life estate, any remedies against him personally can affect only that life estate, and that, if in any way that life estate should be extinguished

extinguished, the reversionary estate of the next co-parcener would at once vest. Consequently, if a *British* sentence of confiscation was passed against *Harmaraju* all that was confiscated was his life interest, and the estate vested forthwith in the next person entitled to succeed, who, if there was no male child of *Harmaraju*, was his younger brother *Vijaramaraju*.

5. This argument would be a sound one if we could apply to the proceedings of Government in 1832 in quelling the disturbances of a partially conquered country, the rigid rules of civil law, which after the lapse of more than a generation would now be applied to the ordinary transactions of the owner of an impartible estate with his creditors. But no such rule can be properly applied. The ancient *Zemindari* was an estate which 40 years ago was regarded far more as a sort of feudal tenure than at present: the right of Government to interfere at each succession and to sanction the new *Zemindar* was recognized in a proceeding before the Collector and Board of Revenue in the case of *Policim*, a kindred estate the non-hereditary character of the estate was distinctly affirmed (3. M. H. C. R. 303) and though *Zemindaries* descended, no doubt, as a general rule, to the eldest male lineal descendant, there was an assertion on the part of Government and a recognition by the people of a right of the ruling Power to deal with the holders of these estates, which sometimes attained

I defer him to
produce any
such examples
in the *Zemindari*

Mr. C is perfectly right as to the position of these feudatories in Mohammedan times the

the dignity of petty royalties, not as simple proprietors but as feudatories bound to render service for their estates, and holding them to a large extent by the good-will of the Sovereign Power.

6. - When one of these "Lords of the Marches" got his retainers about him, broke out into open rebellion and had to be suppressed by armed force, it is obvious that the rights of the Sovereign Power would be asserted without a very nice regard to the interests of relatives, who might have a reversionary interest or a claim to maintenance out of the estate: and the dictum of Sir Thomas Munro on which Sir Frederick Adam acted in this case, that "no Zemindari once forfeited for rebellion should ever be restored" shows that the punishment of forfeiture was a familiar and recognized course of proceeding. But if Mr. O'Sullivan's view were accepted confiscation would in the case of an undivided family have been virtually inoperative as it would merely have transferred the headship of the family to the next heir - what the exact powers of Government were when "Martial Law" had been proclaimed under Regulation 7 of 1808, and when armies were in the field for the purpose of reducing insurgent districts, it is unnecessary to decide: it is certain that they were deemed to extend to the confiscation of the estates of an Insurgent - Chief not only as against him but against all the holders of reversionary interests. The case of the Tanjore Zemindari (12. M. S. A. 1.) seems exactly to meet Mr. O'Sullivan's point. It was governed by the Mitaccharam Law. There were relatives who had a customary right to

not at all -
vide the Volume

to maintenance, but the Government refused to recognize any claim to succession or maintenance, and subsequently, as an act of grace conferred the estate on a junior member of the family.

7. There can be no doubt that the same right has been repeatedly exercised, and it would be a source of infinite inconvenience if the legality of proceedings clearly recognized as legal at the time, were now, after a lapse of forty three years, to be allowed to be called in question on the strength of a legal subtlety which though logically defensible, proceeds on an unsound view of the facts of the case, has certainly never received judicial sanction, and is inconsistent with the line of conduct which the Government for a long series of years thought fit to follow.

/ Signed / H. S. Cunningham.

21. 7. 1861.

/ True Copy /

James Barclay

Government Solicitor.

Rev. Sept

Petition from Vijayaraja Rao,
styling himself Zamindar of
Palerata, in the Vijayapatam dist.

This man is a kind of State Prisoner -
he has rooms allowed him in the
Fort of Vellore - 80 miles from Madras -
and is permitted to live anywhere
south of the river Krishna. He used
to get 110 Rs. a month, stipend -
but his former Govt. solicited the Govt. of
India to make it Rs. 250, but they
agreed 150 only.

G. O. F. M. S.
15 Nov. 1869.
no 1809.

2. His alleged grievance is this -
that on his father's death in 1828,
he Govt. wrongly recognised his (Petr's)
bastard son as Zamindar, to
be in favor of Petr, who was then a
boy of 9 years old; that, a few years
after, his father, being convicted of
treason, the Zamindari was
resumed as a forfeiture; that he,
Petr, had no part in his father's
treason (if treason it was), but was
nevertheless incarcerated in a distant
prison, on the ground of state policy; &
he contends that he should be restored to the

Estate.

