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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE SALEM NATIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 8-30 a.m. on the
24th July 1896, in the London Mission Hall.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Salem Native Christian community, beg to offer to Your Excellency our unanimous and most sincere welcome on this the occasion of your first visit to our town and district. We would also avail ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded us to express our sentiments of deep loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and our increasing sense of gratitude for the many blessings enjoyed by us and our country under her wise and beneficent rule. We would further take the opportunity to express our sincere desire that peace and progress may be increasingly manifest among all sections of the community throughout the whole of the vast presidency entrusted to Your Excellency's care. The attention of Your Excellency has, on a similar occasion, been invited to the proud position occupied by the Native Christian community in Southern India in the matter of male and female education. It is our most earnest desire that the dignity of that position may be upheld and increased throughout the town and district in which our lot has been cast. And in

this we are greatly encouraged by the thought that we have Your Excellency's sympathy and approval. At this point we feel that it is incumbent upon us, on a public occasion like this, to give expression to the great debt of gratitude that we owe to the noble body of European Missionaries whose deep sympathy, labour of love and parental care have contributed, in no small degree, to raise us to the position we at the present time occupy in Indian society. We would humbly beg to request Your Excellency that stricter orders may be given to heads of offices in their several departments to the effect that greater respect shall be shown by them towards the religious scruples of their Christian subordinates in regard to their abstinence from unnecessary work on the Sabbath day, such work being contrary to the wish of Her Majesty's Government, and also to that of many of our honoured and respected Collectors, and yet is constantly being pressed upon Christians by the non-Christian heads of their departments. We would further venture to draw the attention of Your Excellency to the fact that though one out of every twelve graduates of the Madras University is a Christian, yet our community is, we venture to think, very inadequately represented, especially in the higher forms of the Government service. The subject has already been brought before Your Excellency by our brethren in Madras, and we would record our grateful thanks for the kind reception and gracious words accorded to them in which you expressed your desire and intention

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that all sections of the Indian community should, according to their qualifications, be adequately represented in the higher branches of Government service. In conclusion, we beg to express our most hearty welcome of Your Excellency to our town, and earnestly pray that to Lady Havelock and Your Excellency the great Father of us all may graciously vouchsafe abundant health and every other needful blessing. On behalf of the Native Christian community of Salem town and district, we beg to subscribe ourselves, &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE SALEM NATIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,—I beg you to accept my warm thanks for the reception which you have joined with the other inhabitants of Salem in giving to me this morning. It is with pleasure that I receive on this occasion the repetition of your loyal sentiments towards our Most Gracious Sovereign. It is right and fitting that you should have such sentiments, and I am glad of every opportunity of hearing them expressed. I sympathise warmly with your desire that peace and progress may continue to advance in this district in common with all other parts of this great country. I well recollect the attention which your brothers in Madras called to me, when I received a deputation from them, with regard to the position you occupy in the matter of education in the Madras Presidency. I join with you in the pride which you feel in the superior position that

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you hold both with regard to male and female education. It is with satisfaction that I have heard the expression of your gratitude to those representatives of the various Christian Missions who laboured with so much success all over India, and especially in Southern India. As a Christian I feel with you a just pride in the success of their efforts in this country. You call my attention to a want of observance of the Sabbath day in certain quarters. I have made enquiry of the Collector on this subject, and he tells me that a Government Order to that effect exists. I will make it my business to enquire into the exact terms of this Government Order and also to ascertain whether its commands are properly carried out. You again call my attention to what you consider a want of due representation of the Christian community among the higher offices of Government. I did not forget the promise that I made to your brothers in Madras when they addressed me on the same subject. In considering matters of patronage which have come to my notice during the past three or four months, I have not forgotten to keep that point in view. I cannot say I have been able to discover that patronage has been otherwise given than according to the proper rule, and that is according to the highest standard of merit. But I may promise you that I will keep this point continually before me. I thank you in conclusion for your good wishes on behalf of myself and Lady Havelock, and I beg you to believe that they are most warmly reciprocated on our part.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN AND DISTRICT OF SALEM,

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on the 24th July 1896, in the Town Hall.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the people of the town and district of Salem, beg to tender to Your Excellency our most hearty welcome on this your first visit to our ancient town. We are grateful to observe that this tour has been undertaken by Your Excellency at considerable personal inconvenience, coming as it does while the proverbial heat of Salem is still more than trying, thus evincing the great interest which Your Excellency takes in the welfare of the people of this vast presidency. We venture to state that such visits by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress's representative in Southern India, not only enlarge his opportunities for studying the wants and grievances of the people, but they also tend to strengthen their affection and loyalty. This, the first tour of Your Excellency into the interior is, we feel, especially opportune at this time. We are afraid that, owing to the partial failure of the monsoon, crops will prove very disappointing, and should dire distress, as in previous years, overtake those toiling masses which, in the most favourable seasons, can but gain at the best a scanty and precarious livelihood, we doubt not that Your Excellency will take time by the forelock and by a liberal working of the Famine Code save those who would thus be in

danger from being swept off by starvation and the terrible diseases following in its train. Salem is, as Your Excellency has had occasion to notice, 4 miles distant from the railway station, and we have long been asking that the railway should be brought into the town itself. The Madras Railway, originally constructed with strategic purposes chiefly in view, might well be diverted so as to include the large and prosperous village of Kannengurichi lying at the foot of the Shevaroy Hills and from thence to Salem; or Salem might be connected with the Madras Railway at Sooramangalam by a branch line as is the case at Palghat. Another alternative would be to run a line *via* Salem from Sooramangalam to Porto Novo. That which most affects the economic condition of the people of this district, and is most sorely felt by them, is the very unsatisfactory system of administration in the Forest, Salt and Abkari departments. We would beg leave to enumerate those defects which we believe to be most generally felt: (a) The great powers allowed to the subordinates in the lower ranks of these departments, such tending to make administration in the highest degree oppressive and thus unpopular; making it easy for them, with hardly any exception, to levy systematic blackmail upon the hard-working ryots and to bolster up false charges against those who may be bold enough to resist their habitual extortion; (b) we venture to submit that it is not desirable to allow powers of search and arrest in any case without a warrant from a magistrate, nor

to grant rewards to detective officers. Fears that offenders may abscond, or traces of the offences disappear if the summary discretionary powers are withheld from these petty officers and warrants required in every case are mostly imaginary, and in any case the evils arising from the present system are such as lead us to humbly submit that the immense advantage to be gained by its discontinuance would far outweigh any real or imaginary evils, securing to the poor ryot greater personal security and freedom from grossly unjust extortions. The laws giving such powers of search and arrest are only enabling, and thus the Government may by rule give the relief for which we pray; (c) we would also beg to call Your Excellency's attention to the subject of presumptions in prosecutions for offences under the special Acts relating to these departments. They are a departure from the general criminal laws of the land. We allude to the provisions of section 56 of the Madras Forest Act of 1882 and section 64 of the Abkari Act of 1886. These in effect mean that persons accused of offences under these Acts are guilty until the contrary is shown. These provisions make frivolous and vexatious prosecutions frequent and successful, and are a fruitful cause of exaction on the part of the petty subordinates in these departments. In our humble opinion it is in the highest degree desirable that these provisions should be repealed and such prosecutions conducted under the ordinary criminal law of the land; (d) the power of impounding cattle for

trespass also enables these men to extort money from the ryots and others. We would respectfully suggest that this power be taken away from them and that the owners of the cattle be prosecuted instead. We are moreover of opinion that the exercise of both these forms of punishment for one offence is uncalled for; (e) we regret to observe that goats are on no condition allowed in this district to be pastured in forests. This is a very great hardship. If this rule be not excluded, the goats will soon disappear, leading to much loss and in some cases ruin; (f) The system of reserving and classifying trees in unreserved forests works great hardship in practice. The lists are complicated and include numerous trees, so much so that we doubt much whether the most industrious of the Forest officers themselves can remember them. The ryots naturally enough are unable to distinguish trees that are not so included from those that are, and in consequence unintentionally commit forest offences. We would respectfully suggest that the system be abolished altogether; (g) the extent of the reserved forests in this district has far exceeded the limits prescribed by the Board and Government. We are afraid that still more lands will be classed as reserved forests. Lands have been constituted reserved forests with little or no regard to the needs and wants of the villagers in the neighbourhood. The hardships to which the people of this district are subjected for want of easy access to fuel and fodder preserves can only be adequately appreciated by a

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special enquiry; (h) we are humbly of opinion that the forest administration is altogether unpopular and oppressive, and that it is worked on lines opposed in our opinion to the kind and just policy enunciated by the Government of India in its resolution of October 1894, and we pray that the Madras Government will reconsider its decision in the matter of giving effect to the policy laid down by the Government of India in the abovementioned resolution. The way in which the income tax is assessed demands the earnest attention of the Government. Much heart-burning and injustice are caused by one very great defect in the working of the enactment. The assessments are very often made upon the basis furnished by secret informants in preference to the information furnished by the family concerned. We would respectfully suggest that the verified statement of the responsible persons should be accepted as final in preference to those of irresponsible men given in so unsatisfactory a manner. If these latter are worth having, they must be subjected to the tests of evidence, which is not done in practice. We cannot think of any other way of meeting out justice. In this country most solemn transactions have been, time out of mind, oral, and account-keeping is in its infancy generally; the absence of scientific accounts should not be made the basis of fanciful assessments at the caprice of the assessing officers supported by secret information. Turning to municipal matters, we are sure that the address presented to Your Excellency by

our Municipal Corporation will dwell on the two great wants of the town, viz., the introduction of a good water-supply and an adequate drainage scheme. As regards the Municipal Bill now before the Madras Legislative Council, we are sorry to observe that on the whole it is no improvement on the existing Act, while in some instances it evinces a retrograde policy. We would content ourselves with alluding to three very important features of the Bill:—(a) The rate-payers in municipalities are still denied the right of a voice in the raising and administering of their own cesses within their own municipalities and for their own welfare. It is small consolation for us to find that Government allows some municipalities to elect some of their councillors. With the greatest respect we must say that we fail to discover on what principle the franchise is bestowed or withdrawn, or the extent determined. We are decidedly of opinion that the right of electing a definite number of councillors being not less than three-fourths—the proportion recommended by the Madras Government about thirteen years ago—should be given to the rate-payers by the statute itself. We can see no reason why the benefit of a fundamental principle of taxation should be any longer withheld in so special and local a matter. Closely connected with this is the right of appointing the chairman of a municipality by its own councillors, subject of course to the veto of Government; (b) the grounds set forth in the Bill as sufficient for warranting the dismissal

of municipal councillors are, in our humble opinion, uncalled for and calculated to deter those men from seeking to serve on the Board whom it is most desirable to secure both in the interests of Government and of the people. We would respectfully suggest that the law in the mofussil in this respect be the same as for the city of Madras. We see no reason why such a distinction should exist between the laws of the two places; (c) having due regard to the general poverty of the country and the average earnings of the Indian, we altogether deprecate any increase in the existing rates of municipal taxation. If the Bill, as it is, be passed into law, it is by no means calculated to conduce to the popularity of municipal administration, nor to invite to its service the best men available. We are afraid that unless the Bill is amended in these particulars on the lines of our humble suggestion above, the Government will be disappointed if it looks forward for much progress in Local Self-Government in Southern India. In the meanwhile, we would urge upon Your Excellency's Government the desirability of allowing the full proportion, namely, three-fourths of the councillors of the Salem municipality to be elected by the rate-payers. In placing this prayer before Your Excellency, we would point out that, in point of population, Salem is the third in the mofussil; that with the exception of Madura it has the largest number of registered voters among the rate-payers; and that, above all, if we take into consideration the proportion of those that go to the

poll and vote, it ranks the first. We are also humbly of opinion that the two other municipalities of this district, namely, Vániyambúdi and Tiruppattúr, might with advantage be given the privilege of electing their own councillors and chairmen. As it is, but one officer, namely the Head Assistant Collector, is the *ex-officio* Chairman of both. It would be unreasonable to expect his municipal administration to be as efficient as it would be if they had each its own chairman answerable to the Council as well. On a former occasion we brought for the consideration of the Government the fact that, in order to facilitate the administration of criminal justice and raise the tone of it, jurors and assessors should be paid travelling allowance and batta at a uniform rate, and that separate accommodation should be provided for their comfort in the precincts of courts. We would humbly reiterate our prayer. We think that it is very necessary that the Government should impress on all presidents of district boards and the chairmen of all the larger municipalities that their professional subordinates should be invariably recruited by the appointment of passed men, who are increasing year by year. We are alarmed to see the increase year by year of liquor shops, and that in quarters where one would least expect them. The presence of such shops amidst densely-populated places and the rowdyism of their customers are most demoralising and annoying. The rules relating to the licensing of liquor shops need careful revision. The provisions

relating to the preservation of caste amidst the jail population are meagre and inadequate. Caste lost in this way by no means makes philosophers of convicts, but demoralises them, and the jails instead of being reformatories turn them out worse men than when they were received. In the case of Burmese, European and Eurasian prisoners, they are given their national food. This is as it should be. But no reason could be shown why this principle should be disregarded in the case of Indian prisoners. It is but too well known that raggi is no more the food of the higher orders of the Indians than it is of the Burmese, Europeans or Eurasians. We are glad to understand that the Government contemplates revising the tenancy laws of this Presidency. A greater boon cannot be conferred on the tenants. Their present position is by no means very enviable. The amelioration of their condition is closely connected with the solution of the problem of the agricultural indebtedness in Southern India. We look forward to the early introduction of more certain and liberal laws governing the relations between the landlord and the tenant in this Presidency. In conclusion, we would once again assure Your Excellency of our most sincere welcome. We earnestly trust that your term of office may be characterised by a deepening and abiding peace and prosperity among all sections of the people entrusted to your charge. May the years spent in our midst be among the brightest of your life. And may it be your proud honour to know

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that throughout the whole of the Presidency, high and low, rich and poor, remembering your unfailing sympathy and deep interest with all that made for their happiness and progress, gratefully bestowed upon you the high title of the people's Governor. Sincerely trusting that to Lady Havelock and yourself may be given abundant health and every other blessing.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

PEOPLE OF THE TOWN AND DISTRICT OF SALEM,—I thank you with all my heart for the welcome you have given me—a welcome which not only expressed itself in words, but has manifested itself by outward and visible demonstrations which have appealed to my sense of what is picturesque and beautiful and which have touched me deeply. I agree much with the remarks that you have made with regard to the advantage of personal visits from the Governor of the Presidency. I am glad to be among you; I am glad to meet you face to face and to hear from the lips of your spokesman your wishes and your grievances. From your point of view the visit of the Governor gives you an opportunity which you have not failed to seize of showing honour and respect to Her Majesty our Gracious Queen-Empress through her representative, and it has also enabled you to place your wants and grievances in such a manner as to ensure a more sympathetic hearing than if they had been addressed to the Governor in his office among the clouds at

Ootacamund. (Hear, hear.) Before I proceed to address myself to answering the various points in the address which has just been presented to me, I wish to express the hope that you will not be disappointed if I deal with most of these points in rather a general manner. You must make allowance for the necessity for men in my position to use extreme caution in answering matters of this kind and also the necessity of avoiding the danger of raising hopes which it may be found impossible to gratify. I regret to hear the remarks you have made with regard to the partial failure of the monsoon. I have learned from the Collector, however, that except in one taluk in the district the rainfall, though deficient in comparison with the usual quantity of the rain which falls in this season of the year, has been well distributed and there is no real cause for alarm. If, by the want of a further fall of rain, the disaster which you point out as being possible should occur, I feel sure that the Government will know how to use its responsibilities and to apply the relief which the law enables it to do. You next mention the need of a railway connection between Salem and the railway. I must say I was naturally struck with the distance that intervenes between the arrival platform of the railway station and Salem town when I arrived here last evening. As you are aware, this matter has frequently engaged the attention of the Government, but hitherto it has been impossible to do anything definite to remedy this defect. But there are schemes on foot

which may possibly have the effect desired; but I cannot, at the present moment, give you any assurance of these schemes being carried out. They are still somewhat in the clouds and depend upon the other contingencies connected with railway extensions in Southern India.

FOREST, SALT AND ABKARI.

The next paragraph of your address consists of a severe indictment on the Forest, Salt and Abkari departments, more especially on the Forest department. I am quite aware that the work of the Forest department must be irksome and vexatious at times to the ryots of this country. If I put myself in the place of the ryot, I feel that I should very much dislike the constant interference with one's daily actions of life and with one's constant wants that the Forest department, I know, entails. But you know—I need not tell you—that the Forest department has been devised for the good of the people, and people must put up with some of the drawbacks in order that their good should be consulted. They must accept the existence of the Forest department as a dose of medicine which is calculated to do them good. At the same time, it is my strong conviction, and it shall be my firm intention to see that forest administration is carried out without any of the serious abuses to which you have alluded. I know that it requires the greatest possible degree of supervision on the part of those who are responsible for its proper carrying out. I

shall not fail to impress on all the Collectors and those concerned in the administration of the department the necessity of the closest supervision and the most severe investigation of anything that may appear in the form of an abuse. You speak in the next place of systematic blackmail and habitual extortion. These, under the present circumstances, can only be avoided by the process of close supervision and severe punishment in case of detection to which I have already alluded.

POWERS OF SEARCH AND ARREST.

You deprecate that these powers should be so freely given. I think that you are mistaken in your belief that the power of search is exercised. I believe it has not been formally conferred upon any officer of the Forest department. In the matter of summary arrests, I agree with you that, unless strong cause is shown, it is very strong power to be used. There again I believe it is, for the administration of the department, necessary that there should be some such power. But I should again repeat that it requires the greatest possible watching and cautious supervision.

REWARDS FOR DETECTION OF OFFENCES.

I am told that these rewards are very carefully given and in very few cases; mostly in case of thefts of sandalwood.

PRESUMPTION AGAINST ACCUSED PERSONS.

I quite feel with you in your objection to the existence of this form of procedure; but I am told

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that for the protection of the revenue it is absolutely necessary.

IMPOUNDING CATTLE AND UNNECESSARY
PROSECUTION OF OWNERS.

I am told with regard to this that the prosecution of owners is necessary when the impounding of cattle would not sufficiently put a check to the trespassing of cattle in reserved forests.

EXCLUSION OF GOATS FROM FORESTS.

Here again I have no doubt a great hardship is felt. But I intend, while I am here, to confer with the Collector and the officer in charge of the forests in this district and see if anything can be done to modify the existing arrangement.

RESERVING AND CLASSIFYING TREES IN
UNRESERVED FORESTS.

I am told that a new list of these trees is about to be published, which, it is hoped, will be less confusing and more easy of comprehension by the people.

AREA OF RESERVED FORESTS IN SALEM IS
EXCESSIVE.

I am informed that the Board of Revenue has called for a report on the recent extensions of the land which has been reserved in this manner, and possibly there may be some outcome of relief from the inquiry which will follow thereupon.

THE FOREST ADMINISTRATION OPPOSED TO POLICY
ENUNCIATED IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RESOLUTION OF OCTOBER 1895.

I have before me the policy of this Government announced in an order of Government issued in 1890, which I believe in substance is the same policy as referred to by you in your address as having been enunciated in the Government of India resolution of October 1894. I wish to say that it is the intention of the Government that the policy here announced should be strictly followed. If it is not followed, it will be the duty of Government to call to account those who have committed a shortcoming in this respect. The policy of the Government to which I allude is set forth in the following words:—

“It is, however, most necessary to correct the idea which prevails somewhat widely that, as soon as a forest is reserved, cattle and men are to be excluded, and that it is to be worked for the profit of the Government rather than for the benefit of the people. It cannot be too strongly affirmed that the chief object of the reserved forests throughout the greater part of the country is provision of pasture, small timber, fuel and leaves for manure or litter. They are to be worked in order to meet the wants of the villagers in these respects and are not to be converted into close preserves for the growth of large timber.”

That is a liberal policy and a policy which I am sure will commend itself to yourselves. As I have already stated, it is the duty of all Collectors and Forest officers to loyally carry out the policy which is described in the Government Order from which I have just quoted.

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INCOME TAX.

You make remarks deprecatory of the system in which the income tax is assessed. I quite agree with you that there is much in the method in which income tax is collected, which appeals to one's feeling of dislike to inquisitorial enquiry. I should myself dislike many of the methods which, I believe, are employed here; but to have recourse to the procedure which you advocate will, I am sure, cause very heavy loss to the Government. Therefore, disagreeable as it is, I am afraid I can give you very little hope of relief in this matter.

THE SALEM WATER-SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE.

I shall presently have to reply to an address by the municipal council, and I will then say what I have to remark on this subject.

MUNICIPAL BILL.

In your address you next make remarks with regard to the Municipal Bill. There are some points in the remark which is made, which I will reserve for my reply to the municipal council. But with regard to the others, the dismissal of councillors especially, I wish to say that the observations that you have made have created a considerable impression on my mind. It is of course the desire of the Government to secure for the municipal councils the very best members of the community and to introduce in the Municipal Council's Bill any measure which is likely to defeat that object is, I consider—and very properly so—a mistake.

I will therefore, with regard to that particular point, say that I will bring it to the consideration of my honourable colleagues before the Bill comes on for consideration at our next meeting of the Legislative Council. You next appeal for no increase of local taxation; but I cannot see how you can expect to supply yourselves with improved water-supply and with drainage unless you have increased means. I think it is admitted on all hands that your present means are barely sufficient for all the objects to which they are already devoted. Therefore if you want more in the way of water-supply and drainage you must expect to pay for it. You next ask that the number of members belonging to the Salem Municipal Council may be increased. I will answer the point in the course of my reply to the address of the municipal council. In the next place you have asked on the part of Tiruppattūr and Vániyambádi that they should be allowed to elect their councillors and chairman. I am informed that there are reasons existing which have made it necessary to deprive for the time those two municipal councils of the privileges which you allude to. I would remark that if these councils desire the grant of the privileges described, it is only natural that they themselves should appeal to the Government in their own interest.

JURORS.

You next appeal to the grant of allowances for jurors and assessors and accommodation for them in courts. I am informed that the question of

paying Government allowances and batta to jurors and assessors has been more than once ventilated. The reply, it is believed, has been given that there is no valid ground for paying the expenditure, and that the attendance as jurors or assessors is a duty which every citizen who is not physically or legally incapacitated must render gratuitously to the State. As regards accommodation in courts, it is not known that the question has ever come up, and we believe that there were no separate jurors' and assessors' room in any but the High Court at Madras. As this seems to be the first time upon which this particular point has been raised, I will cause enquiry to be made respecting it.

MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT BOARD SERVANTS.

It is next desired by your address that the district boards and municipalities be required to employ only passed men. I have made enquiry upon this point, and I am told that the question has already been considered and that it has been decided that it is not advisable to press local boards and municipal councils to take passed men alone. It is thought that local or municipal employ is not so much sought after as the address would seem to imply that it is. It carries with it no pension; the pay is not much, and there is no prospect of anything big in the future.

LIQUOR SHOPS.

You next comment on the increase in number of liquor shops, and you expatiate on the evils and

inconveniences arising therefrom. I have caused a return to be furnished to me showing the number of shops for the sale of liquors and intoxicating drugs in the Salem district from the year 1889 to the present year; and I find that in the present year the number of licensed shops for arrack and toddy is considerably less than it was five or six years ago. There have been one or two years, I think, in the course of the period in which the number of licenses issued was a little smaller than in the present year; but the difference has not been great; on the whole, it appears to me that the number of licenses issued is far from showing a tendency to increase, but rather a tendency to decrease, considering the strength of the population of the district; it appears that 489 arrack shops and 960 licenses for toddy issued in 1895-96 is not in itself a number surprisingly large.

CASTE IN JAILS.

You next comment on the insufficiency of the means taken for the preservation of caste in jail. I believe that this matter was brought to the notice of my predecessor when he was amongst you some years ago; and it appears that an enquiry was made into the matter when you were assured that the jail regulations made all the provisions for this purpose that could be expected to be made without great inconvenience. As I have full sympathy with your wishes as regards this question, I shall have it raised again. You then ask that rice diet for

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convicts of higher castes may be given. With regard to this point I have made enquiry, and I am told that a few years ago it was found that the dietary scale in force in the Presidency was a very expensive one, and a revision was then made when rice was excluded from the articles of diet. Upon this point I would remark that the persons of higher castes should take care to keep out of jail (laughter): that if they do lower themselves by getting into jail, they must be prepared to accept jail rules.

TENANCY LAWS.

You next express satisfaction in the prospect there is of a revision of Tenancy Laws. I join with you in the satisfaction that you feel on this point. I know that preparation of law for this purpose is now going on. I hope it may be sufficiently advanced to enable the Government to introduce the Bill at our next session of the Legislative Council.

CONCLUSION.

I now come to the last paragraph of your address in which you express in feeling and eloquent terms your good wishes for me and my time of government in this great country. I most earnestly hope that these wishes may be fulfilled. Even if only a portion of them is fulfilled, I should consider myself happy. I beg you to believe that I do feel sympathy for you, that I do mourn with you when you are in misfortune, and rejoice with you in

prosperity. I have sympathy with the people among whom I live. If I had not, I should not be fit for the place for which I have been chosen. I thank you once more for your splendid welcome and for the grand reception which you have given me in Salem. I beg to reciprocate with all my heart the good wishes which you have expressed for my welfare and prosperity during the rest of my life. (Loud applause.)

ADDRESS FROM THE SALEM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on the 24th July 1896, in the Town Hall.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, members of the Salem Municipal Council, beg to offer Your Excellency the heartiest of welcomes to Salem. With all deference, at the same time, we venture to bring to Your Excellency's notice our most clamant need, namely, the need of good drinking water, pure in quality and sufficient in quantity. Four years since, the inhabitants of Salem had to endure all the horrors of a water famine, and at the present time there are signs that another period of scarcity may happen in the near future. It is, we believe, in Your Excellency's power to avert this impending evil by giving immediate effect to one of the schemes which are before Your Excellency's Government: one is the project of Gabriel Stokes, Esquire, which is designed to collect the water now

wasted over a hundred square miles of catchment area; the other is the Namamalai scheme; this scheme, if carried out, will give an abundant supply of pure and wholesome water. Closely allied to the necessity for a water-supply is the need of an efficient drainage scheme. We would humbly point out to Your Excellency that twenty-five years ago Salem had an evil reputation and was spoken of as 'the mother of cholera.' By keen watchfulness on the part of the medical officers, this reproach has been removed to a large extent, but we earnestly believe that comparative immunity from epidemics would be obtained if pure water could be got and efficient sanitary measures could be carried out. Referring to other matters of subsidiary importance, we would respectfully notify to Your Excellency the desirability of connecting Salem town with the railway station bearing the same name, but distant from it three and a half miles, by a short railway line. The growing commercial importance of Salem is distinctly hindered by the station being so far away, and loaded carts from north-east and west of the town having to break bulk and reload at Salem. It would confer a boon upon the mercantile community if Your Excellency could kindly consider and, if possible, remove this difficulty. We would further pray Your Excellency to increase the strength of our council and extend the number of elected councillors. In regard to the number of registered voters, Salem comes next to Madura. As to the number of voters who went to the poll in 1894-95, Salem

occupies the highest place in the Presidency. In making this request we are simply asking that the same privilege may be extended to Salem which is enjoyed by twenty-three other municipalities in the Madras Presidency, most of them smaller and of less importance than Salem. Referring to a matter of wider importance, we would earnestly beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the large increase of taxation which the Bill, now under the consideration of Your Excellency's Legislative Council, proposes. We would earnestly beg that the maximum house and land tax be left at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and that the water-tax be fixed at 5 per cent. Finally, we would humbly venture to express the hope that the period of Your Excellency's rule in Madras may be distinguished by the practical knowledge of affairs, the prompt discharge of duty and the fearless impartiality which marked Your Excellency's career in Ceylon, and have left their indelible impress upon that island. Your Excellency's long experience gained in this and similar positions encourages us in the belief that your coming to Madras will "voice in the rich dawn of an ampler day" for this Presidency. We pray that the Giver of all good may send His choicest gifts upon Your Excellency and upon Lady Havelock, and grant you both a long life and abundant prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SALEM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,—I beg you to accept my heartiest

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

thanks for your welcome to Salem, and I wish to repeat what I said in my reply to the last address that I have seen with admiration and with gratitude the grand preparations which you have made for my reception, and I feel very deeply the honour that you have done me in thus showing respect to me as the Queen's representative. You begin your address by asking that something may be done for you in the way of improving your water-supply. I may say at once that this is a very reasonable request. It appears to me that it is one of the very first duties of a Government to give the people a good water-supply. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, although your water-supply in Salem may be deficient in quantity and not as perfect in quality as it might be, I was glad to find from enquiries which I made this morning that the diseases which arise from drinking bad water do not seem to be prevalent in this town at present. I notice with some degree of satisfaction that the beds in the hospital are not by any means filled. I think there were only 14 patients in the hospital, there being room for 26. It remains, however, an undoubted fact that your water-supply is not improved, and that every effort should be made to improve it. This is a question which has been frequently considered and has recently been brought, I hope, to a practical point. I find that in 1889 the municipal council, at the instance of the late Collector, Mr. Stokes, asked to be allowed to try the scheme suggested by Mr. Ellis, who was at that time Sanitary Engineer. The Collector who forwarded

the letter of the municipal council to Government was informed that the Sanitary Board, who had been consulted in the matter, recommended the investigation of the scheme. But as Mr. Ellis cannot be requested to devote his services to it, the Executive Engineer of the division has been requested to undertake the scheme recommended by the Sanitary Engineer, and a small sum of money, Rs. 1,280, was asked to be supplied by the municipal council for the purpose. This investigation is just now going forward, I hope, with some promise of good result. I hope that long before the tenure of my office is over in this Presidency, I shall be able to come to Salem to open your water works for you. (Cheers.) You next allude to the difficulty under which you suffer of distance from the railway station. In my reply to the address of the people of Salem town and district, I gave you to understand that I fear there is no very early prospect of this defect being remedied. I fear that the Salem District Board is not perhaps sufficiently rich to lay by funds, as they have done in Tanjore, for the purpose of making local lines of railway. If they were, I should say it is a very very excellent scheme for the district board to undertake; for I was told yesterday by the Agent of the Madras Railway that a small section between the station and the town would probably give a very fair dividend, and this opinion is also held by our Consulting Engineer. You next appeal that the constitution of your municipal council may be modified, and ask that the

number of elected councillors may be extended. The objects of introducing municipal government into this country are, I take it, in the first instance, gradually to teach the people to govern themselves, and the secondary object is to relieve the central government of a portion of the vast amount of work which devolves upon it. As, therefore, municipal bodies show themselves by their efficiency to be deserving of advancement, I think that advancement should be given. They should be carefully watched, and, as soon as they show themselves fit for a further step in the direction of greater freedom to self-government, it should be unhesitatingly and freely given them. I am very pleased to find that from investigations I have made into the statistics of the municipalities of this Presidency that it is a mistaken notion to think that the people do not take an interest in municipal affairs. I admit that it was quite a surprise to me to find that over 47 per cent. of those who were entitled to vote appeared and gave their votes at the last elections to municipal councils. I also find that out of 182 vacant elective seats no less than 130 were contested. I think these figures, unless they can be explained away in a manner which I cannot now see, testify to a great and unusual interest in the municipal government in the Madras Presidency. To return to your own particular case, I know that you stand among the towns of Madras as regards population No. 4, and I see no reason at present why what you ask should not be granted, and that the number of your municipi-

pal councillors should not be extended to the full number of 24, the present number being 20, and that the maximum proportion of three-fourths should not be elected. If it is the decided wish of the municipal council that this enlargement should be made, they should address an application to that effect to the Government, when I can assure you that it will receive most careful consideration. (Cheers.) You next deal with the question of taxation, and here I am afraid, as I did in my answer to the last address, I have to give you a reply which you will not like. If you want water-supply, and if you want drainage, you must pay for them. People will not give you water works for nothing. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that if you want advantages you must pay increased taxation. In your last paragraph you speak most feelingly and kindly of the success of my work in Ceylon. I believe it was my happiness to be an instrument of doing some little good to the people there, and if I can succeed during my term of office here in being of some little benefit to you, I shall want no greater happiness and no greater reward. I thank you once more for your kind welcome and for your kind wishes for myself and my family. (Cheers.)

ADDRESS FROM THE SALEM LITERARY SOCIETY.

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on the 24th July 1896, in the Town Hall.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Salem Literary Society, beg respectfully to welcome Your Excellency among us and to tender you our grateful thanks for the high honour which you have done us by permitting us to present this address. The society is one of the oldest institutions of the kind in this Presidency, having been founded about the year 1851, and has been registered under Act XXI of 1860. The object of the society is the physical, moral and intellectual improvement of the members, and this object it has sought to attain by subscribing for the leading Indian and English newspapers and periodicals, by providing a library which consists at present of 641 volumes, and by the establishment of tennis courts. Public discussion on practical politics and controversial theology is excluded by the rules, and the society affords common ground on which all classes of the community, official and non-official, irrespective of caste or creed, can meet. The subscription has been advisedly made light, varying, as it does, from Rs. 2 to As. 4 per mensem, according to the income of the members. It is no wonder, therefore, that our numerical strength has always been good, the number on the rolls at this date being 91. But our average monthly income is only Rs. 60, a large number of the members being drawn from the sub-

ordinate grades of the public service and therefore paying the lowest rates of subscription. We regret, therefore, to have to bring to Your Excellency's notice the fact that the wants of the society have far outgrown its financial capabilities, and that its usefulness must considerably diminish ere long, unless it receives some extraneous support or consents to a radical change in its constitution by making the subscription proportionate to the privileges enjoyed. A permanent building for the society is, however, our most pressing want at present. The society had a claim on a portion of the Town Hall—once known as the Brett Memorial Hall—built by public subscriptions to commemorate the name of a former Collector of the district, and since appropriated by the municipality and the district board. This claim, after a protracted correspondence, resulted in an offer by the municipality to pay Rs. 15,000 towards the acquisition of a permanent building for the society. Mr. G. Stokes, the late Collector, supported the municipality in its attempts to acquire for the society the present building and promises in discharge of its obligation to provide a permanent building, but these attempts proved fruitless, not having been countenanced by Government. The money remains in consequence with the municipality to this day without having been utilised for the purpose. Your Excellency will be able to ascertain during your stay among us that not only is the present site pre-eminently fitted for the purposes of the society, but also that it is hardly possible to secure

another suitable site in a convenient centre. We therefore venture to pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to enquire into this matter and afford to us such assistance as Your Excellency may deem proper. If we acquire a permanent building, we are full of hope that we shall find sufficient funds to meet all our other wants. In conclusion, we beg once more to welcome Your Excellency among us, to wish all happiness to Lady Havelock and Your Excellency during your sojourn in this country, and to pray that the Almighty Dispenser of all things may bless you both with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE SALEM LITERARY SOCIETY,—I beg you will accept my sincere thanks for your kind address which I have heard with great interest. I think it a matter for congratulation that such societies should exist; and this society exists on its own strength. It does not depend on the Government for pecuniary aid. The want you put before me is the acquisition of the site and building which you now occupy. I am told the owner is unwilling to part with it. I do not think it is a case in which the Land Acquisition Act can be put in force. It is, therefore, very difficult for me to suggest a way out. The only suggestion I can make is to enter into a long lease with the owners as long as they will consent to. I think that will be as near as possible to the object which you wish to attain. I will, however, make the enquiry you ask for, and if

I can find a solution of the difficulty, I will not fail to inform you of it. The prayer which ends your address, I assure you, I reciprocate very warmly on your behalf.

ADDRESS FROM THE SALEM MUHAMMADAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on the 24th July 1896, in the Town Hall.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the community which, to quote Your Excellency's words, "is the most loyal Her Majesty the Queen rules over," and constituting the *Salem Muhammadan Educational Association*, beg most respectfully and cordially to welcome Your Excellency, the worthy representative in this Presidency of our Most Gracious Queen-Empress.

2. Our district is pre-eminently of educational importance to our community. As observed by the Honourable Dr. Duncan, our esteemed Director of Public Instruction, at the inaugural meeting of this association held in October last, it ranks *first* in the presidency in point of Muhammadan male education. We therefore hope that our humble efforts, which are only calculated to maintain its rank and prestige, will meet with warm support at the hands of a talented statesman and benevolent ruler like Your Excellency.

3. The Mussulman population of this district is 61,500. Education lies at the root of its welfare.

Progress in education is however retarded here, as everywhere else, so far as Muhammadans are concerned, by poverty as well as the absence of a machinery to provide means of elementary instruction in the neglected parts of the district, to concentrate and accommodate, by means of boarding and lodging, pupils of the less educated tracts seeking instruction more advanced than the elementary, and, above all, to watch, scrutinise and communicate to the parents of such pupils the state of their studies in schools. To supply these wants this association was started last year under the kind patronage of our late esteemed Collector Mr. G. Stokes, I.C.S., and conducted under the able guidance of our late Head-quarters Deputy Collector Muhammad Azizuddin Husain Sahib Bahadur. To these gentlemen the association owes substantial support in the shape of money and advice. They having now left the district, their successors in office, Mr. C. H. Mounsey, I.C.S., our esteemed Acting Collector, and S. M. V. Oosman Sahib Bahadur, B.A., B.L., our present Head-quarters Deputy Collector, have, with equal kindness, now extended to us their warm support.

4. Within the few months of its existence, the association has been able—

- (1) partly through its recommendation, supported by the Salem Municipality, and accepted by Government in G.O., No. 537-M., dated 25th March 1896, Local and Municipal Department, paragraph 4, sub-

paragraph 3, to secure sanction for the raising of the Jubilee Primary Muhammadan School to the Lower Secondary Standard, and

- (2) to found a scholarship styled *The Gabriel Stokes' Muhammadan Scholarship of Salem*, of the value of Rs. 5 a month, to enable once in two years any poor and deserving Muhammadan lad who, passing the Matriculation examination from this district, prosecutes his studies for the F.A. examination at either of the two great colleges at Madras. The scholarship has been this year awarded to one Muhammad Ibrahim, the only Muhammadan lad who passed the recent Matriculation examination from this district, and he has joined the Madras Christian College. Books have been supplied to him at the cost of the association and arrangements made for his boarding and lodging at Madras.

5. The Director of Public Instruction was, at the inaugural meeting of the association, pleased to assure it of his kind sympathy and support; and if Your Excellency be also pleased to be as favourably disposed towards it, the association ventures to make of Your Excellency the following requests, of which space forbids a detailed treatment herein:—

- (1) That Government may be pleased to reconsider G.O., No. 243 L., dated 6th February 1896,

Local and Municipal Department, paragraph 3, subparagraph 3, in which the recommendation of the association to raise the Atur Madrasa-i-Aziza to the Lower Secondary Standard, though supported by our present esteemed District Board President, was, we regret to state, negatived by our Government. It is a well-managed institution, and has been personally inspected by that officer. It is the most thriving Muhammadan institution in the district. It has stood its ground for twelve years, has been producing good results, and is in every way worthy of advancement. A branch of this association has the care of it at Atur, and will be highly encouraged in its exertions if this request meets with your compliance.

(2) That a copy of the Annual Public Instruction Reports to date, and of those to be published in future years, may be ordered to be supplied to this association to enable it to study the subject of Muhammadan education from facts and figures and to prepare a memorandum on the progress of Muhammadan education during the last forty years, which the association has resolved to compile for public utility. In making this request, the association begs to assure Your Excellency that it has among its members gentlemen competent for the task.

(3) That Your Excellency may be pleased to have an investigation made of the question whether, as in the case of school fees, so in the case of examination fees, only half rates may not be collected from Muhammadan students, whose poverty is well known, thus giving them great relief with trifling loss to

the State or the University, as the number of Muhammadan students is proportionately very small.

(4) That a similar investigation be ordered of the question whether it is not possible to provide Hindustani munshis in some at least of the mofussil high schools and colleges, which have not been so provided, without much hardship to the funds at the disposal of the Educational Department. This will materially aid in multiplying the number of Muhammadan students in schools and will stimulate their parents to send them to school.

6. Should Your Excellency be pleased to accord a favourable consideration to the above requests, the association will feel highly encouraged in its labour of love.

7. In conclusion this association fervently prays that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may enjoy uninterrupted and unalloyed happiness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MUHAMMADAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION,—I beg to offer you my sincere thanks for the cordial welcome given me. I take this opportunity of repeating what I have already said before in Madras, that among Her Majesty's subjects there are none more loyal than the Muhammadans. I agree as to the pre-eminent interest of Muhammadan education in this district. It is in your community especially that education is of such importance. I have listened with pleasure to your address. Your

object is excellent and deserving of every support and encouragement which Government can give. I congratulate your association on the work you have already achieved. In the following paragraph of your address you make a request of Government that it may be pleased to reconsider the Government Order refusing to raise the Atur school to the secondary standard. I have to say there was no specific claim put forward. At the time when the order was issued for the admission to the secondary standard of that school, and as secondary schools were then very costly, it was not deemed expedient to grant the request. If your association can show good cause, and if your application is again supported by the President of the District Board, the Government will be glad to reconsider the subject. With regard to the report of the Director of Public Instruction, I think there will be no difficulty whatever in complying with your request, but as regards future reports, I believe there will be a little difficulty in complying with it, but I will endeavour to get over it. The request seems to be a very reasonable one. With reference to half rates, in reply I have to say the Government cannot interfere with the examination fees of the University, which is in no way under the control of the Government. As to examinations under the Committee for Government examinations, the fees, I believe, are not extravagant, and there is not much real ground for reducing them in the case of Muhammadans. I will, however, cause a fresh enquiry to be made. In regard to Hindustani mun-

shis, the subject, as far as the Government is aware, has never been brought up before. It is not a great expenditure. If the Muhammadan Educational Society will address Government, full consideration will be given to it. I again express my sympathy with the association, and I beg to thank you for your very kind wishes for me and Lady Havelock.

ADDRESS FROM THE SHEVAROY PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION,

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on the 27th July 1896, at the Amicizia Hotel, Yercaud.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, on behalf of the Shevaroy Planters' Association, desire to accord to you a hearty welcome on your visit to these hills. We do so all the more as the majority of residents on the Shevaroy are planters, and we feel that we have in Your Excellency a Governor who is fully alive to the importance of the planting industry in Southern India, and who also takes a sympathetic interest in it. We, therefore, venture to approach Your Excellency in the hope that you will graciously grant a patient hearing to a few of our most important needs. In the forefront of these, we must place our roads and communications. Owing to the inadequacy of the grant for the station roads—which are in excellent condition now (due, we believe, to a 'special' allotment of funds) compared to what they were a short time ago when they had not

been repaired for two or three years—it is with the greatest difficulty that a contractor can be found to undertake the work. We would further point out that the same applies to the Nagalore and Green Hills Roads. It is true that these are in better order than they were for some years past; but this is solely due to one of the planters, who, in a most public-spirited manner, has taken out the contract himself and has spent on them a considerable amount of time and trouble (and money, including private subscriptions on the Nagalore road), and to whom the thanks of the community are due. Since the traffic has greatly increased of late years, the road has had, in many places, to be widened; still the grant has remained the same in spite of a larger area having to be kept in repair. We would therefore respectfully beg Your Excellency to take into consideration our request for a further increase in the grant towards the upkeep of the station and local roads. Our greatest want, however, is a good ghaut cart road for these hills, which we have for years past been urging on Government on account of the very real need there is for such an improvement on the existing ‘Means of Communication.’ His Excellency Lord Wenlock, when he was Governor, thought a good road vital to these hills and did not know how we had done without it. We would also venture to point out that Government has a certain interest in this station, as a sanitarium, where so many of its officials come and spend their leave. We, therefore, would earnestly

impress upon Your Excellency the necessity there is for the early construction of a cart road along the trace already made, coming out by the Yercaud lake and passing along the existing road (to which few alterations are required) to Nagalore and on to Malapuram. Our reasons for pleading for the Malapuram Ghaut as well are: (i) We imagine that that trace can be converted into a suitable bandy ghaut, at a moderate cost, as far as Nagalore, which has, at present, as a district, the largest area planted with coffee; (ii) should the ghaut first named only be made as far as Yercaud, this part of the hills would be very slightly benefited thereby. We understand also that there are many planters who, though they would not care to put down a sum of money at once, would be perfectly willing to contribute towards the construction of both ghauts by consenting to an extra tax per acre on each holding, for a given term of years, when they knew what the estimated cost would be. In the event, however, of the above schemes proving impracticable, we are willing to accept any other route that Government may find to be best. That we are anxious to help ourselves is shown by the proposal to start a wire ropeway for the Shevaroys. Whilst expressing to Government our best thanks for the considerate way in which it has met our wishes by deputing an engineer for the preliminary survey of the same, we fear that, as this scheme benefits so few, it will never pay, and must, in consequence, be given up. Owing to the extremely limited time available, we

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have been unable to embody in this address statistics, &c., which we trust will go to prove the very serious need there is for improvement in our 'Means of Communication.' We hope, nevertheless, to be prepared with these when Your Excellency consents to receive our deputation. There are two other points that we would touch upon: (1) An old request of ours that the Deputy Tahsildar should be invested with civil powers. As natives so strongly object to be stationed at Yercaud, it would meet with the views of many up here if a European or Eurasian Tahsildar were appointed instead; and it is only owing to the increasing importance of the station, and of the planting industry, that we ask, that he (*i.e.*, the Tahsildar) should be invested with these civil powers; and (2) we desire Your Excellency's favourable consideration of an unanimous wish expressed by all on these Hills that the Shevaroy should be formed into a taluk, with Yercaud a union under it, so that the condition and sanitary arrangements of the station may be satisfactorily looked after.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SHEVAROY PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION,—I beg you to accept my best thanks for the kind welcome and pleasant reception which you have accorded to me on my first arrival among your delightful hills. I consider that it was a happy inspiration that led me to extend my tour to these planting parts, and the feeling

that I now have is the desire to more than once visit them again during my term of office in this Presidency. You are right in saying I am fully alive to the importance of the planting industry. It has been my good fortune during a tolerably long official career in Her Majesty's possessions to come into contact with planters, and I have obtained in that way a very fair knowledge of their wants and ways. I never in the whole of my experience met a planters' association that did not address me on the subject of extension of roads. This occasion is no exception to the rule, and during my stay here I am not surprised to find that it should be so. In answering your address I will first deal with the question which you put second—of the ghaut cart road. You plead your cause for a road up the ghaut to these hills on the ground that this place is a sanitarium, frequented by certain officials. There are a good many others of the general public community who also visit the place either for pleasure or for health. Moreover, you point out that it is a centre of a large coffee planting district. I am informed that 14,000 acres of coffee are actually under cultivation, and that coffee of a very excellent description. I believe that there are more lands already purchased and cleared for the purposes of coffee cultivation. These circumstances, I must admit, seem to me to show very good reason why you should have a road from the plains to the centre of these plantations. I am not able of course at present to say anything more than

that it is my opinion that this demand should be favourably considered. [The question of ways and means will have to be gone into, and it happens that this is just the period when we come to the end of what is called our contract with the Government of India, and when we begin a new contract, it may be found difficult to get as much money granted for our provincial purposes by the Government of India as is desired. Therefore while expressing my opinion that your request for a road is a very reasonable one and should be favourably considered, I am obliged to warn you that we may find ourselves in a position next year when our new contract is to begin, in which we may not be able to fulfil the promise for want of money. However, you will gather from my opinion that I am in favour of, and in sympathy with, your request. You ask in your address not only that the old trace of the road should follow the line of road from the Salem side, which was estimated, I think, then to cost Rs. 2,41,000, but you also ask that that the same road should be extended through the station to Nagalore and Malappuram. Now I don't think that we can go quite as far as that. Under any circumstances I think you should consider yourselves satisfied if we can give you access by one road from the plains and the railway. It will be for you to consider and advise me as to which of the two you prefer, either the old road along the trace made in 1887 or the construction of a road to Nagalore through Malappuram. When I have formally

answered your address, I should be much obliged if you would give me any information and any expression of opinion on your preference on this point that you would be able to do. I take next the question of the roads and communications, that is, roads and communications through the district. I gather from your address that the station roads are now in good order, and in fact I have seen many of them myself and I can testify to their being, considering the traffic you are likely to have here, roads that are fairly good. I understand that these roads have to be put in order by means of a special grant which was given last year. It would appear that the ordinary grant has been raised, I think, to Rs. 600. This ought in the future to be sufficient to keep them in order. I have no doubt that if, on examination of the roads outside the station, that is, the roads towards Malapuram, the Collector finds that this grant is not sufficient, it will be found possible to recommend the district board to grant a further increase. The next point dealt with in your address is that your Deputy Tahsildar should have civil powers. I have no doubt that it will be very convenient and of very great advantage to the neighbourhood that you should have a judicial officer invested with civil power. This, of course, would entail additional expenditure, but it is possible that the establishment of a civil court may bring in some little revenue in the way of fees. This is therefore a matter which I think I may fairly say we will give consideration to. / You ask

that the Shevaroy's be turned into a taluk board with Yercaud as a union under it. This proposal, I dare say you know, has been before Government. On that occasion you were urged to accept the responsibilities and duties of a municipality, the Government offering you at the time a grant of Rs. 2,000 to start you at first. This proposal from Government was not met with favour. I understand you are still opposed to receiving the duties and responsibilities of a municipality. If that should be so, I will give you an opportunity presently of discussing the point with me. I will suggest the possibility of Yercaud itself being turned into a union. This will give you a certain amount of increased revenue and the control over it. I think this proposal has been made on a previous occasion, and then I am under the impression Government was slightly in error with regard to the financial results of it. I think I am right in saying that. Therefore, I think, if the figures were put before me in a correct form, it is possible we may be able to re-open the question and perhaps arrive at a conclusion favourable to you. I have only now to thank you once again for your kindness and to express once more the pleasure I have experienced during my short stay on your beautiful hills. I will ask you now, gentlemen, to take seats here and discuss any points that may be of use.

ADDRESS FROM THE COIMBATORE MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL,

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on the
28th July 1896, in the Town Hall.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council of Coimbatore, beg to accord Your Excellency a hearty and cordial welcome to our town and to express our humble gratification at the privilege of welcoming Your Excellency into our midst so early in your administration. The inhabitants of this town are second to none in their loyalty and devotion to the Government of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and in the warm and intelligent interest which they evince in all matters of local and general administration. We hope and pray that the water-supply scheme known as the 'Muthikulam Project,' which is now in progress, may become an accomplished fact during Your Excellency's administration, as it will, in all likelihood, lead to the commencement and completion of a scheme of water works and drainage for this town, which, though well known for the salubrity of its climate, has been subject to periodical visits of what may be styled 'Water Famine,' and ensure never-failing cultivation throughout this part of the district which the recent constant failure of monsoons has rendered impossible for the present. We beg to accord Your Excellency once more a hearty welcome to our town and pray that Your Excellency's career as Governor of this Presidency may be marked for

conspicuous success and every happiness and that you yourself and Lady Havelock may be blessed with long life and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE LANDHOLDERS OF
COIMBATORE,

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on
the 28th July 1896, in the Town Hall.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the ryots holding lands in the course of the river Noyel, beg to approach Your Excellency and offer Your Excellency a hearty welcome to our town and district. And on this auspicious occasion, we beg leave to lay before Your Excellency our chief want, earnestly hoping that our humble request will be graciously granted by Your Excellency's Government. The river Noyel, which rises in the Kundjaramudi and Velliyangiri Hills, Western Ghats, flows through the taluks of Coimbatore, Palladam, Dhárápúram and Erode, the length of its course being about 70 miles. It has 32 *anicuts* and irrigates an area of more than 19,350 acres. The supply in the river has been steadily going down during the past twenty years owing to the failure of the monsoons. The insufficiency of water for the purposes of cultivation and the uncertainty of the monsoons have harassed the ryots not a little and, more than that, have impoverished them in many cases. Often the ryot, encouraged by a flood in the river, begins culti-

vation on his lands only to lose his labour and seed-grain by the subsequent failure of rains. To overcome this difficulty, in many instances ryots have sunk wells at their own cost and are content to raise inferior kinds of grain, such as cholum, ragi, &c., though the higher rate of wet assessment has been levied on such lands. Mr. Nicholson, who knows personally the agricultural condition of Coimbatore ryots, describes in detail the sufferings of the ryots in his manual of the district. Speaking of this, he says, "Loss ensues certainly to the ryot and often to the Government" (page 389, paragraph 2). Thus the agricultural population is yearly growing poorer and poorer and is falling an easy prey to usurers. We further beg leave to point out that, owing to the insufficiency of water for irrigation purposes and the consequent decrease in the produce of grains, &c., Government had to make remissions to the ryots of the taluk of Coimbatore alone to the extent of more than Rs. 1,17,000 from fasli 1297 to 1304. If the proper irrigation of lands is secured, similar losses could be avoided in future and a positive gain effected annually to the extent of Rs. 30,000, converting some dry lands into wet ones and redeeming certain *nunjai* lands transferred to *punjai* for want of water. We beg leave to inform Your Excellency that about thirty years ago Mr. Collier, an Engineer, suggested to the Madras Government the diversion into the river Noyel of the water of the Muthikulam river, a perennial stream, the water of which is simply wasted. That suggestion

was subsequently approved of and recommended as highly beneficial both to the ryots and Government by Messrs. Fraser, Montgomery and Vibart, Engineers, and Messrs. E. B. Thomas, P. Grant, A. Wedderburn, J. H. Tremenheere, J. Thomson and the Honourable Mr. J. Sturrock, Collectors. The Board of Revenue, in its Proceedings No. 753 of 1st September 1888, has strongly recommended the project to the Government. We respectfully beg to add that in 1891 we memorialised Your Excellency's predecessor, and the result of that was that he was graciously pleased to direct investigations to be made. The investigations were commenced under the able control of Lieutenant-Colonel Drake-Brockman, R.E., who examined in person everything and finally reported favourably of the project. Since then for the past five years further investigations have been continued. It may not be out of place here to acknowledge the very hearty way in which Messrs. Hannan and Ashpitel, Superintending and Executive Engineers, are now carrying on the work. And now our humble request is that a Special Engineer be set apart for the work. As the work during the past five years has been of necessity carried on very slowly, and at that rate the project will take very long to be completed, we humbly beg Your Excellency will be pleased to depute a Special Engineer to that work and begin substantial operations during Your Excellency's tenure of office. Our sympathetic Collector, Mr. Bradley, and the municipal authorities of the town

of Coimbatore will, we are sure, agree that a good portion of the district and the whole town of Coimbatore will be greatly benefited by this project. Our town suffers severely some months in the year from scarcity of water. This town is fast increasing in population owing to the existence of coffee-curing, cotton-spinning, sugar and rice-cleaning factories; the educational institutions are yearly increasing in size; and for purposes of trade and for the sake of health, this town is largely visited by outsiders. The other and more important object, namely, that of increasing the prosperity of the ryots holding lands irrigated by the Noyel river will, we are sure, meet with the sympathy and support of our popular Collector Mr. Bradley. This boon granted by Your Excellency's good Government will, we venture to assure Your Excellency, once more bring cheer to the home of many a well-nigh ruined ryot, and health and happiness to the townsmen of Coimbatore. In conclusion we earnestly pray that Your Excellency's rule in our Presidency may bring years of happiness and plenty to Your Excellency's subjects, and that God may bless Lady Havelock and Your Excellency with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY TO
BOTH THE ABOVE ADDRESSES.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF COIMBATORE AND LANDHOLDERS ON THE COURSE OF THE RIVER NOYEL,—I propose, as your

two addresses have in their most important points travelled over much the same ground, to combine my replies to these addresses in one answer. In the first place, I beg to express my regret for not having been able punctually to carry out my engagement to visit you at Coimbatore. I am myself very strongly against anything like unpunctuality or failing to keep an engagement. You may therefore feel that it was only circumstances which were absolutely beyond my control that prevented my carrying out my engagement last week. I beg to offer you my sincere thanks for the kind welcome which you accorded me to the town of Coimbatore and the district. I rejoice to arrive among you at a moment when you are enjoying what I suppose is the greatest of blessings in a dry and thirsty land, a good fall of rain. It pleases the eye to look around upon the verdure and moisture that now surround us. I rejoice to think that at any rate for this season this neighbourhood is secure from all want or famine. I have heard with satisfaction your expression of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. It needed no assurance from you, but it is always satisfactory to have a repetition made of these very proper sentiments. I have no doubt of the intelligent and warm interest which the Municipality of Coimbatore shows in the affairs of their town. It was with some gratification and not a little surprise that I noticed in the municipal returns that the number of electors who actually voted at the last election were 76·2 per cent. of the

whole number of registered voters. This number is really remarkable, and I hope I may gather from it a fair conclusion as to the interest that the voters of Coimbatore take in municipal affairs. We now come to the important point of the two addresses which have been presented to me, namely, the question of water-supply for the town of Coimbatore and water for irrigation purposes in the Noyel district. The works that have been in contemplation for these purposes have been under consideration for a good many years. A succinct history of them is given in the address of the landholders of Noyel. In 1891, as is observed, an order was given by my predecessor that this scheme should be investigated. After an investigation it was rejected for the time being principally on the ground, I believe, that it was feared that it might draw away water from the Bhaváni river to such an extent as to affect materially another important scheme which was in contemplation. Since then, however, the scheme has been revised; and I believe up to the present with results that are not altogether unsatisfactory. The scheme is a large, costly and important one, and the very work of investigating it is costly; and before even sanctioning the amount which has been estimated to be the cost of complete investigation which is now to take place, I have been obliged to pause and make further enquiry. I have this morning received a report which goes far to remove doubts which I may have had as to the propriety of sanctioning the expenditure of a large sum of money asked for

the preliminary investigation. The work will cost, as I have already stated, a very considerable sum of money. It is therefore necessary that we should be assured that all the preliminaries are most thoroughly understood and worked out before the work can be sanctioned. I am sorry to say that I am told that these investigations will take about two years to complete. I am not at the present moment able to go further than to say that I am impressed favourably with the recommendations that have been made on this score. If your Collector, who has this matter at this moment under his consideration, is able to report a favourable opinion of the scheme as it is now presented to me, there will be little doubt that I shall be able to sanction this further investigation. A part of the scheme of the investigation is to make a road to the site of the head works and to build a bungalow there. By this means the Engineer in charge will be able to pay more frequent and more constant attention to the work than he can do in the present circumstances. And in this way we should avoid the necessity of appointing a Special Engineer for the work, as is requested in the memorial of the landholders of Noyel. I am sorry, gentlemen, that I am unable to-day to give you more positive assurance that this work will be undertaken. You understand that we must be assured that we would get, or that there is a reasonable prospect of getting, a proper return for the large sum of money that the scheme would involve. It is therefore necessary to investigate the

matter most completely. Until that complete investigation is made, I am unable to say more than that I hope with all my heart that we may be able to relieve the wants of Coimbatore in the matter of water-supply and drainage, which seems to be the combined effect of this great work of irrigation of a considerable area of land and the improvements of the existing irrigation. I think nothing more in the way of reply can be given to your addresses except to thank you very sincerely for the good wishes conveyed in them and to assure you that they are equally reciprocated most heartily on my part.

ADDRESS FROM THE COIMBATORE DEVASTANAM
COMMITTEE,

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 5 p.m. on the
30th July 1896, in the Town Hall.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In according a sincere and hearty welcome to Your Excellency, we, the Coimbatore Devasthanam Committee, feel most flattered and honoured by this visit to this shrine which is dedicated to God Sri Pattiswara Swami, and is no less ancient and no less in religious importance than its prototype and namesake, the shrine of Chidambaram, in the district of South Arcot, which counts among the five Siva shrines in this land of Aryavartha, a land which is pre-eminent for sacred rivers and still more sacred shrines and temples. This, the most important of

the nine temples entrusted to our management, was built more than seven centuries ago by a king of the Chola dynasty, and among the additions and improvements effected some four centuries later by a brother of the far-famed Madura Tirumalai Naik stands the much-admired *Kanagasabui*—the sculptured hall which is facing us, and which, but for the untimely end of that religious prince, would have been developed into a thousand-pillared mantapam. A large number of pillars, ready made for this mantapam, lie buried all about the place, and a few of them were dug out and used in the additions that were newly and recently made. Through the unflagging and zealous exertions of the late Mr. Kuttianna Moodelliar, our much lamented Secretary, the villages of Perur and Mavuthampathi were declared entire inam villages by the Government in their Order No. 763, dated the 23rd September 1890, and again in their Order No. 164, Revenue, dated the 16th February 1893, the separate title-deeds which were granted to the temple servants severally in pursuance of the original mistake at the Inam Settlement were ordered to be cancelled and one consolidated title-deed was ordered for the whole inam. But this second order was subsequently cancelled by the Government in their Order No. 463, Revenue, dated the 20th July 1895. The committee respectfully begs to submit that the grant of a single title-deed for the village as a whole is, instead of resulting in “a revision of Inam Settlement already made all over this Presidency. . . . and thereby shaking the confidence already placed

in the finality of the Inam Settlement” as pressed by the Inam Commissioner, a necessary consequence of the first order declaring the village an entire inam as argued out by the Government itself in their second order cancelling the title-deeds issued severally for the minor service inams, and that it is calculated to strengthen the hands of the committee in the administration of the devastanam funds and property, and to preclude any alienation of these inams by mortgage, sale or otherwise by these irresponsible temple servants, in which case costly and vexatious litigation and heavy loss will ensue to both the temple and its servants, while under Act VIII of 1865 the devastanam as landlord possessing one title-deed can exchange muchilikas and pattas with its servants and either party where need arises command an easy relief at very little cost. The committee therefore prays that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to reconsider the last order and direct, as before resolved, the issue of a single title-deed to the village as a whole. With reference to the Bill that is shortly to be introduced in Your Excellency's council in connection with the Temple Committee Act (No. XX of 1863), the committee begs to urge upon Your Excellency's consideration the expediency of at least fixing the term of office of trustees other than hereditary at five years, allowing of course eligibility to re-appointment, if the amendment of the Act can at present go no further. In once more thanking Your Excellency for the honour of this visit to this temple, it is our

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

earnest prayer that God Sri Pattisvara Swami, to whom this sacred shrine is dedicated, will shower His choicest blessings on you and Lady Havelock, bless you both with a long and prosperous life and crown Your Excellency's career with remarkable fame to yourself and lasting happiness to the people with whose government you have been entrusted by Her Most Noble and Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria of India.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE COIMBATORE DEVASTANAM COMMITTEE,—I accept with satisfaction and pleasure the address which has just been read, and I have to express my regret that it should have been necessarily presented in Coimbatore instead of in your temple, where it was originally intended to be presented. It is only circumstances over which we have no control that have prevented our meeting at the temple, that is, on account of the river Noyel having been made impassable after the recent heavy rains. I regret that we should have been prevented by this cause from meeting at the temple, but the cause in itself is one over which we all rejoice. It is a matter of pleasure and satisfaction to see the river Noyel and all the other streams in this neighbourhood flowing, as they do now, above their banks. It would have been a matter of great pleasure and interest to me to have seen your temple. I have, during the course of the day, endeavoured to get as much information respecting it as was within my

reach. I find from the historical, archæological and religious point of view it is a temple of the very greatest interest. The account which you have briefly given of the history of it has interested me much. Now, with regard to the particular request which your address contains, it appears to me that the order which you quote, No. 763 of 23rd September 1890, by which the villages of Perur and Mavuthampatti were declared entire *inam* villages by the Government, was a satisfactory and right one, but as at present advised I am not prepared to agree with you with regard to the incorrectness of the second order, namely, that No. 164 of 16th February 1893, by which the separate title-deeds which had been granted to temple servants were cancelled. As I understand it, these grants were given to temple servants on condition that they perform certain service for the temple, and it appears to me that as long as those services are duly performed, neither the Government nor anybody else has a right to cancel their grants. I hold, therefore, that the Government, in cancelling the order of 16th February 1893, acted not only legally but justly, and until it is shown that these temple servants have not been fulfilling the conditions under which they received their grants, I think it is only fair and just that these grants should remain in force. Meanwhile, as I understand it, the temple authorities have gained considerably by the original order of the 23rd September 1890, whereby the village was created an *inam* village. With regard to the request you make

with reference to the amendment of the Temple Committee's Act (No. XX of 1863), which is now under consideration, all I can say at the present moment is that I will undertake that your representations shall be duly considered. I have to thank you very sincerely for your good wishes for my prosperity and for the happiness and health of my family. I join with you in hoping that the day may come when Lady Havelock may be able to accompany me on my next visit to Coimbatore. I can assure you that the few days I have spent here have given me very great pleasure. It is a matter of regret to me that towards the close of my stay here I should have been unable to keep my engagement at your temple through stress of weather. Gentlemen, I thank you once again for the kind words of welcome and for the reception that you have given me.

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28/1/97
ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

EXCELLENCY

IS. A. E. HAVLOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

SECOND TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

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MADRAS:

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1896.

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ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF MANJERI,

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor on the
28th September 1896.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the loyal inhabitants of Manjeri, respectfully and cordially welcome Your Excellency, the trusted and worthy representative of our beloved Queen-Empress, to this historic province, and humbly express our unbounded gratitude for the great honour of your visit—an honour the like of which we have not enjoyed since so far back as 1866, in which year, Lord Napier was gracious enough to include this part of Malabar in a tour of his. The measure of our gratitude is further enhanced by the knowledge that Your Excellency is visiting us while you are still only on the threshold of your career in this country, for we take this as a happy indication that your visit has for its real object the welfare of the people. We can expect to derive little profit from the tour of a ruler when his feet are almost on the gangway of the vessel that is to bear him from our shores. Still more grateful are we because we believe that Your Excellency has selected this route, so inconvenient and outlandish, purely, for the purpose of personally getting acquainted with a comparatively neglected corner of Southern India. Your Excellency's sympathetic utterances at Salem

and other places embolden us to lay our grievances before you without reserve, confident you will leave nothing undone that is in your power to ameliorate them.

The most prominent evil staring Government in the face in this district is without doubt the fanaticism of the Moplahs of Ernad and Waluvanad and the deplorable outbreaks that periodically result from that fanaticism. Various causes have been cited to explain away these outbreaks, but it may be safely said that about the chief contributory cause is the abject poverty of the people. Such a great authority as Mr. Logan has observed that fanaticism of the violent Moplah type flourishes only upon sterile soil. "When the people are poor and discontented, it flourishes apace like other crimes of violence." The causes of this poverty, again, have to be considered. The principal of them are the dearth of industries, and the utter incapacity of the land to sustain its congested population. Bearing these circumstances in mind Your Excellency's memorialists take the great liberty to suggest that one way of alleviating the distress is by starting relief works which would give employment to the labouring classes.

Then, Ernad and Waluvanad are now practically shut out from the rest of the world. The communications leading into or out of them are inadequate both in number and condition. It is an admitted fact that one of the best means of developing the material and even the moral resources of

a country is by intersecting it with good roads and the railway line. And Your Excellency's memorialists deferentially urge on your attention the extreme desirability of running a feeder railway through the taluks and of opening up a few feeder roads, besides improving the condition of existing communications. We also respectfully suggest the expansion of the telegraph in the taluks, for its absence has been known to involve considerable danger and inconvenience in turbulent seasons.

Your memorialists, being aware that Your Excellency will be approached elsewhere during the course of this tour with a full representation regarding the Settlement and Tenancy questions, they shall not weary Your Excellency by enlarging on them, and shall merely crave leave to say that the apprehension of the settlements leading to an enhanced cess fills the population with anxiety and dismay, and an injudicious policy with respect to the land will only lead to mutual recriminations between landlord and tenant, by which both sides cannot but suffer. Cultivation will become unpopular with classes that have hitherto looked upon it as their mainstay of life, agricultural improvements will not be undertaken, since the gain accruing would not be enjoyed by the improver, and the destitution now seen in Ernad and Waluvanad will only become more intense.

Last but not least, Your Excellency's memorialists would, having regard to the general poverty of the inhabitants, pray for the abolition of the police

cess, since the object which gave rise to it has by no means been attained. The special police force notwithstanding, the outbreaks evil is still very much alive. We humbly urge the alternative scheme of locating half a company of sepoy under an European officer at Paudicad or some other centre of fanaticism.

In conclusion, we humbly and earnestly pray that Your Excellency's administration will promote peace, prosperity and contentment among the various communities entrusted to your distinguished care and that it may add materially to the renown of British rule and the British name. May the God of all nations vouchsafe to bestow on Lady Havlock and Your Excellency long life, health and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INHABITANTS OF MANJERI,—I thank you for the address which you have presented me with and for the kind welcome which you have accorded me to your town, and I am much pleased with the preparations which you have made to do me honour. Your town is a much larger and better one than I expected to see, and it struck me as being very beautiful as I passed through it this morning and saw all the decorations and the people who had turned out to meet me. I am very glad to have this early opportunity of visiting this portion of the Malabar

district, which is not often visited by Governors and high officials. The Malabar district is not only a very important one, but it is one which at present perhaps calls for more attention on the part of Government than any other, and for these reasons I am glad to have this early opportunity of hearing from yourselves what you consider the most important wants of this district.

You are right in saying in your address that one of the most important matters which should occupy the attention of Government at the present moment is the tendency to outbreak among the Moplah population. There is a good deal of difference of opinion as to the precise cause of the outbreak, but whatever the cause may be, it is quite certain that if we can improve the condition of the poorer part of the Moplah community by education and by opening out communications, we shall undoubtedly reduce the probability of future outbreaks.

You are quite right when you ask in your address that roads and communications in the district should be improved. The Government has this matter very much at heart, and I have pleasure in telling you that a special engineer will at once come into this part of the district for the purpose of tracing new roads and for the purpose of re-opening the old ones which have become closed. In this way the Government will spend some money in the district which will help to aid those Moplahs in their poverty and at the same time what you advise in

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

your address, namely, the improvement of communications, will be carried on.

You mention in your address the advisability of making a feeder line of railway into these taluks but I must tell you at once that this will be going too fast, and I can hold out no hope of a railway at present.

You speak also of the extensions of the telegraph, and I shall have much pleasure in consulting the Collector on this subject, and if you can point out some places which you think should be connected by telegraph, I shall have great pleasure in considering the matter.

You next touch in your address on two very important subjects, namely, the Settlement and the Tenancy questions. I may tell you that with regard to the Settlement nothing at present is decided or arranged. I know well the difficulties of this matter and can assure you that it will be approached and considered with great caution. I know also that the Tenancy question presents in Malabar very special difficulties. The Government has now in preparation a Bill to be laid before the Legislative Council dealing with this matter; but we have immense difficulties to meet, and you must not be surprised if there is some delay in arriving at any decision in the matter. It is not a matter in which one can go quickly; we must make sure of our ground before we begin. The officer of Government who is employed to prepare, for the consideration of Government, a Bill dealing with tenancy in

Malabar, will in the course of a few weeks come down into this country in order to get more information on the subject than he already possesses.

You then proceed to speak in your address about the Police cess. I have made some enquiries on this subject, and I am informed that a special police force was established in this district some years ago, and has since 1888 been paid for entirely by Government, and there is no cess at present paid on account of this special police force. I am informed also that a cess had to be levied last year and this year for the cost of two police stations, and this only is paid by the ryots of the Ernad and Waluvanad taluks. This cess was levied after the outbreak of 1894 for a period of two years. This period must, at the present time, be nearly over, and as you have raised the question of the Police cess, I will make enquiries as to whether Government may not be able now to discontinue it.

I beg you will accept my thanks for the good wishes you have expressed for the prosperity of my Government, and for the happiness of my family and myself. I am very pleased to have met you to-day and to know that I come among you while there is a prospect of good crops after there has been a satisfactory rainfall. I hope during the period of my Government some of the difficult questions affecting the Malabar district, such as the Land Settlement and Tenancy questions, may be decided in a way that will promote the happiness of you all.

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

THE MOPLAHS' ADDRESS.

*Presented by the Moplahs of Ernad at Manjeri on the
28th September 1896.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—With feelings of loyalty and respect, we the Moplah inhabitants of Manjeri and of the Ernad taluk generally, most humbly crave leave to welcome Your Excellency into Malabar, and to tell Your Excellency that we are grateful for the charitable spirit that has prompted you, so early in your Indian career, to visit our unhappy taluk. The Moplahs form by far the largest proportion of the inhabitants of Ernad, and the bulk of them are steeped in ignorance and in the poverty which is one result of this ignorance. But for all this the bulk of us, we earnestly assure Your Excellency, are loyal to the Sirkar and to the great Queen who rules us.

Unhappily, sometimes, a few misguided co-religionists of ours, invariably of the lowest order, develop a spirit of religious fanaticism and plunge the country around in sorrow and distress. These fanatics form, as the history of each rising will show, but an infinitesimal fraction of our community, and it will also be found that whenever a rising has taken place the respectable sections of the Moplah population loyally range themselves on the side of good order and government, thus affording substantial proof that they repudiate the absurd and dangerous doctrines and ideas of their bigoted classmen. In this loyalty, the Manjeri Moplahs admittedly

stand foremost, and the fact received official recognition during the late rising that happened just prior to Your Excellency's arrival in India.

