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THE KARACHI MURDER

A Pathetic Little Letter

FROM THE MURDERED WOMAN'S DAUGHTER

We have received a farther communication from Mr. W. E. Grigo at Port Hedland, relative to Mrs. Dost Mahomet, who was murdered at Karachi (India) in August last, allegedly by relatives of her deceased husband. The writer gives further details of what is being done to bring the unfortunate children of the murdered woman back to Australia. In his preface he says I would like to thank you once more for so strenuously backing up the cause of these poor children, and you can imagine how I and all the other members of our unfortunate family would have rejoiced could your paper have been the means of paving them from disaster as you so successfully did in the case of the immigrant girl. As you say, very often it is the person who lends the guiding or helping hand who gets the most severely criticised and maligned."

The writer is referring to our article of January 15, in which the cases of Elizabeth Wolseley and Mrs. Dost Mahomet were both dealt with.

The terror inspired by the power of these Asiatics in their own country is evidenced by the next item in the letter. The writer says:

"Since writing last the Bombay Government has evidently thought fit to request my presence in Bombay in connection with the murder of my poor sister. Well, I must say I'll have to keep myself well-armed, as there are some hundreds of Indians around there who would be only too glad to give me a helping hand over the border. So I must be very careful if I ever intend to come back. I want to assure you that, in case I have to go via Singapore, I won't fail to remember to mention over there to the Indian authorities the active interest you have all bestowed on us in our most horrible affliction."

Our correspondent encloses a letter from the murdered woman's eldest child, Lillian Dost, aged 10, and Mr. Grigo adds-"Even an outsider, and a fairly callous one at that, would be somewhat moved by the pathetic little appeal."

With one or two slight corrections of orthography, the letter is as follows:-

Karachi, Dec. 13, 1910.

My Dear Uncle Otto,

We received your kind letter yesterday, and, oh, how glad we were! Dear uncle, you want to know how our darling mother was killed, don't you? It will be too long to say everything that happened in this letter, so I will just tell you a little about it.

In short, on the 23rd of August we went to a place called Muliah, where there are no proper houses to live in. So we had to stay in the first house we could get, and after a few days the wretches killed our dear mother. They came at about 10 o'clock at night, broke the bathroom windows open, and taking the knives off the table stabbed our dear mother. Oh, dear uncle, it was really pitiful to see her bleeding on the floor. Quite dead in the morning, she was removed to the Karachi Hospital, and after some time she was buried in the evening.

Our case in Court is not settled yet, but we hope it will be soon.

Dear Grannie, send for us soon. We are very lonely here, and want to come home to you all.

If you haven't enough money the matron says she will give us more money to pay our tickets.

Give them all my love, and reply back quickly and let me know at once.

Your loving,

LILL.

Haju sends her love, dear uncle, and wishes you all a happy Christmas. Kisses from the little ones and myself and Haju.

Truly, a most pathetic epistle from the unfortunate little orphan! Mr. Grigo concludes his letter as follows:

"I can only hope the Government will see fit to bring these poor unfortunates back to their native country as soon as possible after the trial, and settle them in a good institution in Perth, or some such safe place, where they could be weaned from all the degrading influences of Mohammedanism,

Of course, this only applies to the elder boy, and I am sure he would be only too glad to get as far from the murderers of his mother as possible."

In view of the above correspondence, and the evident desire of Mr. Grigo that his deceased sister's children shall be brought back to Western Australia, we submitted the matter to Mr. Frank Wilson, the Premier, with the view of finding out what action was being taken by the Government. We are authorised to state to Mr. Frank Wilson, the Premier, was in communication with, the Prime Minister, who was asked by Mr. Wilson to cable to the Indian Government to send the children to Fremantle, to be care of the Government of Western Australia. The Collector or District Magistrate at Karachi was also advised by the State Government to the same effect.

The Indian Government was further authorised to advance any funds necessary for their maintenance and journey, for which the Government of Western Australia would be responsible. Mr. Wilson was then advised that the children might be required to be detained pending the trial of the alleged murderer or murderers of their mother.

Since then the Premier has been communicated with, asking if Mr. William Grigo, the brother of Mrs. Dost Mahomet, would proceed to Karachi in order to give evidence, and he has agreed to do so for the purpose stated, provided his expenses are paid, and the State Government is now awaiting word from the Indian authorities as to whether he is to proceed. In any event, as soon as the trial is over, the children will be shipped to Fremantle, to the care of the Western Australian Government, when they will be taken in hand and properly looked after. Any expense incurred will, of course, be a charge against the estate of the deceased woman, of which, we understand. Mr. Grigo is the executor.