3. The paramer of gout is in the allegation that he was wrongly passed over in the succession; by the Govt; & that he is a rebel great for the sons of the republic.

I find, however, that, though, on his father's death, his mother first of all pleaded his title to succeed - yet that, shortly after, - words all parties freely acknowledge his brother (who undoubtedly was illegitimate) to be the lawful zamindar, who was installed accordingly.

4. The case therefore falls to the ground, as one of injustice. - The brother resigned his deposition in 1833, five years after, & it does not appear that Peter's brother even took the legal proceedings open to him, to contest the preferable title of her son.

At the same time, much compunction was felt by the authorities of the day at Peter's position, and it was only after some hesitation that it was decided it was impossible to detract from the effect of his title, as a warning to mutinous

+ This taken into the 1833
from Board to Govt
20 Oct/36.

Govt to Board
17 July, 189
1894.

Page 60, Councils
and of accompanying
Volume 2, Collection
from Board to Govt
No. XXIV

Zamin dars, by restoring Peter to his ancestral Estate.

5. What he says about his brother being unfairly convicted, cannot of course be considered now, after a lapse of nearly 50 years!

But I see by the accompanying copy of the "Mail" of 5th inst., that Mr O'Fallan, the Barrister, whom Peter has been consulting - acutely says "Even if

The Petition is doubtful -
as filed preparatory to
acting as a Subj: is admissible
+ being a Subj: for the
very same local Court.
He is therefore wrong
with great care

Section III, Reg VII/08

This doctrine of forfeiture
every State act - & in the
of attainder is a
untenable doctrine.
Note. -
The Hindu in India
has more than a life estate
in ancestral property - when
there are heirs - living -
undivided from him.
Dr.

"Kamaraj" - Peter's brother, he rebel -
were legitimate - & he Govt on his
conviction of rebellion, rightly declare
forfeiture of the Estate, as against Peter?
He is of opinion they are not; and I
think his is clear. Forfeiture of the
offender's property only is the penalty.

The municipal Law of India knows nothing
of "attainder", corruption of the offender's
blood, so as to disinherit his heirs.
More than this, as his Counsel points out,
by the Hindu Law of Southern India, when
Govt seized (the rebel's life interest in) the
Zamindari, they were bound to continue
to Peter, the heir, a handsome allowance
out of the property, like the indian.

6. However - as it is not the least true that
Peter has been incapacitated by lunacy, no
legal remedy is open to him, owing to the
Statute of Limitations. But there is good
ground for the circumstances for restoring his poor
steward -
J. C. - June 2/76.

The preference of the illegitimate
brother - & the subsequent forfeiture
of the estate for rebellion were acts
of State, & the Govt would probably
take this view - but I am no expert
in consulting our Law Officers -
I would not advise yielding to his
claim - but it may be desirable as
an act of grace to improve the position
of the estate.
M.C. 20/6/76

upwards of £10,000
of the claim with some profits
it will be some thousands
as the Govt. is now under legal advice
for it has legal advice
before giving any order - if
this is not deemed advisable
I will endorse the Pet. & the
effect that Govt. is not per-
sured & respect the question
of restoration of the estate
done

12/6/76 M.C.

It must not take long to
consult Law Officers - a
point of importance seems to
be what estate had the illegi-
timate which could be forfeited
I am for the 21/6/76

Potential from Govt
Palconda State Prisoner

Which has been made
ter but better be as case
of Govt. of the Govt. of
the Govt. of the Govt. of

This petition is the first
step taken, under legal ad-
vice, in the direction of a
contest - the Law Officer
for recovery of the estate - the prayer
for restoration & his un-
doubted right - not in process
of pension - Caution seems
needed in the face of an anti-
mediating publication of the
last opinion

I am inclined to
refer the Pet. (confidentially)
to the Advocate Genl & for
the Advocate Genl to give
opinion on the
issues before taking any step
the estate rents for

No 350

Madras, 25th July 1876

From
Ernest Barclay
Government Solicitor
Madras,
To
The Honorable D. T. Carmichael
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department,
Ootacamund,

Sir,
With reference to the Order of Government dated
24th June 1876, Revenue Department, which was
sent direct to the Advocate General, I have now
the honor to forward herewith, at his request, a
copy of his opinion, asked for in the above Order -
and to return the Book entitled "Selections from
the records of the Madras Government" and the
Madras Mail Newspaper of the 5th June 1876,
which accompanied such order.

