

Trichinopoly, East-India 24<sup>th</sup> July  
1859.  
with Mr Butson's best-Compli-  
ments to the Secretary of the Royal  
College of Physicians, Edinburgh

THE  
PROCEEDINGS  
OF A  
COURT OF INQUIRY,

HELD AT

**TRICHINOPOLY**

ON THE 22nd APRIL, 1858.

MADRAS:

PRINTED AT THE SCOTTISH PRESS, BY L. C. GRAVES.

1859.

## PREFACE.

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THE following PROCEEDINGS of a COURT OF INQUIRY are put in a printed form for the perusal and information of my friends. It is needless to say any thing more than is there shewn as they carry their own comment; but as, since the Court closed its proceedings, some further documents speaking to my professional character have come to light, I have therefore added them in an Appendix attached to the Memorial.

G. B., SURGEON.



TRICHINOPOLY, 22nd April, 1858.

Court of Inquiry held on this date at the quarters of Captain  
J. White, Deputy Judge Advocate General, S. D.

PRESIDENT.

Brigadier C. WAHAB, Commanding Trichinopoly.

MEMBERS.

Major G. DeSausmarez, Commanding 21st Regiment N. I.

Major R. W. O'Grady, Commanding 34th Regiment C. L. I.

Captain J. W. White, Deputy Judge Advocate General, S. D., conducting the Proceedings.

The Deputy Judge Advocate General here reads the letters, &c. attached to these Proceedings.

*Witness.* W. C. Sim, Esq. Head Assistant Collector in the District of Trichinopoly, 1st witness on the Inquiry.

*Question by the Court.* You are, I believe, acquainted with Superintending Surgeon Beetson ?

*Answer.* I have known him for the last year.

*Question.* In what estimation do you think Dr. Beetson is generally held by the private society in this station ?

*Answer.* I cannot answer for the Society in general, but as far as I am concerned, I consider him a Gentleman in every respect, and I have met him four or five times in Society and have never seen him guilty of any impropriety.

*Question by the Judge Advocate.* Have you at any places of public resort met any women, supposed to be or pointed out to you as being in the keeping of Dr. Beetson ?

*Answer.* No, neither in public nor in his own private house.

*Question.* Have you any knowledge or reason to suspect that Dr. Beetson is now, or was till very lately, living in open concubinage, and if so with whom ?

*Answer.* I have no personal knowledge of the fact nor am I justified in suspecting it.

*Question by the President.* Do you know of Dr. Beetson having given large dinner parties and balls ?

*Answer.* Yes, and I have been at one dinner party and two balls given by Dr. Beetson.

*Question.* Has Dr. Beetson thrown his House open to all the fellows in this Station, and does he sit up drinking with them till dawn ?

*Answer.* I fancy no young fellow will go to Dr. Beetson's house without a special invitation, at least I would not do so. I conclude he carries out the privilege of a host, but I must say that I have never seen him exceed in the slightest way.

*Question.* Have you heard Dr. Beetson sing a nonsensical song and repeat it during the same night?

*Answer.* I have heard Dr. Beetson sing a song which I have heard sung in England, and which he has repeated at the solicitation of his friends.

*Question.* Is there any thing objectionable or nonsensical in the song?

*Answer.* It was a comic song but there was nothing unseemly or objectionable in it.

*Question.* Have you at any of the parties when you met him seen any of the young men pat him on the shoulder or treat him with any undue familiarity, considering his position in Society?

*Answer.* No; I have never seen any Officer pat Dr. Beetson on the back; I consider that there has been some slight familiarity between Dr. Beetson and young Officers but never carried it to undue lengths.

*Question by the Court.* Can you give any instance of familiarity to which you refer?

*Answer.* No, it is merely a matter of opinion; I do not refer to any particular act.

*Question.* Do you think that the effect of Dr. Beetson's conduct has been to lower the consideration in which the Medical Profession is held with reference to his position as the head of it here?

*Answer.* I do not consider myself a sufficient judge to give any opinion on the subject.

*Question.* Do you think that any eccentricities on the part of Dr. Beetson have made him a laughing stock of this place?

*Answer.* I am not aware, nor have ever heard of any eccentricity on his part.

*Question.* Have you heard or seen that when Dr. Beetson gave these parties, the European women of the station attended at his house to take away with them what they could get?

*Answer.* I have never seen them there nor heard of their going to Dr. Beetson's House.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Do you attach any cause out of the usual course of hospitality to the circumstance of my entertainments?

*Answer.* No.

*Question.* Have any proceedings of Dr. Beetson been of such a character as to become a public scandal to his profession?

*Answer.* Certainly not to my knowledge. If I had thought so I should not have considered him a gentleman.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Were my parties of a general nature or confined to any particular set ?

*Answer.* I have met nearly all the Ladies in the Station at his balls, and the General and the Brigadier at his dinner parties : these facts speak for themselves.

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Lieut. Colonel P. T. Cherry, Commanding 1st Regiment L. C., 2nd  
Witness on the Inquiry.

*Question by the Judge Advocate.* You are, I believe, acquainted with Superintending Surgeon Beetson.

*Answer.* I am, I have known him for the last 15 years.

*Question.* In what estimation do you think Dr. Beetson is generally held by the private society in this station ?

*Answer.* My opinion is that he is generally held in great esteem by all who know him, and is generally considered a most kind hearted and a most hospitable man.

*Question.* Have you at any places of public resort met any women supposed to be or pointed out to you as being in the keeping of Dr. Beetson ?

*Answer.* Never at any time.

*Question.* Have you any knowledge or reason to suspect that Dr. Beetson is now, or was till very lately, living in open concubinage, and if so with whom ?

*Answer.* I know nothing of the kind, I have been at his house at all hours and all over it, and never saw any thing of the kind.

*Question.* Do you know of Dr. Beetson having given large dinner parties and balls ?

*Answer.* I have been to one ball given by Dr. Beetson and have dined with him once at his house, and am not aware that there has been any thing extraordinary in the number of parties given by him.

*Question.* Has Dr Beetson thrown his house open to all the young fellows in the station, and does he sit up drinking with them till dawn ?

*Answer.* I have never heard of it, nor even seen him.

*Question.* Have you heard Dr. Beetson sing a nonsensical song and repeat it during the same night ?

*Answer.* I have never heard him sing a nonsensical song. I have heard him sing, and after being repeatedly pressed, out of good nature sing the song again, but personally not more than twice.

*Question.* Have you at any of the parties when you met him, seen any of the young men pat him on the shoulder or treat him with any undue familiarity, considering his position in Society ?

*Answer.* I have never seen him patted on the back or treated with any familiarity tho' I have met him at many parties.

*Question.* Do you think that the effect of Dr. Beetson's conduct has been to lower the consideration in which the Medical Profession is held with reference to his position as the head of it here ?

*Answer.* No, certainly not.

*Question.* Do you think that any eccentricities on the part of Dr. Beetson have made him a laughing stock of this place ?

*Answer.* I have never seen any eccentricities on his part nor am I aware of his being the laughing stock in the place.

*Question.* Have you heard or seen that when Dr. Beetson gave these parties the European women of the station attended at his house to take away with them what they could get ?

*Answer.* I never heard of or saw any thing of the sort.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Do you attach any cause, out of the usual course of hospitality to the circumstance of my entertainments ?

*Answer.* When first I came here Dr. Beetson was repairing and adding to his house, and he told me when it was completed he intended to give a series of parties in return for the kindness he has received.

*Question.* Have any proceedings of Dr. Beetson been of such a character as to become a public scandal to his Profession ?

*Answer.* Never heard of any.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Were my parties of a general nature or confined to any particular set ?

*Answer.* Not restricted to any particular set, I always thought Dr. Beetson wish to show his hospitality to the whole station.

*Question by the Court.* You have known Dr. Beetson for a series of years ; from your own observation, do you consider his intellectual faculties have suffered to any great extent ; do you in fact consider him in his dotage ?

*Answer.* No, I do not ; I consider him quite wide awake, I was under his medical charge at Jaulnah 15 years ago for 2 months. He came to see me three times a day, and I now do not see any change in him.



23rd April, 1858.

Capt. G. W. Russell, 2nd Regiment L. C., Pay Master Trichinopoly, 3rd  
Witness, is called into Court.

*Question by the Judge Advocate.* You are, I believe, one of the oldest residents in Trichinopoly ?

*Answer.* I have been here eleven years.

*Question.* How long have you been acquainted with Dr. Beetson ?

*Answer.* About seven or eight years, since he came here as a Garrison Surgeon.

*Question.* From your own experience, do you consider that Dr. Beetson is the butt of Trichinopoly ?

*Answer.* No, certainly not.

*Question.* In what estimation do you consider he is held ?

*Answer.* For my own part, I have always esteemed him highly, and as far as I can judge from the way he is treated by others he is looked on by them in the same light.

*Question.* Do you believe there is any truth in the report that he lives, or has been living till very lately, in open concubinage ?

*Answer.* Certainly not in open concubinage.

*Question.* Have you been in the habit of attending Bands of an evening ?

*Answer.* Until very lately, yes.

*Question.* On any occasion when you may have been at the Band, have you seen or had pointed out to you, any woman, or women said to be in the keeping of Dr. Beetson ?

*Answer.* I never saw or heard of their going there.

*Question.* Until within about the last year, what were Dr. Beetson's social habits ?

*Answer.* I believe he kept entirely to himself, except occasionally when I may have met him at messes and elsewhere.

*Question.* Since then, has he altered his style of living ?

*Answer.* Yes, he has given a few dinner parties and entered into Society generally.

*Question.* Has he given out or do you believe he has any private reason for altering his style of life ?

*Answer.* I am aware he contemplated this for some time previously but could not carry it out earlier, as his house was undergoing extensive alterations.

*Question.* Since he has gone out into Society, have you observed any particular change in Dr. Beetson's manner or temper that would lead you to suppose he was becoming childish or in his dotage ?



*Answer.* Certainly not.

*Question.* If Dr. Beetson kept open house and was hail fellow well met with all the young men in the place would you have heard of it ?

*Answer.* Certainly.

*Question.* Have you ever seen him treated with disrespect or over familiarity by any one ?

*Answer.* No, neither.

*Question.* As you have known him for so many years can you state what hours he is in the habit of keeping ?

*Answer.* I cannot say.

*Question.* Prior to the assembly of this Court are you aware if there were any rumour to the prejudice of Dr. Beetson ?

*Answer.* No, not in my opinion ; there was a vague report several years back, which I have every reason to believe was false.

*Question.* Have you ever heard him sing a song and make himself ridiculous by repeating it over and over again ?

*Answer.* I have heard him sing a comic song which he repeated, on being pressed, perhaps once or twice, but not more to my knowledge. I did not consider any ridicule attached to him in doing so.

*Question.* Do you think Dr. Beetson's conduct has been such as to lower him in the opinion of society or that he has been setting any pernicious example to the young men in the place ?

*Answer.* No.

*Question.* On the occasion of Dr. Beetson giving entertainments, amongst the younger guests did you observe any improper conduct or improper style of conversation ?

*Answer.* I never saw or heard anything of the kind.

*Question.* Are you aware if the European women were in the habit of attending at Dr. Beetson's whenever he gave a party ?

*Answer.* Never heard of such a thing, although I have been invited to every party.

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23rd April, 1858.

Captain A. Ritherdon, Commanding 2nd E. Regiment N. I., 4th Witness.

*Question.* Are you acquainted with Dr. Beetson ?

*Answer.* I am and have been about 8 months since I arrived at Trichinopoly.

*Question.* In what estimation is he generally held by the Society ?

*Answer.* I have met him out occasionally at different houses of the members of Society here, where he has always been treated with respect, he has been occasionally a guest of my own.

*Question.* Are you aware of his living, or till very lately living, in open concubinage?

*Answer.* No, certainly not.

*Question.* Have you at any time heard a report that Dr. Beetson's women were in the habit of going to the Band?

*Answer.* Not until this Court was ordered to assemble.

*Question.* Have you ever heard Dr. Beetson sing a song and make himself ridiculous by repeating it over and over again?

