

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA—HOME DEPARTMENT,

JUDICIAL CONSULTATION,

12TH NOVEMBER 1858.

No. 8. — From Doctor J. P. WALKER, Superintendent of the Penal Settlement of Port Blair, to C. BEADON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, No. 400, dated the 28th September 1858.

THE last communication I had the honor to address to you on the state of this Settlement, was letter No. 305, dated the 4th instant, despatched *via* Moulmein, by the Honorable Company's Steamer *Australian*.

2. The Honorable Company's Steamer *Fire Queen* having arrived to-day from Singapore, (16th instant) and Penang, (24th instant) with recruits for the Naval Brigade, and stores for the guard here, I avail myself of the opportunity of her leaving to-morrow for Calcutta, to report that the affairs of the Settlement continue to progress satisfactorily, and that my arrangements admit of the reception of as many thousands of mutineer and rebel convicts as the Government may wish to despatch during the ensuing North-East monsoon.

3. With reference to paragraph 1st of my letter No. 305, on the subject of convict family emigration, I did not despatch the two hundred applications by the Barque *Alma*, *via* Moulmein, as owing to her detention here until the 20th instant, she would be too late for the Calcutta Mail. In the interval however I have succeeded in inducing 300 additional applications to be made, and I hope to despatch to-morrow by the *Fire Queen* 500 letters on the public service, to the families of convicts, and 500 duplicates for delivery through local agency, in a lengthened communication (No. 393) of instruction and suggestions addressed to the Officiating Emigration Agent.

4. Since the despatch of my last communication the weather has been very unfavorable to progress, having been stormy and rainy. Jungle clearance was almost stopped during the first three weeks, but every opportunity having been taken, great progress in the construction of the new huts and the hospital building on Ross Island has been made. I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Honorable Company's Steamer *Australian*, with leaves and mats to enable me to complete the work in hand, provide accommodation for establishment on Ross Island, and afford protection to the convicts, who will be shortly located on Viper Island and the main land. During the last few days the weather has been fine, and there are indications of the setting in of the North-East monsoon, a change that will be welcomed here.

Those on Ross Island were employed as follows :

Division gangsmen	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sub-division gangsmen	...	...	...	...	...	11
Section gangsmen	...	...	...	...	...	42
Store-keeper's Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	8
Store-keeper's Tools	...	...	...	...	...	6
Writers in Superintendent's Office	...	...	...	...	...	8
Orderlies	...	...	...	...	...	10
Shop-keepers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Barbers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shoemakers	...	...	...	...	...	11
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	25
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grain parchers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Potter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washermen	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gardener...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pit Sawyers	...	...	...	...	...	49
Thatchers, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	25
Boatmen	...	...	...	...	...	34
Servants to Establishment, viz. 1 to Overseer, 1 to Mohurrir, 1 to Clerk, 1 to Native Doctor	*4
Sick (ulcer cases)	10
Laborers...	487
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Those on Chaham Island were employed as follows :

Division gangsmen...	1
Section gangsmen	2
Shop-keepers...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Barber	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gardener	...	...	...	...	...	1
Servants to Establishment, viz. 1 to Apothecary, 1 to Native Doctor,	*2
Hospital attendants	15
Sick	†91
Laborers	23
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* The Hospital of the Settlement is on Chatham Island, and all the sick are congregated there, with the exception of a few ulcer cases kept on Ross Island, on Medical grounds.

† Convicts assigned as servants to Establishment are entirely maintained by their employers.

8. Subjoined is a Statement showing the Medical transactions on the Settlement Hospital from the 3rd to the 26th instant inclusive, being a continuation of that submitted in paragraph 16 of my letter No. 305 of the 4th instant.