Sent by Barclay
Post

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant,

Ernest Barclay
Government Solicitor

Ms 3050. 20 Jan 1896

Ms 3050. 20 Jan 1896
The post office by
v. address
to the Dept of Government
Revenue Department
Cincinnati

Dated 23rd
Feb 27th July

Enclosure 1.
Ms 3050.
Cincinnati, and by
exchange post.

At the request of
the Advocate General in
forward a copy of his
opinion as to the
order of the State
June 1896.

Ms 3050. 20 Jan 1896

Ms. B.50.40

Dec 9 of 1877

Rank-Left

To be Secy of State.

My L^d Marquis.

We have the honor to transmit
for the consideration & orders of H. H. Govt.
the accompanying petition from Vizase
Rao, styling himself ex-Zamindar of
Palconda. The Memorialist prays for the
restoration of the Zamindari, which was
forfeited for Rebellion in 1833. We certainly
could not give an answer assenting to his
prayer without reference to the Secy of State;
and, on the other hand, a decision rejecting
the petition would probably lead to a suit
being brought against Govt. The issue of which
is very doubtful. We consider therefore that
before any step is taken by us in the matter,
we are bound to lay the complete narrative
of the case before you; ^{in order that you may be} ~~in order that you may be~~
aware of all the circumstances ^{of the case} ~~of the case~~ ^{of the case} ~~of the case~~
~~and the course most likely to be taken~~ ^{in which the Govt. will have to give.}
questions were simply one of the restoration
of the good government of the Presidency,
we shall dispose of it ^{at once} ~~at once~~, leaving
Memorialist to appeal, if so advised;
but the case is not of that nature.

2. The ancestors of Vigiaram Ray were for some generations the Zamindars of Paleonda, in the district of Nizapataam. In 1782, when the Permanent Settlement was made in this Pres, the usual grant was issued in favor of his father, the aforesaid being fixed at 50,000 Rs. This grantee died on the 29th Feb

Kurnma Ray. 16
Vizianam Ray. 9
(the Paton)
Nilaadri Ray. 6

From Pat to Govt
d/30-10-28.

Govt to Pat.
17th July/29.

Leaving three sons, all minors: being names
Laps are entered in the margin. The Paton
reported that the 1st & 3rd were illegitimate
but that even out of the eight widows of the
deceased unanimously supported the claim
of the eldest to succeed, the remaining widows
insisting on the latter title of her lawfully
begethen son, the Paton. The Collr. promised
a further report, which he did of Revenue
"avoided" observing that the question of suc-
cession was not of any urgency, as the Estate
was under attachment for arrears of revenue.

3. The further report by the Collr. was furnished
on the 9th May/39. He now stated that
the jealousies & disagreements of the Widows
had been laid aside, & that all parties fully
acknowledged Kurnma Ray - the eldest but
illegitimate son - to be the lawful Zamindar;
upon which understanding the Govt. resolved
to recognise him as Zamindar, accordingly.

4. As Kurnma Ray was a minor, the Estate
was placed under the control of the Pat of Rev
in his capacity of Board of Wards (Reg V
of 1804) until he attained his majority in 1831.
It was then made over to him; but, serious
disturbances immediately supervening owing
to his neglect to disturb their usual allowances
to his retainers & relatives, the Collr. reported
in August 1832, that it had been necessary
for him to continue the management.

5. About this time the general condition of the
Vizianam district was very unsettled; two
disaffected landowners & their adherents being
in arms against the State. Before the close of the year

the Govt, acting under the authority com-
-mitted to them by Reg VII of 1808, proce-
-eded under the law. Influenced by his proce-
-ing the male contents in the Palconda ga-
-minary, made an audacious attack on the
public authorities & fired on the troops. The
young Zamindar was brought to trial before
a Court Martial of European Officers for
complicity in these offences, convicted &
sentenced to death: this sentence was com-
-mitted to imp^t for life. The Zamindar
was confined in the Fort at Ghosly, where
he shortly died. The nine women & seven
children of the family - including Paton,
then about 14 years of age - were com-
-mitted to Vellore, as State Prisoners,
under a warrant of the Secy to Govt (Reg
II of 1819). Here the Paton was lodged, and
liberty to take exercise within the ramp-
-parts, till 1869, when permission was
given him to leave Vellore & reside at any
principal town he might select south
of the river Krishna; his stipend being at
the same time raised from 110 to 150 Rs
a month.