*Answer.* I have heard him sing a part of an old English song, and repeat it not more than once or twice on being asked. I do not consider that it placed him in a ridiculous position.

*Question.* Have you ever seen any one pat him on the back or treat him with over-familiarity?

*Answer.* Never.

*Question.* Do you think Dr. Beetson's manner and conduct are such as to bring contempt upon his profession and station?

*Answer.* No.

*Question.* Do you consider his example pernicious to the Junior Members of Society?

*Answer.* No.

*Question.* From what you know of Dr. Beetson should you consider him imbecile or in his dotage?

*Answer.* No, I should say not, rather the contrary. I have seen him show a great deal of mental activity, particularly some eight days after my arrival here when I was a stranger to the Dr. on the occasion of my attending at the Public Rooms where he was superintending the preparations for a ball when I was surprised at his activity for so old a man.

*Question.* You say you have occasionally been his guest—are you aware if the European women or any attended at those parties to see what they can get?

*Answer.* No, if they had been there I should have known it, as after dinner we generally retired into the garden at the back of the house to talk.

~~~~~  
24th April, 1858.

W. H. Davids, Assistant Surgeon, 2d E. Regiment N. I., 5th Witness.

*Question.* You have, I believe, known Dr. Beetson for some years?

*Answer.* About six years, and I have been lately on intimate terms with him.

*Question.* In what estimation do you think he is held by the Society in general?

*Answer.* Judging from what I have myself seen and heard, I consider he is generally held in high estimation.

*Question.* Do you think he is generally respected by the Subordinates in his department?

*Answer.* Undoubtedly.

*Question.* From any thing you may have heard or seen, do you think he lives in open concubinage?

*Answer.* I know nothing of it; I have seen nothing of it myself.

*Question.* Have you ever heard a report that he kept two sisters?

*Answer.* I have heard from some that he kept two sisters, three from others, I have also heard that he kept mother and daughter; this was about two years.

*Question.* Did you ever make Dr. Beetson acquainted with this report?

*Answer.* No, I never spoke to Dr. Beetson on the subject till the last month.

*Question.* Can you in any way account for such a report and can you say whether they were believed?

*Answer.* I cannot say; I never believed them myself.

*Question.* Are you aware if any women in the keeping of, or said to be in the keeping of, Dr. Beetson were in the habit of appearing at places of public resort?

*Answer.* No.

*Question.* When first you knew Dr. Beetson what were his habits?

*Answer.* I never met Dr. Beetson much in Society at that time.

*Question.* Can you in any way account for his change in his habits?

*Answer.* I heard a report that Dr. Beetson was going to get married, which may account for the change.

*Question.* Do you think this change in his habits was caused by imbecility?

*Answer.* No, I do not.

*Question.* Are you aware if he has thrown open his house to the young men in the place?

*Answer.* I never heard of it.

*Question.* At parties where you may have met him, did he keep late hours, and was he temperate?

*Answer.* At the few parties where I have met him, the party broke up between 12 and 1; at a ball he gave he was late and

we were all late, ladies and gentlemen. Within the last 12 months I belonged to the same mess that he did, when he generally retired at 9 or 10 o'clock. He is most temperate and abstemious.

*Question.* Have you ever heard him sing a nonsensical song?

*Answer.* I have heard him sing a song but it was not more nonsensical than the generality of sea songs.

*Question.* On an average how often may you have heard him repeat the song at a party?

*Answer.* I never counted, he may have sung it 2 or 3 times.

*Question.* Have you ever seen any body pat him on the back, take liberties with him, and turn him into ridicule?

*Answer.* No, certainly not.

*Question.* Do you consider that his general behaviour, public and private, has been such as to bring discredit on your profession?

*Answer.* Certainly not.

*Question.* Do you consider that of late he has become puerile and childish in his habits?

*Answer.* No, I have not perceived it.

*Question.* You say you have known Dr. Beetson for some years, during this time you must have met him frequently professionally and at Inspections, &c.; on these occasions did his mind appear impaired and did he overlook the essentials, and take up your time with trifles in an unnecessary manner?

*Answer.* Certainly not in my opinion. He is very strict which I consider perfectly necessary for the protection of Government property and for ascertaining the state of the practical working of the Hospital.

*Question.* When you have been a guest at his house, have you seen any European women there under the pretence of taking away scraps, &c.?

*Answer.* No.

*Question.* You have known Dr. Beetson more than 5 years, during this time did it ever occur that the scandalous reports of the nature you have spoken to, caused him to be shunned by the Society at this Station?

*Answer.* I am not aware of it at all, or I would not have visited Dr. Beetson myself except professionally.

*Question.* As a member of Society do you not consider that reports of the kind, if believed, would have had the effect of excluding him from Society?

*Answer.* If the Society of Trichinopoly were in a healthy state, most decidedly. I met Dr. Beetson as an honorary

member of several messes, and have never known any officer, old or young, object to him.

*Question.* Do you know if Dr. Beetson was aware of the existence of these reports?

*Answer.* I cannot tell; I never spoke to him on the subject till lately.

~~~~~  
26th April, 1858.

Lieut. J. C. Wyse, Adjutant 34th Regt. C. L. I. 6th Witness, is called into Court.

*Question.* You have been, I believe, in the habit of meeting Dr. Beetson in Society; have you ever seen any one take liberties with him?

*Answer.* I have never done so myself, or seen any one else do so.

*Question.* Dr. Beetson is, I believe, an Honorary member of your mess?

*Answer.* Yes; he has been so for about six months and dined nearly every night there.

*Question.* What are his habits?

*Answer.* Very temperate, he generally is the first to leave the mess and always before 9.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* You have been my guest on more than one occasion. Have you never seen on such an occasion, or heard of any of the European women of the Garrison being present at the back of the house?

*Answer.* I never have heard or seen any European women there.

*Question by the Court.* Has Dr. Beetson's house been always open to the young Officers of the station to go in and out as they please?

*Answer.* Certainly not without invitation.

~~~~~  
26th April, 1858.

Lieut. H. E. Dyneley, Adjutant 1st Regt. L. C., 7th Witness on the Inquiry, is called into Court.

*Question.* You have, I believe, been in the habit of meeting Dr. Beetson in Society; have you ever seen any one take liberties with him?

*Answer.* Yes, I have never seen any one take liberties with him.

*Question.* Have you ever heard him repeat over and over again, a nonsensical song?

*Answer.* No, never.

*Question.* Has Dr. Beetson thrown his house open to the young men of the station without invitation?

*Answer.* Certainly not.

~~~~~  
26th April, 1858.

Lieut. M. A. Worsop, Adjutant 21st Regt. N. I., 8th Witness.

*Question.* You have, I believe, occasionally met Dr. Beetson in society; have you ever seen any one take any liberties with him?

*Answer.* No, I have never seen any one take liberties with him.

*Question.* Have you heard him sing a song?

*Answer.* Yes.

*Question.* How often may he have repeated it?

*Answer.* Three or four times, at the particular request of individuals.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Does your band play a tune popularly called Tooraloo, if so, was it specially set for any particular purpose, or does it happen to form part of a piece of music?

*Answer.* It forms part of a Quadrille, it was not particularly set for Dr. Beetson.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* With reference to the questions put by the Deputy Judge Advocate General to different witnesses could you as a member of Society have spoken to any of them and do you consider my manners and conduct in Society are those of a Gentleman and suitable to my position?

*Answer by Brigadier Wahab.* I cannot speak to any questions of my own knowledge, except I heard Dr. Beetson sing a song at the General's house. I heard him sing twice and I heard others pressing him to sing it again just as I left and he commenced. I knew Dr. Beetson when he first came out and since I have been here about a year. I consider his conduct and manners in Society to be those of a Gentleman and I never saw any inpropriety in his conduct.

*Question.* As before.

*Answer by Major DeSausmarez.* I never saw Dr. Beetson till the first day this Court sat.

*Question.* As before.

*Answer by Major O'Grady.* I know nothing disreputable in the conduct of Dr. Beetson, nor till this inquiry took place was I ever aware that any suspicion attached to him.

Dr. Beetson hands in a written statement which is read marked P. appended to the Proceedings.

To

BRIGADIER WAHAB AND OFFICERS OF THE COURT.

GENTLEMEN,

It is with regret that I have felt myself compelled to apply for the assembly of this Court, but its necessity was urgent, both on account of my professional as well as my private character.

I have cause to complain. Condemned unheard, upon the Ex-parte statements of the Director General of the Medical Department and Inspector General of Hospitals, statements for the most part as false as they are slanderous, and called upon, in no measured terms in the most peremptory manner, not only to resign my appointment within 24 hours, but also to retire from the service, without being allowed even the opportunity of defending myself, my only resource was an appeal to a full and impartial enquiry into my conduct. But my appeal has only been partly complied with, my official conduct is not to be the subject of investigation. I must therefore confine myself to the calumnious reports and allegations, carefully collected by Dr. Maepherston.

But how have these been collected? by open and fair enquiry? No! Advantage has been taken of my absence from the Station to depute the Inspector General (my Junior Officer be it remembered) to Trichinopoly for the ostensible purpose of inspecting the Hospitals of the Station, but his mission had another object no less than that of a secret and underhand enquiry into the acts of my private life, and well has he performed his task. He has seized with avidity upon every idle rumour that could be turned to my discredit, whether true or false no matter so long as it met his purpose. Not a single extenuating circumstance has he recorded.

No. In his opinion, I have not one redeeming point. I am a public Scandal! a disgrace to my profession!—such are terms that an Officer, far my Junior, dares under the shield of Office, to impute to me. But he does not stop here: not content with doing his utmost to blast my character he strings together a lot of ridiculous nonsense with the view of leading the authorities to believe me to be in my dotage and imbecile. Setting this aside, however, does he subsequently meet me as a man who is beyond the pale of Society? On the contrary, to all outward appearance he greets me in as friendly a manner as is customary when strangers meet for the first time. One would have thought that

courtesy alone would have prompted him to give me some hint as to the mission he had been employed on, but his mode of proceeding had been of too honorable a nature for that.

Dr. Macpherson's first assertion has been sufficiently met by the evidence before the Court, the next is of a graver nature, his source of information appears to be wonderful, since not a single Officer except Dr. Davids has spoken to it, and he has shewn how much reliance may be placed upon it. Had reports such as these been current in the Station, and my conduct that imputed to me, is it probable that the authorities would have allowed it to pass without notice? I may therefore content myself with an emphatic declaration of its falsehood.

My giving Dinner Parties and Balls is the next subject of reproach. Surely if I wished to be popular in Society and selected this mode of doing so, is it a crime? but here Dr. Macpherson cannot help making the most of every thing, raising a mountain out of a mole hill and capping it with an untruth.

My house has never been thrown open to the "Young fellows" nor has any one ever frequented my Dinner parties without a special Invitation, and if my guests choose to sit up to a late hour, am I to desire them to quit?

Much stress is laid upon my singing "a nonsensical song with which I was so fascinated that I had it set to music," and a copy presented to every Lady in the "Station:" what if I did sing a song, an old English Comic song, and not more nonsensical than many others frequently sung in good Society? As to the presentation of copies to every Lady in the Station, it is not the fact—one copy alone has been given to but one Lady, and that at her own request. But really comment upon these matters is absurd, they are trifles to what follows. The mountain has been raised but it is incomplete without its cap, truly the cap is a masterpiece, of wilful malice and inuendo. Vicious indeed must have been the mind of the inventor. Here it is a sublime after thought, as if he would say, "if nothing else smashes him this will."

"I have already told you he gives large dinners and on these occasions the European women of the Garrison are at the back door to take away with them what they can."

Gentlemen, I do not hesitate to characterize this as a cruel malicious falsehood, but the venom does not lie in the falsehood alone, the sting goes deeper, a covert inuendo of the basest nature is implied, there is no mincing the matter, but that my house on these occasions where officers of all grades are present, *is turned into a Brothel!* there is the intended stab brought in as a climax to the whole.



Dr. Macpherson has overshot his mark and in his laudable attempts to vilify my character he has cast a slur upon the whole Society of Trichinopoly.

