

बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार



सत्तममेव जयते

संचिका संख्या
अभिलेखागार संख्या

१६

बिहार सरकार

PATNA.

CERTIFIED COPY

20. OF THE LETTER DATED 2ND OCTOBER 1857 FROM WILLIAM TAYLER TO
THE SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL REPORTING THE STATE OF
AFFAIRS IN PATNA DIVISION.

कार्यवाही

१६

सं०

पृष्ठ

विषयः—

To

A. R. Young Esq^r

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal
Calcutta Oct. 2^d. 1857.

Sir,

Although at present holding no office under Government I yet feel it my duty to bring to the notice of the Lieut. Governor sundry circumstances which are in my opinion calculated to do much injury in the present days, if not to endanger the safety of the province of Behar.

When the first intelligence of serious disturbances was received at Patna, the late lamented Major Holmes, who seems to have had remarkable prescience almost equal to that of Lord Ellenborough of the serious events which were yet in the womb of the future, represented his apprehensions to me and begged I would induce Najeemooddeen the Bettiah Rajah's Dewan, then on leave at Patna to return to Bettiah where

where his influence and activity
would be of much service to the
State.

I immediately sent for
Nuzemooddeen, and, though he was
most unwilling to leave Patna at the
time, he at once consented on my
representing to him the service he
might thereby render, both to the
Government and his employer. From
that time to the day of Major Holmes's
murder, Nuzemooddeen unceasingly
and zealously exerted himself on behalf
of Government, and it is no doubt, prin-
cipally to his exertions and influences
that the good and valuable service of
the Bettiah Rajah is to be attributed.

I have in my possession
many letters from Major Holmes
expressing the greatest regard for
Nuzemooddeen, his warm acknowl-
edgment of his zealous and faithful
cooperation, and his great displeasure
and annoyance that Mr. Rankin the
Joint Magistrate would, without
any cause, suspect and disparage
him.

A few days before my sudden removal from office I received a letter from the Bettiah Rajah, informing me that he, was sending Mujeeb-uddeen to communicate to me confidentially a matter which caused him great anxiety, and which he could not communicate in writing. Mujeeb-uddeen arrived I think one day, perhaps two days after my removal. He delivered the message which regarded a matter for the consideration not of the Commissioner but of the Govt of India, I communicated it by the same post to Mr Secretary Beadon.

Two days afterwards Mr. Farguhanson who had charge of the office for a few days only, to the scandal and astonishment of all Patna, arrested Mujeeb-uddeen and placed him under a guard of European Soldiers.

Directly Mr. Samuels arrived, on my representing the circumstances, he released him.

An enquiry has I believe

since

sure been made by order of Gov^t.
into the cause of this extraordinary
proceeding, and I understand that it
has been explained by Mr. Farguharson
to have had connexion with some
alleged suspicion which Mr. Raikes
still persists, though without the
slightest cause, in entertaining against
Nijemooddeen. But if this be the
case, I beg to state that when Mr.
Samuells released Nijemooddeen
he wrote and told me that he
did so immediately, because he ascer-
tained (and I conclude therefore from
Mr. Farguharson himself) that he
had been arrested not in consequence
of, or in connexion with, Mr. Raikes'
suspicious, but because of the delay
in delivering the Rajah's confidential
message.

It will be for Mr.
Farguharson to reconcile the discre-
pancy between these two statements.

If the explanation
now given be the true one why was
it not alleged at the time?

Suspicion

Suspicion of treason is a stronger ground than delay in delivering a message which he was under no obligation to deliver at all!

Why conceal the stronger cause and put forth a weaker? If suspicion were the real cause why state what was not the case?

I consider it my duty to bring this forward because I conceive that a gross and glaring act of oppression and injustice has been committed by Mr. Farguharson on a man who alone all others has striven to serve Govt. and influenced the Bettiah Rajah to cordial and effectual cooperation. Such an act of injustice is prejudicial to the best interests of Govt., discreditable to the English name, and most dangerous in its effects on the loyal, the disloyal and the wavering at the present time.

All Behar knows what good service has been rendered by the Bettiah Rajah, by his brother, and specially by Mujimooddeen.

when

When the loyal see
that eminent service is recompensed
by wanton injury, dishonor and oppres-
sion will not they ask the 'Cui bono'
of such service? and will not the
same question be asked by those
who waver? and will not the disaf-
fected as far as this example goes
be confirmed in their disaffection?