6. The Regn above mentioned, under which the
Zamindar was tried for rebellion, enacted
that every conviction shall carry with it
the "forfeiture to the British Govt of all
"property & effects, real & personal, of the
"convicted party shall have possession of
"its possessions at the time when the crime,
"of which he is convicted, shall
"have been committed." Accordingly the
Zamindar of Palconda was at once treated
as the property of Govt. Mr. Russell, the Commis-
-sary of the disturbed districts, was at first "dispos-

Prof. J. 1245
d/30-7-69

Prof. J. 1809
d/15-11-69.

"to recommend its restoration to Vizian-
 "Pur" (he says) "he next to him is like
 "Pamundar" who is too young to be
 "personally implicated in the crime
 "he feels for it its forfeiture is a first
 "penalty": but in deference to the dictum
 "of Sir Thos. Munro that, pro Zamindary,
 "once forfeited for rebellion, it is to be
 "restored" he refrains from doing so;
 and in due course the forfeiture was
 formally promulgated by the G. in C.

7. Besides his petition to us, Mr. G. in C.
 Ray has laid his case before Council, who
 advised that the forfeiture of the Estate, as
 against Peter, was an illegal act - We enclose
 copy of our Progs referring the Petition to the
 legal opinion just stated to our Adv. Genl,
 who, for the reasons given by him, some of
 which are derived ab inconvenienti, report
 against the contention raised for Vizianam
 Ray, which however he admits to be "logi-
 cally defensible".

8. It will be apparent to your Lordship that the Adv. Genl's
 opinion deals less with the legal than with the
 political aspect of the question. A reference to
 the 'Singapore' case cited by him will show that
 the forfeiture there occurred before the Perma-
 nent Settlement; which, no doubt, the Zamindars
 held on a feudal or semi-feudal tenure,
 & may aptly enough be described as "Lords of the
 Manches". But the Permanent Settlement
 changed all that, converting the Zamindars
 into ordinary subjects; & the point for decision
 is, whether the contention of Peter's Counsel
 being pronounced "logically defensible" - H. M.
 Govt. will entertain his prayer: on - standing
 on its rights under the Statute of Limitations,
 [unless it shall appear that Peter's long impu-
 nement, pro tanto, takes the case out of the Statute]
 empowers us to compromise his claims by
 making him an equitable tender of arrears.

Progs of Govt. Rev. Depy.
 No 1067. 14/1-9-35
 para 18.
 vide Vol 1 - Selection XXIV
 Records of Madras Govt.

13 Feb 1877

R. 2

Letter from Mr. G. in C. S. S. S. S.
 d/25 July

This covers the Adv. Genl's
 reply to the "Pamundar" reference.

His words are - "No such rule
 "can be properly applied" asked
 on that the contention is put
 forward - and terms the
 legal subtlety that proceeds
 on an unsound view of the facts

2. He admits the soundness of the
 Zamindar's contention - calls
 it "logically defensible" - but tries
 to avoid it by pleading that the
 confiscation was the result of a war
 waged against a feudatory, & cannot be
 fore he judged by mere Municipal laws.

3. Taffersin, on the contrary, that there is
 no feudal tenure in the case of a
 Zamindar. Zamindars are

Not necessary to justify an
 act of state against a rebel
 subject - there can be no doubt
 as to the law & practice of the
 East - Great consideration
 has guided our policy towards
 the peaceful but some premises
 - expressing treason & rebellion -
 whether in an early history of
 1057 & subsequently - but
 Statute Law does not run here
 nor need we be hampered
 by its principles in matters
 of this kind

indeed the descendants of feudatory
 Princes; & when at the beginning
 of the century, we made the Perma-
 nent Settlement, we were
 aware - as it has been aptly said -
 "at one bound, from the Province to
 the Judicial Dept." - I do not require
 to ask a perusal of a section of
 the accompanying Manual of the
 Vizianapatnam district - p. 27; on
 this point.