A few more words and I have done. The Court has patiently investigated the whole of this unpleasant business, Officers of standing, some of whom have known me for years, have given evidence upon it, not one of whom has spoken to my prejudice, the value to be placed upon the calumnious charges is apparent, and I feel assured that I can rest with confidence upon the result, and that the character I have held during an honorable service of 34 years will have passed through this ordeal untarnished.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) G. BEETSON,  
Superintending Surgeon, S. D.

A True copy.

G. BEETSON,  
Superintending Surgeon, S. D.  
TRICHINOPOLY, }  
26th April, 1858. }

OOTACAMUND, 23rd April, 1858.

MY DEAR BEETSON,

In reply to your letter of the 20th Instant, I beg to deny in the most emphatic manner having ever expressed my opinion to Dr. Macpherson that you were the butt and ridicule of all in Trichinopoly "and I am utterly at a loss to understand upon what authority it has been officially reported that such is the opinion entertained from the Judge to the lowest Subordinate"—I have never spoken to Dr. Macpherson in all my life, nor do I know him by sight.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) J. T. HARRIS,  
Judge & Sessions Judge Trichinopoly.

A True copy.

G. BEETSON,  
Superintending Surgeon, S. D.

~~~~~  
The Court adjourns until such time as an answer may be received from the Inspector General of Hospitals

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The Deputy Judge Advocate General informs the Court that he does not think it necessary to call in any more witnesses.

26th April, 1858.

28th April, 1858. WEDNESDAY.

A demi official letter from the Inspector General of Hospitals, read. Vide Correspondence attached to these Proceedings.

This letter having been entered and read, the President of the Court, Brigadier Wahab, states he is not aware of having communicated information on the points under investigation by the Court, regarding Dr. Beetson to Dr. Macpherson: in fact that he is personally unacquainted with most of them as already stated.

28th April, 1858.

J. Nicholas, Captain 44th Regiment N. I. Sub Assistant Commissary General, Trichinopoly, is called into Court.

*Question by the Judge Advocate.* You are, I believe, acquainted with Dr. Beetson?

*Answer.* Slightly.

*Question.* In what estimation do you think he is generally held by the Society in this Station?

*Answer.* I decline to answer that question.

*Question.* Have you at any places of public resort met any women supposed to be, or pointed out to you as being, in the keeping of Dr. Beetson?

*Answer.* No, certainly not.

*Question.* Have you any knowledge or reason to suspect that Dr. Beetson is now, or has been till very lately, living in open concubinage; if so, with whom?

*Answer.* I know nothing on the subject.

*Question.* Do you know of Dr. Beetson having lately taken to giving Balls and large dinner parties?

*Answer.* Yes, I have heard it. I have not been at any of them.

*Question.* Have you heard if Dr. Beetson has thrown his house open to all the young men in the place?

*Answer.* Certainly not.

*Question.* Have you ever heard him sing a nonsensical song?

*Answer.* I have heard him sing a very comic song.

*Question.* How often have you heard him repeat the song in an evening?

*Answer.* Three times running consecutively, this was at the General's house.

*Question.* Did you attach any ridicule to it or to the manner of singing?

*Answer.* Yes to the manner of singing.

*Question.* Have you ever seen any of the young men of the station treat him with undue familiarity?

*Answer.* No.

*Question.* Do you consider that the effect of Dr. Beetson's conduct has been such as to lower the consideration in which the medical profession is held?

*Answer.* I decline to answer that question.

*Question.* Do you consider that he has made himself the laughing stock of the place?

*Answer.* I decline to answer that question.

*Question.* Do you attach any cause out of the usual course of hospitality as a reason for his giving balls, dinners, &c.

*Answer.* Certainly not.

*Question.* Have any proceedings of Dr. Beetson been of such a character as to become a public scandal to his profession?

*Answer.* The fact of Dr. Beetson being the Supg. Surgeon Southern Division must refute that.



In consequence of Captain Russell's name having been mentioned by the Inspector General he is called into Court, and requested to state if he has had any communication with any one about Dr. Beetson.

*Answer.* Yes: Dr. Neill addressed a private communication to me, marked "Private," in which he said "amongst other iniquities charged against our own Worshipful, meaning Dr. Beetson, is one that he kept two sisters and that they attended the Band. If I could contradict either of these he would set it right with the Inspector General." My answer was "that it is too bad; give the devil his due, some years ago there was a report, I think I said on his first arrival, that he kept two women, it was said they were sisters and also that they were mother and daughter, and I thought it more likely, keeping the daughter, he supported the mother. With regard to their attending the Band I gave it a flat contradiction. At one time during Dr. Beetson's absence from Trichinopoly his Palankeen Carriage was exercised of a morning with venetians closed, in which it was said there was a woman. But when this came to Dr. Beetson's knowledge it was immediately put a stop to. I also mentioned that I believed he had been spoken to either by Brigadier Stokes or General Cleveland. I further said, this never occurred whilst Dr. Beetson was in Cantonment.

*Question.* Can you state when the events, to which you refer in your note, occurred?

*Answer.* I cannot say; when I wrote the note I was under

the impression it was about 7 years ago, but certainly not within the last 3 or 4 years.

The Court is adjourned till further orders.

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3rd May, 1858.

The Court having reassembled at 11 A. M. all present as on the last day. Dr. Macpherson is called into Court as a witness. A letter from the Director General with accompaniment is read and attached to the Proceedings.

*Question by the Deputy Judge Advocate Genl. to Dr. McPherson.* With reference to the letter you have just heard read and your former demi-official to the Director General, you are requested to inform the Court the circumstances under which you attained the information on which your report was grounded?

*Answer.* The first act of the Director General of the Medical Department on its being announced to him that I have been selected for the Office of Inspector General of Hospitals was to place before me documents on record at the late Medical Board Office, which in his opinion marked the professional incapacity of Dr. Beetson. He directed me to proceed forthwith to Trichinopoly with a view to make an enquiry and to report the result fully to him. I observed sufficient to confirm me that Dr. Beetson's professional incapacity was established.

2. In company with Dr. Neill, late Surgeon of the 1st Cavalry, I waited on General Budd, mentioned the object of my visit to Trichinopoly, and solicited from him such further information connected with matters not professional of which he could speak.

3. General Budd unreservedly told me that Dr Beetson's conduct in Society was puerile and childish; that he has observed with regret that Dr. Beetson did not uphold the respect due to his position; that he had of late taken to croaking a snatch of a song, that it had been reported to him that Dr. Beetson had repeated it as often as 10 times at one Mess Party; that he has sat up till 5 o'clock in the morning and keeps late hours, and that he does many other things quite unbecoming of his years; that he had deemed it his duty to remonstrate with Dr. Beetson and earnestly to urge him not to place himself in so humiliating a position, for he stated that he had told Dr. Beetson that he was the laughing stock of the place.

4. The General further stated that he was obliged to speak a second time to Dr. Beetson on this same subject when Dr. Beetson's reply was that he did not like to refuse being pressed so hard. General Budd also stated that Dr. Beetson appeared not to be able to think of any thing else but this song, that he

had had it set to music, and had presented a copy to his daughter.

5. General Budd finally stated that he should be rejoiced to see a more efficient man in his place, and that if Dr. Beetson had any friends it would be doing him a great kindness to recommend him to withdraw from public life.

6. From General Budd's I proceeded to Brigadier Wahab's house; to the best of my recollection I conveyed to the Brigadier the purport of my interview with General Budd, if Brigadier Wahab did not assent he certainly did not dissent, and I distinctly recollect the words, "he is an old man and getting very slow."

7. From the Brigadier's I went to the Collector's and there heard the Report of Dr. Beetson's former immoral mode of life.

8. The rest of the information in my letter was acquired from or thro' Dr. Neill, whom as senior Medical Officer of this Station at the time I also took into my full confidence. This Officer has since retired from the Service.

9. The information which I had acquired after mature consideration on every point I conveyed to the Director General in a demi-official form with the expectation as hinted at in that letter that he would have communicated direct to Dr. Beetson, and recommend him to retire from his appointment, not his service certainly, as I was most reluctant to place on record the substance of this letter in an official form. I wish to have it recorded, I never anticipated that my demi-official letter would have gone beyond the Director General's Office, and I expected that all final proceedings would have been based on my official letter, addressed to him on the termination of my Inspection of the Medical Establishments in the Southern Division.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* You say you heard of my immoral conduct at Mr. Bird's, am I to understand that you derived your information from him, if not from whom?

*Answer.* I heard particulars from Mr. Bird which I had not been previously aware of; Dr. Beetson's immorality has long been a by word in the service.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Has any information you have received been such as to justify the very strong expressions used by you of my having no redeeming point, being a public scandal and a disgrace to the Profession?

*Answer.* As I have already stated, my demi-official was intended only for Dr. Magrath's own information; in communications of this nature more latitude is apt to be taken than in strictly official correspondence. I have certainly seen nothing to justify me in making use of such strong language in my official letter.

The Inspector General is requested to call witnesses in support of his statements.

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T. H. Stoton, Ensign in the 21st Regiment N. I., 10th Witness on the Inquiry, is called into Court.

*Question by Dr. McPherson thro' the Deputy Judge Advocate.* Have you been in Dr. Beetson's Society ?

*Answer.* Yes.

*Question.* Up to what hour at the latest have you sat up with Dr. Beetson ?

*Answer.* Till 12 o'clock on one occasion with other people.

*Question.* Have you heard him sing one or more songs on the same evening.

*Answer.* One song.

*Question.* How many times have you heard him sing this song in the same evening.

*Answer.* About half a dozen times at the particular request of the people who were present.

*Question.* Was he importuned by the company generally to sing this song ?

*Answer.* Yes.

*Question.* Did he require much importunity ?

*Answer.* Not very much.

*Question.* What cognomen is Dr. Beetson known by and generally spoken of in connection with this song ?

*Answer.* I have heard him talked of behind his back by young men, as Tooraloo.

*Question.* Have you heard that the European women of the garrison receive debris of his feasts ?

*Answer.* I have heard on one occasion when Dr. Beetson gave a Ball at the Public Rooms that the Butler of some Regiment permitted the women of the garrison to help themselves to the liquor that remained, against Dr. Beetson's consent and much to his astonishment.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Can you yourself vouch for the truth of this Report ?

*Answer.* No, I was not in the Cantonment.

*Question.* Have you on any occasion seen any of the young men in the Cantonment pat Dr. Beetson on the back or take any liberties with him.

*Answer.* I have never seen any young man take any liberty with Dr. Beetson.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* From the way in which Dr.

Beetson behaves and is treated in Society, do you consider that he is looked on as a butt or object of ridicule ?

*Answer.* That is a matter of opinion, not evidence.

*Witness retires.*

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3rd May, 1858.

Brigadier C. Wahab, President of the Court, is called on by the Inspector General as a Witness.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Do you command the station ?

*Answer.* Yes.

*Question.* Do you remember the conversation I had with you in February last on my first visit to this station immediately after my interview with General Budd on the subject of Dr. Beetson's qualifications for this Office ?

*Answer.* I have no knowledge of Dr. Macpherson having called on the General before he called on me, on his first visit to Trichinopoly, and I do not remember having any conversation with Dr. Macpherson about Dr. Beetson's qualifications on that occasion.

*Question.* Was the opinion you then expressed to me regarding Dr. Beetson favourable or otherwise ?

*Answer.* I do not recollect talking about Dr. Beetson on that occasion beyond stating that he was getting old and slow.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* In your position as next in rank to the General commanding the Division I presume you possess his confidence and that the indiscretions of an officer in the high position and responsible post which Dr. Beetson held has been the subject of conversation between you ; was it so ?

*Answer.* The conversations which I have had with the General regarding Dr. Beetson were with reference to a song which he sung. The General was of an opinion that he should not sing it and that he would tell him so ; about other irregularities and immoralities of Dr. Beetson I have no personal knowledge. I am not aware of having spoken about them to the General further than flying reports.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Are your sentiments in accordance with those expressed by the Major General in his demi-official letter marked E. dated 11th February to the Director General Medical Department ?

*Answer.* I have not been so much in Dr. Beetson's society as to say that he does not uphold his position, the few times I have been in company with him I should say he behaved as well as any one else. He is rather taciturn. I have no knowledge of his croaking a song ten times over and of sitting up till five in the

morning, but as I have mentioned before in my previous evidence I have heard him sing a song twice at the General's house and he was going to sing it again as I left it; as far as I know Dr. Beetson is an abstemious man. I have never seen his carriage at the band since I have been here except he was in it himself, and that very rarely. With regard to the propriety of his retiring, as Dr. Beetson had so short a time to serve to complete his 35 years, I thought he would do well to retire after completing it, as it made so considerable a difference in his retiring pension.

*Question.* Taking it for granted that Dr. Beetson's conduct in society was such as has been stated by General Budd do you consider that such a procedure was calculated to insure the respect of Dr. Beetson's juniors or was suitable to his years and position?

*Answer.* I think it would be more suitable to Dr. Beetson not to have sung the song, but I do not see any reason that he should be treated with disrespect in consequence.

*Question by Dr. McPherson thro' the Deputy Judge Advocate.* Do you consider that there is any thing ludicrous not in the song itself but in Dr. Beetson's manner of reciting it?

*Answer.* I think his manner is funny and ludicrous.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Holding the position you do would you not consider it ludicrous and puerile to repeat the same song frequently and would you not consider yourself made a butt of if asked to do so.

*Answer.* I think it ludicrous, and in regard to its being puerile it depends on the manner in which it was sung to repeat it often. I would not do it myself. In regard to his being made a butt of it depends on the way it was done.

*Question.* Have you not had all the Commanding Officers to your quarters in order to urge them not to encourage Dr. Beetson to sing his song?

*Answer.* No, never, not Dr. Beetson's song. I spoke to Commanding Officers about a noisy chorus song by others at a Mess.

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4th May, 1858.