To suppress these Moplah risings, the Outrages Act was enforced forty-two years ago. It has lamentably failed of its purpose. And the reasons are not far to seek. The misplaced harshness of the measure tells most heavily—almost exclusively—on the well-to-do and respectable classes, who are necessarily on the side of Government. They are fined heavily, and there have been instances where greater disaster has overtaken them. The ignorant sections who furnish recruits for the field of fanatical war are anyway not too ignorant to understand that their folly brings ruin to many and many an innocent co-religionist. And yet this never deters them. Some leading men have been almost completely broken by the effects of fanatical risings undeservedly falling on them. Still, the risings do not die out. It is plain that the Act is of no use and that it does not 'touch the spot.' Your humble memorialists, therefore, beseech Your Excellency most earnestly to repeal the measure and replace it by other measures from which good results could be far more reasonably anticipated.

Your Excellency's memorialists are respectfully thankful for the recent extension of Moplah education in this and the neighbouring taluks, and more so for the appointment of an official, belonging to our community and our neighbourhood, to be in charge of that education in South Malabar. We

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

humbly assure Your Excellency that this liberal policy has given much gratification to us, and if Your Excellency's Government will benignly permit, by financial help, of the opening of more schools, we are certain that education will increase in popularity. We dwell on this circumstance with some weight, because, though most of us have not ourselves enjoyed the incalculable benefits of English education, we have seen enough to warrant us in relying on the efficacy of education to transform the Moplah character, rubbing down its over-sharp angularities.

In this connection, we would also humbly vouchsafe Your Excellency to make some concession to our backward class with respect to the age restriction for Government service. We make bold to say that the indirect moral influence of Moplah officials on their community, chiefly on the more ignorant section, would not be inconsiderable. Under present conditions such officials are necessarily in a very narrow minority.

In the next place, we respectfully state a protest against the injurious *Melcharth* system which causes pitiable hardships to many a petty and struggling tenant. It must be painful to a tenant just beginning to reap the fruits of industry expended on his little holding to find that that holding has been given away over his head to some other individual who will thus derive an unearned profit at the bitter cost of the one who really deserves it. We admit that statistics may be cited to show that it

is only very rarely that *Melcharths* are adopted, but we humbly lay stress on the demoralising effect that even these rare cases, if rare they be, can have on a peasantry that even in the best of seasons is able to live only in hand-to-mouth fashion. We are driven to complain that half the story of the tenants' wrongs was never told. Increase of cess would merely increase the numerous demands he is compelled to meet. He has not only to meet his landlords' legitimate demands, but also several others which, though sanctioned by local usage, are indefensible from any point of view.

In conclusion, Your Excellency's humble and loyal memorialists plead that you will always keep a benevolent watch on them. While all around the various castes and communities have been rising socially, politically, intellectually, and materially, our class has remained almost stationary. We are among the weakest of the many children of Government. We earnestly pray for generous guidance and help. Most respectfully expressing the fervent hope that all blessings may attend Lady Havelock and Your Excellency, &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I have received your address with great pleasure, and it affords me great satisfaction to find myself among you so soon after my arrival in this country. The first thing I heard when I arrived in Madras was the report of the outbreak that took place in February or March last. I was

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

much distressed by it, and made up my mind to visit this part of the country as soon as possible. You assure me in your address that you are loyal to the Government and to the Queen. I am perfectly certain of that, and I know there are many good and worthy people among the Moplahs. I hear also that you are a hard-working and industrious people; but this makes one all the more regret that there should be among you some who break the law and create disturbances in the way that has been going on for so many years. It is the duty of the law-abiding Moplahs to instruct the ignorant and wrong-headed men not to behave in the way they do. The Government looks to all Moplahs who are sensible, loyal and right-minded to do their very best to teach the people better. You tell me in your address that the fanatics are few in number. This ought to make it comparatively easy for the great number who are loyal and law-abiding to prevent the others from breaking the law.

In your address you ask that the Outrages Act, which was introduced forty-two years ago, may be repealed. I do not myself like the Moplah Outrages Act, but the circumstances of the country made it necessary to enact it forty-two years ago, and I am afraid that just now, after we have lately had very serious outbreaks, it is impossible for the present to think of repealing it. But although the law will remain, Government is going to try this time to see what can be done in future years to cure these evils. In the first place, I have much pleasure

in telling you that no general fines will be inflicted under this Act. I have also pleasure in telling you that Government intends spending some money in improving roads and communications in this district—a special Engineer comes here at once to trace new roads and to open out those that have been closed.

I am glad to hear what you say on the matter of education, and I shall make special enquiries to see if it is not possible to open more schools in Moplah districts.

Another point I see you mention in your address is that a concession be made to your class with regard to the age restriction for Government service. I should be very glad to see more of the Moplah classes in Government service, and I will make an enquiry to see whether this request of yours cannot in some way be complied with.

You then deal in your address with a very important subject, that of the land tenure, and you protest against what you describe as the *Melcharth* system. I must tell you that this matter is now being very carefully considered by Government, and one of the best officers in Government service has been busy for months past, and is now busy, in preparing a law to put before Government having, for its object the amendment of the evil you now complain of; and this officer will in a few weeks be coming to your country itself to make further enquiries into the subject. I hope that in the course of a year or two—because it will take a long time

before Government will be able to do anything—we will be able to help you in this important matter. It will be a great pleasure and satisfaction to me to pay particular attention to the wants of the Moplahs. I know very well you have great difficulties to contend with, as you are particularly backward in the matter of education, but I can assure you that Government will do all in its power to try to raise you to the same level as the other classes which surround you. In conclusion, I have to thank you for the kind wishes you have expressed for myself and my family.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
OF CALICUT,

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor at the Town Hall,
Calicut, on the 29th September 1896.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council of Calicut, on behalf of the citizens, beg leave to accord Your Excellency a most hearty welcome on the occasion of this your first visit to this ancient and historic town and district. Calicut is the place where Vasco de Gama first landed in 1498 in India and obtained the sanction of the Zamorin Rajah of Calicut, written on a palm leaf, to open trade. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our general satisfaction at the peace and prosperity our town enjoys under the benign British administration, and we beg to convey through Your Excellency our deep

gratitude and loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India.

Your Excellency has placed the inhabitants of Calicut under deep obligation by the restoration to them, partial though it be, of the elective franchise of which they had been once deprived. We are not without our wants and requirements, but we do not wish to mar the pleasure of the occasion by pressing upon Your Excellency all such matters as we have the fullest confidence that any reasonable representation of them which we may make, from time to time, will receive Your Excellency's earnest and sympathetic attention.

The most important questions that now engage our attention are those relating to the burial grounds for the various sections of the community, drainage and water-supply and market. The question of providing suitable burial grounds for the Moplahs was pending for a long time, and it was brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for India so early as 1859. We are deeply indebted to Government for the very satisfactory settlement of the question and for the liberal grant made for the purpose.

Unlike several other municipal towns in the Presidency, Calicut is a scattered town, of unusual dimensions, containing a population of 66,078 according to the last census. The heavy monsoons cut up our roads. A large amount has to be allotted for keeping the roads in fair condition and for attending to the sanitation of the town. Consequently

financial difficulties have always stood in the way of our carrying out the various improvements above mentioned, and we are afraid that we shall have to encroach upon the generosity of Your Excellency's Government when we submit our schemes in the various matters for Your Excellency's approval.

We hope Your Excellency's tour through our district will be a pleasant one, and will be productive of much good to the people. Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock long life and prosperity and again giving Your Excellency a hearty welcome to our town, &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CALICUT,—I beg you to accept, for yourselves and for the people of Calicut, my warm thanks for the cordial welcome which you have accorded me to your beautiful town. You have shown your welcome not only by words but by outward demonstrations of respect and pleasure which cannot fail to be gratifying. Calicut, a beautiful town at all times, lends itself with remarkable fitness to the form of decoration which you love so much in this part of India, and in its holiday attire it looks exceedingly beautiful. You speak of this visit to Calicut as being my first. This is the case only in my capacity as Governor of the Presidency of Madras, but it is not perfectly accurate, for on one or two previous occasions during my life have I been in Calicut; but it was so long ago that it

seems almost as much a matter of history as the landing of Vasco de Gama, to which you have alluded. About six and forty years ago I landed at Calicut, and a few years later I embarked also from Calicut for England. This is, therefore, the third time I have set foot within your town. It gives me great satisfaction to hear from you that the state of prosperity and order in Calicut is satisfactory to you, and your expressions of loyalty to our beloved Sovereign are always welcome, knowing as I do that they are perfectly genuine.

I am glad to have had it in my power to restore, as you mention in your address, some portion of the elective privileges, and it will be sincerely gratifying if the time will shortly come when still more privileges of the kind may be accorded to you. You mention that you are not without wants and requirements, but that you do not wish to mar a joyful occasion by referring to them. This is an attitude which it appears prevails in the Municipality of Calicut, for in the address presented to one of my predecessors the same attitude was taken up—it is an attitude graceful and amiable, but at the same time I must admit that it is by no means common.

You touch gently on the subject of burial grounds, and I am glad that Government has been able to see its way to meet the want to a certain extent with some liberality, and if it again be shown that still further need exists, I think I may say that still further grants may yet be accorded for this purpose.

You allude to the great expence which is necessarily incurred in keeping in repair the large extent of public roads in the town, which occupies such a large area. I can well understand that to maintain such an extent of roads must be a serious charge on the municipality; also all attempts at sanitation over so large an area must necessarily be a heavy drain on your means. When the time for settling your water-supply and drainage arrives, I think you may rely on Government for the same generosity which it is always ready to show to other municipalities.

You express the wish that my tour through your district will be a pleasant one and productive of good to the people. During the two days I have already passed in the Malabar district I have seen much lovely scenery and have had many interesting interviews with various bodies of the community and gentlemen of the country, and I feel sure that during the rest of the tour through Malabar the same interest and pleasure will attend my journey. I thank you sincerely for all your good wishes on behalf of Lady Havelock and myself, and beg to express my own earnest wish for the prosperity and progress of this ancient and interesting town of Calicut.

ADDRESS FROM THE KERALA MAHAJANA SABHA,

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at East Hill, Calicut, on the 30th September 1896.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Kerala Mahajana Sabha, on behalf of the people of Malabar, beg leave to welcome Your Excellency, to this historic land of Kerala, and to express our strong attachment and loyalty to the British Crown and our grateful appreciation of the manifold blessings we enjoy under British rule.

2. While we are most grateful for the various benefits we enjoy, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to place before Your Excellency some of our most pressing wants and grievances.

3. The most important question which now agitates and alarms the public mind in Malabar is the proposed revenue settlement. Our views on this subject have been embodied in a memorandum which we submitted to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and in a supplemental memorandum to Government. We still maintain that a permanent revenue settlement was granted to us by the Government in the proclamation of 1805, and respectfully submit that any departure from the pledges given in that solemn document is calculated to cause grave and general discontent. Relying on the declaration made in that document, large sums of money have been invested in land by the people, and we respectfully leave it to Your Excellency to judge what amount of heart-burning the present

proposal to enhance the tax must have created in the minds of the people.

4. It must be remembered that in this district, excepting the coast towns, agriculture is now the only means of livelihood of the people. Several thousands of people who depended for their sustenance on toddy-drawing and the manufacture of earth salt—for both of which considerable natural facilities exist on this coast—are now thrown out of employ by the introduction and rigorous working of the Salt and Abkari Laws. Competition with Western machinery has also thrown out a large number of men from their hereditary professions. All these have gone to swell the ranks of agriculturists or agricultural labourers. From a comparison of the figures given in the census reports of 1871, 1881 and 1891, Your Excellency will see that the increase in the number of agriculturists and agricultural labourers is out of all proportion to the increase of population. Any increase in the land revenue, such as is contemplated, will, we are afraid, reduce to utter starvation a considerable portion of this congested agricultural population already dragging on a hand-to-mouth existence, and thus tend to swell the number of robbers and dacoits, already too numerous in this district.

5. We beg to submit, also, that there are no irrigation works in this district maintained or undertaken by the State, and that what little improvement there has been is solely due to indigenous capital and labour. Failure of monsoons has of late

become more and more frequent. The agricultural methods and implements of this district are primitive and unsatisfactory. The improved methods and inventions of Western science are unfortunately not known to the people; nor have they means to purchase costly implements. We do not urge these things as entitling us to any special consideration; but we only pray that Your Excellency's Government will not, by enhancing the taxation on what is the sole support—and that a very precarious support—of an entire population, add to burdens which already press heavily on the people.

6. As pointed out in our memorandum to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Your Excellency will see that the survey was undertaken and partly carried out before the Government had decided on what principles it was to be conducted, and that consequently many irregularities have crept into the survey results. These mistakes cannot be discovered and rectified unless the jenmis and pattadars are supplied with the sub-division register and plan; and these, in spite of repeated requests of those concerned, have been withheld. The registration of jenmam titles has been going on in conformity with the survey results, but the jenmis and pattadars are obviously unable to put in schedules of their properties without seriously affecting their interests. We respectfully pray that the registration may not be pressed till they are enabled, by referring to the sub-division registers and plans, to rectify any mistakes in them.

7. Another important matter which engages the attention of the people as well as, we believe, of the authorities is the oft-recurring Moplah outbreaks. It need hardly be said that these furious outbreaks have caused extreme anxiety and unrest to the people. We feel sure that Your Excellency's Government is earnestly attempting to investigate and remedy the causes. We would suggest that a representative commission be appointed to sit in the affected taluks and report upon the question. We would also strongly urge the desirability of constructing a railway to Devala through Malapuram, Manjéri and Nilambúr. Such a railway, besides finding a market for the timber, coffee and other produce of these poverty-stricken taluks and offering facilities to the surplus population to seek employment abroad, will also directly serve to prevent disturbances by opening up communications through these interior and jungly places, and making the movement of troops easy through parts which are now so difficult of access.

8. In this connection we beg to represent that the special police cess recently levied in the taluks of Waluvanad and Ernad is felt to be a grievance, as it punishes the innocent many for the sins of the guilty few. It cannot serve as a remedial or deterrent measure, but will only weigh heavily on an already-famished people; nor, unfortunately, are Moplah outbreaks a new evil in those parts to demand a new punishment to-day. We therefore pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to abolish the cess.

9. We desire to bring to Your Excellency's notice that crime is on the increase and that cases of real detection are few. This state of things is undoubtedly due to the inefficiency of the Malabar police. We respectfully beg that the status of the Police officers may be raised by increasing their pay and by insisting on better educational qualifications.

10. We should be wanting in our duty to the Government and to the public if we did not place prominently before Your Excellency the very unsatisfactory and unsympathetic way in which Salt and Abkári Laws are worked in this district. It is notorious that false cases are often cooked up by the subordinate officials of the department with a view to get rewards and promotion, and the persons charged are convicted on the sole testimony of the prosecutors. The sub-magistrates who have to deal with such cases are held in *terrorem* by the officers of the Abkári department, because the latter are allowed to report against them with respect to their judicial acts, and often succeed in getting them censured and even punished by their superiors. We need hardly submit that such a state of affairs is highly detrimental to the independence and honesty of the magistrates and is harmful to an impartial administration of justice.

11. Subordinate officers of the department are invested with unlimited powers and constantly harass the illiterate toddy-drawers. The restriction recently imposed on the drawing of jaggery or sweet toddy has to a great extent starved that

innocent industry. The marking of trees to be tapped for the manufacture of jaggery affords a very good opportunity to levy black-mail. We pray that the rigid rules regarding the working of the Salt and Abkari Acts may be greatly relaxed. We beg most respectfully to suggest that it is now time to abolish the reward system. If the duties are onerous, the salaries may be increased, but the remuneration of officers ought not to depend on the number of convictions they secure. We would also respectfully suggest that statements made to Abkari officers, like those made to Police officers, be declared inadmissible in evidence.

12. In this connection we beg leave to add that, with a view to obtain more independent and efficient subordinate magistrates, it is highly desirable to improve their status by giving them adequate salaries.

13. We are aware that the Malabar Tenancy question is at present engaging Your Excellency's attention; and we take this opportunity to suggest the appointment of a representative commission for a thorough investigation of the subject.

14. We pray to Your Excellency for the introduction of the elective principle in the constitution of the district and taluk boards, as we are strongly of opinion that it will improve the tone of the administration.

15. We also pray for an increased grant to education, and, with reference to the recent order of

the Director of Public Instruction that no State aid to Sanskrit education is necessary in Malabar, we would press upon Your Excellency that Sanskrit education is also in need of Government support.

16. We trust that the construction of the proposed Calicut-Cannanore Railway, which is expected considerably to develop the trade and resources of the district, will be taken in hand at a very early date.

17. In conclusion we beg to assure Your Excellency of our sincere gratitude for the many benefits which the people have already received under your rule, and pray that Your Excellency may long be spared, with health and energy, to continue in the great work to which Providence has called you.

Once more giving Your Excellency a most sincere and hearty welcome, &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE KERALA MAHAJANA SABHA,—I beg you to accept for yourselves, and for the people of Malabar whom you represent, my best thanks for the address of welcome which has just been read. It gives me satisfaction to hear from you the assurances of attachment and loyalty to the British Crown, and your statement that you appreciate the many blessings the British rule has conferred on you. I will now proceed to deal with the points, which are numerous and important, brought forward in your address; but I must prelude my remarks by telling you that I am not here to give decisions or express definite opinions.

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My object in coming among you is to inform myself by personal contact with you on the spot of your wants and any grievances that you may have. You must not expect that I shall at once express any definite opinions or give any definite answers.

In the opening paragraphs of your address you deal mainly with the question of the revenue settlement which has been impending in Malabar for some time past. That settlement has, I know, been much delayed, but you must not expect that because it has been delayed it will not come. There must be a definite settlement of the land revenue, and it will be carried out by the Government as soon as circumstances permit. You then dwell once again on a point that has often been raised, and that is the question whether or not a permanent revenue settlement was granted by Government by its proclamation of 1805. Now with regard to this I must distinctly say that as far as Government is concerned—and the Government is the main party concerned in interpreting things of this kind—it is positively laid down that the proclamation to which you refer did not promise a permanent settlement. The question has been thoroughly threshed out by the Local Government, the Supreme Government and the Secretary of State, and this decision has been arrived at. In framing the settlement the greatest care will be exercised, and I can assure you for myself and the other Members of Government that moderation and caution will be used in any measures we may adopt. More than

this I am unwilling to commit myself to say. I would here correct one or two matters in your address on which I think you have been slightly misinformed. You say in paragraph 4 that the ranks of agricultural labourers have greatly increased of late years, and you assert that this is shown by a comparison of the figures of the census reports of 1871, 1881 and 1891. Now in reply to that I have to state that after making enquiries I find that the proportion of the population depending on agriculture for subsistence is actually lower in Malabar than in the Presidency generally. The census statistics as compiled in 1881 and 1891 cannot be fairly compared, because the figures for the latter year include all dependent on the calling, that is, all concerned directly or indirectly in agriculture, while in the census for 1881, the workers only, that is, the people actually employed in working and not including those who subsisted or lived on the proceeds of the labour of the workers, are shown. In paragraph 5 you dwell on the point that, because money has not been spent by Government in Malabar for irrigation purposes, whereas it has been so spent in other districts, you should receive more liberal treatment in other respects. I have to say in reply that irrigation works are not necessary, as you are favoured by nature with a heavy rainfall. Prices have risen in this district as elsewhere, and the landholder gets a good deal more as his share than formerly. Prices have risen, but his contribution has remained

stationary; consequently the proprietor has been a gainer to the extent of the difference.

In paragraph 6 you pray that the registration of the survey results may not be pressed till the proprietors have been enabled, by referring to the Sub-Division Registrar's plans, to rectify any mistakes that may be in them. I am informed that 120 men are now busy making copies of the subdivision field books, to which anybody interested can have access on application to the kurnams.

In paragraph 7 you deal with the oft-recurring Moplah outbreaks. I am sure it is unnecessary for me to say that Government is deeply concerned by the tendency to disorder which still prevails among the poorer Moplahs of Malabar. It is one of the first matters that came to my notice on my arrival in this Presidency, and it has since then caused me great anxiety, and it has been a matter of very careful enquiry and consideration. I may tell you that I do not believe that any good will arise from the appointment of a representative commission such as you mention in your address. The Government is amply provided with the means of information, and I do not believe that a commission in this case—I do not believe that a commission in most cases—is of any particular value. It is generally resorted to when Government feels that it is not strong enough to do its own work. You urge the desirability of constructing a railway as a means of reducing the tendency to disturbance among the Moplahs. A railway through that tract, we know

for a certainty, will not pay, and Government is not disposed to undertake any work in the nature of railway extension which cannot be shown to be fairly remunerative. I do not suppose any of you gentlemen will be willing to take shares on your own risk in such an undertaking. A railway for the present is, I consider, in advance of the wants of this part of the country. We must learn to walk before we can run, and in pursuance of this principle Government is prepared to spend a considerable sum of money in improving the existing roads in the taluks which the Moplahs who show an inclination to outbreaks principally inhabit. An engineer has been specially appointed for the purpose, and he will come to the district within the next few days in order to trace out the most suitable lines of road.

You next allude to the special police cess recently levied in the taluks of Waluvanad and Ernad, and say that it is felt to be a grievance as it punishes the innocent many for the sins of the guilty few. I am not sure whether you allude to the charge necessary to keep up what is called the special police force, or whether you allude to the small cess which is imposed for the purpose of opening two new police stations in those taluks. If you allude to the former, that is the means necessary to provide a special police force, I may tell you that it ceased to be charged to the inhabitants in 1888, and I find that the charge for the special police force is now entirely borne by the Government without the assistance of any special cess. It

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is true, however, that about two years ago a cess was levied for the purpose of providing two police stations. I think I am right in saying it was provided that this cess would be levied only for two years. The two years, I think, have very nearly elapsed, and as the matter has been mentioned, I will cause it to be considered whether this cess may not be discontinued.

You next call to my notice that there has been an increase of crime in the Malabar district, and that cases of real detection are few, and you attribute this state of things to the inefficiency of the Malabar police. Now I do not suppose that the Malabar police, any more than any other body of men, are perfect. I have no doubt that many have their weak points and deficiencies, but this paper which I hold in my hand shows the statistics of crime in the district for the past six years, and from it it appears that there has been no increase, but rather a decrease in crime during this period. The figures are as follows:—

Year.	Cases.			Persons.			Property.		
	Reported.	Detected.	Per cent.	Arrested.	Convicted.	Per cent.	Lost.	Recovered.	Per cent.
1890 ...	3,340	1,180	35.3	7,432	2,235	30.1	Rs. 83,077	Rs. 17,340	20.9
1891 ...	3,512	1,201	34.2	6,775	2,063	30.5	1,18,963	13,033	11
1892 ...	3,324	1,072	32.3	6,994	1,975	28.2	93,980	19,216	20.4
1893 ...	3,097	970	31.3	5,726	1,639	28.6	1,03,878	13,150	12.7
1894 ...	2,420	825	34.1	5,221	1,510	28.9	92,141	24,423	26.5
1895 ...	2,516	845	33.6	5,556	1,541	27.7	64,837	19,052	29.4

It will be seen that there was a slight rise in 1895 above the figures of 1894, but previous to that there had been a steady decrease since 1891. I think that before the deputation thought proper to bring these charges against the Malabar police, they should have been more careful in ascertaining the real facts of the case.

In paragraph 10 of your address you speak strongly against the unsympathetic and unsatisfactory way in which the Salt and Abkari Laws are worked in the district. Here I have no doubt there is room for improvement, for I feel sure that in the application of these laws there is probably a good deal of hardship and possibly a tendency to oppression; but I may say that laws for the protection of revenue are always unpopular, and there is always a tendency to exaggerate the evils flowing from them, especially in the case when the restrictions are new. I must admit on the other hand that petty officials invested with considerable powers are only too apt to harass people unnecessarily and even to extort money. This can only be prevented by the most careful and thorough supervision and the condign punishment of any one detected in any acts of oppression or extortion. It must be remembered also that every one who complains against the Salt and Abkari officials is not always the innocent martyr he represents himself to be. The attempts to evade these laws are persistent and ingenious, and consequently the laws for the protection of revenue have always to be strict and severe.

However, you have brought to my notice a matter in which I am bound to take a sympathetic interest, and you may rest assured that I shall spare no pains to arrive at the truth in all matters of this sort, and to take strong measures wherever oppression and extortion are proved, in the two departments to which you refer. You suggest in your address that now is the time to abolish the reward system. It is quite likely, I think, that the system gives opportunities for oppression, and I think I am not going beyond my right in telling you that the system of rewards is now under consideration by the Board of Revenue, and I hope the result of the consideration will be that the abuses arising from the system will be reduced, if not remedied.

You next add that with a view to obtaining more independent and efficient subordinate magistrates it is highly desirable to improve their status and to give them an adequate salary. Now on this point I may say that though the position of the magistrates may not be perfect, it has been improved considerably in the last year or two and compares favourably with that in many other parts of India. Appointments of stationary sub-magistrates have been largely made, and I may tell you in passing that in this class of magistrates we are far more fortunate in the Madras Presidency than people in other provinces in India. You must remember that the money at the disposal of Government is limited, and that it is impossible to increase our establishments of magistrates beyond the means we have at our disposal for paying them.

You next deal with the important question of the Malabar Tenancy, and you take the opportunity of suggesting the appointment of a representative commission for the thorough investigation of the subject. I have already expressed the views I entertain about commissions. We have had plenty of them, and I do not think the results are commensurate with the time and money expended on them. We have at the present moment one of the ablest of the Madras Civilians employed in preparing a Tenancy Bill for Malabar, and I do not think the work would be in better hands if it was put in charge of any commission that could possibly be formed. The officer to whom I allude is very soon coming down to this part of the country in order to inform himself more perfectly than he is at present informed, on the facts and circumstances that should go to the drafting of the Bill to which you refer.

You next speak of the introduction of the elective principle in the taluk boards. I am aware the principle does not go so low down among representative bodies as the taluk boards, and I am not at present able to say why this is the case; but I will inform myself on the matter. It occurs to me that it may be possible to experiment in one or more favourable districts with the extension of the system to taluk boards. It might possibly be tried, and then if we find it a success, it can gradually be extended. All matters connected with the representatives of the people on taluk boards and

district boards must be matters of slow and careful growth. There is great danger and risk in an attempt to rush an advance of this kind.

You pray for an increased grant to education, and more especially for special aid to Sanskrit education. With regard to the grants for education, I may say that we have gone on steadily increasing them from year to year. Government spends quite as much as it can afford to do on education. Personally, I should be glad if more could be devoted to that purpose, but, as I said in an earlier part of my reply, our means are limited, and we only have such money to expend for all purposes as the Supreme Government thinks fit to leave to us. I am not at present prepared to say that we shall find it possible—especially in view of the fact that what is called the provincial contract with the Government of India will be renewed next year—to do more in this direction with the reduced means at our disposal. With regard to the special grant for Sanskrit education, it appears at first sight—I have not had time to go into the question more fully—that the teaching is of the nature of a highly special and classical order, and is therefore a matter which should be left to private interest and enterprise instead of being a charge on the general revenues of the State.

You next mention the construction of the proposed Calicut-Cannanore Railway, and express a hope that it will be taken in hand at a very early date. In expressing that hope you go entirely

with me. I wish most heartily that I could have seen the railway begun at the present moment, so that with the favourable dry season before us we could go on with the work. But as you probably are aware, the construction of railways is a matter not under the authority of the Local Government, but is entirely ruled by the Government of India, and that Government has such vast matters to consider, so many interests which clash with one another to be decided between, that the difficulty of appropriating such means as are at its disposal are very great. I may, however, say—I have been authorized to say—the Government of India recognizes the desirability of the line, and will do all it can to push on its construction. You may rest assured as far as my efforts are concerned by urging the Government of India and representing our pressing needs in this matter, that nothing will be left undone.

I beg to say in conclusion that I am very grateful to you for your good wishes for my health, and more especially for your hope that I may continue to be of use to you. I think, gentlemen, I have now come to the end of the subjects which you touched on in your address, and if my reply is not altogether to your taste, I hope you will give me credit for having tried to tell you the truth about the various matters which we have been discussing.

THE PEOPLE'S ADDRESS,

Presented at East Hill, Calicut, on 30th September 1896.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, on behalf of the people of Calicut, beg leave to accord to Your Excellency a hearty and sincere welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this ancient and historic town, and we wish to convey through Your Excellency to our benign Sovereign our heartfelt and enduring loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty.

We have first to thank Your Excellency for the restoration, though partial, of the coveted privilege of the municipal elective franchise of which we were deprived in 1891.

We feel that we have in Your Excellency a Governor who always has at his heart the welfare of the subjects entrusted to his care, and emboldened by this feeling and by the recent partial restoration of our privileges by Your Excellency, we beg leave to approach you with a *resume* of some of our various wants and grievances.

In the first instance, we respectfully venture to request Your Excellency to be pleased to grant to us the privilege that we had of electing 75 per cent. of our municipal councillors. In this connection we beg leave to state that we look with grave concern on the provision in the new Municipal Bill enabling the Government to dismiss a councillor in the way proposed. We take this opportunity of drawing Your Excellency's attention to the fact

that the new provisions introduced in the Bill have the undesirable effect of impairing the independence of our municipal councillors.

Municipal taxation is another subject to which we wish to invite Your Excellency's attention. The general poverty of the people does not warrant, in our humble opinion, any increase in the existing rates of municipal taxation. The desirability of making a distinction between buildings occupied by their owners and those let out on hire, in the matter of assessment, is so very apparent that it is but proper and reasonable that the former class of buildings should be assessed at a rate lower than the latter.

The timber traffic at Calicut is by no means inconsiderable. From causes, natural and artificial, the bar at Kallai remains blocked up during the major portion of the business season, thus presenting considerable difficulty for the exportation of the vast quantity of timber lying in the river. When Your Excellency's predecessor had occasion to visit this town, this matter was brought before him, and it was then resolved to keep open the bar, the necessary expenses being met by the levy of a small toll on the timber exported. To ensure the regular payment of this toll a sum of Rs. 700 was ordered to be, and was, deposited by the timber merchants in the taluk treasury. Though this scheme succeeded for some time, we regret to say that it has altogether failed of late. We request Your Excellency, therefore, to devise measures which will

ensure the free communication between the river and the sea during all seasons of the year.

The question of Moplah burial grounds next invites Your Excellency's attention. We take this opportunity of expressing our heartfelt thanks for the grant of Rs. 7,000 that Your Excellency has made in connection with this matter. The Moplah community, as Your Excellency may be aware, has consented to the closing of the present burial grounds on condition of their being provided with four other unobjectionable sites in four different quarters. We beg, however, to bring to Your Excellency's notice the fact that the two sites already selected are not sufficiently commodious and require to be largely extended in view of the difficulty of selecting a suitable site in the eastern part of the town.

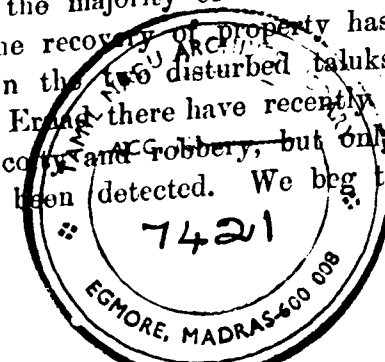
The next subject to which we would draw Your Excellency's attention is the proposed railway to Cannanore. We need not here state the necessity for the extension, as it has already been sanctioned. We only beg leave to bring to Your Excellency's notice the expediency of having the line constructed with the least possible delay.

We have next to bring to Your Excellency's attention the desirability of making the relation between the landlords and tenants of Malabar more secure and satisfactory. In our humble opinion, the recent lamentable occurrences in the Ernad and Waluvanad taluks are attributable mainly to the present agrarian insecurity and the extreme poverty of the people.

We have, in the next instance, to refer to some matters which, though they affect other districts, affect Malabar also. We refer to the constitution of the taluk boards and the district boards, the inefficiency of the police, and the rigorous administration of the Salt and Abkari laws.

The taluk boards, intended as the beginnings of local self-government, are only so in name. We most respectfully beg to state that the present constitution of the taluk boards does not in any way conform to the benevolent intentions of our former esteemed Viceroy, The Right Honourable The Marquis of Ripon. Considering also the fact that the members of the district board are, to some extent, elected from the taluk boards, and that the district boards have the privilege of returning members to the Legislative Council, who are regarded as the representatives of the people, we would request that the right to elect members to the taluk board may be conferred on the people, so as to make representation real throughout.

We would next invite Your Excellency's most earnest attention to the present inefficient state of the police. Crimes have multiplied at rapid rates, and detection has been as slowly going down. In the majority of cases that have been detected, the recovery of property has been only nominal. In the two disturbed taluks of Waluvanad and Ernad there have recently been many cases of dacoity and robbery, but only a few of them have been detected. We beg to bring to



Your Excellency's notice the general feeling of unrest and insecurity arising from such a state of affairs.

The next subject requiring Your Excellency's attention is the rigorous working of the Salt and Abkari laws. The efficiency of the officers in the department is at present, we regret to add, too often judged by the number of cases detected, and the extensive powers in the matter of searches and arrest with which they are entrusted are, we venture to submit, not always used with due discretion. The reward system existing in the department has a deteriorating influence on the morale of the officers. We commend these matters to Your Excellency's attention, and beg that the hardships attendant upon the administration of these laws may be alleviated.

We have passed in review some of our grievances, and in conclusion we again most heartily welcome Your Excellency to this town, pray for your and Lady Havelock's long life and prosperity, and request Your Excellency to convey to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress our heartfelt loyalty to the British Crown. We beg to remain, &c., &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg you, the representatives of the people of Calicut, to convey to the people of Calicut my warmest thanks for the kind welcome given me to their ancient and interesting town. The loyalty

and affection which you express for our beloved Queen are, I am sure, thoroughly known and believed by Her. She has nowhere than in India more loyal and loving subjects. You have in your address just read put before me a long series of your wants and grievances. Some of them have already been dealt with in the reply that I made to the address which was previously presented. Where I have already replied to the same subject in the previous address I will pass lightly over it, but where there are other questions, I will try and deal with them more fully.

You ask me in the first place to be pleased to grant you the privilege which you originally had of electing 75 per cent. of the members of the municipal council. I am aware that a short time ago some return of your privileges was given to you, and I hope that circumstances may so turn out as to enable Government to go still further in this direction and to restore the privileges which you had formerly in their entirety.

I believe that one of the greatest defects of your municipality, and of those in other places, lies in the difficulty there is in fully and effectually collecting the revenue. I believe the Government finds that the chief fault it has to draw the attention of municipal governments to is the inefficient collection of revenue. I would quote in connection with this subject of municipalities the words of Mr. Chamberlain, who you know is a great authority on the subject, having been Mayor for some years

of the great city of Birmingham. He says: "Municipal success depends on three things, viz., (1) the character of the people elected as councillors; (2) the ability and integrity of the permanent officials; (3) the interest taken in municipal work by the bulk of the citizens." I commend these three points to the careful consideration of all municipal bodies in this country.

You draw my attention to certain provisions which have been introduced in the Municipalities Bill now before the Legislative Council. I was addressed on this subject in another town which I visited within the last two or three months, and I think I there said on the point to which you are at present alluding, and which I am well acquainted with, that the Government would re-open the question if we could modify our views upon it, and I now repeat what I there said.

You deal with the subject of municipal taxation, and make a protest against any increase on the existing rates. I am afraid I cannot give you much encouragement on this point. In Calicut and elsewhere you are sadly in need of public works. I believe you have no regular water-supply and probably your drainage system is not perfect, and I tell you from my experience of this morning that your hospital accommodation is not sufficient. You have in the hospital only 30 beds, and I found this morning 38 patients put in the space to accommodate 30 patients. I was told by the Medical officer in charge that if he only had accommodation he

could easily take in many more patients. With regard to female patients, a form is kept, a species of roster, and when a patient's turn came round, she was admitted; but many an application had to be refused. I mention this (in connection with water-works and drainage) to show you there is need for more money, and I don't see how more money is to be provided unless the present taxation is increased instead of being decreased. You have full return for the money you pay, and I don't think therefore you ought to grudge it. It appears to me from the glance I have had of Calicut there is a good deal of comfort, if not wealth in the place, and there are some who can afford to contribute more than they do now for the furtherance of the public interest of the town.

You then deal with the subject of the timber traffic of Calicut and refer to the bar of the Kallai river being blocked up. I am aware that my predecessor took an interest in this matter, and that the incidents which you mention took place, that a fund had been created and kept open, and that no very great success attended these operations. I am afraid that it is rather a difficult and costly work, but I intend before leaving Calicut to pay a visit to the spot with the engineer, and I will then see what I can do, with the assistance of the engineering body, to carry out what seems to be a plan of my predecessor's. I must, however, warn you that it is a difficult matter, and it will cost more money than perhaps you think.

You then deal with the question of Moplah burial grounds, which is a very delicate subject among all people professing the Muhammadan faith; and you then express your thanks for the grant of Rs. 7,000 made towards providing burial grounds and you express your satisfaction with the results, but you point out that the sites already chosen are not sufficiently commodious. With regard to this the Government will be disposed, if it is satisfied that more money is needed, to help you still further in this direction.

The next point you call attention to is the railway from Calicut to Cannanore, and you impress upon me the expediency of having the line constructed without any possible delay. I assure you if this matter rested in my hands the railway would have been begun months ago, and I might have had the great pleasure on this occasion of my visit of opening it for work; but the matter, as I explained to the last deputation, does not rest in my hands; it is entirely in the hands of the Government of India. I have had assurances however from the Viceroy that the Government of India perfectly recognizes the desirability of the line, and will do its best to facilitate its early commencement. More than that I am not authorized to say to you.

You then touch upon the desirability of making the relations between landlords and tenants in Malabar more satisfactory. As I explained to the last deputation, that is a matter which the Govern-

ment has very much at heart, and one on which it has one of its ablest public officers now engaged.

You then refer to the constitution of the taluk boards, district boards and the inefficiency of the police and the rigorous administration of the Salt and Abkâri Laws. I don't think on these points I can give you any further explanation or information than that given to the members of the last deputation. I am glad to see my friends, the reporters of the newspapers, here, and I dare say with their help you will be able to read what I said to the previous deputations. I would only add with regard to your remarks about the increase of crime and the failure of detection that I have in my hands a return giving statistics of crime and detection in Malabar for the last five years. I will not read this to you because I know how difficult it is to carry figures in one's head, but I will hand it to the representatives of the press and ask them to embody it in their report of my speech; and you will see from the figures given there that your information is not absolutely correct on this point in connection with the police.

I have only one more paragraph of your address to deal with, and that is one in which you accord a hearty welcome to myself to the town of Calicut, in which you pray for Lady Havelock's and my own long life and prosperity, and in which you request me to convey to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress your heartfelt loyalty to the British

Crown. Gentlemen, I beg to thank you very heartily for the kind sentiments contained in that paragraph.

THE NATIVE CHRISTIANS' ADDRESS.

Presented at East Hill, Calicut, on 30th September 1896.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Native Christian community at Calicut, beg to offer Your Excellency a most respectful and hearty welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this important district, the Christian church in which dates its origin from the Apostolic times. We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to place before Your Excellency a few facts connected with the Native church of this district and trust that they may prove interesting to Your Excellency. The Protestant church here is represented first by the Basel Evangelical mission, which commenced operations in this district so far back as 1839. One of the prominent features of this mission is its industrial establishments. It has weaving establishments at Cannanore, Telli-cherry, Chombala, Calicut and Codacal, and steam tile factories at Calicut, Codacal and Palghat. The total number of Christians of this mission in the district is 4,700, of whom 1,250 are in Calicut and 1,200 in Codacal. The mission industrial establishments afford training and occupation to a large number of Christians and non-Christians. Those establishments have proved valuable, not only as

aids to mission work, but also as a means of inducing in others a desire to start enterprises of a similar nature and thus help to develop the resources of the country. The mission has also been taking an active interest in educational work. Besides the several primary and lower secondary schools which it maintains in different parts of the district, it has a high school for boys and a lower secondary school for girls at Calicut, the latter of which has been in existence for the last 54 years. The Medical Mission branch, which was started ten years ago, affords relief to thousands of Christians as well as non-Christians. In 1894 the Municipal Leper Hospital was handed over to the mission, and this institution as well as the local General Hospital are now under the supervision of Dr. Stokes, the son of an old missionary and a Graduate in Medicine of the University of Edinburgh. Last year a European lady nurse was added to the staff in the person of an old missionary's daughter. Besides the above, the Basel missionaries have contributed largely to the development of healthy Malayalam literature, and are making every effort to spread the kingdom of Christ in this land through the agency of itinerant missionaries both European and Native. A small Anglican Native Christian congregation, numbering about 150 souls, worship in the local Government church, by kind permission. It is not connected either with the Church Missionary Society or the Society for Propagating the Gospel, but is under the personal direction of the Lord Bishop

of Madras and is supported solely by voluntary subscriptions and donations. The services of a pastor have been kindly lent by the Church Missionary Society and he carries on evangelistic work among the Tamil-speaking inhabitants of the town. There is also a small body of Syrian Christians in the Ponnáni taluk numbering about 2,000, who look upon the Metran of Anjur as their ecclesiastical head. It may not be out of place to mention here that it was in this taluk that St. Thomas the Apostle is reported to have established one of his seven churches. In venturing to place before Your Excellency this short account of Christian work in this place, we beg humbly to assure Your Excellency that no section of Her Majesty's subjects appreciate the blessings of a Christian Government more than we and pray that Christian England's rule in India may continue to the end of time to the enlightenment and happiness of the millions committed to her charge. In conclusion we beg to thank Your Excellency for the opportunity given us to wait upon Your Excellency and to offer our expressions of loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and to her representative in this land. Praying that God Almighty may pour down upon Your Excellency and Lady Havelock all the blessings of this life and the life to come, &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I pray you to accept my warm thanks for your kind welcome on the occasion of my

visit to the Malabar district. I have listened with great interest to the short history you have given me of the work done by your mission in this part of India. It comprises valuable work, not only religious and social, but also industrial. It appears that you have not only been spreading the blessings of Christianity, but you have also been endeavouring to raise the civilization and social standing of the people of this country. You have not also forgotten to attend to their bodily needs. The addition of a Medical branch to a mission is of the very first importance. I have no doubt that it paves the way to what I understand to be the primary object of the mission, and that is to spread Christianity. You make allusion to some body of Syrian Christians in the Ponnáni taluk who look upon the Metran of Anjur as their ecclesiastical head. I had occasion to glance at the history of the Syrian church in this part of India within the last few weeks, and was much interested to find how long ago this body of Christians first began work in India, even, as you to-day point out, in the days of St. Thomas the Apostle, and how they had to contend with many difficulties up to the present time. It is a very interesting record. I will venture to offer a little criticism on the heading of your address. You say "we, the members of the Native Christian community of Calicut," but I gather from the whole wording of the address you do not include under the term 'Native Christian community' the Roman Catholic body, which is

the most numerous of all Christian denominations in this part of India. I understand that in the Malabar district there are 40,000 Roman Catholics to about 6,000 to 7,000 Anglicans and other sects of the Protestant denomination. I don't think when dealing with the work of Christian bodies you should exclude the great Roman Catholic body. I only mention this, not with the intention of finding fault, but merely to point out that they do exist here and they do large, extensive and valuable work.

I have no doubt of your loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty, which is felt by all Her subjects, and at this time, when the Queen has completed a longer reign than any of Her predecessors, I feel sure the affection for Her is stronger than ever it was at any former period. I thank you in conclusion for the good wishes on my own behalf and on behalf of Lady Havelock.

THE WYNAAD PLANTERS' ADDRESS.

Presented at East Hill, Calicut, on the 30th September 1896.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That Your Excellency's petitioners have much hesitation in encroaching on your valuable time, particularly as there are several subjects of necessity already receiving the attention of Government.

There is, however, one matter of vital importance to our industry to which your petitioners would

respectfully draw attention, and that is the maintenance of our roads. Your petitioners refer more particularly to the Calicut-Vayitri, Vayitri-Gúdalúr road. After much correspondence on the matter Government finally decided that the maintenance of this road should be kept under the control of the Local Fund Board; but at the same time Government, while declining to make the desired change of replacing the road under the control of the Public Works Department, promised us that should it ever be shown that the Local Fund Board was unable to provide for the proper maintenance of the road in question, a grant-in-aid from provincial funds would be considered. Your petitioners most earnestly and respectfully beg to point out that the result we feared from the transfer has come to pass, and that, if it is still considered inadvisable to hand back the road to the Public Works Department, the time has arrived for Government to give a liberal grant-in-aid to the Local Fund Board. This road reconstructed at such great expense and which, up to 1894, was in very good condition, has deteriorated to an alarming extent. We fear that if not specially taken in hand with an ample allowance for up-keep, it will lapse into the same deplorable state it was in prior to 1885. We do not wish to throw any discredit on the Local Fund Board staff or the agency by which the work is done; but when it is remembered that the rainfall upon the Tamra-cheri Ghaut, the most important portion of the road, is not far short of 300 inches, it is obvious that

the present allotment is insufficient to keep the road in a proper state of repair. Further, your petitioners would most respectfully point out that a provincial grant would not only be of assistance in allowing of the proper up-keep of our main line, but would enable the Local Fund Board to provide for the better up-keep of other roads, among which your petitioners would particularly mention the Vellera Mulla road. This road, which is 9 miles in length and has 10 bridges on it, of which 3 are important ones, was constructed in the famine year (1877), and was undertaken as a relief work and made entirely at the cost of planters. It is the only outlet to over 2,000 acres of cultivation; and further large extensions are being made. The entire cost of up-keep rests at present on the proprietors of the estates, who use this road.

His Excellency, instead of giving a formal reply, discussed the question raised, Mr. Maylor, the Local Fund Engineer, who was present, furnishing what information was necessary in the matter. The Governor opening the discussion said:—

He had had, during the course of his career in many countries, many dealings with planters, but he had never met a planting body with fewer grievances than the planters in this part of the world. On this occasion they had only one request to make, and that was in connection with the giving over charge of the Vayitri road by Government to the District Board. If he understood the matter aright, the charge had been handed over by Government to the

District Board within the current year, when it was estimated that the cost of maintaining this section of the road would be Rs. 17,460. The receipts from tolls would amount to Rs. 12,000; therefore the balance needed to maintain the road was Rs. 5,460. Government had, however, given a grant of Rs. 6,500, which in point of fact was more than was required. Surely then if the roads were not properly maintained—assuming that his figures were correct—it followed that the money had been badly spent.

MR. R. K. WALKER.—I believe that for a long time this road has not been repaired. I think an extra grant is required to metal it more thoroughly than the present allotment allows. To do the road up thoroughly, it requires about 12 cubic yards of metal per furlong; at present one or two cubic yards is all that is allowed. We would like to see the road in the same order as when it was first made.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—When it was handed over to the District Board was it not in perfect order?

MR. WALKER.—No, I believe not.

MR. MAYLOR, Local Fund Engineer.—Portions of the road were by no means good.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—Should not the District Board have insisted on the road being in good order before it took charge of it?

MR. MAYLOR.—Yes, I believe so.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—What is the amount of expenditure per mile required to keep the road in order?

MR. MAYLOR.—From Calicut to the foot of the ghaut, 24½ miles, at Rs. 350 per mile, allowing 8 cubic yards of metal per furlong. The ghaut portion for 8 miles at Rs. 400 per mile, allowing 10 cubic yards per furlong. Fifty-five furlongs from Lakadi to Chundal junction at Rs. 260 per mile, giving 8 cubic yards per furlong. From Chundal junction to Chilladi bridge at the Nilgiri boundary Rs. 250 per mile, giving 8 cubic yards per furlong. The total cost being about Rs. 22,800.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—Can you explain your statement of the cost of the maintenance of this road in the face of the figures I have given, which are taken from Government orders based on a special report made by Mr. Moberley.

MR. DANCE, the Acting Collector, pointed out that Mr. Moberley's and Mr. Maylor's opinions on this matter were a little at variance.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—I think the best thing to do is to get the District Board to send in an estimate based on the statement now made and a further report on the condition of the road as nearly accurate as they can get it. Then we can consider two points, namely, whether the grant already made is under-estimated, and if it cannot be supplemented. I do not see the benefit of the Government retaking charge of the road as long as it can make such a grant to the District Board as will suffice to keep the road in repair. I recognize the extreme necessity of having the road in good order. Personally I am inclined to think that in the maintenance of a road

like this, which is an arterial highway, the provincial revenues should come to your assistance, and that they should not be left entirely to the District Board. The readiness to do this is shown by the grant I have already mentioned, and if it is necessary somewhat to supplement this, I do not think there will be any difficulty about the matter.

THE CALICUT HIMAYATH-UL-ISLAM SABHA ADDRESS,

*Presented at the Sabha's Hall, Calicut, on the morning
of the 1st October 1896.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Moplah community, constituting the 'Himayath-ul-Islam Sabha,' Calicut, most respectfully beg to offer our hearty welcome to Your Excellency and to express our feelings of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, whom Your Excellency most worthily represents in this presidency. Though our community is unfortunately one of the most backward in this Presidency in the matter of education, yet we beg to assure Your Excellency that there is no class imbued with a deeper sense of loyalty than the Moplahs. It is a matter of very great pride to our community that Your Excellency, on the recommendation of our benign Collector, Mr. Dance, has kindly condescended to honour our sabha with Your Excellency's presence. This event will not only

strengthen our attachment to the British *Raj*, but it will, we are sure, also give encouragement to our community to work together heart and soul for the realization of the objects of the sabha.

We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to bring to Your Excellency's kind notice a few facts connected with our sabha in the hope that they may prove interesting to Your Excellency. The sabha was started in 1890 with a few members on its rolls, but we are glad to state that at present we have no less than 315 members consisting of almost all the leading members of the community including kazis, tangals, merchants and jenmis. The object of the sabha is to ameliorate the condition of the Moplahs as much as it lies in our power, and one of its fundamental rules is that no political questions shall be discussed at the meetings. With a view to impart stability to the institution, we have built this hall, within the walls of which we have met to-day to welcome Your Excellency among our midst. We have also erected a spacious mosque in the adjoining compound at the cost of the sabha. Several mosques which stood greatly in need of repair were put in order. The sabha has also established a Madrasa which imparts religious instruction free of cost to Moplah youths. For the maintenance of this institution a special endowment has been created, and it is under contemplation to start a similar Madrasa to impart secular education. The sabha also undertakes to maintain all destitute infants. On reference made by the Collector, on several occasions we

have offered our opinions on the subject of Moplah outbreaks, the Religious Endowments Act, the Mecca Pilgrims and other subjects affecting the Moplah community, and we have also given our cordial support for the removal of the Moplah burial-grounds from the town. In placing these facts connected with our sabha before Your Excellency, we earnestly pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to give us such timely counsel and help as would enable us to work together for the enlightenment and happiness of our community.

In conclusion we beg to express our heartfelt gratitude for Your Excellency's condescension in visiting this institution to-day, and we fervently pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may enjoy long life and unalloyed happiness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE HIMAYATH-UL-ISLAM OF CALICUT,—
I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the kind words of welcome which you have addressed to me. I have heard with satisfaction your renewal of the assurances of loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. No assurance of this kind, however, is needed, for there are no more loyal subjects than the Muhammadan subjects of this empire.

The backwardness in the matter of education to which you allude is a matter which is deeply to be regretted, but it is one for which the Government

finds it very hard to discover a really satisfactory remedy. You are aware that there is in Madras a high school specially devoted to Muhammadan education, and it is the intention of Government to spend a considerable sum of money in improving the condition of this Madrasa. The difficulty Muhammadans, it appears to me, find in keeping up with others in the matter of education arises from the fact that their boys are not able to go to school at as early an age as others. Your custom is to keep them at schools where the Koran is taught until they arrive at a certain age, and by the time the boys do go to school to learn the ordinary subjects of education, they are older than the other boys they meet there, and of course more backward. If you could contrive to combine in these religious schools the teaching of secular education, it is probable that your boys would begin on a more equal basis with the other classes.

It has given me great pleasure to be here in your sabha. As soon as the Collector told me that it would give you pleasure to receive me here, I had no hesitation in consenting to come. I have heard with much interest the account you have given of the history and the work of this sabha. Its object, which is described as being to ameliorate the condition of the Moplahs as much as lies in your power, is a very excellent one. I congratulate you on the handsome hall which you have built for the purposes of your sabha, and the work you have carried out in establishing a Madrasa for imparting religious

instruction free of cost; your charitable undertaking to maintain destitute infants reflects on you the greatest credit. The opinions you have offered the Collector on the subjects of the Moplah outbreaks, the Religious Endowments Act, the Mecca Pilgrims Act and other subjects affecting the community have no doubt been very useful. I feel assured that the Collector will be very glad to give you any counsel and help that may be in his power, to enable you to work together for the enlightenment and happiness of your community.

In conclusion, I wish to assure you of my personal interest in the Moplah community and my desire to be of all the service to it that I can. I thank you very sincerely for the kind welcome which you have given me and the good wishes for the health and happiness of myself and family.

THE TELLICHERRY MUNICIPAL ADDRESS,

Presented at 5 p.m., on 2nd October 1896, at the Empress Hotel.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In the name of the Municipality, we welcome Your Excellency to this town and hasten to convey to you our deep feelings of loyalty and devotion towards our Gracious Queen-Empress as well as the pleasure we feel at the visit of one who, as Her Majesty's representative in different quarters of the globe, has everywhere earned the title of 'the People's Friend.'

We are happy in being able to approach Your Excellency without any particular grievance, there

being nothing so pressing as to require that it should be brought to your notice just at present. We shall readily avail ourselves of the ordinary official channels to bring our little wants before Your Excellency. If we do not now urge upon Your Excellency the various discomforts and disadvantages we suffer owing to the want of a railway, it is because we are convinced that the importance of this undertaking, so vital to the interests of North Malabar, has not escaped the sympathetic attention and consideration of Your Excellency in Council. When we see the net-work of railways which enclose the Southern and Eastern districts within its beneficent arms, we cannot help thinking that we are left out in the cold so long because it is thought we have not striven with sufficient emphasis and vehemence in bringing our grievances before the authorities. Now, however, when every impediment has been removed, we hail the advent of Your Excellency as a happy augury that very soon indeed our hopes will be fulfilled and our wishes and prayers in this matter will be granted. That Malabar should be one of the first districts visited by Your Excellency is a matter of great satisfaction to us.

We fervently hope that both Your Excellency and Lady Havelock will enjoy health and every happiness during the tenure of your arduous office, and that wherever you go you will carry with you the prayers and wishes of a grateful people, who date the great increase in their prosperity from the era of your administration.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,—I thank you for your kind welcome, and I have heard with pleasure your assurance of loyalty to our Sovereign. Such assurances, however, are hardly necessary, for the feelings of loyalty and affection for the Sovereign are feelings such that no body can be without. It is pleasing to hear from you that you approach me without any particular grievances. It is my duty and pleasure to listen to any grievances that may be put before me, and it affords me considerable satisfaction therefore to find that at times there are no grievances to bring forward.

You make an allusion to the want of a railway, and in that I can assure you my sympathies are with you, and I regret that the railway is not yet begun. All that I am at present authorised to say to you is that the Government of India, which rules all matters of railway extension and construction, recognises the desirability of continuing the railway from Calicut to Cannanore, and that the best efforts will be made to set the work on foot as soon as possible. Looking, at your suggestion, at a map of this part of India, I am inclined to agree with you that in the matter of railway extension it has been rather neglected. You may be assured, however, that nothing will be wanting on my part to remedy this defect; but I must again ask you to remember that in the matter of railway extension the Madras

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

Government has no power of action; that is, we have no power of control in matters connected with railway extension, all we can do is to represent the case as strongly as we can to the Government of India and leave it to its discretion.

You then say that it is a matter of satisfaction that the Malabar district is the first that has been visited by me, and I may say that it gives me great pleasure to make the acquaintance of this important district—one of the most important in the presidency, and one that requires more Government attention than any other for the many important and burning questions which have to be settled within the next few years.

I thank you heartily for your kind wishes for the success of my Government and for your desire that the country may improve in prosperity during the time of my administration. I need hardly say that your good wishes are most warmly reciprocated.

THE TELLICHERRY MERCHANTS' AND RESIDENTS'
ADDRESS,

Presented at 5 p.m., on 2nd October 1896, at the Empress Hotel.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the merchants and residents of Tellicherry, beg to offer you a hearty welcome to North Malabar, especially as, since your assumption of office in this presidency, you have shown a lively interest in matters about which we have for many years made representations

to Your Excellency's predecessors on the occasions of their visits to Tellicherry, viz., roads and railways—subjects so intimately connected that we treat them together.

Some fourteen or fifteen years ago the long bridges at Ellatoor and Kotapoyaon on the road between Calicut and Tellicherry either fell, or were taken down to prevent their falling. These have never been replaced, and great interference with the traffic on this important line of road has been experienced ever since, especially during the monsoon season. Hopes have been held out by the authorities from time to time during the last fourteen years of the reconstruction of the bridges, but they have not so far been fulfilled. Indeed on the occasion of your predecessor's visit in 1893, it was pointed out that we should probably soon have the railway extended from Calicut, so that there was no great need for the early construction of the bridges. We have repeatedly heard recently that the construction of this extension is practically a matter of certainty, but the district would feel much flattered if Your Excellency could give it more or less definite information relative to the probable commencement and completion of the work. We read of the opening of lines in various parts of the country, while it seems to us the map of this part of India shows no progress in railway construction.

For many years past the condition of the main road leading from this port to Coorg and Mysore, especially the portion near the foot of the ghaut,

has given good grounds for complaint. Much of the prosperity of Tellicherry depends on this road, as by it the crops of Coorg, the largest coffee district in India, are brought down for preparation and shipment, and large quantities of rice, manure, salt and other articles are sent up. The traffic is so great that the road as at present maintained cannot stand it, and generally towards the end of the monsoon it becomes practically impassable for laden cart traffic. We believe the road is now in rather better condition than usual at this season, but the only way to insure its proper maintenance is to metal it. This means its being put under the Public Works Department or a special grant being made from provincial funds. Meantime it is said the existing bridge at the foot of the ghaut is in a dangerous condition, while the new bridge is far from completion, and the season's traffic will commence shortly.

The question of a line of railway between Tellicherry and Mysore *via* Coorg has been repeatedly brought before Your Excellency's predecessors, who, we think we may say, have taken a favourable view of the matter. We believe the Coorg authorities are also favourable, and we are in full accord with the Coorg Planters' Association, the members of which would so largely contribute to the traffic by sending coffee down and getting manure, etc., up; and we understand surveys have shown that no great difficulties are in the way. Such a railway would also tap the great seed-

growing districts of Mysore and adjoining country and save much carriage to the port of export, on produce of all sorts from these districts. So far, however, nothing has been done. Meanwhile it costs about Rs. 25 to bring a ton of coffee from Coorg to Tellicherry, about 50 miles, whereas a similar sum will take it hence to London, 8,000 miles. If there was a railway from the coffee districts to this port, the carriage would probably cost Rs. 4½ per ton, about one-sixth of the present rate. Similar remarks apply to the carriage upwards of manures, of rice, for which there may be some day a heavy demand in case of drought in Mysore and the neighbouring districts; of salt and many other articles of general consumption. Such a line would undoubtedly lead to a greatly enhanced trade at this port, and thereby conduce to the increased prosperity of the district generally, especially as at Tellicherry shipping and landing operation can be carried on practically throughout the year.

We regret Your Excellency's short stay on this occasion, and venture to hope that on your next visit you may be able to travel by train from one end of the district to the other.

HIIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MERCHANTS AND RESIDENTS OF TELLICHERRY,—I pray you to accept my warmest thanks for your kind words of welcome. I am not surprised that you should bring

the matter of roads and railways so prominently forward. A glance at the map and a very superficial knowledge of this part of the presidency shows that you are in want of communication with the sources and centres of the trade of these parts.

With regard to the bridges that you mention in your address, the Collector has informed me that he has a scheme on foot whereby he thinks that the District Board may be able to carry out the work. He has not elaborated this scheme, but from what he has told me I think it sounds feasible. You appear to have rested some hope on the construction of the railway to form a sort of substitute for road bridges at the points you mention. I am inclined to think that possibly you had better not rely too much on that. I am not certain that in the plans for the construction of the railway this double use of the bridges has been provided for. In all matters of this sort it has been proved to be true economy not to try and combine two operations in one work.

You say you would feel much flattered if I was in a position to give you definite information relative to the probable commencement and completion of the railway from Calicut to Cannanore. I can only repeat, what I said in answer to the address of the Municipal Council, and that is that I am not authorised to say more than that the necessity for the railway has been recognized, and that every effort will be made to put it on foot with as little delay as possible. It would have been a matter of

great pride and satisfaction to me if, on the occasion of my first visit to North Malabar, it had fallen to my good fortune to cut the first sod of this railway. Such, however, is not to be the case, and I can only assure you that as far as representations will further the object, they will not be wanting on my part—indeed, they have never been wanting, for I have made frequent representations to the Government of India and the India Office upon the subject of this railway within the last few months.

With regard to the condition of the road leading from Tellicherry into Coorg and Mysere,—you draw special attention to the portion near the foot of the ghaut,—I am informed by the Collector that in the estimates of the District Board large provision has been made for the repair of this road. It is recognized, I think he told me, that it required metalling, and on that his opinion is the same as yours. At any rate, I understand that a large sum of money, considering the means at the disposal of the District Board, has been placed in the budget for the ensuing year. It occurs to me that in improving this road we might justly ask the authorities of Coorg to assist us. I am not sure whether or not on previous occasions they have been requested to do this. I think that it may be worth while to repeat the request with emphasis. The planters of Coorg must be equally concerned in the up-keep of the roads with ourselves in Tellicherry, and I understand that the portion which falls to the lot of the District Board of Malabar is far larger than that

which falls to the Coorg authorities. On all these grounds, I think, we may approach them with a strong representation desiring that they should help us in this matter.

I shall also express my opinion to the Collector with regard to the line of railway between Telli-cherry, Coorg and Mysore. I am afraid at this time I can't give you any very encouraging remarks. I understand that out of the considerable number of railway schemes which have been suggested, and which to a certain extent have been looked into, this is not one which appeared to the Government of India to be the most desirable. I regret if it is one of which you have been hopeful in your anticipations, because for ourselves we are not in a very advanced stage of hopefulness with regard to this line; I am sorry I cannot give you more satisfactory information on this important matter; but it is useless for me to delude you with false hopes and ideas. But in this and in all matters connected with railway extension in the Madras Presidency, I can assure you I feel the greatest interest, and I feel that it devolves on me to do all I can in the way of making strong representations.

I regret with you that my stay at Telli-cherry should be short; I have had but very slight glimpses of your town, and what I have seen has struck me as an attractive and picturesque spot. I join with you in the expression of the hope that I may again visit Tellicherry, and I certainly hope that when next I come I may travel to it by railway.

THE CANNANORE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS,

*Presented at 11-30 a.m., on 3rd October 1896, at the
Welcome Pandal.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the inhabitants of this Municipality we beg to accord to Your Excellency a cordial welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this town. We congratulate ourselves that it gives us the rare opportunity of laying directly before Your Excellency, thus early in your administration, certain matters in which we are deeply interested.

The first subject we would respectfully bring to Your Excellency's notice is the extension of the railway to Cannanore and thence to Baliapatam, a rising suburb situated six miles to the north. It has an extensive backwater communication with all the pepper and timber producing tracts of the Chirkal taluk of this district and of the southernmost taluk of the district of South Canara. The extensive traffic in goods and passengers between Baliapatam and this place renders the further extension of the proposed Calicut-Cannanore line to that suburb highly necessary. Now that the survey operations have been finally completed, we would beg Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to do all that is needful to get the line taken in hand at as early a date as possible.

The old town of Cannanore, which is thickly populated by Moplahs, requires a complete system

of drainage. At present the surface water and sewage easily percolate through the sandy soil and contaminate the shallow wells which form the only source of water-supply. The introduction of drainage would in a great measure improve the quality of drinking water and the health of the inhabitants among whom filarial disease is very common. This has repeatedly been noted by the Sanitary officers of Government. The Municipality, which, in common with the inhabitants of this place, has been impoverished by the withdrawal of a great portion of the troops that were at one time stationed here, is not in a position to undertake this work. We would therefore humbly approach Your Excellency with a request that an allotment may be made from provincial funds in order that the work may be carried out.

This Municipality was once granted the privilege of electing its own chairman. It was withdrawn in 1887, because there was no quorum at three successive meetings convened for the purpose. Since then the *personnel* of the council has considerably improved and the members now take a lively interest in municipal affairs as will be seen by a reference to the reports of the proceedings of the council. We would therefore humbly request Your Excellency will be pleased to restore the privilege to us.

In conclusion we heartily wish Your Excellency all happiness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CANNANORE,—I beg to thank you, and through you the people of Cannanore, for the kind welcome you have given me to your town.

You, not unnaturally, are anxious to know something about the prospects of the railway to connect this town with Calicut. I must repeat here what I have said on other occasions and in other places, and that is, that the Government of Madras has no control over the construction of railways in India. That is one of the provinces of administration which is retained in the hands of the Supreme Government, and all that we, in the subordinate government of India, can do is to make representations to the Supreme Government, who judges them according to the lights that are before it. In the case of this railway, the one from Calicut to Cannanore, I am authorised to say that the Government of India fully recognises the desirability of making it, and that the work will be undertaken with as little delay as possible. More than this I am unable to tell you at present. You may rest assured that I am deeply interested in the work, and all that I can do to further it, by pressing representations on the Government of India, will be done.

With regard to the extension of the railway to Baliapatam, which is four or five miles beyond Cannanore, it appears from what you say, and from

what I can gather from other sources, that such an extension is very desirable, and I may tell you that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Government of India, and I think I may say that there is not much doubt that the representations we have made will have a successful result.

You mention the need of drainage in your town of Cannanore, and you represent that you have not the means of carrying out a work of this kind from your own resources. I may say in reply to this that, if a well-organised scheme can be designed for the purpose which is not excessive in its cost, the Government will, as in the case of other municipalities—but not in an exceptional degree, because we cannot admit that municipalities should not bear a proper share of works of this kind—I say that as in the case of other municipalities, Government will come to your aid for the purpose of carrying out this important work.

You touch upon the point of the restoration to the municipality of the privilege of electing its own chairman. The fault Government has to find with this municipality, in common with some others, is that sufficient energy is not shown in the collection of the revenue of the municipality. It is probable that, as soon as the stigma which still attaches to your shortcomings in this respect is removed, we may be able to consider the extension of the privilege you ask for, and the advancement of the municipality to that independence which the law may allow.

In conclusion, I beg to heartily thank you for the kind wishes for my prosperity and health and for the health of Lady Havelock.

THE CANNANORE PEOPLE'S ADDRESS,

*Presented at 11-30 a.m., on 3rd October 1896, at the
Welcome Pandal.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the people of North Malabar, as resolved at a public meeting held at Cannanore, on the 13th September, we beg leave to offer Your Excellency our cordial thanks for honouring our district with a visit regardless of personal inconveniences, at so early a date of your administration, and for affording us an opportunity of welcoming Your Excellency and expressing our sentiments of loyalty and veneration to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, under whose beneficent rule we are enjoying manifold blessings.

2. Relying on the general policy of the Government and in particular on Your Excellency's well-known sympathy with, and solicitude for, the people committed to your care, we are emboldened to urge before Your Excellency the burning question of the day, namely, the threatened revenue settlement of the district which is, we are afraid, calculated to subvert the pledges given by Government and to disturb an order of things that has almost been consecrated by time. This is not the

occasion nor the place to dilate upon the complex details of the scheme. Our object is merely to bring to Your Excellency's notice that it is impossible to introduce the revenue settlement into the district without shaking the confidence of the people in the solemn assurances of Government.

3. With all deference to the official opinion already formed on the subject, we beg to state that our revenue system is the product of mature deliberation, which extended over a long period of anxiety caused by the innovations introduced by Major Macleod in 1801.

4. The proclamation of 21st July 1805 is, as it were, our *Magna Charta* of the revenue system. It is the outcome of the labours of an eminent officer who safe-guarded the interests of Government without sacrificing those of the subjects. Mr. Rickards held an exhaustive enquiry and submitted his scheme which was adopted by Government and proclaimed throughout the district in July 1805. This proclamation promised to establish a permanent revenue on certain fixed principles, which were formally and finally confirmed by the Governor in Council in order that the apprehensions of the people might be dissipated by the early establishment of an unalterable assessment. Expressions more solemn and more unequivocal to mark the permanent and unalterable nature of the assessment it is, we submit, difficult to employ. And we feel we have only to bring these facts to Your Excellency's notice to induce you to deprecate a policy fatal to the well

being of the people as well as to the good name of Government. The proposed settlement has also filled the public mind with alarm inasmuch as it contemplates the taxation of pepper cultivation which was exempted from assessment after a long struggle.

5. Far be it from us to object to the assessment under existing rules of cultivated areas which on examination may be found to be unassessed. All that we beg to press on Your Excellency's kind consideration is that the enhancement of the existing revenue, fixed for ever on an unalterable principle by any artificial interpretation of the clear and unambiguous phraseology of the proclamation of 1805, will be a source of grievance to the public.

6. Next in importance come certain items of petty cesses which disfigure the revenue system of North Malabar to which they are confined. The cesses known as (1) Kangani, (2) Pattonna, (3) Talivaram, (4) Kuzhapattam, (5) Nittapada, (6) Azhippanam, (7) Kayattanella, (8) Velipanam, and (9) Vettiketta are the relics of an archaic age and are not sanctioned by the legislature. The original village contributions of which these cesses form the share of Government have long ceased to be paid or enforced by the courts. We are aware that the question of these cesses was brought to the notice of Government by Sultan Ali Rajah of Cannanore in March last and discussed in the Madras and local papers. We have, however, ventured to refer to the subject, as Your Excellency's presence among us

gives us an opportunity too good to be lost to bring the matter again to your notice.

7. Closely allied to these imposts is the village-cess recently added to the fiscal burdens pressing on landholders in North Malabar. In this connection we beg to refer Your Excellency to the interpellation in the Local Legislative Council on the 4th November 1895.

8. From the Mysorean conquest up to the present time, North Malabar has enjoyed immunity from the village-cess, owing to the recognised fact that the assessments especially on wet and miscellaneous lands were comparatively heavier here than in South Malabar. If the lightness of the wet assessment in South Malabar was the justification for the imposition thereon of the analogous Amsam Service Fund, it is, we submit, hard that the village-cess should be levied promiscuously in North Malabar, including wet and miscellaneous cultivations which are admitted to be more heavily taxed than in South Malabar.

9. If the imposition of the village-cess in North Malabar was a financial necessity, we would have prayed for its being restricted to garden lands said to be lightly assessed. But we understand that there is a handsome surplus under the Village Service Fund not only in the district taken alone, but also in the Presidency as a whole—a circumstance which has induced the Government to resolve on reducing the rate of the cess from next year. We

therefore pray that the exemption hitherto extended to us for good and valid reasons may be continued by the removal of the cess recently saddled on us.

10. Whilst appreciating the benefits of the survey operations now being carried on in the district, we cannot help bringing to Your Excellency's notice that it has unduly taxed the resources of the people. The first intimation we get for the charges payable by us is a single distress warrant directed collectively against as many as, in some instances, two hundred persons named in a statement attached to the warrant. No information of any kind, such, for instance, as the name and extent of lands, the nature of the charge made, &c., is vouchsafed to the landholders, save the aggregate amount payable by them. The issue of a single warrant against several persons, though it exhibits the smallest number of coercive processes issued for levying the dues of Government, does not appear to be sanctioned by the Revenue Recovery Act under colour of which the warrant is issued. We pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to direct that in every case full particulars of the survey charges be given to the parties concerned before they are subjected to the humiliation of a distress warrant and that separate warrants be issued in individual cases.

11. The tree-tapping system introduced into the district under the Madras Abkari Act inflicts on the people great hardships, as it entails a double tax on the same item of revenue. We need hardly state that under the existing land revenue system

cocoanut trees bear a distinct assessment, so that the tapping fees form an additional burden. As a tree which is tapped does not yield cocoanuts as long as the tapping process continues and for several months after the cessation of the process, it is clear that where one tax is levied in respect of a tree, the other should in justice be remitted. The complaint underlying the first question put in the Local Legislative Council held on the 11th March last regarding the assessment of trees standing on assessed lands in the Tanjore district applies, we submit, to the cocoanut trees in Malabar with greater force than in Tanjore. Here it is the tree itself that is assessed and not the land.

12. Whilst referring to this subject, we cannot omit to mention that the rules for marking trees tapped exclusively for the manufacture of jaggery form a source of great oppression to the poorer classes. Equally oppressive is the rigid enforcement of the provisions of the Salt Act, even when a handful of salt earth is scraped for manure or as food for cattle. And the granting of rewards in salt and abkari cases affords an undue temptation to low-paid subordinates to resort to practices which constitute a ground of universal complaint.