Classes of Disease.	Remained 3rd September.	Admitted since.	Total	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining on the night of 26th September.
Fevers	12	36	48	23	2	23
Diseases of the Lungs ... ..	...	6	6	2	1	3
Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels	42	27	69	21	20	28
Rheumatic Affections	4	2	6	...	1	5
Abscesses and Ulcers	9	25	34	3	...	31
Wounds and Injuries	5	...	5	2	...	3
Diseases of the Brain	1	...	1	...	1	...
Dropsies ... ..	...	1	1	...	...	1
All other Diseases.	7	6	13	2	4	7
Total ...	80	103	183	53	29	101

9. This morning the strength of the Naval Guard attached to the Settlement, was 97 (exclusive of officers), of whom 18 were sick, nine so much so as to require to be sent on Medical certificate to Calcutta by the Hon'ble Company's Steamer *Fire Queen*. Fevers, bowel complaints, affections of the kidneys, and ulcers, are the principal diseases.

10. This morning the strength of the native crew of the Hon'ble Company's Store and Guard Ship *Sesostris*, was 82, of whom 17 were sick, and five so much so as to require to be sent on Medical certificate.

11. Not having an English Clerk in my establishment, and the services of one being much required, on the 21st instant, I applied to Lieutenant C B. Templer, I.N., commanding the Naval Guard here, for the temporary transfer to the Settlement establishment of Horatio Fernandez, a seaman under his command, pending the sanction of Government, which I trust will be granted. While

on the Settlement establishment, Horatio Fernandez resides on shore, and provides himself with provisions from the convict shops. I have allowed him Rupees 75 per mensem, with the promise, that should his transfer be sanctioned, and he continue to give satisfaction, his salary will be raised to Rupees 100 per mensem.

12. Owing to two men of the Naval Guard having gone, and nine about to go on sick leave, and one having been transferred as a clerk to my office, I have requested Lieutenant Tozer, I.N., in charge of the Recruits for the Naval Brigade, on board the Hon'ble Company's Steamer *Fire Queen*, to make over 12 Volunteers for service here, and he has complied.

13. On the 21st June, while urging upon Lieutenant Templer, I.N., commanding the Naval Guard, the necessity for strict attention to the requirements of that paragraph of your letter No. 743 of 7th May, on the subject of precautions against surprise. I recommended the supply of Revolver pistols for the Guard in the subjoined paragraph.

“As I consider it desirable that each of the men of the Naval Guard should be provided with a Colt's Revolver for use, in combination with a cutlass, in positions where the Enfield Rifle with which they are now armed, might not be applicable, I have to request the favor of your submitting through Captain C. D. Campbell, the Senior Naval Officer in Fort William, an indent for the required number of Revolvers, ammunition, &c.” On the 17th instant, Lieutenant Templer writes, “I have the honor to inform you, that my indent for Revolver pistols for the Guard has been returned by the Senior Naval Officer at Calcutta, who does not approve of it. The men being already fully armed.”

The Guard has been doubled since I wrote to Lieutenant Templer, and I would not now recommend that the whole Guard should be supplied with Revolver pistols, but I am still of opinion, fifty men or half of the Guard, should be armed with that weapon; as in a confined space, such as partially cleared jungle, muskets would be of little use in a crowd, where I think the cutlass and pistol would be the suitable weapons. When an outbreak occurs, the convicts, from past experience as soldiers, will know how to take advantage of time and place, so as to place the musket at a disadvantage. For the attack and defence of a position, the musket is the proper weapon, but for personal defence at close quarters, it is not suited generally; but certainly not in the localities where the convicts will have to work, and be inspected and directed here. I beg therefore to refer the matter for the orders of the Honorable the President in Council.

14. On the 17th instant, the Commander of the Honorable Company's Stores and Guard Ship *Sesostris* having represented that, considering the present state of health of the native crew, his Medical officer recommended that they should be allowed meat and vegetables as an article of diet. Fully con-