Captain G. W. Russell, recalled into Court.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* In your note to Dr. Neill, did you not make use of these words, the devil is not as black as he is painted, nor is our friend the Right Worshipful, instead of living with two sisters, I have reason to believe that it was a mother and daughter that he supported?

*Answer.* No, the words of my note are exactly as I before stated: in fact, I believe I said something about his supporting



the whole family, and I distinctly recollect my making use of the words "keeping the daughter, he supported the mother." This I wrote as merely a report; I could state nothing personally from my own knowledge.

*Question.* Have you ever heard Dr. Beetson spoken of as old Tooraloo?

*Answer.* Yes, I have heard behind his back.

*Question.* Were you present at Col. McCally's house, when Dr. Beetson, dressed in character as an old woman and sing a song before a larger party?

*Answer.* Yes.

*Question.* Do you consider such circumstance suitable to his years and position?

*Answer.* I do not think there was any harm in it.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Is it not consistent with your knowledge that the women in Dr. Beetson's establishment were seen so frequently in places of public resort by the officers' families that it was put a stop to by the General or Brigadier in command of the station?

*Answer.* I cannot say that they were ever seen by any of the families, I believed as I stated before that the exercising the carriage at one time with a woman in it, was put a stop to by the Officer Commanding. I have since heard from Dr. Beetson himself that he put a stop to it by a letter from the Hills in consequence of the information he had received.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Have you not frequently seen women, i.e., Ayahs and servants driving out with children in the public roads of a morning and evening?

*Answer.* Yes.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Instead of a Mistress, may not the woman have been an Ayah or servant in attendance on a child: in fact do you know anything about the matter?

*Answer.* I know nothing about the matter; it is very possible I have seen a child in the carriage, as also a woman. I have been told that it was possibly the Ayah. I know nothing of my knowledge.

*Question by the Court.* Would you object to say who told you?

*Answer.* Dr. Beetson himself, the words he said to me were, "how do you know it was not an Ayah and child."

*Question by the Court.* On the question being asked you, whether Dr. Beetson lived in open concubinage you replied, not in open concubinage, did you thereby mean to deny altogether that he lived in concubinage, or that such concubinage was not open?

*Answer.* Certainly not in open concubinage, but I cannot speak to the other.

*Question by Dr. McPherson thro' the Court.* Do you consider open concubinage to be permitting females or Mistresses attached to one's establishment to appear in public places and roads?

*Answer.* Yes, that is what I consider open concubinage if known as such.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Being at the station at the time of the occurrence before General Cleveland or Brigadier Stokes came to remonstrate with Dr. Beetson on so delicate a subject, had not the fact referred to obtained much notoriety?

*Answer.* Yes, at the time it had. I cannot say for certain that the General remonstrated with Dr. Beetson, but I thought so, as it was so suddenly put a stop to.

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Major O'Grady is called on as a Witness by Dr. McPherson.

*Question.* Up to what hour at the latest have you sat up with Dr. Beetson?

*Answer.* On one occasion after a Ball given by him at my Mess house he stayed till all the guests had gone and it might have been about 4 o'clock.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Have you sat up with Dr. Beetson on other occasions?

*Answer.* Not sat up with him, neither do I wish it to be understood that I sat up with him in particular on the occasion of the Ball. I have been at parties some of which have broken up late and Dr. Beetson went away with the other people.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Did you on no occasion ever hear Dr. Beetson sing his song about six times during the evening?

*Answer.* I never heard him sing it more than three times.

*Question.* Did you ever hear of an officer who scored on the wall each time he sung and that the scores numbered 13 or 14 times?

*Answer.* I never heard anything of the score, before that I remember, but I have heard it said I suppose in joke that Dr. Beetson had sung the song 13 times at a party.

*Question.* Do you consider Dr. Beetson's manner of singing the song puerile and childish and that it was calculated to make a butt of him?

*Answer.* I was highly amused myself, and I think it was evident to all that his only desire was to please, and I never thought of puerility or childishness in connection with his sing-

ing, the effect has not been to make him a butt that I am aware of, as he is always treated with respect in Society.

*Question.* Is Dr. Beetson spoken of in Society as old Tooraloo and does his song not go by the same name ?

*Answer.* Yes, his nickname in the place is so in consequence of his song, he is spoken of but never addressed as Tooraloo.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Do you recollect as Commanding your Regiment having been spoken to by any one in authority at this station to discourage your young men from inducing Dr. Beetson to sing this song so often ; if so, by whom ?

*Answer.* Yes, I think the General spoke to me on the subject.

*Question.* Were you present when Dr. Beetson dressed himself in character of an old woman and sung his song at Colonel McCally's before a large party ?

*Answer.* Yes, I was not present at the toilette. I believe Dr. Beetson dressed in character as a Sailor's widow, in consequence of an observation at a morning call that the song would be much more effective if sung in character. I think the lady of the house where a call was made, had just then heard for the first time that Dr. Beetson sung, and pressed him to promise him to sing in character at her house.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Was the proceeding such as you have described on the part of Dr. Beetson in the presence of a large party suitable to his age, and the high position he held at the station ?

*Answer.* I am no judge ; I have heard of public men in higher position doing more absurd things. I consider a drawing room frolic of this kind entirely apart from his official position.

*Question.* Did you ever see a caricature of Dr. Beetson dressed up as he appeared on this occasion handed round the Cantonment and did you not take it round yourself ?

*Answer.* I decline to answer that question.

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5th May, 1858. Major O'Grady.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Have you expressed an opinion that had you known Dr. Beetson lived in concubinage you would not have called on him and do you now regret having ever called on him ?

*Answer.* Within the last few days, in conversation regarding Dr. Beetson the matter of the two sisters was mentioned, I said with reference to it, and the immoral life he is said to have been leading, had I known of such circumstances, I never should have called on him. Since I have been here within the last 12

months I have had no reason to suppose he was living in concubinage at all. On the contrary I have had reason to believe that he enlarged his house, and entered into Society because he was going to be married. Thinking therefore that he has not led a life of this kind for some years, I do not regret having called on him.

*Question by the Court.* You say thinking he has not lived in such a state for some years, what reason have you for supposing that he ever lived in that way?

*Answer.* I have no proof but hearsay, I have heard he has an illegitimate child 14 or 15 years of age being educated on the Hills, that in connection with what has been stated before this Court regarding a child being seen in a close carriage leads me to think that some years ago, he must have kept a woman.

*Question by the Court.* You say you have heard so, have you a knowledge of that as a fact?

*Answer.* Certainly not.

*Question by the Court.* You have used the terms "hearsay," do you mean that you remember hearing it from any particular person or that it was a current rumour?

*Answer.* I have heard the thing casually mentioned, but I do not remember by whom.

*Witness retires.*

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5th May, 1858.

Captain J. Nicholas re-called into Court.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* How long have you resided at Trichinopoly?

*Answer.* Since November 1856.

*Question.* You have said that you think Dr. Beetson's manner of singing his song ridiculous, do you also think it childish?

*Answer.* Very much so in an officer of Dr. Beetson's station and age.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Did you hold yourself aloof from the parties given by Dr. Beetson, and if so, state the reasons which induced you to do so?

*Answer.* I did on the occasion on which I was invited; my reason for doing so was that I never attend Balls and as I have never invited Dr. Beetson into my own house or met him in Ladies' Society, I declined receiving any civilities from him. I have met him at Review dinners.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* How long is that since and was he so far as you knew then admitted as a social member of Society?

*Answer.* I do not remember the time but as the invitations went out two or three months before the ball, it must have been then. At that time I never had met Dr. Beetson in Society; the first time I did so was at Colonel McCally's after the invitations to the Ball were out, and before meeting him, I have been informed that Dr. Beetson had cleared his house of all improper characters and intended leading a moral life.

*Question.* On this occasion how did Dr. Beetson make his appearance and did he sing a song before an assembled company of Ladies and Gentlemen; if so, in what costume?

*Answer.* He was dressed in a white jacket like any one else; in the course of the evening he sung a song dressed to the best of my recollection in a petticoat, shawl and wig.

*Question.* Did he carry a doll in his arms?

*Answer.* I do not remember; it was given out that he was to do so.

*Question.* Did he make himself the laughing stock of the company?

*Answer.* I should say so.

*Question.* From your knowledge of the way Dr. Beetson is spoken of and conducts himself in Society, would you say that he is made a butt of by those with whom he associates?

*Answer.* On a former occasion, I declined answering that question, because I had not seen Dr. Macpherson before the end of March, whereas his report on Dr. Beetson went in, I believe on the 11th February; I did not therefore feel called upon to answer some of the questions that were put to me by the Court knowing that the information was not derived from me. I consider the case is now altered as Dr. McPherson has come up here on duty and that it is my duty to answer them whenever I have seen Dr. Beetson in Society singing that song, I certainly consider that his friends made a butt of him.

*Question.* From your own observation do you consider that Dr. Beetson's general bearing in Society suitable to his years and calculated to command the respect of his juniors in his position, as the head of the Medical Department of this Division?

*Answer.* I do not think it is calculated to uphold his character amongst his juniors or suitable to his years.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Do you know that General Budd remonstrated more than once with Dr. Beetson on the impropriety of his singing his song; if so, state all you know on the subject?

*Answer.* I do not know of General Budd remonstrating more than once, but General Budd came up to me in this room on one occasion and told me that he had spoken to Dr. Beetson

about singing this song ; that Dr. Beetson had promised him he would not, and that the first time he met him out he found him singing it, adding, " is it not pitiable " or words to that effect ; this was I think the last time I heard him sing it some time in December.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* You attach ridicule to my appearing in character ; have you not seen other Gentlemen at the station at evening parties enter the room disguised or in masked characters ?

*Answer.* Yes, but I consider there is a great difference between such, one was amusing and comic and appeared generally approved of without exciting the least ridicule, whereas the other being acted by an Officer at the head of a learned profession and with grey hairs was pitiable.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* At the time you heard Dr. Beetson sing this song at Colonel McCally's house, what position was Colonel McCally holding at the Station.

*Answer.* I cannot say exactly, he was either Commanding the Regiment or the Station.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Can you state at whose particular request Dr. Beetson dressed himself up and sing his song ?

*Answer.* No, I cannot.

*Question.* Did you not hear that I appeared in character at the request of others.

*Answer.* I cannot say.

*Question by Dr Beetson.* Might not my dressing in character be got up equally with the view of amusing Society and an equal desire to be comic as other parties dressing in character on other occasions ?

*Answer.* I cannot say what Dr. Beetson's motives were ; they may have been to promote amusement.

*Question by the Court.* At the party you have spoken of, were other songs sung, comic or otherwise ?

*Answer.* There were songs sung ; I do not recollect any comic songs ; it was a musical party.

*Witness retires.*

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5th May, 1858.

Captain J. White, Deputy Judge Advocate General, Southern Division, called as a witness by Dr. McPherson.

*Question by Dr. McPherson thro' the Court.* How long have you known Dr. Beetson and are you intimate with him ?

*Answer.* I first met Dr. Beetson about 7 years ago when I came to this station nearly 6 years ago, he was a Superintending

Surgeon. Till within the last year I hardly ever met Dr. Beetson except at inspections when I was on duty or at Regimental Mess dinners. I may have met him at the General's but certainly no where else, we were on bowing terms only then. Within the last year Dr. Beetson has entirely altered his former habits, came out the same as other people into Society, entertained himself and I believe accepted all invitations. I am on friendly terms within him but certainly not intimate.

*Question by Dr McPherson.* Since Dr. Beetson has taken to singing his song, have you ever heard him spoken of as old Tooraloo.

*Answer.* Frequently behind his back, not to his face.

*Question.* Have you seen Dr. Beetson patted on the back by any officer to encourage him to sing and have you done this yourself?

*Answer.* I certainly have never done it myself, and I do not think I have seen any officer pat him on the back. I was under the impression that I had seen an officer, not in an impertinent manner put his hand on his shoulder, but the officer may have been unaware of what he was doing at the time or I may have been mistaken as the officer denies ever having done so to the best of his recollection.

*Question.* Do you remember this matter being spoken of before you a few days since, if so, did you take part in the conversation and to what effect?

*Answer.* I consider I have already answered that question.

*Question.* Do you know of your own knowledge, or are you cognizant that a rumour is prevalent that Dr. Beetson has lived in concubinage with one or more women, and if so at what period?

*Answer.* When first I arrived here it was generally reported tho' I do not know that any one could have possibly spoken to the fact, that Dr. Beetson kept some women, the number mentioned was unrestricted; there was another report that he kept two sisters, this may have been equally true or false, I know nothing of it personally and till yesterday when I spoke confidentially to Dr. Beetson I knew nothing whatever of his private affairs.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Have you yourself seen or have you heard that one or more women kept by Dr. Beetson have been driving out in his carriage, and when about the latest period?

*Answer.* About five years ago, I several times met Dr. Beetson's carriage on the public roads, I knew it to be his from the particular colour of his horses in it. I have seen two women and a child and a man like a Maty boy and sometimes one

woman and a child and a man ; considering the reports that were about at that time, from the free and easy manner in which these people used his carriage, I took it for granted that these women were his Mistresses. On thinking the matter over since and recollecting their dress, &c., &c., from what I have heard since I believe that they were Native servants in charge of a child. This was suddenly stopped, whether by any one's order or not I cannot say. I have heard lately that Dr. Beetson wrote from the Hills and stopped it. I have never seen or heard of it since.

