M.R. O. 1—83,000—16-12-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 872 Press / Mis.

246-41

Dated 15-4- 1967

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 240. Read the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Vizagapatam, 4th April 1867, No. 159:—

1. In the "Fort Saint George Gazette" of 29th March ultimo, this day received, I observe that Mr. Pritchard, late Deputy Collector, Salt Department, in this district, has obtained six months' leave of absence on private affairs.

2. I reported this officer's intemperate habits on the 1st October last, and the Governor in Council, on the 12th December following, was pleased to give him an opportunity of retrieving his position, as recommended by me, by removing him to another district, and a trust was expressed that "he would shew by his future conduct that the leniency "thus shewn him was duly appreciated."

G. O. Revenue Department, No. 3,353.

3. During the cold months I was absent as usual on my tour in Jeypore and the hill tracts, and I had no opportunity of observing how far Mr. Pritchard kept his pledge of amendment. I regret, however, to state that on leaving this place,* he went on board the steamer (it being then between 6 and 7 o'clock in the morning) in a state of beastly intoxication, having drunk himself nearly mad by continuous stimulants, commenced at an early hour the previous evening, and kept up more or less all night. I was just about to notify this to the Government, but learning that he went off into *delirium tremens* on board the steamer, and that one horror after another had terminated by his throwing himself into the sea while the vessel was at anchor in the Madras roads, I supposed that it was unnecessary for me to stir in the matter, as the Government would have full information before them.

* 19th March.

4. It would appear, however, that I was mistaken. There were several gentlemen, Civil and other Officers, of rank on board, and I conceive it was their clear duty to bring the facts of the case to the notice of the Government; more especially as the circumstances under which Mr. Pritchard was removed from this district were generally within their knowledge.

Where is there a graver crime, one which more unfits a man for every situation of trust and honour, than drunkenness? I am not speaking of isolated occasions of inebriety, nor of those exuberant festivities and genial compotations in which most youngsters, not professed milksops, occasionally come to grief. But here was a man who had drunk himself insane; and who was known to have been removed from one district, owing to the scandalous way in which he had conducted himself there, and to have been posted, on his loudly expressed contrition, as a last opportunity, to another, where he was to preside over a department yielding upwards of twelve lacs of revenue!

5. It would be well, I think, if it were clearly understood that no head of an office may refrain from notifying to Government gross and habitual misconduct on the part of those subordinates, whose correction and removal the Government have reserved to themselves. I think it further due to myself (for the duty of reporting such cases is far from a pleasant one) that the officer under whom Mr. Pritchard was last employed, the Director of Revenue Settlement, should be called

upon to state whether it is true, as I am now informed, that this young officer gave proof of intemperate habits while in that department; particularly, whether it is or is not the fact that one very glaring instance of his intoxication was brought to the Director's notice by the Colonel of the Regiment at Cuddapah; and if so, why he thought proper to condone it? So completely were the principal functionaries of State kept in the dark regarding the conduct and disposition of this unhappy youth, that your predecessor, the late Secretary to Government, whose condolences I sometimes took the liberty of soliciting on the inefficiency of successive Salt Deputy Collectors of Vizagapatam, assured me, in introducing Mr. Pritchard, that he had now got me a first-rate hand, a good, steady, hardworking man, who would bring my salt into order in no time.

No. 241. [ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1867, No. 872.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered that the above report be communicated to Mr. Pritchard for any explanation he may have to afford.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To Mr. T. Pritchard.
,, the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department

No. 872.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 15th April 1867.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam.

(Here enter 4 to 14 April 1867)

Ordered that the above report be communicated to Mr. Pritchard for any explanation he may have to afford.

Copy to Mr. T. Pritchard Deputy Collr of Vizagapatam

Revenue 1867 Dep.tt
Pro of Govt for April

5/5/511

No 872

Pro of Hr Excellencys Govt
of 15th April 67

Further Pro: 25th May 67 No 595-598

-Communicating
to Hrs Dy. Collector
Pritchard, for explan
ation, report from
Mr. Carmichael res
garding his interim
female habits &c.

No 240-241