

CONFIDENTIAL.

Pro hu 8

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

LETTER—from

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
FORT ST. GEORGE,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

The Governor in Council considers it desirable that the Government of India should be made acquainted with the present position in regard to the succession to the Travancore State.

The death of the First Prince last October has within the last month been followed by the deaths of the Elaya Raja, the heir to the Maharaja, and the Senior Rani, the survivor of the two princesses (Tamburáttis) of Attinga adopted in 1857. The two children who were adopted in 1900, and who were then aged 3 and 4 years respectively, will of course not arrive at puberty for some ten years to come, and their male offspring would be incapable of ruling before the age of eighteen. The present Maharaja's life is not at all a good one. At his death one of the surviving princesses would, in accordance with the precedent* of 1811, in ordinary course have to be placed in charge of the administration for so long as was necessary. But regard being paid to the very tender years of both of the surviving children, it is evident that in the event of the early death of the present Maharaja, such a regency would have to be perfectly nominal in character. At any rate, there will be no male capable of sitting on the *gadi* until close upon 1930. It is unnecessary, however, for the Madras Government to do more at this time than to report the facts of the case to the Governor-General in Council for information.

* See Aitchison, Vol. VIII, page 112.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

OOTACAMUND,
2nd July 1901.

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.