~~~~~  
6th May 1858. Captain J. White.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* Were you present at a party at Colonel McCally's on the occasion of my singing a song in character ; state all the circumstances connected therewith ?

*Answer.* Colonel McCally I think at that time was Acting Brigadier of Trichinopoly. A short time before this Ball took place he called on me and he told me from what I understood that Dr. Beetson and himself formerly had been old friends and that Mrs. McCally and himself were endeavouring to persuade Dr. Beetson to give up his habits of seclusion. He asked me if Dr. Beetson had ever called on me. I said, no, and that I thought it rather strange as I had met him formerly in Society at Paulghant and dined with him, but that I believed he called on no one. Colonel McCally then told me that Dr. Beetson had intended calling on every body in the Cantonment, and that he hoped that the Society would meet him half way and return his visits ; that he, Colonel McCally, intended to give two evening parties specially to introduce Dr. Beetson without restraint to the whole of the families in the Station. I was at both these parties. On the first occasion I had heard that Dr. Beetson had been persuaded by the hostess to sing a song in character, during the evening I know he was pressed to do so by her and also Colonel McCally. He went out of the room and returned dressed as a woman. I myself at the time thought it a bad joke to play on a man of his years, but as the people who chiefly persuaded him were his old friends and at the same time holding the highest position in the Station, I considered it no business of mine to make any remark, and considering this was the first time Dr. Beetson had entered into Ladies' Society for many years, I made allowances for him which I could not have done for any other person of his years. This was not voluntary on his part, he simply yielded to the pressing request of the host, hostess, and others, and I believe fully that he was under the impression that they at least would not have asked him



to do any thing that was not consistent with the rules of good Society or derogatory to his own position. I did not hear him sing this song. On his coming out of the room I recollect joking him about the business so that he might see the absurdity of it and not do it again. At the next party I believe he was pressed in the same way, he certainly did not dress up in character and I believe he did not sing the song.

*Question by Dr. Beetson.* From what you know of Colonel McCally, do you think he would ask a guest to do that which would bring down ridicule upon him?

*Answer.* I do not think he would have done so intentionally, or if he had given it a moment's thought.

*Question.* Have you ever seen any one take liberties with me?

*Answer.* No, but there has been a good deal of joking in the place regarding his singing that song, but I have not heard his character or conduct convassed for some years.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* Was not the character in which Dr. Beetson intended to appear at Colonel McCally's the common talk of the Cantonment for some time before he did make his appearance there?

*Answer.* It may have been, I never heard Dr. Beetson singing a song or being about to sing a song until some time during the evening.

*Question by Dr. McPherson.* In your evidence of yesterday you referred to an Officer having put his hands on Dr. Beetson's shoulder, was that Officer's young or old man, and what was the probable difference of age between them?

*Answer.* I have stated that that Officer has not the slightest recollection of what I fancied took place, I have also stated that in the way it was done, there was no impropriety in it. On referring to the Army List I find this officer has been 8 years in the service and Dr. Beetson rather more than 34.

Dr. McPherson, first witness on 3rd May, requests to add to his reply to the second question put to him by Dr. Beetson as follows:

"The allusion in my demi-official letter, dated 4th February 1858, to the Director General Medical Department, regarding the women of the Garrison; as viewed by Dr. Beetson in his rejoinder or written statement referred to at page XXXI marked P and appended to the Proceedings has been misinterpreted by him. The implication which it was my purpose to convey by the remarks was to give the Director General some idea of Dr. Beetson's present lavish expenditure as compared with his former recluse mode of life, and the mode in which the debris of his feasts were disposed of.

The point being one of importance in reference to the observation regarding his mental capacity for his continuance in his position of principal Medical Officer referred to in the same document.

Subsequent inquiry now convinces me that I placed too much credence to these reports.

I would here take occasion to refer further that previous to my official visit to this station I had never seen or had any communication with Dr. Beetson, and cannot possibly have had any ill will towards that officer, which he appears to suppose. My inquiries were restricted to the parties already mentioned."

A demi-official note from the Collector of Trichinopoly to the Deputy Judge Advocate General is produced, read to the Court, and entered as follows :—

CAMP JAHUNCONDA SHOLAPOORUM, May 4th, 1858.

MY DEAR WHITE,—I duly received your two private notes citing me as evidence before a Court of Inquiry, the first some days ago, the second last night.

Being engaged on the important duty of the Annual Revenue Settlement of the District, it is impossible for me to come into Trichinopoly only to return out again. I am now 63 miles away and even if I resolved to move, I cannot by reason of this incessant rain and inclement weather. My tents are in a state of soak and cannot be struck. I have a set left at my last stage unable to be moved for the same reason. Should the weather clear I hope to reach Trichinopoly by the 12th or 14th, where if I must appear before the Court I suppose I must. But I know nothing of Dr. Beetson's social or moral habits. I have *heard* but know nothing. I never was inside his house in my life and our acquaintance is very slight, we bow when we meet and occasionally shake hands but not always.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) J. BIRD.