curing in the recommendation, I requested him to indent on the Settlement store for such quantities of vegetables and fresh meat as may be necessary to allow each man to receive half a pound of the former daily, and half a pound of the latter, or fresh fish, twice a week; an ounce of tamarind being supplied daily, should the supply of vegetables fail. I observed—"Hitherto your crew have purchased these articles, meat excepted, at the Settlement shops, but however cheap they may be made, you must be well aware that not one-half of your crew would purchase a sufficiency, and that you cannot compel seamen to expend their wages in the purchase of extra diet." The supply of these extras being necessary for the preservation of the health of the crew, must not be allowed to depend on whether they will purchase them or not, you will therefore supply them at the Government expense on my responsibility, since you hesitate to do so on your own." I trust the Honorable the President of the Council may approve of what I have done. I would suggest that fesh meat or fresh fish and vegetables, or tamarind, be made items of the rations supplied to the native crews of vessels stationed here for a length of time, as the men are not very differently circumstanced from what they would be during a very lengthened voyage.

15. I have indented on the Superintendent of Marine for a properly rigged flag staff, subject to the sanction of Government. The position for which it is required is on the highest point of Ross Island, where its exposure during the South-West monsoon, requires that it should be of seasoned timber and properly rigged and supported. It will be a very prominent object to vessels making Port Blair. I hope therefore its construction may be sanctioned.

16. The want of cargo-boats has hitherto been only inconvenient, but the time is at hand when without them the work of the Settlement could not be efficiently conducted, owing to the number of men and the quantities of stores to be transported to considerable distances from the Settlement head quarters, requiring on a place like this a large amount of water-carriage, as well for ordinary as for emergent work, such as the rapid removal of men and stores in cases of attacks by the aborigines, or of *emeute* by the convicts. In April I indented on Captain Man for six cargo-boats, a decked flat, and four dinghys, but having only received one cargo boat in June, and two dinghys in the end of August, I deemed it necessary to try and obtain them from other sources. On the 31st August, I requested the Resident Councillor at Prince of Wales's Island to send me two cargo-boats per *Fire Queen* on her return, and I have received one, the towing of a second across not having been considered safe. On the 17th instant, I requested the Commissioner at Moulmein to send me six small cargo-boats, and six of the longest sized dinghys.

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A copy of my letter No. 373, is enclosed. I trust that the measures I have taken to render the Settlement effective in this point, may be approved by the Honorable the President of the Council.

Enclosure No. 2.

17. All settlements on the main-land will at first require to be supplied with water until wells can be sunk, and it will be necessary to provide against the possible contingency of a temporary failure of water (as was the case at Chatham Island), requiring it to be brought from a distance of several miles in boats. I have therefore indented on the Superintendent of Marine for four water boats, each capable of containing 2,000 gallons, subject to sanction, which I accordingly solicit may be granted.

18. The return of the Hon'ble Company's Steamer *Fire Queen* offers the earliest opportunity for the return of Overseer Taylor, and Jemadar Abdool Kureem, of the Allipore Jail, who came in charge of detachments of convicts per *Coromandel* and *Australian*, and they will be accordingly sent up to Calcutta in her. Overseer Taylor has been very useful as an Overseer here. I have allowed him batta for his services here, at the rate of thirty Rupees per mensem, subject to sanction, in addition to his messing expenses, at Rupees two per diem, on board the Hon'ble Company's Store and Guard Ship *Sesostris*.

19. On the 2nd instant, I liberated life convict Ram Singh, No. 318, in accordance with the free pardon granted to him by the Right Honorable the Governor General of India (in consideration of his services in saving the life of Lieutenant Simpson, one of the Officers of his Regiment), communicated in letter No. 2237, dated 10th August 1858, from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay. The correspondence is herewith submitted,* and

* Enclosure No. 3.

I have directed Overseer Taylor to take charge of him, on board the *Fire Queen* to Calcutta, and present him at the Home Office to receive his discharge certificate, which I enclose.† The warrant of the liberated convict duly endorsed by me, is also enclosed‡ for your information and disposal. I have made over to Overseer Taylor twenty-five Rupees as road money, to enable Ram Singh to reach his home in the Jullundur Doab, subject to your orders.

† Enclosure No. 4.

‡ Enclosure No. 5.