As the late Commissioner
of the division, as one who knows
the worth and is thankful for the
signal service of this injured man,
and as an English gentleman jealous
of the English name, I conceive it
to be my bounden duty to protest
against this great wrong, and earnestly
to recommend that as a matter of
common justice and honesty, public
reparation of some kind to be made
to Nujumooddeen, and the Rajah
who has been grossly insulted in the
person of his Dewan.

While this old and
faithful servant of Government
was thus punished for his fidelity
and

and zeal. Lootfali the wealthy banker was, during the short interregnum which followed my removal, admitted to Mr. Farguharson's private house and honored with special notice. At that very time a question was pending before Government as to the propriety of taking proceedings against this said Lootfali on the ground of two servants of his establishment one his Jemadar having been actually engaged in the outbreak, in which Dr. Lyell was brutally murdered. This reference was still unanswered!

I do not here refer to the charge of harbouring a mutineer, because of that charge Mr. Farguharson (who refused to postpone the case for two days for further evidence) had acquitted him. But I do say that, while this reference was pending and just after the active participation of Lootfali's servants in the murder of our lamented countryman had been clearly proved, the admission of
this

this man to the private house of the Commissioner was most unbecoming, and, I think it my duty to bring the matter forward: because I conceive that such proceedings may yet bring back upon Patna the evils from which it has barely escaped. And if it is known that the loyal and the faithful have been disgraced and honor given to the vile, and Govt. takes no notice of the fact, the most disastrous consequences may ensue.

There is another circumstance which I feel it my duty to represent. (बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

The Lieut. Governor probably knows that Moonshee Amur Ali, is the special friend, and confidential adviser of Lootfali: who it is well known sent down large sums of money to Calcutta for distribution, when I first arrested him.

That Amur Ali labored hard to procure Lootfali's release and as a necessary sequitur to cast discredit

discredit on me is a fact, that was well known to me, and to many others, long before Ameer Ali's elevation to be Deputy Commissioner in my room. Whether this appointment, under such circumstances is calculated to have a good effect, it is for Govt. to judge.

I can only state what I think it behoves the Government to know, in that whatever the Lieut. Governor's real object may have been, the appointment is in fact looked upon, as the result of Lootf Ali's wealth and Ameer Ali is regarded as his Partisan, purchased by his ruses, and bound to advocate his cause.

As one consequence of this I may mention, what I have already told Mr. Samuels and Mr. Beeson, viz. that very shortly after his arrival, Lootf Ali and his friends tried to get up a petition to Govt., representing how very ~~inconvenient~~ ^{inconformable} they were during the administration of

of

of Mr. Taylor, and how greatly they
had been relieved, by the advent of
Messrs. Farguharson, Samuels and
Amee Ali. In getting up this petition
which would have been though not
so intended, the most flattering testi-
mony to my character, the name
of Amee Ali was freely used, and
the respectable natives who one and
all scouted the attempt, were threatened
with the displeasure of the Deputy
Commissioner if they refused to sign
it.

It is important that
Government should be acquainted
with all these matters, as they inti-
mately concern their interests and
the safety of Patna.

If manly, honorable
and straight forward dealing, is to be
displaced by chicanery and self inter-
ested intrigue the whole empire may
see the consequences.

There is yet another cir-
cumstance which it is important to
mention. The Opium Agent has lately
solicited all the Rajas to lend him money
for

for opium advances. The Doonraon
Rajah has, as might be anticipated,
complied and offered to lend a lac.
The Bettiah Rajah has stated what
I know to be the case, that he is
himself in debt, and could only ob-
tain money by borrowing it, and the
opium Agent has, I am informed...
written disparagingly of him in conse-
quence and has actually recommended
that the Board... make enquiry into
the management of his estates!!!

The critical state of Behar
will be my excuse for protesting
against this course of procedure. -

To accept money from
the Doonraon Rajah at this time before
his very questionable conduct has been
fully investigated, would be most impo-
litic. To visit the Bettiah Rajah with
displeasure, in the slightest degree after
all he has done, because he has no ready
money to lend! would bring utter disre-
dit and disgrace on all concerned, and
very probably drive him and others
with

with him, if not into open rebellion
at least into covert disaffection
and disgust.

I trust the Lieut. Governor
will excuse the liberty I take in bring-
ing these matters to his notice, but I
am too much interested in the safety
of the district, and in the welfare of
those of whose service and good faith
I am personally cognizant to witness
in silence, proceedings which are
perilous to the one and flagrantly
unjust to the other.

As it appears to me
highly important that the Governor
General should be acquainted with
these matters without delay. I beg a
copy may be forwarded for his
Lordship's perusal, as soon as possible.

I have &c.

J. W. Taylor.

/ True Copy /

W. H. Murray
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.