To Captain WHITE,  
Deputy Judge Advocate General,  
Trichinopoly.

~~~~~  
8th May, 1858.

*Question by Dr. McPherson to Brigadier Wahab.* Is it consistent with knowledge that a letter has been addressed to General Budd by Dr. Beetson requesting instructions as to how he should act on the occasion of the Inspector General's visit to the Southern Division ?

*Answer.* I cannot speak exactly to the time; I believe it was an official letter which Dr. Beetson wrote to the General from the Neilgherry Hills I think, in which he asked him as to how he was to carry on business with the Inspector General, as he Dr. Beetson happens to be senior to him.

Dr. Macpherson here begs to state, that in reply to a communication from himself to Mr. Bird, Mr. Bird expresses his inability to attend in the Court before a late period, and in this note he also states that he can only speak to what he told him has been current reports, not to his own personal knowledge of any very material fact relative to the enquiry under investigation, and I take this opportunity of submitting to the Court copy of my official letter to the Director General on which I expected ulterior measures if necessary would have been based.

The Court is closed.

The Court is open.

Letter dated 17th April 1858, from the Inspector General of Hospitals to the Director General Medical Department read. Dr. McPherson here wishes to hand in a paper containing something about the evidence and comments on the proceedings.

The Court is closed.

The Court is open.

Dr. Beetson begs to hand in a paper. Read.

TO BRIGADIER WAHAB AND OFFICERS OF THE COURT.

GENTLEMEN,

When I made my previous statement, I was under the impression that as far as the Inquiry went the Proceedings were closed. Some further remark is now called for since the Inspector General has thought it necessary to dak here from Madras and renew the investigation. I can hardly say of my conduct (as the evidence on the Proceedings will show) but apparently with a view of clearing his own. In doing so to what pitiable shifts has he not been driven? and I confidently state, and it must be the opinion of every one who reads these Proceedings, that, if his conduct, as far as these charges are concerned, required clearing before, the means he has availed himself of to obtain that end has had quite a contrary effect!!

To proceed however to comment upon the Witnesses and their evidence.

The first witness called in by the Inspector General is a young boy who was actually miles away from the place when the event to which he speaks occurred. There was only one question put by the Inspector General, to which he was qualified to give an opinion, viz., as to the number of times I sang a song. I have been

told, not that I chose to avail myself of the information at the time, that this young officer when first called upon by Dr. MacPherson, stated that he had heard me sing it, a dozen times, immediately on being taken up he fell back upon six, and had he not been speedily booked it is not impossible he might have reduced it to three !!! if not less !

My conduct has been styled pitiable ! What is this ?

I now proceed to the only other person on whose evidence I shall comment.

Captain Nicholas was called into Court previously by the Judge Advocate, he was fully aware that the Court was assembled by order of the Commander-in-Chief, and if he could have answered any of these questions put to him then, it was his duty as an officer, so long as he did not implicate himself, to have done so in a straightforward manner ! Did he do so ?

This moral Officer Captain Nicholas, who delights in the pleasures of the table, but has a pious antipathy to Balls, is again called into Court, and under the gentle pressure of the Inspector General's persuasive and imaginative power, the nut is cracked, and the tongue that was before tied is now loosened ! However, to the point. I had been guilty of the liberty of asking him and his wife to a Ball, at the same time that I asked the remainder of the Society ; with very few exceptions, all accepted, and most of them attended. As I was a stranger to nearly all the Ladies in the place, one of my oldest friends gave a party to introduce me to the Society ; it appears that Captain Nicholas, by his own statement, had heard prior to this party, that I had been persuaded, and had promised to sing a song in character ! If he thought my doing so was *pitiable* or even derogatory to my position, why did he not point it out to Col. McCally ? he was on quite intimate terms enough with him to do this. No ; he knows he is going to behold a pitiable sight, but yet has the moral courage to go himself, in spite of the disgust he knows he shall experience !!! It sickens me to comment on such cant.

In his evidence he has stated with reference to the state of life I lived in, that he knew nothing on the subject, and yet in answer to a question from the Inspector General by way of excusing himself from even meeting me in Society, he says that at the time he was asked to Col. McCally's party, he was previously told that I had cleared my house of all improper characters, and intended leading a moral life. How can he reconcile these replies ?

The Inspector General comes up from Madras, gives out that he has been sent by Government, but without shewing his authority ! Having done his utmost to blast my character, I need only mention one phrase, that "I had no redeeming point"—he hears

that I am likely to come out of this ordeal with flying colours, and that all the odium must fall on his own shoulders, and what follows? On his arrival here, I have reason to know, that the whole of the papers connected with this Court's Proceedings, were put into his hands; from them he must have seen that all his assertions had been refuted. Why then did he not in a straightforward honorable way, acknowledge that he had made these charges without due enquiry, and express his regret at having placed me in the position he has? but on the contrary, I have sat here from day to day, my feelings needlessly outraged by the questions put at hap-hazard by the Inspector General to Members of the Court, and certainly not with the view of proving his groundless assertions against me, but to vindicate himself at any price! and to do this to what has he condescended? What is his next move? A lady repeats to him "that one of the Members had stated to her husband that, if he knew Dr. Beetson had kept two sisters or females, he would not have called upon him." I appeal to you, was it manly in him to take advantage of such information? had it anything to do with the object for which the Court had been assembled? but no! he has no scruples—instead of asking the question in the way it was told him he puts it in this manner, "Did you not, in conversation lately state that if you had known Dr. Beetson lived in *concubinage*? at the same time shewing a note from the Lady, in confidence, to the President, in support of the question? Was this honest? the meaneast detective would scarcely have availed himself of such means!

Gentlemen, my language may be considered strong and severe, I admit it is so—but is it not justifiable? I appeal to you as Officers. Is it right that an old servant of the Government, or I may say the entirely false reports in every instance save one, which is highly exaggerated, should be treated in the way I have been? consider the strong terms made use of in the Inspector General's Report and that I have been removed from my appointment in consequence of that report!—It may be said that official grounds were the cause of my removal,—but it is apparent from all the circumstances of the case and borne out by the Inspector General's official letter to the Director General, the Director General's letter to the Adjutant General in which my conduct is termed unworthy and acted upon in the Adjutant General's letter No. 171 to the Officer Commanding the Division, that this report has been the main cause of the severe measure, that has been carried out against me. It is not probable that Government would have visited an old officer who has but one short year to serve for his full pension with summary removal

x "of the Human form divine" on "La  
 bon L'ange de merie" is the  
 Deverence, the Wife of Cup to  
 Deverence of the 2nd Member.  
 L. L. 11.

from Office, upon the sole plea of alleged incapacity. When all these facts are considered, there can be but one opinion, viz. that every expression I have made use of is *fully* justifiable.

Imbecility and puerility, on my part having formed subject of investigation before the Court, I may be permitted to read the following Extract of a letter from a Medical Officer who has been for a long period under my supervision in this Division voluntarily written on seeing my removal in the Gazette.

## EXTRACT.

“ I was very sorry indeed to see in the Gazette that you were removed from your appointment. It came like a thunderclap on me. It is not for me to inquire why you have been so dealt with, but all I can say is, we shall never have a better Superintending Surgeon, nor one who gave more satisfaction to all the Medical Officers in the Division. However I trust this cloud may soon blow over and the horizon be bright and clear again.”

I may further be permitted to call attention to Dr. David's evidence, an Officer who entered the Service at a late period of life after having practised in London for some years. These opinions, and I could doubtless obtain many more, will shew in a strong light that every Medical Officer is not of the same mind as “ those of our profession who bitterly expressed the feeling of humiliation they experience when brought into official contact” with me to the Inspector General.

In conclusion, I would wish to make but one more observation.

A communication has been made to me, at the instance of the Inspector General, strongly advising me, to apply that these Proceedings may be quashed, on the plea that by so doing my name would be saved from the stigma that would be attached to it by their being placed on record, and to prevent the probability of a recommendation to remove my name from the List of Medical Officers being forwarded to the Court of Directors. Gentlemen, It is too late, even for a compromise! the subject of these Proceedings is well known throughout the Madras Presidency. I have been summarily dealt with, letters from various friends, for *I have* friends, have been received, fully approving of my conduct throughout, and were I to acquiesce in this proposal what would be the result? I need scarcely say. I should be making a tacit acknowledgment of the truth of all that has been brought to bear against me and I should be looked upon as timidly withdrawing from the results of an Inquiry which I have myself courted and of which I have no fear.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

TRICHINOPOLY, 8th May, 1858.

(True Copies.) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

To explain any apparent informality the Court here beg to record at page 21 that when they received a letter from Dr. Beetson marked P. they were fully under the impression that no further evidence would have been adduced.

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RECEIVED AT TRICHINOPOLY, 21st June, 1858.

Extract from a letter No 1121, dated 17th June 1858, from the Adjutant General of the Army, to the Officer Commanding Southern Division.

“ In acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of Court of Inquiry forwarded with your letter as Dated 10th May, 1858. per margin, I have the honor by order of the Commander-in-Chief to inform you for communication to Surgeon Beetson, that these Proceedings exonerate that Gentleman from the imputations against his moral character.

(Signed) W. G. Woods, Lieut. Col.  
Adjutant General of the Army.

(A True Extract.) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

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No. 171.

To the Officer Commanding Southern Division.

SIR,—I have the honor, by order of Lieutenant General Sir Patrick Grant, to request you will be so good as to send for Mr. Superintending Surgeon Beetson and inform him that His Excellency has had from more than one quarter, communicated to him officially reports of that Officer's proceedings both professionally and in private life, which will compel the Commander in Chief strongly to recommend to Government to remove him from his present appointment of Superintending Surgeon, unless he chooses to adopt the alternative His Excellency now offers him of tendering his resignation.

I have the honor to be, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. G. WOODS, Lieut. Col.

Adjutant General's Office, }  
 Head Quarters Bangalore, }  
 23rd February, 1858. }

Adjutant Genl. of the Army.

(A True Copy)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon, S. D.

Southern Division, Adjutant General's Letters dated 23d February, 1858. Received from the Major General Commanding Southern Division on the 9th March 1858, replied to on the 10th March 1858, to Major General Budd.

To the Major General Commanding Southern Division.

SIR,—Having taken into consideration the communications of the Adjutant General of the Army to your address, received from you this day, I have the honor to state that I feel that it is compulsory on me to accept the alternative of resigning my appointment, to being summarily removed from it, but before taking this step, respectfully submit to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, through you, my most earnest request to be made aware of the circumstances that have brought this severe measure upon me, so hurtful to my character both private and public, and I hope I may be allowed the opportunity of making such explanations as will refute any charges that have been made against me, the nature of which I am utterly at a loss to conjecture.

I have the honor to be, &amp;c.

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) G. BEETSON, Suptg. Surgn. S. D.

Trichinopoly, 10th March, 1858.

(A true Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

TEEROVIAR, 13th March, 1858.

From the Superintending Surgeon Southern Division.

To Major General R. Budd, Commanding Southern Division, Trichinopoly.

SIR,—Adverting to our conversation we had had together, relative to the circumstances as related in the Adjutant General's Letter No. 171, dated Head Quarters Bangalore, the 23rd Ultimo, and my reply thereto, to your address, dated the 10th Instant, having since my departure from Trichinopoly, very seriously and most maturely considered all the circumstances attending the case of, to me, the most painful position in which I am placed under the circumstances, the nature of which you are aware of, that I



am *now* induced to hope, that you will kindly oblige me under the circumstances, by complying with the request herein earnestly made, by representing the circumstances of my case, and forwarding this my communication for the favourable consideration of His E. the Commander-in-Chief; that as I am compelled to adopt one of the two alternatives as stated to your address in my communication dated the 10th Instant. I *still* wish to adopt the alternative as stated in my communication under notice therein, *viz.* that before taking the step therein alluded to, I would most respectfully solicit, thro' you, that I may be made aware of the circumstances that have brought this severe measure upon me, so hurtful to my character both public and private.

2. Allow me to observe that I have been and now am nearly 34 years in the service of the Honorable East India Company, and that I have had Medical charge of about or nearly, as Executive Medical Officer, one half of the Infantry Regiments on the Madras Establishment both on field service and in garrison, and it affords me no ordinary consolation and happiness in knowing and submitting for the information of H. E. the Commander-in-Chief that I have records from Regimental Orders as well as from Officers Commanding and others individually wherein the most honorable mention is made of me, as well as of my exertions when in Medical charge of different corps; and in conclusion I cannot help stating, that my case is one of peculiar hardship and cruelty, that I consider, that I am most perfectly justified in stating, that my personal feelings have been most considerably hurt as well as most painfully wounded.

I have &c.,

(Signed) G BEETSON, Suptg. Surgeon, S. D.

Teeroovayar, 13th March, 1853.

P. S. May I request you will have the goodness to forward on this communication on its receipt to Army Head Quarters for information and consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(True Copy) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

No. 380.

To the Officer Commanding Southern Division.