20. In letter No. 16, dated 6th April, I solicited instructions regarding the salaries of the Medical establishment here, and in paragraph 9 of your letter No. 743, dated 7th May, I was informed that "the Director General of the Medical Department will be desired to report on the salary of the Assistant Surgeon and Apothecary appointed to the Settlement." On this subject Assistant Surgeon Gamack, M.D., the Medical officer of the Settlement, has addressed a letter No. 42§, dated 22nd instant, requesting that he may be informed what are to be the allowances of the Medical establishment, which I enclose for orders.

§ Enclosure No. 6.

21. On the 4th instant, a party from the Hon'ble Company's Steamer *Australian* was bathing in the sandy bay between Atalanta Point and South Point in the evening, and while engaged in dressing on the boat, an alarm was given of attack by the savages, and a volley fired in self-defence. I enclose

* Enclosure No. 7.

the correspondence* on the subject. It is probable that the alarm was groundless, and that there were no aborigines present. I have done my best to carry out the conciliatory policy towards the natives by strictly prohibiting the Officers connected with the Settlement from allowing force to be used against them. I enclose a letter

† Enclosure No. 8.

No. 308 †, dated 4th September, addressed by me to the officers in command here, on the subject.

22. I have to solicit that a second credit for Rupees 50,000 (fifty thousand) may be afforded me with the Treasury at Moulmein, as owing to the non-receipt of bills called for from Calcutta and Moulmein for stores received, I have been unable to submit my accounts.

23. May I request the favour of your arranging for the supply of an official seal and a stamp for documents for this Settlement.

No. 9. —From H. L. ANDERSON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to Doctor J. P. WALKER, Superintendent of Port Blair, in the Andaman Islands, No. 2237, dated Bombay Castle, the 10th August 1858.

IN transmitting to you copies of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, with enclosures, I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council to request, that should the convict Ram Singh have arrived at Port Blair with the other convicts, embarked from Kurrachee, you will be so good as to send him to this country by the first opportunity.

From G. F. EDMONSTONE, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor General, to H. L. ANDERSON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 2249, dated Allahabad, the 19th July 1858.

I AM directed to transmit herewith, for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of correspondence with the Chief Commissioner, Punjab, regarding the case of Ram Singh, a sepoy, sentenced to transportation, and to request that if the prisoner has sailed from Bombay, the requisite measures may be taken for bringing him back.

From R. TEMPLE, Esquire, Secretary to Chief Commissioner of Punjab, to G. F. EDMONSTONE, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor General, No. 109, dated the 21st June 1858.

I AM directed to submit copy of a letter from the Judicial Commissioner, No. 288 of the 14th instant, recommending that free pardon may be granted to Ram Singh, a life convict, together with transcript of a communication from Lieutenant G. B. C. Simpson, of the late 23rd Native Infantry, to the address of the Adjutant General of the Army.

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2. Ram Singh was a Seikh sepoy of the 2nd Company 23rd N. I., under command of Lieutenant Simpson. When that Regiment mutinied at Mhow, and proceeded to Agra after killing their Commanding Officer, Colonel Platt, all the Seikhs who belonged to that corps accompanied it, but dispersed on its defeat at Agra, and proceeded to their homes in the Punjab, where some of them were apprehended, including Ram Singh, the subject of the present reference. Considering the peculiar circumstances under which these men were placed, their total number being very small in proportion to the strength of the Regiment, the Judicial Commissioner, with the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner, remitted the extreme penalty of the law, and sentenced these men to imprisonment for life in transportation beyond the seas. They were accordingly despatched in the last cold weather to Kurrachæe, to embark from that port to the place of their destination.

3. It now appears, however, on the evidence of Lieutenant Simpson, that Ram Singh, son of Jumeyat Singh, one of the above convicts, saved that Officer on the Regiment breaking out into mutiny, from falling into the hands of the mutineers, protected him for a whole night, and escorted him into the Fort. As a reward for his good conduct on that occasion, the Chief Commissioner recommends that the Supreme Government may be pleased to grant free pardon to Ram Singh, and that the man may be directed to be sent back to India.