13. A recent ruling of the Madras High Court is understood to have decided that our *kuris*, which are a national institution dating from time immemorial and having for its object the encouragement of thrift, but into the constitution of which the elements of an association for profit do not enter,

should be registered under the Indian Company's Act. This has spread consternation far and wide in the district, and the conflicting decisions passed by certain Local Courts since the ruling of the High Court have contributed in no small degree to unsettle the minds of the public. If the High Court ruling has any bearing on the Malabar *kuris*, we pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take legislative action for freeing this time-honoured and innocuous institution from the operation of the Indian Company's Act.

14. We beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the delay in extending the Madras Railway to Cannanore is viewed with regret by the public. As the financial success of the undertaking has been assured and as a large sum has already been spent in surveying the line, we pray that the scheme may receive Your Excellency's kind and early attention.

15. In conclusion, we thank Your Excellency for the patient hearing you have given us. Our pleasure in welcoming Your Excellency would have been considerably enhanced if Her Excellency Lady Havelock had accompanied you in your visit to this district and its loyal people. We pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may be blessed with health and strength during your stay in this country.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you, and through you the people of Cannanore, for the welcome which you have given me. I am glad to hear from you the

sentiments of loyalty and veneration which you express for Her Majesty the Queen, and I am glad to hear that you appreciate the blessings and advantages you have gained from her rule.

In the address which has just been read you bring prominently forward the question of the proposed revenue settlement of Malabar. The Mahajana Sabha at Calicut has already addressed me at length on this subject, and I have replied to it. My reply has, I believe, been printed in the public newspapers, and I must ask you to refer to that reply for information. But in order that there may be no mistake on the subject, I will briefly repeat the sense of what I then said. The Government has gone closely into the question as to whether the Proclamation of 1805 has the effect which you attribute to it. The Local Government has considered the matter and has consulted its law advisers; the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India have given their decision in the matter, and it has been decided that there will be no breach of faith and no injustice in imposing on the Malabar district a fresh land revenue settlement. Therefore, I plainly tell you, so that there may be no mistake, that there *will* be a fresh revenue settlement as soon as circumstances enable us to carry it out. In working out the details of the settlement the Government will approach the question with great care and with great moderation.

The next point on which you touch in your address is the matter of certain items of petty cess

which, you say, disfigure the revenue system of North Malabar, to which they are confined. I am not very perfectly informed as to the history and details of this cess, but I understand that they are of old existence, and that they will disappear when the new general settlement is introduced.

You next touch upon the village-cess, which has recently added, as you say, to the fiscal burdens of the landholders of North Malabar. All I have got to say is that you have been given certain advantages and certain privileges for which you must be prepared to pay, and this cess is raised for the purpose of meeting those dues.

In paragraph 10 of your address you complain of the way in which the operations of the survey are now being carried out in the district, and you ask that in every case full particulars of the survey charges may be given to the parties concerned before they are subjected to the humiliation of distress warrants. You also beg that separate warrants may be issued in individual cases. As far as I have been able to ascertain the merits and facts of the matter, I should say your request is not an unreasonable one, and I will cause an enquiry to be made with the object of granting your request if possible.

You next touch on the tree-tapping system introduced into the district under the Madras Abkari Act, which you state entails a double tax on the same item of revenue. I do not find it possible to

follow you in this matter. Under the existing land revenue system, cocoanut trees bear a distinct assessment which forms part of the land revenue; but if you go further and tap the tree for the purpose of getting toddy, you subject yourself to a fresh revenue charge—a charge for excise.

In paragraph 12 of your address you complain that the rule for marking trees tapped exclusively for the manufacture of jaggery is a source of great oppression to the poorer classes. It would be useful, however, if you would specify more particularly, in what way this would form a source of oppression.

You also say that the rigid enforcement of the provisions of the Salt Act are equally oppressive. All that I have got to say is, that in all matters connected with the revenue, Government is obliged to be very strict. There are constant frauds attempted against which it is necessary to protect itself. If it were possible to limit the collection of salt for the purpose of manure, or, as you say, for feeding cattle, there would be no great harm, but if it were allowed, there would certainly be frauds practised on the salt revenue. Then as to using salt-earth for the purpose of curing fish, I would point out that fish cured in that way is certainly not properly cured and must be bad. I would also remind you that salt can be obtained without payment of Government excise for the purpose of curing fish. You mention that the granting of rewards for salt and abkari cases affords undue temptation for low-paid subordinates to resort to

practices which cause great and universal complaint. With regard to that I am quite ready to admit that the system of rewards is susceptible to the risk you speak of, but the system is, at the present moment, being looked into by the Board of Revenue, with the object of stopping any abuses which may possibly exist.

You next mention the ruling of the Madras High Court, which is understood to have decided that *Kuris* should be registered under the Indian Companies Act, and you ask that legal action should be taken for freeing these institutions from the operations of the Act. I may tell you that this is the first time I have heard that such registration is required by a decision of the High Court, and I beg to assure you that I will cause enquiries to be made into the matter.

In paragraph 14 you dwell on the subject of the extension of the Madras Railway to Cannanore, and you say that the delay is viewed with regret by the public of this part of the country. I can assure you that I sympathise with you in regard to the delay, but, I believe, I may tell you also that the time is now approaching when the railway will be undertaken, and that it may be possible that the next time I visit Cannanore I may travel here by railway.

In conclusion I thank you for the wish you have kindly expressed that Lady Havelock had been able to accompany me. When the railway is finished I

think it is possible that your wish in this respect may be gratified. I thank you very heartily for your good wishes for my and Lady Havelock's health and strength during our stay in this country.

THE MANGALORE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS,

Presented at 11 a.m., on 5th October 1896, at the Collector's House.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Mangalore, have assembled here to do the most pleasant duty of welcoming Your Excellency, as the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress.

We are deeply thankful to Your Excellency for being pleased so soon after the assumption of the reins of Government to visit this remote and isolated corner of the Presidency. The announcement of Your Excellency's appointment to the exalted office of Governor of this Presidency was hailed with joy by all classes of people, as Your Excellency was known to be a tried administrator and sympathetic ruler. We humbly beg to assure Your Excellency that during the past few months of your administration proofs have not been wanting for the justification to our hopes.

We humbly beg to represent that since the scheme of local self-government was extended to this Presidency, we have been successfully striving

to do our duty to the satisfaction of the townspeople and the approbation of Government; and we trust Your Excellency's sympathetic attitude and support to local bodies will be vouchsafed to us, so that we may be enabled to carry out the scheme for the water-supply and drainage of the town which is under contemplation.

We beg leave to take this opportunity to express also our gratitude for the peace and prosperity we are enjoying under the benign rule of our beloved Sovereign.

Once more we accord Your Excellency our heartiest welcome to this town and pray for the long life and continued prosperity of Your Excellency and Lady Havelock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANGALORE,—Accept, I pray, my best thanks for your kind words of welcome. If it has been a pleasant duty to you to welcome me with an address, it gives me no less pleasure to reply to it, for I have nothing but what is pleasant to tell you.

You, members of the Municipal Council of Mangalore, are in full enjoyment of the municipal privileges allowed under the Act. Three-fourths of your members are elected and you have an elected

chairman. Great deal of interest is taken in the exercise of the municipal privileges, for I find that in the three last contested elections 70 per cent. of the electors voted. You are thus in full possession of the privileges, and it appears to me that you have shown a great desire to make full use of those privileges. I have taken the trouble to read the reports on the working of the municipalities, and I find in them much that is satisfactory. You make a remark in the matter of drainage and water-supply. I can assure you that when a well-suggested scheme is placed before Government, the usual liberality which is shown to other municipalities will be extended to you. It is a matter of satisfaction to me to find that the sanitary condition of the town is good, judging from vital statistics, supposing vital statistics are fairly accurate.

A visit to the municipal hospital this morning has shown me that public health is satisfactory. There were only eleven patients, while there was accommodation for twenty-six; of course, it does not represent anything like the number of sick in a town with a population of 40,000 inhabitants, but it indicates in a general way that the town is fairly healthy. None of the eleven patients in the hospital were suffering from malarial fever or from fever arising from bad water or bad drainage, that is to say, there were no cases of enteric fever. I do not mean by this to encourage in your minds any belief that you are at all free from exerting yourself for the improvement of your hospital or for the develop-

ment of schemes for drainage and water-supply. With regard to water-supply, I am informed that what is called the *Khadri* scheme has some prospect of success. The Sanitary Engineer has just visited your town and when he has submitted his report, and when all the necessary information is before Government we shall see what can be done.

I was particularly struck with, and I congratulate you upon, the excellence of your roads. You have made good use of the valuable materials for road-making which you have in abundance. I have seldom seen better roads than these in Mangalore. In the matter of education you are particularly happily favoured; there is no town, not excepting the Presidency town, which is better blessed in this respect than Mangalore.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation of the efforts on the part of the municipal council and the inhabitants of Mangalore to do me honour and to show me respect. The preparations you have made have pleased me greatly, and the drive yesterday and to-day through the streets illuminated and decorated, has been a pleasant drive indeed. My best thanks are due to you and to those who assisted you in this work. I was much pleased with the town. Mangalore derives its name from a Sanskrit word meaning 'happy city.' Whether that derivation is correct or not, Mangalore deserves to be happy. I thank you for your kind expressions wishing me and Lady Havelock long life and continued prosperity.

THE MANGALORE DISTRICT ADDRESS,

Presented at 11 a.m., on 5th October 1896, at the Collector's House.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In spite of our complete isolation from the seat of Government, our district, which may aptly be called the most benighted part of this Presidency, has had the good fortune of having been in recent years visited by successive Governors; and we have hailed the advent in our midst of none of them with greater delight than we do Your Excellency's coming, heralded as it has been by a reputation for just administration and paternal solicitude for the welfare of Your Excellency's subjects.

2. Heartily then do we welcome Your Excellency and confidently do we crave a patient hearing for such of our grievances and pressing needs as, we are assured, will meet with a remedial response at Your Excellency's hands.

3. It is hardly necessary to refer pointedly to the difficulties of communication in our district, as Your Excellency is no doubt already aware of them. The movement for a railway line that would connect this district with its rich neighbours, Mysore and Coorg, has already taken a definite shape, and our Standing Committee, elected for the purpose of carrying the movement on to a successful completion, will no doubt address Your Excellency directly on the subject. Suffice it to say here that railway communication with the interior is one of our

greatest needs and one, too, already sufficiently recognized by Your Excellency's Government.

4. Your Excellency is aware that a scheme for the settlement of this district is in course of preparation, and will shortly come up for final decision. We are apprehensive that the contemplated scheme may prove ruinous to private enterprise and detrimental to the welfare of the agricultural classes that constitute 61 per cent. of the entire population of the district.

5. Cultivation in our district has to be carried on under more difficult conditions than elsewhere. Sir Thomas Munro, so far back as 1800, found "its dry lands unproductive, its soil the poorest in India," and remarked that "one crop under a tank in Mysore or the Carnatic would yield more than three here." In fact, if cultivation has been rendered possible at all in this district, it has been by an incredible amount of industry and labour and large outlay of capital; and unless the labour and capital be periodically renewed, the land is sure to lapse into its natural condition. On the faith, however, of assurances given by Sir Thomas Munro at the time of British occupation that there would be a fixity in the assessment then proposed, and on the faith of the declared policy of Government not to tax improvements made in land at the ryot's expense, the agriculturist in our district has bartered his skill and exertions against what little an unwilling soil would yield him, has sunk a large capital in improvements, and has periodically renewed both

capital and labour. It is but fair, we submit, that these facts should be taken into consideration in arriving at a basis for the settlement of this district. It may be well also to invite Your Excellency's kind attention to the fact that the whole system of irrigation here is designed and arranged by the ryots themselves, and not a drop of water is supplied, either for the first or the second crop, by artificial works constructed by Government. Irrigation works are indeed conspicuous by their absence in this district. We pray therefore that Your Excellency will be pleased to give due consideration to the peculiar circumstances of our district in revising the assessment payable on its cultivated area.

6. We beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the right of proprietors of land to large areas of forests were recognised up to 1844 in the Mulpattas granted, but in course of time these rights were restricted to Nettikattu or crest of hills overlooking cultivated valleys (as will be evident from Government records and title-deeds of proprietors); gradually our Nettikattu right was restricted to 100 yards from cultivated field or garden, and later on further restrictions were placed as to the manner in which our rights over the hundred yards were to be enjoyed. The limited privileges now allowed do not suffice for meeting the wants of the agriculturists for grazing, leaf manure, fuel for domestic purposes and wood for implements of husbandry, for building and repair of houses, farm-sheds, &c. We therefore pray that the privileges

already conceded may be so extended as to benefit proprietors of land held in proximity to reserved forests. We further pray that all reservations of forests less than a square mile in extent, which may be in the vicinity of cultivated and inhabited tracts, may be given up in order to prevent the danger to life and crops from the depredations of wild beasts which the vicinity of such tracts is likely to induce.

7. We have already referred above to the difficulties of communication in this district. These are increased tenfold by the absence of bridges across the several streams and rivers, of which there are as many as 22 or more on the coast-road from Shirur the northern to Kavoi the southern extremity of the district. The district board has accumulated funds for bridging some of the smaller streams, but as the money at their disposal, averaging Rs. 26,000 a year on account of ferry receipts, does not permit the bridging of any but the smaller ones, and as it is desirable that these bridges should be erected, not spasmodically but regularly and systematically, we venture to hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to sanction a grant from Provincial funds for this purpose, considering especially that we contribute a very large surplus revenue to Government and have not as yet been blessed in return with such substantial work of public utility, towards which the helping hand of Government is absolutely necessary.

8. We understand that it is in contemplation to bridge the river at Kadavar which separates Malpe,

the second port in the district, from Udipi, the second town in South Canara, and that the effect of the same operation will be to reclaim a bit of land which will eventually be sold for the benefit of provincial funds, and that by the extension of the western approach and the erection of a small iron jetty across the swamp in front of the quay, the harbour in which steamers lie, can be easily put in communication with the road system of the surrounding country. We therefore pray that a grant may be made from port funds to put the Local Fund Board in a position to undertake this improvement.

9. Your Excellency has, moreover, seen for yourself that we are greatly in need of a pier or jetty which would facilitate landing. The net balance to the credit of the 'Landing and Shipping Dues' fund on the 31st August 1896 was Rs. 29,845-13-9; the balance of port dues to the credit of this district on the 31st March 1895 was the large sum of Rs. 55,451-11-3. We would therefore request that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to consider the question of our claim to a small allotment at least from these dues for the purpose of building a substantial jetty.

10. On account of the difficulties of landing at the bundar, small temporary jetties used to be constructed by the public on the occasions of Governors' visits. When Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Wenlock visited the town in 1893 the present jetty was constructed by the Reception Committee at a cost of about Rs. 700, with the object of its being

retained for the use of the public as long as it might last, thus to induce the port authorities to construct a more substantial one.

11. And in this connection we may also respectfully suggest the desirability of extending our sea-face by a system of reclamation from the shifting bed of our principal water-way, obtained by training walls along the shore-side between the petroleum stores and the Salt Cotaurs. Land so reclaimed would be valuable, and the cost would be recouped by the sale of it.

12. One other point in the interests of the poorer population of our district we venture to place before Your Excellency. We refer to the tree-tapping system of the Abkari Department which, owing to the excessive fees demanded for licenses and other hard restrictions, is a source of great hardship to the needy and industrious class of toddy-drawers, known by the name of Billavars. Moreover, considering that toddy is almost the chief sustaining food and drink of the labouring classes, and that it is of almost the same alcoholic strength as beer, it is a matter for regret that the duty payable on toddy is larger than that on beer. It is, we therefore submit, necessary that the duty on toddy should be reduced so as to bring it within the reach of the poorest.

13. We shall not take up Your Excellency's precious time any longer. We are indeed deeply thankful to Your Excellency for the patient hearing which you have been pleased to grant us, and

conclude with the ardent hope that our humble representations will meet with your favourable consideration.

14. Deign to receive the assurance of our unbounded attachment and loyalty to Your Excellency, as the worthy representative of our beloved Queen-Empress, and our humble prayer that the Great Giver of all good may grant Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a long and prosperous life with attendant blessings.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—In the opening paragraph of your address you refer to your complete isolation from the seat of Government, and you say that your district may aptly be called the most benighted part of this presidency. With regard to the distance from the seat of the Government and the difficulty of communication, I am quite at one with you. You certainly suffer from want of easy communication with the outer world. I believe your approaches from the south and from the north during the rainy season are extremely difficult, many of the rivers being unbridged, and during the height of the monsoon your port is rendered difficult of access if not inaccessible. But when you speak of yourselves as being the inhabitants of the most benighted part of the presidency, I beg I may be allowed slightly to differ from you. From my short experience of this municipality, and from what I have read of this part of the country, I must say

that you are particularly blessed in the way of education and enlightenment. I think you owe a deep debt of gratitude for these advantages to the religious bodies who are doing such magnificent work amongst you. I need no assurance from you of the heartiness of your welcome. That has been apparent in the many outward demonstrations and has been visible on the faces of all those I have seen. I am glad that you have put before me your wants and grievances with so much comprehensiveness, and I will endeavour to the best of my ability to answer your applications for redress.

You first touch upon the improvement of your communication by constructing a railway that would connect this district with its rich neighbours—Mysore and Coorg. I would defer replying until I have heard the address from those specially charged with the duty of presenting the case of this district before me.

You next touch on the scheme for the settlement of this district, you observe that you apprehend that the contemplated scheme may prove ruinous to private enterprise and detrimental to the agricultural classes that constitute 61 per cent. of the entire population of the district. In reply to that I may say that no scheme has yet been submitted for the orders of Government; but I may give you the assurance that when a scheme is presented, Government will certainly adhere to its settled and avowed policy of not taxing the improvements made by landowners. In doing this the Government will, I

think, in the case of this district, be carrying out its principle in a more needed way than in others. You point out that in respect of improvements the circumstances of this district are special and peculiar. The Collector assures me that this is the case; and, in order to illustrate this, he took me to see a specimen of painstaking and laborious mode of cultivation that exists in this district. It was a small specimen, but I am glad I was able to see for myself something which exhibited the difficulties and the additional labour and expenses which have to be incurred by cultivators in your district. You mention the assurance given by Sir Thomas Munro in regard to fixity in the assessment then proposed. With regard to this, I have to say that no such assurance was actually given, and this view, I may say, has formed the basis of a judicial decision by the High Court, Bombay. I see so many gentlemen present here, who, if they do not remember it, may easily discover and read it for themselves.

You next deal with the subject of forests, and you pray that all reservations of forests, less than a square mile in extent, which may be in the vicinity of cultivated and inhabited tracts, may be given up in order to prevent danger to life and crops from the depredations of wild beasts, which the vicinity of such tracts is likely to induce. On this subject I have to say our present policy has been arrived at after an exhaustive enquiry extending to over ten years, and it represents the carefully-matured opinions of Mr. Collector Sturrock, the Board of

Revenue, the Government of Madras, the Government of India and the Secretary of State. The matter, therefore, cannot be re-opened. It has recently been decided to abandon all reserve forest areas of less than one square mile in extent, and I suppose when this rule comes into operation, the ryots will have more forest land placed at their disposal than they at present have the enjoyment of.

In the next paragraph of your address you deal with the difficulties of communication arising from the absence of roads and bridges. With regard to this I have to say that the question of systematic bridging of rivers has been undertaken by the district board and the funds of the district board are in a fairly good condition at present, but if at a future time it is found that the carrying out of the work is absolutely beyond the means of the district board, it might be possible, especially in view of the fact that roads and bridges are in the nature of internal communications, that is to say, not purely local, for you to expect some help from the provincial revenue. But as long as the district board has the means of carrying out its own work, I do not think it desirable or prudent that provincial revenues should be charged with the expenditure on that work, and in all cases in which the means at your disposal are not enough to enable you to carry out large works, the Government have expressed its willingness to assist you by granting loans. In paragraph 8 of your address you speak of the improvement of the Malpe bridge. I believe the

scheme is not yet matured; but when the proposal comes before Government the matter of a grant will be considered.

You next refer to the matter of the need of a jetty or pier which would facilitate landing, and you say that I must have observed the need of such accommodation. All I have to say is that I did not observe it, and that thanks are due to you as you have specially put up a pier for my comfort and convenience. However, you know your wants best, and you would not have dealt with the subject unless there is a real need of additional accommodation in this respect. I have to tell you that the improvement of light-houses throughout the presidency will be a costly work and will considerably drain the port fund. But in case additional funds are needed for a floating stage in Mangalore, I think Government will give you some assistance, sufficient to meet immediate requirements.

You then speak of the desirability of extending your sea-face by a system of reclamation. This want has not been lost sight of. The reclamation of a hundred yards of your shore, now used for timber trade, has been sanctioned; and I need hardly say that great caution is needed in carrying out a work of this kind, lest an erosion of the opposite bank be caused; progress in such matters is always slow and gradual.

In paragraph 12 of your address, you complain against the rate payable on toddy, but I am informed in South Canara that the rates are actually lower

than in Malabar and North Canara. In spite of this the revenue is steadily increasing. This would hardly look as if the poor, in whose interest you address me in this paragraph, are suffering from over-charges on toddy. I cannot, therefore, as at present advised, hold out any hope of modification of the charge on this article of consumption.

In conclusion, I have received with great satisfaction and confidence your assurances of your attachment to and respect for myself, and I thank you for your blessings of good health and long life to Lady Havelock and myself.

THE MANGALORE MUSSULMAN COMMUNITY
ADDRESS,

Presented at 11 a.m., on 5th October 1896, at the Collector's House.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned on behalf of the Mussulman community of Mangalore, beg most respectfully to approach Your Excellency with this humble address.

2. We, like our co-religionists in other parts of Southern India, are not behind any of the other people in our loyalty to the British Government. We are deeply and truly thankful that we are under the beneficent rule of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress.

3. But while other religionists and races have readily taken advantage of the new conditions of

things, we have unfortunately stood still; and the result has been most disastrous to our community.

4. We would especially refer to the low educational status of the Mussulmans of this place, and the utter hopelessness of our case as regards Government service. Such of us as are anxious to seek service under Government have, amidst the most discouraging circumstances, given themselves some education in lower schools; but owing to their poverty and other causes have, in the majority of cases, neither succeeded in passing any of the Government tests nor gone up for a University education. And as these examinations are now the only avenues to Government service, their endeavours to obtain low-paid clerkships or even peons' places in public offices have almost always ended in disappointment. So far as their means allowed they have, they believe, apart from the prescribed tests, qualified themselves for at least petty clerkships, and it is now too late for them to qualify themselves for some trade or profession. We humbly beg to assure Your Excellency that the condition of these men (of whom there are not a few) is such as must enlist the sympathy of Your Excellency, to whom the wants and hopes of the humblest of your subjects are as dear as those of the highest in the land. Further, that section of our community for whom we appeal has a better idea of the advantages of an English education than others of our co-religionists, and would willingly make any sacrifice for placing their children in a better position as regards

educational qualifications than themselves. But this too, under their present cruel disabilities, they are powerless to do.

5. We therefore humbly pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to order that the Mussulmans (at least of South Canara) may, wherever they are otherwise qualified, be exempted from the condition of passing the prescribed tests for clerkships of Rs. 15 per mensem and under, and that the old rule (changed a few months ago) of allowing matriculates of the University to appear for the Revenue and Criminal Tests, Higher or Lower Grade, shall continue in force as regards Mussulmans for a few years more. If these prayers, for which we appeal to Your Excellency's mercy, are not granted to us, we can have no prospect but of sinking deeper and deeper into wretchedness and poverty as time goes by.

6. In conclusion we pray that the Almighty God may shower on you and Her Excellency Lady Havelock His choicest blessings.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MUHAMMADAN COMMUNITY IN MANGALORE,—The loyalty of the Muhammadan body not only in Mangalore, but throughout India, is unsurpassed by the loyalty of any other section of Her Majesty's subjects.

Your address contains two requests: *first*, that the Mussulmans, at least those of South Canara, should be exempted from the condition of passing

the prescribed tests for posts carrying salaries of Rs. 15 or less; and, *secondly*, that the old rules allowing matriculates of the University to appear for Special Tests shall continue in force for a few years more. The ground you give is the low educational status of the Mussulman community. It is a fact that the Mussulmans are distinctly backward in the matter of education, and the Government greatly regrets that backwardness; but progress will not be assisted by withdrawing the chief stimulus to improve, and granting the request now put forward would be bad alike for the Muhammadan community and the public service. In a recent issue of a Madras Muhammadan paper, it was strongly urged that improvement can come from within, and this can be achieved by the loyal acceptance of the principles of self-help. Government has done and is doing much to encourage the Mussulmans to educate themselves, and the aim of that community must be to take advantage of this concession rather than demand the invidious encouragement of ignorance which, if gratified, would only perpetuate the present undesirable state of things. Government has ever shown an utmost eager desire for the wide employment of Mussulmans in the public service. But it cannot dispense with those qualifications which it recognises as tests for entrance into public service, and you must manfully endeavour to reach the level attained by the other sections of the population who, a generation ago, were as backward as you are now. This sounds a discouraging answer to your petition; but I

assure you it is what I believe to be a healthy answer. You must exert yourselves and work out some means of raising your position by your own action. One practical means of doing so is that you should endeavour to combine your religious with secular education, so that when your boys are removed to schools for general education, they may not find themselves older than the boys of other classes whom they meet there, and also begin at a higher stage than they do now. I hope I have made myself understood. I have spoken in the same manner to Mussulmans who addressed me on this subject in other places. The Government are making concessions to you in the matter of fees, and other facilities to educate yourselves have been granted. They propose to extend the capacity and the advantages afforded by the Madrasa. More than this they cannot do.

I thank you for your good wishes for my happiness and your warm expressions of loyalty to our beloved Queen-Empress who feels a warm interest and love for you all.

THE MANGALORE RAILWAY ADDRESS,

Presented at 11 a.m., on 5th October 1896, at the Collector's House.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In taking the opportunity afforded by a visit from her representative, to testify to the loyalty and devotion which we all feel towards our beloved Queen and

Empress, by the reception which we give to him, to also give our due meed of respect to the gracious reputation which has preceded Your Excellency, and express our sense of the honour done to us by this so early a visit.

We beg to be pardoned if we also take this opportunity of bringing specially to Your Excellency's notice the most pressing need of our community. The existence of this need has long since been recognized, and the necessity for supplying it acknowledged; the details of the scheme by which it can be supplied have now (under the orders of a benevolent Government, which has recognised that need, and the way to meet it) been worked out, and we understand that all that is now required is allotment of funds for the purpose of putting the scheme into execution. Your Excellency is probably aware that we have for the last twenty years felt the urgency of improving our communication with other parts of the Presidency and the Empire, and have on various occasions represented our need to the Governors who, like Your Excellency, have honoured this district with their presence. These our representations culminated in 1894 in a memorial to the most Honourable the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. Your Excellency's predecessors have all, without exception, sympathised with our aspirations and hopes, and the Government and Board of Revenue in their Resolution, dated the 11th January 1894, on a report from the Collector of the district regarding the prospects of traffic on the

railway, which it was proposed should connect South Canara with Mysore frontier, considered that "the prospects of a line from Mangalore to the Mysore frontier were very favourable, whilst the connection of South Canara with the railway system of Southern India is greatly to be desired for many reasons." Not long ago Sir Henry Fowler, the then Secretary of State for India, remarked that he "attached the greatest importance to the extension and development of the railway system of India, and hoped that, by the joint action of the State and of private companies, the people of India would be supplied with those means of rapid and cheap transport, the necessity for which is so apparent." We would reinforce these general principles for increasing railway communication in India by enumerating the many special reasons why the policy of extension here indicated should be applied to our district. These reasons have been already set forth in the memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy, copy of which is hereto attached; but we, with Your Excellency's permission, wish again to call special attention to the quotation therein made from the report of the South Mysore Planters' Association to the Mysore Government, viz., "that Mangalore has always been regarded as the natural outlet for the commodities and produce of the rich province of Mysore, and in the interests of Mysore, and those of the Imperial Government alike, the extension of a line to that point would be of immense importance both for commercial and strategical

purposes; and that had such communication been available during the last famine vast quantities of rice would have been imported, with the result that the Government would have been able more effectually to cope with a calamity which swept away nearly one-fifth of the total population." This, however, is from the point of view of the inhabitants of Mysore; but from our point of view it is no less desirable that every facility should be afforded for communication with the interior, since this would be the means of preserving and extending our trades and industries. We would also venture respectfully to urge that we have (as expressed in the second ground enumerated in our memorial to the Viceroy, page 5) an actual claim—for the allotment of provincial, or even imperial funds, for a project which we have shown to be necessary to our prosperity, and beneficial to the general interests—in the fact that we have been paying for a very long time some 11 or more lakhs of surplus net revenue per annum to Government, while Government has at no time undertaken a public work of any importance in this district. With reference to the estimate (shown in the memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy) of the expected expenditure on the construction of the proposed railway line from Mangalore to Arsikere, and the receipts to be anticipated from it when constructed, we would venture to point out that the figures there given were directed only to show that on the expenditure there estimated a return of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at least on the gross outlay, might confidently

be expected. But this result was based on the ascertained figures of the traffic for 1893—which we ventured to point out were purposely understated to avoid laying ourselves open to the charge of exaggeration or perversion of the truth. As a matter of fact, the annual exports of coffee alone have risen from 107,201 cwt. in 1893 to 128,375 cwt. in 1896; and as regards the traffic in tiles we understand that want of means of easy communication is the *only* cause which stands in the way of the traffic—which now reaches to 50 lakhs of tiles per annum—being very largely extended. Their utility is generally recognised throughout India—and we believe in the adjacent island, over the fortunes of which Your Excellency only lately presided—and the demand for them we have reason to believe is constantly pressing on the supply, and it only needs a more convenient means of communication with the interior to increase both, while diminishing the cost to the consumer without detracting anything from the profit of the producers. A reference to G.O., No. 639 R., dated 4th October 1895, (placed at our disposal by the Collector of the district) will show that Mr. Gilchrist, the Engineer appointed to carry out the preliminary survey of the line, has so much increased the estimated cost of construction that, the figures which before showed an expected return of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. now show only 1 per cent.; we observe with pleasure that Government (in paragraph 3 of this order) have recognised that the figures on which that estimate is based, utterly fail to cover the future advantages

in increased trade and traffic to be expected on the conclusion of the scheme, and are not even an adequate basis for gauging the existing traffic. The shortness of the time at our disposal, since the news of Your Excellency's expected visit was communicated to us, has prevented us from collecting and laying before Your Excellency the information necessary for a more accurate review of these points; but we hope that Your Excellency will be able to understand, even from the facts which we are now able to state, that, accepting the increased cost of construction as necessary (though we see that one of the points in the note of the Consulting Engineer for Railways is the possibility of a more economical alignment of the ghaut section) our estimated receipts may with good reason be advanced in a ratio at least equal to that of the increased cost of construction, so that a return of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at least may, as originally stated, still be anticipated on the gross outlay. As illustrations of the facts, which a more prolonged enquiry is likely to yield in supporting our contention to this effect, we would mention that the figures shown in the memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy do not include transactions of a private character, nor the value of goods now received or forwarded by water to Buntwall, both of which are considerable; it has also been ascertained that during the past season one firm alone despatched manures, &c., for estate purposes to the ghauts, of about 1,000 tons, and (considering the business of other firms) 5,000 tons

can fairly be added to those figures as of annual recurrence. We may also point out that, since the date of the statistics shown, our exports have increased by 15 lakhs—rising from 113 lakhs to 128, while imports have likewise tended to increase, our present actual trade in both amounting to 174 lakhs. The Board of Revenue, summarising the statistics, remarked that, “the bulk of the land traffic between Mysore and Mangalore would represent 20 tons daily downwards and about 16 tons upwards from the Coast.” This of course has reference only to the through goods traffic, and does not take into account passengers or traffic between intermediate stations, including coolies proceeding to the Mysore Coffee Estates, and pilgrims visiting the sacred shrines in this district; but even with regard to traffic in goods and other commodities conveyed by land, the figures given are below the mark, for, we have lately received assurance from the Coorg Planters' Association that if feeder lines were constructed from Saklaspur (Mysore) as a centre to Sidapur (Coorg) about 45 miles, and Saklaspur to Koppa about 33 miles, we might then look for some 25 or 30,000 tons or more from Coorg alone. As regards the feeder lines proposed by the Coorg Planters' Association and referred to in the last paragraph, we understand that the plateau on which the lines will run presents no great engineering difficulties. In addition to the facts already stated which go to show that the trade receipts estimated by us are rather below than above the mark, we would

respectfully urge upon Your Excellency the consideration that railways tend to the greater expansion of trade and consequent increase in traffic returns. Our industries are now almost at a standstill for want of an easy outlet; our business is much less than it would be if we had a regular land conveyance into the interior; our surplus grain products do not now easily find an outside market. All these disadvantages would be removed if a railway line were opened along the route already surveyed—and with their removal a fresh accession of trade activity would ensue, and a fresh increase in trade returns would be the result. We are fully aware that much opposition is to be expected from the Southern Mahratta Railway; but we rely on Your Excellency's consideration, for our welfare and the best interests of Government, not to allow an interested section of the public to, in any way, hinder a scheme which will undoubtedly be of great good to Her Majesty's subjects at large, and one, the necessity for the realisation of which, is so very apparent.

Having thus established the necessity and the advantages of a railway for South Canara, we may be permitted to notice the chief objection against the realisation of our cherished project. It is urged that this port is closed for traffic for four months or more during the monsoons. The fact, however, is that, during the last seven monsoon seasons, the average interval between the last steamer working before the monsoon and the first one after the

monsoon has been just under 80 days or $11\frac{1}{2}$ weeks. During the last three years the interval has been about 12 weeks; in each year, however, as observed by the Agent of the British India Steam Navigation Company, steamers could have been worked from 8 to 10 days earlier, but there was absolutely no inducement in the way of cargo for them to call, the monsoon being the dead season when shipping facilities are of no consequence. We venture respectfully to invite Your Excellency's attention to this fact, which is an important one and has been overlooked by detractors of the railway scheme, in consequence of our interportal isolation during the monsoons. Another objection that has often been raised is that the difficulties attending the landing and shipping of cargo owing to the condition of the bar and channel are very great. If the railway however becomes an accomplished fact, and sea-traffic increases, as it is certain to do, improved appliances in the way of steam-tugs and barges will, we venture respectfully to submit, be provided.

We hope thus to have proved to Your Excellency's satisfaction first, the necessity for a railway for South Canara, connecting this district with the Mysore frontier; second, its advantages in preserving and expanding our trades and industries; third, its consequent beneficial results to the public at large; and fourth, the reproductive nature of the scheme, which in the end is sure to benefit both ruler and ruled alike.

We shall not trespass on Your Excellency's precious time any longer. We thank Your Excellency for having given us so patient a hearing; and may we not, in conclusion, beg the great favour and privilege of Your Excellency's sympathy and encouragement in this out project, assured that every argument we have adduced, every fact we have urged in its support will meet with due consideration from Your Excellency? Yes, we console ourselves with the hope that Your Excellency's Government will leave nothing undone to make this long-cherished project *à fait accompli* in the near future, and thus relieve our district and its population of 1,051,826 inhabitants from the stress and strain of isolation which assuredly dulls and deadens the glow of a people's life.

With sentiments of profound submission and respect, and a prayer that the Great Giver of life may prolong Your Excellency in our midst as the ruler of a Presidency second to none in importance in the vast Empire of British India.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—There is no excuse needed for your placing before me the subject of railways in the full and complete manner you have done. I well recognise the importance of the work you advocate, and it may be as well that I should explain to you what position we occupy in the matter of railway construction and extension in India. This matter

is not one which is left to the control and charge of local Governments. It is the Government of India that guides the whole policy and controls the whole expenditure of funds for railway construction. The only function of the Government of Madras, in common with other local Governments, is to make recommendations and suggestions. In carrying out this duty, this Government brought to the notice of the Government of India the necessity for connecting the West Coast with Coorg and Mysore. The scheme of the line of railway from Arsekere to Maneyalor was thought most deserving of favour and the survey of the line was undertaken and the results, as you know, have been made known. Those results are not altogether satisfactory. It is shown that the cost of the railway will be great and the returns small. It is, however, believed that the returns of the revenue have not been correctly stated, but understated. In order to remove any misapprehension and consequent disappointment, fresh estimates are being prepared and a much more favourable aspect of the scheme is being looked for. In the meanwhile, the Government of India have settled their programme. Under a new arrangement, a conference of officers acquainted with railway matters assembled at Simla last September, presided over by the Viceroy, but I fear no progress has been made with regard to this much-desired line to Mysore. Before the next meeting takes place, probably in September next, the Government of Madras will, I hope, present a more hopeful prospect of the

line from Arsekere to Mangalore, and that some progress may be made towards the consummation of your wishes. You have put your case with force and ability, you have unanswerably met some of the objections raised by those who would like to see the railway go elsewhere. As to the alleged advantages of your port you state that during the time the port is closed the shipping facilities become of no consequence and that no business of yours could go on. That explanation seems to me to remove to a large extent one of the principal objections liable to be raised on the score of Mangalore being the port of outlet for Coorg and Mysore. I shall go further and say that you have established a case for indulgent and liberal treatment, on the ground of your isolation and by reason of your long continued contribution to the revenues of the empire, without any commensurate expenditure on public works. I hope a railway, constructed without violation of the commercial and financial principles, will be given to you. You may rest assured that, if a railway connecting Mangalore with the Southern Mahratta or any other system can be laid without positive imprudence, you may rely not only on my warm sympathy, but active support, and in this respect I can promise you the concurrence of my colleagues of the Madras Government. I regret I am not able to give you in this connection more positive hope or definite assurance, but it will be wrong to attempt to deceive you with hopes which it may not be possible to gratify. As I have already said you have made out

a strong case, and if a fair return can be had, you have every claim in this respect to have your request not only gratified but fully met.

THE HOSPET TEMPLE COMMITTEE'S ADDRESS,

Presented at 8 a.m., on 12th October 1896, at Hampi Temple.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We the members of the Hospet Temple Committee, on behalf of the large body of worshippers at Hampi, beg leave to welcome Your Excellency to this ancient and historic temple. This and the other temples which are now in ruins, the splendid design and architecture of which are admired to this day, were constructed during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries by Hindu Sovereigns and formed worthy ornaments to a great and flourishing capital. The changes of rule that came over this land have not been without their visible effect on these structures, and the varying fortunes and vicissitudes this part of the country passed through are matters of history. The sight that now meets the eye of the visitor, melancholy though it may be, is nevertheless of historic and archæological interest. It is due to a mere chance that the temple of Pumpapathy Swamy escaped the general devastation, that seems to have overtaken every object in the neighbourhood, and but for that chance Hampi would have been a name known only to a few students of history.

While we congratulate ourselves from the circumstance that this ancient temple has been visited by not a few august personages, we cannot but represent to Your Excellency that the affairs of the temple have not on the whole been as satisfactory as we would wish, and we earnestly pray that the legislative measure now before Government will ere long better our condition.

In conclusion we thank Your Excellency for the visit you have paid and pray that the Almighty may bless Lady Havelock and Your Excellency with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE HOSPET TEMPLE COMMITTEE.—

I beg you to accept for yourselves, and for the worshippers of this temple, my best thanks for the very kind welcome you have accorded to me. I have heard with much interest the short history which you have given of your temple. It is a matter for satisfaction that your temple should have survived, and that it should be in a state of excellent preservation and great beauty. You speak in your address of this temple not being in a satisfactory condition, and you imply that the legislative measure now before the Government will better its condition. The object of the measure is the improvement of Hindu temples and endowments. I hope it may be passed before long, and that its effect will be to place in your hands the power to satisfactorily manage your temples. You must understand that it is

the policy of Government not to take upon itself the direct control of your temples and endowments, and I hope that the bill when passed will put the power in your hands to keep the affairs of this temple in order.

I beg you to accept my warm thanks for your good wishes for the health and prosperity of Lady Havelock and myself.

THE HOSPET TALUK PEOPLE'S ADDRESS,

Presented at 4 p.m., on 12th October 1896, at the Welcome Pandal, Kamalapuram.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the people of Hospet taluk, beg leave to welcome Your Excellency most cordially to our town on this auspicious occasion of Your Excellency's visit to Hampi, which is a seat of historic interest.

2. Hospet contains a population of 12,000, and though small, is a place of growing importance, being a railway station and the head-quarters of the Head Assistant Collector and Magistrate.

3. We beg leave to avail ourselves of this opportunity of representing to Your Excellency the great inconvenience caused to the civil litigant public of the taluks of Hospet, Kudligi, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli by the District Munsiff's Court being located at Narayanakeri, a place about 8 miles from Hospet. The sole reason for locating the Court there appears to be the centrality of the locality

to the taluks above mentioned, long before Hospet became a railway station; but now that the railway stations of Davanagiri, Harihar and Rauibennur have made it easy for the people of Kudligi, Harpanahalli and Hadagalli, respectively, to come to Hospet by train, Hospet is really a more convenient centre for the litigant public than Narayanakeri, to which they have to travel by common cart, exposed to the danger of thieves and dacoits. The existence of a big ghaut between Hospet and Narayanakeri makes the journey all the more dangerous. Hospet is admittedly healthier than Narayanakeri and has a better supply of drinking water, whereas Narayanakeri is unhealthy, is suffering from scarcity of water, and has neither a hospital nor a Local Fund choultry. Besides the Treasury Office being located in Hospet, parties to civil suits in the Narayanakeri Court are put to the inconvenience of coming every now and then to the Hospet Taluk Treasury to deposit or receive moneys, and are exposed to dacoities between Narayanakeri and Hospet, which have become common enough to be a standing danger. Should the Munsiff's Court be removed from Narayanakeri to Hospet the litigant public would benefit immensely by the change, and they would be in a position to command the help of lawyers from Bellary much more cheaply and easily than they are able to do at present. A look at Narayanakeri and the Court-house situated amidst noisy dwelling houses will convince Your Excellency beyond doubt that our prayer for locating the Munsiff's Court in

Hospet is reasonable and just and deserves to be granted in the interests of the public. It is therefore our fervent prayer that Your Excellency's visit to this town may bring about this much-needed transfer of the Munsiff's Court from Narayanakeri to Hospet, and that Your Excellency's name may be associated with it.

4. We crave Your Excellency's permission to allude to the necessity for a Stationary Sub-Magistrate's office in Kampli, a place 19 miles from Hospet, which contains a population of upwards of 10,000 and is included at present in the jurisdiction of the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Hospet. It has considerable trading and agricultural interests to guard, and is in no way less important than Hospet. Prior to the appointment of a Stationary Sub-Magistrate at Hospet there was a Deputy Tahsildar Magistrate located in Kampli, which has been known all along for its crime and factious spirit. Moreover, Kampli being on the border of His Highness the Nizam's Dominions, a Magistrate on the spot will be better able to detect and suppress crime and preserve the peace in the factious locality than when people have to go a distance of 19 miles to file a complaint. From a fact that a Police Inspector is stationed at Kampli, and that the criminal file of the Hospet Stationary Sub-Magistrate is heavy, Your Excellency will be pleased to consider the necessity for stationing an additional Magistrate at Kampli.

5. Being so near Hampi, it is impossible for us to pass by the subject of temple management, with-

out informing Your Excellency that the affairs of the Hampi temple are in as melancholy and unsatisfactory a condition as is perhaps possible. All that we feel bound to submit to Your Excellency is that unless the Government does something to place the temple management on a satisfactory basis, the affairs of the temple will grow from bad to worse. We feel that we are not competent to suggest the exact remedy against the mismanagement of our temple, but we only pray that Your Excellency will do something to redeem it from its present highly unsatisfactory state.

6. Lastly, on behalf of the interests of the agricultural and industrial classes, who are more or less concerned in the well-being of rural private banks and funds, we humbly beg to suggest that if the Government will kindly undertake the supervision of the accounts of private banks, it will be conferring a double blessing, for such a supervision would in addition to its engendering confidence in the stability of these indigenous rural banks, and thus developing business, also find their own work of good supplemented materially by local banks. Therefore we humbly request Your Excellency will be pleased to have the accounts audited annually by Government officials, by which the status of the bank will be raised, and the confidence of the shareholders, subscribers, and depositors secured.

7. We beg to express our heartfelt thanks for the patient hearing given to us, and conclude our address of most cordial welcome to Your Excellency

with our fervent prayer to the Almighty that Lady Havelock and Your Excellency may be blessed with long life, health and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HOSPET TALUK,—I beg you to accept my warm thanks for the kind words of welcome which have just been read, and also for the outward demonstrations of respect and loyalty which you have shown.

It is satisfactory to learn from you that Hospet is a place that is growing in population and importance. You draw my attention to the inconvenience of the present site of the District Munsiff's Court, and you give reasons why that Court should be moved to Hospet. I have made enquiries of the Collector on this subject, and he informs me that the greater part of the reasons which you give for your proposals are based on fact. I think, therefore, that I may say that the request that you make merits consideration. I may tell you, however, that there may be difficulties arising from the fact that at Hospet there are no suitable premises for a District Munsiff's Court, and some expenditure for erecting new buildings or hiring existing ones will, if this measure is carried out, be entailed on Government. In connection with this subject, I think it right to mention that I have received from another body of the inhabitants of Hospet taluk a memorial protesting against the proposed removal, and the

objections that these memorialists make will, as you rightly understand, have to be considered as well as your arguments in favour of it.

The next subject dealt with in your address is the necessity for a Stationary Sub-Magistrate's office at Kampli. Here again I have consulted the Collector and obtained from him such information as seems to bear on the case. I find the number of cases tried before the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Hospet in 1893, 1894 and 1895, since the abolition of the appointment of District Tahsildar of Hospet, was, respectively, 337, 260 and 411. It cannot be said that the file is so heavy as to justify the appointment of an additional Sub-Magistrate. I am bound to say therefore that I do not think you have made out a case for the proposal.

You next touch on the unsatisfactory manner in which the temple property is at present managed. This is not the first occasion on which this defect has been brought to my notice, and all I can tell you at the present time is that a Bill is under the consideration of the Government for the amendment of the existing Act dealing with temples. It is not an easy subject to legislate upon, and we have more than one Bill in draft which is now before us. I hope that Government may be able to arrive at some mode of improving the present state of affairs.

You next mention the subject of your agricultural banks and you ask that Government should adopt some system of audit with respect to them. I have considerable sympathy with the objects of

these banks, and I understand from you that they are doing considerable good among the agricultural population of the neighbourhood. I fear, however, I can barely hold out any hope of Government being able to comply with your request that your affairs should be audited by a Government Auditor. There will be objections raised to any proposal of the kind on the part of the Accountant-General's office, which I think will be very difficult to meet. I think I have now replied—unsatisfactorily, I fear, on the whole—to the points which have been raised in your address, and I have only in conclusion to thank you once more for the kind welcome and the preparations made to give me pleasure here. I thank you also very sincerely for your good wishes for the long life, health and prosperity of Lady Havelock and myself.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF LORD WENLOCK'S PARK,

*Presented at 3 p.m., on 13th October 1896, at the Welcome
Pandal, Hospét.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of Lord Wenlock's Park, beg to welcome Your Excellency to this park with the expression of our cordial gratitude for the honour done to us.

2. The gate through which we have the honour of conducting Your Excellency is the monument of the present Anigondi Rajah's liberality. He is a

descendant of the founder of the once world-famed Bijayanagar, which, though in ruins, has attracted Your Excellency's attention.

3. This was founded in August 1891 to commemorate His Excellency Lord Wenlock's visit to this townlet on his way to the historic ruins of Bijayanagar, chiefly through the exertions of Messrs. Jardine, the then Head Assistant Collector, and R. Sewell, the then Collector.

4. The present promising condition of the park is due chiefly to the exertions of Mr. Hanney, Mr. Jardine's successor, and to the liberality of the leading people of this townlet, who have liberally subscribed for its upkeep.

5. Your Excellency's visit will bear its fruit in the increased interest which the gentry of this townlet will hereafter take in the advancement of the park.

6. The members of the park beg leave to approach Your Excellency with the prayer that the use of Government water for its benefit may be allowed free of water-rate.

7. We beg to conclude by thanking Your Excellency for the patience with which you have listened to this our humble address.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF LORD WENLOCK'S PARK AT HOSPET,—
I beg you to accept my warm acknowledgments for the kind welcome which you have accorded to me, and for the preparations which you have made to

give me pleasure and to do me honour. I am glad to see present on this occasion the Anigondi Rajah, to whose liberality you tell me you owe the gate which forms the entrance to this park. I am glad also that you are able to record that the existence of the park is due to the good work done by Mr. Jardine, the then Head Assistant Collector, and Mr. Sewell, the late Collector of the district, and I hope the efforts hitherto made to improve and beautify this garden will be continued, and, if possible, it will give me great pleasure to grant your prayer that the use of Government water for the park may be allowed free of water-rate. I beg to thank you once more for the kind welcome, and for the pleasure you have given me in providing this beautiful pandal, the music and other adornments of the ceremony.

ADDRESS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF BELLARY,

Presented at 6 p.m., on 13th October 1896, at the Railway Station.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council of Bellary, congratulate ourselves on the honour done to us by this kind visit of Your Excellency to this town, and we beg most respectfully to give Your Excellency our most cordial welcome.

We offer our grateful thanks to Your Excellency for the sympathy which Your Excellency has already evinced in matters Municipal, by contributing to the advancement of the liberal policy of local self-government inaugurated by Lord Ripon, which we fondly cherish. We feel confident that during Your Excellency's administration our aspirations for the promotion of municipal self-government will be fostered with tender care and sympathy. As Your Excellency's tours through the Presidency have, for one of their objects, the understanding of the wants of the people, we think we are entitled to approach Your Excellency with a representation of some of the wants of this municipal town.

The foremost that deserves to be brought to Your Excellency's notice is the question of water-supply. Bellary is about the driest place of the Presidency, where the absence of a sufficient water-supply has ever been the crying want. Hitherto we have been pressing on the attention of Your Excellency's predecessors who have graced this town with their visits a scheme known as the Tungabhadra scheme. For various reasons this having been abandoned, we think we have now a less difficult task. The Copper Hill Basin scheme has been recently experimented upon and is under the consideration of the Sanitary Board. The Hagari scheme has yet to be considered. Water recently collected from certain specified beds at the suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner has been

declared by the Chemical Examiner to Government as "usable and better in quality than the water previously submitted for analysis." Of the two schemes, the former would be less costly in its execution and provision for its maintenance could be made within the municipal annual budget. The only fear is as to the sufficiency of the supply for a population of 60,000. There can be no such apprehensions for the latter scheme; but it requires a much larger outlay and a larger expenditure for the upkeep, needing yearly help from Government. We are extremely indebted to Your Excellency's Government and the Government of India for the sympathetic way the question is being considered. We fear, however, that the Hagari water, from its brackishness, may not be suitable for drinking purposes. We, therefore, ardently wish for the success of the Copper Hills scheme.

We beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice another want very much felt by the trading and other classes of the town. Bellary is a large trade centre, and in point of railway communication stands about midway between Bombay and Madras, with which, as with other stations on both sides of the broad gauge line, it has extensive commercial and other relations. It is besides an important military station. The absence of a broad gauge line for a short distance of about 30 miles between Guntakal Junction and Bellary is very keenly felt. The disadvantages and delays consequent upon the inevitable transshipment of goods at Guntakal tell

heavily on the mercantile class. As, on account of the arrangements of train service, no train is bound to wait for the arrival of the local trains of another company, passengers by the local trains on the Madras line very often miss the other train at the junction and are put to much inconvenience. We, therefore, beg Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to direct inquiries being made in the necessary quarters and confer on us the boon of a broad-gauge line between the two stations, in addition to the narrow gauge of the Southern Mahratta Railway, which, we have been told, is quite practicable.

We humbly crave Your Excellency's kind attention to yet a third want. We refer to the important suburb of Brucepetta in particular. Within the last two decades the population has largely increased. Every available inch of ground within the town has been occupied by houses. In many places houses not fit to be inhabited by twos or threes are being occupied by dozens. All the exertions of the municipality to crush the tendency of the townsmen to encroach upon public ground for improving house areas have been only partially successful. To the east and south are lands owned by private individuals or which are burial or cremation grounds. To the west is the tank known as Nallacheruvu. The fort is situated to the north-west. To extend the town in those directions is extremely difficult. It is only to the north there is space available for more buildings to spring up.

Most of these plots are either reserved by Government or the Railway and Military authorities. We therefore pray Your Excellency will be pleased to direct the assignment of such of these plots as can conveniently be spared, for building sites, in the interests of the improvement of the town.

In conclusion, we thank Your Excellency for the patient hearing accorded to us and sincerely pray for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF BELLARY,—Accept, I pray you, my sincere acknowledgments for the cordial address of welcome which has just been read. You only do me justice when you say that I take a sympathetic interest in municipal advancement. I have been informed that the Municipal Council of Bellary enjoys the full privileges allowed by law, that is, three-fourths of the body are elected members and your chairman is an elected chairman. I hope, therefore, that you will do justice to the privileges thus conferred on you. The official report of the last year's working of the municipality comes to the conclusion that the working of the municipality has been moderately satisfactory.

There are two points connected with municipal government to which I desire to call attention.

The first is the condition of your hospital. I am going to the hospital tomorrow morning, and then I will know more about it, but I am already informed that it is defective in construction, that the premises are not suited to the purpose, and that it is wanting in the fittings and appliances of a hospital. I earnestly commend the improvement of your hospital to your most serious attention, and I hope by the time the next report is made on the working of the Bellary Municipality, I may be able to learn that some steps have been made towards improving this important institution.

The second point to which I wish to call your attention is the necessity for insisting on owners of houses fencing their properties. I have already, in the few moments I have been in Bellary, had an opportunity of observing that the compounds or grounds of houses are left imperfectly, if not almost entirely, unfenced. This complaint therefore has very good grounds, and it has been brought to my notice by His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Madras Army. I beg to commend the remedy of it to the attention of the municipal council, who, I believe, under the law, have power to deal with matters of this kind.

I now turn to the wants with which your address deals. I am not surprised that your first request is for an early settlement of the long pending water-supply question. Nothing can be more important in a hot and thirsty place, such as Bellary evidently is, and I regret to find that for a great

number of years the matter has been under consideration. I believe something like forty years have elapsed since these schemes were first started. I have informed myself of the various schemes that have been proposed, and their number is great, and I think it is probable that the multiplicity of schemes has militated against anything being done. Now, however, the matter has narrowed itself into a choice between two schemes, and without attempting to enter on the respective merits of either scheme, I will only say that I hope before long that some decision will be arrived at in the matter, and you may rest assured that my Government will do everything in its power to bring this important matter to an early issue.

You next deal with the subject of the inconvenience which arises from the break of gauge in your railway communication. The broad gauge brings you to Guntakal, and from thence you come to Bellary by the narrow gauge. This is a strong indictment on the mistake made in breaking gauge. I quite sympathise with you in the difficulty and inconvenience which arises from it, but all I can do is to bring your wishes to the notice of the managing bodies of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways. The matter rests entirely in the hands of these two Railway Companies, and I think I may say at once that it is hardly probable that either of these Railway companies will consent again to the restoration of broad gauge between Guntakal and Bellary.

You next draw my attention to overcrowding in the town and the want of convenient building sites. With regard to this matter the Collector informs me that complaints of this nature have not yet reached him, and I think he has told me that when they do reach him it will not be difficult to deal with the matter. It appears strange, I think, that in a town which, as is told me in another address, covers an area of 25 square miles, there should be a lack of building sites. However, I suppose what you mean is that convenient building sites are lacking and you indicate that by what you say in your address. I must tell you that the portion of ground to which you particularly allude would hardly be thrown open for building sites, as it is necessary to keep this land open for the free circulation of air, as it lies in a portion of the town densely crowded with buildings. I am assured by the Collector that there is ample space further north on which convenient building sites might be obtained. I am certain that if you only lay the matter clearly and strongly before the Collector, steps will be taken to carry out your wishes.

Now I have only to thank you for your very kind wishes and for the desire you express that Lady Havelock might have been here with me. I am quite sure she would have been glad to come if it had been possible. Gentlemen, I have to thank you for your wishes for my long life and prosperity.

THE BELLARY PEOPLE'S ADDRESS,

Presented at 9 p.m., on 13th October 1896, at the Prince of Wales' Choultry.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the people of Bellary, beg to offer Your Excellency a most cordial welcome to our town, the largest and most important in the Ceded Districts. We should have been extremely happy had Lady Havelock also graced the occasion with her presence.

Our first and greatest want is a proper water-supply according to modern sanitary requirements. At present, our main sources are a rocky hollow called the Mainwaring tank and the Fort Ditch. Both depend upon rain, and Your Excellency knows what a dry, treeless tract Bellary is, and how its scanty rainfall becomes smaller every year. Further, the tank and the ditch are both now used as dip wells and are therefore liable to contamination. Again and again, the Sanitary Officers of Government and the committees appointed from time to time to work out a water-supply scheme for Bellary have dwelt upon the necessity for converting these reservoirs into draw-wells, but this measure involves a considerable outlay and has been deferred, pending the settlement of a feasible water project. Your Excellency will be surprised to know that this question is being discussed since 1855, and that nothing tangible has yet been done or even resolved upon.

Two schemes are stated to be now under consideration. They are known as the Hagari scheme and the Copper Hills scheme. The former is expected to be very costly; and moreover, the Hagari water has been condemned more than once by the Chemical Examiner to Government. On the other hand, everything seems to be in favour of the other project, the cost being much less and the quality of the water excellent, and we earnestly beg that this scheme be pushed on as rapidly as possible.

Our next prayer in regard to water-supply is that Your Excellency's Government will help our municipality with a large grant, and also move the Government of India to afford liberal pecuniary assistance towards the capital outlay and, if necessary, the upkeep of whatever scheme may ultimately be fixed upon. Our town is nearly as extensive as Madras, but has a municipal income out of all proportion to that of the latter place. Our roads are extensive, and there is a large cantonment in the town. We have a very objectionable system of sink pits, and all the money that the Municipal Council can spare, after meeting urgent demands, is required for the removal of this nuisance, and for introducing a drainage system on the approved plan. We trust that these facts will convince Your Excellency of the reasonableness of our request, and that we shall have a water-supply scheme in working order before the expiry of the term of Your Excellency's office.

The necessity for the separation of the judicial from the executive functions has been fully recog-

nised by every authority up to the Secretary of State, but the evils resulting from their combination cannot be said to have been satisfactorily remedied so long as the superior Magistracy continues to be saddled with heavy executive work requiring constant travelling. We therefore request that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to take an early opportunity of completing the reform so well begun by the appointment of Stationary Sub-Magistrates. If financial difficulties are the only obstacle, may we suggest an adjustment of the revenue charges of the Divisional officers so as to set free one officer at least in each district for magisterial work exclusively, and that the experiment may be tried in this district to begin with.

We beg to submit that the efficiency of the Police administration will be considerably improved by the appointment of competent Indians of high character and tried merit to the higher grades of the Police service, as their intimate knowledge of the language, habits and modes of thought of the people gives them a vast advantage over foreigners. A beginning has been already made in this direction by the appointment of one native officer as an Assistant Superintendent of Police, and we hope that Your Excellency will try the experiment on a larger scale, especially in districts where Police administration is not quite efficient.

Guntakal, which may be said to be the key to our district and lies just outside its limits, is a very important junction. Hundreds of passengers pass

through it daily. The Railway authorities have done much to meet the comfort and convenience of the comparatively small European section of the passenger traffic, but nothing for the natives by way of providing even a decent refreshment room for them at that station. Memorials largely signed have been sent to the authorities of both the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways on the subject, but without avail. As it is, native travellers passing through Guntakal to Bellary and elsewhere have to travel long distances practically starving. Unless Your Excellency is pleased to move the Railway authorities in the matter, we do not think there is a chance of their doing anything.

We thank Your Excellency for the wide sympathy and the liberal views that characterise your administration of local and municipal affairs. Ours is a large municipality covering an area of about 25 square miles and including a large military population, numbering 10,000, and its administration is by no means a light task. We therefore beg Your Excellency would look upon our municipality with a kindly eye and extend your generous support to the institution whenever it is confronted with difficulties.

We avail ourselves of this occasion to represent to Your Excellency the urgent necessity for aiding the District Court by the appointment of a Sub-Court, either permanently or temporarily. The heavy criminal sessions of this and Anantapur districts allow the District Judge very little time for

the disposal of civil work, and we are sorry to find that the original suits filed in 1892 and 1893 are still pending, and that there are about 500 civil appeals on the arrear list.

During the very short time that has elapsed since Your Excellency became our Governor, the public have been everywhere so much impressed with Your Excellency's deep and personal solicitude for the welfare of the millions entrusted to your care, that Your Excellency is recognised as the people's friend and protector. Your invariable desire to learn the grievances of the people direct from them and your anxiety to remedy them promptly have evoked here as elsewhere that sentiment of affection and respect, which we feel incapable of adequately giving utterance to. We are grateful to the Queen-Empress for sending us such a good Governor, and we pray that the Almighty will bless Your Excellency with health and strength to continue the administration on the liberal, sympathetic and beneficent lines on which it has begun. We again bid Your Excellency welcome to our town and give you the greeting of loyal hearts. We thank Your Excellency for meeting us here and we fervently pray that Lady Havelock (whose absence to-day we feel very much) and Your Excellency may be blessed with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN, REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF BELLARY,—I feel very grateful to you for the cordial

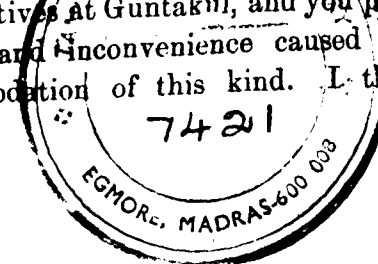
welcome which you have accorded me to your town and district. I am not surprised that your first and greatest want, as stated in your address, should be a proper water-supply. In a dry and thirsty place like the district of Bellary, water is of the very first necessity, and I am sorry to notice from your address, and from my own examination of the question, that so many years have elapsed since it was first brought forward. I think, however, that it has now narrowed itself to a practical issue and we may be able to get on with the scheme, which is considered to be the best and one that will really serve the purpose. I most perfectly and completely concur with the wish you express in your address that before my time of office expires the water-supply scheme for Bellary may become an accomplished fact.

In connection with these remarks about the water-supply, you ask that a large grant may be made to the Municipality of Bellary for the purpose. You are aware, I have no doubt, of the liberal terms which the Government generally accords to works of this kind. But Bellary occupies a somewhat exceptional position, inasmuch as it is the site of a large garrison, and for these reasons I think it is probable that Government may be able to accord to you even more indulgent terms in this matter than are granted to other municipalities; but it would be rash and unbecoming on my part on occasions of this kind to make any definite promise on a subject such as this.

You next remark on the necessity for the separation of the judicial from the executive functions of the superior magistracy. This is a matter which has been recognised not only by the Local Government but by the Government of India for many years past, and considerable progress has already been made towards this end and the efforts to arrive at perfection will continue. But you must be prepared for slow progress in a matter such as this, which involves serious considerations and large expenditure.

I note the opinion that you express that Police administration will be considerably improved by the appointment of competent natives of India of high character and tried merit to the higher grades in the Police service. You are aware that it is the policy of Her Majesty's Government in India to employ natives of the country in all such cases in which it can be properly and effectively done. An example of this has already been shown, as you point out in your address, by the appointment of a native highly qualified for the purpose to be an Assistant Superintendent of Police. I have made enquiries with regard to that experiment, and as far as I can ascertain it is likely to be a successful one and I shall be very glad if it comes within my power to try further experiments on the same lines.

You next refer to the want of a refreshment room for natives at Guntakul, and you point out the discomfort and inconvenience caused by a want of accommodation of this kind. I think I can

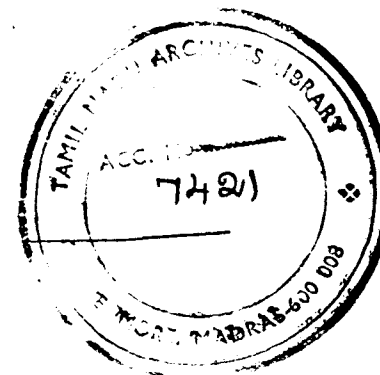


understand the want to which you allude, and I may tell you that on the journey down from Goa I had an opportunity of speaking on this subject to the Manager of the Southern Mahratta Railway, who, with the Manager of the Madras Railway, is concerned in a work of this kind. The Manager of the Southern Mahratta Railway informed me that as far as his company is concerned, it will be willing to establish a refreshment room of the kind you describe, if the Manager of the Madras Railway can be induced to join in sharing the expenses of the undertaking. I will take on myself the duty of addressing the managing body of the Madras Railway and endeavour to induce it to carry out this necessary measure of reform on its line.

You next allude to the necessity which exists for aiding the District Court by the appointment of a Sub-Court either permanently or temporarily, and you point out the arrears which have arisen through overwork in the present District Court. I may inform you that the necessity for some measure of relief has been brought to the notice of Government by the High Court with a recommendation which will be carried out. That recommendation is that the District Judge of Kurnool should come to Bellary to undertake a certain portion of the District Court work here. I hope that measure may be found to meet in some degree the want to which you allude.

I am very much touched by the kind terms in which you allude to myself and my work in your

Presidency. I feel I am hardly deserving of the high praise you accord me, for we are hardly yet beyond the position of being strangers to each other; but I hope before we separate, at least after you have known me a little while longer, I may be able to show that in some degree I merit the high commendations you have been good enough to bestow on me. I thank you once again for your kind welcome, and in doing so I beg to express the great pleasure I feel at the outward signs given of your appreciation of my visit, and the trouble you have taken to do me honour and give me pleasure. I thank you, gentlemen, very much for your kind welcome and for your hospitality and your goodness.



ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,
AND
REPLIES DELIVERED BY,
HIS EXCELLENCY
SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,
ON HIS
THIRD TOUR
IN THE
MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

—
MADRAS:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVT. PRESS.
—
1897.

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ÁDÓNI MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 12 noon on the
19th February 1897 at the Municipal Office.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Council of Ádóni, on behalf of its inhabitants, beg leave to express our deep sense of the high honour done to us by this visit of Your Excellency, it never having hitherto fallen to the lot of this small town to see the Governor of this Presidency in its midst. No doubt, the great pleasure which we feel in according our loyal welcome to Your Excellency as the representative of our august and benign Sovereign, the Queen-Empress Victoria, is marred by the sad reflection that the occasion for this visit is the distress which has unhappily overtaken the part of the country which this town represents. But, at the same time, we feel cheered and encouraged in this our hour of adversity by Your Excellency's visit, and we take it as a token of your personal sympathy for the thousands of poor who are now suffering from scarcity, and of your solicitude for their welfare, and as a proof of the anxiety which you feel regarding their present distressed condition. This visit further recalls to our minds the memorable words which fell from Your Excellency's lips during your

visit to another part of the extensive province over which you rule, to the effect that you rejoice with us, your humble subjects, in our prosperity, and mourn with us in our adversity. With a Governor imbued with such feelings and sentiments, holding the reins of administration during this period of distress, the unfortunately large poor section of the population of this district, who are affected by the failure of crops, have every reason to regard themselves as extremely fortunate.

2. This town, though small, is not without historical importance. According to tradition, it was founded about 3,000 years ago by Chender Sing of Beder. So it can boast of a more venerable antiquity than its present more prosperous sister Bellary. Like many another town in India, it has had a chequered political career. It remained under the sway of Hindu sovereigns until the downfall of the Vijayanagar Kingdom, when it passed into the hands of the Sultan of Bijapur. Subsequently, it was conquered by Aurangzebe, and on the decline of the Mogul Empire, it passed into the possession of the Nizam. Later on, it came under the brief sway of Tippu Sultan, but again reverted to the possession of the Nizam. Lastly, it came into the hands of the East India Company with the rest of the Ceded Districts, and ever since then it has had a smooth and peaceful career under the just and beneficent British rule. That it may long remain under that rule is our earnest prayer to Almighty God.

3. The town is situated at the foot of a picturesque hill or rather group of hills. The remains of its extensive hill fort still exist. Its fine mosque built by Siddi Masud Khan, a former ruler, at a cost of two lakhs of rupees, and a large square well built by his Dewan, Vencanna Pantulu, and now known by his name, are among the objects of interest contained in it.

4. The population of the town, according to the census of 1891, was 26,243, of whom about two-fifths are Muhammadans. The town has a large weaving industry, there being more than 4,000 looms in use, of which the major portion turns out female cloths valued at from Rs. 5 to 70 and much in demand in the Mysore Province, the West Coast, and the adjoining portions of the Bombay Presidency. It is also noted for the manufacture of coloured cotton carpets, which are largely exported to other parts of India. Unfortunately, the present unfavourable season has caused a temporary check to the industry.

5. Considerable trade is carried on in cotton, and there are four presses for preparing bales of cotton for shipment to England or transport to Indian mills.

6. We take this opportunity of expressing our deep indebtedness to Government for the water-supply scheme, which could never have been thought of by this poor municipality but for the liberal aid and support of Government.

7. Our chief wants at present are a proper drainage system and the widening and straightening of the numerous narrow and crooked lanes which form such a bad and insanitary feature of this town as your Excellency will see for yourself in the walk which you propose to take through some parts of it. We have no doubt that the Government will extend the same liberal helping hand to the Municipal Council in remedying these defects as it has done in regard to the water-supply.

8. In conclusion, we beg to express our sincere gratitude for the various measures which Government has started for the relief of distress, and the efforts which it is making, with unstinted hands, to prevent starvation and suffering. We take this opportunity of saying that we feel touched by the sentiments of sympathy expressed by our English fellow-subjects not only in India, but also in the land of our rulers and in all parts of the world, and the practical proof thereof which they are giving by generously putting their hands into their pockets to contribute to the fund for the relief of distress among the teeming millions of our fellow-country-men in all parts of this our mother land. Above all, we feel profoundly moved by the message of sympathy which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has, with her characteristic tenderness of feelings, been pleased to convey to us in her speech at the late opening of Parliament. We beg to convey to your Excellency, as her representative, our expressions of heartfelt thankfulness to Her Majesty.

and that the completion of the 60th year of Her Majesty's long, beneficent, and prosperous reign may be celebrated with due rejoicings, is the humble and sincere prayer of our loyal hearts.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF ÁDÓNI,—I thank you very heartily for the loyal and interesting address which has just been read. I understand that the building in which we are now met is your new Town Hall, and I have to thank you for the use—the first use—to which it is put, and that is, to give me hospitality and comfort during my stay in your town. I trust the building will be found admirably suited to the purpose, and will assist the Municipal Council in carrying out their duties in the future better than in the past. I find that the Municipal Council of Ádóni has 16 members, all of whom are nominated, and that they elected their own chairman, who at present is the Deputy Collector, the gentleman who just read the address. I am glad to find on enquiry that the opinion of Government with regard to the working of the municipality during 1894-95 was that it has shown marked improvement, and that during 1895-96 the working of the municipality was fairly efficient. I take this opportunity of expressing the earnest hope that the opinion of Government will continue to improve with regard to the manner in which the important duties of the municipality of this town are carried out. You make allusion to

the occasion which has primarily led me to pay a visit to your town. It is true that the principal object of my coming here is to acquaint myself with the working of the famine relief system and to ascertain as far as I possibly can on the spot a right opinion with regard to the conflicting reports which have reached me as to the sufficiency of the wage and other important points connected with the relief system in the Presidency. You describe your town with modesty as being a small one. I should say that a town containing 26,000 inhabitants ranks among the bigger towns of the Presidency of Madras. The history that you give of the origin of your town, nearly 3,000 years ago, and of its chequered history has been heard by me with great interest. It is quite possible that had I not been called to pay Ádóni a visit, I should not have known as I now do what an ancient and interesting town it is. You tell me that carpet-weaving is one of the principal industries of your town. This fact was brought to my knowledge some time ago through reports that reached Government about the distress prevailing, this occupation being restricted on account of the decrease in the demand for articles which are manufactured following upon the distress that prevails throughout such a large part of this country. It is to inspect the arrangements that are made for relieving the weavers of your town that I propose to go round the town this afternoon. The manufactures of Ádóni, I may tell you, are well known in England and many other parts, even where possibly

the name of your town has not been heard of. Your red and blue dye carpet, specimens of which we stand upon, are very familiar to the eyes of many, and I assure you admired very widely. I am interested to know from you that you have a considerable business in cotton here, so much so that I learn there are four presses for preparing bales of cotton for shipment to England or transport to Indian mills. I am glad that you appreciate the action of Government in having assisted you in supplying yourselves with water-works. Supply of water is, you know, one of the many things in which the Government takes a foremost interest. I assure you that to supply a town like this with an efficient water-supply is a matter of considerable difficulty. I hope that the work will be satisfactorily carried out and produce beneficial results. You allude to the want of a proper drainage system and the widening and straightening of your narrow and crooked lanes. As soon as any proper system for carrying out this work has been settled and digested, I have no doubt that Government will show you the same liberality that you say it has accorded to other towns.