Dr. Haderer, rather than
 that we had left these men
 in the position of feudatory
 with its responsibilities

4. Being heretofore ordinary subjects, the
 Municipal Law comes in.

No doubt it is a great detriment

The common law of the
country is clear but it
on this point. It is the
just law. The Adm.
P. does not doubt that even
himself is the case.

from rebellion had estates
...
shall nevertheless be liable to complete
forfeiture for treason - but where,
by the law of the country, certain
settlements not otherwise prevail
a change can only be made by
Statute. When George I anticipated
a Jacobite insurrection, the famous
"Claim Act" was enacted with this
provision; but even this was not retro-
spective - at least not more than the
day - it passed on the 30th August
1714, & was to take effect from the 1st
January, the date of his accession.

Now, in his Palconda case, there is
no such piece of legislation.

5. Enclose the Vol, Moore's appeals.
into the "Hansapore" case cited by
the Adv. Genl. - It is the first in the Vol.
It is dead against him - the forfeiture
here occurred in 1767, when the Zamindars
were feudatories, long before a
single Indian Regulation was passed.
The true parallel cases are those
cited under "Confiscation" in the
accompanying Digest of Pung Coomra
Cases, page 58.

It seems clear that a suit by the Ea
... the

Statute of limitations did not
apply - a consideration which
was in the mind of the court
...
... 2/8/5

effect - He asked for higher
tension & will amount to
the same as the other Clarinet. He
here intimates that he is ad-
vised by the ~~Director~~ & by this
man - last letter.

I would intimate to the
Palcora representative that
no claim to increase of pensionary
allowance will be entertained
so long as he claims the Termination,
the two claims are incompatible.

The East India C^o and the
Queens Govern^t together kept
the Petitioner in durance
for nearly 38 years, until
1869:- he could not of course
during that period take
any steps, he now takes the
step of Petitioning, and in
his Petition claims the
restoration to him of
the

Lemondary, submitting that
the nominal Lemondar, con-
victed of treason in 1832
was not the rightful heir,
that he is himself the rightful
heir, has been convicted of
no offence, and is entitled
to succeed his father, who
as I understand, was never
convicted of treason =

If in his Petition, he had
referred to any desire for an
increased income, the answer
would obviously be that
suggested by Mr. Ellis, when
the Petitioner would have
to elect whether to pursue
his claim, or accept enlarged
pension, but I can find
no

reference in petition which
would justify such a reply =
I think the answer of this
Govt must be to refer the
Petitioner to the declaration
of forfeiture, and to the Procla-
mation that the forfeiture was
"absolute, and unconditional."
I take this from the appendix
of his statement, but presume
the quotations have been
correctly stated therein, so
far as they have been quoted,
but I am of opinion that
this Petition should not
be replied to, with a refer-
ence to Secretary of State =
The question raised is not
one of administration
or

or of good govern^t of the Presi-
dency - This Government
could not give an answer
assenting to the prayer of the
Petition without reference
to the Secretary of State.

It may prove that the Gov^t of the Company
setting aside the rightful
successor, put in a wrong
person as Zemindar, thus

"conniving at rebellion," ^{as it is stated by Lord Napier} not

only forfeited the territory
and imprisoned the

rightful heir, then about

11 years old, but detained

him in prison for nearly

40 years, he having per-

sonally done no wrong,

and

I do not think a decision
which may possibly lead
to such facts being proved
should be given without
the advisers of the Crown
^{before any step is taken}
being made aware of the
whole circumstances of
the case - I would therefore
suggest a careful review
of the circumstances being
sent, with or without an
expression of the opinion
of this Government.

It may be well that the
should go to the Com^{tee} and
attendees be included in Council -

By. 21/4

Thos. Kerr. N.C.

18
I fully concur with his grace the primate
that the only course for this government to
pursue is to refer this case for the consider-
ation & order of the Secretary of State.

To commence now to investigate an act
of the Congress of 1828 is no
right matter, and the idea ought not to
be entertained except under special
warrant.

No doubt it is very right & in the interests
of the Union to make amends, where possible,
for injustice done in the past - but upon
the decision in a case of this kind must
rest other interests of an extent not to be
freed by us, it appears ^{to be} plainly our duty
to leave the same government untram-
meled by any action on our part.

24th August 1846.
W.C.