I am to add that pending the orders of the Supreme Government, the Government of Bombay have been requested to detain the prisoner at that Presidency, if he should not have already sailed therefrom.

From EDWARD THORNTON Esquire, Judicial Commissioner, Punjaub, to RICHARD TEMPLE, Esquire, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Punjaub, No. 288, dated Lahore, the 14th June 1858.

RAM SINGH, son of Jumeyut Singh, a sepoy of the 2nd Company 23rd Native Infantry (which mutinied at Mhow), and an inhabitant of Kupoorthulla, was, with other Punjabee sepoys of that regiment, sentenced by my predecessor to transportation for life, for mutiny and desertion, and was sent off *vid* Kurrachee, with the gang of life prisoners last cold season.

2. It has since come to light that this man saved an Officer of his Regiment, Lieutenant Simpson, from falling into the hands of the mutinous regiment, on the night of the 1st July when the 23rd Native Infantry broke out. In consideration of this act, I beg to recommend that Ram Singh receive free pardon, and be allowed to return home on the occurrence of a fitting opportunity.

3. Lieutenant Simpson's report of the circumstances under which Ram Singh aided him to escape, is transmitted in original for the perusal of the Chief Commissioner. Its return is requested.

4. I should add that, in Mr. Montgomery's opinion, the Punjaubees of the 23rd Native Infantry, including this individual, were deserving of consideration, because they in the first instance, evinced decided indications of loyalty. He therefore remitted the extreme penalty, and sentenced to imprisonment for life in banishment, in the cases which came under his cognizance.

From Lieutenant G. B. C. SIMPSON, in charge of the 2nd Company late 23rd Regiment Native Infantry, to Colonel MAYHEW, Adjutant General of the Army, dated Jhansie, the 26th April 1858.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter No. 883, dated Lahore, 8th March 1858, from the Judicial Commissioner for the Punjaub, which you forwarded for my information, and which arrived yesterday.

In reply I beg to make the following report, and to state at the same time that the deposition spoken of in the letter of Judicial Commissioner is quite correct :

On the 1st July 1857, at 12½ p. m., I was ordered by the the late lamented Colonel John Platt, my Commanding Officer, to proceed with 50 men on picquet duty on the Indore road when Ram Sing, sepoy (Seikh) of my Company (the 2nd) volunteered to accompany me on that duty as my orderly.

He was allowed to do so, and at half past ten o'clock that night, when the mutiny broke out in the lines (a mile distant), and when the picquet (50 men) which I commanded broke away three times, in order to go to the lines and join their comrades, and three times I brought them back to their post, Ram Singh remained besides me; at last finding I could no longer restrain the men, I determined to accompany them to their lines, but on approaching the Cavalry stables, which was on the way (I was still with my picquets) I was fired on by some Cavalry troopers. A sepoy of my picquet then touched me on the arm, and advised me to leave them, as he said the troopers were off to Indore, upon which I mounted my horse, and rode at a walk towards the Bazar myself: suddenly I found by my side this Ram Singh, and another man who left the picquet which I had just also left, and the former said—"Come along Saheb this way towards the Bazar, and I will take care of you"? Knowing this man, I went with him, he showing me the road by the rear of the cantonments, with his bayonet fixed. He remained all night with me. All night keeping sentry with his comrade over the door of the hut where I was concealed.

About 12 o'clock, which was about the hour I arrived at the Bazar, Ram Singh volunteered to go up to the Fort more than half a mile distant, and acquaint the Officers who were in it of my situation. He returned with the message that I was to go along up to the Fort, as they were ready to receive me. (This I subsequently found out to be true.)

I attempted to leave the Bazar, but as there was such a heavy fire of musketry going on, I thought it best to remain where I was.

At day-light I went into the Fort, and after having seen me in, these sepoys were allowed to go to the lines for their bedding, and since that have never made their appearance.