Towards the end of your address you make special allusion to the works which have been started for the relief of distress. On this subject, I think perhaps you will allow me to explain as briefly as I can what the views and intentions of the Government are. I may premise by saying that though the distress within our border is neither so extensive nor acute as that which is desolating the more

Northern parts of the Empire, the task of relieving and preventing starvation and suffering is not an altogether easy one. Government considers that the duty of the State is two-fold. On the one hand it has to safeguard the financial resources, and, on the other, to save the lives of the people. While not losing sight of the former obligation, I have no hesitation in saying—in this I believe I am expressing not only my own view but that of my honourable colleagues—that I consider the latter duty by far the more important. That duty is to save life as far as may be practicable by all the means in our power. By this is meant that while the Government is not bound to maintain the labouring community at its normal level of comfort, such a degree of health and strength should be kept up as will be sufficient to enable those individuals when distress is past to resume their ordinary calling. This is the mainspring of our policy, and to it all rules and regulations must be made subservient. That is the basis of the Famine Code itself, which has received the sanction of the Government of India. It is our duty to save life, and by life, as I have said, what we and I am sure the Government of India mean is the preservation of a healthy vitality and working power and not emaciation and starvation. I have said that all rules and regulations must be made subservient to saving of life. It is to ascertain that this is done that I am here among you to-day. Questions have arisen, as they would naturally be expected to rise when the moment

comes to put paper rules into practice, as to the leniency or severity of the task that is to be set for the labourers and the sufficiency or otherwise of the wages paid to them. These questions can only be decided on the spot. There are other questions also of less importance perhaps, but still not unimportant, as to the practical working of the system, which also can only be satisfactorily disposed of on the spot. In these matters I thought, and my colleagues were also of the same opinion, that I should come and discuss with the District officers on the situation. I thought that by visiting several relief camps I should obtain a better knowledge of the working of the system of famine relief and a clearer insight into its principles, than if I were to travel rapidly. Famine relief divides itself into two parts. One the ascertainment of the existence of distress, and the other its relief. For the former we have already a very complete agency in the shape of an energetic Famine Commissioner and an enthusiastic Sanitary Commissioner and able Divisional officers. We may trust to these to bring the existence of distress to our notice, and then begins the real work of famine relief, the starting of relief works, camps and kitchens. This is the harder part of the famine campaign. It is of the utmost importance to get into shape at starting the main features of relief works. The working of one relief camp in its main details must be much the same as the other. Therefore those main features once settled, future camps may as distress deepens be called into existence without difficulty or delay. I

have heard with great satisfaction your expressions of profound gratitude for receiving the message of sympathy which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has sent to her suffering subjects in India. There is no part of Her Majesty's wide dominion in which she takes a greater interest than in her Indian Empire, and among her people there is none for whom she has a warmer and more sympathetic feeling than she has for her subjects in this country. Just one year ago, a few days before I embarked for India, Her Majesty sent for me to Osborne to give me her orders and instructions, and her last words to me were, "Lose no opportunity in letting my subjects in India know how deep an interest I take in them." I take every opportunity that offers itself of repeating Her Majesty's message to her subjects, and it gives me great pleasure to do so on this occasion. I join with you in the wish that this year, which will see the completion of the 60 years of Her Majesty's reign, may be celebrated with rejoicing; but we cannot but feel that in the present state of this great country, afflicted as it is with pestilence and famine, these rejoicings will be somewhat marred; and there will be no heart in the whole empire which will feel more the misfortunes of this country than the heart of our beloved Queen-Empress. Gentlemen, I thank you once again for your address and for the kind welcome to Adoni.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF GOOTY.

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 4-30 p.m., on the 22nd February 1897, at the Guntakal Railway Station.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We venture to approach Your Excellency, and beg respectfully to offer, on behalf of the people, a loyal and hearty welcome to our district. We are grateful to Your Excellency for your timely visit, which we believe will prove beneficial to the people who look to Your Excellency for sympathy and protection. Providence has visited this district and several others with scarcity and famine; but it is a matter of thankfulness that Your Excellency's Government have been vigilant and prepared to successfully cope with the distress thus arising. Your Excellency's sympathetic supervision and the co-operation of our good Collector and his hard-working subordinates, will, we trust, make it possible for the able and experienced Famine Commissioner to afford the suffering people such relief as will ensure their passing through famine with unimpaired health. Owing to the contiguity of the Mysore Province, where the season has been favourable, a good number of ryots and agricultural labourers have left some of the affected parts in search of work. The timely loans given to some of the ryots by Government have enabled them to give employment to a considerable number of able-bodied working men; and some ryots who are in tolerable circumstances now provide for labourers dependent upon them. It is only as a last resource that the

distressed people reluctantly resort to relief works. This accounts for the comparatively small number of men on the relief works. But this, we are afraid, will change in the course of a few weeks. We take this opportunity of bringing to Your Excellency's serious consideration some of the complaints which we know to be well founded. We would urge that the regulation wage is insufficient to keep the labourer in health when the prescribed task is taken into consideration. It is declared to be the intention of Government to give only bare subsistence wage to a relief worker; and the code gives the items included in his ration. But we would respectfully point out that no allowance is made for fuel; and this omission in districts where fuel is scarce and the forest rules are stringent, greatly enhances the hardship. The minimum wage is 40 tolas of raw grain for a man, and 35 tolas for a woman. That this is insufficient, there can be no doubt, when the code itself allows 50 tolas of raw grain for an adult who is in receipt of gratuitous relief and 60 tolas for an adult under medical care. People generally are averse to a relief kitchen lest it should attach a stigma to them and their descendants in their own villages. As an example, it may not be out of place to mention that at Yadiki recently two blind people preferred working for a small wage rather than be fed gratuitously at the relief kitchen. Your Excellency will be pleased to observe that an honest and self-respecting labourer who receives the minimum wage for a Sunday or who, owing to weakness

or some other valid reason, cannot complete his allotted task, gets less than a person who is gratuitously fed at the kitchen. While the minimum wage itself is insufficient, the system of fining recently ordered to be enforced is calculated to produce great hardship. The day's wage is barely sufficient for a day's subsistence. If this amount is reduced to any appreciable extent the labourer's strength will gradually decrease, and he will become liable to disease. It has been held by competent authorities that "the diseased conditions dependent on insufficient food follow many months after the cause has passed away." The minimum wage without deduction ought to be guaranteed to all. The system of continuing to fine the labourer so that the amount received is below the minimum wage will prove disastrous. Further, the fining power is practically vested in the overseer and his subordinates; and this may in more than one way lead to corruption or overstringency. The power of fining should be in the hands of the Collector, Divisional officer, or a D.P.W. officer of an Assistant Engineer's grade; and fines should be inflicted at the time of their inspection, and under no circumstances should fining be of such a nature as to deprive the worker of the minimum wage. We would respectfully point out what we conceive to be a hardship, viz., that of compelling a worker who, by any exigency comes late, or misses half a day, to remain idle for the remainder of the day, or to lose the remuneration for any work he performs; and we consider that the Sunday wage

should be allowed to all famine *boudi* labourers each week without reference to the number of days worked previously. We beg to take this opportunity also to bring to Your Excellency's notice the serious inconvenience Railway passengers suffer through the absence of a Hindu refreshment room at Guntakal Junction. Passengers have frequently to make long journeys without being able to procure food. Guntakal Junction, on account of the convenient running of trains, is a suitable place for the establishment of a refreshment room. Further, since the junction is at a considerable distance from any village, passengers, who are now and again compelled to halt at the station through misconnection of trains, are put to very serious discomfort. We would remind Your Excellency of your kindly reply to the Bellary people's address on this very question. "You next refer," said Your Excellency, "to the want of a refreshment room for natives at Guntakal, and you point out the discomfort and inconvenience caused by a want of accommodation of this kind. I think I can understand the want to which you allude, and I may tell you that on the journey down from Goa I had an opportunity of speaking on this subject with the Manager of the Southern Mahratta Railway, who, with the Manager of the Madras Railway, is concerned in a work of this kind. The Manager of the Southern Mahratta Railway informed me that as far as his Company is concerned, it will be willing to establish a refreshment room of the kind you describe if the Manager of the Madras Railway can be

induced to join in sharing the expenses of the undertaking. I will take on myself the duty of addressing the managing body of the Madras Railway and endeavour to induce it to carry out this necessary measure of reform on its line." Promises had been made by the Southern Mahratta Railway authorities that the refreshment room would be established. And Your Excellency's assurance to the Bellary people raised hopes that the refreshment room would after all be a *fait accompli*, and "it will add to the comfort of the native passengers, not only because they prove the more paying class," to quote the words of Colonel Lindsay, the late Agent of the Southern Mahratta Railway, "but because they are not so prone or able to agitate for themselves." And we would again to-day urge on Your Excellency to take into your kind consideration the urgency of the question. We thank Your Excellency for the kindness with which Your Excellency has heard our humble address, and we pray that your Excellency may live long and Your Excellency's *régime* will continue to be a beneficent one.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE GOOTY PUBLIC MEETING,—I beg to express my thanks for the kind welcome accorded to me. You enter at once upon a subject which is engrossing our thoughts and so much time at the present moment, and that is the distressed condition of this part of the Madras Presidency. I am aware, as you mention in the

beginning of your address, and it has been a cause of grief and solicitude to me, that a number of ryots have been called away by the prosperity in the neighbouring country of Mysore to migrate there. It is an evil to separate them from home and surroundings, and it cannot be otherwise than mischievous in its results. I trust the situation of affairs will soon put a stop to migration. You express your approval of the system of timely loans given to ryots by Government to enable them to employ labour. I may say that Government itself has great satisfaction in this mode of assisting them in the present state of affairs, and that at present they have under their express consideration the means of facilitating the granting of loans in the terms you allude to. We have great faith in the benefits to be derived from this indirect form of assistance at the present crisis. You then proceed to deal with various complaints made with regard to the administration of our famine work at the present time. I may tell you that I have during the last three days made a very close examination of three of our relief works. In the first of these to which I went work had been started for a few weeks. There I observed a general spirit of cheerfulness and the absence of any very great number of complaints, such complaints as we were made aware of were matters with which the Government was unacquainted, and remedies for which are under consideration. My next visit was to the relief works close to the town of Adóni. There I was somewhat distressed to observe a listless

attitude and appearance among the people and also some outward signs of ill-health, possibly for want of sufficient nutriment. There I think we should be able to apply certain remedies which the Collector has suggested. You next deal with the important point of the minimum wage, and there I think I may say a word or two. You say that fining should not be carried below the minimum wage. Thus, as a general rule, you will see that Government quite agrees with you, for in a recent amendment of section 106 of the code, Government has said, "As a general rule the effect of fines must not be to reduce the wages below the minimum wage," exceptionally, and in proved cases of contumacy only may fining be carried below this limit. We have even in the same section gone so far as to say that "no reduction of pay shall be made where the failure to work was due to weakness," and weakness we have recently defined to include physical disability of all sorts, whether due to hunger or weariness or overwork or any cause not directly or indirectly due to the workers themselves, and we have pointed out that in cases in which the majority of the gang come from a distance the *task* of the gang should be reduced under section 107—a section which has this advantage over a reduction of the *class* of the gang under section 97, that it does not involve any reduction in pay. Further than this in the direction of gentleness we can hardly go, for if we take away all power to fine, we take away the means of enforcing discipline and industry. We cannot do this,

but we can and we do leave in the hands of the District officers every reasonable means of being lenient when leniency is called for. To District officers we must leave the rest. You make some mention of there being no allowance in the code for fuel. On this subject I have made some enquiry, and I find that fuel is generally picked up for nothing, and even if it is picked up after payment of fee for license, considerable profit is made in the operation. I think possibly, therefore, this omission in the Government code is not of very great importance. You draw my attention in your address to a point of which I was not previously aware. It is set forth in this paragraph: "We would respectfully point out what we conceive to be a hardship, viz., that of compelling a worker who by any exigency comes late or misses half a day to lose the remuneration for any work he performs. And that you consider that the Sunday wage should be allowed to all *bonâ fide* labourers each week without reference to the number of days worked previously." As I observed just now, I was not aware of this disability, nor had I the time since the copy of your address reached my hands to make any enquiry, but will do so without fail. I thank you for the information which you have given me on various points connected with the famine. Government are already very well furnished with advisers on this subject, and it is in the midst of our great army of councillors there is such difficulty to arrive sometimes at our decisions. We would do well to select

from the large body of advisers the real gems. You next call to my attention the want of a refreshment-room at this station—the Guntakal Junction station—and you quote what I said in reply to an address which I received from the people of Bellary in October last. After I had made that reply I had the pleasure of meeting the General Manager of the Madras Railway, and lost no time in making a representation to him. He told me that a refreshment-room of the same class has been established at Arkonam and somewhere else, but that it has not proved a financial success. The Madras Railway was working for its shareholders, and any undertaking that would only be worked at a loss was a matter of doubtful expediency. However, he gave me some hope that a refreshment-room of the kind might possibly be established at Guntakal. Since then I have heard nothing more on the subject; but as you have reminded me of it, and drawn my attention to its importance, I will not fail to again approach the managing body of the Madras Railway on the subject. You must understand that the Madras Railway is not a Government Railway and Government cannot give it orders. We can only express our views and hopes. Gentlemen, I again thank you for your kind welcome.

ADDRESS FROM THE CUDDAPAH MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL.

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 1 p.m., on the
23rd February 1897, at the Collector's House.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council, Cuddapah, beg most respectfully to offer Your Excellency a most hearty welcome to our town, and on behalf of ourselves and of the inhabitants of Cuddapah, whom we have the honour to represent, we eagerly embrace this opportunity of expressing, through Your Excellency, our profound loyalty and gratitude to Her Most Gracious Majesty our Queen-Empress. We express the deep gratitude we feel for the extremely munificent help we have received from Government in aid of water works, the benefits of which we are now enjoying. We take this opportunity of expressing our approval of the Bill that has been recently passed by Your Excellency in Council for the improvement and better working of municipalities in this Presidency. The Bill, like every other human undertaking, is probably capable of being improved, but we readily recognise the willingness of Government to do all in their power to help the steady progress of self-government in this country. In conclusion, we most fervently pray for the continued welfare and happiness of Your Excellency and Lady Havelock during the period of Your Excellency's rule over this Presidency, which has already been marked by acts of wide and heartfelt sympathy with the just aspirations of the people

of this country, and of a desire for their prosperity and advancement which we, on behalf of those whom we represent, cannot but gratefully acknowledge.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CUDDAPAH,—I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for your kind words of welcome to your town. I have heard with great satisfaction the expressions of loyalty and affection which you express for our Gracious Sovereign, and I have no doubt that the people of Cuddapah are no less loyal and loving than any other of Her Majesty's subjects in India. I find on enquiry that the Municipal Council of Cuddapah enjoys very considerable elective privileges, that three-fourths of its members are elected, and that it elects its own Chairman. I find also that for the last two years the Government, in reviewing the reports of the municipality, has expressed satisfaction at the progress that has been made in the administration of municipal affairs. There is, however, still room for improvement as there is in most things, and I express a hope that in the future we will continue to be able to express our approval of the progress that is made by you from year to year. I am glad to be able to compliment you on the possession of an excellent hospital building. I inspected it this morning and I have pleasure in saying that, as far as the structure is concerned, it is one of the best—if not quite the best—Municipal hospitals I have yet seen in the Madras Presidency.

There are certain little defects in the matter of furniture and fittings, which, no doubt, will be made good as funds become available. I learn from the Collector there has been considerable improvement in the important matter of road maintenance and on another matter connected with the municipality. I was to-day told there was very satisfactory work done in the high school, and I hope to be able to assure myself of it this afternoon when I purpose to present the prizes. You make a complimentary remark with respect to the Municipal Bill which was so happily passed a few days ago after having been under the consideration of the Government in the Legislative Council for a period of four years. This Bill contains a good many enactments which have been arrived at after very serious consideration and is the result of a compromise. Things that are the result of compromises are very seldom quite perfect, but I think, considering the divergent interest of opinion that prevailed regarding many of the points connected with the Bill, that the final result is highly satisfactory. There are several points in the Bill which conferred upon municipal bodies the government and power which they desire to possess which I am very glad it was possible for us to carry through. I beg to express my warm thanks for the kind way in which you have expressed your desire to see the welfare of myself and my family during my rule in this Presidency. Your wish that my Government here may lead to the prosperity and advancement of the country is fervently reci-

procated by myself. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind words of welcome and for the pleasant words of your address.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF CUDDAPAH.

Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 1 p.m., on the 23rd February 1897, at the Collector's House.

The providential advent of rains in November last, though deficient, has averted what threatened to be a severe distress over the greater part of the district. The rains, however, have not been sufficient in the tracts in which the relief works were opened to relieve the distress of the people, to any appreciable extent. The first crop of cholam, which is the staple food-grain of this portion of the district, was almost a failure, and the late-sown cholam has also failed, or is failing over nearly three-fourths of the area cultivated. The ryots, however, have endeavoured their best to help themselves by raising ragi and other food-grains under wells and other sources of irrigation wherever water was available. Even lands, classed and assessed as double crop wet, have been used for raising dry crops owing to insufficiency of water in the irrigation sources to support wet cultivation. But it is to be noted that the extent of land covered by crops thus raised is very inconsiderable, compared with the total area of cultivation, wet and dry, in the affected parts, as the greater portion of these tracts is black cotton

soil, which does not generally admit of cultivation by irrigation. The high prices of food-grains continuing for several months is also a clear indication of the prevailing general distress. We have read with some concern the statement of Government that dry remissions in the case of petty pattadars paying Rs. 20 and less cannot be accepted, as it would deal with individuals. In view of the facts stated above, we most respectfully and humbly urge for Your Excellency's generous consideration that general remissions in all cases in which the crops have failed would be an appropriate relief under the present circumstances, and would be a great boon to the people of the affected tracts. It may be stated also that the grant of remissions in the case of petty pattadars as a class is not without a precedent, as we learn that a similar concession was granted in the Kurnool district during the famine of 1891-92. We also crave permission to bring to Your Excellency's consideration that the relief works already opened are not adequate to alleviate the distress in all parts of the affected area. We respectfully venture to suggest that additional works may be ordered to be opened at an early date, so as to give relief to the people who, on account of distance, cannot resort to the works already opened. Balapanur firka of the Pulivendla taluk and Peddamudiem firka of the Jammalamadugu taluk need early attention in this direction. The irrigation project of Peddapasupula may be usefully undertaken, as it will relieve the distressed in the

affected portions of the Jammalamadugu taluk, and the extension of the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal in the Proddatur taluk by what is known as the Rajoli project may also be advantageously taken in hand at present, as it will serve as a protective work in future.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE CUDDAPAH DISTRICT ASSOCIATION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF CUDDAPAH,—I beg you to accept my warm thanks for the hearty welcome which you have accorded me to your town and district. I have heard with great pleasure your renewed expressions of loyalty and affection for our Gracious Sovereign. No doubt can be held on this point with respect to any of Her Majesty's subjects in any part of Her Dominion. I shall now proceed to answer to the best of my ability the points upon which you have touched, but I must tell you that your address, which only reached my hands yesterday, contains a good many points of importance and difficulty, and I consequently found the time short in which to prepare a few statements in reply to all the matters you bring to my notice. I am glad to hear from you that you appreciate the action taken by Government in the matter of the distress which prevails in Cuddapah and the other Deccan districts of the Madras Presidency. There is no doubt that in our first efforts to meet this difficulty we might have made mistakes, but I think experience has shown where they have existed and

that they are gradually being corrected. I have during the last few days seen four of the relief works which are being carried on in the Bellary and the Anantapur districts, and on the whole the conclusion that I came to was that considering the difficulties that attend the proper administration of works of this kind things were being conducted better than I had reason to expect. In one of the works which I inspected, which has been in existence since November last, and which is carried on in a rural district among people accustomed to out-door and field work, everything has been going on satisfactorily. One work I saw was close to the town of Adóni, where people, not accustomed to out-door work, like people of the weaver caste, are employed in stone-breaking. There prevailed a feeling of despondency, and some just cause for complaint, possibly on account of under-payment and over-work; but in that case the remark I made on the occasion and the wishes of those who are in authority will soon apply the remedy. It is, I think, perhaps a mistake on the right side to have begun with possibly too light a degree of carefulness and severity. It is very easy to relax, but it is very difficult to put in force severer measures which we see is already the order of the day. I don't think, therefore, we have much to regret on what has been done in the past. You allude in the third paragraph of your address to the fact of the rains which fell in November and December last. Everybody interested in the country rejoiced to see such a fall of rain at

that time, and among others I was glad to know this district profited largely thereby. But I am not surprised to hear that, though these rains possibly and probably saved the Cuddapah district from extreme distress, they came too late really to remove the whole of your difficulty. I am perfectly aware that distress of a high order exists in this district in a considerable degree, and that before relief arrives with the approach of the south-west monsoon, distress and difficulty will considerably deepen. There have, on the whole, been three works in operation in the Cuddapah district, viz., the Jammalamadugu, the Proddatur and the Pulivendla; and the Collector informs me that there are two test relief works already arranged for, and one, I think he told me, has been already open, and the other will be open in the course of a day or two. There is also a third work in the Jammalamadugu taluk, which is ready to be open, and will be probably open and set on foot within a short time. You mention in the fourth paragraph of your address that ryots have been endeavouring their very best to help themselves by raising ragi and other food-grains in order to take the place of grains, to which they have been accustomed. I am extremely glad to hear the peasantry of this district has shown such a disposition to help themselves under adverse circumstances. That is the reason I am glad to hear from the Collector that the ragi crop, on the whole, will be a fairly good one, and it is to be hoped, although there appears to be very little ground at present, that the price of

ragi, which is now high, may fall in the near future. In the fifth paragraph of your address you deal with the matter of remissions on dry lands. You here touch upon a subject which is very difficult to deal with, and I am not prepared to give an answer to the suggestions which you make. Indeed, it would not be proper that I should do so without consulting my councillors. I will, however, take the earliest opportunity of bringing to the notice of the council the measure of relief which is suggested in this portion of your address. You mention at the end of that paragraph there is a precedent for the grant of remissions in the case of petty pattadars. I have not had time to go deeply into the enquiry that is necessary on the subject, but I have got as far as this. It appears in 1891-92, Mr. Baddely, the Collector of Kurnool, recommended such revision, but we have not been able to find that that recommendation was accepted. With regard to paragraph 6 of your address, in which you bring to notice that the relief works already opened in this district are not adequate to alleviate distress, I do not think I can do better in reply than to read to you a paragraph from a note on the subject which has been prepared for me by the Collector. The Collector informs me that the Tahsildar and Special Deputy Collector on Famine Duty have reported that additional relief works will not be necessary until the latter part of this month. This is now the 23rd of February, so that this is not very far off. In addition to the works now in progress—Yerraguntla-Vempalle road,

Sunkesa tank work in Cuddapah taluk have been ordered to be opened, and they will be actually opened to-morrow (the 24th). The road work now in progress at Royalapuram in Pulivendla taluk serves several of the villages in Ballapannur firka. The number of coolies on this work are at present 907. When the work was first started, *i.e.*, in November 1896, the number was 1,242. Soon after, owing to fall of rains, the number decreased to 560, and it rose again to 1,317 on 11th January 1897. The falling off in the number at present is due to the coolies resorting to the harvesting operations now going on in parts. While field labour is available, the opening of additional relief works will not be of much use. The Royalapuram-Simhadripuram road work has also been sanctioned by the District Board. Kothapalle tank work and Pothikod channel have also been sanctioned by Government. These works will be taken on hand when necessity is reported on by the Special Famine Deputy Collector. As for Peddanindiam firka in Jammalamadugu taluk, the northernmost portion of it is traversed by the canal and three villages are protected by it. The ryot population in these parts is generally well to do, and the weavers have been otherwise provided for. The people who still require work in the southern part of the firka can resort to the Gorigannur work, which has been ordered to be taken up, and when this test establishes the need for more works, they will be opened. The Collector also informs me that he has ordered the opening of

a road work from Simhadipallie to Kondannapuram. So much for the relief works in the mind of the Collector of the district. You next allude to an irrigation work and to the extension of the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal by what is known as the Rajoli project. I may say that the preliminaries for carrying out these works are now ready, and that if Government are satisfied that sanction for them is necessary, they will be set on foot. I now come to the concluding paragraph of your address, and I may here say that it gave me satisfaction to have received such a well-represented body of the inhabitants of Cuddapah, and I have to ask you to accept my warm thanks for your excellent wishes for the enjoyment of good health by myself and Lady Havelock during our stay in this country, and the wish that you express that at the termination of my office I will carry away the good wishes of a grateful people is the very best wish you could have expressed and I warmly thank you for it.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUHAMMADAN
COMMUNITY OF CUDDAPAH.

*Presented to His Excellency the Governor at 1 p.m., on the
23rd February 1897, at the Collector's House.*

We, the members of the Muhammadan Association called the Jalsai Islamiah, beg to approach Your Excellency with these few words of welcome at a time when the people of this district are suffering from dire distress. We feel highly thankful

in that Your Excellency is visiting us at no small inconvenience to yourself. We feel that the visit will result in the amelioration of the condition of the people through means of famine relief works and the feeding of the poor people, especially of the old decrepit members of Muhammadan families who by custom are prevented from appearing, much less working, in public. We have done our best to alleviate the prevailing distress out of our slender purses, but as the scarcity is increasing, we are utterly unable to cope with the famine. We suggest that the most important relief work to be taken in hand at once would be the excavation of a canal,—from a point where the branch of the Krishnapuram canal runs eastwards into the Bugga near Agadi eastwards through Nakash, by Mutial Seshu's Choultry, to Kondayapalli tank. By this means, not only will the perishing people have a means of earning their livelihood in these times of scarcity, but the prospective good to the ryots, no less than to Government, will be most extensive as converting dry into wet lands to the extent of two thousand acres. The expenditure will be very small, considering that the canal will not cross streams or rivers. We take the opportunity of mentioning that to this day there is only one Muhammadan in a population of 7,287 to represent the Muhammadan interest in the Municipal Council at Cuddapah against eleven Hindu members out of a population of 10,000. We request that two of the twelve be Muhammadan gentlemen to be appointed additionally by Government with a

view to represent the feelings and interests of the Muhammadan community better than is done under the present régime. Another subject is that there is no Muhammadan teacher in the Municipal school who can explain in Hindustani to Muhammadan boys the difficulties to be met with in the English and Telugu languages. A Persian Munshi is a desideratum.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN OF THE MUHAMMADAN ASSOCIATION CALLED THE JALSAI ISLAMIAH OF CUDDAPAH,—I thank you for the kind welcome you have accorded to me in the address which has just been read. You very naturally dwell at a considerable length on a subject which has been engrossing attention at the present moment of the distress that prevails in this district and others adjacent to it. You draw my special attention to the difficulty found in aiding the decrepit members of the Muhammadan community and females who, by custom, are prevented from appearing, much less working, in public. I may tell you that my attention has already been directed to this matter, and that I am now considering if any means may be devised for alleviating distress of this type possibly by doles made at the houses of such people, or by increasing the wages at the houses of persons who by custom are unable to work or appear in public. You point out the desirability of carrying out relief works, such as the excavation of a canal from a point where the branch of the

Krishnapuram canal runs eastwards into the Bugga near Agadi to Kondaypalli tank. Your address was only put into my hands two or three hours ago, and my time since then has been very much occupied. I have therefore been unable to make any enquiry on the subject to which you allude, and you must therefore be satisfied with my telling you that I will cause enquiry to be made on the matter. You next mention the subject of insufficient representation of the Muhammadan community on the Municipal Council of Cuddapah, and it appears to me from the facts you mention and from those which have been made known to me that considering the large Muhammadan population of Cuddapah you are represented insufficiently upon the Municipal Council, but I would suggest to you that there being such a very large share in that council of elective members, greater efforts should be made by your community to ensure the election of more of your own body, for it seems difficult to understand, assuming the correctness of the figures you yourselves give, why it should be impossible for you to secure more than one or two members to represent your body. You tell me that the Muhammadan population of Cuddapah is 7,287 and that the Hindu population is 10,000. With these relative figures it seems certain that if you made a proper and concerted effort to get certain of your Muhammadan representatives returned that success should be achieved. With regard to the appointment of two of twelve Muhammadan gentlemen additionally by

Government, I am afraid that, as a matter of policy, Government find it impossible to do more than it has done at present. I have already appointed one Muhammadan member. You ask that a Muhammadan teacher might be appointed for the Municipal school. Your address has only so recently reached me that I have been unable to make any enquiry as to the merits of this request. I will, therefore, confine myself now to telling you that I will consult upon the matter with the head of the Educational department. You next proceed to mention that since the time of Lord Hobart, who governed the Presidency, it has been the practice to appoint officials of high standing from members of the Muhammadan community, and you express a hope that the same policy may be continued by myself. In reply I have only to say that I hope that the acts which have already taken place in the way of Muhammadan appointments since I assumed the Government of this Presidency are sufficient in themselves to show that I keep this matter most carefully in mind. I beg to thank you for the good wishes for the health and happiness of Lady Havelock and myself, and I beg to reciprocate these good wishes.



ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

FOURTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

MADRAS:

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1898.

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE ST. THOMAS' SYRIAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF MALABAR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the St. Thomas' Syrian Christian Community of Malabar, residing at Kunnankulam, beg to approach Your Excellency with this address of welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's first tour through the Native State of Cochin, to which it has been our privilege to belong from a very remote period.

A short resume of the history of our community may not be uninteresting to Your Excellency. The St. Thomas' Syrian Christian Community residing in Travancore, Cochin and parts of British Malabar, had its origin with the advent of the Apostle Thomas about the middle of the first century. It is commonly believed that the Apostle's labours resulted in the immediate conversion of several Brahman villages and the consequent founding of seven churches, including Palayur in our immediate neighbourhood. These high caste converts formed the nucleus of the community which soon developed itself into a national body increasing in numbers rising in influence and political importance, enjoying the peculiar advantages arising from the possession of an indigenous and independent form of church

government and commanding the confidence and respect of the Native potentates of the period. Such a state of things continued for many centuries till the Portuguese sway was established in India, and from which period commenced its sad decline until at last better days dawned upon the community when the British flag of peace and progress was unfurled over the empire. We should be considered highly ungrateful, if we omitted to mention here the blessings of toleration vouchsafed all along to our community by a long line of illustrious sovereigns to whose fostering care it has pleased Providence to entrust our destinies. We would also remark here with thankfulness upon the special encouragement offered to our educated youths by the liberal Government of our enlightened and benevolent Maharajah, whose confidence is reposed in a minister of rare and exceptional parts.

We also avail ourselves of this opportunity of thanking Your Excellency for the very kind permission so condescendingly accorded to us to present this address of welcome.

That the Almighty may shower His choicest blessings on Her Excellency Lady Havelock and Your Excellency, and that you may have a safe and pleasant journey is the earnest prayer of Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servants.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ST. THOMAS' SYRIAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF MALABAR,—I accept with

warm thanks your expressions of welcome to this State. I have listened with great interest to the short history you have given of the origin of your body in this country and of the events which have marked its history during the many centuries that you have existed here. The history of the Syrian Church on the West Coast of India is, as a matter of history, deeply interesting in itself, and to all bodies claiming to be Christians it is a matter of special interest, and I have therefore listened with deep feelings of sympathy and interest to the information you have been pleased to give me. I have remarked with great satisfaction the acknowledgments which you express of the enlightened and liberal rule under which you live in this country, and to the testimonies which you have given of the kind protection and beneficent disposition of the present ruler of this country and of his Government. I beg to thank you before taking leave of you for your kind wishes on behalf of Lady Havelock and myself and for your hope that we may have a pleasant journey and safe return to our home in Madras.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHALDEAN SYRIAN
CHRISTIANS OF TRICHUR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, Chaldean Syrian Christians of Trichur, crave Your Excellency's leave to approach your exalted person, and to avail ourselves of this opportunity of Your Excellency's first visit to this ancient capital of

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

the Cochin State, to express our sentiments of loyalty and sincere respect.

We are proud to think that this is the third time that we have been granted the privilege of welcoming representatives of the British Government in the Southern Presidency—the two former occasions being when Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff and Lord Connemara visited these parts on tours similar to the one over which this town is now rejoicing.

As Your Excellency may be aware, we form part of the great community of the Syrian Rite which, from very remote times, has existed on these coasts under the tolerant and paternal sway of our Native Sovereigns. Setting aside the traditional ascription of the origin of the Church in India to the Apostle St. Thomas, the evangelising mission, in the second century, of the learned and eloquent pantænus from Alexandria; the visit in the eighth century and subsequent sojourn in Malabar of Thomas of Cana; the grant by Cheraman Perumal, a powerful sovereign of Malabar, and his successors, of those social and civil privileges, the charters of which were deposited at Cochin soon after the arrival of the Portuguese; the Synod of Diamper assembled in 1599 by Alexis de Menezes, Archbishop of Goa; the split in 1665 of the old Syrian Church of India; the Inquisition at Goa, which finally closed its blood-stained career in 1816;—these, we may be permitted to say, are some of the

events which mark epochs in the history of the Syrian Christians of Malabar.

Although the community to which we belong has thus seen foul times and fair, it is one of our pleasantest duties to acknowledge, when opportunities offer, that the part of its history covered by British suzerainty is by far the brightest period of its existence. Under the quickening and refining influence of English education, the Rajahs of the Royal Family of Cochin have been enabled to rule over the country on far more intelligent and rational principles than those of their less favoured predecessors of ancient times; so much so that if the State continues to be governed, as we hope it will, by princes like the present highly-cultured Rajah of Cochin, advised by ministers like our esteemed Dewan Mr. P. Rajagopalachari, we can assert with confidence that this State, small as it is, must attain in a few decades to a condition of material prosperity and completeness of administrative arrangements which many an outsider might well envy.

It is almost needless on our part on this occasion to touch upon wants which our community would wish to get supplied, as we believe that all just and reasonable prayers, from whatever quarters they may come, will be attended to with the promptitude and energy so characteristic of the present administration of Cochin. We are grateful for what Government has already done for us in opening a separate Anglo-Vernacular School for

and we shall be very happy if the usefulness of the institution be increased by raising it to, at least, the grade of a Lower Secondary school. We form a very considerable, if not the major, portion of the population of Trichur, but our community is entirely unrepresented in the Sanitary Committee of the place, although there are, among us, men who are competent enough to furnish useful information to the committee and be serviceable to it in various ways. The extreme scarcity of water in the hot season, both for drinking and bathing purposes, in the thickly-populated parts of the town, has been the subject of numerous memorials to Government; and although we have been promised tanks, similar to those granted to our local high caste Hindu brethren, by successive Dewans for the last forty years, the work of actually sinking such tanks has yet to be taken in hand.

We fear we have engaged Your Excellency's attention too long. But before taking leave, we would express our sincere wish that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may find your trip to this coast which abounds in picturesque sights and luxuriant vegetation, pleasant and interesting.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHALDEAN SYRIAN CHRISTIANS OF TRICHUR,—I accept with many thanks your kind address and your expressions of loyalty and sincere respect. I find, with my predecessors in the Government of Madras, whose names you have

mentioned, equal pleasure in visiting this beautiful and interesting part of Southern India. The history that you give of your community in India is deeply interesting. I admit that there are great difficulties in understanding the differences that exist among the several bodies of Syrian Christian Community which exists on this coast. It has been one of the things which I have looked forward to in coming among you to try and arrive at a clear understanding of your position here. The history that you have given me in your address is, therefore, of great help to me. I am glad to hear that you acknowledge as fully as you do the enlightened and beneficent rule under which you live. My short observation of the State of Cochin since I arrived in it yesterday has been sufficient to show me that the people appear to live in ease and prosperity. It is true that nature has done very much for you, but even the gifts of nature, however good they may be, without good Government, would fail to present the aspect of happiness and prosperity which one observes in the faces and persons of the people among whom one passes. I observe that you dwell upon certain wants which you consider that you should be supplied. The first is a request that the grade of your girls' school might be raised. I gather that this is under the consideration of the Government of Cochin. You represent that you would like to have a Syrian Christian on the Sanitary Committee. I am informed that there is already one member of the Christian body on that

committee, and that the Government of Cochin has got this particular request of yours under consideration. You dwell, I see, in your address on the want of sufficient water in times of heat and drought. This is a want in which I can feel very sincere sympathy with you. I am assured that the Government of Cochin has been considering the provision of such a tank since 1896, that the matter is now in correspondence, and that a site has been selected, and that an estimate for the work is being prepared. In conclusion, I beg to express my thanks for your kind wishes on behalf of Lady Havelock and myself, and to assure you that your hope that we shall admire the beauties of scenery of your country will be fully gratified. We have already observed how beautiful the country is, and during the next week or ten days that we shall pass in the States of Cochin and Travancore, I know that we shall still have further cause to admire the surroundings through which we pass.

ADDRESS FROM THE ROMAN CATHOLICS OF
THE SYRIAN RITE OF TRICHUR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Roman Catholics of the Syrian Rite, subject to the Vicariate Apostolic of Trichur, who acknowledge the authority of His Holiness the Pope, humbly crave leave to avail ourselves of this opportunity of Your Excellency's first visit to Trichur, to express our sentiments of sincere respect and loyalty to the

representative of Her Majesty in the Southern Presidency. We consider ourselves honoured by your visit to these parts, and are extremely glad to welcome you and Lady Havelock to this town.

Our native sovereigns, appreciating and accepting the beautiful administrative system of England, have made religious toleration a principle of their state-policy, administering even-handed justice to all classes of their subjects. It is our firm conviction that the blessings and comforts we enjoy in this State can nowhere be obtained, except in a State like this protected by the salutary control of the Great British Government.

We form part of a great community of the Syrian Rite, which, from very remote times, has existed on these coasts. Once we were an undivided community, but unfortunately in the middle of the seventeenth century a division broke out, the consequences of which are visible in the separated body of Syrian Christians, who form the Jacobite Syrian Community in Malabar. At the period of the secession these formed less than a third of the whole body and probably retain the same proportion to the remaining two-thirds, which now number about 224,000, divided into three ecclesiastical governments subject to the Great See of St. Peter, acknowledging his authority in his successors, the Bishops of Rome.

It may interest Your Excellency to know that we, who were up to the middle of last year governed by Bishops of the Latin Rite, are now under

native Bishops of the Syrian Rite in communion with the Holy See of Rome. According to statistics lately compiled by our Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Menachery, we, Syrian Catholics, north of the Chalakudy river, included in the Vicariate Apostolic of Trichur, number 64,117 souls with 62 churches and 14 chapels. A small section of our brethren in this neighbourhood having been led astray into schism are still separated from us, but we hope and pray they may soon rejoin the body, outside of which they must suffer from want of spiritual and moral vitality.

We are highly thankful to Your Excellency for having given us the privilege to acquaint you with these few details of our past history and present status and to give expression to our feelings of love and respect towards your exalted person.

In conclusion wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a pleasant journey and happy return to the seat of Your Excellency's Government.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE ROMAN CATHOLICS OF THE SYRIAN RITE,—I beg you to accept my thanks for your kind welcome to this part of Southern India and to say that I am very pleased to be among you. I have listened with great interest to the history which you have given me of your position as Christians on this coast. It is a subject attendant with considerable difficulty to understand the exact position and doctrines of the Syrian Church in this

part of India ; but, with regard to your own special section of that body, the matter is rendered comparatively easy as you tell me that you are under the authority of His Holiness the Pope, and that your Rite is carried on in the same manner as the Roman Rite, except that it is rendered in Syriac instead of in Latin. I have observed with satisfaction the expressions you have used in talking of the Government under which you live in the State of Cochin. You are fortunate enough to live under an extremely enlightened and liberal Government, and I am glad to see that you appreciate your fortunate position in that respect. I beg to thank you, in conclusion, for your kind wishes on behalf of Lady Havelock and myself for a pleasant journey through your country, and for a safe return to Madras.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF COCHIN.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Municipal Council and, as such, representatives of the rate-payers and inhabitants of Cochin, beg most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency to this town. The Council of the Municipality of Cochin esteems it a happiness that, considering its very remote and isolated position, it has pleased Your Excellency to visit the town, even though for a very few hours, and they venture to express the hope that by such visit Your Excellency will be the more able to realise the difficulties under

which the Council labours in those matters which the Government, in its earnest endeavours for the amelioration of the condition of all under its sway, has ever urged with constant solicitude upon the attention of the municipality, to wit: the Health, Sanitation and Water-supply of the town. Owing to its peninsular character and its being so intimately associated with the Native town of Cochin, and also by reason of its limited extent, the town is probably unique in the almost total absence from its people of a landholding class and also of what may be called a middle class among the Natives; for almost all the Native merchants doing business in the port belong not to the British but to the Native town; further, the immense bulk of the population belongs to the fishing castes, whose means of existence are extremely meagre, or to those who are employed under the few European firms whose yards occupy, as Your Excellency will notice, almost the whole of the river foreshore of the town. The whole town comprises only very slightly over one square mile. If from this be deducted the *maidans* and the yards of the Europeans, Your Excellency will be able to judge to how great a degree the remainder of the town is congested by its 17,600 inhabitants. Your Excellency will also see, the Councillors think, that the drainage of the town, which is so often insisted upon by the Presidency Sanitary officers, is utterly impracticable except with such works for the discharge of the sewage into the sea, as by their expense, would be altogether

beyond the capabilities of so poor a population, and that it has not been apathy, but the exigence of physical features, and the absence of pecuniary means, which have prevented the municipality from giving effect, in such manner as they would like, to the constantly repeated suggestions of the Sanitary officers upon this head. Your Excellency in passing through the thoroughfares will inevitably notice the prevalence of elephantiasis, which seems to be the direct consequence of that absolute absence of a good water-supply which is perhaps the supreme need of the town. The town is entirely cut off from fresh water rivers and streams, and the late boring conducted by Government to near 400 feet in depth, has, the Councillors submit, absolutely demonstrated that potable water cannot, by anything the town can do, be got from local wells. The collection of rain water from the house roofs has, with more or less insistence at various times, been urged upon the attention of the municipality, and trials which the Sanitary officers have, unfortunately, thought half-hearted, have been made in this direction; but the Council feels convinced that a glance at the buildings in the town, and their disconnected situation, will demonstrate to Your Excellency that a supply from such a source, to last more than a very few days after the cessation of the rain, is outside practical means. At present the only water fit for drinking and culinary purposes is brought in casks from the river. Always some 15 miles distant, and, puny as such a scheme may seem,

the Council confesses to seeing no remedy for the existent intense evil beyond a considerable extension of that system. Possibly, by the employment of two or more paddle steam tank boats to bring the water to a wharf, and an elevated tank into which it could be pumped by some adaptation of the boats' own engines or by a stationary pump, with distributing pipes from the tank, a sufficiency of water for bare drinking and culinary purpose might be supplied more cheaply than at present, and at a current rate not beyond the means of those needing the water. But the initial expense of this also would render it an impossibility without assistance from the Government. The Council has been eager to improve the hospital up to that standard which the Health officers are continually urging, but is utterly unable from want of funds to do as it would wish. The assessment for municipal tax has, from the year 1879, been up to the maximum percentage which the late Act allowed; and although the present Act allows the imposition of a further and increased rate of taxation, the Council feels that an increased assessment would be crushing to the major part of the inhabitants. The Council craves leave to draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the port dues levied in Cochin amount to not less than Rs. 40,000, the average for the past ten years being Rs. 46,890; the average expenditure upon the port has been Rs. 10,436 only, leaving a surplus of Rs. 36,454 annually. The Council likewise humbly represents that the port and town are for

all practical purposes synonymous, for there is almost no cultivation, and scarce any manufactures, and almost the whole population is devoted, in nearer or more remote ways, to the place as a port alone. Hence the Council would humbly pray that the port dues should, in some considerable way, be made to contribute to the necessities of the town. Formerly a sum of Rs. 500 was given, but this has been withdrawn since 1880. The Council is not unmindful of the immense and unlooked for drain there has this year been upon the resources of the empire, and, remembering them, can hardly dare hope that at the present time its prayer for pecuniary aid will be granted; but the Councillors look forward with confident hope that, when with the return of prosperity the Government shall have less need of retrenchment, the present happy visit of Your Excellency will prove to be the cause of indulgent attention being given to the exigencies of the town.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF COCHIN,—I accept with many thanks your address and your welcome to your old and historic town of Cochin. I am glad to find that the Municipality of Cochin enjoys full representative privileges which can be granted under the existing law. I find that out of 16 Councillors 12 are elected and 4 are either nominated or appointed *ex officio*. I find also that the different nationalities and

religions are very fairly represented, there being on the Municipal Council 2 Europeans, 5 Eurasians, 3 Native Christians, 3 Hindus and 2 Muhammadans. On examining the last report on the working of the municipality I find that in general that working has been satisfactory. The only exception, which I can find in the report to satisfactory working, is with regard to private scavenging and matters of education. I have no doubt that any deficiencies that may exist in matters of education are due to the small amount of revenue which the Council has at its disposal. I will now proceed to answer, as far as I can, the points which you have raised in your address. I can assure you that I appreciate the difficulties which surround you, arising from the situation of your town, from the crowded population, and from the small amount which the Council have at their disposal. I learn that there are three principal points on which you consider your position is unsatisfactory. The first is the drainage of the town, the second is your water-supply, and the third is the condition of your hospital. With regard to the first, the drainage of the town, I can quite appreciate the difficulties which you point out in your address, that by the nature of things it is extremely difficult, except by very expensive appliances, to effect a satisfactory scheme of drainage. The only alleviation which in your present circumstances I can suggest for this is the strictest possible attention to matters connected with sanitation and scavenging, to establish as far as lies in your

power a very strict and perfect system of conservancy. Any scheme of drainage is, I fear, beyond your own powers; and at this moment, I am afraid the Government would hardly be able to assist you to a sufficient extent in any scheme which is likely to be effectual. Now I turn to the question of water-supply. Here I warmly sympathise with you. I can see the difficulty is a very serious one in itself, having very baneful results in the unhealthiness of the town, especially the prevalence of the painful form of disease to which you allude in your address. I am unable at present to propose any very certain scheme by which this want of good supply of water can be made good; but I think I can still make these suggestions, out of which something may possibly be done. I believe that the Government of Cochin has some scheme on foot for supplying water to that portion of Cochin which belongs to the State, and which adjoins the town of British Cochin; and it may be possible for the municipal body to share with the Cochin State the cost of whatever plan they may devise for the purpose. I would take the liberty of persisting once again in the possibility of your getting some relief by the collection of rain water from the roofs of houses, and in making this suggestion I may tell you that I speak with tolerably wide and personal experience. I have lived in many places where, for purposes of drinking and cooking, people were entirely dependent upon the rain water which they could get from the roofs of their houses. In one particular place that I can think of at the

present moment, in the West India Islands, the house that I lived in had its entire water-supply collected from roofs in large tanks. We had absolutely no other water-supply that I can remember, and yet I remember no great stint in the water we had for our use; there was ample for cooking and drinking purposes, and even for washing purposes. I may tell you that the place I refer to had a smaller rainfall than your town of Cochin. My belief is that this system of collecting water from the roofs has not succeeded here because really no earnest and intelligent effort has yet been made in the matter. A careful system of guttering for the roof is necessary, iron tanks should be procured according to the needs or size of a house, and every precaution should be taken that the roof is clean; and when these preliminaries are carried out, I can assure you that though it is not quite possible to obtain a perfect supply, yet it is possible to obtain most wholesome water that can be got in a fairly sufficient quantity. I would, therefore, venture, seeing that the matter has been frequently brought to my notice, to press this consideration upon you. There is yet another hope, and that is that of a further prosecution of the scheme, which I believe, has already been tried of endeavouring to obtain water from artesian wells. I have only just been able to get possession of a report on the subject, but I find that already a certain measure of success has attended the very slight degree of working which has yet been carried out in this direction.

I suggest that it may be possible by persevering in carrying the depths of the experimental well which I believe is in existence here to greater extent that better results may yet be obtained. In closing my remarks on this subject of water-supply, I can only say that I regret I am unable to give you any more hopeful expectations that I have made in commenting upon the three possible schemes which, as you know, are already before you. You next mention your desire to improve the hospital up to that standard which the Health officers are continually urging, but are utterly unable for want of funds to do as you could wish. I can only trust that the municipality will persevere in their efforts to carry out the excellent object which they seem in this direction to have at heart. You propose in this connection that a portion of the Port funds should be diverted to the purpose of improving your hospital, I think I understand you, also for other municipal purposes you are probably aware that the Port funds are appropriated by law to certain purposes, and moreover that the Port funds of all the Madras ports on the western side of the presidency are grouped into one fund for the general uses of all ports. It is, therefore, impossible to allocate the funds of one particular port to be entirely used for the use of that one particular port. There is, however, one possibility, I think, under the law of granting you some assistance in this direction. The Act provides, I believe, that it is permissible for a grant to be given to any hospital or institution in

which it can be shown sailors get assistance or advantage. It will be therefore for you to show that in the hospital which you mention in your address or in any other institution which you may have here direct advantage is conferred upon the sea-faring population, and if you make a representation to that effect, I will make it my duty to see if the Government can possibly give you a grant somewhat in the form which you mention in your address you received in recent times for the assistance of this hospital. Please remember that any grant of that kind must be strictly conditional upon your proving that the hospital or institution, whatever it may be, is directly beneficial to the sea-faring population of this port. Port dues apparently are meant by the law for the benefit of the port, and all matters immediately connected with the port. Whatever my own wishes on the subject may be, Government would be forbidden by law of appropriating any part of your Port funds except for the purposes laid down by the law. I think I have now fairly exhausted the subjects which you bring forward in your address, and it only remains for me to thank you for your welcome and to say that I expect considerable pleasure and interest in visiting the various points of note in your very interesting and historic town.

ADDRESS FROM THE STUDENTS OF THE MAHARAJAH'S COLLEGE, TRIVANDRUM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the students of His Highness the Maharajah's College, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with this address of respectful and cordial welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this Institution.

It is a source of extreme gratification to us that Your Excellency's visit should take place in this year of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen-Empress, who has attained a unique position on the illustrious roll of British Sovereigns not only by the length, but also by the unrivalled goodness and beneficence of her reign. On the memorable day of the Jubilee it was our proud privilege to meet at the Residency Mr. F. A. Nicholson, then Her Majesty's representative in Travancore, and to convey our sense of loyalty and devotion to the Queen-Empress.

To-day has been granted to us the happiness of meeting Her Majesty's Viceroy in Southern India, whose regard for the progressive ideals that have all along inspired Her Majesty's reign, and whose unremitting solicitude for the welfare of the millions committed to his charge, have already won for him the enduring name of "The People's Governor."

The Institution which Your Excellency has done the honour of visiting to-day was founded in 1834 as His Highness the Maharajah's Free School, with the object of providing education in English

for the subjects of His Highness. The services of Mr. Roberts and afterwards of Mr. Bensley were secured as Headmaster for the school. It may be of interest to Your Excellency to know that even before the Madras University was founded, the standard of instruction imparted in the school was little inferior to that of the present B.A. Degree Examination, and that most of the high offices in this State are even now filled by men who received their instruction in that institution. In 1869, under the able guidance of Mr. John Ross, M.A., of Edinburgh University, the institution developed into a college. Under Mr. Ross and his successor Dr. R. Harvey of Glasgow University, His Highness' College became one of the foremost educational institutions in Southern India, and achieved considerable success. In 1884 Mr. H. N. Read, M.A., of Cambridge University was appointed to the newly established Chair of Chemistry, which, on his retirement was ultimately filled by Dr. A. W. Bishop of Munich University. When alterations in the University curriculum necessitated the strengthening of the college staff, Dr. A. Crichton Mitchell of Edinburgh University was appointed to the Chair of Mathematics and the late Rai Bahadur P. Sundram Pillay, M.A., to the Chair of Philosophy. It is a source of great pride to us that the first and as yet only successful attempt to vindicate our countrymen against the reproach of want of originality, and to establish the credit of the alumni of the Madras University for valuable historical investigations,

should have been made by the last-named gentleman, whose recent death we still deplore. The Professorial staff has further been strengthened by the appointment of Mr. C. S. Boyle, M.A., of Oxford University, and of Mr. M. LaBouchardiere, M.A., of Madras University, as Professors of English; and also by that of Mr. S. Subrahmania Sastri, M.A., as Lecturer in Philosophy.

The college possesses a valuable library containing over 4,000 volumes in various branches of literature and science; and a reading room supplied with all the important English and Indian newspapers and magazines. There are also several literary associations connected with the institution, of which mention may here be made of the College Tamil Society, and the College Debating Society, the latter one of the oldest institutions of the kind in Southern India. The College authorities have always paid great attention to the physical training of the students who almost every afternoon may be seen going through a course of exercises at the gymnasium or keenly pursuing a game at tennis or football. We cannot be sufficiently grateful to our Principal and Professors who have worked with zeal and energy for our mental, moral, and physical development, and we are eternally beholden to our beloved Maharajah for the interest he has at all times evinced in our progress and welfare.

Offering Your Excellency once again our cordial welcome, we beg leave, with Your Excellency's permission, to subscribe ourselves.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

STUDENTS OF H.H. THE MAHARAJAH'S COLLEGE,—
 I beg you to accept my warm thanks for your kind words of welcome. I have listened with great interest to the short history which you have given of this institution. It has been in existence for something over 60 years. It has risen from comparative insignificance to the place of one of the most eminent institutions of its kind in Southern India. The successes which this College has achieved are well-known. You have mentioned in the course of your address that the college is possessed of a good and valuable library. The Principal has just had the kindness to take me through your library. I congratulate you on the possession of such a valuable adjunct to this institution—(cheers). During the short time that I have been Governor of Madras it has been my pleasure and duty to preside as Chancellor of the University and distribute diplomas of distinctions won at that University. I myself have distributed somewhere between 12 and 13 hundred of such diplomas. It has often entered into my mind to think what the students who received at my hands those diplomas did afterwards with the education which they had received. It should be remembered that education up to that point is, after all, only a preparation, and that if it is to be made of real value and to be brought to the culmination of its intention it should be followed by a judicious course of reading. If I have one word of advice I would venture to give, it is this. Those

who are students of this college and those who have gained honours and diplomas at the University of Madras should not consider, when they attain those points, their work of education has finished. They should set before them the duty of perfecting them, and one of the best means of doing that is by adopting a proper course of reading. Advice as to the course of reading that should be adopted should be obtained from your Professors and those who know of your particular qualifications and talents, of course, governed to a certain extent by your inclination. You have mentioned, in the course of your address, the name of your lamented Professor Rai Bahadur P. Sundram Pillay. The name of this gentleman was prominently brought to my notice about March or April last, when he sent in a paper which he had prepared to compete for a prize which the Government of Madras had offered for an essay on epigraphy. After considerable consideration the Government of Madras decided on giving Mr. Sundram Pillai a portion of the reward which they had offered: (cheers). Our decision had hardly been given, when, much to my regret, the announcement was made of the death of your Professor, in the papers. I congratulate you on the success gained by him, while I sympathise with you in the loss which you have sustained in his being so suddenly called away from his duties among you. Now students of the college, I will not detain you with any further word, except that I heard with extreme pleasure your tribute of gratitude to H.H. the

Maharajah for the liberal policy and the generous hand which he has used in dealing with this particular educational institution, and with the general cause of education throughout this prosperous and enlightened State. (Loud applause.)

ADDRESS FROM THE FEMALE STUDENTS AND
PUPILS OF THE MAHARAJAH'S COLLEGE AND
HIGH SCHOOL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the students and pupils of H.H. the Maharajah's College and High School for Girls, approach Your Excellency with an address of cordial and respectful welcome on the happy occasion of Your Excellency's visit to our college, an institution which is proud of being one of the only two institutions of its kind in all this Southern Presidency. We are sure that visits such as this cannot fail to have a most wholesome influence upon us all. Can anything be more encouraging than the presence in our midst of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Vicegerent in Southern India who has made it the study of his life to make the subjects of all classes entrusted to his care happy and contented and who, by acts of kindness and benevolence, has won for himself the enviable name of "The People's Governor" ?

A short history of our college, we feel, will not be without interest to Your Excellency, whose unbounded zeal in the cause of female education is well known. Our institution has had a useful life

of some forty years. During the last thirty years it has been a Government School known as "The Sircar Girls' School." It has had to the good fortune to be guided from its beginning by excellent European ladies working heart and soul for the good of their sisters of the East. We allude to Miss Abel and Miss Mainwaring, the first two Lady Superintendents of the School. Miss Donnelly, the late Lady Superintendent, raised the school first to the Middle school standard and then towards the close of her earnest and disinterested labours here, she obtained its recognition as a High School. These ladies deserve to be called the pioneers of female education in Travancore and to be reckoned among the benefactors of India, for it has been said that if ever a panacea is found for the evils and miseries we meet within this country, it will be in the advance of female education. The foundation of a college for girls began to be considered and by the advice of the Secretary of State for India, the Travancore Government invited Miss Williams to accept the principalship of the college. This distinguished lady's disinterested and untiring exertions, combined with her high culture, have improved the tone and work of the institution much during the past two years and-a-half. Our college was affiliated at the beginning of this year to the University of Madras—an event which permits us to feel that we have indeed a part in the great world of letters.

With pride and gratitude we observe that we owe all this encouragement and progress to the

fostering care of His Highness the Maharajah and His Highness' illustrious predecessors who have evinced a keen and deep interest in the cause of female education. Our sincere thanks are also due to our Lady Principal and to the other teachers for their hearty co-operation.

In conclusion we tender our heart-felt thanks to Your Excellency for Your Excellency's kind visit to us, and earnestly pray that the Almighty Ruler may bless Your Excellency with a long and happy life.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

STUDENTS AND PUPILS OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJAH'S COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.—I thank you with all my heart for your kind words of welcome, and also for the cheerful and charming manner in which you have expressed—with your faces and with your hands—your gladness at my coming. I have heard with interest the short history you have been good enough to give me of your college. It has risen from a comparatively small beginning to a very important place in 40 years. It has thus developed more quickly than the institution opposite, which has taken 63 years to get its present place. It is, perhaps, only natural that your sex are generally quicker in matters of many kinds than the opposite sex. I congratulate the college on the distinction it has lately acquired of being affiliated to the University of Madras. I have heard with great satisfaction and sympathy the high appreciation which you have expressed of the munifi-

cent and sympathetic attitude of [His Highness the Maharajah towards this institution. I believe the same sentiments prevail on the part of His Highness with regard to female education generally throughout the State, and the result of that sympathetic attitude is that in Travancore, I think I am right in saying that female education is in a more advanced condition than in any other part of Southern India. One is generally expected, on occasions of this kind, to give advice. I am sure you need very little of it. But still I will venture to give one little word of advice. Don't be led by your zeal for distinction to go too fast. Gradual progress, will, I am sure, in the end, achieve greater results than rapid jumps. The aim of female education in India, should, I think, be to implant, upon existing social and family conditions, the improvements and enlightenment of the West. There should be no attempt to destroy what already exists. Let us try to improve and brighten and perfect it. In conclusion, students and pupils of His Highness The Maharajah's College for Girls, I beg to thank you for your kind wishes for my health and that of Lady Havelock. I wish to express for Lady Havelock her deep regret that she was not able to accompany me this morning. The fatigues of a long journey throughout the States of Travancore and Cochin have compelled her to remain at home on this occasion. I will conclude my remarks by wishing for this college and all connected with it a brilliant future of progress and success. (Loud applause.)

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF TENKÁSI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the town of Tenkási, respectfully offer you a most hearty welcome to our town, and tender you our sincere thanks for the honour which you confer upon us in visiting Tenkási, and other parts of Southern India—an honour which is greatly increased and heightened by your being accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Havelock. We are glad to approach Your Excellency with sincere assurances of our loyalty and gratitude to the British Government, and our continued and ever-increasing devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, in common with our fellow-subjects of this vast Empire over which Her Majesty reigns.

2. After the brilliant manifestation, which Your Excellency has recently witnessed in the neighbouring State of Travancore, the simple reception you meet with here must necessarily be meagre and inadequate. Foreign States, other cities and towns which can command extensive resources, may excel in the splendour of their receptions, in illuminations and in bon-fires. But we beg to assure Your Excellency, that in loyalty to the British Raj, and, in our appreciation of the benefits which the country has enjoyed and is still enjoying under the benign sway of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India, we yield precedence to none.

3. As loyal and contented subjects of the Gracious Sovereign in whom is centred all that is truly noble, all that is good, we celebrated with much earnest-

ness and in right oriental fashion investing the event with a religious significance, the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign: and we are now gratified that it is our good fortune that has afforded us so soon the opportunity of meeting face to face, the worthy representative of a worthy Sovereign, and of begging him personally to convey to Her August Majesty, the sentiments of our loyalty, and unflinching devotion. Speaking for the Natives of Southern India, we beg respectfully to submit that the statement that we are nothing if not loyal to the backbone, is no unmeaning platitude, but a genuine feeling, deeply ingrained in the inmost recesses of our hearts regulating the daily concerns of life, often times in a manner even unknown to ourselves.

4. While approaching Your Excellency, animated by the sole desire of offering Your Excellency a hearty and respectful welcome, we think it is by no means inconsistent with the purpose, if we avail ourselves of this opportunity to humbly crave Your Excellency's attention for a few minutes, in view to indicate certain matters, in regard to which relief will be most welcome. While in this connection, we beg to assure Your Excellency that we are immensely pleased that our lot has fallen in very good times, and that all that is necessary now to ensure redress, is to bring those matters to Your Excellency's attention.

5. We have perused with considerable interest the G.O., No. 569, dated 13th July 1897 (Forest No. 118), laying down broadly the principles

of forest administration. The sympathy, which every line of it breathes from beginning to end, has gone deeply to our hearts. We would, however, most humbly suggest that the areas set apart for free-grazing, and for cutting off agricultural implements after they have been fixed upon by the Forest officers, may be placed under the control of local Revenue officers. This change, we beg to submit, is necessary in the interests of the people, on the ground that Revenue officers are better judges of the requirements of each ryot, are more easily accessible and are, by necessity of their situation more sympathetic in their attitude towards the people. As this diversion of authority, is for a specified purpose and over limited localities (the selection of which rests entirely in Forest officers), it is earnestly hoped that no great difficulty will be found, in granting us this concession. We also beg respectfully to submit, for Your Excellency's consideration that once the specified spots are fixed upon, no change should be subsequently made without consulting the Revenue authorities and the villagers for whose benefit the ground is allotted, to ensure harmony of working free from misconception. We have ventured to advance this proposition somewhat at length, since large areas set apart at one time for grazing and other purposes have been absorbed in reserved areas. One or two instances will explain our meaning clearly. In the Settlement Register, 150 acres were set aside for pasturage for the village of Kuttalam. About 1,000 acres of hill side were

set aside for Tenkási and Mathalamparai for this purpose (grazing and firewood). In all about 300 acres were set aside for the village of Melagaram. In all 600 acres were set aside for Ilangi. But now, most of these areas have been included in the reserved forests; in fact, there is no ground available for free-grazing, cutting firewood, agricultural implements, &c. Instances of such absorption of allotted areas into reserved grounds throughout this taluk may be multiplied. But such is needless, as we are sure that a careful enquiry with the aid of ryots and people concerned, would disclose how rights and privileges once accorded to them have been curtailed.

6. The administration of our devastanams and other religious and charitable endowments, is, we humbly submit, anything but satisfactory. Whether the Government having succeeded to the right, title and interest of the ancient rulers of the country, could properly divest themselves of their power of control over those institutions, notwithstanding religious differences, is a question which it is not our present purpose to enquire. Nor are we convinced that it will do any of us good to enter into the controversy at this stage. We would, therefore, content ourselves with bringing to your notice the very lax and wasteful way in which our devastanams are at present managed; and respectfully submit the necessity to adopt some final measures, with a view to the vast trusts being properly administered. Although we are aware that the

subject is engaging the attention of all those concerned, nevertheless any decisive step arrived at, will not be considered too early. The refusal of the dismissed trustee of Thirupudaimaruthur temple, in Ambásamudram taluk, to hand over the temple to his successor duly appointed, and the consequent institution of a regular civil suit to regain possession is only one instance out of many pointing out the desirability, nay, necessity of early action.

7. The extension of railway to Quilon is a matter of so general importance, that it is hardly necessary for us to say more than to mention it in this address in view to enlist Your Excellency's sympathy. As this matter of imperial question has been agreed upon by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council and His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore, we are in very great hopes that, before the end of Your Excellency's tenure of office in this presidency, we would have the pleasure and honour of witnessing the opening of the line by Your Excellency in person—an opportunity which will afford us one more occasion to again welcome Your Excellency amidst us and renew our heartfelt expressions of loyalty and devotion.

8. We further beg to submit that the river Kallar, which has its source from the hills near Vadakari, a village eight miles to the north-west of Tenkási, could be converted into a large and fertilizing source of irrigation and water-supply by the construction of a dam, and such a diversion of the stream into the Hanumanathi and ultimately into

the Chittranathi, would not only bring new and large areas of Tenkási and Tinnevely taluks under cultivation, but also greatly improve the present water-supply which runs short at frequent intervals. This matter is submitted for Your Excellency's favourable consideration, with the view that the scheme may be matured and carried out for the immense benefit of the people. This subject, we are assured, is engaging the attention of our esteemed and popular Collector, A. W. B. Higgens, Esquire.

9. We acknowledge with gratitude the liberal and generous policy which characterizes Your Excellency's administration. It is a source of great congratulation to us, that Your Excellency's vast experience, acquired in other parts of Her Majesty's Dominions, is brought to bear on the administration of this presidency, and has already resulted in immense good and sympathy for those confided to your rule. We again beg to tender Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a sincere and hearty welcome in our midst, and pray that a long life of usefulness and prosperity may be vouchsafed to you both.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. JAGANNATHA RAO AND THE INHABITANTS OF TENKÁSI,—Lady Havelock and I join in asking you to accept our best thanks for the hearty welcome to your town, and to assure you that though our visit to you is necessarily of a short duration, we are gratified to find ourselves in your midst. The

undoubted loyalty of the inhabitants of Southern India renders certain the assurance which your address contains. It is always gratifying to hear from Her Majesty's subjects in all parts of Her Dominions, a reiteration of the feelings of loyalty and love with which they regard Her person and throne, and expressed, as they on this occasion, with so much feelings of sincerity, they are all the more acceptable. Although your town and its neighbourhood may not possess the same attractions and interest that the State of Travancore possesses, they possess other attractions and sights of interest. The natural beauty of Courtallum and Tenkási and their neighbourhood, coupled with their old historical religious interest, cannot fail to fascinate those who happen to be visitors amongst you.

I will now proceed to deal briefly with the practical points brought forward in your address. In the first place you speak on the subject of Forest Regulations. I take this opportunity of re-affirming the principle that the wish of Government—I may say the only wish of Government—is to protect and work the forest-grazing areas to the best interests of this and future generations. As regards your particular request that the areas set apart for free-grazing should be placed under Revenue officers, instead of under Forest officers, it is easy to sympathise with your wishes, and were the Government has only to consider the ease and comfort of its officers, it would be acceded to. But experience has shown that if there is to be real conservanc

of forest growth, there must be special control and management, and the Forest Department are obviously better fitted to effect this than the Revenue Department. It is true that if the Forest Department were left entirely to its own devices, the Forest management might be looked at by them from too purely a forest point of view, but the requirements and the conveniences of the ryots, and the weal of the public might be lost sight of. But it is the policy of Government to provide against this by making the Forest Department subordinate to the Revenue Department, the District Forest officer being the Collector's Assistant, and the Conservators working under the Board of Revenue. It is in pursuance of this policy of placing all the forest areas under the management of the Forest Department that the small area which the address refers to, as having been set aside for free-grazing on Mr. Puckle's settlement is now being settled; and the change only means that the area will be managed and controlled by the department which is professionally best qualified to control it, and does not necessarily mean any restriction at all of the privileges enjoyed by the villagers hitherto. Reservation does not of itself mean restriction, and no change would be made without consulting the Revenue officers of the district, the chief of whom the present Collector, Mr. Higgins, is both by sympathy and training peculiarly well fitted to safeguard the interests of all concerned. For Mr. Higgins has been both an Executive Forest officer, a Forest

Settlement officer himself for several years, and also had the advantage of serving as Secretary to Sir Diedrich Brandis.

You mention the subject of the administration of your devasthanams and other religious and charitable endowments. I sincerely sympathise with you and with the inhabitants of this part of India generally in the mismanagement and scandals which have arisen with regard to the administration of these valuable religious endowments. The matter has been long before Government, and I hope that now our action in the matter is approaching ahead. Legislation on the subject affecting as it must do, the control and management of religious institutions, the Government would be loathe to press upon you its own ideas of legislation. We would rather look to the public for assistance and sympathy in our action in the matter. In fact we expect the Native public to move in the matter itself; and it is to the credit of Madras that it is the first part of India to do so. Mr. Ananda Charlu who, as you are aware, has been re-appointed to His Excellency the Viceroy's Council, has a Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council, and Mr. K. Kaliyanasundram Aiyar has one also in the Madras Council, the former being Imperial takes precedence, and fathered as it is by a Madrasee, Madras interests may be safely trusted to his careful guidance and guarding.

You next mention the extension of railway to Quilon. I regret that at the present moment, difficulties exist as to the details of constructing and

managing the proposed line, but I am in hopes that by careful and patient management all these difficulties may be set aside, and that the construction of a railway connecting Tinnevely with the State of Travancore may be accomplished in the course of my Government of this presidency. If such should be the case, no one will be better satisfied than myself.

The next subject dealt with, in your address is the proposal to construct the irrigation work in connection with the river Kallar. I understand that this project is a small edition of the great Periyár project, the idea being to divert the Kallar, a Travancore river, flowing to the west into the Hanumanathi, a Tinnevely river, which flows to the east. You are aware that the officers of the Public Works Department have for a good many months past been busily engaged in works connected with famine relief; all ordinary works have, on that account, for sometime, been in abeyance. But now that the famine or the threat of famine has vanished, I am in hopes that we may be able to direct the energies of the Public Works Department to its usual course, and one of the particular objects to which their attention will be attracted is the irrigation work to which you allude, that is to say they will be desired to investigate the merits of the work and to form some idea of its possible success and probable cost. I take this opportunity of expressing my opinion with regard to the value of irrigation as a protective against famine. Her

Majesty's Government and the Government of India have drawn up schemes by which railways and irrigation works combined are made the two principal safeguards against famine. In this presidency our railway programme has very nearly been completed; but it appears to me there is yet a good deal to be done in the way of irrigation. In favour of irrigation as against railways, this may be said: that the irrigation works strike at the evil at its very root, while railways are merely palliatives. You may, therefore, rest assured that during my term of Government the prosecution of irrigation works as protective against famine, and as a general improvement of the material condition of the country will receive the most careful and serious attention. It only remains for me to thank you once again for your kind welcome, and for the kind expressions of wish for the good health and happiness of Lady Havelock and myself; and I beg to assure you on her behalf and on my own account that we visit your very ancient town with much interest and pleasure.

ADDRESS FROM ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S HIGH SCHOOL, PALAMCOTTAH.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Manager and staff and pupils of St. Francis Xavier's High School, Palamcottah, most respectfully beg to offer a hearty welcome to Your Excellency on this your first visit to our institution. It was just five years ago we had the privilege of receiving in our

midst Your Excellency's illustrious predecessor, whose kindly words of encouragement have not faded away from our memory. Although this is the fourth time that such honour has been conferred upon the institution, none the less warmly do we extend our welcome to Your Excellency not only as Her Majesty's representative in this presidency, but as one who, by his genuine sympathy for the millions committed to his charge, has deservedly won the proud surname of "The People's Governor." We seize this opportunity of tendering to Your Excellency our sincere congratulations on the remarkable success that has attended your wise and statesmanlike efforts to steer the administration of this province through a period of famine and other visitations which have wrought such havoc in other parts of the Empire.

This institution, aided from the Provincial and Municipal funds, was established in 1880 by Reverend Father Rottari, S.J., of honoured memory, and has run a fairly successful course of 17 years. The High School with its branch bears on its rolls 428 pupils to which figure the Boarding House maintained on these premises contributes 60; thus realising to some extent the "union of the two elements of day-boys and boarders which," as expressed by Dr. Barry on the speech day of Cheltenham College, "act and re-act upon one another for the benefit of all." While giving due attention to the mental and physical training of the lads attending this institution, the 'moral' side of their education

is the object of our unwearied care and solicitude, and this is secured chiefly by means of religious instruction imparted to the Christian boys and the exercise of a salutary discipline on all pupils alike. Certain measures adopted lately for its improvement lead us to hope that the institution will rapidly develope so as to attain, within Your Excellency's term of office, an honoured place among the schools and colleges of this presidency.

