M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 403 Press ~~Mis.~~

234.235

Dated 19 - 2 - ~~19~~ 1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

P.O.No. 403

No. 234. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th February 1867, No. 803.

Read the following letter from the Sub-Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Negapatam, 16th January 1867, No. 9 :—

1. The Board's Proceedings of 29th October 1866, No. 7,805, have only just now come to my notice, and, though the subject is one that I would gladly have allowed to drop, I feel constrained to offer a few remarks thereon.

2. In paragraph 6 of his letter of the 10th October, Mr. Levinge professes to give the purport of a private letter written by me to him early in the year; and in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, the Board, apparently, take it for granted that the views said by Mr. Levinge to have been ascribed to them by me were in fact so ascribed.

3. I feel somewhat hurt that the Board should have come to any conclusion whatever on this statement of Mr. Levinge's without first affording me an opportunity of admitting, or contradicting its correctness.

4. It is matter of real surprise to me that Mr. Levinge (the shortness and inaccuracy of whose memory is as marvellous as it is notorious where he is best known, and who, it is scarcely conceivable, can himself be unaware of his infirmity in this respect) should have ventured even to pretend to render accurately in October the whole purport of a letter touching on many subjects, read and destroyed by him eight or nine months previously.

5. It is simply not the fact that I told Mr. Levinge that "the Board highly approved of the Sub-Collector making long visits to the hills," or anything bearing that meaning.

6. I can only account for Mr. Levinge advancing this statement so confidently from the fact of my having written to him, in July 1865, that I did not believe either the Government or the Board would care to object to my making my head-quarters on the hills, unless he expressed himself dissatisfied with my administration of the Sub-division, which I trusted he had no cause to be. Mr. Levinge must either have misunderstood completely what I wrote on my return from Madras, or he may have confused the one letter with the other and misunderstood both. Of one thing I am very certain, that had the letter in question been in existence, the Board would never have heard anything about it. I should have urged its submission in entirety to them, and I can scarcely conceive of Mr. Levinge desiring that its contents should meet any eye but his own. If it was of a nature to give him any hold over me in a matter in which we were in avowed antagonism, why did he destroy it so speedily?

7. Though differing officially from Mr. Levinge ever since 1863, as the Board are aware, we were on terms of intimate private friendship. All along I played the most open game with him. I well recollect, in reply to his answer to the letter he has misquoted, reproaching him with the fact, that, while I had freely shewn him all my cards, he had never shewn me one of his.

8. When I was put on my defence, I sought no shelter behind the Board collectively, or individually. I never mentioned them. I was most grateful for

the handsome manner in which they expressed their confidence in me, and I cannot, therefore, now avoid feeling hurt, that, without communicating with me, the Board should have gone up to Government apparently accepting a statement, based on so poor a foundation as Mr. Levinge's memory, and which, if really accepted, could leave no other impression but that I had made use of the name of the Board in a manner quite unjustifiable.

Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to the Proceedings quoted by Mr. Agnew.

No. 235. ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1867, No. 403.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Pro 1st Feby /67 nos 333-334

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Rev- 1867. Department.
Bd of Govt for Feby.

No. 372-

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 9th February 1867.

D.P 12-0
R.D-13 2.

No. 803.

Submitting for information letter from Mr Vans Agnew late Sub Collector of Madura on Mr Levinge's letter recorded in Board's Proceedings dated 29th October 1866 No 7805.

9. 403.

RECORDED.

10 Feby 1867

M. Copies to Mr. Dy C.G. Rev. Accts

NT 231-255