That Ram Singh had good motives in leaving his mutinous picquet voluntarily and accompanying me, I don't doubt for a moment, and had he remained I should of course have reported to Government favorably of him. I am glad, however, I have this opportunity of testifying to his good conduct, while it lasted on that night, and his attachment to his Officer. I may as well mention for the information of the Judicial Commissioner that I was in great danger, and attribute my escape in a great degree to this man, as he knew the localities in rear of the Bazar better than I did, and would not let me proceed till he had examined the road before him. Trusting the above statement will tend to lessen in some degree the punishment it may be the intention of the Commissioner to inflict on Ram Singh, sepoy of the 2nd Company of my Regiment.

From G. F. EDMONSTONE, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor General, to the Chief Commissioner of the Punjaub, No. 2248, dated Allahabad, the 19th July 1858.

YOUR Secretary's letter No. 109, dated the 21st ultimo, and its enclosure regarding Ram Singh, a sepoy of the late 23rd Native Infantry, who has been sentenced to transportation, have been received and laid before the Right Hon'ble the Governor General.

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2. I am directed in reply to inform you, that the Governor General has been pleased in consideration of the services of Ram Singh in saving the life of Lieutenant Simpson, one of the Officers of his Regiment, to grant him a free pardon.

3. The Bombay Government will receive a copy of this correspondence, and will be requested, if Ram Singh has sailed, to take the requisite measures for bringing him back.

From J. P. WALKER, Esquire, M.D., Superintendent, Port Blair, Andamans, to H. L. ANDERSON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 300, dated Ross Island, the 2nd September 1858.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of your letter No. 2237, dated 10th ultimo, and to report for the information of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council at Bombay, that convict Ram Singh No. 318, son of Jumeyut Sing, and a formerly a sepoy of the 2nd Company 23rd Regiment Native Infantry, sentenced on the 30th November 1857, by the Judicial Commissioner of the Punjaub, for the crime of mutiny and rebellion against the State, to imprisonment for life in transportation beyond the Seas, was this day liberated from imprisonment in the Penal Settlement at Port Blair, in accordance with the free pardon granted by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India, in consideration of his services in saving the life of Lieutenant Simpson one of the officers of his Regiment.

2. No opportunity offers for his being sent to Bombay, he will therefore be forwarded by the first opportunity to Calcutta direct.

3. He will receive subsistence allowance here until the return of the H. C. Steamer *Fire Queen* from Singapore, about fourteen days hence, when he will be forwarded with a letter to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, and supplied with a release Certificate, and twenty-five Rupees as road money to enable him to reach his home in the Jullunder Doab.

4. Trusting that this may meet the approval of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council at Bombay.

No. 10. — From A. GAMACK, Esquire, M.D., Assistant Surgeon, in Medical charge, Port Blair, to J. P. WALKER, Esquire, M.D., Superintendent of Port Blair, No. 42, dated the 22nd September 1858.

I HAVE the honor to represent that as I have not as yet been informed what are to be the allowances of the Officer in Medical charge of the Settlement at Port Blair, or whether the Assistant Apothecary and Native Doctors, doing duty at that station, are to have any additional allowance, I have been unable to draw the pay of the Medical Establishment here on regular abstract, and consequently the pay of the whole establishment is greatly in arrears. Should you still be unable to give me the requisite information, I beg you will again bring the matter to the notice of Government.

2. At the same time I beg that you will request Government to sanction the allowance of rations which you have kindly been permitting the Assistant Apothecary and Native Doctors doing duty here, to draw in anticipation of its being sanctioned, and also that you will recommend that any increase of pay you may think advisable may be granted them.

3. In regard to my own pay, I trust that the same liberality which Government has shown to the Naval Brigade, may be extended to me, and that considering the amount of work that has to be done, the inconvenience of the station, and the many risks that have to be run both from the convicts themselves, and from sickness; that in addition to the usual pay

and allowances of an Assistant Surgeon in Medical charge of a Native Regiment, I may receive an allowance at least equal to the extra Batta given to the Officers of the Naval Brigade while at this station.