We reckon ourselves singularly fortunate to receive a visit from Your Excellency in the year of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, and in thanking Your Excellency most cordially for the honour done to us, we beg that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to accept from our hearts the expression of our devoted loyalty and attachment to the Throne and Person of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, as well as of our united prayer that the Almighty may vouchsafe to Her Majesty many more years of happy reign over her world-wide dominions, and to Your Excellency and Lady Havelock all the temporal and spiritual blessings of a long and honourable career in the service of Your Queen and country.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REVEREND FATHER, STAFF AND PUPILS OF THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S HIGH SCHOOL,—The programme which you have prepared for my reception being now finished, I rise to express my thanks for the kind welcome which you have given me to your

school. The congratulations which you offer at the termination of the recent distress, which might, but for the precautions taken, have developed into a serious famine, are grateful to me. The last few months have formed a period of great anxiety, and I am happy to say that I am able to agree in the remarks you make in this address that the efforts of Government in this part of the country have been evidently successful in reducing the misery and want engendered by the recent want of rain. I have listened with interest the short history which you have given of the institution. It appears during the 17 years of its existence to have developed very rapidly, and I see from your address that you have now on the rolls something like 438 pupils. I observe with satisfaction that you combine with the school a boarder's establishment, and I quite agree with the remarks which you quote, as having been made by Dr. Barry on the speech day of Cheltenham College, as to the vast usefulness of combining a boarding establishment with a day-school, in every institution of this description. You mention that you combine with religious instruction, imparted to Christian boys, the exercise of salutary discipline in all the pupils alike. In any institution conducted by the members of the Society of Jesus, we may feel sure that matters of discipline are well attended to.

ADDRESS FROM THE PALAMCOTTAH
MUNICIPALITY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and Councillors of the Palamcottah Municipality, respectfully offer Your Excellency our most hearty welcome on this occasion of your visit to our town; and we trust that we may be allowed to bespeak your sympathy with our humble efforts to promote the good of our fellow-subjects.

2. Your Excellency's administration of this presidency has already exhibited unmistakeable proofs of the happiness and prosperity reserved for its people under Your Excellency's good rule. The kind condescension with which Your Excellency is pleased to be accessible to all classes, the desire to become personally acquainted with their real wants and the promptitude with which Your Excellency has always endeavoured to redress them, are facts which augur a very happy future. We are especially thankful to Your Excellency for your generous interpretation of the provisions of the Forest Act, which has ameliorated, to a great extent, the hardships to which the agricultural classes have hitherto been subjected. We are also truly grateful to Your Excellency for your just and generous consideration of the claims of the sons of the soil to offices and promotion in Her Majesty's Service.

3. We are glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging with heart-felt thanks the kind sympathy and ready help afforded us by our

popular Collector and the other officers of Government that have been associated with us in our work.

4. Though we are but a poor municipality our income never exceeding Rs. 24,000, we have tried, as much as our means have permitted, to maintain and improve education, sanitation, and medical aid to the people of this town. We can assure Your Excellency that no efforts will be wanting on our part to endeavour to extend the working of these departments and to devote greater attention to such departments as vital statistics and vaccination.

5. We are given to understand that a proposal will be laid before Your Excellency to amalgamate with this municipality the Union of Vannarpet and Keela Veeraragavapuram. We beg to inform Your Excellency that we are in favour of this scheme, and that should it meet with the approval of Your Excellency's Government, we are prepared to go to the enlarged work with the same good intentions which actuate us in our present less extended field.

6. As Your Excellency is no doubt already aware our one great want is that of a supply of good drinking water. We depend at present entirely on wells and on the Paliam channel—the latter, absolutely dry for three months in the year, affords even when full water which flowing for miles through populous villages and towns, arrives at this place very considerably contaminated. We, therefore, beg Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to help us in this very urgent and important matter by

expediting the consideration by Government and early carrying out of the scheme for a joint supply of water to the towns of Palamcottah and Tinnevely.

7. In conclusion, we venture to entertain the hope that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock will carry away with you pleasing reminiscences of our town; and we wish you and Lady Havelock a safe and pleasant journey.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE PALAMCOTTAH MUNICIPALITY,—I accept with pleasure your address of welcome, and I beg to thank you for the kind terms in which it is expressed. You may feel sure from my past acts and utterances that I have the warmest sympathies with any effort that you may make for the benefit of your town and of your fellow countrymen inhabiting here. This Municipality of Palamcottah enjoys, I understand, the fullest municipal privileges allowed by law, for out of 12 members of which it is composed, I understand 1 holds the appointment *ex-officio*, two are nominated, and nine are elected. I gather also from the Administration Report that during the past year the work of the municipality has been, on the whole, well conducted. Some slight exceptions were, as far as my memory goes, made with regard to the work in vital statistics and registration. I see in a paragraph of your address you promise greater attention to this department of municipal

work. I am satisfied to receive your assurance on this point. - You mention a proposal for amalgamating your municipality with the two adjoining unions, and I am informed by the Collector that a still more advanced proposal is now before you, and that is the union of the Palamcottah Municipality with the Tinnevely Municipality, and the amalgamation of these municipalities with the intervening unions, thus forming one large municipality, which will, I suppose, contain a population of something like 50 or 60 thousand people. Speaking from a very slight experience of this proposal, it appears to me to be an excellent one; and I hope that, if it is endorsed by the representatives of both the existing municipalities, the Government may be able to see their way to accede to the proposal. You make a reference to your want of good supply of drinking water. I believe that proposals for furnishing the town of Palamcottah and also that of Tinnevely with drinking water has been under consideration for some time. I will make it my duty on returning to Madras to see how the matter stands, and if it be possible, I will promise you that I will do my best to push the matter in your behalf. I will only remind you that at the present time, owing to the recent distress and the enormous expenditure connected with it, and owing also to frontier wars and other causes of heavy expenditure, the Government of Madras has to share the present want of funds which prevails throughout India, and consequently all works of improvement are liable, I am

very sorry to say, to be suspended. With this reservation, I can assure you that the interests of Palamcottah and Tinnevelly with regard to water-supply will receive the heartiest support that I could give them. I thank you, gentlemen, once more for your kind welcome, and assure you that we shall carry away pleasant recollections of the town of Palamcottah. I thank you very heartily for your good wishes that Lady Havelock and myself may complete our journey safely and pleasantly.

ADDRESS FROM THE NATIVE CHRISTIANS OF
PALAMCOTTAH.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Native Christians of Palamcottah and its neighbourhood, as representing the Protestant Christian community connected with the Church of England in this district, desire to approach Your Excellency with feelings of the deepest respect and esteem and to give you a very hearty welcome to Tinnevelly.

We hail with delight the opportunity offered by your presence amongst us to express to you our deep sense of the zeal and activity which characterize your efforts to promote the welfare of all classes of the community. In particular we acknowledge with thankfulness your labours to relieve the distressed and to comfort and sustain the suffering populations of the district visited by the ravages of famine during this present year. We rejoice with you that

prospects in the presidency have now considerably improved. In the Tinnevelly district we have been mercifully preserved from want and scarcity.

We recognize, with sincere thankfulness, your desire that all classes of our beloved Queen-Empress' subjects should enjoy to the full every right and privilege, to which, as free citizens of this great Empire, they are justly entitled; and we are sure that we may rely upon Your Excellency's interest in the progress and well-being of the Christian community in this country. Standing as it does at the head all effective attempts to ameliorate and brighten the dark, hard lot of tens of thousands of the peoples of this vast country, Christianity commands the attention, and claims the support of all true philanthropists, and of all who are in authority. There are thousands in this district who have profited not only spiritually, but materially by the direct influence of Christianity. From the commencement of the work of Protestant Christian Missions, by the Venerable Schwartz—about the year 1770, until the present time, this influence has spread with increasing rapidity and success until now, the number of Christians connected with the Church of England has reached about 90,000 being ministered to by some 80 Native clergymen, assisted by a large force of catechists and readers, while evangelists from Tinnevelly are found preaching the gospel to the heathen in Ceylon, Mauritius, South Africa and other distant countries as well as in many other parts of this presidency.

From the first much energy has been spent on Christian education. Primary village schools cover the district, spreading the first principles of knowledge founded on Bible teaching amongst the uneducated; Middle Schools and High Schools have been established in many places; and the Church Mission Society has a second-grade college in the town of Tinnevely. For many years past the Christian community has furnished graduates, lawyers, doctors, magistrates, merchants and educationists, who have proved themselves men of ability and integrity, and have amply justified their claim to an adequate share of trust and responsibility in the service of their Queen and country. We are thankful to know that you have already given attention to the claims of Native Christians to a fuller representation in Government service and to the due advancement of those who are already in the ranks of Government servants, and trust your inquiries into the subject will lead to practical results. Our beloved Queen-Empress, whose "Diamond Jubilee" we have so recently celebrated, has no more loyal subjects than those whose holy religion teaches them to "fear God and honour the King."

Female education also has had a large share of attention and energy. In village and boarding schools, great pains are taken to instruct girls in all the elements of sound and useful knowledge, while the Girls' Schools at Nazareth, Tuticorin, Mengnanapuram and Palamcottah, and the Church Mission Society Sarah Tucker's College, with its affiliated

district schools, are all doing useful work in the cause of higher female education. And what the schools are doing for children, the zenana ladies with their bands of Bible women are seeking to accomplish for the Hindu women in their houses. At the Sarah Tucker's College the cause of the blind and deaf and dumb is receiving attention and altogether the advance in female education, is especially gratifying.

It is to us a matter of the greatest satisfaction that Her Excellency Lady Havelock has been able to accompany you on this occasion, and we are confident that the various tokens to be seen in Tinnevely of the progress of female education will interest her deeply.

In conclusion, we beg your kind acceptance of our hearty thanks for the honour accorded to us and our district by Your Excellency's visit, and we earnestly pray that Almighty God may prosper Your Excellency in all your various journeys, and grant you health and wisdom to contrive and execute such further plans and measures as shall be most conducive to the prosperity and happiness of the people of this presidency.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

NATIVE CHRISTIANS OF PALAMCOTTAH,—I thank you for the hearty welcome you have accorded to me in Tinnevely and Palamcottah. The descriptions that you have given in your address of the glorious work of the Mission in this part of India have filled me with interest. The particulars which you give of

the numbers of Christians connected with the Church of England (90,000), and the number of clergymen who minister to their spiritual wants (80) is very instructive. The numbers are large, but I imagine that they represent after all a very small proportion of the result, having regard to the immense amount of labour and love which has been bestowed upon this work. You are, however, to be congratulated on having formed the largest and the most concentrated Protestant Christian area in any part of our eastern possession. You are also to be congratulated on your community having furnished, as you state, graduates, lawyers, doctors, magistrates, merchants and educationists. You make an allusion to the employment of Native Christians in the Government service, and you are right in saying that the matter is one which has received, which is receiving, and which will receive, my constant attention. As far as the local administration is concerned, I think you may leave it safe in the hands of your Collector, Mr. Higgins. I know he has the greatest sympathy with the advancement and employment of the members of the Christian community in the district over which he so worthily and successfully rules. (Cheers.) The remarks that you make with regard to female education are eminently interesting and satisfactory. We have had within the last hour or two a very strong manifestation and example of the work that is going on in this direction. The interesting inspection, which Lady Havelock and myself have had at Sarah

Tucker's College, have shown us how much love, energy and money of our nationality have been expended on this invaluable work in this part of the country, and, I may add, with most charming results and great success. The institution attached to Sarah Tucker's College for the benefit of the blind, the deaf and the dumb was shown to us, and interested us very deeply. I can assure you on behalf of Lady Havelock that it has been a satisfaction to her to have been able to accompany me in this tour and to see for herself the state of things with regard to education generally, and more especially, female education in the Tinnevely district. I thank you heartily for your kind wishes for health, wisdom and ability to conduce to the prosperity and happiness of this presidency.

TUTICORIN MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of, and as the representatives of, the inhabitants of Tuticorin, we, the Municipal Councillors of Tuticorin respectfully beg to tender a hearty welcome to Your Excellency on the occasion of this your first visit to the district of Tinnevely. Being fully conscious of the fact that Your Excellency takes personal interest in everything connected with the welfare of the people you govern, and taking advantage of your presence amongst us, we beg to submit to Your Excellency's kind consideration the most

important defect from which this town suffers, trusting that Your Excellency will see how greatly it affects a rising town like Tuticorin and will assist in remedying it.

For many years past this town has been rapidly increasing in population as well as in commercial importance. In 1871 the population was 10,565, in 1891 it rose to 25,107, and now it may be above 30,000, besides a very large floating population both by sea and land. Owing to the extensive traffic of cotton, jaggery and other produce, thousands of people from up-country resort here daily on business.

We also beg to draw Your Excellency's attention to the importance of Tuticorin as a port. This being the terminus of the South Indian Railway, passengers to and from Colombo find it the most convenient port for landing and embarking all round the year. About 1,400 vessels aggregating 383,877 tons yearly visit the place. Our exports and imports amount to as much as two hundred and forty lakhs in value and the Native passenger traffic has swelled over a lakh in number. These figures will prove to Your Excellency that this port is second only in importance to the Presidency port. But with all this and further promising prospects, we extremely regret to tell Your Excellency that our water-supply is in a most wretched condition.

At present the town receives its supply by an open sandy channel from the Korampallam tank about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, which is fed by the Tambraparni river from its last anicut at Srivaikuntam.

This supply invariably fails for about five or six months every year and very often for a longer period, and this unfortunate failure usually happens at the height of the hot season when water is most needed. In some years the supply has been almost a total failure. During the season of drought the sufferings of the people are considerable. Holes are dug in the extreme north and west of the town about a mile off the centre of the town. It is to these holes that people have to go to fetch water; and the sight of women and children carrying pots capable of holding five or six gallons of water under the midday scorching sun is really awful and heart rending especially after a tedious walk of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles for each pot and this walk is repeated until the actual requirement of a household is secured.

The trade of the town is also heavily handicapped by the insufficiency of water-supply. Should there be a good water-supply many more factories would have been started here by this time.

Your Excellency will thus see the enormity of the miseries of this town people as regards the deficient water-supply and the absolute emergency of carrying out the water scheme which is already in the hands of Government.

When Government undertook to construct the Korampallam tank we were given to understand that the main object, besides the raising of revenue, was to bring the water of the Tambraparni river within the reach of the people of Tuticorin.

Mr. R. K. Puckle, the then Collector, whose memory is revered by the inhabitants of this district, made this a strong point when recommending the scheme to Government. We now beg to approach Your Excellency to lay before you a great drawback that now exists in the execution of the project of the water-supply to this town even during that portion of the year when there is plenty of water in the river. The Korampallam tank is the lowermost of the chain of tanks fed by the above anicut and consequently when there are freshes in the river it takes a considerable time before they reach this tank inasmuch as all other tanks are filled up to their maximum level first. The freshes are generally not sufficient to fill up all the tanks at once, and before subsequent freshes come those higher up exhaust their supply in irrigation and therefore also absorb the next freshes. It, therefore, naturally happens that such freshes only as would last consecutively for a month or so can reach our supply tank. And this occurs very seldom. Consequently the tank can only receive its proper supply during heavy and continuous rains.

Under these circumstances we consider we have a strong claim on the sympathetic assistance of the Government.

When Your Excellency's predecessor Lord Wellock visited our district, we presented him with an address representing the urgency of a pukka water-supply scheme to this town. His Excellency promised to give his attention to it as soon as he

arrived at Madras. A water-supply scheme was accordingly drawn up by the Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Madras, and now it is in the hands of the Government with certain modifications suited to the present necessity of the town. The cost of the scheme was estimated at about one and-a-half lakhs. We beg to approach Your Excellency with a request to be graciously pleased to sanction the scheme with as least delay as possible and grant a liberal share as the contribution of Government to this rising town, and we also beg that the District Board may be directed to pay a part of the cost in consideration of the supply of water used for the floating population of the town, and the port may also be required to bear a portion of the cost. The remaining part will be borne by the municipality. The loan which the Government will be prepared to grant to the municipality will be repaid in instalments.

We will not trespass further on Your Excellency's valuable time, but would conclude with the prayer that Heaven's choicest blessings may rest upon you and Lady Havelock, and that you may long be spared to contribute to India's welfare and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TUTICORIN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,—I thank you for your address of welcome, and beg to express my satisfaction at making your acquaintance. The figures that you

gave showing the increase in trade and population of the town of Tuticorin have somewhat surprised me. I must confess I was not aware that Tuticorin had made such rapid and such marked advancement during the last twenty-six years. The picture that you draw of the condition of the town of Tuticorin with regard to water-supply is a deplorable one, and that picture is also one drawn by officers who are in immediate connection with the administration of that part of the district. I sympathise with you very sincerely in the needs that exist. I have made some inquiry as to the position in which your town stands with regard to the schemes for water-supply which the Government have under consideration. I find that it occupies at present a somewhat backward place on the list of places noted for favourable consideration in the matter of the construction of water-supply works. I am myself inclined to think that Tuticorin should be placed in a more forward position. I would make it my business on my return to Madras to see into this matter. It is possible that a partial relief of the disability you labour under from want of a proper water-supply may be made, leaving the scheme to be completed by degrees. At any rate, I have no doubt that any, even if partial, relief will be acceptable to you. You will probably be willing to accept half a loaf as being better than no bread. With regard to the grant of a liberal share of contribution from the Government I do not think that I can hold out any hopes of more than the usual assistance of, I think, 50 per cent. being

- granted from Provincial funds. You suggest that the District Board may be directed to pay a part of the cost in consideration of the supply of water being used by the floating population of the town. The circumstances of Tuticorin are certainly somewhat exceptional, inasmuch as it has a large floating population consequent upon its being a port of emigration for the coolies migrating to Ceylon. On this ground it may be possible to ask the District Board to consider whether they will not bear some portion of the cost of the proposed work. You also suggest that the port should also be required to bear a portion of the cost. The funds of the port are, as I suppose you know, concentrated into a general fund for the benefit of a certain group of ports. The fund from each port is not specially devoted to the wants of that particular port; for this reason there may be some difficulty in considering this request. The law on the subject, if I remember aright, provides that if it can be clearly shown that the water-supply is used for some purposes immediately connected with the services of the port, for example for a hospital which is used by the sailors frequenting the ports, that the Port fund may be called upon to contribute towards the construction and maintenance of the water works from which they get advantage. I would advise you to repeat your request on this point from that aspect. I repeat that you have put before me your case in a very strong light, and that it will be not only my duty, but I shall have very great satisfaction in

seeing that the interest of Tuticorin in this particular matter can be furthered and promoted. In conclusion, I thank you for your kind wishes for Lady Havelock and myself, and I beg to reciprocate for the Municipal Councillors and inhabitants of Tuticorin the same good aspirations.

ADDRESS FROM THE AMBÁSAMUDRAM JUBILEE
READING ROOM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Jubilee Reading Room and Library, Ambásamudram, beg leave to accord to Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock a most hearty welcome to this district on this Your Excellency's first visit to this district.

2. We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity of assuring Your Excellency of the firm attachment and loyalty of the people of the Ambásamudram taluk to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and to Her Majesty's Government.

3. Our town of Ambásamudram is situated on the northern bank of the Tambrapurni, and has the Taluk office, District Munsif's Court, and Sub-Registrar's office. Within a few miles of our town are the celebrated waterfalls of Pápanásam and Pápanásam mills worked with water-power. We regret that our town was not included in the programme of Your Excellency's tour.

4. Our institution was started in 1887 in commemoration of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Jubilee.

It has an extensive compound with two tennis courts, two pukka buildings, and a pretty large library consisting of about 500 volumes of literary and other books. We have now 40 members on the rolls, consisting of the elite of the town and its suburbs. We beg to state that several eminent gentlemen—officials and non-officials—have left favourable impressions on record about the healthy working of our institution.

5. We beg to inform Your Excellency that our institution celebrated Her Majesty the Queen-Empress' Diamond Jubilee in June last with great rejoicings in token of its loyalty to Her Majesty and in full appreciation of the inestimable blessings of Her Majesty's Government. The public also sincerely took part in the festivities of the occasion.

6. We are glad that Your Excellency's sympathetic administration is being appreciated by the public. The several orders issued by Your Excellency's Government portray Your Excellency's sympathy with the public and regard to public opinion. The success which has attended the endeavours of Your Excellency's Government in abating the terrible famine that prevailed in the northern parts of the presidency is mainly due to Your Excellency's personal attention to the subject.

7. It is a matter of sincere gratification to us that we have had good and sympathetic Collectors in this district. In Mr. Higgins, our present Collector, we have a very amiable, patient and sympathetic gentleman.

8. We beg to approach Your Excellency with a prayer that our institution may be favoured by Government with copies of all orders and proceedings of Government which are laid on the editors' table, the cost of transmission being borne by us. We hope that this modest prayer will meet with Your Excellency's approval, and that Your Excellency may be pleased to grant us this boon.

9. In conclusion, we once more beg to express a most hearty welcome to Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock, and pray that both of Your Excellencies may enjoy long life and happiness.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency, after expressing his regret at his inability to pay a visit to their town, which was one of considerable sacredness and natural beauty, gently warned his hearers that if their request as to Government Orders were granted, the postage which they undertook to pay would be something very heavy. The Government had also to consider whether if such concessions were extended to other similar institutions of that kind of which there were a great many throughout the country, it would not cause them much inconvenience. However, His Excellency promised to look into the matter, and if an offer were made to the reading room, it would still be open to them to accept it or not.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUHAMMADAN COMMUNITY OF TINNEVELLY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the Muhammadan subjects of Her Majesty the Queen in this part of the presidency, we, the undersigned, most respectfully beg to offer Your Excellency and Lady Havelock our heartiest welcome.

We are very glad to have this opportunity to express our deep and heartfelt gratitude for the blessings conferred on our community, after the advent of Your Excellency as the head of this Government; and to express the joy with which we have the honour of welcoming in our midst the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty our Queen-Empress, the Diamond Jubilee of whose reign we celebrated a few months ago, and whose long life and prosperity is ever the subject of our daily prayer.

Profoundly convinced of Your Excellency's earnest desire to promote the welfare of all classes, over which Your Excellency is set to rule, we would beg to place before Your Excellency some of the drawbacks and disabilities under which we at present labour, and which place us at considerable disadvantage in relation to Her Majesty's other subjects, in spite of the special concessions which Government has always shown to this community and for which we are ever thankful.

One of the qualifications for entering the Provincial Civil Service is a knowledge of two current vernaculars of the presidency, from which *Hindustani* is

- excluded. This lays upon Muhammadan aspirants a burden not felt by our Hindu brethren, as one or other of the recognized vernaculars is necessarily their mother tongue. We respectfully beg that as regards this service, *Hindustani* may be added to the list of prescribed vernaculars.

We further beg to invite Your Excellency's gracious attention to the fact that in spite of the existence of qualified members, the *Hindustani* Translatorship is always given to a European, whereas the other Translatorships are, and very properly, filled by Natives. Before long, we fully hope to see one of our community holding this appointment, especially when we bear in mind that we have had our first Sheriff and our first Revenue officer of the Madras Municipality shortly after Your Excellency's advent.

Another point to which we venture to press very earnestly on Your Excellency's benign consideration is the more extensive employment of Muhammadans in the Judicial Service, as well as in the Salt and Abkâri Department, as the present numerical strength of Muhammadans in these departments is markedly small.

Lastly, we would beg to state that in the present state of Muhammadan education, competition of Muslim youths with the other highly-advanced races is an unequal contest, and must perhaps remain so for some years to come. We earnestly beg that Your Excellency will be pleased to direct the adoption of such measures, as are feasible, so as to ensure a

due proportion of appointments, for which open competitive examinations have now been instituted, to be reserved for our community, in consideration of the exceptional disadvantages and difficulties under which it labours.

It has been a source of great pleasure to us to notice the keen personal interest Your Excellency has been taking in all matters connected with the moral and material progress of the Muhammadan community. We take this opportunity of drawing Your Excellency's attention to the difficulties under which in spite of repeated expressions of good will on the part of Government, we, Muhammadans of this district especially, labour in obtaining a due share of official preferments; for, here the number of Muhammadans in the Public Service has diminished of late years to a considerable extent.

We fervently pray that in Your Excellency's régime will be inaugurated a new and bright era in Muslim advancement in Southern India.

In conclusion, we pray the Almighty to bless Your Excellency and Lady Havelock with long life, health and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency plainly told the members of the deputation that their community had already been granted considerable concessions in the way of educational advantages, and that being the case, it devolved upon them to show that they were worthy

- of the indulgences that the Government had given them. His Excellency aptly remarked that it would be impossible to favour their community above others; in fact, it would be unjust to do so, and would naturally cause discontent. His Excellency laid it down as an excellent rule that in all matters of patronage and preferment all races and all communities must be treated alike.

ADDRESS FROM THE STUDENTS AND PUPILS OF
THE HINDU COLLEGE, TINNEVELLY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the students and pupils of the Hindu College, Tinnevelly, beg permission to approach Your Excellency with this address of welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this district and to our college.

The Hindu College, Tinnevelly, was started by public subscription in 1861 as Anglo-Vernacular School; it was affiliated to the Madras University in 1878. Students were for the first time sent up for the F.A. examination in the same year; and so it was the first purely Hindu College in the Presidency started by Hindu gentlemen and supported by Government grant. That it has been doing good work is well attested by the fact that very many of the educated gentlemen—Government officials and leading vakils—of the district have been students of the college. The number on the rolls is 550; the

college department having 80 in the two F.A. classes.

The committee, assisted by the Government which has contributed a building grant of Rs. 5,000, has given us a spacious and substantial building at a cost of nearly Rs. 20,000.

We have in the college a debating society composed of the professors and masters of the college and the students of the F.A. classes; and the Principal has started in connection with it a reading room located in the upper corridor of the new building. Besides the library attached to the college, the society has a library of its own about 180 volumes of standard reading books which are much used by the members.

The college has attached to it two tennis courts open to all the students of the college; and some of the boys are fairly good players. There is also a dramatic society, the members of which have acted Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" and "Midsummer Nights Dream" on the boards, before a large audience of the friends of the institution. Among these we are proud to reckon Mr. Higgins and Broadfoot, our very popular kind Collector and Judge.

In conclusion, we beg leave to thank Your Excellency for your great kindness in honouring the college with a visit, and for Your Excellency's patience in hearing the address of welcome. And we wish Your Excellency and Lady Havelock long life and happiness.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRINCIPAL, TEACHERS AND PUPILS OF THE HINDU COLLEGE OF TINNEVELLY,—I accept with pleasure your address, and thank you for your kind welcome to your college. The existence of this college shows great interest in the educational matters which is felt in this town of Tinnevelly, and the mode in which funds have been collected for its creation and endowment evinces public spirit on the part of the inhabitants and proves the sincerity of their desire for education. You tell me that the new buildings have cost Rs. 20,000, and out of that Government grant was Rs. 5,000. Consequently I gather that Rs. 15,000 were contributed from private resources. This is highly creditable, and this, as I said, proves your sincerity in the work you have in hand. I am glad to hear you have connected with the college a debating society, tennis courts, and other sources of amusement. They are all valuable adjuncts to education, inasmuch as they promote bodily health and strength, and tend to bring together pupils in harmony, and also in wholesome companionship. Your numbers, I see, amount to 550, a formidable figure indeed, and out of this, the college department numbers 80 in the two F.A. classes—a very creditable proportion to the whole. My time is short, and therefore I feel I ought not to detain you longer with further remarks.

TINNEVELLY MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Councillors of the Tinnevelly Municipality, beg to offer Your Excellency a most hearty welcome to this town; and in doing so we are specially glad that Your Excellency's visit, which never fails to be followed by an enquiry into the people's wants and due attempts to remove them, is paid to this town at a sufficiently early stage of Your Excellency's administration.

We are well acquainted with Your Excellency's deep interest in the progress and success of municipal institutions, and beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to suggest, for Your Excellency's consideration, certain measures, which, if carried out with generous aid from Government, are calculated to improve the general health of the inhabitants of this municipality, and confer on them incalculable benefits.

The two channels running through the town have all along been supplying drinking water to the towns people; and we are sorry to observe that, running as they do throughout their course in thickly-populated parts, they are so highly contaminated as to be detrimental to the general health of the town. A scheme for the supply of pure drinking water is, therefore, an absolute necessity. The second great want is a good drainage system—the successful working of which depends upon a copious and regular supply of water. The Council

are, in their present financial condition, unable to carry out these schemes without Government aid. We have been doing our utmost to keep the town in as good a sanitary condition as our finances allow.

We are glad to be able to report that elementary education is making a fair progress in the town and that the medical institution maintained by the municipality is popular and is doing good work. The private scavenging system, the working of which is beset with numerous difficulties due to local prejudices, has, we are glad to say, arrived at a fair stage of progress.

We take this opportunity to express our thanks for the kindly help and advice given us from time to time by the local officers of Government, and our special thanks are due to our popular Collector, A. W. B. Higgins, Esquire, who is ever mindful of the interests of the people committed to his charge.

In conclusion, we beg to express our deep sentiments of loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and pray that Your Excellency's administration may continue long, and that the Almighty may shower His choicest blessings on Her Excellency Lady Havelock and yourself.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF TINNEVELLY,—I thank you very heartily for the warm welcome you have given me to your

town. I agree with you in your rejoicing at my visit to Tinnevelly having taken place early in my term of office. In this way one becomes acquainted with your wants, and you are able to inform the Governor at an early stage of his administration, leaving some hope that before his term of office comes to an end, your wants may be gratified in some degree. You are right in believing that I take interest in municipal institutions, and in respect of this municipality, as in respect of others, I keep myself carefully informed of how the work of the municipality is going on. I am glad to be able to congratulate the Municipality of Tinnevelly on their good work. It appears to be satisfactory in nearly all respects, and you appear to have well earned the highest municipal privileges which I know you enjoy. With regard to your representation of the need of good water-supply and drainage for your town, I heartily sympathise with you. All I can tell you at the present moment is that a scheme for combined water-supply for Tinnevelly and Palamcottah and the intervening railway station and villages is under consideration by the Sanitary Board. I will on my return to Madras make it my business to ascertain in what position the matter stands at present. This morning, when addressing the Palamcottah Municipality, I touched on the subject of the possibility of union between the two municipalities. I see no reference to the matter in your address, and therefore I suppose it has not yet been maturely considered by the

Municipality of Tinnevelly. I will, therefore, only remark that it appears to me that two towns lying so close together on the two banks of a river like Budapesth in Hungary should, if possible, be united under the same municipal body. By construction of that sort you will get larger means at your disposal and you will have a larger body of able men from whom to choose your Municipal Councillors. I note with pleasure the acknowledgments which you make of the kindly help and advice given to you from time to time by your Collector who is, I am sorry for your sake, going away on a brief leave of absence, but I hope he will return to you after a little rest and holiday in England ready to work in your interests again. I have heard with satisfaction the expression of your sentiments of loyalty and devotion to our most Gracious Sovereign the Queen-Empress. I should have believed in them without any assurance from you, but all the same I am glad that you are able to express such sentiments, and it is a pleasure and satisfaction to me to receive them from you. I thank you, in conclusion, for your invocation of all that is good on Lady Havelock and myself.

ADDRESS FROM THE TINNEVELLY NATIVE CLUB.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with much pride and pleasure that we, the members of the Tinnevelly Club, avail ourselves of this opportunity of Your Excellency's visit to Tinnevelly, to

welcome you and Lady Havelock, and give expression to our sense of gratitude for your kindness in having, amidst the pressure of other engagements, complied with our request and honoured us with your presence.

We have to-day for the first time since the establishment of the club, the rare privilege of welcoming in our midst the highest representative in the presidency of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, and this will be a memorable day in the annals of our institution.

We are simply discharging a very pleasant duty in bringing to Your Excellency's notice that it was mainly with the encouragement and sympathetic co-operation of the then Collector of the district, Mr. Nicholson, that the institution was in 1889 brought into existence, and that the impetus he gave has continued to this day; and we doubt not that Your Excellency's visit to-day will give a further and lasting impetus.

In this connection it will not be out of place to mention that the principal objects of the club are to furnish the means for physical and mental recreation and promote social intercourse among the members, who belong to different sections of the community.

Thanking Your Excellency and Lady Havelock once more for your kindness in accepting our invitation and praying for your and Lady Havelock's long life and continued prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The Governor, in his reply, expressed his best wishes for the future success of the club, and for increased good fellowship and pleasant intercourse amongst its members.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF TINNEVELLY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the district of Tinnevely, beg to accord to Your Excellency a most heartfelt welcome to our district.

2. From what we had learnt of Your Excellency's administration of the neighbouring Colonial possession, we had, even before your assuming the Government of this presidency, formed high expectations in you of broad and enlightened statesmanship and of personal and sympathetic attention to the people's wants—expectations, which we are happy to find, have been, considering the shortness of time, in a large measure fulfilled.

3. While we are sensible of the manifold blessings of British rule and are thankful to you for the good measures of your administration and especially the liberal policy introduced in the working of the Forest rules, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to lay before Your Excellency, for consideration, certain suggestions, which, if approved and adopted, are, in our humble opinion, calculated to secure still further benefits to the people. As one of the most

important and necessary measures, we wish to place before Your Excellency the scheme for the storage of water in the Pápanásam basin, so as to guard against the often-recurring contingency of failure of monsoons in the Tambraparni valley and to increase the area of cultivation in the district. The scheme has, we learn, been for a long time before the authorities and pronounced by professional men to be feasible, and we pray that Your Excellency may give the subject an early and favourable consideration.

4. The Srívaikuntam anicut, which Your Excellency proposes to visit, has done much good to the people, but its usefulness will be greatly enhanced by the introduction of screw shutters, as such shutters will more efficiently regulate the passage of water in times of high floods, prevent the accumulation of silt and avoid damages by breaches.

5. We have on previous occasions brought to the notice of Your Excellency's predecessors the desirability of transferring the control over the supply, regulation and distribution of water for irrigation from the Public Works, to the Revenue Department on the ground that the Revenue Department is better acquainted with the condition of crops and the needs of the ryots. Now that the Tahsildars have been mostly relieved of their magisterial duties, we beg to press the subject again on Your Excellency for your benign consideration.

6. We learn that Government have sanctioned the opening of experimental farms in some of the

districts of the presidency. Ours being an important agricultural district, we pray that a farm be located here also. We further pray that the scheme of agricultural banks which has been under consideration for some length of time be introduced as early as convenient—as such a scheme will be of immense benefit to the poor agricultural population.

7. The close relation between this district and the territory of Travancore is a well-known fact, and Your Excellency's visit to that State would have given you a proper idea of that relation. We look forward to the opening of the Tinnevely-Quilon Railway as beneficial to both countries and particularly, in our humble opinion, as a protective famine work. We hope that its accomplishment will be one of the bright records of your administration.

8. Your Excellency's Government have, in consideration of the very heavy Civil and Sessions work of this district, been pleased to grant us a temporary additional Sub-Court. The establishment of such a Court has from time to time at best given only a temporary relief to the existing Courts, but has not tended to cause a substantial reduction of arrears, as the Civil and Sessions work has more than doubled to what it was twenty years ago when this district had two such Superior Courts. We pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to grant to this district a second permanent Sub-Court and thereby confer a valuable boon to the litigant population.

9. Madras Regulation XI of 1816 gives to Village Magistrates jurisdiction over certain classes of

offences; but there is nowhere, either in that or any other regulation or enactment, power lodged with the superior magistracy to revise or control their procedure or their judgments. This is felt in some instances as a great hardship, and we take the liberty to suggest that powers of revision and of transfer, similar to those now exercised by District Munsifs with regard to Village Munsifs' decisions, may be conferred upon Magistrates of the first class.

In conclusion, we congratulate ourselves on the rare opportunity thus afforded us of expressing to Your Excellency our feelings of respect and loyalty: and we most fervently pray that the Almighty may bless Your Excellency and Lady Havelock with long life and continued prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

I thank the inhabitants of the Tinnevely district for the kind welcome which they have given me to their district. They have shown by the preparations which they have made for the reception of Lady Havelock and myself, and for our entertainment while we are here, how sincere is their desire to please. I thank them heartily in their effort in that direction. You proceed in your address to deal with various subjects of material interest to yourselves. The first is that the Government should give an early and favourable consideration to a scheme for the storage of water in Pápanásam basin, so as to guard the oft-occurring contingency, the failure of monsoon in the Tambraparni valley, and increase in area of

cultivation in the district. The idea, as I understand it, is to form a storage reservoir at the head waters of the Tambraparni among the hills. It was mooted in 1884 and shelved in 1893. But the Revenue Secretary started it again in 1894, seeing that it had been shelved in a most perfunctory manner; and the project is now being investigated again. The latest figures show that the project might be Rs. 20,000 a year in remission, and earn Rs. 15,000 a year in new irrigation. But these are the roughest of figures, and it is not known what the project might cost. The Department of Public Works shall be desired to investigate thoroughly into the merits of this scheme. In the next paragraph of your address you advocate shutters—additional screw shutters—at the Srivaikuntam anicut, which I am about to visit to-morrow, so as to more efficiently regulate the passage of water in the time of high floods. The estimate, I may tell you, has already been prepared for the screw shutters, and will in time be sent up to Government for sanction. I may mention that for the present all public works of this nature are obliged to be held in abeyance in consequence of the financial difficulties at the present moment of the Government of India. I hope that these difficulties will not last in a serious form for many months longer. You next advocate the transfer of control over the supply, regulation and distribution of water for irrigation from the Public Works to the Revenue Department. I think I may tell you with regard to this that it would have been

better, if your address were put in more definite and distinct terms and in greater detail and laid before the Collector for submission to Government. As your desire is at present expressed, it is not very clear to me what exactly you mean. In the following paragraph of your address you request that a farm should be located in the Tinnevely district. I am informed that farms have been sanctioned for the districts of Coimbatore and Bellary; and if they should prove a success there, it is possible they may be extended. But this matter is in such a completely experimental stage that at present the Government would hesitate to extend the number which I have already mentioned. You next refer to the important question of opening a railway between Tinnevely and Travancore. This matter is in a fairly advanced stage. Difficulties with regard to the construction and the working of the line have presented themselves, but I have no doubt that with a little patience and trouble, they may be got over. I think I may say that within a measurable distance of time a railway connecting the Tinnevely district with the Native State of Travancore will become an accomplished fact. In the following paragraph of your address you beg that a second permanent Sub-Court may be appointed, and you admit that the grant which has been made up to the present for a temporary additional Court has been some relief for your heavy Civil Sessions work. I may tell you in reply to this portion of your address that the Government of India, with whom the sanction of this matter

rests, has sanctioned the continuance of the second temporary Sub-Court for another year; and if at the end of that time it should be found that the need is such that an extra Court is liable to be permanent, the Government of India will then be moved to sanction it permanently. You then proceed to suggest that the powers of revision and transfer similar to those now exercised by District Munsifs with regard to Village Munsifs' decisions may be conferred upon Magistrates of the first class. I shall ask the Collector to report on the matter, and if he and your District Judge join in thinking that the present procedure needs revision, the Government could initiate legislation to that effect, and possibly would consider it desirable to do so. I now come to the last paragraph of your address which contains very kind expressions of respect and loyalty towards myself and pious prayer that the Almighty may bless Lady Havelock with long life and continued prosperity. I accept with thankfulness your expressions of loyalty and your prayer for our prosperity and long life.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE AND RESIDENTS OF
SRIVAİKUNTAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the people and residents of Srivaikuntam, most humbly beg leave to accord our hearty and cordial welcome to Your Excellency and to Her Excellency Lady Havelock, and to express our sincere pride and joy at

Your Excellency's visit to this our little, but ancient and historic, town. We trust Your Excellency will carry with you pleasant recollections of this place especially of the splendid anicut and of the beautiful bridge over it. The ancient temple of Kallabiran Swami and a quaint old mud fort are other objects of special interest in this town.

We cannot too strongly express our deep gratitude for the blessing conferred on us by the introduction of local self-government, and we humbly beg to state that this town owes its present sanitary condition to the exertions of the Union Panchayat under its present Chairman.

We humbly crave permission to avail ourselves of this opportunity to submit, for Your Excellency's gracious consideration, a few facts affecting the well-being of the people here. While deeply appreciating the immense value and importance of the anicut and the bridge, we cannot refrain from expressing that our experience during the flood of 1895 brought home to our minds the unpleasant fact that this town is not sufficiently protected from the effects of superinundation in the river. A strong embankment with a protecting revetment of masonry work and a contrivance from the bridge to control the opening and closing of the sand-vents below appear to us to be two indispensable safe-guards to protect the town from possible danger. As it is, the embankment is not of such permanence and durability as could be desired and the opening of the sand-vents becomes impossible just at the time

when the opening becomes a matter of paramount necessity. Another matter which we would earnestly press for Your Excellency's benign consideration, is the inadequate medical aid available in this part of the district. The quantity of medicines supplied to the existing hospitals—especially to the Srivaikuntam Hospital—is too meagre to meet the requirements of the people, and patients are in consequence put to considerable disadvantage, the more so, as there is no chemists' or druggists' shop in this town where the required medicines can be had for sale. The southern portion of this taluk is one vast sandy tract and access from one village to another is naturally difficult, and we respectfully venture to submit, therefore, that the existing number of hospitals is not sufficient and to suggest the location of a hospital or at least a dispensary at every union centre such as Satankulam, Kulasekarpattanam, &c., so as to ensure prompt medical aid to the people of the outlying parts of this taluk. The extension of the railway in the interior of this taluk is also a matter which we would crave permission to press upon Your Excellency's gracious consideration. A large trade in salt, jaggery, and other minor articles is carried on in this taluk, and a railway passing through Alwartirunagari, Arumuganeri, Trichendore, Kulasekarapattanam is bound to be a profitable concern besides conferring an inestimable boon on the people of this taluk. It is our humble prayer that our hopes may be realized during Your Excellency's enlightened administration.

The administration of civil justice by Village Courts requires to be placed on a satisfactory footing, and the adoption of the rule laid down in G.O., No. 1745, Judicial, dated 17th July 1894, and the establishment of trial by a Bench of Judges as laid down therein would serve best to bring about the desired result, but unfortunately it has not yet been brought into force, although the file of suits in the Courts of the Village Munsifs shows a considerable increase. The unsatisfactory condition of Devastanam management is truly deplorable, and while expressing our concurrence with the principle of the Bill proposed by the Honourable P. Anandacharlu for introduction in the Imperial Council, we would strongly urge the necessity of Your Excellency's Council taking steps for an early, if not, immediate, amendment of the existing Act, with special reference to the conditions of this presidency.

In conclusion, we have the proud satisfaction to feel that, unlike other parts of India, we enjoy under Your Excellency's firm, equable and enlightened administration, absolute quiet and tranquillity with not even a whisper of suspicion against our loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, whose subjects we are proud to be and to whom we shall be second to none in loyalty. Your Excellency's determination to recognize merit irrespective of race or nationality has already made Your Excellency popular with the people of this land, and it is our humble and fervent prayer that the God

Almighty may grant you and Lady Havelock a long life and a yet happy and prosperous career.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

PEOPLE AND RESIDENTS OF SRIVAİKUNTAM,—I thank you for your hearty and cordial welcome. I beg to express Lady Havelock's regret that, owing to the fear of incurring too much fatigue, she was not able to accompany me to-day, and I shall certainly carry away agreeable recollections of my visit here to your beautiful temple and the sight of the magnificent bridge and the anicut which distinguish this place; and in passing, I hope to look in at the curious mud fort, with its peculiar associations, to which you draw my attention. I have heard with satisfaction the tribute of praise which you pay to the blessings of local self-government. I am glad to hear that, though you have it here only in an elementary form, it has done benefit to your community. You draw attention to the damage done by inundations caused by floods, especially that which followed the heavy rainfall of 1895. I am told that that was a somewhat exceptional occasion, but still we are bound to guard against exceptional devastations of this kind. I have pleasure in informing you that the Public Works Department have already anticipated your wants in this respect. Plans of works, such as you describe, have already been made, and estimates are in preparation; and consequently I hope that the work which you desire may be carried out before any very great length of

time. You draw attention to the want of medical aid in your taluk. I am informed that there are already four dispensaries, but considering the difficulties of communication to which you allude, and which I admit, it is possible that these may not be quite sufficient for your needs. This is a matter which must be governed by the possibilities of providing funds. It is your Taluk Board which is concerned with it, and if it be possible, I have no doubt that if those who supervise and control the expenditure of funds of that Board can afford to open more hospitals, they will favourably consider your wish. With regard to the larger supply of medicines at your dispensary, I am informed that it is admitted that the supply may be insufficient, and I am told that if the estimates of next year will admit of some further expenditure on this want, such expenditure will be provided for. You mention the absence of any chemist's shop in your town. I am afraid that a chemist's shop would have a very poor chance of paying itself, so long as you have dispensaries which give medicines gratis. You next mention the subject of a possible railway into the interior of this taluk. I have no doubt that a light railway might be a great convenience, in view of the difficulties of transport by road over the sandy tracts which surround this town. It resembles in this respect the Tanjore district, where, as you are probably aware, the District Board have taken in hand the provision of railways. You say in your address that you have little doubt that a railway would be a profitable

concern. I am afraid your wishes must have led you to put rather too sanguine a view upon such an enterprise, for I am informed that up to now no plans have been made for a railway, and no estimates have been prepared of the probable traffic. It is, therefore, impossible at this moment to say with any degree of certainty whether such an undertaking would be a paying concern or not. It is a matter of purely local interest; and I would remark that if the people of the taluk are so strongly convinced that this would be a paying concern, it rests with them to take steps to initiate the work by paying for the cost of plans and estimates. You next mention that the administration of civil justice by Village Courts requires to be placed on a more satisfactory footing by the establishment of trial by Bench of Judges, as laid down in the Government Order which you quoted. This is a matter about which I have been conferring with your Collector. I may tell you that he will give it his attention, and if he is satisfied that such a measure is likely to be of benefit, I have no doubt that he will recommend it. I join with you in deploring the unsatisfactory state of your Devasthanam management. That condition of affairs prevails all over the presidency. I very much regret that up till now Government have not been able to initiate a measure of reform. As you point out in your address, the Honourable Mr. Anandacharlu, member of the Viceroy's Council, has a Bill before the Supreme Legislative Council for this purpose. The local Government have also a Bill which had been pre-

pared by a member of our local Legislative Council. But I must tell you that, as a matter of legislative procedure, it will not be quite proper or possible that the local measure can be set on foot until the Supreme Legislative Council measure has either been abandoned or has been proved to be a failure. We have the local Bill ready to launch in case we have an opportunity of doing so. I have heard with great satisfaction the strong expression of loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty's Government. There is, as you say, no suspicion of doubt on this subject with regard to the people of this part of India. I am proud to be able to say so. It is, at the same time, always a satisfaction to hear from those who meet me and who do honour to me as you do on this occasion, a repetition of these proper and noble sentiments. I beg, in conclusion, to thank you very warmly for your prayer for my prosperity and long-life and for those of Lady Havelock.

MADURA MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—As the official representatives of this ancient city of Madura, we beg most respectfully to tender to Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a very hearty welcome.

These periodical visits of our Governors form stepping stones in the current history of our city, marking the progressive development of our

municipal growth, while they also afford us fitting opportunities of expressing our loyal feelings of confidence in our Government, and our devoted veneration and affection towards our Most Gracious Empress-Queen.

During the past year Your Excellency in Council has been pleased to restore to us the privilege of electing our own Chairman. It is a privilege which we highly value; and we desire to take this opportunity of expressing our gratification for the renewed confidence which Government has thus placed in us. We trust that we may be able to approve ourselves not undeserving of that confidence.

We desire also to tender our hearty congratulations to Your Excellency upon the successful completion of the magnificent Periyár Project, by means of which a permanent supply of drinking-water has been secured for the inhabitants of this city, while it has also placed the food crops of a considerable portion of the district beyond the reach of drought in the midst of our uncertain normal rainfall.

We are sincerely grateful for this great blessing; at the same time we also feel anxious that its twin sister, the drainage of our town, should be making some visible progress towards its completion. Your Excellency is aware that this important matter has occupied our attention for several years past: and we feel sure that Your Excellency is in full accord with us regarding its necessity. Our

proposals regarding it will probably come before Your Excellency in Council in the course of the coming year; and we fervently pray for their favourable disposal in consideration of their vital importance to the sanitation of the town.

We are very desirous also to enlist Your Excellency's sympathy in regard to the projected railway between this city and the sea-coast at Pámban. While we look upon it as necessary for the development of the resources of our own district, we are also convinced that it will lead up to a revival of the ancient prosperity of the northern district of Ceylon, the seat of its famous earliest capital: and we are well assured that everything that can tend to the advancement of Ceylon will commend itself to your support. In its connection with the line from Pódanúr to Dindigul, it is interesting to look forward to the junction of the two coasts of India at this southern end of the Peninsula along the line of the ancient trade route of the Romans two thousand years ago.

In conclusion, we beg to record our thanksgiving for the growing improvement in the agricultural prospects of our country, and to tender our congratulations to Government on the relaxation of the severe strain which has been imposed upon it during this year of famine. We also hope that Lady Havelock and Your Excellency may have an interesting continuation of your journey, and long retain pleasant recollections of those portions of the country through which your present tour has been made.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MADURA,—Lady Havelock and I thank you very heartily for the kind welcome to your ancient and royal city. We have long heard of the architectural wonders of Madura, and we are very pleased now to have an opportunity of seeing them. If the periodical visits of Governors to the various principal centres of population in the province are, of advantage to the inhabitants they are also of advantage, of very great advantage, to the Governor himself, for they bring him into personal contact with the things and persons than which nothing could be more valuable. They afford the Governor also opportunities to hear from their own mouths a repetition of these sentiments of loyalty towards our Gracious Sovereign the Queen-Empress in which we have full faith, and which no one can refute. (Hear, hear.) It was, on the whole, I assure you, the desire of my Government to be able to restore to your municipality the right of electing your Chairman. The confidence, which the Government put in you by this Act, will, I hope, be fully recognised by yourselves. There are certain points in the Municipal Government of Madura which are described as not being altogether satisfactory. I allude more especially to your system of sanitation. I have no doubt that now you have full power and full authority given to you in these matters, you will show that you deserve the trust that is put in you. The

congratulations which you offer on the completion of the magnificent Periyár Project are not due to me. That project was devised by able and bold men long before I came here, and was completed under the Government of my predecessor. At the same time I take pride in the existence of such magnificent movement and the courage and skill of my countrymen and their enterprise in the Government of this country. You allude in your address to the subject of the drainage of this town. I had been told on more than one occasion by leading inhabitants of Madura whose acquaintance I have been fortunate to make that this is one of your most pressing needs, and I observe you lay great stress on it in the address which you have just now read. From the situation of your town, it is evident that such works cannot be carried out without a large expenditure of money, and if you wish to see such a work accomplished you must be prepared to bear considerable sacrifice. If the scheme to which you allude comes before the Government in a well-digested form, as you say it will, during the next year, I promise you it shall have our best attention and every encouragement and assistance that we can properly give it. (Hear, hear.) You say that you wish to enlist my sympathy in regard to the projected railway between this city of Madura and the sea coast of Pámban. You have really no occasion to ask my sympathy in this matter which you have had for a long time; still I have never lost an opportunity ever since I arrived in Madras,

and I have become convinced of the advisability of carrying out this project and of the almost certainty of its being a remunerative one to the authorities who control these matters. I regret that on this occasion I am not able to give you any positive assurance to the early commencement of the work, but this I can say that it has not only my sympathy but that the advisability and the expediency of it is well understood and admitted by the Viceroy in Council (Hear, hear) upon whose decision the carrying out of these matters, as you know, rests. I am not aware yet of the decisions that have been arrived at by the Viceroy in Council in his recent Conference at Simla on railway matters. But I earnestly hope that the construction of this line may have found a place among the approved undertakings. With regard to the line to connect Pôdnûr with Dindigul, to which you also allude, I am not able at present to give you any decision or authoritative opinion. Before I conclude, it becomes my duty, and it is a sad duty, to tell you of the sudden death of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Teck, better known as Princess Mary, the mother of a lady who will some day be our Queen-Empress. I deplore exceedingly that this sad event should have occurred on the occasion of my first visit to you. I fear it may have the effect of marring in some degree the rejoicings that I feel at being amongst you and the demonstration of loyalty and regard which I know you are prepared to show me. I cannot end without joining with you in your

congratulations on the termination of the sad crisis which the whole of India and even the Madras Presidency, which, perhaps suffered not more than any other parts of India, have gone through during the last year. But happily for us all cause for anxiety is now over. Copious rain has fallen in all parts of the presidency, and bright prospects even in our most suffering districts are hopeful. Every thing now appears in the most pleasant light. All cause for anxiety has, I believe, disappeared. Before I sit down I will express to you my thanks to your kind wishes for the life and prosperity of Lady Havelock and myself, and your wishes that we may have a pleasant and prosperous journey until we reach our home in Madras.

ADDRESS FROM THE TEACHERS AND PUPILS OF
VARIOUS SCHOOLS AT NAZARETH.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCIES,—We, the Teachers and Pupils of the Art Industrial School, Orphanages, Girls' Training School, High Schools and other institutions at Nazareth, beg to offer Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a hearty and loyal welcome to this place.

With your permission we shall give a short account of each of the chief institutions at this station:—

I. The Art Industrial School and Orphanage was established in 1877 during the Famine. Pupils

of all castes and creeds are admitted and scholarships are given to encourage them. There are now eight industries taught, with the following pupils:—

(1) Carpentry	...	...	54 boys.
(2) Blacksmith's work	...	...	54 "
(3) Tailoring	...	...	12 "
(4) Indian Embroidery	...	...	12 "
(5) Type-writing	...	...	8 "
(6) Weaving	...	...	53 "
(7) Drawing	...	...	17 "
(8) Lace-making	...	...	33 girls.

All learn Drawing and receive instruction every day in literary subjects. Those who have passed the elementary examinations are preparing for the Intermediate Examinations in Art and Industries, with a view to become Industrial teachers when the school course is completed.

In 1895, 89 out of 111 candidates were successful in the elementary and other examinations in their various trades, the same candidates in Drawing only, taking up two or more subjects. In 1896, 159 candidates passed out of 186 that appeared.

II. St. John's High School for Girls was established 50 years ago, but it was not until 1886 that it attained its present standard. The number of pupils on the roll is 204, and of these 9 are in the Normal Department, 18 in the High School and 177 in the Practising School. There are classes beginning with the alphabet and going up to the Sixth Form. English has been taught for many

years in all the standards above the first, and for several years girls have appeared in English for the Lower Secondary Examination with Tamil as their optional language. Last year three girls appeared for the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University and one was successful. Eleven passed the Lower Secondary Examination, and 18 passed the Primary Examination. Nine appeared for the School Management Examination and seven were successful. Drawing is taught in the Lower Secondary and High Schools.

III. The Boys' High School—there are eighty boys on the roll, and five candidates were successful at the recent Lower Secondary Examination.

All the boys learn Drawing.

IV. The Primary School has 105 pupils and the boys are taught by girls trained in the Normal High School. The optional subjects taught include Drawing and Object lessons.

V. The orphanage contains 209 children, many of whom have been received from Government. Many orphan boys are in the Industrial School. None really destitute are refused admission.

VI. Besides the above schools there are 52 primary schools, in all of which there are more than two thousand five hundred children under the management and supervision of our manager.

No address would be complete without acknowledging the warm interest taken in all that concerns the progress and welfare of Her Imperial Majesty's subjects in this district, by our loving

and kind Collector and President of the District Board, Mr. A. W. B. Higgens.

In conclusion we beg to offer our grateful thanks to Your Excellencies for the interest shown in our welfare by your presence in our midst to-day, and we shall never forget your coming amongst us on this occasion.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

HIS EXCELLENCY, in reply, expressed his extreme satisfaction at the use of native implements by the pupils in learning the various industries, in lieu of costly tools of the West, with the beneficial result that when the pupils went home, they could easily earn their livelihood with the implements available near at hand. That was a distinct and practical advantage which the pupils obtained.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION IN THE NAZARETH MISSION.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,—We, the Clergy, Teachers and Headmen of Christian Congregations in the Nazareth Mission, beg to offer your Excellency and Lady Havelock a very loyal and grateful welcome to Nazareth, and we attribute special honour and thankfulness to your visit because you are the chosen representatives of our Beloved Mother and Gracious Queen-Empress of India.

We think that Your Excellencies will be interested with some account of the Nazareth Mission

which is worked in conjunction with Mudalur and Christianagaram. It was founded as an offshoot of the Tanjore Mission under the Venerable Schwartz in the year 1798, and the Revs. J. Irion, A. F. Caemmerer, Henry Pope, Thomas Brotherton and Dr. J. M. Strachan, now Bishop of Rangoon, have all laboured here. Since 1876 our present Missionary has been stationed at this place, and he is assisted by seven Indian priests and 137 catechists and teachers at Nazareth, Mudalur and Christianagaram.

There are 94 congregations consisting of 12,451 adherents, of whom 11,438 are baptized and 3,352 are communicants. The Native contributions for Church purposes for the year amount to Rs. 4,984-5-1½. There are 56 schools in which 2,536 children are being taught.

Our congregations are on the increase, the Churches are gradually being improved, and the services are well attended.

Education both for girls and boys is progressing in various branches, namely, as primary, lower secondary, upper secondary, normal, art and industrial schools. In these institutions the children receive spiritual, mental and physical training, and they are placed in a position to obtain an honest livelihood in the world.

Children who have lost their fathers and mothers are protected and trained in the Industrial Orphanages which were established during the Famine of 1877.

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

The sick are relieved and comforted at Luke's Hospital which was inaugurated by Dr. Strachan. The number of out-patients treated during the year was 15,345 and in-patients numbered 85. The anxiety of people departing this life is allayed by the operations of the Nazareth Provident Fund, which is open to people of all classes, without regard to religion or caste. Nazareth is also the office of the Tinnevely S.P.G. Widows' Fund from which pensions are paid to 52 widows.

We owe to the Church of England the many privileges which we enjoy in various ways, intellectual, worldly and spiritual, and we mention these points to show how much Christianity has done, and is doing for the people of India, and in token of our gratitude to God and to the Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts.

We do not think that Your Excellencies will require any proof of our loyalty and devotion to the British Raj. All the blessings which we enjoy are ratified and secured to us by a benign Government which demands our love, our loyalty and, if necessary, our lives. There is no community in India with greater affection for Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress than we, Indian Christians, and we are proud to make a boast of this. If occasion should ever demand, we feel bold to say that of 80,000 Christians of the Church Militant in Tinnevely five or six thousand men will be willing to fight in the ranks for God and the Queen. We have no petitions or requests to make of your Excellencies

except to beg you to accept our warmest and grateful thanks for your loving visit to us.

In conclusion, we earnestly pray Almighty God to give Your Excellencies sound health and long life, so as to enable you to labour long and successfully for the glory of God and for the people of India.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REVEREND FATHER, TEACHERS AND HEADMEN OF THE CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS IN THE NAZARETH MISSION,—I accept with warm thanks the loyal and kind welcome which you have given me to Nazareth. You have laid before me a most interesting and comprehensive report of the history and working of this interesting institution. It combines within itself a wonderful combination of the mental, spiritual and bodily training which we all desire. You tell me that the education for boys and girls is progressing in its various branches, viz., primary, lower secondary, upper secondary, normal, art and industrial school, and that in these various institutions the children receive spiritual, mental and physical training, and are placed in a position to obtain an honest livelihood in the world. I cannot imagine a more perfect and complete system of education than is set forth in those words. To use much more eloquent words than I am capable of, those which were recorded by Bishop Barry when he paid you a visit about five years ago, I will venture to repeat. "I do not know that I have seen

anywhere a more perfect specimen of the harmony of all poems of study and energy under the dominant power of the Christian faith." You then go on to tell me that in the Industrial Orphanage children who have lost their fathers and mothers find refuge and education. The sick also are relieved in the hospital and infirmary, which is well presided over by the Rev. Father. I am glad to read your expressions of gratitude to the Church of England and to the Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts. The assurance that you give me of your loyalty is quite unnecessary, for it requires no endorsement and no repetition. All the same, it is satisfactory to hear such a very emphatic declaration of it. I have no doubt that, as you say, you will be ready to fight for the Queen and her country. I will conclude by thanking you for your promise to pray to Almighty God to give me and Lady Havelock health and happiness to do our duty. I assure you that I value your prayer very much. Let me say that I thank you on behalf of Lady Havelock and myself for the beautiful tokens of your work and of the surroundings, among which you live. I have here a photograph book intended for Lady Havelock representing the different points of interest in this institution, and I have here in my hand another example of the beautiful work of the school-boys here in illuminating, representing the different forms of industrial work which I witnessed in active progress this morning. I thank you very much, and I beg to assure you that I would always cherish

a most loving and interesting recollection of the visit that I have paid you to-day.

ADDRESS FROM THE AMERICAN MADURA MISSIONARIES.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The American Madura Mission, some of whose schools we have here present, is an offshoot of the American Jaffna Mission, established in 1816. In 1834, eighteen years after its opening, His Excellency Sir Frederick Adam, Governor of Fort St. George, cordially welcomed a delegation of the Jaffna Missionaries to the continent, to carry on in the Madura district, a work similar to that carried on by them in Jaffna.

From the first, the Mission has engaged in education and in Christian work in the towns and villages of the district. As early as 1839 it had two girls' schools in operation, one of which has now grown into a high school, and in 1846, while as yet the East India Company was doing little for popular education, the Mission had nearly 4,000 pupils in its lower schools, while at the same time it was maintaining two schools of higher grade—the only ones of the class in the district.

At present, the Mission represents a community of about 16,000 adherents, living in all parts of the district. It carries on a second-grade college, also a training institution for preachers and pastors, and another for Bible women, two training institutions

for schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, two high schools for boys, and one for girls, several schools for non-Christian girls, and 130 village schools, attended last year by 3,500 pupils.

For fifty years the Mission has maintained first a dispensary, and then a dispensary and hospital in Madura; and for more than thirty years it has done the same for Dindigul. Many lakhs of rupees, cheerfully contributed by the Christian people of the United States, have thus been spent in promoting the spiritual, moral, and physical welfare of the people of our district.

We also desire to put on record for this occasion that our efforts, so far as they have fallen within the sphere of Government recognition, have received its cordial sympathy and much material assistance—while no department of our philanthropic work has failed to elicit from the leaders of the Native community substantial evidences of their friendliness and good wishes.

This Mission was organized and is carried on by a people, not the subjects of Her Gracious Majesty, yet bound to England as their mother country by many of the strongest ties. It is, therefore, fitting that we, foreign Missionaries, carrying on our work for the Hindu people under British rule in India, should take this occasion to express our gratitude for the peace, protection and freedom which we and all connected with us enjoy, and also our deep appreciation of the steady purpose and effort of the Government to relieve the distresses of the people,

ameliorate their condition, diffuse intelligence, and promote their general welfare by a just and fair-minded administration of the trust committed to it.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MISSIONARIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MADURA AMERICAN MISSION,—As soon as I knew that the Mission here was an offshoot of the American Mission at Jaffna, I felt that I was not altogether among the strangers. Several years ago I had occasion to make the acquaintance of your brother Missionaries and their systems in Jaffna. I went over all your institutions there, and was deeply interested in them and was exceedingly well received. I have always retained a lively recollection of the good exhibition they made on the occasion I saw them of the work which they had for so many years been doing in the northern portion of Ceylon. Now I gather from the paper which has just been read that your work in this part of India has been equally extensive and equally successful. It combines in itself, as it does in Ceylon, the curing of the body as well as the teaching of the mind. I think that is a peculiar feature of the American Missions that they take care to introduce into their training a care of the bodies and health of their pupils. There was one passage in the address which has just been read that particularly pleased me—in fact I felt a good deal touched by it—and that was the acknowledgment of the strong ties that bind our country of

England with the country to which you belong. I feel sure that if we English and the citizens of the United States knew one another better there would be less doubt in answering the question which I have seen of recent times raised in the newspapers as to whether Americans hate us. I am sure that if we knew one another there would be no doubt as to the answer to that question. I think, as it is, that the doubt that is felt, and is sometimes expressed, rests on a very shallow foundation. At any rate, here in Madura, and in other places of Her Majesty's Dominions, where American Missionaries have settled for many years and been doing a great deal of useful work, they have had opportunities of learning to like and to respect us; and these feelings of liking and respect are most admirably stated in the address which has just been read, and I sincerely wish that the sentiments that we have just heard might be felt by all Americans.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY
AND DISTRICT OF MADURA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the City and District of Madura, beg leave to accord a sincere and hearty welcome to Your Excellency and Lady Havelock on the occasion of your visit to this renowned city, the capital of the ancient kingdom of the Pandyan dynasty.

We request that Your Excellency, as the representative of our sovereign, will be pleased to con-

vey to Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen-Empress of India, our assurances of deep loyalty and heartfelt devotion to the British rule and throne.

We congratulate ourselves on our good fortune in having in Your Excellency a ruler deeply sympathetic, eminently just, and strictly impartial, and one who has earned a reputation for devoting his personal attention even to minute details of administration. It is hardly necessary to advert in this Public Address to any particular acts or measures which have afforded us convincing proofs of the possession by Your Excellency of those high and noble qualities; but we cannot refrain from referring to Your Excellency's arduous labours in connection with the recent Famine in certain portions of our presidency, to the orders of Your Excellency's Government in regard to the Forest administration, and to the appointment of an Indian gentleman to act as the chief legal adviser of Government.

We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to the Government for the successful accomplishment of the Periyár Project and the great and everlasting boon thereby conferred on the people of this district. We deem this also a fitting occasion to lay before Your Excellency for favourable consideration [what in our humble judgment are necessary to be done in order to enable us to fully reap the benefits of that grand project which is intended to drive away famine altogether from our midst.

The first and foremost of our requests is that increased facilities of communication may be given in the Periyár-affected area for transport of manure and labour and of produce, by opening up roads and constructing bridges. So far back as 1876, the late Mr. H. F. Clogstoun, then Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, pointed out that "*this want should certainly be supplied before irrigation is brought to the villages.*" Now irrigation has been brought, but, in respect of roads, we are in no better position now than in 1876. We humbly beg to represent that the District Board, with its limited resources, is unable to construct these roads. All that the District Board has been able to do is to maintain the old roads originally formed by the Government and to make insignificant additions here and there. We further beg to submit that the additional cess derivable from the Periyár-affected lands will hardly suffice to cover the cost of the upkeep of the new roads when formed. We venture therefore to respectfully submit that a portion of the money realized by Government by the sale of the waste lands in the Periyár region may be properly and profitably expended in this behalf both in the interests of the Government and those of the ryots who have invested large sums of money in them.

In the second place, we beg leave to urge before Your Excellency that, owing to paucity of ryots and other causes, some time must necessarily elapse before immemorial waste lands and lands cultivated only with dry crops till now could be successfully brought

under wet cultivation. Under present arrangements, we venture to submit that hardly any time has been allowed for the purpose, and we respectfully pray that a certain time—not less than three years—may be allowed to ryots for preparing their lands for and introduction of wet cultivation free of wet assessment, that a graduated scale be established distributing the full wet assessment over five years since the commencement of the wet cultivation on the principle of the increment remission recognised in the settlement rules, and that the lands, instead of being registered as double crop lands as at present, may be registered as single crop.

We also pray that a larger area than now sanctioned may be reserved for communal purposes, and also that some lands be reserved in each village to be availed of by the ryots at dry rates of assessment for raising fodder, vegetable manure, etcætera.

We further pray that the purposes for which loans are now granted under the Agriculturists' Loans Act may be extended so as to include outlay on manure and building houses for cultivators, and that a further relaxation of the forest rules be granted by way of issuing free permits for vegetable manure and pasture in the adjoining Government forests.

While on this subject of our needs and requirements in connection with the Periyár Project, we beg respectfully to point out that it would be of greater advantage and convenience to the ryots if the distribution of water from the Periyár channels

be placed under the direct control of the officers of the Revenue Department who are in constant touch with the people and are responsible for the public revenue.

In regard to the proposed lease of the water-power of the Periyár, we beg respectfully to submit that its utilisation should eminently be a concern of the State. Such a wealth of power, if monopolised by a private company, cannot bring adequate revenue to the Government or benefit to the public, whatever may be the royalty that may be levied upon it, especially in view of the further expected possibilities of electricity. We may be permitted to point out that the several municipalities to the south of Madras which, according to the report of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for India in 1893, may buy the power at cost price for lighting and other public purposes, is sold by the Government, will lose this advantage if a private company should be granted the monopoly.

The Government has recognised the importance of agricultural model farms. This district has already taken the lead in starting a model farm, though on a small scale, with the help of private endowment now under the management of the District Board. We request the Government to take up the management of this institution and widen the scope of its usefulness by allotting more lands to it for purposes of experiment and demonstration.

The next subject of vital importance we beg permission to bring for Your Excellency's considera-

tion is that of railways for this district. The construction of the Madura—Pámban and Palghat—Dindigul Railway lines has been under the consideration of the Government for many years, and we believe opinion is unanimous that they are both necessary and will prove productive. The lines have been surveyed, and all that remains to be done is to arrange for the works being put in hand. There are also two other projects in which we are interested, and we beg to submit that both of them are equally important to develop fully the resources of our district, viz., a tramway from Ammayanaikanur to Guruvanooth and a railway line from Trichinopoly to Tondi. We beg to enlist Your Excellency's sympathy in favour of these projects and fervently pray that they may become accomplished facts before Your Excellency's term of office expires.

It is a matter for satisfaction that the separation of judicial from executive functions, which was pronounced by a former Viceroy of India to be a counsel of perfection, has proved a success, as far as it has been carried out with regard to the subordinate magistracy. We beg therefore to advocate its further extension with reference to the Magistrates of higher grades also. We are not unaware of the difficulties which are in the way of giving effect to the above recommendation at once. But there is one serious evil connected with the union of the two functions in the same individual which, in our humble judgment, may be removed by an executive order of the Government. Judicial enquiry

in criminal as well as revenue cases suffers a great deal by parties and their witnesses being dragged a long way from their homes to attend the same, and it would be a real boon if the officers concerned could be directed to hold such enquiries as far as possible at or near the places of the parties and of their witnesses.

The evils resulting from the appointment of ill-paid and ill-educated persons as station-house officers in the Police department have been prominently brought to Your Excellency's notice by the head of that department. We beg to add our humble voice in support of the proposal to raise the status of this class of public servants who wield enormous powers for good or for evil, and would venture to suggest that they should, as a rule, be no longer recruited from the ranks, but appointed direct, provision being made in exceptional cases for the promotion of really deserving men.

We also humbly desire to put before Your Excellency that prosecutions for petty offences under the Salt and Abkari Acts show no tendency to decrease, and the annoyance to the ryots caused thereby can only be removed by the abolition of the system of granting rewards to officers employed in the department which, we beg to submit, is objectionable in principle and mischievous in practice.

We beg further to bring to Your Excellency's notice that there are very extensive religious endowments in our district and that we are therefore particularly concerned with the amendment of the

Religious Endowments Act. It is admitted throughout the presidency that a revision of the statute-law on the subject is absolutely necessary in the interests of the numerous endowments in question. Several attempts have been made at legislation, but they have not been successful owing to obstruction offered in the northern provinces of our country where the conditions are different. We request Your Excellency's Government to give us a small measure of reform in this direction by at least modifying the law in the way of curtailing the term of office of committee members to three years and rendering it obligatory on them to annually publish accounts duly audited.

With a view to prevent any possibility of friction between several religious communities, we submit that it is desirable to put a stop to the opening of schools, churches, temples, mosques, burial and burning grounds or other religious institutions by one community near places inhabited by another.

Coming now to the City and Municipality of Madura, we crave leave to submit that to the important post of Paid Secretary to the Municipal Council, it is highly necessary, under present circumstances, to appoint a Government officer not inferior in rank and pay to a Tahsildar, and pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to approve only of such a nomination.

We need scarcely submit to Your Excellency that pure water and pure air are two of the noblest gifts of God. We are extremely grateful to Your

Excellency's predecessor for having given us pure water. We most earnestly pray Your Excellency will be pleased to give us pure air by the introduction at an early date of a proper drainage scheme into this city.

Withdrawing the right of voting from those that are unable to read and write and whose ignorance not infrequently leads to fraud and malpractices at the elections, and raising the property and educational qualifications for Councillorship, are other municipal matters to which we beg to invite Your Excellency's attention.