SIR,—I have the honor by order of the Commander-in-Chief in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 15th Instant No. 48, to refer you to the letter from this Department No. 287 of the 16th idem on the subject of Superintending Surgeon Beetson's proceedings.

I am directed to observe that the present production of Mr. Beetson's affords ample proof were any wanting of his utter unfitness for the arduous and responsible position he now holds.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) W. G. WOODS, Lieut. Col.

Adjutant General of the Army.

Adjutant Genl's Office, }  
Head Qrs. Ootacamund. }  
24th March, 1858.

(True Copy,)

(Signed) H. RIGG, Captn.

Ag. D. A. A. Genl. S. D.

To Superintending Surgeon G. BEETSON, Southern Division.  
For information.

(A true Copy.) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

To the Adjutant General of the Army, Ootacamund.

SIR,—Adverting to the 2nd para, of your letter No 330, dated 24th March 1858, to the address of the Officer Commanding the Southern Division, I have the honor to submit the following explanation which I trust His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will consider quite satisfactory.

At the time my letter to General Budd dated Terooveyar, 13th March last was written, I was suffering much from severe indisposition and intense mental anxiety, and as I was quite unable to write myself I employed a Native Volunteer to write from dictation. I regret exceedingly to add that it was despatched without my perusing it, or I should never have forwarded a letter so full of errors, and evidently not the composition of an Englishman.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

Trichinopoly, 2nd June, 1858.

(True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon-

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No. 193.

To Superintending Surgeon G. Beetson, Southern Division, Trichinopoly.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of 7th Instant to address of the Adjutant General of the Army, I have the honour by order of the Major General Commanding the Division, to inform you that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has granted your request for a Court of Inquiry to be assembled at Trichinopoly to investigate the alleged misconduct on your part.

A copy of the Division Order directing the Court's assembly is enclosed for your information.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) H. RIGG, Capt.

D. A. A. General's Office, }  
Camp Neilgherries, }  
11th April, 1858. }

Actg. D. A. A. Genl. S. D.

(True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

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Extract from D. O. by Major General R. BUDD, Commanding Southern Division, Head Quarters Camp Neilgherries, 11th April, 1858.

No. 160.

Agreeably to orders received from the Adjutant General of the Army a Court of Inquiry will assemble at Trichinopoly under the orders of the Brigadier Commanding that Station to investigate a subject which will be laid before it by the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Division.

President, Brigadier C. Wabab, Commanding Trichinopoly.

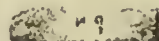
The two Senior Officers of the Garrison to be appointed Members.

Captain J. White, Deputy Judge Advocate General Southern Division, will conduct the Proceedings, and is directed to proceed to Trichinopoly for that purpose forthwith.

The Court to be assembled on the arrival of the Deputy Judge Advocate General.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. RIGG, Capt., Acting D. A. A. General S. D.



Head Quarters, Southern Division.

To Brigadier Charles Wahab, Commanding Trichinopoly.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that I have directed Mr. Superintending Surgeon Beetson to return to Trichinopoly forthwith and report himself to you.

You will have the goodness to act for me in carrying out His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's orders as conveyed to me in the enclosed Letter from the Adjutant General of the Army, dated 16th instant, No. 287, and report the result to me for his information, returning the papers.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedt. and humble Servant.

(Signed) R. BUDD, Major General, Comg. S. D.  
Camp at Coimbatore, 22d March, 1858.

(True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

No. 287.

To the Officer Commanding Southern Division.

SIR,—I have the honor, by order of the Commander in Chief, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th Instant, No. 47, forwarding copy of letter from Superintending Surgeon Beetson requesting most earnestly to be made aware of the circumstances which have brought upon him His Excellency's displeasure before accepting the alternative of resigning his appointment to his being summarily removed therefrom.

I am directed to request you will be good enough to again require Mr. Beetson to wait upon you and then to let him know that as he has not unconditionally resigned, His Excellency makes known to him the circumstances with regard to his conduct public and private, which have been officially brought to my notice.

You are then requested to read to Mr. Beetson the accompanying copy of letter from the Director General and its enclosure from the Inspector General, and if you do not object, your own private note to Dr. Magrath, also enclosed.

Having done so, you will inform Mr. Beetson that if he does not within 24 hours from that time tender his resignation not only of his appointment but retirement from the Service through the Director General, of the transmission of which a Report is to be sent to me for the Commander in Chief's information, Lieutenant General Sir P. Grant will publicly deal with his case as His Excellency's judgment may dictate to him.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) W. G. WOODS, Lieut. Col.

Adjutant General's Office, }  
Head Quarters Ootacamund, }  
16th March, 1858. }

Adjutant General of the Army.

(True Copy.)

Trichinopoly, 30th April, 1858.

(Signed) G. WHITE, Captain,  
Dpty. Judge A. General.

(True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

No. 222.

To the Adjutant General of the Army.

SIR,—I have the honor to lay before His Excellency the Commander in Chief the accompanying Extract from a letter from Dr. McPherson, In-

pector General of Hospitals, and to say that every word which that Officer mentions regarding the Superintending Surgeon Southern Division is only confirmatory of what I had often heard and have known of him.

2. It was the exceedingly unsatisfactory nature of all documents and reports which reached the late Medical Board Office, and mine subsequently which induced me to depute the Inspector General of Hospitals to proceed in the first instance to Trichinopoly. The Superintending Surgeon's reports of Jails and Civil Hospitals dated 1st January 1857 only reached the Head Office on the 23d December 1857 and 19th January 1858 respectively, his returns are always in arrears and all his reports one characterised by imbecility.

3. The late Medical Board, upwards of 2 years ago, before I had a seat at it, passed a minute condemnatory of the puerility of Mr. Beetson's productions of which His Excellency is aware, things have become worse since, and now that I have the power of acting on my own responsibility, I hesitate not, earnestly, to urge on His Excellency the Commander in Chief, the propriety of removing this Officer from the high post he most unworthily occupies, and from the Medical Service the stain of having one in such a position of control and supervision, who is utterly incompetent, and whose conduct and character are so unbecoming and unprofessional.

4. His Excellency the Commander in Chief has now the opportunity of justifying the new arrangements of the Medical Department and of shewing to the service, that imbecility and unworthy conduct tho' they may just avoid the letter of the law, will not be tolerated in the Department.

I have, &c.

Office of Director General, } (Signed) A. N. MAGRATH, Director Genl. M. D.  
Fort St. George, }  
13th February, 1858. } (A True Copy.)

Trichinopoly, 30th April, 1858. (Signed) J. WHITE, Capt., D. J. A. Genl.

(True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

Trichinopoly, 4th February, 1858.

MY DEAR DR. MAGRATH.—I have just completed a hurried inspection of the several Medical Establishments at this place, and leave D. V. to morrow for Calicut, Cochin, Quilon, Palamecottah, Madura, Tranquebar, Combaconum, and hope to return to this place about the middle of the next month. Dr. Beetson has left the hills and is now en route to Salem, from thence on to Tanjore, where I am in hopes of meeting him.

Most of the Hospitals here are all that the best of us can desire to find. But that is due to the care and zeal of the executive Officer in charge, the Superintending Surgeon's own Office is a tangled mass of confusion, except the letter Book, there is no other record in his office kept up as it ought to be, and if Jeremiah Moscs, his writer, should by chance take cholera and pass away, I defy any man to get at any document. Since the date of his appointment, Beetson appears to have permitted papers to accumulate without any regard to arrangement. True the documents are there, but no attempt has been made to classify them or to keep up the records as directed in orders. His Writer is only now preparing the monthly returns for May last, and there are other papers in arrears. The Superintending Surgeon performs the work of his Office by Contract. He gives Jeremiah 30 Rupees over the stipulated sum allowed,

to keep up the books, procure stationery, &c. &c. The Writer complains that he is unable to do the work alone from the extent to which it has reached.

Dr. Beetson is the butt of Trichinopoly. He is held in no respect. He is quite the laughing stock of every one in the place, from the Judge to the lowest Subordinate. He lives or did until very lately I am told in open concubinage with two sisters, who sometimes make their appearance at the Band and public places; of late he has been giving large dinner parties and Balls, and instead of, as formerly being quite a recluse, he now goes out every where. He has thrown his house open to all the young fellows and sits up drinking with them till dawn of day. He has taken to singing a nonsensical song which he repeats over and over again, sometimes a dozen times in one night. The young lads pat him on the back and make quite a fool of him, and to such an extent has his nonsensical conduct gone, that the General was obliged lately to take him to task. Thus as you may believe the tone of our department which an Officer in his position should do his utmost to elevate, is at this station lowered and a pernicious example is set by him to all under him. The mode in which he conducts his public duties is puerile in the extreme, he neither looks into, nor does he trouble himself with professional qualifications. The state of the mortars and pestles—the broken spatulas,—the old cumbles, the measuring and weighing out the drugs in the Dispensary, &c. forms the extent of his enquiries at his inspections and in carrying out these, he in the most childish way occupies the time of the Medical man in a very foolish and unnecessary manner. From all I hear I suspect the old man is quite in his dotage. It makes me quite angry to listen to remarks made of him in public Society. He has of late become so fascinated with this song, that he has had it set to music, gets the Cavalry Band to play it and presents copies to the Ladies of the station. As I have already told you, he gives large dinners repeatedly, and on these occasions the European women of the Garrison are at the back door to take away with them what they can. I could occupy sheets with the absurd proceedings of this man—which have become a public scandal to our profession. He does not appear to me to have one redeeming point. You know better than I do, the style in which he conducts his official correspondence with Head Quarters, and I have seen sufficient here to mark his utter incapacity in his communications with others: altogether he is a disgrace to us, and he tends to bring our profession to low repute.

If you think proper, you are at liberty to make this communication a demi-official one and act on it accordingly.

I shall be rejoiced to learn that any proceedings which you may be pleased to adopt on this communication, may be the means of sparing me the pain of placing before you in an official form the discreditable conduct of this old officer.

Believe me very faithfully yours,

(Signed) D. McPHERSON.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) J. WHITE, D. J. A Genl.

Trichinopoly, 30th April, 1858.

(True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

Trichinopoly, 11th February, 1858.

MY DEAR MAGRATH,—I have just received your demi-official of the day before yesterday about Dr. Beetson. I cannot speak to all Dr. McPherson

has written to you; he has made it his business to inquire and I have both seen and heard enough to enable me to say that I observed with sincere regret that he really did not uphold the respect due to his position. I heard of his croaking a snatch of a song ten times over at a Mess party and sitting up till 5 o'clock in the morning, not that he drinks or cares for liquor at all: on the contrary I believe he is an abstemious man. I have heard of other foolish things, quite unbecoming to a man of his years. He is a kind well meaning man and upon mature reflection I deemed it my duty, though a very distasteful one, to give him a hint to drop his singing and keep rational hours. I told him plainly that the youngsters were laughing at him and he promised to give up his singing. He conducts all details satisfactorily, and appears to be wide awake in Circulars and Medical Regulations. I know nothing of his amours. I had heard that he had broken up his establishment whatever that might have consisted of, I doubt about the women going to the band, but however that may be, I will venture to say it is not with his knowledge; of course, if the Brigadier or myself were cognizant of any such outrage it would be at once noticed. If Dr. Beetson has any friends, I think they would do him a great kindness in advising him to withdraw from public life.

Believe me yours very sincerely,

(Signed) R. BUDD,

N. B. I gave the substance of the above in my Annual Confidential Report.

(True copies.)

(Signed) W. G. WOODS, Lt. Col.

Adjutant General of the Army.

(A true copy.)

(Sd.) J. WHITE, Capt. D. J. A. Genl. S. D.

Trichinopoly, 30th April, 1853.

(A true Copy.) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

To the Adjutant General of the Army.

SIR,—With reference to your letter No. 287, dated 16th Ultimo, to the address of the Major General Commanding the Division, with its accompaniment, which have been duly communicated to me by Brigadier Wahab, I have the honor, after mature consideration, most respectfully to decline retiring from the service, until I have completed a service of 35 years, and to submit that in the first instance, I have been called upon to resign my appointment without being permitted to know what the charges against me may be, and in the 2nd instance, although, I have been furnished with the charges, I have, at the same time been ordered not only to resign my appointment but to retire from the service without being permitted to offer any explanation or to vindicate myself against charges, which I protest, are in some instances perfectly false, in others highly exaggerated; and as I feel I can conscientiously acquit myself of any disgraceful conduct,

I most respectfully solicit that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be pleased to order a most full and particular investigation to be made into my character, both private and public, by a Court of Inquiry at this place, until which time, I trust, I may be permitted to retain my appointment of Superintending Surgeon Southern Division.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. BEETSON,

Superintending Surgeon S. D.

Trichinopoly, 7th April, 1853.

(A True copy.) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

7th April, 1858.

To Brigadier C. Wahab, Commanding Trichinopoly.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward the accompanying letter of this day's date to the address of the Adjutant General of the Army and request that you will do me the favour of submitting the same, thro' the prescribed channel, to Army Head Quarters for the purpose of being laid before His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

I have the honor to be, &amp;c.

(Signed) G. BEETSON, S. S. S. D.

Trichinopoly, 7th April, 1858.

(A True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

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 No. 628.