3
I agree with Sir
W. Robertson. I received the paper back of
I would omit para 7. & 8 of the C. C. after his return
the draft and and have taken an opportunity
merely indicate of a way! there and the more
that the Temporary I do so the less I like the Draft
was forfeited by an Act of State in
that we propose the Pet: with enclosure for the
to plead this if information of the Sec: of State
the fact are put and submission, if in the fit,
into Court. & the Law officers of the Crown
I do not be disposed to say that all the
we desire on grounds of general policy
to consider any claim advised & take -
at least we should not be understood
to receive the proposition as a fair statement of the
case - and add that we should meet any law

been done once before (in
the previous time) - on the
ground of insufficiency
of provision originally to
insured contributions.

This would be when he
after we had if necessary
depend on any other
trouble after that.

It is not as a compromise
I have left it to the
Secretary of State to refer
to his Law Office
and I have not as
suggested by Sir W.

Reubenian depends upon
the ordinary course by
referring the question
to the Indian Office.

11/12/76

proceeding that may be attempted
with the defence that the action
taken in 1885 was an
act of State and we think
that the plea will be good.

We add that we are
quite prepared to provide more
liberally for the Pet. also has done
nothing of complaint, but in
his present attitude are thin
disinclined to make any con-
-tributions in case of his construction.

I do not feel disinclined
to ask the Sec. of State whether
his Council has his approval
of the advice of the Law Office
of the Crown -

It is returned & suggested

in Balcondah was aggravated Presidency; that Kurnool was partly owing to the supersession of the legitimate heir (pete) and partly to the absence of any central authority, except the Zemindar's conclusions that such law was declared and the rioters were put down by the Company's troops; that in course of suppressing the disturbances, certain papers were said to have been discovered which in the opinion of Mr Russell criminated the family of the late Zemindar; that the charge of rioting against the people who were said to have possessed the said letters was declared to be unfounded by the highest Court in the Presidency; that Kurnool was tried and sentenced to death; but the sentence was commuted to one of imprisonment for life; that he was incarcerated in Gooty; and he died in 1834; that Pete was sent a State Prisoner to the fortress of Kollur; that Pete was never charged with any offence whatsoever, yet he has suffered close imprisonment for 40 years; that he was released in 1850, but his stipend was raised to Rs 150.

Prays that Govt will be pleased to restore him to the honors and emoluments of the Zemindar of Balcondah in consideration of his innocence &c.

May 10

That before applying the Sec: of State - 10th letter it is sought on grounds of advice - public - shown with regard to the King of Balcondah - have had irregular acts of State - before them once - but it is for will be the Sec: of State - New & Justice - the advice of these above mentioned & the Sec: of State - 10th

652: 18 2 77

Government of Madras.

Re DEPARTMENT.

Petition No. 199 of 1876.

From *Vijayarajulu*

Virabahu Narandra

Occupation: *Ran Bahadur*

& Lemindar

Village

Telook

Palacondah

District

Vide G. O. 13 February

Dated 22nd

Received 26th

May 1876

Enc.

ABSTRACT.

States that the Lemindar of Palacondah was conferred on Sri Shunmayarini Garu by the Maharajah

of 30 years ago and was enjoyed by the representatives of the original donee for nine generations in uninterrupted succession, that the tenth Lemindar in the direct line was Pet's father; that his father had 2 concubines by one of whom he had a son named Karmarazu, that Pet was minor at the time of his father's death in 1828, that the Collector of Vizagapatnam recommended the installation of the said Karmarazu the illegitimate son of the Lemindar, that the disturbed state of affairs
N^o 400.

At 1105
Revenue 1870. 10/10/70

From

The Ex. Commr. of the
Palamunda

Dated 22 3/10/70
Recd 25 3/10/70

Requesting, for reasons
stated, to be restored to the
honors and emoluments of
the Palamunda Zemin Dar

J. O. 13 Feb 1877 No 651

No 652

PD

To be Secy for India
Home Dept.

Sir.

I am directed to enclose
despatch for transmission to the Secy of State
covering a Memorial from
Vijayanarayana, the head of the
family of the Ex Zamindars of
Palamunda, in the Vijayapattana
district. As a compliance with his
prayer for the restoration of his estate
which entails a considerable
loss to the revenues of British India,
the matter appears to be one of those
in which the Govt. is precluded
from corresponding directly with
Her Majesty's Govt.

7 No

d/

From G. T. Home Dept

17/6/72 No 2526

13 February 1877

S. T. G.

7/2-7

To G. I.

Covering letter on
Pilembe despatch -