In conclusion, we beg to sincerely thank Your Excellency and Lady Havelock for this visit of yours to our city and fervently pray that the Great Dispenser of all good may shower His Choicest Blessings upon Your Excellencies.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

INHABITANTS OF THE CITY AND DISTRICT OF MADURA,—Lady Havelock and I offer you our best acknowledgments for the warm welcome which you have given us to your celebrated and ancient city, the capital, as you remind me, of the old Pandyan Dynasty of Kings. I have listened with satisfaction to the respectful and loyal expressions which you have used in your address with respect to our beloved Queen-Empress. At the present moment, Her Majesty is under circumstances which call for our special sympathy on a fresh bereavement in her

family having fallen upon her in the death of her much beloved and ever popular princess of the Royal House, the Duchess of Teck, known to us for many years as the Princess Mary of Cambridge. I thank you for your sympathetic remarks with regard to the details of administration since I have been among you. With regard to forests I have already in another place stated what the policy of the Government is and I will therefore only briefly recapitulate what I said then. Our wish is only to work in the best interests of, and with the least inconvenience to, the public. With regard to your remarks on the recent distress which might, had not proper precautions been taken, have developed into a serious famine, I will also say that I am glad to have an opportunity of acknowledging the sympathy and support which Government had met with from the general public in the fight which we have had with the recent distress. The position of the Government in such a case is not an easy one. On the one hand, there is a necessity of saving life and maintaining health, over a large and severely affected area. On the other, a desire to spare an exchequer already not too full with many demands to meet. The policy, however, which we have adopted was, we believe, a correct one. During the long hot weather months while the distress was severe and the public anxiety intense, we made the saving of life and the maintenance of health and strength take precedence over everything, and costly though it was, we set ourselves resolutely to perform

this duty which we considered the first one that we owe to the State and to the individual. When, however the distress decreased and rain had fallen and prospects were sure, it then became our duty to give greater heed to the need for economy. And a certain amount of pressure has accordingly been put upon the workers in indirect ways to induce them to remain on the works no longer than was necessary, but to return to their homes on ordinary avocations. The change from the one phase to the other was naturally felt, and some would like to have postponed it, but the Government had the pockets of the taxpayers to think of and in close touch as it was with the famine commissioner and the officers of the affected districts had felt confident that it was not closing relief prematurely. The result has justified its action. The famine is virtually over and the work will shortly be closed, and a little less than a million persons have been tided over the period of absolute want, both of employment and of food, and will now be handed back to their normal occupations in health and strength. When the time comes to write the history of this famine, we believe it will be found that our measure of sympathy with the distressed population when the distress was severe and our promptitude in closing the relief when the distress was over will bear favourable comparison with those of the other Provinces of the Empire. The following paragraphs of your address relate to technical matters in much detail. It would be impossible within the short notice I have had and

without detaining you for an undue length of time to attempt to enter into a full reply. I can only, therefore, say that I will undertake to make enquiry into the various matters to which your paragraphs allude and take such action upon them as may then seem desirable. I will now pass on to paragraph 12 in which you deal with the subject of railways and you draw particular attention to the construction of the Madura-Pámban line. As I had the pleasure yesterday of telling the Municipal Council when I received their address on my arrival here, the construction of this particular line of railway has had my warm sympathy and support ever since I became acquainted with this presidency. I am satisfied that it will not only be a profitable line of railway but that it will tend to develop the convenience of vast numbers of people, not only in this part of India but also in other remote parts, opening communication, as it will, with the great temple of Ráméswaram and also facilitating communication between the Island of Ceylon and the Madras Presidency, the relations between which two countries are becoming more important and more close. I may earnestly hope that I shall ere long receive from the Government of India a notification that the construction of this railway has been sanctioned for early execution. With regard to the other lines to which you allude in that paragraph, I cannot yet at present give as confident an expression of opinion, but the policy with regard to them is under the consideration of the Government, and you may be sure that

full consideration will be given to their claims. You next deal with the important matter of the separation of judicial from executive functions, and you congratulate us on the result that has already been achieved by the first attempt that has been made in this direction. Before we proceed further in this important line, I think it might be as well to watch the result of what has been already done for a still further period of time. You next allude to the evils which result from the appointment of station-house officers in the Police Department from the ranks. This is a matter which, I am aware, has been brought before the attention of Government by the Inspector-General of Police, and further attention will be paid to his remarks on the subject and to the attention to which you have now called specially in your address to the subject. With regard to the reform of the endowments of the temples, you are aware that a bill is now before the Imperial Council. That bill must necessarily take precedence to any bill to which we may locally advocate. The natural policy of the Government with regard to the Imperial Bill has been settled, and it would be premature and perhaps indiscreet and improper for us to undertake to introduce a local bill on the subject. When it becomes our duty to do so, the two points of reform to which you call my attention, namely, curtailing the term of office of the Committee Members to three years and rendering it obligatory on them to annually publish accounts duly audited, will have the best attention and at the same time they seem to me

to be highly advisable measures. You next request that a stop should be put to the opening of schools, churches, temples, mosques, burial and burning grounds or other religious institutions by one community near places inhabited by another. There may be some desirable end to be attained by these, but I am sure that a little reflection will show you that the real practical carrying out of such an undertaking is hardly within the scope of convenience or even possibility. You next deal with the appointment of a paid Secretary to the Municipal Council of Madura. I may inform you that the Government has already sanctioned a paid Secretary with salary rising from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250, and we have asked the Municipality to nominate an independent person to hold this office. You next deal with the subject of the drainage of Madura. In replying to the address of the Municipal Council, I dwelt at some length on this subject. It will be a matter that will necessarily cost a large sum of money and you must be prepared, therefore, if you are serious to see an elaborate scheme of drainage instituted in Madura, to bear a considerable burden. I would in the meantime strongly advocate that the Municipal Council should take in hand all simple and easily attained procedure for improving their drainage. I am aware that the sanitation of Madura is not all that can be desired, and I particularly call your attention as inhabitants of the City of Madura and therefore deeply concerned in this matter to press on the Municipal Council to take early action. You next suggest that

in the election of the Municipal Councillors the right of voting should be withdrawn from those who are not able to read and write and that property and educational qualifications should be raised. Such measures would, I have no doubt, be salutary if we were quite ready for them. At present, I must say I think they would somewhat be premature if they were adopted at once. I doubt not that many wealthy and influential persons would yet be excluded from the suffrage, and I am sure that you would not desire this yourselves. I now go to the last paragraph of your address in which you are good enough to thank Lady Havelock and me for our visit to Madura. It is, I assure you, a great satisfaction to us to find ourselves in this interesting city. We have often heard of the beauties and interests of Madura, and it is a pleasure to us and a satisfaction to us to be able to see for ourselves what we have heard on previous occasions. I thank you fervently for your prayer that the blessings of Divine Providence may rest upon us and follow us through life.

ADDRESS FROM THE LOWER PULNEY AND
SIRUMALAI PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION, DINDIGUL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the delegates appointed by the Lower Pulney and Sirumalai Planters' Association, Dindigul, whom Your Excellency has kindly consented to receive

this day, thank you for the opportunity now granted of laying before you directly the matter of roads and communications on the Pulney Hills, and in welcoming you to this district we venture to express a hope that you will be pleased to expedite matters in connection with the Atur-Kodaikáhal Ghât Road.

We do not consider it necessary to occupy Your Excellency's time in now going into statistics in connection with this matter, as we are aware that all the papers relating to this road have already been laid before Your Excellency's Council.

We would respectfully remind you that His Excellency Lord Wenlock, then Governor of Fort St. George, graciously received a deputation from the residents of the Pulney Hills at Kodaikáhal on 19th October 1895, when His Excellency was pleased to reply to the effect that he was afraid he could not hold out any hopes of our getting a carriage road. He had made enquiries and he was informed that a carriage road through Atur and the Lower Pulneys to Kodaikáhal would cost considerably over four lakhs of rupees, and neither the Government, nor the Madura District Board were in a position to spend so much.

His Excellency said, however, that it had been suggested as an alternative that a bridle path would be of very great use, that such a bridle path would cost only some eighty-five thousand rupees, and that the Madura District Board had expressed their willingness, if such a bridle path was made a present

to them by Government, to keep it up in a proper state of repair.

His Excellency said that from all enquiries he had made, he thought that such a bridle path would be of great use. The Lower Pulneys, he said, sent down a large amount of produce annually, and he thought from all he had heard that a good means of communication with the plains would be likely to enhance the value of the land there largely, and would turn it into a very valuable producing district.

We would mention to Your Excellency that we were given to understand that a small grant had been sanctioned in last year's budget towards the construction of this bridle path, but had been subsequently struck out owing to the straightened condition of Government finances in consequence of the famine. We trust, however, that the matter was then only temporarily postponed.

We would mention that we have reason to believe that the Government officials of this district are unanimous in acknowledging the need of communication between the Upper Pulneys and the plains, as well as the advisability and necessity of opening up outlets for the produce of the Lower Pulneys, and we would now pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to put in hand as speedily as possible the construction of this road, and would respectfully beg that if the Government still do not see their way to opening it up as a carriage road, they will do so as a bridle path as suggested by His Excellency Lord Wenlock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The result of our investigation may be set forth as follows:—It appears from inquiries made that the line already out *viâ* Paniakkadu, Tandikkadu and Manalur to the foot of the hills opposite Atur will best fulfil the primary object of opening up the Lower Pulneys. The continuation of such a road to meet the main part of Lam's Ghât would be of little benefit to Kodaikânal, which will still derive its supplies chiefly from Periyakulam. It is also considered that the improvement of the existing track by the construction of a new one from the foot of the hills to Atur is properly a work which the District Board can be expected to carry out. All that the Government can undertake, under the present circumstances, is to make the road between the village of Paniakkadu and the foot of the hills opposite to Atur. This road will be made at such a gradient that hereafter, when the amount of traffic justifies it, it can be widened sufficiently for cart traffic. I may add that, unfortunately, in our present financial position, it is not possible to promise you any immediate undertaking of the work; but when the estimates for the next financial year are under consideration, I would remember to bring it forward, and if it be possible, then to grant the estimates for the purpose, I shall be very glad to do so. I cannot make any positive promise. We really do not know what our financial position at that time may be. You must be perfectly well aware that the

Government of India, and consequently the Government of Madras, is in considerable financial straits at the present time, in consequence of the enormous expenditure we had to incur on the relief of distress throughout the country, and the present heavy drain on the resources of the empire owing to the wars that are proceeding on the frontier. And this is a matter which I very much deplore, inasmuch as it is evident to you and to me that it has the effect of retarding the development of works that are intended to promote the advancement of the country. You may rely upon my taking the very earliest opportunity of attending to this particular want of the Pulney Hills, which, as I told you, is fully recognised by Sir Henry Bliss and myself.

NATIVE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY'S ADDRESS.

We, as representing the Native Roman Catholic Community of the Madura District, 89,000 in number, venture to address Your Excellency and, as loyal subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of Great Britain and India, to express the satisfaction we all experience at this fresh occasion, which your kind visit affords us, of testifying, to Her representative in this Presidency, the very lively sense we entertain of the benefits we derive from Her Majesty's benign rule and from the liberty and protection granted to us both in the exercise of our Holy Religion as well as in regard to all those

other civil advantages that we enjoy in common with other happy subjects of the British Crown.

The very consciousness however of the ever-benevolent intention of our rulers towards us and the paternal attention they ever yield to any respectful appeal to their large hearted and even handed justice, emboldens us on the present occasion, when, as we understand, the question of a revision and amendment of the succession laws and duties is once more occupying the attention of the Legislative Council of India, to invite the attention of Your Excellency to the inequality of taxation upon the Christian Community, who are compelled by the provision contained in the Indian Succession Act (X of 1865) and the Administrator-General's Act (No. 11 of 1874), to obtain Probate or Letters of Administration in respect of all properties which they may inherit and to pay court-fees at 2 per cent. on the amount or value of such properties, whenever the estate is worth over Rs. 1,000.

We desire to point out that Mahomedans, Buddhists, Hindus (except in cases where the Hindu Wills Act applies) are not bound, under any law, to pay this tax.

This inequality and disadvantage we have now suffered for 30 years. Your Excellency will therefore see that the Christians do not make this appeal without valid cause for desiring an amendment of this law and only ask to be placed in the matter of Succession duties on equal terms with their fellow subjects who are not Christians.

We feel that, in thus representing this hardship, we shall have Your Excellency's sympathy and kind consideration, and it is with confidence, therefore, that we seize this opportunity of once again bringing it to the notice of our rulers with a view to obtain redress.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a pleasant and agreeable tour with long life and success in all your undertakings for the good of the people of this presidency and praying The Divine Bounty to bless and direct Your benevolent efforts to these ends, we beg to remain, with the renewed expression of our sentiments of continued loyalty and devotion to the British Throne, Your Excellency's most devoted servants.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

I receive with pleasure the address of welcome, which the Native Roman Catholic Community of the Madura District have presented to me. It is a matter of some surprise how very numerous your body is in this district. I had no idea that the Roman Catholic Community are as numerous as you represent. I am very glad to receive the expression of your appreciation of the security and the beneficence of British rule in this country. The disability under which you tell me you labour with regard to Succession duties is quite a new fact to me. I have not yet had time or opportunity to look into the details of the matter, but I promise you that that will be done in due course. I will

take the opportunity which now presents itself of the law with regard to Succession duties being before the Imperial Legislative Council to bring the matter to the attention of the Viceroy in Council, and you may understand I fully sympathise and am ready to give the best consideration to the hardship which you believe yourselves to be labouring under. In conclusion, I thank you for your kind wishes for myself and Lady Havelock, and I accept with pleasure the expression of your sentiments and your continued loyalty and affection to the British Throne.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MADURA TRADERS' ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — We, the members of the Madura Varthaka Paripalana Sabhah (Madura Traders' Association), beg respectfully to approach Your Excellency with this address of welcome to our city.

We pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to convey to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India our respectful sentiments of profound loyalty to the British Throne and our heartfelt gratitude to the British Government for the blessings of peace and prosperity we are enjoying under its benign sway.

We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity of Your Excellency's presence in our midst to lay before Your Excellency some of our wants, and request that

Your Excellency may be so good as to accord a favourable consideration to them.

We do not mean to travel over the grounds covered by the public address ; and we assure Your Excellency that the points touched upon therein are highly beneficial to us also.

The mercantile community of Madura feel the accommodation of the existing markets quite inadequate to the present increased and growing wants of the trade of this city. The existing markets were constructed long before the Town Improvements Act came into force to meet the then wants of this town which then contained a population of not more than 40,000 ; and now the population has more than doubled itself, and the commercial wants of the town have also increased in varied and manifold ways. As a partial remedy, a previous Collector of this district got from the Government, for the municipality, the old jail buildings and compound for the location of an additional vegetable market in the centre of the city. But the municipality, we regret to observe, has not chosen, for reasons best known to itself, to carry out the object of the original purchase. We request that Your Excellency may be pleased to order the immediate utilisation of the old jail buildings and compound for the intended vegetable market, and to order the construction of another market in the western portion of the city.

We beg leave to represent to Your Excellency, though with deep regret, that the Madura Municipal Council has lost the public confidence, and we are

constrained, therefore, to request that Your Excellency may exercise your power under the new District Municipalities Act to dissolve the Madura Municipal Council and to give a fresh start to the Madura Municipal administration.

We beg that Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to appoint one or two members of the Madura mercantile community as Honorary Magistrates for this city. The appointment of Honorary Magistrates for life is not calculated to advance the interests of justice, or to secure the confidence of the public in such administration.

The litigant public are put to great discomfort and inconvenience for want of proper accommodation near the Courts and offices in this city. Their difficulties have now increased owing to the location of several Courts and offices in one and the same building of the Tirumal Naik's Palace. We pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to sanction the construction of a suitable accommodation for suitors and parties.

In conclusion, we beg to thank Your Excellency for your condescension in permitting us to read this address of welcome, and we pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may be blessed with health, long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MADURA TRADERS' ASSOCIATION,—
Your address has only reached me a very short time ago, and I consequently had but little time to inquire

into the matters which it specially brings before me. The Collector has been able to inform me that the complaint you make with regard to the insufficiency of market accommodation is well founded, and I will request him to bring the matter more conspicuously to the notice of the Municipal Council with the suggestion that they should utilise the premises to which you allude as having been placed at their disposal. I am sorry to hear from you that the Madura Municipal Council has lost public confidence, but I am unable to adopt the very stringent measure which you suggest in your address. The Municipal Council already know from me that the Government do not consider their recent work as being altogether satisfactory. With regard to your request that Honorary Magistrates should be appointed for a term of years rather than for life, from the slight information that I am able to gather on the subject I am inclined to think that your remark has some reasonable foundation. I will have further inquiry made into the matter, and if anything can be done to improve the position of affairs in this respect, it shall be favourably considered. Your complaint with regard to accommodation for the litigant public has already been brought to the notice of the Government. I have no doubt that the time will come when we shall be able to take up this matter and put things on a better footing; but at present the financial position of the country makes it impossible to undertake any work upon which large sums of money must necessarily be expended.

ADDRESS FROM THE MADURA NATIVE COLLEGE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Committee of the Madura Native College, beg to offer Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a sincere and cordial welcome on the occasion of your visit to this institution.

The Committee wish to avail themselves of this opportunity to place before Your Excellency a short history of the origin and growth of the Madura Native College. There were two educational institutions in this city—one the Government College, and the other a High School, under the management of a Committee composed of some of the leading gentlemen of this place. When the Government College was abolished on the 1st January 1889, the Native High School Committee, at the request of the leading inhabitants of the district, offered to Government, through the then Director of Public Instruction, the late lamented Mr. H. B. Grigg, C.I.E., to open college classes in their High School, if the Government would be pleased to hand over the Government buildings to them. On the strong recommendation of a former Collector of the district, Mr. Edward Turner, the Government kindly accepted their offer and transferred to them not only the college buildings rent-free, but also all its furniture, library, and apparatus. The Native College was thus established in February 1889, and has been managed since by a Committee with the Collector of the district as their President.

The institution embraces four departments:—College, Upper Secondary, Lower Secondary and Primary,—and is open to all classes of the community. It has at present on its rolls 874 pupils with a staff consisting of 41 teachers. It is maintained from school-fee collections and from grants from Provincial and Municipal funds. It has a library of over 2,000 volumes, a gymnasium with a complete set of apparatus, a reading room, a debating society, a tennis court, and a foot-ball ground. Attached to the institution are one endowed scholarship called the Ramnad Rani Tamil scholarship awarded to the student that obtains the highest number of marks in Tamil at the First-in-Arts examination, and one endowed prize, the Nilakanta Sastri Gold Medal, given to the first Brahmin student who passes the F.A. examination in the first class.

The Committee beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that, ever since the institution came to be under their management, the responsible officers of Government who have visited the institution in the course of their official duties, have uniformly remarked upon the efficient state in which it has been kept up, and, in his latest proceedings on the working of the college, the Director of Public Instruction has congratulated the Committee on the satisfactory state of its finance, and has also expressed his pleasure at the creditable manner in which the institution has been maintaining itself.

The rapid development and the present flourishing condition of the college are mainly due to the

special encouragement which the Government has been pleased to extend to it from time to time. The strength of the institution was only 228, when it was first raised to the rank of a second-grade college. It doubled itself within the next two years. Additional accommodation became, therefore, absolutely necessary. The Director of Public Instruction promptly recognized the necessity, and strongly urged the Government to enlarge the building at its cost, as there was no Government College in the presidency to the south of Kumbakónam, and it was in the interests of the State to make this institution as efficient as possible. The Government acceded to his recommendation in a liberal spirit and sanctioned the proposed enlargement. This spacious hall, where we have the privilege of welcoming Your Excellency and the adjoining buildings, were then constructed and Lord Wenlock, Your Excellency's predecessor, did us the honour of opening them on the 9th November 1892.

While we fully appreciate the assistance and encouragement we have received from the Government we are thoroughly grateful for the same, we feel we shall be wanting in our duty if we fail to bring to Your Excellency's notice on this occasion two urgent needs, the supply of which is absolutely necessary to widen the sphere of its usefulness and make it fulfil all the objects of an educational institution.

The upward tendency shown by the several classes at the beginning has steadily continued and

the present total strength of the institution is 874 as already stated. The increase in the attendance and the introduction of free-hand drawing and phonography have made the accommodation available in the present buildings quite insufficient for the requirements of the college. The Committee have already resolved to move the Government, through the Director of Public Instruction, on the subject of the further enlargement of the college building, and, when the application comes before Your Excellency's Government, we beg Your Excellency will be pleased to accord a favourable consideration to our proposal and direct extension prayed for at Government cost.

It is scarcely necessary to mention that a hostel attached to the college will be a great blessing to the pupils, especially to those coming from out-stations in the district. The Committee propose to establish one; but their great difficulty lies in getting a suitable site by private purchase. The owners of neighbouring lands are unwilling to part with their property, and the aid of Government is necessary to acquire them under the Land Acquisition Act. Having regard to the public and useful character of the institution which it is in contemplation to establish, we beg Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to render all necessary help in the matter.

We respectfully beg to assure Your Excellency that, as in the past, we shall spare no pains to make the college worthy of the special favour which may be extended to it.

In conclusion, we beg to tender to Your Excellency and Lady Havelock our most heartfelt thanks for the very great honour you have done us by your visit to the college, and wish you both long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The history you have given of the rise and progress of the college testifies to the extremely rapid and successful growth; and this I may say has been mainly due to the excellent work of your Committee. One particular reason why this circumstance connected with the college gives great satisfaction to me and is a source of congratulation, is the fact that the Committee is entirely composed of Native gentlemen. It shows, at any rate in this instance, that Native gentlemen, unaided from assistance or influences from without, can do useful and particularly satisfactory work. Your college has developed into a full-blown institution comprising four departments—College, Upper Secondary, Lower Secondary and Primary—with 874 pupils, and a staff of 41 teachers. I can say at once that for the very large numbers which now belong to the college, the space is insufficient. When your application for extension comes before the Government, I can assure you it will be received with sympathy. But I am obliged on this occasion, as I had on many other recent occasions, to give you a note of warning that at the present time it may be necessary that we should give you a reply that no funds are available.

You mention the necessity of the establishment of a hostel in connection with the college. As you are probably aware the Government are fully aware of the immense advantage to be gained by attaching hostels and boarding houses to large educational institutions; and movements are on foot in Madras for carrying this out in connection with some institutions there. You next mention the want that you have for more space in the surroundings of the college, and you ask that I will endeavour to help you in the acquisition of land for this purpose. I can assure you, if, on examination, we find that we can properly and legally put into force the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act for the purpose you indicate that I will be very glad to further your views in the matter.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THE RAMNAD
ZEMINDARI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the Ramnad Zemindari, beg to approach Your Excellency on this auspicious occasion of your visit to this ancient city to welcome Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock, C.I., to the capital of our district. The many beneficent acts that have characterised Your Excellency's administration of this Presidency within the short period Your Excellency has been amongst us have endeared Your Excellency's name to our hearts, and it is with feelings of pleasure added to those

of duty that we come to pay our sincere homage to Your Excellency as the most worthy representative of the most worthy Sovereign that ever sat on the British Throne.

The gracious message which Your Excellency brought us from our Sovereign when Your Excellency assumed the reins of Government is still fresh in our minds and encourages us to come forward with the few requests we have to make.

The desirability of connecting Pámban with the mainland has been more than once recognised by the Government and, though the whole line has been surveyed at a large cost, the construction of the railway is not as yet an accomplished fact. This want is keenly felt by the myriads of pilgrims who resort to Ráméswaram from all parts of India, and Your Excellency's memorialists pray that Your Excellency, as the present Governor of Madras and as the late Governor of Ceylon, will kindly see to the early construction of this line which is fraught with unspeakable blessings to Southern India and Ceylon in the long run. The seriously bad state of the roads in the Zemindari deserves immediate attention. The want of communication by roads between important towns and industrial centres in the Zemindari, such as Keelakarai, Dévipatam, Darbhasayanam, Kamuthi, Muthukulatúr, Nayanar Coil and Paramagudi interferes with the progress of trade, and we beseech Your Excellency to take such steps as may be necessary to see that this long-felt want is attended to at an early date.

Your Excellency's memorialists further beg to bring to Your Excellency's kind notice the fact that the Rajah of Ramnad pays a road-cess of about Rs. 50,000 yearly from the Zemindari. This sum, if utilised for the construction and maintenance of the said roads, will, in Your Excellency's memorialists' opinion, be sufficient. But, if this sum be not found sufficient, we pray Your Excellency will kindly take into consideration the importance of the request, and direct that these roads be constructed from Imperial funds.

In conclusion, we invoke Heaven's choicest blessings on Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock, C.I.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency made a reply in regard to the Madura-Pámban line, similar to those that he had already given. As to the condition of the roads they referred to, he happened to have heard of it from people who had been interested in making pilgrimages to Ráméswarem, that roads between Madura and Pámban were exceedingly in bad state. That was a point on which they should address the District Board. It might be that the District Board were not aware of the conditions of things, and that a fair proportion of local funds might not be appropriated to the maintenance of the roads referred to. Such a thing as a grant from Imperial funds for the improvement of the trunk road was impossible, for with Imperial funds the local Government had

nothing to do. If by Imperial funds Provincial funds were meant by the memorialists, he could assure them that the means at the disposal of the Government of Madras were limited; and even the small sums they had for new works or improvement of roads were required for more pressing needs, and in more out-of-the-way and poorer districts of the province.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE SOURASHTRA COMMUNITY OF MADURA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Sourashtra community of Madura, most respectfully welcome Your Excellency and Lady Havelock to this ancient and historic city, the capital of the Pandyan Kingdom and the centre of weaving and dyeing industries in Southern India, for which it has been enjoying a special reputation from time immemorial.

Our ancestors, who originally inhabited the Kingdom of Sourashtra in the Province of Guzerat, left it for the Kingdom of Vijianagar in 1024 A.D. during the eventful siege of Somnath by Muhammad of Ghazni, as our peaceful and modest nature prompted us to seek a country undisturbed by any warlike commotions.

After leaving the Kingdom of Vijianagar, in response to an invitation from Tirumala Nayak, the greatest of the Nayak Princes, about the beginning of the seventeenth century of the Christian era,

we firmly settled ourselves as a colony of Aryan weavers in Madura; whence our kinsmen numbering nearly eighty thousand in the Madras Presidency proceeded to the neighbouring districts of Salem, Trichinopoly, Tanjore and Tinnevely.

Our special aptitude for industrial pursuits is so unique in its character that in our eagerness to develop our industrial skill, we have, to a great extent, neglected both our educational progress and our own language Sourashtram or Souraseni, a language mostly spoken but little written, though one of the Prakrit dialects of the great Aryan tongue—Sanskrit.

The indigenous industries of weaving and dyeing which were once in a flourishing condition have received a severe shock owing to the importation of alizarine and aniline dyes from Germany, of gilt thread from France, and of yarns of fine counts from Manchester.

It may be interesting to Your Excellency to hear that the water of the Vaigai river, especially after the success of the Periyár Project, has been pronounced by able German chemists, as best suited for the purposes of Turkey-red dyeing.

The masses, who eke out their livelihood by weaving and dyeing, have not a scientific knowledge of the industries which they practise. We, therefore, deem it necessary to suggest that the establishment of textile schools and technical dye-houses for imparting instruction in the said industries will be an effective mode of encouraging them

and the means of ameliorating the condition of the industrial classes.

We are fully alive to the kind care taken by Your Excellency towards the relief and protection of the weavers in the north, and we offer our heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency for this act of kindness and philanthropy.

We form 42 per cent. of the entire population of the city, and are recognised as a backward class in point of education; and we feel all the more grateful for all the kindness shown by Your Excellency in the shape of higher grants and scholarships to students of this community.

Considering the numerical strength and importance of our community, we earnestly pray Your Excellency that a special consideration may be shown us by conferring upon the deserving members of the community, fitting appointments, and thus a boon be conferred upon the class which would otherwise remain not only unrepresented in the public service but also foreigners to English, the one universal vernacular of the Indian Empire.

In conclusion, we pray for long life and prosperity to Your Excellency and Lady Havelock and for a continuance of the blessings of peace upon our country while it remains under Your Excellency's administration.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOURASHTRA COMMUNITY OF MADURA,—I beg you to accept my thanks for the

respectful welcome which you have given to Lady Havelock and myself to this ancient and historic city, which you remind me as the capital of the Pandyan Kingdom and the centre in Southern India of weaving and dyeing industries. You inform me that you form 42 per cent. of the population of this large city. It must, therefore, be fully admitted that you are an important section of the community, and one whose wants are deserving of the best attention. I may tell you that Her Majesty's Government look upon the development of industries and pursuits other than agricultural pursuits of this country which take up the time and the life of about four-fifths of the population, as things which should be fostered and encouraged in every possible way, agricultural pursuits of this country which take up the time and the life of about four-fifths of the population, as things which should be fostered and encouraged in every possible way. It is, therefore, with interest and sympathy I have listened to the remarks you have made with regard to your special industry in Madura. I have had an opportunity of seeing some of the work done in your manufactories, and though there is much to admire in it I am obliged to admit the truth of the remark that you made in one of your paragraphs that you have received a severe shock owing to the importation of alizine and aniline dyes from Germany. I wish you had strength to resist the temptation to use these objectionable foreign dyes. Your own ancient forms of dyeing are far superior and it

would, in my opinion, be for the benefit of your industry if you would continue to use those and endeavour to perfect them instead of expecting the importation of dyes from foreign countries. You make a very practical suggestion here as to the establishment of a school for improving your textile manufacture and teaching you something in technical dye-houses. The only difficulty is to form a really workable plan for any undertaking of that kind. If your body can suggest some scheme, details of which you should carefully think out and then submit it to Government, you will take my word for it that it will receive the very kindest attention from the Government. You mention that the water of the Vaigai is particularly suited for the dye known as Turkey-red. I am aware that the special colour needs the use of water possessing certain chemical qualities that exist somewhere in Dumbartonshire in Scotland. I have been told that the success of that dye is in part due to the quality of the water used, and it is a fortunate circumstance for you that the same valuable qualities are found in the water which you use in Madura. You ask that special consideration should be shown to your body by conferring upon the deserving members of your community fitting appointments. I may tell you that your Collector is anxious to do what he can in this way, and I entirely trust to him to look after such deserving members of your community as he may be able to find. The information that you gave of the origin of your community in

Madura is very interesting. I did not know until I heard your address that you are an off-shoot from Guzerat, and therefore foreigners to this country. During the course of the recent distress in the Deccan districts of the Madras Presidency, we have had to deal with a great deal of distress among the people of your class. During my visit to Adóni in February last, I saw industrious working of the weavers who were located there, and I was bound to confess that they were deserving of every assistance that we could reasonably give them. I think in the course of operations for resistance of the advance of famine in that part of the country, your class has been well protected and assisted. I have nothing more to add except to thank you for your good wishes for the prosperity and long life of myself and Lady Havelock.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MUHAM-
• MADAN COMMUNITY OF MADURA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Muhammadan community of Madura, beg leave to accord Your Excellency and Lady Havelock our heartiest welcome to this city, and to express to Your Excellencies our sincere thanks for the honour you have done us of accepting our humble address.

We, in common with the other subject races of this country, feel profoundly grateful for the manifold blessings we enjoy under the benign sway

of our Most Gracious Sovereign. We are deeply touched by the paternal care and solicitude always evinced by Government in matters affecting the well-being and prosperity of the Muhammadan population of India.

Ever since Your Excellency assumed the reins of Government of this presidency, Your Excellency's administration has been marked by that sturdy sense of justice and impartiality, which forms so distinguished a trait in the character of the British nation. It is to that same love of fair play we are indebted for the recent appointment, for the first time, of a competent Muhammadan gentleman to the responsible office of Sheriff of Madras, and another Mussalman to be the Revenue officer of the Madras Municipality. We crave permission to submit, for Your Excellency's favourable consideration, the propriety of conferring the post of Hindustani Translator to Government, upon a Muhammadan possessing the requisite qualifications.

Encouraged by Your Excellency's well-known readiness to listen to all honest representations of public opinion, we venture to invite Your Excellency's earnest attention to some of the chief wants and requirements of our community.

The paucity of Muhammadan element in the higher grades of the Judicial and Revenue branches of public service in this presidency is in striking contrast with the state of things obtaining in the sister Presidencies of Bombay, North-West Provinces and Bengal, where, it is well known,

Muhammadan gentlemen, appointed to situations of great trust and responsibility have acquitted themselves with conspicuous success and credit. We would humbly suggest to Your Excellency the desirability of reserving a certain proportion of the Subordinate and Presidency Small Cause Court Judgeships, to be filled exclusively by members of our community, duly qualified to hold the same. The practice of invariably appointing a Muhammadan to be one of the Presidency Magistrates of Madras, furnishes a precedent in support of our demand.

We beg leave to draw Your Excellency's special attention to the subject of representation of our community in the District and Taluk Boards and Municipalities. In view of the fact that in most of the mofussil towns, the Muhammadans form but a small proportion of the total strength of the population, we cannot hope to secure the election by vote of a sufficient number of Mussalmans to represent our interests in those Boards. We would, therefore, entreat Your Excellency to nominate, in exercise of the powers vested in Government, an adequate number of Muhammadans for the various Municipalities, District and Taluk Boards.

The intellectual condition of our community as compared with the progress achieved by the other subject races of India, is far from satisfactory, and is a source of serious anxiety to us. The growing poverty of the Muhammadans as a class, has mainly to account for the absence of vigorous and

well-sustained efforts to improve our position in this respect. It is hopeless to look to private benefactions alone to provide for our intellectual wants. We venture, therefore, to submit, for Your Excellency's kind and generous consideration, the desirability of Government taking the initiative in the matter, by starting a number of Muhammadan Boarding Schools teaching up to the Matriculation standard and financed and maintained by the State. If early effect be given to our humble proposal, we are confident that in course of time, private agencies will come forward and take up the control and management of these institutions, and dispense with any aid from Government.

In conclusion, we have again to thank Your Excellency for giving us this opportunity of representing our grievances in person, and to assure Your Excellency of our unswerving loyalty and devotion to our August Sovereign. We devoutly pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may be blessed with long life, health and happiness.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

You observe that since I have been the Governor of Madras I have appointed several Muhammadan gentlemen to offices of importance, notably I have filled the office of Sheriff of Madras and also that of the Revenue officer of the Madras Municipality. In doing this, I bore in mind the fact that the Muhammadan community have certainly been rather backward in filling the posts of this kind. But my

having done so, I think, hardly justifies you in claiming other appointments. The fact that you have got a good deal does not justify you in asking for more. I have already told many Muhammadans who met me on occasions of this kind that the Government has every wish to help them in every way and give them in every branch a fair share of the appointments and patronage that may be going. But we cannot go unfairly in this direction. You must remember that it is mainly to yourselves you must trust. You must look to your own efforts to qualify yourselves; you must not expect the Government to deal unfairly by the other bodies by giving posts to you for which you are not as well fitted as or better fitted than they are. With regard to your request that a larger number of Muhammadans should be appointed to various Municipalities, District and Taluk Boards, I may tell you that the Collectors throughout the presidency are perfectly well aware that the Government wish them to exercise a fair discretion in this matter by appointing a judicious proportion of men belonging to your community to those different bodies. I think if you examine the returns of appointments to such bodies, you will find that you are by no means neglected. You then deal with the question of education and dwell upon the deficiencies from which you think you suffer in this respect, and you advocate a number of Boarding Schools working up to the Matriculation standard, and say that these schools should be financed and maintained by the State. I may

observe that it may perhaps be desirable to have such schools, though it is very doubtful whether the Government should be called upon to maintain them, in any case at the present time. Government funds are limited, and we cannot undertake to open schools of this kind at the present moment. Then, as a matter of fact, I observe that the Muhammadan community is not wanting in wealthy landowners and merchants who could assist the more needy brethren amongst you. There is no reason why the Muhammadans, though behindhand in literary study, should not come to the front in technical education that has been just started by both parties, that is, by you and Hindus. If you Muhammadans rouse yourselves and start at once, there is no reason why you should ever fall behind in technical education, as undoubtedly you have allowed yourselves to do in literary education. It is with satisfaction that I receive from you the repetition of the declaration of your unswerving loyalty and devotion to our August Sovereign Her Majesty. Our Muhammadan subjects all over the world are specially loyal, and in this Presidency of Madras, we have the most absolute confidence in your loyalty and affection to our Gracious Sovereign.

ADDRESS FROM THE PUPILS OF THE MADURA
TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the pupils of the Technical Institute, Madura, beg to

accord Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a hearty welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to our school.

This institute, which is under the management of the District Board, embraces three departments—one for the training of teachers, one for the teaching of industries and drawing, and one for imparting instruction in improved methods of agriculture.

In the Training department we receive instruction up to the lower secondary grade. In a district such as Madura, where education is in a backward state, we find it next to impossible to start and maintain schools of our own in consequence of the poor income that we get in the shape of fees and grants. We beg that more Board schools may be opened and maintained for some years to come with better salaries than are now allowed. We venture to submit that when, as the result of this measure, elementary education shall have made some progress, the Board may gradually withdraw from the management of these schools handing them over to private bodies.

Those of us in the Industrial department are taught one or other of the following industries to enable us to pass the Government Technical examinations of the intermediate grade:—

(1) Cabinet-making with carpentry as second industry.

(2) Blacksmith's work with fitter's work as second industry.

(3) Hammered work and casting in copper, brass and bell-metal.

(4) Rattan work (up to Standard D) which is the highest Government test.

We are also prepared for the Lower Secondary examination in general education and for a group certificate in drawing.

We beg to take this opportunity to publicly express our gratitude to the District Board for having, with the assistance of Your Excellency's Government, provided us with a course of instruction which, while it has made us realize the dignity of labour, is sure to enable us to earn an honest and independent living.

There are at present no Government examinations, nor a syllabus to guide the course of instruction in metal work. But our benign Director of Public Instruction, to whom we are ever bound to be grateful for the great interest he has always been evincing in the promotion of technical education, has already arranged for the preparation of a syllabus as in the case of other industries, and we humbly trust that it will soon be brought into operation.

Technical education is still in its infancy, and the pupils that pass out of institutions like this will continue to need special encouragement for some time to come, till their work comes to be appreciated by the general public and their patronage is secured. We, therefore, humbly pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to direct the railway authorities to

give preference, whenever vacancies arise in their Locomotive department, to those who have received a training in Industrial schools and have passed the Government examinations in industries and drawing.

Such of us as are in the Agricultural department receive but an elementary course of instruction. This department of the institute is, however, about to be re-organised by the District Board, and we hope that when it is re-organised its sphere of usefulness will be enlarged.

In conclusion, we beg to thank Your Excellency most heartily for having been graciously pleased to allow us to approach Your Excellency with this our humble address. We pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may be blessed with a long life of usefulness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The real difficulty with technical education, as it is with many other matters, is to give it a practically useful turn and not entirely a theoretical one. I am rather inclined to think from the work which I have seen here to-day, all turned out by the students of the school, that you have given a practical turn to the work. Some of your iron work and your brass work pleased me very much. You talk of Madura being in a backward state with regard to education. I should have hardly thought that that was the case from what I have seen. With regard to giving you larger grants and opening more Board schools

FOURTH TOUR.

which you suggest in your address, I must remind you that the funds of the District Board and also the Provincial funds are limited, and there are large claims for other kinds of expenditure, such as hospitals, water-supply, and drainage, some of which call imperatively for our attention, and when these are met, I am afraid it will be some time before there is any money to be spent on education. I observe that there is no syllabus to guide the course of instruction in metal work. This seems to me a matter to be regretted, but I have no doubt, as you hint in your address, that the Director of Public Instruction will soon see to the application of a remedy for this defect. You ask that preference may be given when vacancies arise in the Locomotive department of the South Indian Railway to those who have received training in Industrial schools and have passed Government examinations in industries and drawing. I am afraid this request is not in my power to grant or support. The management of the railways, you ought to know, is not in the hands of Government; even if it were, I do not think it would be quite fair on the railway to compel them to take without their consent artisans of any particular training or of any particular place.

SETUPATI HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS.

We, the members of the Setupati High School Committee, Madura, most humbly beg leave to •

approach Your Excellency with this our loyal address during Your Excellency's visit to this ancient city.

This institution was called into existence in January 1889 under the designation of "The Town High School, Madura." It has, from the very beginning, been slowly and steadily rising in public estimation and has won the sympathetic support of the Educational department.

Moral and religious instruction forms an important feature in the curriculum of the school; and, with a view to widen the sphere of its usefulness, a Girls' school has been opened which has already gained immense popularity in the city.

The school, with its feeders, counts on its rolls 800 pupils and is maintained at a high cost, with an efficient staff, five of whom are Graduates in Arts.

With the gradual increase of strength arose an imperative necessity for a suitable local habitation for the school; and the appeal of our citizens to the Rajah of Ramnad for help, in this direction, had more than the desired effect. This noble prince, whose munificence is well-known, gave a ready and generous response to the call, and it is to his great kindness that the present success of the school is principally due.

We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our deep sense of gratitude to Your Excellency for sanctioning a liberal building grant of Rs. 3,821 which is a sixth of the total estimated cost of the building.

We shall be wanting in our duty, if, on this occasion, we fail to publicly give expression to our heartfelt gratitude to the benevolent Rajah for his princely donation of Rs. 8,000 towards the cost of the new school house, now under construction, with a promise to supplement this amount, if this sum with the Government and Municipal grants should be found inadequate for the purpose.

Your Excellency will be pleased to learn that, for ensuring the stability of the school, the Rajah has, for many years, been contributing a decent allowance to meet the deficit in the school funds. We are proud to be able to announce that he has reckoned this institution as one of the fittest objects of charity deserving of substantial support from the Samasthanam charity funds; and, as an expression of our gratefulness for all his kindness, the school has been named "The Setupati High School, Madura," with the kind approval and sanction of the Director of Public Instruction.

It may also be gratifying to Your Excellency to learn that the Rajah Setupati has, in token of his deep loyalty and devotion to the imperial throne, and out of philanthropic motives on behalf of the vast numbers of poor Muffusil students studying in this institution, attached a hostel to the school for the different important sections of the Hindu Community, on the happy occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India; and, to place it on a solid footing, he has sanctioned a monthly allotment of Rs. 300.

entitled "The Diamond Jubilee Grant" from the permanent charity funds of his Samasthanam.

In conclusion, while joining our countrymen in the public demonstrations of joy at Your Excellency's august presence in our midst, we sincerely thank Your Excellency for the extreme kindness and cordiality with which Your Excellency has been pleased to grace this institution with a visit and accept this our most humble address, and pray for the long life and prosperity of Your Excellency and Lady Havelock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE SETUPATI HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MADURA,—I thank you for the kind address which you have just read and which I accept with much pleasure. The history which you have given me of the origin and progress of this school is very interesting. I see that it dates from the year 1889, which also is the date of the commencement of another large educational institution which I visited this morning. Therefore, within the period of about 8 years, these two large institutions, combining between them and teaching somewhere about 1,600 children, have come into existence and advanced to a considerable degree of eminence. I have heard with satisfaction your statement of the munificence with which the Rajah of Ramnad has endowed the different departments of the school, and I take this opportunity of pointing out the very great benefits that noblemen and landowners in the position of the Rajah of Ramnad are

capable of doing to their country and to their countrymen. It is a class of Her Majesty's subjects in this part of Her Dominions, whose services in this respect the Government very highly value for the good of the country and for the good of their countrymen. We wish to see all big landowners and noblemen hold their position honourably and well before the world. They are capable of doing a real benefit to the country, setting a good example in all respects. I thank you for the demonstration of respect and of kindness which you have shown in welcoming me here to-day and for the elegant preparation which you have made for my reception. It gives me great pleasure to see the great number of children standing before me, and it makes a very pretty sight indeed. I assure you it has been a pleasure to me to make the acquaintance of the school and I conclude my remarks by thanking the Committee for their kind wishes for Lady Havelock and myself.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MADURA UNION CLUB.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Madura Union Club, beg leave to welcome Your Excellency and Lady Havelock to this our institution, and thank Your Excellency for your kindness in accepting our humble invitation to visit it.

Ever since this Club was founded in 1882, under the auspices and cordial co-operation of the Honourable Mr. C. S. Crole, who was then the Collector of Madura, it has enjoyed the rare honour of owning, as its patrons, Your Excellency's predecessors in office, and we esteem it a proud privilege to have been favoured with Your Excellency's distinguished patronage.

Before we touch upon matters which more immediately concern us, we feel it our duty to convey through Your Excellency our grateful thanks to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, the members of the Royal Family, and the whole British nation for their genuine sympathy with the suffering millions of this country during the recent famine, and the cheerful promptitude with which they have so generously responded to our appeal for help. Our thanks are specially due to Your Excellency's Government for adopting measures that afforded prompt and adequate relief to the affected parts of our presidency. We are sincerely rejoiced to find that Your Excellency is visiting the Southern districts at a time when the fears of famine have almost disappeared and our agricultural prospects are beginning to brighten owing to the recent copious showers of rain we have had in these parts.

We in common with the other districts of the presidency fully recognise and gratefully appreciate the humane and sympathetic spirit which has prompted Your Excellency's Government in

recently promulgating certain orders for the guidance of the officers of the Forest Department. Indications are not wanting that the orders in question have produced a salutary result in removing the misconception regarding the extent of the restriction to be imposed upon the rights of the people in the matter of collecting fuel and the grazing of cattle in the Government forests. In an essentially agricultural country like India, where nearly four-fifths of the population depend for their subsistence upon the produce of the soil, it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of allowing the poorer classes free access to the adjoining forest tracts for gathering leaves for manure, and procuring pasture for their live stock.

The Local and Imperial Governments have earned for themselves the undying gratitude of the people of this district by the vigour and energy with which they successfully carried out what was at one time considered even by experts to be a hopeless and almost superhuman undertaking, viz., the Periyár Project. All honour is due to Colonel Pennycuik, R.E., C.S.I., and those who were associated with him in the accomplishment of that stupendous task. Its completion bears eloquent testimony to their dauntless courage and perseverance, while the project itself will remain for all time one of the greatest triumphs of engineering skill. The opening of the Periyár Project marks the dawn of a new era in the material progress and prosperity of our district, and under the stimulus

which it is certain to impart to agricultural operations, we are sanguine that scarcity and famine will, ere long, have become but a memory of the past. While we are on this subject, we would respectfully submit, for Your Excellency's favourable consideration, the desirability of entrusting the officers of the Revenue Department with a large measure of control over the regulation and distribution of the Periyár water for purposes of irrigation.

We do not intend to tire Your Excellency with a reiteration of our wants and grievances, as these have been already set forth in detail in the public address presented to Your Excellency yesterday morning. We would, however, crave Your Excellency's permission to refer to a few matters which demand the special attention of Your Excellency's Government. First and foremost, among them, is the establishment of agricultural banks at convenient centres throughout the presidency in general, and particularly in our district. Considering the growing indebtedness of the poorer classes of the peasantry and their lack of means to enable them to fully realize the benefits of the Periyár water the necessity for these banks cannot be too strongly insisted on, and their establishment at an early date will form an appropriate sequel to the opening of the Periyár Project.

We would next invite Your Excellency's earnest attention to the extreme urgency of taking in hand the construction, among others, of the two proposed

lines of railway—the one from Madura to Pámban, and the other from Dindigul to Palghat. It is hardly necessary for us to trouble Your Excellency with pointing out in detail the numerous benefits that are certain to result from the opening of these lines. We beg leave, however, to mention here that while the Madura-Pámban line equally with the other branch would tend to develop the material resources of the country by opening up fresh arteries of communication and transport between important trade centres, the former line is more imperatively called for in the interest of the countless hosts of pilgrims from all parts of India who almost all the year round resort to the sacred shrine at Ráméswaram.

We are grateful to know that the limited measure of representation in the Local Legislative Councils, recently conferred upon us, has, under Your Excellency's sympathetic encouragement, been steadily growing in strength and usefulness, and we may be permitted to hope, will soon have the way for further and more momentous concessions. In view of the highly educative value attending a more frequent exercise of the privilege of interpellation in the Council, and the undoubted benefits accruing both to the rulers and the ruled by bringing them into closer touch with each other, we would humbly urge upon Your Excellency the desirability of holding Sessions of the Council during the annual sojourn of Government on the hills at such time as may suit the convenience of the non-official members.

We should be failing in our duty, if we did not avail ourselves of this opportunity of bringing to Your Excellency's notice the present backward condition of female and primary education in this as well as in other districts of the presidency. Our Municipalities and Local Boards, with the ever-increasing demands upon their limited resources, can scarcely be expected to make adequate provision to meet the requirements of these branches of education. The Honourable the Director of Public Instruction has repeatedly pointed out that the progress of female education in this presidency must necessarily be slow unless and until additional funds are provided for its development. We sincerely hope that Your Excellency will ere long recognise the paramount claims of both primary and female education upon State aid without prejudice to the support and encouragement that the department of higher education has hitherto enjoyed at the hands of Government. Intimately connected with the elementary education of the masses is the subject of technical instruction. We feel fully persuaded that until Government are pleased to bestow upon the question of technical training that amount of care and attention which the superlative importance of the subject demands, India can never hope to take that place in the scale of nations to which her extraordinary natural resources so justly entitle her. We confidently trust that it may be reserved to Your Excellency to signalize your rule by inaugurating a new era of industrial progress in this presidency.

We are happy to note that the partial effect given to the scheme regarding the separation of the Judicial from the Revenue functions has already begun to bear good fruit. Any difference of opinion that may have once existed as to the expediency of the measure has given place to a full and complete recognition of the manifold advantages to the people from entrusting the two functions to two distinct officers. We pray that Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to effect a more thorough separation undeterred by any consideration of financial difficulties.

Our presidency is singularly fortunate in having for its ruler a liberal and enlightened statesman, who by his judicious moderation and love of fair play and justice has endeared himself to the millions committed to his charge and has added a fresh lustre to the noblest traditions of his exalted office.

We entreat Your Excellency to convey to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress our humble tribute of unswerving loyalty and to assure Her Majesty that in all her world-wide Empire there breathes not a people more devoted to Her August Person and Her Illustrious Throne than the inhabitants of the Presidency of Madras.

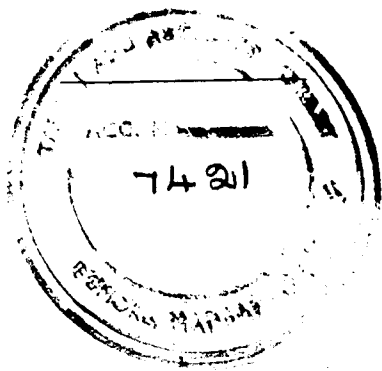
We sincerely trust and hope that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock will carry away with you pleasant recollections of your visit to this ancient and historic city.

In conclusion, we beg again to thank Your Excellency for your gracious condescension in visiting

this Club, and fervently pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may be blessed with long life, health and happiness.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

I congratulate the whole district of Madura upon the results of the magnificent Periyár scheme. The river which we crossed in coming to this Club gives ocular demonstration of the enormous dimensions of the results of that work. The river which, I believe in former times at this season of the year, was almost running dry, is now almost full from brink to brink. You touch in your address upon many points of importance and interest, but I will not attempt at this late period of the evening to deal with them; in fact, I am not prepared to do so, because your address came into my hands for preparation in the course of to-day, and my time was taken up. But you may be sure that although this is the case, all that you said will receive the best and fullest consideration.



ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

FIFTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

MADRAS:

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE DELEGATES OF KOLLEGAL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned delegates of Kollegal, beg to approach Your Excellency with this our humble address on behalf of the Kollegal public, and in doing so to thank you sincerely for the kindness and condescension shown in allowing us to present the same.

2. Kollegal taluk, which is situated in the extreme north of the district, forms an isolated tract of country differing in language, manners and customs from the other parts of the district and closely resembling the adjoining Province of Mysore. The distance between Kollegal and the head-quarters of the district (which is more than 110 miles by road and 340 miles by railway) and between it and the nearest railway station (Maddur) which is no less than 40 miles renders its isolation more marked. The town, in point of size and population, fairly holds its own with the other towns of the district with the exception of the head-quarter town of Coimbatore, and is second to none in point of interest and importance. The famous Sivasamudram falls within 10 miles of the town, the Cauvery river, with its banks abounding in rich and varied scenery, the forest-topped hills all round with patches of

coffee plantations, the silk-weaving industry (the samples of which were exhibited to Your Excellency at Coimbatore last year), the gold-mines (which, though in a prospective stage, give promise of success)—these render the place remarkable. But the absence of railway communication has left it till now in an obscurity which it by no means deserves.

3. We do not desire to tire Your Excellency within the short time so graciously accorded to us with any detailed statement of the wants and grievances of the people of our taluk. We only beg to lay before Your Excellency some of our most pressing wants which, we trust, will be found deserving of Your Excellency's consideration :

(i) The foremost want that we feel is the absence of an adequate system of irrigation. At present we have only a few rain-fed tanks not capable of containing sufficient supply of water for irrigation purposes.

When the monsoon fails all our lands lie waste. Although the river Cauvery runs through the taluk, very little use can be made out of it in the absence of an anicut-channel leading therefrom. Proprietors of lands situated above and below the river in the Province of Mysore and in the districts of Trichinopoly and Tanjore are the persons mostly benefited by it, and we regret that we are not able to participate in its advantages. There is an anicut 8 miles from Kollegal in the Mysore territory, which, by a channel now fallen into disuse, appears to have irrigated an extensive area. If the anicut is strengthened

and the channel re-constructed they will immensely benefit both the Mysore and the British territories. For about the first three miles the channel will irrigate the Mysore villages alone, but afterwards it will irrigate large areas of British territory and tend to improve their condition. The project of re-constructing the channel is now under investigation by the Engineering Department. We earnestly pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to accord to the subject the favourable consideration which it deserves.

(ii) The want of a telegraph office at Kollegal has long been felt both by the official and non-official public. Important messages, however urgent they are, have now to be sent by ordinary post either to Mysore or Chamarajanagar, the former of which is about 35 miles and the latter 22 miles from Kollegal. A representation on the subject was made to the Director-General of Telegraphs at Calcutta last year, but he required a guarantee of Rs. 900 per annum for a period of five years before sanctioning the proposal. The guarantee demanded appeared to be far in excess of the actual requirements; but rather than being left without the advantages of a Telegraph office, the people offered to furnish the required guarantee, and have recently submitted a petition to the Collector for transmission to Your Excellency in Council. We pray that the matter may be expedited and that the opening of a Telegraph office may be an accomplished fact before the next busy trade season commences. Sometime

back when there was an apprehension of famine in Kollegal and the people were anxious about their food supplies, the absence of telegraphic means of communication for ordering their stock from foreign districts was very much felt. We now pray that we may be provided with improved means of communication before a similar calamity threatens us at some future time.

(iii) The present postal arrangements are, we respectfully beg to submit, most defective. The most important mail arriving at Kollegal is that which comes from Bangalore, Coimbatore, Madras, Bombay and other centres of business. This mail which arrives at 11 A.M. at Maddur (which is only 40 miles from Kollegal by the direct route) is now unnecessarily carried to Mysore by rail over a distance of 46 miles, and thence by road by runners *via* Narsipur over a distance of 35 miles. The continuance of this circuitous route is, we submit, wholly without justification. The mail is now delivered sometimes in the forenoon and sometimes in the afternoon of the following day and during monsoon months the arrival and delivery thereof are extremely irregular. Apart from the delay incidental to this circuitous route, there is at times risk to the mail itself owing to the defective ferry arrangements at places where rivers have to be crossed during *nights*. All such delay, risk and inconvenience could be easily obviated by bringing the mail direct from Maddur to Kollegal by the easiest and shortest route practicable, viz., by the Maddur-Kollegal route which

passes over the excellent bridges at Sivasamudram, and if arrangements are made with one of the transit companies to carry the mail in a pony transit which plies daily between Maddur and Kollegal, the delivery of mail in the same evening instead of on the following day can be assured. The matter is, we believe, now engaging the attention of the Postal Department, but should Your Excellency be so pleased as to order early action in the matter, you will have placed the people under a deep debt of gratitude.

(iv) The absence of railway communication is a standing obstacle to the development of local industries and natural resources of the taluk. We understand that a line from Nanjangode to Erode was in contemplation and was once considered fit to be taken up as a famine protective work; but we are not aware in what stage the matter remains at present. We shall be extremely obliged to Your Excellency for any help which it may be possible to render in promoting it.

In conclusion, we offer our most heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency for the kindness and patience with which you have listened to our grievances, and extremely regret that it has not been our good fortune to welcome you and Lady Havelock into our town. We, however, hope that we shall be able to do so at some future time.

Wishing you and Lady Havelock long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN AND DELEGATES FROM KOLLEGAL,—I receive your address with pleasure, and I feel gratified at your having travelled such a long distance for the purpose of meeting me, and I am the more pleased because it has given me an earlier opportunity of making in some way the acquaintance of Kollegal; otherwise, I fear that the difficulty of access to your town and its remote situation might have deferred till a late period in my government of the Presidency the visit to your district and town. I am much obliged to you for the information you have given me with respect to the circumstances of Kollegal town and taluk. I was aware from my experience of last year at Coimbatore, that there is a considerable silk-weaving industry, and I am much pleased with the very handsome specimen of your industry which you have just given me with the address. Kollegal is also familiar to me in connection with the prospecting for gold-mining which is taking place in the neighbourhood. This prospecting for gold-mining has been a matter of great interest and solicitude to me. I most sincerely hope that before long we shall see it developed, and that it will attract capital and employ labour in the same way as the important mines in the neighbouring State of Mysore are now doing. I was not aware until you told me that your town was so very important in respect of its size and population. You tell me that it ranks next in importance to Coimba-

tore, the head-quarters of the district. It makes me all the more pleased to receive the representatives of such an important locality. I will now endeavour to the best of my ability to answer the various points upon which you touch in your address. The copy of your address only reached me yesterday, and in the absence of any records I have not been able to ascertain for myself the exact facts with regard to the different points. But you are good enough in the course of your address to give me considerable information, and, assuming the correctness of that, I will do my best to reply to you. The first point you touch upon is the absence of an adequate system of irrigation. You suggest the institution of a work which appears to have been in existence, and the restoration of which you consider would be of great benefit to some portion of the Mysore territory, but more especially to your own district. You inform me—of which I must admit I was not aware—that the project of reconstructing the channel is now under investigation by the Engineering Department. I am very glad to hear that this important work has reached that stage. I can promise you now, that on my return to Madras, I will make it my duty to become acquainted with the situation and position of the investigation to which you allude, and if I find that it is likely to be a successful one and within the range of our financial means, you may rest assured that it will receive my best attention. Everything connected with the irrigation system of this part of

India has my warm sympathy, and I believe that the extension of the irrigation system of the Presidency is one of the most important points to which the Government can devote its attention having in view the protection from famine. You next speak of the want of a telegraph office at Kollegal, and, in fact, your address is mainly composed of representations with respect to means of communication and improvements in postal and telegraph intercourse with the outer world. I am in full sympathy with you in all the wants which you seem to feel. You appear already to have got the matter of a telegraph office into a tolerably prominent position. And as I have already said with respect to the irrigation work to which you have alluded, I now say with respect to telegraph communication, that I will, on my return to Madras, inform myself of the present situation. If it is in my power to further and hasten its consummation you may trust to my doing my best in the matter. I must admit that from your description the postal arrangements, which prevail between Kollegal and the rest of India, are most unsatisfactory. From what you tell me, it seems quite possible that they may be simplified and facilitated. You may be quite sure that I will use my best endeavours with the Postal authorities who are, you must remember, not under the control of the Madras Government but under the control of the Supreme Government, to give you some advantage and assistance in this matter. You next speak of the absence of railway communication with Kollegal,

and that you are isolated from Coimbatore and the district. I can well understand that as men of enterprise, as you seem to be, you have very much at heart the connection of your town with the railway. I may at once tell you, without divulging any secret, that the question of the line from Nanjangode to Erode has for some time past been a matter for discussion. It has advanced as far as an application for a survey of the line. That application will very soon, I hope, be in the hands of the Government of India, who deal with such matters, and I have great hopes that as far as that line is concerned the consummation of your wish for a railway may be within measurable distance. But I think it only fair to tell you that the programme of the Government of India for railway construction is such as probably to prevent the actual undertaking and carrying out of this work for some few years to come. I cannot promise you that it will ever be undertaken, but if it be decided upon and carried out, you must be prepared, on account of want of money and the appropriation of available funds by the Government of India, for a considerable delay in the construction of this particular line. I thank you for your kind welcome and for your expression of a wish that I may some day visit your district and town. You may be sure that if time and opportunity make that possible, I shall have the greatest pleasure in carrying it out. Gentlemen, I thank you once again for the trouble you have taken in coming this long distance to welcome

me and to present this statement of the wants of your town and district; and if I can, as I have already said, comply with them in full or to any extent, it will afford me the greatest satisfaction.

ADDRESS FROM THE EURASIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF MYSORE AND COORG (LIMITED).

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association of Mysore and Coorg (Limited), desire most heartily to welcome Your Excellency on this your first visit to Bangalore. Although this Civil and Military station does not form a portion of the Presidency of which Your Excellency has charge, there is a strong connection between the two, and this place is used as a sanitarium for the whole of Southern India. We, therefore, welcome you not only as being the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty, but as a Ruler whose proceedings we are as well acquainted with as though we formed a portion of the population under your charge. The community we represent is a large and increasing one. A single drive through the station will enable Your Excellency, in consultation with the British Resident, to form an idea of the number and condition of the Anglo-Indian inhabitants; but this large number is not to be accounted for simply by the increase of the people who have made the place a home for years; but

by the influx from outside. By reason of the excellence of the climate and the many educational and other material advantages the station affords, pensioners and others settle down here from all parts of India, and more especially from the Madras Presidency—in fact, Anglo-Indians in the Uncovenanted Service of the Madras Government, look forward to settling down in Bangalore on retirement, in the same manner that members of the Civil Service determine to spend the remainder of their lives in England: the result is that the population is constantly receiving accessions, and it frequently happens that on the death of a pensioner, the members of his family are left destitute. As your Excellency is aware this is a Military station, and soldiers often marry without leave, and owing to the short term service, return to England leaving their families behind and unprovided for. It is not easy to find a remedy, and we respectfully submit that these are eminently cases for the consideration and help of Government—the children of such marriages add considerably to the difficulty of solution of the Anglo-Indian problem in Bangalore. The Association which we represent, find it very hard to meet this difficulty; and although it may be said that we have no legal claims for assistance, pecuniary or otherwise, on the Presidency administered by Your Excellency; still we respectfully venture to submit, that on moral and equitable grounds, Your Excellency's Government should accept the responsibility of helping and fostering

such institutions in Bangalore, as are likely to benefit the condition of the community we represent. There are few manufactures in the station, and although many young men go to other places to seek the means of livelihood; owing to their ignorance of Arts, Manufactures and Industries their efforts are fruitless. It is indubitable that it is owing to the lack of practical as opposed to theoretical technical education, that the vast majority of young men are unable to obtain employment, while others have to take service that yields the smallest remuneration and is generally not of a permanent nature. In this connection we submit, that the scheme most germane to the amelioration of such a lamentable condition of affairs, is the much advocated, but heretofore unrealised, establishment of technical classes, to equip the rising generation with the technical knowledge necessary to fight the battle of life. It is the earnest desire of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association to put such technical teaching within the reach of young men, that they may be able to obtain employment, and thus become independent and self-respecting citizens. But means are wanting; and unless we are afforded extraneous help, this scheme which would result in unspeakable advantages and benefit to our community cannot be given practical effect to for want of funds. Under these circumstances, we approach Your Excellency with the object of eliciting the views on this important matter of the Ruler of the large Province with which we are so intimately con-

nected, as to whether Your Excellency is of opinion that such a scheme is practicable in Bangalore and, if so, to what extent Government is prepared to foster it—such information would prove invaluable to us. In conclusion we once more desire to welcome Your Excellency to this station and pray that every blessing may attend Your Excellency and Lady Havelock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg you in the first place to accept my warm thanks for your kind words of welcome on this occasion of my first visit to Bangalore. I understand that the Association to which you belong, which was founded about 18 years ago, has for its objects the promotion of the political, social and intellectual advancement, primarily, of its members, and secondarily of others eligible for membership and of their own interests. And I understand that not long after the Association was formed with the object of furthering these ends, the settlements at Whitefield and Sausmond in the neighbourhood of Bangalore were started. The results of these settlements, so far as I can ascertain, though not altogether unsatisfactory, have not fulfilled in most respects the exact objects for which they were intended. As far as they go, the objects of this Association do not seem to have been satisfactorily or fully carried out. I am perfectly well aware, not only from what you have told me to-day, but from many representations made to me since I have

been in Madras, of the struggle for life which exists among the Anglo-Indian and Eurasian population, and I understand that the members of that population are increasing and that this struggle for life is growing harder day by day. This undoubtedly is the problem which we should endeavour to solve, and I must admit that all efforts towards that, hitherto, have not been successful. I shall be very happy if the meeting we are holding to-day has any results in this right direction. I know that the sympathy which is felt for your wants and aspirations is widespread, and I know that there are many who will be glad to help you ; but the difficulty is as to how to help. Therefore, if you can help me in this direction you will be doing a service to those whom you represent. I notice in the address which has just been read that you look to a practical system of industrial training as a remedy for the unfortunate state of affairs to which you have drawn attention. You say in one paragraph of your address that "there are few manufactures in the station, and although many young men go to other places to seek the means of livelihood, owing to their ignorance of arts, manufactures and industries, their efforts are fruitless. It is indubitable that it is owing to the lack of practical as opposed to the theoretical technical education, that the vast majority of young men are unable to obtain employment, while others have to take service that yields the smallest remuneration and is generally not of a permanent nature." Now it is very easy to say

that you believe that a practical system of technical education will have this beneficial result, and for you to say that it is indubitable that it is the absence of such a system of education which is the cause of the evils which beset the community ; but I think we are bound to look into the real practical facts and the results. I feel it right to tell you that, as far as I am able to judge from the practical results of what has been attempted in the way of technical and industrial education in this Presidency, that the results with regard to your community have not shown a great measure of success. You have all heard, no doubt, of the Lawrence Asylum at Ootacamund. I am intimately acquainted with that institution. It contains various classes, the object of which is to impart practical technical teaching. There is a class for the teaching of telegraphy ; there is a class for the teaching of music, principally for supplying such music as used in bands ; there is a class for tailoring, another for shoemaking and another for carpentry. I have gone carefully into the results which have attended the practice of these classes for a good many years, and I am constrained to say that for the most part the results have been most disappointing. The telegraphy class is the only one which has succeeded in opening out a career for those who enter that school, for that class sends out a few boys as artisans ; but with regard to the others, tailoring, the blacksmiths' and carpentry classes, I regret to say that, as far as my recollection goes, these

classes have hardly provided as many workmen belonging to the various trades in which they have been trained in the industrial school as I have fingers on my hand; so much so that the committee of the Lawrence Asylum, convinced of this failure, have had for some time past under consideration whether those classes should not be closed and abandoned as being a waste of time and waste of money. So far for the practical results of the industrial teaching in the Lawrence Asylum. But I would come nearer home and mention the attempt that has been made in Bangalore. I am told that a technical school has been established here which has been in receipt of a small grant from the Civil and Military station revenues and that it is doing well; but that it is not being patronised by others than natives, the reason given being that it is probably because it is entirely under native management. And one reason given for Europeans and Eurasians not joining it is that the hours of attendance are not suitable. It seems to me the excuse for not making use of a school within the reach of the Eurasian inhabitants of Bangalore, that the hours of attendance are not convenient, is a very shallow excuse. If there had been a strong desire to make use of such education brought within their reach, surely they could have got over the difficulty of unreasonable hours of attendance; and I must say that any representation to the management on the matter would have secured better arrangements. I am afraid my words are

discouraging to you, but I have to say so because this matter is a serious one; because the establishment of such an institution as you advocate in Bangalore would be an expensive matter, and public funds will have to be laid out. Before I, or any other responsible person, could venture to undertake such a thing, we must be fully satisfied that we have a good foundation to work upon and that we have a hopeful sphere of work before us. If such a work as you advocate were decided upon, I think there is very little doubt that Bangalore would supply advantages which other places in South India do not possess. You have drawn attention to the excellence of climate, to the large number of Anglo-Indians and Eurasians who inhabit Bangalore and its neighbourhood bearing a considerable proportion, about one-seventh, of the whole Anglo-Indian and Eurasian population of the Madras Presidency. I think, moreover, the population is a rapidly increasing one. For these reasons I think Bangalore will be a very suitable place, if any place at all is needed for the establishment of an industrial school for the assistance of the members of your community. I am sorry that in replying in these general terms to your address I have to speak with candour and plainness and that I cannot speak in a more pleasing and hopeful manner; but I am sure you will understand that truth and candour in this matter are above all things. Thanking you once again for your kind welcome and good wishes for the life and prosperity of myself and Lady Havelock, I will

now invite you, if you will be so good, to sit down and discuss the details. You may criticise anything I have said, and you are at full liberty to say anything that will further the scheme which you advocate.

ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

SIXTH TOUR.

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.



MADRAS:

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1898.

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS AND THE INHABITANTS OF CONJEEVERAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors and the inhabitants of Conjeeveram, most respectfully beg leave to offer a cordial welcome to Your Excellency on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this ancient and historic town. As the old capital of the Chola Raj and as one of the holiest and most beautiful Cities of India, Kanchipuram has from time immemorial been held in great veneration by the people all over India. Many of its numerous temples are noted for their ancient architecture and inscriptions of historical value. Foremost among them are the two great temples at either end of the town, one dedicated to Siva and the other to Vishnu, which daily (more especially during the great annual festivals) attract pilgrims from all parts of India. Until recently a good supply of drinking water was a long-felt want in this town, in which cholera has usually been a concomitant of the annual festivals. This want has now been supplied by the introduction of a water-works scheme, sanctioned by the Government of Your Excellency's illustrious predecessor Lord Wenlock, and completed during Your Excellency's *régime* under the careful supervision of Mr. J. A.

Jones, Sanitary Engineer to Government, assisted by Mr. Nowrojee, Assistant Sanitary Engineer. With paternal kindness the Government was so gracious as to bear half of the total cost of the water-works amounting to Rs. 2,57,000, and indulgently lent the other half of the required outlay, permitting the liquidation of the debt within such a long period as 30 years. In this connection we beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the following gentlemen have charitably come forward and erected cattle troughs and public fountains :—

Rajah Sir S. Ramasami Moodelliar.
 Mr. Lod Krishnadas Bala Mukundas.
 „ C. Venkatasubba Iyer.
 „ P. Sama Row.
 „ Krishnasamy Row.
 „ Daria Domasah.
 „ N. Munoosamy Moodelliar.