To the Deputy Judge Advocate General, Southern Division.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of date 13th instant, I have the honor to forward Extracts from the Official Report of the Inspector General of Hospitals, in reference to the conduct of Mr. Beetson as a Gentleman. Demi-official remarks of his on the same subject which accompanied my letter to the Adjutant General of the 23rd February last are doubtless, as well as that letter itself, in your possession; these statements by the Inspector General of Hospitals were confirmed in a demi-official letter to my address by the General Officer of the Division, and forwarded by me to the Adjutant General at the same time.

I have no further information to afford.

With regard to Mr. Beetson's fitness for the position of Superintending Surgeon, as that is a Professional question, I conclude it does not of course become a subject of Inquiry to your Court.

I have the honor to be, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. N. MAGRATH, D. Genl. Medl. Dept.

 Office of Dr. Genl. Medl. }  
 Dept., Fort. St. George, }  
 21st April, 1858.

(True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

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 Extract from a Letter from the Inspector General of Hospitals, dated 17th April, 1858.

10. I cannot conclude this report without adverting to one point more, it is one of peculiar delicacy. But I feel that I should fail in my duty if I passed it in silence. Government, as a general rule does not concern itself much with the private morality of its officers and servants, so long as the public service does not suffer. But I humbly conceive that the time has arrived when it is no longer to be tolerated that an officer at the head of a department at the Head Quarters of a Division of the Army should live in open concubinage in the centre of a Cantonment, in the midst of officers' families; and this Mr. Beetson until recently has done to the discredit of his position and his profession.

11. None, so far as I can learn, respect him, and I am sure the Director General will sympathize with those of our profession, who bitterly expressed to me the feeling of humiliation they experience when brought into official contact with him, and observe him made the butt of thoughtless young Officers with whom he sits up at night, singing convivial songs. Advancing years, long service in a tropical climate, and the infirmities they

carry in their train, may with truth be pleaded by Mr. Beetson, but these of themselves are good and sufficient reasons for retirement.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. N. MAGRATH, Director Genl. Medical Dept.

(True Copies.)

(Sd.) J. WHITE, Captn. D. J. A. Genl. S. D.

Trichinopoly, 3rd May, 1858.

(A True Copy.) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

Extract from G. O. G. 27th April 1858, published in the Fort Saint George Gazette, page 742.

Surgeon George Beetson is removed from his appointment as Superintending Surgeon.

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel, Secretary to Government.

(True Extract.) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE GEORGE FRANCIS ROBERT  
LORD HARRIS, GOVERNOR AND PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL,  
FORT ST. GEORGE.

THE HUMBLE MEMORIAL OF  
GEORGE BEETSON, SURGEON  
MADRAS MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,

\* Letter from the Adjtt. Genl. of the Army to the Officer Commanding Southern Division. No. 171, dated 23rd February, 1858.

and private mode of life having reached His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

\* Letters from Suptg. Surgeon G. Beetson to the Major General Commanding the Division, dated respectively the 10th and 13th March 1858.

† Letter from the Adjtt. Genl. of the Army to the Officer Commanding the Division, No. 287, dated 16th March 1858.

ordered to resign his appointment, but also to retire† from the service.

3. Your Memorialist at once denounced these reports to be false and exaggerated and solicited‡ that the whole of his character both public and private might be investigated by a Court of Inquiry,

pending the result of which he begged further steps might be postponed.

That your Memorialist was called upon, on the 23rd February 1858, to resign his appointment of Superintending Surgeon in consequence of certain reports against his public and private mode of life having reached His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2. Your Memorialist previous to taking this step respectfully requested\* to be made acquainted with the nature of these reports: in reply to which he was furnished with copies of certain letters and without being given the opportunity of making any explanation, was not only ordered to resign his appointment, but also to retire† from the service.



4. But though your Memorialist's application for an Inquiry was granted, ¶ the matter of his official conduct was not to form the subject of investigation, and while the Inquiry into his private character was still going on, your Memorialist found himself summarily removed ¶ from his appointment.

¶ Letter from the Actg. Depy. Asst. Adjt. Genl. S D. to Puptg. Surgeon G. Beelson, No. 193, dated 11th April 1858.

¶ G. O. G. 27th April 1858, Fort St. George Gazette, page 742.

He therefore presumes that some faith was\* placed in his denial of the truth of the assertions as far as regarded his private character, which he has every reason to believe has been fully cleared by the evidence before the Court of In-

\* Since confirmed by letter from the Adjutant General of the Army, No. 1121, dated 17th June 1858 attached marked E.

quiry, which lately sat at this station, and that his removal has been on official grounds alone.

5. Your Memorialist would respectfully observe that the evidence\* of Dr. Davids on the late Court of Inquiry coupled with the Extract of Dr. Marrett's † letter dated 4th April 1858, given in the

\* Copy attached markrd A in the Appendix.

† Copy attached marked B.

Proceedings of that Court, speak in his favor as to his professional capacity, and he can with confidence appeal to other Medical Officers, who have been under his supervision to speak to the same points: copies of whose letters, marked C. and D. in the Appendix are herewith submitted.

6. These facts, your Memorialist respectfully submits, go far to show that the Inspector General of Hospitals confined himself to enquiries from one or two Medicial Officers only, who may have had their own reasons for speaking in his disfavor.

7. Your Memorialist begs to point out that had the Inspector General made enquiries of his Head Writer, he would have ascertained that a cause existed for the "utter confusion" in which he found your Memorialist's Office: the rooms having been under extensive repairs all the documents were temporarily placed wherever it was convenient, but the Inspector General made no enquiries on this head.

8. It appears to your Memorialist that the chief official cause brought against him by the Director General is an Annual Medical

\* 1st April 1854.

Report of your Memorialist's dated 2 years\* back, and for which your Memorialist had already been censured by the late Medical Board, and the Director General states matters have been worse since, but your Memorialist respectfully submits that until the present instance he has had no intimation whatever of the displeasure of the

late Board at the inefficient and unsatisfactory nature of his reports and returns, nor has any of these been returned for correction.

In conclusion, your Memorialist earnestly prays, that your Lordship in Council will take his case into your favorable consideration and order a searching investigation into the alleged acts of your Memorialist's official incapacity which have been the cause of his disgrace after an honorable career of 34 years, and he trusts that should your Lordship be satisfied that these statements have been exaggerated, your Memorialist may be restored to the office of Superintending Surgeon Southern Division.

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

(Signed) GEORGE BEETSON, Surgeon.

Trichinopoly, 12th June 1858.

(A True Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

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## APPENDIX.

*Copies of Letters, &c. from Executive Medical Officers who have served under Dr. Beetson's Supervision.*

A. Copy of Dr. Davids's evidence before the Court of Inquiry.

*Question.* You have, I believe, known Dr. Beetson for some years.

*Answer.* About six years, and I have been lately on intimate terms with him.

*Question.* In what estimation do you think he is held by the Society in general.

*Answer.* Judging from what I have myself seen and heard, I consider he is generally held in high estimation.

*Question.* Do you think he is generally respected by the Subordinates in his department?

*Answer.* Undoubtedly.

*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*

*Question.* Do you think this change in his habits was caused by imbecility?

*Answer.* No, I do not.

*	*	*
*	*	*

*Question.* Do you consider that his general behaviour, public and private, has been such as to bring discredit on your profession?

*Answer.* Certainly not.

*Question.* Do you consider that of late he has become puerile and childish in his habits ?

*Answer.* No, I have not perceived it.

*Question.* You say you have known Dr. Beetson for some years ; during this time you must have met him frequently, professionally, and at inspections, &c. On these occasions did his mind appear impaired and did he overlook the essentials and take up your time with trifles in an unnecessary manner ?

*Answer.* Certainly not in my opinion. He is very strict which I consider perfectly necessary for the protection of Government property and for ascertaining the state of the practical working of the Hospital.

*B.* Copy of Dr. Marrett's note, dated Salem, 4th May 1858.

MY DEAR BEETSON,

I was very sorry indeed to see in the Gazette that you were removed from your appointment. It came like a thunderclap on me. It is not for me to inquire why you have been so dealt with, but all I can say is we shall never have a better Superintending Surgeon, nor one who gave more satisfaction to all the Medical Officers in the Division : however, I trust this cloud may soon blow over, and the horizon be bright and clear again.

\* \* \*

*C.* From Assistant Surgeon Renton, 21st Regt. N. I., dated Ootacamund, 20th May, 1858.

\* \* \*

MY DEAR DR. BEETSON,—“ In official matters you have been always most particular with me as far as reports and returns are concerned, and in private life you have been always a most kind friend to me.”

*D.* From Dr. Joseph, Zillah Surgeon, Combaconum, dated 26th May 1853.

MY DEAR DOCTOR.—It was with extreme regret that I learnt of your removal, and in looking back on the years that I have served with you, I cannot but feel that in you I have lost from the Division one to whom I have ever looked up with sincere regard, both as a superior and a friend, as well as one who in a professional point of view was capable of judging and ever ready to appreciate the exertions of those under you.

The length and nature of our friendship will I trust stand in lieu of any assurances that I could make of the unaltered state of my feelings towards you, and with best wishes for your success and the fullest realization of your hopes.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

*D.* From Dr. Clementson, Zillah Surgeon Tinnevelly, dated Palamcottah, the 10th June, 1858.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,—With reference to your letter of the 15th Ultimo I beg to state, as far as one holding lately a subordinate position may be permitted to do so, that officially you have always been careful to see that both I and my subordinates conducted our duties efficiently, and according to the Rules of the Service and in the matter of periodical Returns any incorrections were immediately brought to our notice.

As a private friend you have always conducted yourself towards me with the greatest kindness and urbanity.

Believe me, very sincerely,

(Signed) J. C. CLEMENTSON.

Trichinopoly, Received 13th June, 1858.

*E.* Extract from a letter, No. 1121, dated 17th June, 1858, from the Adjutant General of the Army, to the Officer Commanding Southern Division.

“In acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of Court of Inquiry, forwarded with your letter as per margin, I have the honor, by order of the Commander-in-Chief to inform you, for communication to Surgeon Beetson, that these Proceedings exonerate that Gentleman from the imputations against his moral character.”

(Signed) W. G. WOODS, Lieut. Col.

Adj. Genl. of the Army.

(True Copies.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

Extract from Regimental Orders by Lieut. Colonel Howard Dowker, Commanding the 32d N. I.

“To Surgeon Beetson my warmest thanks are also particularly due for his very zealous, kind, and attentive performance of his professional duties to the Regiment.”

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) DAVID BLAIR, Lieut.

Adj. 32d Regt. N. I.

Extract from Regimental Orders by Major J. Woodward, Commanding the 32d Regiment N. I., dated Kamptee, 30th January 1850.

The Commanding Officer cannot allow Surgeon Beetson to quit the Regiment without expressing his entire approbation of the zeal and attention he has ever evinced to his Medical duties since he has been with the Regiment, and he begs him to accept his sincere good wishes for his health and prosperity in whatever station he may be located.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. N. H. MACLEAN, Lieut.  
Adjut. 32d Regt. N. I.

I do hereby certify that I have at all times found Surgeon Beetson of the 32d Regt. N. I. to be most zealous and attentive in all his Hospital duties, especially when Cholera or any Epidemic disease may be prevailing in the Regiment; his attention to sick Officers, of which I can speak from personal experience, and to which every Officer in the Regiment who has been afflicted with sickness can testify, is most praiseworthy.

(Signed) JAMES WOODWARD, Major,  
Kamptee, 5th March 1847. Commanding 32d Regt. N. I.

9th Regiment N. I.

\* Extract from Regimental Orders, dated Kamptee, Friday 6th August 1847, R. M. O. By Lieut. Col. Laurie.

“Surgeon Brice having joined, will receive over Medical charge of the Regiment from Surgeon Beetson from this date, agreeably to D. A. O. No. 1 of the 4th Instant.”

“The short period that Surgeon Beetson has had charge of the Regiment, has, owing to circumstances, been sufficient to enable the Commanding Officer to estimate his professional worth, and Lieut. Colonel Laurie cannot allow him to be relieved from the Medical charge without recording in Regimental Orders the high sense he entertains of his skill and unremitting attention to his patients.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) THOS. HAINES, Lieut.  
Kamptee, 7th Aug. 1847. Adjutant 9th Regt. N. I.

(True Copies.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

(\* These papers were found or discovered after the Court has closed its proceedings, consequently were not sent with the Proceedings or Memorial, &c.—G. B.)

Trichinopoly, 20th October, 1858.

† MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to return herewith my best thanks the papers which you have so kindly sent for my perusal. What a strange informal unprecedented proceeding it appears to have been from first to last, and what must the Inspector General's feelings be, not very enviable I should say! rather he than I.

Believe me, yours very truly,

(Signed) R. G. CLARKE,

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

Trichinopoly, 30th October, 1858.

† MY DEAR DR. BEETSON,—I have read your defences, and certainly think you have been very ill used. Injustice *does* sometimes triumph in the world, but right turns up somehow at last. I hope it may be so in your case.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) M. J. WALHOUSE, Ag. Colr. Trichinopoly.

(A true Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

(† Were received subsequent to my dispatch of these Proceedings to the C. in C. and the Memorial to Government.—G. B.)

No. 2933.

M. D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 17th Aug. 1858.

Read letter from the Adjutant General of the Army, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 20th July 1858, No. 1446, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

\* \* \* \*

The Governor in Council concurring in opinion with the Commander-in-Chief and Director General as to Surgeon Beetson's professional incapacity for the office of a Superintending Surgeon, declines complying with the prayer of the above Memorial.

(True Extract and Copy.)

(Signed) W. H. WAPSHARE, Major,

Ag. Dy. Secy. to Government.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) F. S. GABB, Major,

Dy. Adj. Genl. of the Army.

To Surgeon Beetson.

For information.

(A true Copy.)

G. BEETSON, Surgeon.

Received at Trichinopoly, }  
the 4th Sept. 1858. }