No. 11. — From J. P. WALKER, Esquire, M.D., Superintendent of Port Blair, Andamans, to Lieutenant C. B. TEMPLER, I.N., Commanding Naval Guard at Port Blair, No. 309, dated the 5th September 1858.

YESTERDAY evening about sunset I heard the discharge of fire arms in the sandy bay between Atalanta Point and North* Point on the main land, and subsequently learned that a party bathing there had been attacked by the savage aborigines and fired in self-defence. As Mr. Morrison, one of the Masters of the Naval Guard under your command was one of the party, I have the honor to request that you will call upon him for a report of the occurrence, and submit it without unnecessary delay to admit of its transmission to Government by the Mail about to be despatched.

* Should be South Point.

From Mr. D. H. MORRISON, 1st Class Quarter Master, I.N.B., to Lieutenant C. B. TEMPLER, I.N., Commanding Detachment I.N.B., Port Blair, dated the 5th September 1858.

I HAVE the honor to report to you, that yesterday evening, a party from the H. C. S. *Australian*, consisting of the 2nd Officer, a Midshipman, and nine Lascars and myself, with an armed Guard of four Europeans, from the above vessel, pulled on shore at Atalanta Point for the purpose of bathing, and that while the men were dressing in the boat, we were attacked and fired upon by a party of natives, which we were compelled, in self-defence, to return, we then pulled off to the *Australian*, no one being wounded. I should imagine they were between twenty and thirty strong; but as they did not show themselves openly, I could not be certain of the number.

From J. P. WALKER, Esquire, M.D., Superintendent of Port Blair, Andamans, to Captain S. G. BOON, Commander H. C. Steamer *Australian*, lying in Port Blair, No. 311, dated the 5th September 1858.

I AM informed that a party from the vessel under your command, was yesterday evening fired upon by the savage aborigines, while bathing in the bay between Atalanta and North* Points, and in self-defence returned a volley of musketry. As such occurrences require to be reported to Government, I have the honor to request that you will make the necessary inquiries from your Officers and men, who were present, and submit a report to me of the case in the course of to-day, so that it may be transmitted by the Mail about to be despatched.

* Should be South Point.

From Mr. S. G. BOON, Commander, H. C. Steamer *Australian*, to J. P. WALKER, Esquire, M.D., Superintendent of Port Blair, Andamans, No. 135, dated the 5th September 1858.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 311 of this day's date, and in reply beg to state that a party of Officers, consisting of Mr. Beag, Mr. Boothby, and Mr. Morrison of the Naval Brigade, landed abreast of the vessel with the usual guard consisting of four seamen for the purpose of bathing, and while in the act of getting into the boat to return to ship, an alarm was given and a volley fired, but no natives were seen.

Mr. Morrison of the Naval Brigade informed me last evening, that about twenty or thirty arrows were discharged, but none of the party belonging to the *Australian* appear to have seen them.

No. 12. — From J. P. WALKER, Esquire, M.D., Superintendent of Port Blair, to Lieutenant C. B. TEMPLER, I. N., Commanding Naval Guard, Lieutenant THOS. M. PHILBROCK, I.N., Commanding H. C. Schooner *Charlotte*, and Captain THOS. H. HODGE, Commander, H. C. Store and Guard Vessel *Sesostris*, No. 308, dated Ross Island, the 4th September 1858.

I HAVE the honor to enclose for your information and guidance, a letter No. 1285, dated 21st August 1858, from the Secretary to the Government of India, regarding the policy to be observed towards the natives of the Andamans. On the receipt of a letter* on the 19th July

* No. 1079, dated 12th July 1858, last, from the Secretary to the Government, I verbally intimated para. 13.

to you that it is the wish of Government that a conciliatory policy be strictly observed towards the aborigines, and that for the future any aggression upon them is absolutely prohibited, and that no force is to be resorted to against them unless it be absolutely necessary to repel their attacks. I now repeat these instructions, as they have been repeated to me, for your guidance, and request that you will communicate their purport to the officers and men serving under you.

2. Be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of this communication by attaching your signatures to it, and returning it to me.