We beg permission to avail ourselves of this occasion to lay before Your Excellency a few of our wants, in the hope that they will meet with Your Excellency's kind consideration :—(1) The desirability of a substantial roof over a portion of the platform of the local railway station, to protect from exposure the thousands of pilgrims that alight here every day during the festivals ; (2) The desirability of establishing through telegraphic communication with Madras to enable the merchant population to send telegrams during the night also ; (3) Under existing arrangements passengers who wish to catch the fast Mail train that leaves Chingleput at 8-9 p.m.

for the South have to start from this town at 2-10 p.m. ; and passengers from the South by the morning fast Mail train that arrives at Chingleput at 6-6 a.m. as well as passengers from this place and the other stations of this branch line, have no means of catching the day passenger trains of the N.-W. and S.-W. lines of the Madras Railway that leave Arkonam between 9 and 10 a.m. as the first train to Arkonam reaches it only at 11-55 a.m. We request that the necessary alterations in the train service may be directed to be made to avoid as far as possible these inconveniences ; (4) As this is the largest and most populous town of the district, now possessing the advantage of a good water-supply, we beg leave to request that this may be made the Head Quarters of a Divisional Officer ; and (5) In consideration of the fact that many young boys from this town and the surrounding villages are put to the inconvenience of going to Madras to appear for the Matriculation Examination, that this may be made an examination centre for conducting the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University. We take this opportunity to express our loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, of whose motherly solicitude for her subjects we are fully aware. In conclusion we venture to assure Your Excellency that Your Excellency's visit to this town will always be regarded with feelings of special gratification and pride, and we once more cordially welcome Your Excellency in our midst. Praying that Your Excellency and Her Excellency

Lady Havelock may enjoy the blessing of long life and sound health.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND INHABITANTS OF CONJEEVERAM,—I beg you to accept my warm thanks for the cordial welcome which you have given me to Conjeeveram,—the golden or shining city, as indicated by the signification of its name. You claim for Conjeeveram antiquity and sacredness. With regard to antiquity, I believe that, if tradition can be relied upon, Conjeeveram began to exist as a city before the time of the Christian Era, then being a Buddhist city. Subsequently tradition reports that the Jains were the ruling people in Conjeeveram. But there is a fair amount of evidence to show that somewhere about the 11th century Conjeeveram was founded as a sacred Hindu city; therefore, in antiquity, Conjeeveram claims and holds a high place; in point of sacredness I believe I am right in saying Conjeeveram yields hardly even to the great city of Benares. But it was not on account of the antiquity or sacredness of Conjeeveram that the Government and Municipal Council agreed to spend between two and three lakhs of rupees in providing a good water-supply. The reasons that actuated Government and the Municipality were that Conjeeveram has grown to be an important centre of population, numbering a permanent population of over 40,000; and at the time of great pilgrimages numbers far in excess of

that. Combined with this large permanent and floating population, there was the fact that there was a good deal of cholera and other illnesses in Conjeeveram arising in a great measure from bad water. For these reasons the Government and the Municipality combined to set on foot the construction of water-works which will supply the town with a plentiful supply of wholesome water. Conjeeveram has for some time past had its own water-supply. The works that have now been constructed, and which I have the honour to inaugurate to-day, are, therefore, not exactly new works; they are rather the improvement and extension of what had already existed for many years. I would, therefore, wish to impress upon you that the water which is supplied by these new water-works comes from the same source, and is after all the same water, only purified and improved, that you have enjoyed for years past. The plan of construction of this water-works is a very ingenious one; it has the merit of having been very economically carried out; in fact there has been a saving on the estimate, a thing that can very seldom be said of any public works that are undertaken by Government. The surplus that remains is being utilised for still further improving the system of water-supply by the construction of a service reservoir, and by the extension of pipe lines through the streets. I may say that these improvements are sanctioned and will probably shortly be carried out. I think I am right in saying that the whole cost of this water-works has been

somewhere between two and three lakhs of rupees, which represents for each head of population about Rs. 6, or making allowance for the half share borne by the Government a cost for each member of the Conjeeveram population of about Rs. 3. As compared with the cost of water-works in other towns of India, this is a most favourably low cost; they average from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 a head against Rs. 6 in Conjeeveram; and the cost of supplying water to towns in England is far in excess of even the higher rates which I have mentioned as ruling in India. There is one circumstance connected with the use of water here which has caused me some surprise. I am informed that the consumption of water averages only about 5 gallons per head, and this is attributed to some sort of sentimental feeling with regard to the purity of the water. I would remind you of what I said just now, that the actual source of the water and the water itself remain the same; and, therefore, I do not think that, even to the most religiously inclined mind, there can be any reasonable objection to using the water as it is now supplied to you; and I trust that we shall soon hear that any objections that may exist on the grounds of the nature to which I referred will disappear, and that a larger use will be made of this great gift which has been bestowed upon the inhabitants of Conjeeveram. There is a considerable and wide margin for further development and increase in case the town should increase in population, or to meet the requirements of special times such as pilgrimages and other great

assemblages of population. Already the good effects of this water-supply have begun to be felt in the diminution of the number of cholera cases in Conjeeveram, a disease for which this city was unhappily somewhat celebrated. This I am glad to be able to say is the eleventh scheme of water-supply which has been undertaken by the Government of Madras. During the last seven years, nine have been completed and two of the eleven are in process of construction. I think I may say without self laudation or undue praise to the Government which I represent, that this is a very satisfactory outturn for the Sanitary Department. And I wish before closing my remarks on this subject of the water-works, to express my satisfaction at the good and economical way in which they have been carried out by Mr. Jones, the Sanitary Engineer, who is here present. Now, gentlemen, before proceeding to the formal ceremony of opening the water-works I will deal very shortly with the rest of your address. They are five heads of requests which I notice. They all appear to me to be of a fairly reasonable nature, and I will not therefore say more at the present moment than to assure you, that they will each in their turn be referred to the department which will naturally be concerned with it, and that if it be possible to comply with requests contained in these paragraphs of the address, that it will be very great pleasure to me to be able to do so. I am glad to observe that you take this opportunity of renewing your expressions of loyalty to Her Most

Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. The loyalty of Her Majesty's Indian subjects is absolutely too well known to need any assurance, but it is always satisfactory to Her Majesty's representative to receive an expression of this kind. I will now conclude by thanking you once more for your welcome here and for the beautiful preparations in the way of decorations and especially this magnificent pandal which you have made in my honour and for my pleasure. I thank you very heartily for your kind wishes for the health and prosperity of Lady Have-lock and myself.

ADDRESS FROM RAJAH SIR S. RAMASAMI
MOODELLIAR, *Az.*, C.I.E.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In offering my humble and hearty greetings to Your Excellency at your auspicious presence here to-day, I beg respectfully to explain how the idea originated in my mind of instituting Lying-in wards in this historic city, which is an important centre of Hindu pilgrimage in the Presidency. I happened some time ago to visit this ancient place of highly conservative population, and my attention was drawn to the rather remarkable fact of a number of women resorting for medical aid to the hospital which is maintained by the local Municipality. It was then pointed out to me by Mr. P. M. Sambanda Moodelliar, the Civil Apothecary in charge, at the absence of Lying-in accommodation was

a drawback in it. Some little experience I had myself had of the importance of medical relief afforded to women in cases of maternity by way of preventing still-births of their children or premature graves to themselves amidst indescribable agony and suffering—an experience acquired from the successful working of the Lying-in hospitals I had built and endowed in Madras and elsewhere—induced me to agree with that gentleman; and, as I then had been for sometime cherishing a desire to raise a memorial to His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor of Wales in token of my gratitude for his personal kindness to me, I resolved to provide the hospital here with a ward with two beds at a cost of Rs. 2,500. This small idea was subsequently enlarged into a provision of two wards of three beds each, one for higher castes and the other for lower castes at a cost of Rs. 7,000. But at the suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner and the Sanitary Engineer to Government, to whom the plan of the intended wards was submitted, the idea received a further development, and I gladly undertook the construction of two large wards with four beds each for cases of full-term confinement. The estimate for the building, with all improvements and additions, having consequently risen to Rs. 10,000, I have placed that sum in trust in the hands of the Municipality of Conjeeveram. If any proof was wanting, Sir, of your warm and generous interest in such humane undertakings for the good of my helpless country-men and women,

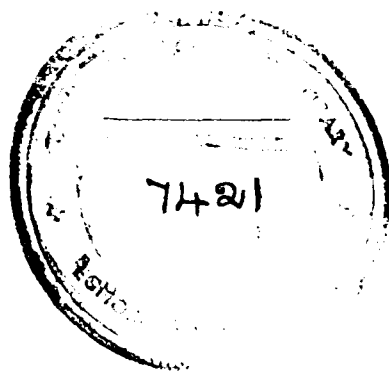
it is now afforded by your readiness to favour us with the willing aid and guidance of your Government, and by your condescension to come in our midst this evening and take part in the present ceremony. I respectfully invite Your Excellency to do me and the assembly gathered here, the honour of laying the foundation stone of this Maternity Hospital in commemoration of Your Excellency's gracious visit to this place. And while one of the wards will bear the cherished name of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor according to my original idea, I would respectfully ask Your Excellency's permission to connect the other ward with your honoured name. Before concluding, I earnestly join in the profound wish of one and all here present, that the Giver of all good may grant Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock, whose benign presence we all miss on this occasion, a long prosperous life and every felicity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.*

RAJAH SIR RAMASAMI MOODELLIAR,—I thank you for your kind greetings on the occasion of my presence to-day. Your name is widely known by your many acts of benevolence; but I consider the people, and especially the women, of Madras owe you a deep debt of gratitude for the special munificence you have exhibited in providing for the relief of the terrible suffering and loss of life attendant in this country on the act of bringing children into the world. I do not think it is generally known

how great is the loss of life in this way and how terrible are the sufferings that are endured in consequence of imperfect and ignorant treatment and carelessness during the early stages of the life of the infant and shortly after the confinement of the mother. But I cannot imagine any more beneficent way of doing good to the people of this country than by the establishment of these Lying-in hospitals and wards in which you have taken a special interest, relieving in many cases by the operation of these wards the sufferings and loss of life to which I have alluded, and by spreading through the country a knowledge which people do not possess, of the manner of treatment in cases of this kind. I have heard with interest the account you have given of the gradual growth of the institution with which you intend to endow this town of Conjeeveram. It had a small beginning, but your kind heart has allowed it from time to time to expand until now you have already with your generous hands presented the town of Conjeeveram with a sufficient sum of money to erect a hospital for as many as eight beds. It is a happy thought that you should wish to associate this good work with the name of the charming and lamented Prince Albert Victor. I gladly accept the invitation which you have given me to lay the foundation stone of this institution, and I feel proud that my name should be associated with it in company with that of His Royal Highness the late Prince Albert Victor. I am about to lay the foundation stone

of another monument of Rajah Sir Ramasami Moodelliar's warm heart and generous hand. I am sure all those present, and the people of Madras, will join with me in feeling and expressing our gratitude to Rajah Sir Ramasami Moodelliar and our appreciation of his thoughtfulness and beneficence. (Cheers.) Before proceeding to the task which is allotted to me, I wish to thank you once again for your kind welcome, and to express on behalf of Lady Havelock her regret that she was not able to face the fatigue of the journey, otherwise it would have given her the greatest satisfaction in taking part in the ceremony of to-day and in carrying forward, as this will, a line of benevolence in which she has always taken a special prominent interest.



ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

EIGHTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.



MADRAS :

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1898.

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF THE TOWN OF NELLORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of the town of Nellore, do hereby beg leave to approach Your Excellency with feelings of deepfelt respect and submission, and offer our cordial welcome to Your Excellency on this auspicious occasion. We are extremely grateful for Your Excellency's condescension to honour this place with a visit, and thus to afford us a fresh opportunity of expressing our boundless loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, under whose benignant rule we have been long enjoying the blessings of peace and prosperity.

2. This district has been all along classed as a backward one, and this town itself is hardly of third-rate importance in this Presidency. This is principally due to its long isolation from the civilizing influence of the metropolis. One of Your Excellency's predecessors, during his visit to this place some years ago, was pleased to accept our prayer to extend to this town the benefit of railway communication, and this step has considerably advanced our position. The railway, which is shortly to connect this place directly with the capital city on the

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

south and the commercial cities of the Northern Circars, will undoubtedly develop our resources, and in no long time enable this town to attain a conspicuous position. Your Excellency's name will be particularly remembered in connection with this railway, as it will be completed and opened for traffic during Your Excellency's administration.

3. As Municipal Councillors we are trying to improve this town as far as our income permits; but, owing to a defective drainage and scarcity of water during the hot season, a part of this town is not always what it should be. To remedy these evils, substantial pecuniary help from the Government is absolutely necessary, as our poor income is hardly sufficient to make both ends meet.

4. To better the drainage no extraordinary help is needed, as a gift of twenty-five thousand rupees will go a great way towards improving its condition; and we earnestly pray Your Excellency would be graciously pleased to grant that sum to this municipality.

5. The problem of water-supply is a more difficult one, and is capable of being solved in two ways. One solution is to construct water-works throughout the town, and to furnish them with water with the help of steam-engines from the adjoining river Pennar, similar to what is being done at Madura. But this project is an exceedingly costly one, as it requires not less than two lakhs of rupees.

We cannot raise loans as our income, even supplemented by a heavy water-tax, may not be sufficient to pay even a third part of the interest thereon. We dare not apply to Government for help, as the amount required is considerable, and may not be spared during these days of famine and frontier complications. Under such circumstances, we have to abandon this costly scheme for the present. But the want may, however, be supplied in a more easy way. The Government seems to have approved of the construction of a new supply-channel to the Nellore tank from the Sangam anicut for the improvement of cultivation. If this work be undertaken and finished during this famine year as a part of the relief works, not only the poor will find some food and the Government some profit, but this town also will find an unfailing source of water-supply. Irrigation channels abound all around this town, issuing from the Nellore tank, which, in their usual course, will serve to fill our fort-ditch directly and replenish our wells indirectly by percolation. By this means we can, to a great extent, give relief to the people, and flush our drains more frequently and satisfactorily. This is a feasible scheme, and well worthy of consideration. And if Your Excellency be pleased to get it carried out during this famine year, our wants can be easily supplied, and we shall ever remain grateful to Your Excellency for the inestimable blessing.

6. In conclusion, we again express our heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency for your kindness to

notice our condition personally, with a view to ameliorate the same.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF NELLORE,—I thank you for your kind welcome to your town, and I wish to express my gladness in being able to pay your town a visit comparatively early during my term of Government. It is always to the advantage of the Governor and of the places that he visits that he should make their acquaintance as early as possible. It appears, for some cause or other, however, that Nellore, although so near the capital city, is looked upon as somewhat remote, and consequently the visits of Governors are not as frequent as they ought to be. I am very glad to receive from you your assurances of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty. Such assurances are unnecessary, as your loyalty is sincere and devoted, as one knows, but it is satisfactory to receive from Her Majesty's subjects such feelings towards Her person and throne. You say that your district has been long classed as a backward one, and you speak in a modest way of the importance of the town. You make some enquiries as to the progress of Nellore, but I am surprised to find that though it may not be among the first and second rank of towns in the Madras Presidency, it has a population of something like 28,000. When the District Manual was drawn up about 20 years ago,

the population was 22,000; consequently, in 20 years, although there was no special reason why any development on a large scale should have taken place, your town has increased by 6,000 inhabitants. I have no doubt, indirectly, if not directly, the completion of the East Coast Railway, which will bring your town into communication with the rich trade ports, and will also improve its communication with Madras, will show beneficial results. I am glad to hear that you are doing your best to improve your town as far as your means permit. You allude to two special difficulties, the want of good drainage and the scarcity of water; and you maintain that the means at your disposal are not sufficient to supply these two important wants. With respect to drainage you tell me that if you are given Rs. 25,000 by Government, it will go a great way towards improving its condition. I am afraid I should only be raising false hopes if I were to say there is the least chance of giving you such a grant. It is always understood, in all Municipal works, in every district, that Government give towards improvements, as advance, one-half of the estimated cost, which has to be refunded by monthly instalments with interest. In the case of the drainage of this town, from what I have been able to gather, there is no need for any large or expensive scheme, and I am afraid, I must tell you, that improvements in this direction must be left to yourselves. From what I have gathered from the Collector a moderate income annually will do much to put matters on a more satisfactory footing than at

present. With regard to your claim for water-supply, you are aware that Government has always shown the greatest interest in improving water-supply, and has done a vast deal in this direction in recent years. Only the other day I went to Conjeeveram to perform the ceremony of opening a large water-supply scheme there, and I remember then being told that it was the ninth scheme completed within the last six or seven years. This shows that the improvement of water-supply in the Presidency of Madras has met with the support of Government and is fully appreciated by Municipal bodies themselves. With regard to your own particular case, you reject, as being too costly, a scheme suggested, and you fall back upon one which you think is more feasible, and will be more economical, by constructing a new supply channel to the Nellore tank from the Sangam anicut for the improvement of cultivation, and you mention, in connection with this, that a work of this kind has already been sanctioned by Government. Here I must tell you, as the result of enquiries made on the spot, that I think it is likely that objections may be discovered to the carrying out of this particular scheme, and that it may not be as feasible, and may not appear to be as profitable, as it appears to be at first sight, and although you say an estimate was approved in 1895, you must be prepared for the work not being carried out for some time to come. I am told, however, a very modest, but still fairly effectual improvement of water-supply might be procured by improving the channel, which

already exists, from the Mudunboodee village into your town, and if, on enquiry, it is found that this work would really be of any benefit to you, I assure you that the Government will be very willing to consider, as they always do, any suggestion which may be made in connection with the scheme and any application for assistance. It is useless to hold out the hope that you will get more favourable terms than those accorded in other places, for it would be unfair to other towns which are more in need of a water-supply than Nellore. I think I am right in saying that the largest grant given at any time for the provision of water-supply is three-fourths of the estimated cost, but the usual course is not to grant more than one-half. I think I have now dealt with the prominent parts of your address, and I will only say in conclusion that any fears which you seem to entertain that a serious famine is awaiting you may prove to be not thoroughly well founded. There will certainly be distress as there is at present in certain portions of the district, but I am in great hopes that the distress will not extend very wide, and that by God's blessing you will get a good monsoon, tolerably early in the season, and that the district and, in particular, the locality to which I refer will soon be free from distress. I will have an opportunity to further confer with the District officers as I pass through the district, and therefore what I say now is merely the expression of a hope based upon what at present is slight information. I have now to thank you once more for your kind welcome and I

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

can only express my regret that I am not able to give you as pleasing and hopeful answers to your representations with regard to your want of good drainage and water-supply. It would be useless for me to say things which will merely raise false hopes and lead to future disappointment.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF NELLORE AND MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the inhabitants of the Nellore district, we, the members of the District Association, Nellore, beg leave to offer Your Excellency a most hearty welcome on this, the first occasion of Your Excellency's visit to the principal town of this district.

2. We beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the anxious attention that the Government is and has been paying to the needs of all such parts of the Presidency as are, or are likely to be, affected by famine. It was only quite recently that relief works were closed in some portions of this Presidency, and the failure of the north-east monsoon has placed other portions in such a critical state that the distress, which therein at present exists, may not, unlikely ~~be~~ long, develop into a famine of unquestionable severity. Knowing as we do the excellent way in which famine has been combated in other parts of this Presidency, we have every hope that the Government will never, when the time comes, fail to

exert its utmost to save the people from starvation and distress. With us here in Nellore a succession of bad years has caused the failure of the monsoon to make its effects felt sooner than elsewhere, and the promptitude with which test relief works have been started shows the anxiety and the solicitude which the Government feels for the happiness of the millions committed to its care, and we take it as an indication of such anxiety that Your Excellency has chosen to travel through this district now, to ascertain personally from the District officers the magnitude of the distress and the measures adopted to cope with the same. It is unnecessary on our part, therefore, to submit that the time has now come, when relief works on a larger scale have to be started or to point out that over and above finding work for able-bodied persons, relief kitchens have to be opened for the feeding of all classes, who, from age or bodily infirmity, are unable to work and maintain themselves. In this connection, we cannot fail to mention that we are glad we have in Mr. Scott, a Collector, who sympathises so largely with the people, that we have no fear that the people's wants will not be prominently brought to notice or their needs properly or carefully attended to.

3. The people of this district owe to the Government a deep debt of gratitude for its having granted their prayer to connect Nellore by railway with Madras, and with the northern districts by a route along the coast. The Bezwada-Madras Railway has almost approached completion. We have

no doubt that this improvement, in the means of communication, will, to a large extent, minimise the effects of scarcity, whenever it may prevail, in this district.

4. Much as the advantages of railways are, they are scarcely of much practical utility in the prevention of famines. What is wanted in a country like this is a more thorough investigation of projects of irrigation and a larger expense year after year in placing a copious supply of water in the control of the ryot for cultivation purposes. We beg to be permitted to state that this district is in this respect at a disadvantage in that the subject of irrigation has not received at the hands of Government that attention which it deserves. The means of irrigation at present available are few, though there are facilities for increasing them. Several rivers, such as the Palar and the Musi, bring down heavy floods in the rainy season. Provision may be made for storing and using for agricultural purposes the water now carried by these rivers into the sea.

5. We are glad that the Government has, after a thorough and searching investigation, accorded its sanction to the project for improving the source of water-supply to the Nellore tank, and we beg to submit that the present is the most opportune moment for commencing work in connection therewith. No doubt the parts of this district which are suffering most from the failure of the monsoon are the northern taluks, but in portions of the Nellore and Atmakur

taluks there has been considerable distress for some time, and unless adequate work is provided in or near the affected area for the poorer classes of the people, there will be little chance of preventing death by starvation. If, in these circumstances, work is started in connection with the Nellore tank, it will relieve distress to a large extent, and if the Gandipollem and Annangi projects be also taken in hand, the Government will not merely have done its best to provide opportunities for all people to obtain sufficient work, but there will be the further advantage of the Government having carried through projects of utility which, while being a source of profit to the State, will, in a large measure, prevent the recurrence of famines such as that from which we are now suffering.

6. We beg to submit that the present arrangements for storing water by means of the anicuts at Nellore and Sangam, and for distributing the water stored, are not satisfactory. The tanks and the channels are not kept in proper condition, nor are repairs effected in due time to enable them to receive the supply of water in season. Much water is allowed to overflow the anicuts in the earlier parts of the period of cultivation. There is not sufficient provision for a fair distribution of water among the cultivators without corruption or partiality on the part of the officers in charge of such distribution. In this connection we beg to be permitted to repeat the request which the people of this district made to Lord Connemara in 1888, namely, that the

distribution of water to the agriculturists should be entirely in the hands of the Revenue Department, the Public Works Department officers merely standing in the position of professional advisers when irrigation channels have either to be constructed or repaired.

7. Even in parts where works of irrigation have been properly carried out, and facility exists for an easy and abundant supply of water to the cultivating ryot as under the Sangam and Nellore anicut projects, much inconvenience is being felt in that the Government has given up most of the village tanks and disposed of the tank-bed lands by auction-sale. We cannot help bringing to Your Excellency's notice that the procedure adopted has been altogether retrograde, and the effects of the system which had been carried out is only now being unmistakably felt when the chances of the ryot getting a steady and a continued supply of water at a time when he most needs it, are becoming year after year less hopeful. These tanks, so long as they existed, supplied the cultivators with sufficient quantities of water, whenever needed, in the several stages of the growth of the crops, a contingency unattainable under the present system. They were also a source of great help to the people by supplying drinking water to men and cattle in seasons when they most wanted it. We earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased, if necessary, to call for a report on the working of the system at present carried out, and to remedy the inconvenience felt by the ryots by

retaining the tanks which the Government still own, and by reclaiming and rendering useful to the agricultural population the tanks which have either been abandoned or disposed of.

8. This district is a purely agricultural district, and any improvement in the methods of agriculture will greatly increase the prosperity of the people. Cultivation is still being carried on by the old and expensive methods, and it will be highly useful if the people could be educated to understand and appreciate new, cheaper and more profitable methods of cultivation. The Government is the only agency that can educate the people in this respect, and it is our prayer that the Government will be pleased to institute experimental farming in convenient parts of the district.

9. We beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the working of the Religious Endowments' Act now in force has been a source of great dissatisfaction to all who are interested in the up-keep or the well-being of religious institutions. The provisions relating to the control of the endowments are not sufficiently strict, and can be made much stricter. We do not believe that the enactment of a law which would put a stop to the spoliation of temples and misappropriation of trust properties can, in any sense, be construed into an interference with the religious or the social conditions of the people, and there is no reason to suppose that any measure in this direction will meet with much serious opposition from the orthodox community, such community

being already familiar with the control of the Government in matters relating to the management of religious endowments. We, therefore, pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to obtain the sanction of the Government of India for the passing of a local Act to check the abuses largely prevailing in the management of religious endowments in this Presidency.

10. We beg to thank Your Excellency for having allowed us this opportunity of bringing our wants to Your Excellency's notice. We pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to communicate to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress our feelings of deep loyalty both to her person and to the throne which she occupies—a loyalty which can never die out so long as we have a system of Government, which allows to the ruled all opportunities of coming in contact with their rulers, and of representing to them as occasions may arise both their needs and their difficulties.

11. In conclusion, we pray that the Almighty Providence may be pleased to bless Your Excellency with a long, prosperous, and happy life.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE INHABITANTS OF NELLORE AND MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION,—I thank you very sincerely for the welcome accorded me on this my first visit to Nellore, and I am glad to see you recognise the efforts made by

the Government to meet the distress and difficulty arising from famine. During the serious part of the distress and scarcity of last year, I think, I might be justified in saying, the efforts that the Government made met with a very large measure of success. As you point out, early steps have been taken, by test works, to prove the reality or otherwise of the dangers of famine in your district. I am in great hopes, from the information I have been able to collect during the few hours I have been in the district, that it may be found that you anticipate a worse condition of things than is likely to arise. No doubt, at the present moment, four taluks of your district are in very considerable scarcity, but I am told by the Collector that, if we have an early south-west monsoon, the distress will not be of long duration. It is also hoped that nothing serious will extend to other parts of the district, and I particularly hope that your apprehension with regard to the immediate neighbourhood of Nellore may prove to be somewhat exaggerated; but you may feel assured that, whatever happens, the Government is on the watch, and you may rest satisfied that every step will be taken to prevent loss of life and any increase in the degree of want and misery. You dwell in your address on the great advantages of irrigation works, and you point out that the district of Nellore has, perhaps, received less attention from the Government in irrigation works than it deserves. I am quite at one with you with regard to the enormous

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value of irrigation works for the prevention of distress and famine, but, in connection with this subject, I might point out to you that, in order to have irrigation works, you must have your water and you must have a suitable site for putting up storage tanks. It is one of the fixed principles of the Government of India not to embark upon irrigation work except it can be shown that a fair amount of return can be obtained from it. I had a conversation with two Public Works officers, one of whom is employed in making special investigations in this connection, in the hope of being able to select a profitable irrigation work. These officers have executive charge of the public works in this district, and I am told by both that there is not any very hopeful prospect of finding a suitable site for irrigation works in the district, that in places where, during heavy monsoons, water is obtained, it escapes to the sea, and where, during the dry season, rivers used to have water largely, it became necessary to have large storage reservoirs, and that some difficulty was found in obtaining suitable sites. The investigation is still in its infancy, and I hope you will be able to find some satisfactory undertaking to recommend to Government. You make special allusion to the work of improving the Nellore tank by adding to its supply from the Sangam. I believe you are right in saying that the estimate for this was approved in 1895, but from what I am able to gather, I fear it is not as desirable or likely to be satisfactory as was at one time thought. I am

therefore obliged to warn you that probably this work, in particular, will not, at present, be undertaken. There is another simple scheme for supplementing water to the Nellore tank, to which you made allusion, and, if this is carried out, it will be an economical one. You make allusion in paragraph 7 of your address to the procedure adopted by which village tanks have been disposed of and tank-bed lands put up to auction sale. I have made a few enquiries on this point of the Collector, and he has told me without having had time to refer to the records of the office that, as far as he knew, this procedure had been carried out, but not in any way likely to cause any harm. I will ask the Collector to make further enquiry and report upon it. You next allude in paragraph 8 of your address to the fact that this district is a purely agricultural one, and that any improvement in the methods of agriculture will greatly increase the prosperity of the people. I have no doubt there is room for improvement in cultivation; although, as a general rule, the cultivator in Southern India might have been working through many generations, and has probably exhausted most of the devices which may be likely to lead to the best yield which the land can give. I am told in Nellore there is one particular branch of agricultural work to which attention was not paid, that is to the system of transplanting paddy. In this connection I will recommend this point to agriculturists of the district. You ask that Government will be pleased to institute experimental

farming in convenient parts of the district. Government has a scheme of this kind, as you know, in contemplation, and two localities have been chosen for such experimental farming, but neither of these places is in the Nellore district. You allude in paragraph 9 to the necessity of improving the working of the Religious Endowment law in the Madras Presidency. This appears to be a matter to which the people of this country attach the very highest importance. I have hardly heard an address during the two years I have been in the Madras Presidency, in which allusion was not made to the abuses in the administering of the religious property of the country. I dare say, you know, there is a Bill before the Legislature of the Government of India and we also in Madras have a draft Bill on the same subject before the Council, but until the Bill before the Supreme Legislature is decided, it will be inconvenient and even unbecoming to press our own Bill before the Council. You must be prepared to wait a little longer to see the result of the measure which the Government of India proposes to accept in connection with this. I am glad to receive from you your assurances of the deepest loyalty to Her Majesty's person and throne. It is always satisfactory to get a repetition of these very proper and loyal sentiments. In conclusion, I have to thank you for your kind wishes for my own long life and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION OF NELLORE DISTRICT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the agricultural population of the district, we beg to tender our most heartfelt welcome to Your Excellency and request at the same time that Your Excellency will convey our most loyal sentiments to our Most Gracious Sovereign, under whose benevolent sway we have been living in peace so long.

We feel it our first duty to thank Your Excellency for the opinion expressed by Your Excellency as regards the special importance which the development of irrigation requires in this famine-stricken country in preference to the construction of railways which are not in themselves of inferior consideration as regards the enlargement of trade and for strategic purposes. It is undoubted that there is much scope for extension of irrigation in this district, and we trust that the Investigation Party recently delegated for special duty will hasten its work and bring as many proposals as possible for the development of irrigation in the more barren taluks of this district, which, at this date, are threatened by famine and its concomitant evils. It needs hardly to be stated that large irrigation projects are a blessing to the backward tracts, and will soon throw open to cultivation lands hitherto unbroken by the plough, thus extending the food-supply of the country and protecting it from famine, as strongly evidenced in this year by the state of things under the Nellore

and Sangam anicuts in this district. In this connection we beg to thank Your Excellency for having sanctioned the improvement of the Nellore tank ; and all that we hope in this matter is that Your Excellency will find it convenient to provide the necessary funds for the work as early as possible. We are, of course, not competent to tell a ruler of such statesmanlike abilities as Your Excellency the pre-eminence of ample supply of water near such a populous town.

We have to repeat our complaints which we made in 1888, when we had the good fortune of welcoming His Excellency Lord Connemara in regard to water-distribution. Save, in exceptional cases, the present agency has not given satisfaction. The work should be more under direct control of the Revenue officers, Public Works Department officers standing in the position of professional advisers. The chief defect in the present arrangement is that Revenue officers are not allowed a free hand in the matter, and naturally they feel themselves incompetent to exercise any effective control in questions of irrigation disputes.

We regret to hear that the policy of Government in regard to periodical settlement of land revenue appears to have slightly changed, thus rendering the rent payable by the ryot on his holdings more changeable than ever. We have been under the hope that Government will see its way to give permanency to the rents once settled, reserving to itself the right to increase them in cases where

improvements made from public funds have given additional value to the land.

We feel thankful for the excellent way in which the forest policy of the Presidency has been handled by Your Excellency, especially as it tends to free the public from unnecessary interference by the petty officials of the Forest Department. We beg to submit for Your Excellency's consideration a few points which appear to us to require modification.

The management of trees on Asalminhas (porambokes) may, with advantage, be left in the hands of the Revenue Department, instead of leaving it in the hands of the Forest Department as is now the case.

The Babul trees (*Acacia Arabica*) in unreserved lands may also be excluded from the classified list and be made available to ryots without payment. These trees are mostly required for agricultural implements, and as such they form an essential necessity for the ryots ; they are quickly grown and are calculated to meet the wants of ryots readily.

Rule 7 of the rules passed under section 26 of the Forest Act expressly says that all, except the more valuable kinds of forest produce in unreserved lands, should be left to the free enjoyment of the villagers, but unfortunately permits are being issued to others on payment even for such articles, thus rendering the concession practically ineffective and useless.

The Government ruling that, for the present, the number of cattle to be grazed in a reserve is not to be limited, requires modification, in consideration of

the fact that this is well known to be a cattle-breeding district, and as such that it requires especial concessions. Under the system formerly in vogue, the waste lands in a village were divided into two classes, viz., (1) those allowed for the free pasture of village cattle, and (2) those available for leasing to known cattle-breeders of other villages. Out of the available waste in any village, an extent equal to 150 per cent. of the occupied area was allowed as the free grazing ground known locally as the shekhada, the rest known as kancha being available for renting to important cattle-breeders. This system has, however, been lately upset, and both shekhada and kancha have been reserved under section 16 of the Forest Act (IV of 1882), and all free grazing has been done away with. The late Collector, Mr. Maclean, formulated a well-thought-out plan of fixing the amount to be paid by the villagers for the privilege of grazing over the free-pasture or shekhada now included within reserves. It had barely worked a year or two, when the present system of issuing permits has been forced upon the district. The latter is fraught with many hardships to the ryots and entails much interference with the details of village economy which had better be left to the village communities themselves. Under the unrestricted number system, ryots have to pay the prescribed fee for *all* the village cattle for the privilege of grazing on the old shekhada lands included in reserved forests which generally afford pasture for fifteen days or so. Your

Excellency can easily perceive the ever-recurring annoyance caused to ryots by the existing system of capitation tax as compared with the simple system of fixed rent on the 'shekhada' land introduced by the late Collector Mr. Maclean.

We are sorry that the condition of the district is causing great anxiety to every one, and we are sure that our energetic District officers will be able to tide over the impending calamity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I accept with pleasure and satisfaction your kind words of welcome and your assurance of continued loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. I am glad you appreciate the expression of opinion which you attribute to me, as a means of preventing the evils of distress and famine. But I am not able fully to agree with you when you say there is much scope for extension of irrigation in this district. As far as I have ascertained from officers best informed on the subject, there is not a very large scope for such work in the Nellore district, unless it be that a very large sum of money is expended in its introduction.

His Excellency next reiterated his remarks set out in the previous speeches on the distress, and the want of irrigation in the district, and assured the deputation that, so far as Government was concerned, every endeavour would be made to meet the wants of the people.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, ONGOLE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council, Ongole, beg leave to approach Your Excellency and to offer our heartiest welcome on your arrival to this town, with a brief expression of our feelings and sentiments on the occasion. You have come to this distant region and devote yourself, heart and soul, to the duties and responsibilities of a Provincial Governor. You perform your duties in a manner which has won for you the lively gratitude of people committed to your care. Your name is now a household word throughout the length and breadth of the land. You are everywhere sincerely loved, admired, and revered, and will be long remembered for the conscientiousness of your statesmanship and purity of your justice and the breadth of your benevolence. You meet in a liberal spirit the aspirations of educated natives in respect to higher employments in the public service. Above all, your departure now to enquire and relieve people distressed by famine in the remotest corners of the country fills us with great admiration. The construction of the Bezwada-Madras Railway for which we had been pressing for a number of years, and even waited in deputation on His Excellency Lord Lansdowne, the late Viceroy and Governor-General of India, during his visit to Madras in 1892 to attain our object, has now become almost an accomplished

fact during Your Excellency's administration. Having briefly narrated the benefits of Your Excellency's administration of the country, we now implore for relief on the following questions:—

I. To take up the Anangy project, which is said now to be under investigation, as early as possible, since it serves not only for the irrigation of the villages in the neighbourhood, but is also a source of water-supply to this town and country in the vicinity which seriously suffer when the monsoons fail.

II. To excuse the District Board share of tolls from the Ongole Municipal toll revenue for some years until some roads which are absolutely required are constructed and others brought to a good condition in the Municipality, and to reduce subsequently the share, which is very heavy. Here we humbly beg to draw Your Excellency's attention to paragraph 36 of the Annual Report of this Municipality for 1896-97.

III. To revive the cattle show once famous for its good breed of cattle in the district, but now deteriorated in class and breed from want of encouragement.

IV. To make the appointment of the Assistant Superintendent of Police in the district real, as no such officer is often seen at Ongole, either owing to his long absence from head-quarters or owing to the non-appointment of one when there is a vacancy for long intervals.

V. To take notice of the frequent changes experienced by the sub-division in the appointment

of Sub-Collector, whereby his interests in the welfare of the division are lost, and to place always the division in charge of an officer of no less status than that of a Sub-Collector.

VI. And to establish at Ongole for the subdivision a women's hospital, so that our women may be exclusively treated by their own sex.

2. In this connection we humbly beg to submit that, for the sake of brevity, discussion has been avoided, and that the Collector of the district and official records may be consulted for further information.

3. In conclusion, we humbly pray Your Excellency's career as Governor of the Presidency may be marked with conspicuous success and happiness and that Yourself and Lady Havelock may be blessed with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The Governor promised to give his best consideration to all the wants. In regard to the request about the cattle-show, he said he had heard of the famous Nellore-breed of cattle while he was in Trinidad, and had then encouraged the importation of some. He would do his best to consider the matter favourably.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE, BEZWADA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Municipality and of the Reception Committee, Bezwada, have the pleasure to welcome Your Excellency to this ancient town.

2. It is needless here to dwell upon the manifold blessings Your Excellency's administration has conferred upon the Presidency.

3. We beg to express to Your Excellency our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the great boon conferred upon this town by the recent completion of the bathing ghauts, the want of which had been keenly felt for years past.

4. We beg to take this opportunity to urge upon Your Excellency's kind attention the willingness of the Southern Mahratta Railway Company to undertake the Bezwada-Masulipatam branch line; and to solicit the favour of Your Excellency to recommend to the Government of India the desirability of accepting the Company's voluntary offer, in consideration of the present financial pressure that precludes the possibility of the State undertaking the work itself.

5. We beg to thank Your Excellency for the kind concern with which Your Excellency urges on the speedy completion of the East Coast line: and to venture to cherish the pleasing hopes of a speedy journey to Madras in the near future.

6. We further pray that the scheme of water-supply, of which the plan and estimate are now before the Government, may soon receive Your Excellency's approval and thus enable us to meet as expeditiously as possible the continual growing need for good drinking water of this daily increasing town, which has a grand junction station between Calcutta and Madras. In this connection, allow us, Your Excellency, to express our earnest prayer that it may please the present benign Government to kindly bear one half of the cost of this all important project; for it is too heavy to be borne by an infant municipality of our standing, with such meagre finances.

7. We beg to approach Your Excellency with one prayer more, which is the desirability of ordering the removal of the spoil banks between the main canal and the river, which stand out like hills shutting out the southern wind, and thus preventing the whole town from enjoying its salubrious effects. We beg to point out to Your Excellency that, by the removal of these, not only will the health of the people be benefited, but also a suitable ground will thus be secured for a public park. It is our earnest request that, after the removal of the said bank, the land may be made over to the municipality which would convert it into a nice park to be named in honour of Your Excellency's visit.

8. We cannot close this, our brief and humble representation to Your Excellency, without expressing our deep regard for the Honourable A. T. Arundel and J. N. Atkinson, Esq., for the interest

they have evinced in the welfare and improvement of this town and for R. Morris, Esq., our worthy and popular Collector.

In concluding this short welcome by cordially thanking Your Excellency for your esteemed visit in this trying season, we earnestly pray that the welfare of this rising town may have a prominent place in Your Excellency's mind and be worthy at all times of your kind consideration.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE OF BEZWADA,—I accept with thanks the address which you have just presented to me, and I beg to express my acknowledgment of the kind welcome which you have given me during my present arrival in Bezwada. I use the word present advisedly, because my time here will be so short that it can hardly be held to constitute a visit. I might explain to you that the object of this my short visit is principally to inspect the districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjám, which are a long distance from Madras; and therefore, I have to make a hurried tour to those districts, reserving for some future time a more lengthy visit to the Kistna and Gódvári districts. If it gives you pleasure to see me here to-day, it is a pleasure to me to find myself in this marvellously fertile country, for since I left Bapatla and came rushing through the country, I noticed its extreme fertility and can only describe it as a gigantic garden. It

gives me satisfaction to hear that you are satisfied with the completion of the bathing ghauts of Bezvada. It is a matter which I know has been very much pressed by you for a considerable time past. With respect to your remarks upon the construction of the line between Bezvada and Masulipatam all I can tell you, at the present moment, is that the local Government had considered the scheme and was satisfied that it would be a useful scheme and a profitable and paying scheme. Our recommendations are before the Government of India, and, until after these recommendations have received their consideration, nothing further can be said or done in the matter. I join with you in hoping that the East Coast line may soon be completed, and myself and others may thus have greater facilities for entering your district from the south. You next touch on the subject of the water-supply for your town. I understand that a scheme is under the consideration of the Sanitary Commissioner, and that estimates have been prepared. But, before we have seen the scheme and know what it is likely to cost under the estimate, I think it is premature to decide who is to provide the funds to carry on the work. You are aware that the usual principle which guides the Government in these matters is that, when need is shown on the part of any municipality by reason of their not having sufficient money, the Government provides half the original cost to be repaid in instalments with a certain rate of interest. I have no doubt that, in the case of Bezvada,

which, I believe, is not a particularly rich municipality, the Government will, when the time comes, be willing to extend its usual liberality. You next deal with the question of spoil banks between the main canal and the river which stand out like hills shutting out the southern wind, and which need removal. I understand that the removal of these spoil banks is under the consideration of the Public Works Department. In due course, I have no doubt that whatever proposal they may have to make will come before me personally, as it is a part of my special duty to look after the Public Works Department. I must tell you that, before your mention of this matter in your address, I had heard nothing about it, and I am therefore unable to give you any information on the subject. But I promise you that, when the matter comes before me, it will receive the most kind consideration that I can give it. You next ask that, on the removal of these hills, the land may be made over to the municipality, which will convert it into a park to be named after me in commemoration of my visit. Upon this I am unable to give you any decided answer. I think I already told you that I did not know that there was any such work as clearing of such embankments or hills in contemplation. But in the matter of the opening of a park, I will have to remind you that it is rather in the nature of a luxury, and until you have supplied yourselves with the pressing need of water-supply, I hardly think that it will come within the scope of your finances. Before you close your address,

I see that you make pleasant mention of the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel and Mr. J. N. Atkinson, who have been previous Collectors in this district, and also of Mr. R. Morris, your present Collector. I can tell you with respect to Mr. Arundel that he retains an affectionate interest in your district. He strongly recommended to me the desirability of my paying a long visit to Bezwada. I am sure that it will be a disappointment to him, as I say it is to me, and he will be almost displeased when he finds that I have been unable on this occasion to do more than fly through your town. I promise you that, on some future occasion, I shall pay you a longer visit. Mr. Atkinson, your former Collector, is, as you know, now holding the important position of Collector of Sea Customs at Madras. And I am glad to hear that Mr. Morris who has only just arrived here is an officer with whom you have good relations, and in whom you have confidence. You may be assured from what I have already said that the town of Bezwada, which I know is a very important and growing one, will occupy a prominent place in my interest, and in the consideration which I will give to all towns in every matter in connection with the administration of this Presidency.

ADDRESS FROM THE GUNTÚR MUNICIPALITY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In the name of the Municipality of Guntúr, we most respectfully

beg Your Excellency to accept our humble and respectful assurances of joy at your advent to our district, heralded as it has been by a reputation for just administration and paternal solicitude for the welfare of Your Excellency's subjects, and cheerfully and loyally accord you welcome though we have not been fortunate enough to be given an opportunity to do so in our own town. In the first place, we offer our hearty thanks to Your Excellency's Government for the network of railways which encloses our district, linking it with other parts of this Presidency and the Empire. We are happy in being able to approach Your Excellency without any grievance, there being none so pressing as requires to be brought to your notice just at present, as we shall avail ourselves of the ordinary official channels to bring our little wants and grievances, if any, before Your Excellency. We, however, beg to be pardoned if we avail ourselves of this rare opportunity to directly lay before Your Excellency the most pressing need of our town. It is woefully in need of water-works to supply the town with wholesome water, as well as a complete system of drainage to carry away the surface water and drainage which at present percolate through the soil and contaminate the wells, which form the only source of water-supply; but the introduction of water-works designed in accordance with modern sanitary science and a drainage system would, in a great measure, remedy these evils and improve the health of the town. The existence of this want has long been recognised, and the

necessity of supplying it acknowledged: but what we earnestly crave for is that, as the survey operations have been undertaken and almost completed, Your Excellency will be pleased to do all that is needful to make this long cherished project an accomplished fact in the near future, and thus confer on the townspeople a boon with which they will ever gratefully connect Your Excellency's name. We humbly beg to represent in this connection that ever since the scheme of local self-government was extended to this Presidency, we have been successfully striving to do our duty to the satisfaction of the townspeople and the approbation of the Government, and we trust that Your Excellency's sympathetic and encouraging attitude and support to local bodies will be vouchsafed to us so that we may, with your munificent liberality, be enabled to carry out these sanitary schemes at as early a date as possible. May Your Excellency be pleased to receive the assurances of our deep feelings of loyalty and devotion to Your Excellency as the worthy and trusted representative of our Gracious Queen-Empress, and our humble prayer that the Great Giver of all good may grant Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a long and prosperous life with attendant blessings.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, GUNTÚR,—I thank you for your very pleasing address and for your kind words of welcome.

I congratulate you on being placed so favourably with regard to railway communication with the rest of the world. But I must disclaim any credit to myself for your fortunate position in that respect. It is very pleasing to hear that you are able to approach me without any grievance. It is as rare as it is pleasing that such is the case. They say that happy is the country that has no history. I should say still more happy is the municipality that has no grievances. Although, however, you say that you have no particular wants and no grievances to lay before me, you have entered at some length into the particular question of water-supply. You wish to have this very important blessing of water-supply conferred on your town. I believe I am rightly informed in saying that the scheme for the water-supply of the town of Guntúr is now in the hands of the Sanitary Engineer. Beyond that I know nothing about it. I am glad to notice that there is an earnestness on the part of the municipal council in furthering a work of this kind, which is of the first importance. A good water-supply is the best thing that a municipality or a Government can give a town. I will, therefore, promise you that, as soon as I get back to Madras, I will make it my duty to learn the exact position of the scheme. You may rely upon my paying my best attention to it, having regard possibly to the superior claims of other places. There are, I may tell you, many places in the Presidency which I have already visited which are sadly in want of a water-supply. At

present I am not in a position to satisfy myself as to the relative importance that Guntúr occupies in this list of places. With regard to the other points raised in your address, you may trust to my doing my very best in the matter for you. As you say in your address, I am a sympathiser with local self-government, and it is with great satisfaction that I have been able to read that the general opinion, not only of this Government, but also of the Government of India, is that municipal government in the Madras Presidency during the last year has been on the whole very favourable. I thank you in conclusion for your kind words of desire for the health and prosperity of myself and family. I reciprocate them with regard to yourselves and the people of Guntúr.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
OF RAJAHMUNDRY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Rajahmundry, on behalf of its people, bid Your Excellency welcome to our ancient and historic town, and thank you for giving us this opportunity of meeting you, and expressing our sentiments of loyalty and gratitude to Her Majesty the Queen Empress through Your Excellency, Her Majesty's representative in our Presidency. When about four years ago, we were favoured with a visit to this town by Your Excellency's predecessor, we thanked His Excellency for the facilities of communication afforded us by the construction of

the East Coast Railway, and expressed a hope that the Gódávári bridge would soon be constructed ; now we are happy to express our gratitude to our Government for pushing the bridge work on towards speedy completion in spite of financial difficulties, and we hope we shall ere long have the honour of welcoming Your Excellency with Lady Havelock for opening the Gódávári bridge to the public use. While thanking Your Excellency for this boon of the Gódávári bridge, we venture to submit that no provision is made for a footpath over it, which is a great necessity, as it would greatly promote the convenience and comfort of the people, and minimize, if not completely prevent, loss of human life while crossing this large river, and we pray that Your Excellency's Government will view with favour the memorial on the subject, submitted to it through our energetic and benevolent Collector. A protective bund for the old town on the river side has been a great want, and the Council begs to express its gratitude for the favourable attitude taken by Government with respect to it, and hopes that it will soon be able, with the help of Government, to remove this long-felt want. Our main road is very narrow, and the Council cannot at present think of widening it, as the cost would be prohibitive, and it will be for the present content with the prayer that Government be pleased to sanction the bund scheme, as it includes the laying out of a broad road by the river side, which would be the means of diverting much traffic from the

congested main road. As this is not an occasion for laying our grievances before Your Excellency (and we are happy to say they are not many) and as we are confident that the Council will always be given a patient and favourable hearing by Your Excellency's Government, we conclude with a prayer to the Almighty that Your Excellency will enjoy this journey and carry with you good impressions of this part of the country, and that we may soon have the pleasure of next, though not now, welcoming Lady Havelock also to our town.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF RAJAHMUNDRY,—I accept with thanks the address which has just been read and I beg to express my acknowledgment for your kind welcome to Rajahmundry. I can only say I regret that my time among you on this occasion should be so very short. I must live in the hope that on some future occasion I may have time to see more of the town of Rajahmundry and its inhabitants. I am glad to learn that you appreciate the great benefits which are likely to be conferred, not only upon your town, but also on its neighbourhood and a very wide extent of the Empire of India through the construction of this great work of the East Coast Railway. With you I shall be very glad to see the completion of the great work of building a bridge across your fine river. My experiences of this morning have been sufficient to show that it would be an enormous

convenience to passengers by rail to cross the river by means of a bridge instead of having resort to the expedients now in vogue which at present occupy so much time and entail so much labour. I made inquiries of the Engineer in charge how long it will probably be before it is completed. It is a work, as you all know, of great difficulty and of vast extent. I fear I cannot hold out hopes to you that it will be ready for traffic until about three years from the present time. You mention the need there is for a footbridge or footpath in connection with this girder bridge. I have also made inquiries on the subject. I have seen a plan of possible work of this description. The Engineer in charge told me that it would cost roughly about one lakh of rupees. It remains now to find out how much revenue can be derived from the payment of toll, before we can come to any decision as to recommending any addition of a footpath to this bridge for the consideration of the Government of India. As soon as I am in possession of these statistics, measures will be taken to recommend the Government of India to give its decision on this point. I say the Government of India, because, as you are aware, this railway is being constructed under the order of the Government of India and the local Government in Madras has directly no concern with it, nor has it control over it. You mention next your desire to have a protective bund for the old town on the river side; you mention this in connection with the narrowness of your streets,

which you say you are at present unable to remedy on account of the great expenditure to be incurred, and that you will rest content for the present with the construction of this protective bund which will serve as a means of communication. The Collector informs me with regard to this subject that, in his last administration report, he remarked that the scheme of constructing a protective bund and road by the river side would be matured soon, and, if necessary, that the tax on lands would be raised from seven to seven and-a-half per cent. of the rent value. The attention of your Council has, I believe, been drawn to the Collector's remarks, but up to the present time we have not received any expression of your views and wishes with regard to it. It is probably clear to you that if you wish to have this work constructed, you must be prepared to pay for it; and it will be satisfactory for us to know what you propose to do. As soon as a representation coming from the Municipal Council is received by the Government, it will meet with the very best attention of the Government. And in connection with this point, I would beg to remark to you that Government hope, and I hope, that you and all other municipal bodies will not think it necessary to wait for the initiation by Government of works which you require for your improvement. It will be well for you to take up such matters yourselves and work them up and submit specific schemes to Government by showing the ways and means available and all other details in connection with the works which will enable

Government to carry them out satisfactorily. You will, by these independent exertions in your own affairs, probably relieve Government of a considerable amount of trouble and difficulty in arriving at a proper knowledge of the wants in your case. In this way it is probable not only that your wishes—if they are well founded—will be effectually met, but your objects will promptly be carried out. Do not wait for the Government to do everything for you. Do as much as you can by your own work and with your own heads. I am glad to observe in paragraph 6 of your address that you are happy to say that your grievances are not many. This is not a very frequent experience, and I have had the pleasure and honour of replying to many municipal addresses in the Madras Presidency. It was generally found that their grievances were not few in number, and their wants many. I congratulate you on being in a more happy position in this respect. I have listened with pleasure to your kind words of good wishes for myself and family. I beg to thank you heartily for them. In conclusion, I have to say that the impressions that I have formed from my very short experience of your part of the country are most favourable. I was for a few hours at daylight passing by rail through the Kistna district yesterday evening, and I was immensely struck with the exuberant fertility which I saw on all sides. I believe a similar treat, if not a greater one, is in store for me when I pass through the Górávari delta. I congratulate you on being among those who inhabit

this much favoured part of the Indian Empire. I am pleased at having made your acquaintance.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS
OF ELORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Ellore, most respectfully beg to accord to Your Excellency a most hearty welcome on this, the occasion of Your Excellency's passing through the limits of our ancient town, and to thank Your Excellency for permitting us to approach Your Excellency to express our sentiments of gratitude and feelings of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Throne. Although we cannot now claim renown for Ellore for the existence of powerful forts or flourishing manufactories, yet we are proud to acknowledge that this ancient town once enjoyed a reputation for its formidable fort, and famous carpet manufactories which produced carpets of the finest and the best kind in the Presidency, if not in India. We beg permission to avail ourselves of this opportunity to lay before Your Excellency a few of our most pressing needs, in the hope and confidence that they will meet with Your Excellency's kind consideration. The first and the foremost is the long-felt want of a good and sufficient supply of drinking water. In bringing the same to Your Excellency's notice, we beg to represent that this town is in a most unfortunate position. This town, as its very name Uppu Ellore

indicates, is noted for its salt earth, and its sub-soil water is, with few exceptions, brackish. Hence the supply of fresh water is defective. We further beg to submit that, before the excavation of the Kistna canal, the town had its main supply of water from two big tanks, known as the Pedda and Chinna Cheruvus, which not only supplied water to the town for domestic and drinking purposes but also to a large area for irrigation. The Kistna canal having passed through the said two tanks, divided them into two, turning Pedda Cheruvu into Powerpetta and Chinna Cheruvu into fields and gardens. Since then, the chief sources of the drinking water-supply of this town with a population of about 30,000 are the Kistna canal, a small conserved tank, and a few wells. The Kistna canal, running as it does from Bezwada, carries all manner of filth with it and its water has been highly condemned for drinking purposes both by the Sanitary Commissioner and the District Medical Sanitary officers. The Council had, consequently, during the recent outbreak of cholera, strictly to prohibit the use of that water. Thus practically the only source of water-supply is a few wells. We further beg to submit that in 1896 and 1897, owing to want of sufficient rains and from the unusual heat of the weather, most of the wells in the town became dry during the hot season, and that great was the distress that people had suffered from scarcity and scantity of water. We feel it our duty to express here our thanks to our popular

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

Collector, Mr. V. A. Brodie, and the sympathetic Sanitary Commissioner for their having readily realised our difficulties and for their promptly recommending to Government a water-scheme for our town on proper representation made by us. While we are profoundly grateful to Your Excellency's Government for having referred our water-scheme project to the Sanitary Board and the Sanitary Engineer, who prepared a rough estimate for Rs. 3,00,000 and an approximate estimate for Rs. 1,70,000 or Rs. 1,28,000 with certain items omitted, we respectfully venture to approach Your Excellency with a request that in the difficulty and unfortunate position of the townsmen, Your Excellency will be pleased to take, at an early date, the water-scheme project into favourable consideration and thus remove one of the crying wants of the people. We would, in the next place, venture to lay before Your Excellency the necessity for constructing a bridge over the Kistna canal at Powerpet, and for enlarging the existing iron girder bridge, as well as for opening a small railway station at Powerpet, for the convenience of the public and the facility of traffic. The Town station is situated at a distance of about 3 miles from some portions of the town, and the traffic within the most populous part of this city is very heavy. We, therefore, venture to request that Your Excellency may be pleased to order a small station in Powerpet to save inconvenience to passenger and wheel-traffic at inconvenient hours of the day and night. Lastly, we beg

to submit that even now the work of our carpet manufactories (though small in number and comparatively poor) is still superior in make, texture and finish to any in the Presidency, and to request that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to revive the carpet manufacture, by opening an industrial school here and thus preserve superior art.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF ELLORE,—I thank you heartily for your kind welcome and beg to say I am sorry that, on this occasion, I was not able to halt at Ellore on my way northwards, but I have no doubt that I shall have some day the pleasure of meeting you on your own ground. I take it as a compliment that you have taken the trouble of coming so far to see me on this occasion and to present this address. You show good cause why a water-supply should be established in your town of Ellore. The description you give of your situation with respect to water, and the need there is on sanitary and other grounds for supplying you with this most important gift are, I think, very strong. You inform me that a scheme has been drawn up and has been submitted to you. I think it now only remains for you to say what you are yourselves prepared to do in regard to the matter. You ask me in your address that I will be pleased to take at an early date the water-scheme project into favourable consideration and thus remove one of the crying wants of the people. What the

Government is really waiting for, is some expression of opinion from yourselves as to whether or not you approve of the scheme that has been submitted to you, as also the means which you suggest for providing funds for carrying out the scheme. Let me, therefore, tell you that your first duty with regard to this is to take the scheme into consideration and see whether it is satisfactory in itself, and if you come to the conclusion that it is satisfactory, then you will sit down and count the cost and see how it is to be provided. You know, as well as I do, what the practice of Government has been in the past for assisting municipalities in carrying out water-supply schemes, and I dare say, perhaps, you may receive the same generous consideration in this matter that other municipalities in the same situation have received. You next dwell on the necessity for constructing a bridge over the Kistna canal at Powerpet and for enlarging the existing iron girder bridge. From information which the Collector has kindly supplied me, it appears that these two wants are reasonable in themselves; but here, as in the matter of water-supply, the Government would like to know how you propose that these improvements should be carried out. I beg of you to take the initiative in the matter yourselves and find out what you exactly want and to let Government know to what extent you are able to provide means for carrying out such works, and we will then see whether with the monies you are able to devote for it, the work can be taken in hand. With regard

to your request for a small station in Powerpet to save inconvenience to passenger and wheel-traffic at inconvenient hours of the day and night, I have to say that I suppose the Railway authorities are best informed on this subject and will do what they consider desirable in the matter. But in case they have overlooked it, I will take care that the matter is brought to their notice. With regard to the carpet manufacturers of Ellore, I may say that the excellence of their work has been known to me for a long time. I have often seen carpets that came from Ellore, which were excellent in manufacture, in design and in colour. I think, therefore, that, as far as actual improvement in the work itself is concerned, the carpet manufacturers of Ellore have, on the whole, very little to learn, but unfortunately they are in the position that the goods which they manufacture are subject to competition by machine-made goods, which are of course cheaper. I think you mention in your address, or, at any rate, it is a fact known to me, that the carpets made in the Government jails also compete with the work of private manufacturers. For these reasons, I am afraid your industry, sorry as I am for it, is such that one cannot hope to help very much by the establishment of such an institution as an industrial school for the reason that I have already hinted, that the manufacturers have attained a degree of perfection in the work itself, and the actual industry is, I fear, so much handicapped by circumstances over which you have no control that it appears to me

rather a hopeless matter to attempt to bolster it up. Therefore, sorry as I am, the carpet manufacturers of Ellore, in common with many other artisans, will have to face the competition as best they can in the circumstances of their case. I thank you once again for having had the kindness to come out and meet me here, and I express the hope that I may have an opportunity of renewing my acquaintance with you on some future occasion.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, VIZAGAPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Municipal Council, Vizagapatam, beg to heartily welcome Your Excellency to this town which has become the most important station on the East Coast of this Presidency after Madras, since the opening of the East Coast Railway.

2. We are extremely thankful to Your Excellency for the generous aid given to the Council by contributing 50 per cent. of the expenses of our water-supply scheme.

3. We are glad to learn that the survey of the line from Vizianagram to Raipur, lately sanctioned by the Government of India, is progressing rapidly. The importance of this line when constructed cannot be overestimated, as it will tap that portion of the Central Provinces which is commonly known as the Granary, and the produce wherefrom will

have to find its way for shipment to foreign countries through this port.

4. The project to provide this town with a boat harbour, sanctioned by the Government of India to be constructed out of funds to be provided from Provincial revenue without any aid from the Imperial Government, was taken up by a company in England, which had obtained a guarantee from that illustrious and generous prince, the late Maharajah of Vizianagram; but for his untimely and unexpected loss, which the whole country still continues to mourn, the work of construction of the harbour would have made some progress by this time.

We are happy to learn that Your Excellency's Government has been and is still in communication with the Government of India regarding this.

We are also very glad to learn that of late the Dowager Maharanee of Vizianagram has consented to the guarantee on behalf of the minor Maharajah.

We are confident that the harbour will be self-supporting; an impetus has been given to the trade of this port by the opening of the East Coast Railway, and it is certain that the opening up of the country between Vizianagram and Parvatipur by the construction of the line, will still more develop the trade.

5. We are glad to inform Your Excellency that the major portion of the fishermen's village which defaced the sea-front of the town and used to be designated "the plague spot of Vizagapatam," has just been acquired; but we now find that, unless

we acquire certain tiled houses which are situated near the huts of the fishermen, we cannot divide the land into blocks suitable for house-sites or public buildings, and unless these tiled houses are also acquired, the value of the land already acquired will be very much less than our original estimate, and we cannot recover the cost of the acquisition of the village from the sale-proceeds of the site as we originally hoped to.

The Government of Your Excellency's predecessor allowed us to borrow thirty thousand rupees for the purpose of carrying on the scheme; we borrowed twenty thousand rupees from the District Board and supplemented the remainder from the Municipal fund balance.

We hope Your Excellency will give your best consideration to another application that will shortly be made by us, for sanction of a further loan, to complete the undertaking.

6. We also beg Your Excellency to order that as much of this site as possible be utilised for public buildings, as this will effectively secure our objects as well as those of the promoters of the scheme in removing the fishermen's village, viz., to improve the seaface of the town and to prevent the sea-breeze blowing into the town from being infected by noxious exhalations from dirty houses bordering on the sea.

7. In conclusion we beg humbly to thank Your Excellency for the opportunity allowed to us to meet Your Excellency here and the kindness with

which you have been pleased to hear us, and we pray that Almighty God would be pleased to shower His choicest blessings on Your Excellency and Lady Havelock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VIZAGAPATAM,—I thank you heartily for your kind welcome to your town. You justly state that Vizagapatam is growing to be a place of considerable importance; in some respects perhaps next to Madras, the most important place on the East Coast. But I think I can foresee that, before many years have passed, Vizagapatam will hold a still higher place among the important towns of the Madras Presidency. I am glad to think that the scheme for your water-works has already been set on foot. The Executive Engineer in charge, whom I have seen during the last hour, told me that the work is not progressing quite as rapidly as he wishes. Still there is nothing either to cause great disappointment or alarm. The work will, no doubt, be finished in due course of time, though there may be some little difficulties before it is complete. But I think, no doubt, we will manage to overcome them. I rejoice with you in knowing that an order for the survey of the line from Vizianagram to Parvatipur has lately been sanctioned by the Government of India. It is not impossible that the opening out of that portion of India which this line will traverse, will be an immense benefit to the town of

Vizagapatam. I have this morning been over the proposed site of your boat harbour. The project has become well known to me through the frequent examinations of the plans and by consultation with Mr. Willock who, as you know, has for many years taken a deep interest in this scheme. But I am very glad to have been able to have seen for myself on the spot the bearings of the various arguments that have been brought forward in favour of the scheme. And the result of my morning's examination has certainly been to strengthen me in my belief, not only in the feasibility, but in the advantage of the project. But though I regret with you that through the death of the much-loved and respected Maharajah of Vizianagram, some delay in the financing of the scheme may have been caused, I live in hopes that this difficulty also will not be one that will be at all difficult to set aside, as soon as we persuade the Government of India that the project is one that can be taken up with advantage and profit. You state that you have heard that the Dowager Maharanee of Vizianagram has consented to the guarantee on behalf of the minor Maharajah in the undertaking entered into by her late son; but I have no official information on this subject. It is a source of congratulation that you have been able to remove the major portion of the fishermen's village which defaced the sea-front. You inform me that it now becomes necessary to acquire certain more property before this work of improvement can be thoroughly carried out, and that possibly additional funds will

be needed for the purpose. It appears that out of the advance of thirty thousand rupees which you received from Government, you have already spent twenty thousand rupees supplementing the amount by a grant from your own resources. I presume, therefore, that you have ten thousand rupees still to be obtained out of the loan promised by the Provincial Government for the purpose. If you need funds beyond that sum of ten thousand rupees, and if you put your case in a clear way before the Government, showing how you can give good security for its repayment, I think I may say that there will be no difficulty in getting the further advance that you need. With regard to your request that Government should order as much of this site as possible to be utilised in public buildings, I must tell you that this depends on two things. First of all, we must be satisfied that public buildings are required, before we can undertake to put them up. In the second place we must satisfy ourselves that the site is altogether suited for public buildings which we may require. Both these questions remain unanswered. In that position you will see that it is impossible for me to say more on the subject. I thank you in conclusion for your kind wishes, and I wish to express the satisfaction with which I make the acquaintance of this beautiful town and its neighbourhood and of the Municipal Councillors of Vizagapatam.

ADDRESS FROM THE RESIDENTS OF VIZAGAPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the residents of Vizagapatam, beg most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency into our midst and to thank you heartily for the help rendered to the famine-stricken people of the district by Your Excellency's Government, aided by the prompt and sympathetic action of our Collector, our District Judge and other local officials.

We beg to observe that the work of irrigation, which is dear to Your Excellency's heart, has been neglected in this district, and that the prevalence of poverty and the constant recurrence of famine are mainly due to this cause. In G.O., No. 2676 W., dated 24th September 1897, describing the schemes, for extending irrigation, no mention is made of this district. We are aware that most of the land in the district belongs to zamindars, but we earnestly pray that the Government may be pleased to provide for the improvement of the irrigation of this district.

Your Excellency's Government is probably aware that, in respect of primary education, this district is the most backward in the Presidency, in that there is only one pupil to 89 of the population and only 11·5 per cent. of the male population of the school-going age is under instruction. This, we take the liberty of observing, is owing to the allotment made by the local boards for educational purposes being entirely disproportionate to the requirements, and

the recent reduction of the educational allotment and the abolition of 14 primary schools have made matters worse. The state of education in this district demands special concession, and we, therefore, pray that not less than twenty-five per cent. of the Local funds should be set apart for education.

We beg leave to express our gratitude to Your Excellency for the encouragement given to local self-government by the extension of the privilege of election to a large number of municipalities, of which Anakapalle in our district is one. In this connection, we earnestly pray that Your Excellency may take into your sympathetic consideration our request to grant to us the privilege of having elected vice-presidents in the district and taluk boards and to confer on the rate-payers the right of electing members to the taluk boards.

We beg to inform Your Excellency that, as the people of this town have not yet recovered from the effects of the last famine, they feel the recent enhancement of the house-tax and imposition of the water-tax, both of which amount to sixteen and-a-half per. cent. of the rental value of houses, as an oppressive burden. We, therefore, pray that the levying of the water-rate be postponed till the municipality is in a position to actually supply water to the town and that the sum of two lakhs of rupees lent by the Government for the water-supply scheme be allowed to be repaid in sixty yearly instalments, instead of thirty as at present fixed, so as to enable the municipality to reduce the water-rate to four per cent.

We most humbly request Your Excellency that, for the better administration of justice in the Agency tracts, District Munsif's courts be opened in the Senior Assistant's and Special Assistant's divisions, with jurisdiction similar to that conferred on District Munsifs in the ordinary tracts under Act III of 1873, and subordinate to the Governor's Agent, Vizagapatam, that men, qualified to fill the office of District Munsif in the plains, be appointed to preside over such courts, and that the civilized taluks of Gunupur and Rayagada be classed among the ordinary tracts.

We heartily thank Your Excellency's Government for the recommencement of the survey operations of the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway, which, if opened, would materially develop the resources of this district, and we beg to be allowed to express the hope that the construction of the line will be taken in hand at an early date.

Lastly, we beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the early construction of a bridge over the Govada river near Chodavaram, the former one having been washed away by floods in 1878, is imperatively necessary to prevent loss of life and to facilitate communication between the rich jaggery-producing taluk of Viravilli and the principal towns of the district.

In conclusion, we humbly hope that Your Excellency's visit may bring with it increased prosperity to the people of this district.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock long life and prosperity, we beg to subscribe ourselves, &c., &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE RESIDENTS OF VIZAGAPATAM,—I thank you most heartily for your kind address of welcome. I am glad to see the expression of your appreciation of the efforts of the Government to avert the miseries and loss caused by the famine and distress of last year. I am glad to see that you recognise the devoted and successful way in which District officers carried out their duties on this occasion. The Government is extremely grateful to them and appreciates very highly the hard work and the devotion, the zeal and the success which attended their efforts. You observe that irrigation has, to a certain extent, been neglected in this district. I think it possible that there may be room for investigation of further schemes; but there is, as you, I think, appear to indicate in your address, some difficulty in carrying out irrigation schemes in this district on the ground that most of the land is zamindari property. You urge, as a reason for increased activity in the direction of irrigation, the prevalence of poverty and the constant recurrence of famine. As far as I could ascertain, however, the people of this district are not exceptionally poor as compared with their brethren in other districts of Madras. Without really much personal knowledge on the subject, but with what

little I do possess, and with such information as I have, at very short notice, been able to obtain, I should say that the people of Vizagapatam district were, on the whole, quite as well off as, if not better off than, the inhabitants of many other districts in Madras. Then with regard to the allusion of constant recurrence of famine, I must say that I cannot recollect from my reading of the history of this part of India, that famines have been of frequent occurrence. I rather think that the experience of last year was in a certain sense a new one for you and perhaps for that reason only the more painful to you. With regard to the question of education, I am aware, and I am sorry to be aware, that the districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjám are behind some other districts in Madras in the matter of primary education. This probably is from want of funds. You know that the District Board is charged with the provision of most of the money that is spent on education, especially for the purpose of primary education in the Madras Presidency; and I am told that in your district the actual proportion of the District Board revenues spent on education at the present time is somewhat in excess of the proportion that was lately authorised by the Government. It has been found necessary to restrict the amount of funds available, which have to be spent on education, in order to leave more for the maintenance and improvement of ways of communication. It may be a matter of opinion as to whether roads and communications

or education are the more important. For my own part, I think communications and roads come first, and for that reason I think Government were right in giving this order, whereby, for the sake of improving communications, the progress of education has perhaps temporarily been checked. You make reference to the interest that I take in the extension of municipal privileges. I am glad to hear that you appreciate what has been done in respect of Anakápalle, one of the places in your immediate neighbourhood. With regard to your request that Government should take into consideration the grant of the privilege of having elected vice-presidents in the district and taluk boards and confer on rate-payers the right of electing members to the taluk boards, I would say that as soon as we are assured that you are ripe for this measure, as soon as we feel certain that there is a sufficiently large number of educated and intelligent members of the community to warrant such increase of municipal privileges, the Government will be perfectly ready to extend them. You next touch on the recent enhancement of house and water tax which I gather from your address has been raised to the maximum amount of sixteen and-a-half per cent. of the rental value. I am a little surprised that this matter did not form a subject of the address which I have just received and answered from the Municipal Council. However, as you have mentioned the subject, and although they have not, I will deal with what you say as well as I can. You ask that the

levying of the water-rate may be postponed till the municipality is in a position to actually supply water to the town; I am afraid that this is hardly feasible, and for one very simple reason. I understand that the money, or rather the share of the money advanced by the Government for the purpose, has already been advanced and interest has to be paid upon the advance; and it follows that if the Municipal Council has to pay interest, it must have the means to pay it with; and I apprehend if the tax is not raised to the original rate, that they will not be able to pay the interest, that is, they will be in default. I am afraid, therefore, that that request cannot be considered. But you go on to ask that the sum of two lakhs of rupees lent by the Government for the water-supply scheme, be allowed to be repaid in sixty yearly instalments, instead of thirty as at present fixed, so as to enable the municipality to reduce the water-rate to four per cent. This is an indirect way of arriving at the result which you sought to achieve in your previous request. At first sight it appears to me that there may be some possibility of considering this, if the money advanced by Government is not, from the Government's point of view, a very large sum: I think it very possible that we may be able to remain without receiving its full interest for a longer period of years than has been at first arranged for. I will, therefore, when I have an opportunity of consulting the Members of Government, bring this point forward for consideration. You next ask that for the better

administration of justice in the Agency tracts, District Munsif's courts may be opened in the Senior Assistant's and Special Assistant's divisions, with jurisdiction similar to that conferred on District Munsifs in the Agency tracts under Act III of 1873. I will observe that no demand to this effect has come from the people most interested in the matter, that is, the inhabitants of the Agency tracts; and, as at present advised, I am inclined to think that it will be premature and perhaps not quite safe to extend to the people of these districts the system of administration of justice which you here recommend. I join with you in rejoicing over the order for the re-commencement of the survey operations of the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway. But I must tell you that you owe no thanks to me for that. It is a matter which the Government of India regulate. It has been done by them in accordance with the advice of their own officers. I have no authority or power in the matter. But I join with you in hoping that the construction of this line will be taken up and carried out as soon as possible; for I believe even still larger benefits will flow to this part of the Presidency in which I am most interested. You last bring to my notice the desirability of the early construction of a bridge over the Govada river near Chodavaram, the former one having been washed away by floods in 1878, and you allude to the possible loss of life in crossing this river. I wonder if you have any information or any record of the number of lives that have been lost, if

any, in crossing the river. The Collector does not seem, from his knowledge of the case, to be aware that the absence of the bridge has brought about this disastrous result. I may say that the reason why the construction of the bridge is not attempted, is not that it is not wanted, but simply because there is not sufficient money to provide the means to carry out the works. I think I have now dealt with all the points brought forward in your address. In conclusion I have only to thank you again for your kind welcome and for the kind wishes which you express in your address.

ADDRESS FROM THE MANAGING COMMITTEE,
MASTERS AND PUPILS OF THE HINDU COLLEGE,
VIZAGAPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the managing committee, masters and pupils of the Hindu College, Vizagapatam, most loyally and respectfully beg to welcome Your Excellency into our institution. We feel grateful and proud that our humble institution has been honoured with a visit by the highest representative in this Presidency of Her Gracious Majesty the Empress Victoria.

With Your Excellency's permission we beg to lay before Your Excellency some account of this institution. The Hindu College, Vizagapatam, was started as an Anglo-Vernacular School in 1860 by the leading gentlemen of this town in consultation

with Sir A. Grant, the well-known Greek scholar and formerly an Inspector of Schools in this Presidency, with a view to provide for the education of the school-going boys on purely non-sectarian lines. The management of the school was vested in a committee with the Collector of the district as president. The school was raised to the standard of a second-grade college and affiliated to the Madras University in 1878. In 1895 a technical side was added to the college consisting of a carpentry section and drawing classes. The college has always done good work and many of its old students have held, and are holding, responsible positions under the Government and elsewhere.

During the last ten years the institution has been hampered for want of funds. The difficulty commenced with the withdrawal of subscriptions, to the amount of two hundred rupees monthly, by some of the leading zamindars in the district. In spite of the accumulating yearly deficit, the managing committee of the college and the staff have been working with unflinching courage, and, during the last seven years, the record of the work of the institution has been one of steady improvement in strength and financial condition. That our courage has been kept up is due to the generosity of the late Mr. Ankitam Venkata Narasinga Row who, when he died in June 1892, bequeathed a lakh and fifteen thousand rupees for founding a college in honour of his family. The executors of Mr. Narasinga Row's will, in consultation with Dr. Duncan, the

Director of Public Instruction, resolved, in January 1897, to take over this institution, with its assets and liabilities, and put the general side of it on a sound basis, and develop the technical side.

They communicated their resolution for the approval and sanction of Your Excellency's Government, and orders are most anxiously awaited. The extension of accommodation, the establishment of a students' hostel, the improvement of the college library and laboratory, the laying out of sufficient play-ground for students, the increased remuneration to the lower members of the college staff, are among the important questions affecting our institution which the managing committee has had to postpone pending the orders of Your Excellency's Government on the resolution of the executors of Mr. Narasinga Row's will. When this institution is re-organised on the broad lines recommended by them, it will, we are sure, become a strong second-grade college. Your Excellency has always shown much interest in educational questions, and we take it that Your Excellency's present opportune visit to this one of the oldest educational institutions in this part of the Presidency, is a sign that better and happier days are in store for it in the very near future.

Thanking Your Excellency for the honour of this visit, we pray to God to give to Her Excellency Lady Havelock and Your Excellency long life, health, and happiness.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN, MEMBERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE, MASTERS AND PUPILS OF THE HINDU COLLEGE, VIZAGAPATAM, — I receive with many thanks the kind and interesting address which has just been read. I beg to offer you my sincere acknowledgments for the hearty reception which you have accorded to me. I have listened with much interest to the short history which has just been read of this institution. I congratulate you on your position. The application to Government to which reference has been made in the address, has not yet come before me personally, but I will make it my business on my return to Madras to make particular inquiries respecting it, and if I find it in my power to facilitate your desires and to hasten the reply to the application that you have made, you may rely on my doing my best. (Cheers.) The object that your managing committee, or rather one of the objects that your managing committee have in view, namely, the establishment of a students' hostel, meets with my special sympathy and approval. (Cheers.) We are endeavouring in Madras and other centres to introduce this very necessary improvement as an adjunct to our educational system. I have no doubt that here in Vizagapatam you stand as much in need of that kind of improvement as we do in Madras. (Cheers.) I thank you for your kind wishes, and I beg to reciprocate them very warmly for the increased development and success of this already important and interesting institution.

ADDRESS FROM THE PUPILS OF THE LONDON
MISSION HIGH SCHOOL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,--We, the pupils of the London Mission High School, beg to give you a hearty welcome on this your visit to the oldest educational institution in the district, if not in the Northern Circars. We shall ever consider this a red letter day in the annals of our institution, as the highest representative of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress in the Presidency has been pleased to pay this school a visit to-day.

This school was opened in 1837; it was then an elementary school, and in January 1840 the late Rev. John Hay, M.A., D.D., thought it advisable to abolish the Telugu schools taught by untrained teachers and to devote all the strength and funds at the disposal of the mission to one Anglo-Vernacular school of a higher order. This was not an easy matter in those days, for English education of a superior kind was not thought much of. A little reading, writing and arithmetic with ability to speak or translate a few sentences in very broken English, was all that was aimed at or deemed quite safe to acquire. To go beyond that was to run the risk of being converted. But Mr. Hay patiently toiled on till at last the school became the centre of good and useful work in the Northern Circars. This was not accomplished till he had overcome many obstacles. Universities had not then been established in India to give an impulse to such high class education;

neither was it needed for obtaining lucrative employment under Government. Want of suitable textbooks was another difficulty; spelling books, vocabularies and dialogues formed the library of a native student or an official of those days. Mr. Hay had therefore to undertake the preparation of books on Grammar, History, Reading, &c., which were printed at the Mission press. He also opened in connection with the school a monitors' class, as he termed it, corresponding to the Normal school of our days; young men were trained in English, the elements of Natural Philosophy, Mathematics, Mental and Moral Science. At this time a high Government official was deputed by the authorities at Madras to visit this town to see if a college could be opened here. This gentleman hearing of the existence of this school paid it a visit, and after examining the school, he was so pleased with the superior kind of instruction given here, that he strongly advised Government not to open a college in the town. This accounts for the existence of the Government College at Rajahmundry.

From these small beginnings the school has developed in strength and efficiency, and it now imparts instruction to nearly 500 boys of all classes and creeds, European and Native, from the Brahman to the Panchama. Five years ago the institution was thrown open to lady-students as well, and there are seven attending the school at present. At the recent Matriculation Examination 9 pupils came out successful out of 18 sent up, with one in the first

class—a percentage seldom equalled by any school or college in the Northern Circars.

The present success and prosperity of the institution are mainly due to the Principal, Mr. D. Lazarus, B.A., who has been in charge of the school for the last twenty years; we humbly request Your Excellency will be pleased to recognize his services in the cause of education in this district by appointing him a Fellow of the Madras University.

We take this opportunity of thanking Your Excellency's Government for the liberal monthly grants we are receiving from the Educational Department, as well as for the encouragement given to education in various other ways.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock every blessing from above.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency made a short reply in which he said their request to nominate their headmaster a Fellow would be considered at the time when nominations were usually made.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, VIZIANAGRAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the fellow townsmen whom we represent, as well as on our own behalf, we beg to tender Your Excellency and party our most hearty welcome, and also our sincere acknowledgments of gratitude to Your

Excellency for so kindly condescending to grant us, in spite of the inconveniences of a fatiguing journey, and the many important matters engaging Your Excellency's valuable time during the short stay here, an opportunity of more directly representing the wants and requirements of our town, few though they are.

Before entering into other matters, we feel we cannot refrain from expressing how deeply we feel the serious loss that our countrymen in general and we in particular have sustained by the sad and premature demise of His Highness the Maharajah Sir Sri P. Ananda Gajapati Raj Maharaj Manyasultan Bahadur of Vizianagram, G.C.I.E. He was the mainstay of the prosperity and happiness of the town and of its remarkable development on all sides. He never spared either pains or purse with regard to any measure calculated to elevate its position or promote the comforts of its residents. The present prosperous condition of this town is decidedly due to the hearty support and co-operation and the great interest he had manifested in all its concerns. It was an admirable trait in the late Maharajah's character, that, though foremost he was to do good in a number of ways, he always tried to manage it, so that the real benefactor was not at once known. It was to his generosity that this municipality is so largely indebted for the improved state of its roads and its sanitary arrangements; we say this, because it has been saved from a heavy annual outlay upon two of the essential purposes to which the Municipal

funds should be applied, viz., medical aid and education, both of which have fully been provided for by the late lamented Maharajah. The Samasthanam maintains entirely, at its own cost, a hospital and dispensary where in- and out- patients of the town and its neighbouring villages are freely treated and dieted, with every kind of accommodation provided for males, females and accouchement cases. A first-grade College, with high school and primary departments attached to it, is likewise maintained; and nothing afforded him greater pleasure than the success of this institution, and its present elevated position was entirely due to his great liberality and the interest he invariably manifested indeed in the cause of education. He frequently used to remark that this college was one of the most precious jewels of the Vizianagram Crown. Had he been spared a little while longer, the benefits of both these institutions would have still more considerably expanded. His untimely end snatched away many a hope for substantial improvements to this municipality. We have more reasons than one to mourn his loss and there is hardly any amongst us who does not feel his demise as that of a great and real benefactor and at the same time one that is dearest and nearest to him.

We beg to represent that the councillors have been managing the municipal affairs with harmony among themselves and the people. We, however, regret to state that M.R.Ry. V. Venkatrayasastry Garu, who has been connected with the council as its

executive for four years in succession, has now been obliged to be absent at Vizagapatam on duty. His good services have more than once been favourably noticed by Government, and Your Excellency was also pleased to confer on him the honour of a certificate on the rare occasion of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

The town is two and-a-half square miles in extent with a population of 29,180 as per census of 1891 and has forty-two miles of roads to maintain. Its income averages between thirty thousand and thirty-two thousand rupees per annum and just covers the usual charges. It stands very badly in need of two important and essential elements of sanitation—one is the introduction of pure water-supply for drinking purposes, and the other is an improved system of drainage. Unless these two long-felt wants were supplied, the sanitary position of the town cannot be complete or satisfactory, nor can any amount of stringent measures adopted prove to be a successful safeguard against the attacks of such epidemic diseases as the town has frequently been liable to. These are costly projects and involve an expenditure such as we apprehend we can never meet, under the existing state of our finances, without substantial aid from Government. It is very unlikely that we can find fresh sources of income or enhance the present revenue, without creating very great popular hardships and discontent. There is no question that these wants are perfectly real and require to be supplied as soon as

possible. Judging from the kindly interest evinced by Your Excellency's Government in this direction with regard to other municipalities, especially in the case of Vizagapatam, and the preliminary steps taken so far on the subject relating to our town, we are sanguine that during Your Excellency's régime, we shall, in the near future, enjoy the good fortune of having pure and wholesome water to drink within the easy reach of the rich and the poor alike. We are not at all exaggerating when we represent that, for a population of 29,180, there are only five wells, whose water is considered pure and wholesome; and these are, as a rule, monopolised for the use of the rich and the influential portion of the community; and by their distant position, they do not serve the needs of the poorer classes. We submit it to Your Excellency to judge whether these wells can afford any thing like an adequate supply for our requirements, whether this difficulty can be endured much longer, and whether it is not high time to remove it.

The present drainage system is more a matter of nuisance than any thing else. The drains absorb the impurities and emit horrible vapours. They are, in a majority of cases, constructed without proper outlets to discharge themselves into. It goes without saying how very necessary it is to improve the existing drainage system; and this project also is much too expensive for the council to undertake unaided. We venture to say that, between these two evils, the drainage is the lesser one, and can afford to wait. We know we cannot ask too many favours at a time.

If, by Your Excellency's kind support, our water project has become an accomplished fact, and we begin to disburden ourselves of the financial encumbrance that it involves, we will submit proposals for drainage improvements; and we have, no doubt, that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to give them the best possible consideration.

May Your Excellency's benevolent Government be a perfect success in all its weighty and manifold responsibilities and continue to endear still more, if possible, the beloved and glorious name of Her Most Gracious Majesty Our Queen-Empress all over the land, is our ardent and sincere wish.

Before concluding we solicit Your Excellency's pardon for the detention that our representation has caused, and we have only one thing more to say before we are finished, and that is, that it would have afforded us much greater pleasure and satisfaction had Lady Havelock also been pleased to be here on this occasion to receive our hearty welcome and the humble yet very sincere homage that we, one and all, in one voice, so cheerfully and spontaneously tender. We earnestly wish Her Ladyship and Your Excellency long life, health, happiness and prosperity and a bright career of success on all sides.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VIZIANAGRAM.—I thank you very sincerely for your cordial welcome. I assure you that there is no

apology needed for asking me to meet you here, for I consider it my duty and it is also my pleasure, on all occasions, to take any opportunity that offers of meeting the municipal bodies of the country and hear from them directly the representation of their wants and requirements, and at the same time to express to them the praise for the conduct of their affairs they deserve and give them the necessary warning if such be required. I have listened to your touching eulogy on the merits and admirable qualities of your late Maharajah. I had not the privilege of being intimately acquainted with him, but I had met him on one or two occasions. I may be permitted to add the expression of my personal regret at his untimely death. Like everybody who came in contact with him, I was struck by his charming personality and by his courtly manners. This municipality is specially indebted to him in that he had endowed it with this admirable institution, viz., a first-grade college, magnificent in its scale and in the details of its staff, and he also, as you inform me, provided you with all matters connected with hospital treatment. In this way the revenues of the municipality have been considerably relieved. On that ground alone, apart from all others, the municipality of Vizianagram owes a deep debt of gratitude to their late Maharajah. It is with satisfaction that I hear that the municipal councillors have been managing the affairs of the municipality with harmony among themselves and the people. Without harmony and good feeling it

is impossible for any institution, especially one in which the popular voice is represented, as in municipalities such as this, to work smoothly and successfully. In reading the administration report on the working of the municipality for the last year, I am glad to find that, in many respects, the administration was fairly efficient. In others, I am sorry to see there are matters pointed out in which the Government does not consider that the administration was altogether satisfactory. I have no doubt these points will be prominently brought to your notice. Allow me to express the hope that you will pay real, marked and living attention to what is said on the subject. You then describe your two principal wants. In common with most municipalities with which I have made acquaintance, you require a water-supply and you are in need of an improved system of drainage. With regard to your water-supply, it appears to me that you have made out a good case. I am informed that a scheme is now under preparation and is almost complete. It will, I suppose, in due course, be submitted to the municipal council, and it will then become your duty to make up your minds whether you will accept it and provide the necessary funds. It is possible that the scheme may be beyond your present possibilities, and if such be proved, I have no doubt that the Government will, in your case, as it has done in others, give you such help as is usual and customary. You inform me that the income of the municipal council now averages between thirty

thousand and thirty-two thousand rupees per annum. You may consider yourselves a poor municipality by comparison with others; but if you compare your present position with what it was about thirty years ago, in 1869, you are a very rich municipality. I learn from the manual that in the year 1869, the municipal revenue of Vizianagram was four hundred and fifty rupees, and at that time it was supplemented by the grant of an equal amount by the Government. Therefore, though you may consider yourselves poor now, you are in a very different position to what you were thirty years ago. Your next representation is with regard to drainage works. I agree with you that this work can be well postponed until the more pressing need of water-supply has been satisfied. Drainage works, as a rule, are very difficult really to plan in a perfect manner; and unless drainage works are really properly and perfectly planned, it is not seldom the case that they are a curse instead of an advantage. A great deal can be done in a very cheap way to improve your drainage simply, without any elaborate system, by levelling your drains and having a good system for removing rubbish, and various other simple and economical arrangements. You have also the sun in this country as your friend in matters of drainage. I remember a friend who, at any rate, posed as an authority in matters of drainage, used the expression "the sun is our great deodorizer." Well, you have the sun and he, as I assured you, is a very valuable ally in the matter of purification and

drainage. Therefore I quite agree with you that you can postpone the drainage works until you have completed your water-supply. I beg to thank you very much for your kind wishes for the success of my administration. I beg to offer you my thanks for the sentiments you express with regard to Lady Havelock. I have no doubt it would have given her great pleasure if she could have found herself suddenly transplanted to the town of Vizianagram. But she could hardly face the long journey that I have made, making it as rapidly as I have been obliged to do. But possibly on some future occasion, when communications between Vizianagram and Madras are more completely carried out than they are at present, it may give her pleasure to accompany me on a future visit. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind wishes and once more for the cordial welcome which you have given me.

ADDRESS FROM THE PRINCIPAL, &c., OF THE
MAHARAJAH'S COLLEGE, VIZIANAGRAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Principal, Professors, and Teachers of the Maharajah's College, Vizianagram, humbly beg to offer Your Excellency a hearty welcome.

This institution was founded in 1857 by His Highness Sir Pusapati Vijayarama Gajapatiraj, Maharajah of Vizianagram, K.C.S.I., and made a

second-grade college during his lifetime. His son, and successor, Maharajah Sir Ananda Gajapatiraj, C.C.I.E., raised it to the rank of a first-grade college in 1883.

It may interest Your Excellency to know that this institution, which attracts students from all parts of the Northern Circars, has turned out about a hundred graduates and five hundred undergraduates, and that, though it cannot rival some of the older colleges in the Presidency in point of numbers, it holds a conspicuously high position as regards the percentage of successful candidates, especially in the B.A. Degree examination.

Our late lamented patron always took a deep personal interest in the college. Whenever a distinguished visitor came to Vizianagram, it was the late Maharajah's pride to bring him to the college, and point out the work done here. The college has been visited by Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, Lord Wenlock, Lord Roberts and Sir Mansfield Clarke, among other notabilities, who have from time to time honoured the institution with their presence. The old college building was opened by Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, and the corner-stone of the new building was laid by Lord Wenlock. Like so many of his illustrious ancestors, the late Maharajah was also a great patron of learning, and liberally encouraged those who wished to acquire knowledge. He was himself an example of a remarkably learned man, who was well versed in both the Eastern and Western philosophies. His ambition was to develop

this institution, so as to pave the way for making Vizianagram the seat of a University for the Telugu country. While we cannot too deeply mourn his premature death as a great loss to the cause of higher education in these parts, we are thankful that the noble and enlightened Maharanee has resolved to maintain the college, and to continue the generous policy of encouraging education, a policy which was inaugurated by her illustrious husband, and considerably extended by her still more illustrious son.

While Your Excellency has earned the gratitude of the millions entrusted to your care by your kind and sympathetic administration, Your Excellency has, by your remarks at Ernakulam, given ample proof of Your Excellency's solicitude for the cause of education, and inspired us with a hope, that, when the question of the development of an Oriental side to our University, which, if rightly solved, will mark an era in the history of the intellectual progress of Southern India, comes before Your Excellency, it will receive such support as may be expected from a statesman of Your Excellency's broad and liberal views. Before we conclude, we beg to express our humble and sincere thanks for the great honour Your Excellency has conferred upon us by paying a visit to our college.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRINCIPAL, PROFESSORS AND TEACHERS OF THE MAHARAJAH'S COLLEGE OF VIZIANAGRAM,—I beg you

to accept my best acknowledgments for your kind welcome. I have listened with great interest to the short history which you have given me of your college. I congratulate you on its rapid progress in the path of success. The returns to which you allude show that, as you say, the college holds a high position as regards the percentage of successful candidates, especially in the B.A. Degree examination. I think, as you observe, your numbers are not as large as they are in some of the other leading educational institutions of the country. No address of this sort coming from you could possibly omit a touching allusion to the services done to this town of Vizianagram, and to this college in particular, by the late illustrious Maharajah and by his predecessors. This college is one of the many magnificent monuments of the late Maharajah's munificence and enlightenment and those of his predecessors. I am glad to find myself in succession to such men as Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, Lord Wenlock, Lord Roberts, Sir Mansfield Clarke, in being received here with the honours which you have shown me to-day. Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer, except to express my wish and the hope that this college may continue to progress and show, as it appears to have done in the past, that the Telugu race is able to hold its own with the other races of South India in educational and intellectual matters.

ADDRESS FROM THE RAJAH OF BOBBILI ON THE OCCASION OF OPENING VICTORIA TOWN HALL, BOBBILI.

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND GENTLEMEN,—Before I request Your Excellency to perform the ceremony for which we are all assembled here now, it seems fitting that I should briefly relate the circumstances that led to the erection of this building. When in the year 1893 I had the high privilege of paying my most humble and loyal respects to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, I thought it my duty to perpetuate the memory of such an auspicious event in some enduring form, and accordingly I applied to Her Majesty, through the Keeper of the Privy Purse, for permission to associate Her Majesty's name with the Town Hall which I proposed to build in Bobbili as a memorial of my visit. That permission Her Majesty most graciously accorded me, and the letter of Sir Henry Ponsonby, communicating to me Her Majesty's sanction, is inscribed on the tablet here, as you see. After my return to India, in consideration of the importance of this building, I requested Your Excellency's noble predecessor Lord Wenlock, to honour me by laying the foundation stone, a request which he was kind enough to comply with, when on his visit to Bobbili in October 1894. Such, very briefly, is the history and explanation of the Bobbili Victoria Town Hall, my humble tribute to that gracious lady whose name it bears. After the completion of the building, I felt solicitous that it should also have the honour of being opened by an

equally high and worthy representative of Her Majesty, and Your Excellency has laid me under deep obligation by so readily acceding to my request that you would perform the ceremony. Since then I have been most anxiously looking forward to the joyful event of Your Excellency's visit to this district. Gentlemen, we cannot sufficiently congratulate ourselves on our happiness and good fortune in being privileged to welcome Sir Arthur Havelock to this town. His Excellency has, I venture to say, a peculiarly large claim on our devotion and gratitude, as one who, by reason of the statesmanlike qualities with which he is so highly endowed, and the wide official experience which he possesses, is so pre-eminently fitted to rule over, and to guard the interests of, the people of this Presidency. I now beg leave to thank Your Excellency once more on my own behalf, and in the name of the people of Bobbili, for your kindness, and the honour which you have conferred upon us, by coming here to open this Town Hall to-day. I now request Your Excellency to be graciously pleased to open this Victoria Town Hall.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The Rajah has so fully and clearly explained the history and objects of this Town Hall that there remains little for me to say except that I feel it a pleasure and honour to be asked to consummate the work which was begun by my distinguished predecessor. I appreciate very heartily and deeply the

sentiments which have moved the Rajah to carry out this work, and I trust that the usefulness of the building with which he has endowed the town of Bobbili will be extensive and long lasting. With these words I now declare the Victoria Town Hall to be duly opened.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN AND THE ZAMINDARI OF BOBBILI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the inhabitants of the town and the zamindari of Bobbili, beg to offer Your Excellency a most hearty and loyal welcome to our town. This is the second time that we have had the high privilege to welcome a Governor of this Presidency.

The previous illustrious history of the house of Bobbili is too well-known to need any special reference, and the benevolence and the liberality of the Rajah who is now its representative, are fully borne out by the numerous public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and other charitable institutions founded by him, not the least important of which is the building that has just had the honour of being opened by Your Excellency.

Our wants as regards education, medical aid, sanitation, and fresh water-supply, have been more than supplied and safe-guarded by our worthy Rajah, with the co-operation of the Government and the local boards.

The requests that we now have to make at Your Excellency's hands are therefore few in number. Nevertheless, the liberal attitude maintained by Your Excellency on all questions of public interest; the solicitude evinced by Your Excellency to learn the grievances of all classes of people; the philanthropic spirit that has been inducing Your Excellency to make frequent visits to jails and hospitals; the large-heartedness with which you have safeguarded the interests of the rural population by passing a very liberal-spirited resolution on the forest administration; the impartiality and the breadth of view with which you have been giving effect to the Parliamentary Enactment of 1833, and to the Queen's Proclamation of 1858, by appointing natives of proved merit to the highest appointments in your gift; your fearless and conscientious expression of opinion on the question of Provincial finance;—all these are more than sufficient, not only to engrave your name on the hearts of the people of Southern India, but to encourage us to approach Your Excellency with two requests, to the consideration of which we crave Your Excellency's kindest attention.

The first of our requests is the speedy construction of the Vizianagram-Párvatipuram Railway, without which ramification the East Coast Railway can never be so lucrative to the Government, or convenient to the people as it ought to be; and we are glad to hear that a survey party is already in the field in connection with the said branch

railway. We now therefore request Your Excellency to give effect to that scheme as early as possible.

Our second request is of a political nature. We venture to request Your Excellency to grant to our Union which has been successfully working for the last twelve years, the right of election under subsection (b) of section 16, and under sections 121 and 123 of Local Boards Act.

In this connection we beg leave to remind Your Excellency that the Government of India in its review of the working of the Local Boards Act, notes with satisfaction that the local self-government scheme has been most successfully working in the Madras Presidency.

In conclusion, we cannot omit to congratulate ourselves on our having been enabled to face the last famine successfully, through the generous efforts made by the British Government and by the British nation, as well as by our Rajah who liberally helped his people in various ways; and the excellent and orderly manner in which State relief was given in this, as well as in other, affected districts, is in a large measure due to Your Excellency's administrative skill, and to the energy, conscientiousness, and the high sense of duty of our District and Divisional officers, to whom we can never feel too highly grateful.

We once more welcome Your Excellency to our midst, but we sincerely regret the absence on this interesting occasion of Her Excellency Lady

Havelock, to whom we pray Your Excellency to convey our most respectful and hearty good wishes.

Trusting that Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock may be blessed with every happiness and prosperity which a loyal people can wish for you.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF BOBBILI,—I thank you for your kind address of welcome. It is with the greatest satisfaction I have heard the tribute of praise which you have bestowed upon the Rajah of Bobbili, who, as you say, has endowed you with many useful public institutions, and they are valuable works to that extent. You admit that you are supplied with schools, hospitals and other charitable institutions, and that education, medical aid, sanitation and fresh water-supply have been more than supplied and safe-guarded. This is a very high tribute of gratitude and praise to your enlightened Rajah. In consequence of his munificence towards you, you say that there is very little left for you to ask at my hands. You first deal with the question of the Vizianagram-Párvatipuram Railway. In connection with this, I am happy to be able to tell you that the Government of India, as you appear to know, has sanctioned the survey of the line from Raipur towards the coast. The scheme has been sent to the Local Government of Madras for remarks, and certain modifications have been proposed. I have

no doubt that in due course the work will be undertaken, and whatever may be in my power to hasten and facilitate it, will be done; but you must remember that works of this kind are not under the orders and control of the Local Government, but are regulated by the Government of India. It is, therefore, with them that rests the beginning and carrying out of the work and not with the Government of Madras. You next make a representation with regard to your Union and ask that elective powers may be bestowed upon it. Before I can give you any positive answer in this direction, it will be necessary that I should make inquiry, and I have not yet had the opportunity or the time to do so. But I will promise you that I will do so and with the strong sympathy that I have with all institutions of this sort, you may be sure that if it be possible your request will be considered. I have not failed to notice the tone of approbation with which the Supreme Government has been able to express its opinion with regard to the work of municipal institutions in the Madras Presidency. I myself endorse most heartily what has been said by the Government of India on that subject. I am glad to be able to join with you in congratulating ourselves on the success of the efforts of the Government to withstand the horrors of famine and distress during last year. I take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude of the Government for the efforts that were made by the Rajah himself to assist the people in his own immediate neighbourhood,

and I wish also not to lose this opportunity of expressing the high appreciation of my Government of the skill, zeal and devotion of the District officers under extremely difficult and trying circumstances. I thank you once more for the welcome you have accorded to me here.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THE
TOWN OF CHATRAPUR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the little town of Chatrapur, the headquarters of the District Collector and Magistrate, most respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency to offer the warmest of welcomes from the bottom of our hearts and beg to assure Your Excellency that, poor and humble as our reception may be and wanting in all the splendour and princely character of that accorded by wealthier towns in the South, still we hail Your Excellency with hearts as loyal and grateful as they are proud and cheerful. We are exceedingly glad to avail ourselves of this golden opportunity to give expression to our inherent and inherited feelings of loyalty and affection towards the British Raj and of filial duty and deep devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India. We are most thankful to Your Excellency's Government for the generous, prompt, and efficient manner in which famine relief was distributed and many a poor soul most opportunely saved from the pangs of hunger and clutches of sickness through the

exertions of our District officers under the able and energetic guidance of our esteemed and popular Collector who worked day and night visiting village after village, unheeding wind, sun, and rain and undaunted by cholera and small-pox. Grateful as we are for the many and varied benefits which we have enjoyed and are still enjoying under the benign British sway, and especially fresh as our memories are of the unbounded munificence of Your Excellency's régime in protecting several thousands of lives during the late famine, yet, prompted by the principle of "Ask and it shall be given," we are emboldened to approach Your Excellency to ask for more favours which, our experience of Your Excellency's generosity in other quarters vouches, will not be denied. Water, pure drinking water, has been a long and much felt want at Chatrapur. Yet, the town is within a couple of miles from a ramification of the Rushikulya project, one of those innumerable works of grandeur which trumpet to the world the glory of the British administration. An extension of the canal these two miles is all that is needed not only to serve as a feeder for all the drinking-water tanks in the town, but to irrigate more lands and be a source of revenue to Government. Our next prayer is for the construction of the Goomsur-Gopalpur Branch Railway. We are deeply indebted to the Government for the inestimable boon of a railway, and with it the enjoyment of all the advantages of easy communication in common with our brethren of the South—in particular, the unique

pleasure of the gubernatorial visits, which had previously been few and far between, to this far-off northernmost part of the Presidency. The opening of such a branch line will be beneficial in various ways to the people of this district. The produce of the fertile lands of Goomsur and Ataguda and of the hills and forests will find its way out to the seaport, the imports of which, together with common salt, will be placed within the easy reach of the people inhabiting the Agency tracts and the country bordering on the hills, where such articles as salt and tobacco find a ready market. If the construction of the whole branch line is not feasible so soon, we respectfully beg to submit that at least the chief port of the district, namely, Gopalpur, may be connected with the main line at or near Berhampur, the most important town in the district. We hear that this subject has engaged the attention of our good and able Collector and confiding in his wisdom, we rest assured that all our real wants will be readily supplied. Once more, we beg to welcome Your Excellency with hearts overflowing with joy and gratitude and pray that Your Excellency will convey our best wishes to Her Excellency Lady Havelock to whom we have not the fortune and honour of tendering a hearty welcome in our midst. May the most merciful God grant Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a long life of peace, happiness and prosperity for the continuance of your noble and generous efforts to ameliorate and elevate the condition of those entrusted to your care!

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INHABITANTS OF CHATRAPUR,—I am glad to find myself in Chatrapur, which is the head-quarters of the Ganjám district—a district which, perhaps with the exception of South Canara, is the most remote of all the districts in the Madras Presidency. I thank the inhabitants of Chatrapur for their kind words and demonstrations of welcome, in the sincerity and warmth of which I fully believe. I am glad to find that you express yourselves in a thankful manner for the measures taken by the Government to relieve distress and avert famine during the past year. I have listened with particular satisfaction to the tribute of gratitude which you pay to your Collector and the District officers for the devotion, skill and zeal which were displayed by them in meeting the difficulties of famine under circumstances that were not at all easy to face. You follow your thanks for what has been done in the past by requests for favours in the future. The first request that you make is that something should be done towards securing good drinking water for your town of Chatrapur. I am informed that you are at present dependent mainly on the water to be got from tanks, and that Chatrapur, by reason of its bad supply of drinking water, is still subject to attacks of cholera. Your request seems to me to be a very reasonable one, and the scheme that you suggest has the appearance of being at any rate economical. Of its

feasibility I am not at present in a position to express an opinion; but the Collector tells me that the District Board Engineer is about to make a survey which will probably settle the question as to whether or not water can be brought to the town in the manner you describe, viz., by a channel from the Rushikulya project, starting at a point about two miles from here. If it is found that there are no engineering difficulties in the way, it seems to me that this scheme is one that might deserve encouragement. The only difficulty that will present itself will be the provision of the necessary funds. I understand that the District Board funds are at present rather in low water. But on this matter I have not yet had time to consult fully with the Collector. It will be time enough when it is shown that the work can be carried out without any engineering difficulties, to face the question of expense; and I hope that some means will be devised for doing so. Your next prayer is for the construction of the branch railway. I understand by the expression Goomsur-Gopalpur Railway that you mean, in point of fact, two branch lines of railway, one starting from the main line of railway and striking inland through Goomsur and Atagada in the direction of the agency; and the other starting also from the main line somewhere, I think you say in the neighbourhood of Berhampur, and reaching to the port of Gopalpur. With regard to the first of these, viz., the branch line to intersect Goomsur taluk and Atagala zamindari in the direction of the Agency, I will say that

at first sight it appears to me to be good policy that such a line should be considered. I understand that these districts are fertile and that possibly if a line is constructed in a cheap manner, it might prove to be remunerative. I shall have pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Government of India a proposal for this purpose. Now with regard to the other branch line, the one from the main line to Gopalpur, or some other port within the district of Ganjām, two questions are involved; the first is whether or not it is desirable that any port in Ganjām should be connected by railway with the main line, and, secondly, if any port is to be connected, which port is to be chosen for that purpose. It was considered necessary in order to decide the first of these questions, that is, whether it will be desirable from a paying point of view to connect any port of Ganjām with the main line, to obtain certain statistics of the amount of business carried on there. The Collector informs me that these statistics have been completed; but they have not yet reached me, either privately or officially. I am therefore unable at present to base any opinion thereupon. But I venture to say that in my opinion it will be both fair and politic to connect the main line with some port of the Ganjām district. But with regard to the particular port that should be favoured in this way, I am not able to express any decided opinion on the subject; but as I am advised at present, the evidence that I have before me would go to show that, all things being considered, Gopalpur

should be the port selected for the purpose. I think those are the only two points which involve the granting of any favours or concessions to you. You end your address by again repeating your kind expressions of welcome to me for which I again thank you, and I assure you that it will give me pleasure to convey to Lady Havelock the kind wishes which you send her.

ADDRESS FROM THE BERHAMPUR MUNICIPALITY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, Councillors of the Berhampur Municipality, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with this address of genuine, though humble, welcome on this happy occasion of your visit to our town.

2. Your Excellency's sympathy with the millions of Her Majesty's subjects who own your sway has endeared you to the hearts of us all, and we are equally proud and grateful for this gracious visit, which is but the outcome of Your Excellency's solicitude to see with your own eyes the condition of the people in these distant parts.

3. No more convincing proof of Your Excellency's anxiety for our welfare can be found than in the way in which suffering was relieved during the terrible famine we have just tided over, and our heartfelt thanks are due to Your Excellency's Government and to our able Collector, Mr. H. D. Taylor,

and his willing assistants for the unparalleled promptitude and thoroughness with which all relief measures were carried out. In this connection we thank those charitably disposed persons of all nations who contributed to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund—a fund which, working as it did side by side with Government relief, has rescued innumerable respectable, but indigent, families from starvation and death.

4. That great national calamity, the plague, is exercising the minds of the public more than anything else at the present moment, but we are happy to be able to assure Your Excellency that we have been carrying out as strictly as possible the rules for plague observation framed by our ever-vigilant Sanitary Commissioner.

5. This town of ours, like the rest of the district, has suffered of late from cholera, which happily has left us, but small-pox, in a more or less severe form, is prevailing now in our midst as elsewhere in the district. The mortality hitherto has been mostly confined to adults and re-vaccination is being vigorously carried on to minimise it.

6. We are keenly alive to the fact, that without an abundant supply of wholesome water, disease can hardly be kept out of the town, and pending the Sanitary Engineer's water-supply scheme, which, when matured, we shall have to apply to Government for help, we have resolved to lead water from the Rushikulya canal into our tanks through

Raneegunge pipes instead of along a feeder channel as hitherto. But this at best is a makeshift, for we shall not have filtered water, and a Rushikulya canal is liable to more or less pollution in the many miles of country over which it passes.

7. In this connection we respectfully pray that the branch of the Rushikulya canal which it is proposed to carry along the northern limits of the town, may be undertaken at an early date, so that we may have Rushikulya water within easy reach.

8. We are glad to tell Your Excellency that we have been doing our duty as usual in our humble way with the kind co-operation of the District authorities and without any hitch amongst ourselves.

9. But the time at Your Excellency's disposal is short as our temptation to detain you is great. We therefore conclude with expressions of sincere and devoted loyalty to our Queen-Mother and with prayers for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity in whatever sphere of action Your Excellency may be placed.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF BERHAMPUR,—I accept with pleasure your address and I thank you for your kind welcome to your town. I am glad to hear that you appreciate the strenuous and successful efforts made by

the Collector of the district and the other District officers for resisting the inroads of distress and famine during the last year. Our thanks, our gratitude are due to all those who in England and elsewhere contributed so liberally towards the great Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund. We also owe a debt of thanks to those local bodies and persons who, in such a very disinterested and successful manner, administered the distribution of that fund in this country. You make allusion to the plague which prevails in the Bombay Presidency and in some parts of the Punjab. Happily, up to the present moment, we have not had that visitation within the precincts of the Madras Presidency; and as the warm weather approaches, I am glad to say, the chances of its spreading among us decrease. I hope during the next few weeks we may succeed in keeping it at bay; and then we may begin to congratulate ourselves on being saved from it, at any rate, until the next cool season approaches. I am aware your town has rather an evil name for cholera. At the present moment I am glad to hear that you have an immunity from it. Small-pox, I hear, is one of your greatest enemies. I am glad to see that you are so fully alive to the necessity of having a good supply of drinking water as a preventive, if not a cure, of these visitations that I have just mentioned; and I am gratified to find you are able so far to help yourselves as to resolve to lead water from the Rushikulya canal into your tanks through Raneegunge pipes, instead of along a feeder channel as

hitherto. You remark that this is merely a make-shift and I think evidently it is so. I am not aware that any regular scheme of water-supply has yet been designed by our Sanitary Engineer for the town of Berhampur. And I am aware that there are a great many other schemes for other towns in the Presidency which are considered to have precedence of any schemes for Berhampur. I would therefore join with the Sanitary Engineer in advising you for the present to make the very best of your existing circumstances, which you appear to have made up your minds to do; but when I return to Madras I will make inquiry as to the exact position of your town with regard to the water-supply schemes, and if I find the scheme that the Sanitary Engineer has in mind of a very simple, easy and economical description, I will see if it will be possible to hasten its preparation. You next mention that you would like a branch of the Rushikulya canal, which it is proposed to carry along the northern limits of your town, to be taken in hand at an early date. From enquiries I have made with regard to this work, I am obliged to tell you that I think there is no chance of its being taken up as an irrigation work, at any rate, for the present. The funds appropriated to the Rushikulya scheme will not, as I understand, admit of this particular work being carried out just now. I am glad to hear that you are able to tell me that you, of the Municipal Council of Berhampur, are doing your duty in a humble way and that there is no hitch among you. Dissension in a body such as yours

is fatal to all useful work. If you can work with unanimity, half the battle is gained. I have made some enquiries with regard to the position of your municipality, and I find that you consist of eighteen members, of whom eight are nominated and ten are elected. I have also looked through the administration reports for the last two years, so as to form for myself some opinion of the character of the work done by the Municipal Council here. For the year 1895-96 your work is described as fairly efficient, but not satisfactory in the important subjects of roads, vaccination and registration. In the report for the following year, I regret to have to say that the mention of you is even less satisfactory. It appears from that report that the matters connected with improvements of roads, with education, vaccination and registration, have advanced far less than during the previous year, and your sanitation is described as defective and, in fact, as I have already had occasion to remark, Berhampur has a bad name for its insalubrity. Now, gentlemen of the Municipal Council, I commend very strongly to you active improvement in the matters in which Government has found you to be deficient. More especially do I call upon you to attend to matters connected with the sanitation of your town. I shall take particular pains to watch the progress of this municipality in these matters and especially in the important matter of sanitation. I beg in conclusion to thank you for your kind expressions for myself and to join with you in your testimony of sincere and devoted

loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE
COUNCILLORS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
CHICACOLE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and the Councillors of the Municipal Council, Chicacole, respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency with our humble address on this the first occasion of Your Excellency's visit to our district, to which we beg to welcome Your Excellency with our heartfelt joy and gratitude, though we have not been afforded the opportunity of doing so in our town, which was once the capital of the district and is now second in importance to Berhampur.

2. We may be permitted to take this opportunity to thank, firstly, Your Excellency's Government, and, secondly, the District officers, for the timely and energetic measures taken for relieving the severe distress which prevailed throughout the district last year; and we regret that people are not entirely free from the apprehensions of further scarcity, considering the high prices obtaining at present in the market; and we are fully confident that they will have a ready relief under Your Excellency's sympathetic administration in the event of those apprehensions being realized.

3. We feel bound to express our warmest thanks to Your Excellency for having recently vouchsafed

to our Council the elective franchise to the extent of one-half the number of the Councillors.

4. Acknowledging with our deepest gratitude the undeniable benefits of the railway communication through our district, we respectfully beg to represent that our town, whose population is about nineteen-thousand, is not in a position to enjoy those benefits fully on account of the Chicacole road station being situated so far away as nine miles from our town, and that, in consequence, the commercial progress of our town is being considerably retarded. The situation of our town so far away from that station, we venture to think, is one of the reasons, if not the main one, for its not being honoured with a visit from Your Excellency at this time. We humbly pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to favourably take into Your Excellency's early consideration the desirability of remedying the want of a branch line, which our town has been sorely feeling, by sanctioning a feeder-line to pass through our town to Calingapatam, which is an important seaport and has extensive salt manufacture, *viâ* Arasavilli and Srikurmam, noted places of pilgrimage in the district.

5. We further beg to represent that, in case sanction of the feeder-line cannot be accorded at present owing to financial exigencies, at least the construction of an ordinary road from Dusi station to the main road that leads to Chicacole, which would bring the railway nearer to us by about three miles, would be of no small benefit to our town, and

we, therefore, pray that the construction of the road may be sanctioned as early as possible.

6. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we are hopefully awaiting the favourable response of Your Excellency's Government to our prayer in regard to placing, for the purposes of conservancy, the bank of the river in the Vizagapatam district opposite to our town, under the control of our Council.

7. Expressing once more our regret that our town has not been honoured with a visit from Your Excellency, we beg in conclusion to offer our thanks from the bottom of our hearts for granting us this opportunity of representing our needs, which, we feel sure, will be supplied under Your Excellency's kind and generous administration, and we fervently pray that the Almighty will bestow on Your Excellency and Lady Havelock long life, sound health, and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CHICACOLE,—I thank you for your kind expression of pleasure and satisfaction at meeting me here to-day, and I thank you for your kind welcome to the district. I must repeat what I said in reply to the last address, that it gives me satisfaction to find you so highly appreciate the excellent efforts made by the Collector and the District officers to meet the difficulties which arose during the last

year through scarcity and fear of famine. Those efforts which were so successful are thoroughly appreciated by the Government. I am glad it has been possible to extend to your municipality the elective franchise to the extent of one-half of the number of Councillors, and I hope before long you will deserve even further extension of these municipal privileges. You make a representation with regard to the construction of a line of railway which will bring your town and Calingapatam into connection with the main line of railway. I must explain to you, in the first place, that the construction of railways in this country is not a matter which depends upon the Local Government of Madras. It is a subject which is dealt with by the Supreme Government at Calcutta. It is true that the Local Government is called upon to make recommendations in these matters, but the final decision with regard to the recommendations and with regard to all works of this kind, rests with the Supreme Government. It has not before to-day been brought to my notice that such a line of railway as you describe is amongst those works which will be of advantage. I have, therefore, not had time to go at all deeply into the question, but from very casual examination of it I am bound to say I do not think the work is one of those which the Local Government can cordially and conscientiously recommend to the Supreme Government. I am inclined to think that the expense of it will be far in excess of any return which is likely to be derived. You next ask, failing

the construction of the railway line, for the construction of an ordinary road from Dusi station to the main road that leads to Chicacole, which would shorten your access to the railway station by about three miles. The Collector informs me that this will be a somewhat costly piece of work and that the District Board are unable to undertake it. If it is done at all, it must be done only from Provincial funds; and before I can undertake to say anything of the possibility of this being undertaken by the Provincial Government, I must have further information both as to its possible usefulness and probable cost. The matter will, in due course, be referred by the Collector to the Government, who will take action thereupon. You refer in paragraph 6 of your address to a communication which you appear to have addressed to Government applying that the bank of the river on the Vizagapatam side may be placed under the control of your council. This application has not yet come under my notice, but I have no doubt it will do so in due course; but I may tell you if the Collectors of this district and Vizagapatam are able to support it, the Government will give the matter their best consideration. In conclusion I beg you to accept my best thanks for your kind wishes on behalf of Lady Havelock and myself.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE
BERHAMPUR ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned Members of the Berhampur Association, beg to offer Your Excellency a most cordial welcome on the occasion of your first visit to this town.

2. We are all deeply and sincerely grateful to Your Excellency for the manifold blessings conferred on the people of this Presidency during Your Excellency's régime. First and foremost among them is the prompt and adequate relief given to the poor and the distressed during the famine which we have just passed through unscathed, owing to the forethought and vigilance of Your Excellency's Government. Your Excellency's visit to some of the most affected parts at considerable sacrifice to your health and personal comfort and convenience, is a clear proof of Your Excellency's solicitude for the welfare of the people. In this connection, we may be permitted to express our gratitude to our able and energetic Collector and his District Magistrate for the alacrity with which all relief measures were executed, and privation and want anticipated and combated in every part of the district.

3. While on this subject it behoves us to render our heartfelt thanks to the subscribers of whatever clime, color or creed to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, whose disinterested generosity has rescued from the jaws of death numberless fellow-beings,

whom Government relief could not reach ; and the gentlemen forming the various committees to whom the administration of the fund was entrusted, and who discharged their honorary, though onerous, duties with single-hearted honesty and devotion.

4. We would respectfully suggest that, as a measure for the prevention of famine in this district, the Rushikulya scheme may be completed in all its branches and distributaries and the Vamsadhara project undertaken and completed at no distant date. Another means of protection against future famine would be, in our humble opinion, the opening of a railway line connecting the East Coast Railway with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway *via* Aska and Russellkonda, thus throwing open to traffic the grain-producing districts of the Central Provinces and finding an easy route for the exportation of the forest produce of our Agency tracts.

5. While acknowledging the many benefits conferred on us by the East Coast Railway, we humbly submit that a branch line to Gopalpur port is badly wanted in the interests of the mercantile community of the district and another branch of the East Coast Railway from Dusi or Chicacole road *via* Arasavilli and Srikurmam (both holy places of pilgrimage) to Calingapatam would be a great boon to the public, and it will also prove a success from a pecuniary point of view.

6. We also beg permission to bring to Your Excellency's kind consideration the absolute neces-

sity that exists at present for a branch dispensary in Berhampur, a necessity which was recognised by the District Medical and Sanitary officer, and which we feel to be so great that we are constrained to mention it to Your Excellency in spite of the fact that the proposal of the Municipal Council to open a branch dispensary has been vetoed by the Government. The Jubilee Hospital is situated a long way off from the most thickly populated portion of the town, the inhabitants of which are generally poor and ignorant and cannot afford to pay for cart hire to take them to the Jubilee Hospital when disabled to walk.

7. We take this opportunity of offering our best thanks to the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Atagada for his liberal offer to build a Town Hall here in commemoration of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and make a free gift of the same to the Berhampur Association whose duty it will be to allow its use for all purposes of a public nature.

8. We have detained Your Excellency long, and beg leave to conclude with expressions of loyalty and affection to our Queen-Empress and with prayers for the long life and prosperity of Lady Havelock and Your Excellency.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE BERHAMPUR ASSOCIATION,—
I thank you for your cordial welcome. I beg to

express my interest in the work which your association has set itself to do in Berhampur. I can only repeat, what I have now said on several occasions, that we all very highly appreciate the hard work, the successfully hard work of the District officers in combating famine and distress during the recent year. We also highly appreciate the liberality of our fellow subjects in England and all over the Empire in contributing towards the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, which has served to allay much misery and to set people going who had almost lost the means of gaining their livelihood. This fund, so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, has been admirably administered. We have to congratulate ourselves much on the success of those who were connected with the distribution of this fund, and we owe to them our grateful thanks. With regard to the branches of the Rushikulya scheme, I believe I am right in saying that they are for the most part already undertaken, and I hope will approach completion before long. From what I can learn with regard to the other project which you mention, viz., the Vamsadhara project, I am inclined to think that it is not one which will commend itself to those who are responsible for the undertaking of irrigation works. Now with regard to the extensions of railways which you mention, the first is a line connecting the East Coast Railway with the Bengal-Nagpur line *via* Aska and Russellkonda. On a previous occasion, in answering an address presented to me at Chatrapur, I said,

what I repeat now, that I think it will be good policy to make an investigation, at any rate, of the earlier part of this line, that is, of a section of perhaps about 50 miles in length from somewhere in the neighbourhood of Berhampur through Aska into the country beyond towards the Agency tracts. I believe that this is a rich and fertile part of the country and it might possibly prove to be a work that would be sufficiently remunerative to justify its construction. The next railway line which you mention as being one which you desire to have, is a branch line to the Gopalpur port, and here again I have to repeat what I said to those who presented me with an address at Chicacole. It has to be decided in the first place whether any port in the Ganjám district should be connected with the main East Coast line, and if that question is settled in the affirmative, it then remains to be decided which of the various ports that you possess should be the chosen one. My own opinion, as at present advised, is that, in the interests of the country generally, and the Ganjám district in particular, it will be advisable to connect the East Coast Railway with some port of Ganjám. I am disposed, with the information before me at the present moment, which will be supplemented by statistics which the Collector has just got possession of, to think Gopalpur has a better claim than any of the other ports. With regard to your proposal that a branch line should be constructed from Dusi or Chicacole road *via* Arasavilli and Srikurmam to Calingapatam, I can only

repeat what I said in my answer to the previous addressees, that, as at present advised, I do not think that it is a line which the Local Government can conscientiously recommend for construction. Your address next deals with the necessity, as you say, for a branch dispensary in Berhampur. I have just visited the Municipal hospital. I am glad to be able to say that I am very much pleased with it. The building is, I think, constructed on an admirable plan. On the whole the institution seems to be carefully and satisfactorily managed. I made inquiries there with regard to the numbers which attend the out-door dispensary; and I found, having regard to the population of the town, that the number was somewhat small. I think, if possible—in fact the Medical officer in charge told me—that some persons may be deterred from coming for treatment by the distance. The greatest distance, however, is only about two miles, which, after all, is not very far to go if you really want medical treatment or remedies; but the Medical officer in charge is, I think, fairly strongly in favour of the opening of a dispensary somewhere about the thickest part of the town, about the middle of the town of Berhampur. I understand from my friend, the Chairman of the Municipal Council, that the municipality is willing to pay all the expenses of the opening and maintaining of such a dispensary. In these circumstances, I will undertake to bring the matter again before my Government. It had been brought before the Government once; on further representation it

was brought a second time, but the application was declined. However, having been on the spot and having received the opinion of the District Medical officer, and also the assurances of the Chairman of the Municipal Council that his Council is willing to pay, I think I have fair grounds upon which to bring the subject up again. You next proceed to offer your best thanks to the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Atagada for his liberal offer to build a Town Hall here. Your thanks are most undoubtedly due to the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Atagada, not only for this liberal offer, but for his munificence in many other matters connected with your town. But I think it right, with reference to your mention of this particularly liberal offer, to point out what I believe to be a slight inaccuracy of statement. You say that the Rajah has offered to build the Town Hall here in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and make a free gift of the same to the Berhampur Association. Now I am authorised by the Zamindar himself to say that it is not quite what he meant; that his intention was that a building was to be erected in honour of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty, and that that building was to be a free gift to, and for the benefit of, the town and the public of Berhampur and the people of the Ganjám district generally; not your association in particular. It is not to be confined to any particular class; but the premises are to be at the disposal of Europeans, Hindus, Mussalmans, and others alike. There will be certain

conditions of a minor kind attached to the grant, and the gift will be placed in the hands of trustees. I thought it right in answering your address, for your own sakes, and also for the sake of accuracy, to put you in possession of what the real intentions of the donor, the Rajah, are in connection with this matter. I join with you most sincerely in thanking him for his extreme liberality, not only in this, but in many other things. In conclusion, gentlemen, I am glad to hear the expression of your profound loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty, and I thank you very heartily for the good wishes that you express on behalf of myself and my family.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE KALLIKÓTA
COLLEGE MANAGING COMMITTEE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Kallikóta College Managing Committee, beg respectfully to offer Your Excellency a hearty welcome on the occasion of your visit to this institution.

2. When, in pursuance of the educational policy of Government, the local second-grade college was abolished in 1888, the college with its building, library and furniture was transferred to a committee who managed it by collecting subscriptions from the several zamindars and other gentlemen of this district.

3. In the beginning, however, of 1893, the subscriptions began to fall off and the very existence of the college was threatened, when the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Atagada came forward most opportunely with a promise to pay an annual subscription of two thousand and four hundred rupees for its maintenance. The committee in its gratitude named the college after its benefactor with the sanction of the Director of Public Instruction.

4. Anxious to secure the permanency of the college, the zamindar, with characteristic forethought and liberality, subsequently endowed the college with a lakh of rupees; and this disinterested and princely act is, so far as we are aware, without a parallel in the zamindari annals of this Presidency. He has also promised to make, under certain circumstances, a further contribution not exceeding one thousand and five hundred rupees per annum. The college has also an endowment of ten thousand rupees made by the late Rao Bahadur T. Sivaramayya Pantulu Garu, a pensioned Deputy Collector.

5. The Zamindar of Dhárakóta has instituted two scholarships in each class to enable poor Uriya students to pay their school fees. Besides collecting only half fees from the Uriya students of the institution (and they form about thirty-five per cent. of the total strength), the committee has established an Uriya Students' Home which at present accommodates about twelve boys and is capable of further expansion as occasion may arise.

6. The institution is managed by a committee of fourteen members appointed partly by the Zamindar and partly by election by the members themselves with the Collector of the district as President who, in his capacity of the President of the District Board, has to sanction all appointments and approve the budget.

7. The number on the rolls at present is two hundred and fifty which is an increase of at least sixty-six per cent. over the number in 1893 when the Zamindar of Kallikóta undertook the maintenance of the college; and both the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Schools, Northern Circle, have repeatedly borne testimony to its high standard of efficiency.

8. We take this opportunity of bringing it to Your Excellency's notice that our college, which has, on its staff, five Licentiates in Teaching besides other technically qualified teachers, gets Government grants only on behalf of two of them, the Director of Public Instruction being unable to sanction grants for the others for want of funds. This inability arises from the circumstance that colleges in the southern districts get more grants than their less favoured sisters in the north for the mere accident of their having been able to employ technically qualified teachers earlier. We, therefore, pray that an early redistribution of Government grants may be made on equitable principles so as to give all institutions a fair proportion of State aid.

9. In conclusion we beg to tender Your Excellency our heartfelt thanks for having been graciously pleased to allow us to approach you with this our humble address and pray that Your Excellency may be blessed with a long life of usefulness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE KALLIKÓTA COLLEGE MANAGING COMMITTEE,—I beg you to accept my best thanks for the pleasant reception and kind welcome you have given me here. The address which you have read to me contains a very interesting history of the initiation and working of your school. It serves as a monument amongst many other monuments of the large-hearted munificence of the Rajah of Kallikóta. It is to his generosity that this college owes almost its existence and certainly its present prosperous and well equipped condition. You are also indebted to the late Rao Saheb T. Sivaramayya Pantulu for his liberality. I am glad to see that the Zamindar of Dhárakóta has also contributed handsomely towards the advancement of the college. I am glad to notice that there are special advantages given for Uriya students, who form about thirty-five per cent. of the total strength. I am particularly gratified to hear that you have a Students' Home for Uriya students in the town; I should think that this must supply a want that is greatly felt. Your numbers appear to be steadily and rapidly on the increase. In your address it

is stated as being two hundred and fifty. The Principal has, in the course of conversation, told me that it is already considerably in excess of that number and he expects still further accessions. In the last paragraph in your address, you bring to my notice what you consider to be a desirability. You state that you are less favoured than other educational institutions in the southern part of the Presidency with regard to the grant for technically qualified teachers, and you ask that a redistribution of these grants may be made. You are aware, I suppose, that the settling of these grants rests with the Director of Public Instruction. The Director of Public Instruction, in common with all other public officers, is responsible to the Government for accuracy and fairness in these matters. I have no doubt that he has done his best in the matter, but it is possible that there may be some truth in your representation. I will, when I get back to Madras, direct the Director of Public Instruction to put the matter before me, and if we can see that there is any means of redistributing the grants, so that important colleges and educational institutions in the north may receive what appears to be a very equitable share, your wants in this respect shall certainly meet with the best consideration. I have to thank you in conclusion for your kind wishes for myself and family.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, COCANADA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Municipal Council, Cocanada, on behalf of the inhabitants and rate-payers, whom we have the honour to represent, beg respectfully to offer Your Excellency a cordial welcome to our town, and at the same time to give expression to our deep-felt sentiments of loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Empress of India, who is so ably represented in this Presidency by Your Excellency.

2. It is a great pleasure to us to be able to state that, owing to the liberal support afforded to us from time to time by Your Excellency's Government as regards the more pressing improvements needed in the interests of our town, we have but few requests to make on this auspicious occasion. Among the improvements in respect of which we have thankfully to acknowledge the generous help rendered by Government, is the large measure of financial assistance we have received in the matter of the water-works, which, when completed, will undeniably constitute the greatest boon that could be conferred on the town. These works have already been commenced under the energetic supervision of the Public Works Department, to whom Your Excellency's Government has been pleased to entrust their execution, and we are glad to know that they will be brought to completion at an early date.

3. Quite as important, perhaps, as the water-works for the health of our town, is a satisfactory system of drainage; but as the limited resources of the municipality have already been pledged to a large extent in connection with the water-works, we are afraid that it will be some time before we can find the means for undertaking a comprehensive drainage system. We are confident, however, that, when the time arrives, we may rely on Your Excellency's Government extending to us sympathy and assistance similar to that accorded us in the case of the water-works. We will only add here that, until an effective system of drainage has been provided for the town, we cannot feel that its sanitary requirements have been adequately met, and the health of the public fully safeguarded. This feeling is all the more deeply impressed on us by the harassing accounts of epidemics which we receive from Bombay and other places in Western India. We are, however, endeavouring, in conformity with the regulations and rules issued by Government, to carry out the necessary precautionary measures and to keep the town as clean as possible. In this task, it is our pleasant duty to bring to Your Excellency's notice that we have received cordial help from some of the leading residents who are not members of the Council.

4. Next to a drainage system, the matter of most importance to us is the relaying of our roads, of which we have about twenty-four miles. We

had hoped to raise a loan for this purpose, but the proposal did not commend itself to Government. A reconstruction of the roads with good material would considerably reduce the future cost of their maintenance; and in the event of our approaching Your Excellency's Government with a fresh application for a loan for this object, we trust that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to accord our request favourable consideration.

5. In the matter of the contribution from Provincial funds to our hospital, we regret that Government has found it necessary to reduce the aid hitherto rendered to us. Formerly the Government contribution was six hundred rupees in addition to the gratuitous services of the Civil Surgeon. We still enjoy the invaluable services of the latter, but the monetary contribution has been reduced to rupees two hundred and two and annas eight. Considering the rising importance of the town and the commercial interests bound up with its welfare, we trust that Government will be pleased to restore the original contribution to our hospitals. In this connection, we beg to point out that the District Board has also resolved to gradually reduce its contribution to our hospitals from four thousand to two thousand and five hundred rupees.

6. It is our pleasant duty to gratefully acknowledge the privilege of electing our own Chairman, which has been generously restored to us recently by Government.

7. We beg, on behalf of all our citizens, to thank Your Excellency for the honour conferred on our town by Your Excellency's visit, and to say that we feel sure that amid the multifarious duties which ever engross Your Excellency's attention, any representations we may have to submit on behalf of our town will not fail to secure Your Excellency's kind support to the extent that they may deserve.

8. We need hardly say that it would have greatly added to our pleasure, had it been possible for us on this occasion to also welcome Her Excellency Lady Havelock.

9. In conclusion, we fervently hope that Your Excellency's administration may be characterized by abiding peace and prosperity among all sections of Her Majesty's subjects entrusted to your care, and pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may enjoy uninterrupted and unalloyed happiness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF COCANADA,—I thank you for your cordial welcome, and I wish to express the gratification I feel at the pleasant and kind reception which you have accorded me here. I am much struck with the elaborate and beautiful preparations which you have made to do me honour. This pandal is as beautiful as it is convenient. I have also listened with satisfaction to the renewal of your expression

of your loyalty towards our Gracious Sovereign the Queen-Empress. It is as satisfactory for me to hear, as it is for you to tell me, that your more pressing wants have already been met, and that you have on this occasion but few requests to make. I congratulate you very sincerely on the undertaking of the important work of providing yourselves with a good water-supply. I am glad to learn from you that this work is now making rapid progress. I am indeed glad, as everybody must be, that this important and growing town should be endowed with this great blessing of a good water-supply. I am glad to see that you recognise the liberality of the Government in connection with this work. From the figures that have been put before me, I learn that the Government have contributed half the total estimated cost of the work, that total being three lakhs and thirty-seven thousand rupees. Government have also undertaken to advance one lakh and eighteen thousand rupees towards the other half at four and a half per cent. interest, the capital being repayable in thirty years. You have in this respect, I can assure you, received more generous treatment than has been accorded to most municipalities in the Madras Presidency. But in taking action in this way, I have no doubt that the Government were rightly influenced by the growing importance of this place and the consequent necessity of reducing as far as possible its liability to cholera and other serious epidemics. It is with great satisfaction that I have observed that private liberality

has also contributed generously towards the funds required for the water-works. This generosity is all the more admirable on account of its unostentatious nature. The names that have come to my notice—I had the pleasure of being introduced to two or three owners of those names—as having contributed largely and freely to this work are Messrs. Pydu Subbarayudu, Venkatachelapathi and Chelamayya, Mr. B. Venkataratnam Garu, and Mr. K. Basivireddy. It affords me pleasure to thank them publicly for their generosity in this matter. You next deal with the question of drainage. I am inclined to agree with you that water-supply should take precedence of drainage. A proper system of drainage, really carried out in a complete and scientific way, would cost a sum of money probably far beyond your means; and for that reason I fear that anything like a complete drainage system will have to be deferred. But, in the meantime, it is quite possible for you to improve the sanitation of your town by simple and ordinary means, ordinary sanitary precautions and measures of conservancy and other expedients to which I have no doubt the Municipal Council are now directing their attention. It is possible also that your new water-supply may assist you in this direction by giving you sufficient surplus water to flush the drains which are already in existence. I am very glad to learn from you that in these matters of sanitation you have received assistance from leading members of the community, who are not

members of the Council. You next refer to the desirability of relaying your roads. You refer to an application which you made to the Government some time ago to raise a loan for this purpose. From the facts that have come before me, I fear that the means at your disposal will hardly allow you to contract a loan for a purpose of this kind. I will suggest that you should as far as possible increase your revenues by a very careful collection, and, if necessary, by an increase of the rates, for the purpose of obtaining funds to carry out this important object. It would probably be a good plan to lay by from your Municipal revenue a certain fixed sum every year for the purpose of reconstructing roads; that is to say, a sum over and above what is necessary for their ordinary maintenance; and in this way I have no doubt that, in course of time, you will effect the object which you have at heart. It is as gratifying for me to note, as it is for you to receive, the recognition of the Government that municipal work is progressing satisfactorily in Cocanada. The Government have recognised that by restoring to you the privilege of electing your Chairman. I can assure you that the Government watches carefully every opportunity for fostering and promoting municipal government in this Presidency; and it is always with satisfaction that I pass a measure having for its object an increase of the privileges which can be accorded under the Municipal Act. I beg to assure you of the satisfaction that I feel in being in Cocanada and being thus in a

position to inform myself on the spot concerning several very important measures. I have in conclusion to thank you for your kind wishes and to say with what satisfaction I receive your assurances of loyalty to Her Majesty and to the British Government in this country.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT
BOARD, GÓDÁVARI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the District Board, Gódávári, as representing the rate-payers of the Gódávári district, heartily embrace this opportunity to welcome Your Excellency to this district, and to testify our loyalty to you, the august and worthy representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India.

2. At the commencement of British rule, this district formed a portion of a neglected province. It was desolated by frequent famines and misgoverned by numerous land-owners. Since the introduction of the admirable system of irrigation which we owe to the genius of Sir Arthur Cotton and which sheds lustre on the Government which introduced it, the district has made much progress in every direction. Famine is almost unknown and revenue is greater than it has ever been. The population, which was declining when the amicut was

decided upon, has more than doubled. The commerce has flourished and the trade has developed to an extent far exceeding expectations.

3. Local and municipal boards have been founded on a fairly satisfactory basis in this district. The elective system obtains in all the municipalities and the municipal councils are presided over by non-official chairmen. The district and taluk boards have non-official vice-presidents. The taluk boards and the important union panchayats have been enlarged. The Departments of Public Works and Vaccination have been re-organized. It is to be hoped that, as time advances and the people give proofs of their capacity for self-government, the elastic provisions of the Act, which have been framed in a far-seeing and judicious spirit of progressive liberality, will be cheerfully extended, so as to transfer the whole responsibility of Local Fund administration to the people themselves. We are deeply thankful to the Government for having invested the municipal and local boards with the privilege of recommending their own representatives to the Legislative Council under the regulations framed under the reformed Councils' Act. We venture to hope that, in amending the Local Board's Act, further steps will be taken by Your Excellency's Government towards giving effect to the beneficent policy enunciated in the Resolution of the Government of India, dated 18th May 1882. We beg leave to suggest that nothing that can be safely guaranteed by the Legislature in the body of the law itself

should be left to the discretion of the Executive Government.

4. We respectfully beg to state that the Resolution of Your Excellency's Government, directing that not less than fifty per cent. of the land-cess and the net receipts from tolls should be spent on communications, encourages the tendency on the part of the local boards to reduce their expenditure on education, and we would therefore propose that the Act be so amended as to provide that a sum equal to not less than one-fourth of the land-cess shall be set apart for expenditure on education, and that the same shall be credited under a separate heading in the accounts, to be styled "the school fund," in accordance with the recommendations of the Education Commission.

5. Another matter to which we would invite Your Excellency's attention is the hardship caused by the policy of casting on local boards the duty of establishing and maintaining relief works in times of famine and scarcity. No such responsibility was thrown on these boards by the Local Fund Act of 1871, and it was imposed for the first time by the Local Boards' Act V of 1894, without any grant being made by Government from Provincial revenue for the said purpose. We submit that the resources of the local boards are too limited to admit of this additional expenditure. The maintenance of local public works cannot be postponed without serious impediment and injury to the administration. Moreover, the employment of labour on these works

affords relief to many labourers whom the suspension of regular works subjects to special hardship in times of high prices. Expenditure on education, sanitation, vaccination and medical relief cannot be suddenly suspended or reduced, and is, in some respects, even more urgently required during periods of distress than in ordinary times. Practically, local boards cannot be required to spend on famine relief more than the amount allotted for local public works for the year. It is also to be noted in this connection that the Provincial grants made for roads and other purposes were withdrawn, and the maintenance of highways, which was formerly an Imperial charge, is now completely thrown on Local funds. We trust, therefore, that Your Excellency will give your best consideration to this matter in connection with the amendment of the Act and urge on the Supreme Government the expediency of relieving local boards of this additional responsibility.

6. We respectfully venture to urge upon Your Excellency the desirability and indeed the necessity that exists for the opening up and development of the country by means of feeder lines and light railways, wherever there is a fair prospect of such lines proving self-supporting financially, and we humbly submit that the prospects of such lines in Gódávári are superior to what they are in most districts. We are not unaware that it is sometimes said that such works may be left to private and co-operative enterprise, but, until the co-operative principle in commerce gains a firmer footing in the country, we

would urge that it behoves local boards to encourage local public confidence in enterprises of the kind and that it is to the advantage of Government to assist such efforts in a liberal manner; for, one instance of success will naturally lead to other and more independent efforts to the immense benefit of the State and people alike. In this connection, we beg specially to refer to the proposal that has already been made by this board for the construction of a light railway from Samalkot to Yeleswaram, in the hope that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to consider the question in all its bearings and accord its sanction and assistance to the project. Financially, we have every reason to think that the proposed line would be a success, for there are no natural difficulties to contend with and its construction involves no expensive bridge work, as the existing masonry bridge over the Yelera can, our Engineer assures us, be safely utilized. It is unnecessary to inform Your Excellency that the Agency tracts of the district are, in all respects, as backward as the coast tracts are advanced and have never been properly or adequately opened out. So long as this isolation continues, there can be no satisfactory development of the natural resources of the Hill tracts, whilst the condition of the inhabitants of the hills cannot be raised, except by bringing them into closer contact with the more intelligent and advanced people of the plains. Development of forest revenue and "efficient conservancy of forest produce" are also important considerations which

should influence the decision of this question. The Tanjore District Board has received certain concessions from Government regarding the Muttupet Railway, and we respectfully crave for the exhibition of similar indulgence in our case. The Samalkot-Yeleswaram light railway proposed is, by no means, the only one that, there is good reason to suppose, would be successful, but, as its prospects appear to be superior to those of other projects and it will most easily lend itself to extension and improvement in the event of success, we have elected to press for it as an initial measure, well knowing that, should it prove the success we anticipate, there will be no difficulty in locally raising the capital required for its extension and similar projects.

Thankfully expressing our acknowledgments to Your Excellency for the kindness with which you have allowed us to approach you with this address of welcome.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, GÓDÁVARI,—I thank you for your kind welcome to your district and for the assurances you give me of your real and sustained loyalty. You have, in your address, given a gratifying picture of the progress of your district. The evidence of good government and of the remarkable improvements in all industrial and physical matters is prominently before us. The two districts of Kistna and

Góldávari, with their magnificent irrigation works, are striking monuments, perhaps the most striking monuments in this Presidency, of the beneficence and enterprise of British rule. I am glad to hear from you the testimony you give to the advancement of municipal government within this district. The recommendations that you make for further advancement in this matter in connection with the Local Boards Bill which will be shortly before the Legislative Council will, I am sure, receive the fullest attention at the hands of those interested in it. At the end of the paragraph in which you deal with this matter, you beg leave to suggest that nothing that can be safely guaranteed by the Legislature in the body of the law itself, should be left to the discretion of the Executive Government. On general principles, I agree with the suggestion you make there, but you must admit that there are cases in which it is desirable, both in the interests of the Government and those governed, that there should be some such power in the hands of the Government. I think you will find it inconvenient yourselves and the Government will find it inconvenient also, in all matters to be bound hard and fast by the terms of the law. In certain cases, therefore, we must have recourse to the expedients by which Executive Governments are allowed to make regulations and rules coming within the scope and provision of the law. But, I repeat, on general principles I am in agreement with you that all matters with which law deals should be made as clear as

possible within the four corners of the law itself. You next urge in your address that the recent resolution by which a fixed proportion of the cess of the district board revenues should be appropriated to communications, should be modified, so that a larger amount may be made available for education. I fear that, if this be done, there will not be funds sufficient left for sanitation, vaccination, medical aid and establishments. I know that it is the experience of most district boards, within the last seventeen or eighteen years since they have had charge of the communications of the country, that it has been difficult, for want of means, to maintain the perfection and good order of these communications. It therefore became necessary that the Government should adopt some such measure as you now deprecate. I am inclined to think that, if the voice of the people were generally taken, you will find that a larger number of votes will be in favour of communications rather than education. I do not mean to say that people dislike education, or will reject it if they get it, but I think they will prefer their communications attended to first. I fear, therefore, it will be impossible in its entirety to carry out the wishes that you express in this paragraph of your address. At a rough estimate I find as much as the local board will be able to devote to education will be from fifteen to twenty per cent. of their revenues. You next deal with the question of the provision of funds for establishing and maintaining relief works from the District Board funds. You are aware

that the general principle in civilised communities is that the poor are relieved at the cost of the local community to which they belong. It would be impossible in this country to apply this principle; in fact we have no poor law in India, but I think we are justified in acting so far and in adopting that principle, so as to make it incumbent in times of distress for local boards to contribute as much as they could possibly afford. You must be aware that the amounts that the local boards have given towards the relief of famine are a mere drop in the ocean to what the Supreme Government has spent for that purpose. I do not think, therefore, that I can encourage any hope that we shall be able to relieve you of this charge. It seems to be right in principle that it should be carried out in very exceptional and exacting circumstances and, therefore, that you have no really strong ground of complaint in this matter. You next deal with the subject of feeder lines for the main line of railway by which out-of-the-way parts of the district will be opened out. We are all in strong sympathy with you in desiring to see works of this kind carried out as rapidly as possible. You make allusion to what has been done by the district board of the Tanjore district. I would commend the example of that board for your consideration. The particular line of railway which you advocate is one to which, the Collector informs me, he is able to give his support. The information that we have before us respecting this branch, is as yet imperfect. It is not such as to

justify the work being yet seriously undertaken. The Collector informs me that he trusts that, before long, he will be able to put Government in possession of further facts which might enable Government possibly to take action in the matter. The Collector will bring this matter forward at as early a date as possible. I thank you once more for your reception here and for the welcome you have given me. I beg to say it affords me pleasure to find myself in this great Gó dávari district. It is the fifteenth out of twenty-two districts of Madras to which I have paid official visits during the two years that I have governed the Presidency. I have actually passed through every district in the Presidency, but I have paid official visits to no fewer than fifteen. Though Gó dávari has been the last of these fifteen, it is by no means the least important.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE GÓ DÁVARI DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the Managing Committee and Members of the Gó dávari District Association, who have appointed us to wait as a deputation upon Your Excellency, we beg most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency on this your first visit to this district.

2. The past year has been a most disastrous and unhappy one in many parts of this Presidency. Prices of food were everywhere high, employment

scanty and famine afflicted several districts. All through it has, however, been a consolation to the people of this Presidency that Your Excellency's watchful and beneficent care and energies were presiding over their destinies and mastering their difficulties, as far as human agency can control such untoward events. Your Excellency visited most of the affected parts of the Presidency at great personal inconvenience, and encouraged, by your presence on the spot, the local authorities in the administration of famine relief. Such personal visits from the responsible head of the Government strengthen the loyalty of its subjects, and it inspires them with confidence when they see the head of the Government so untiring in his zeal and in the conscientious discharge of his onerous duties. In so saying, we feel that we only express the general sense of satisfaction with the measures adopted by Your Excellency to alleviate the suffering caused by famine. We are deeply indebted to our popular Collector, Mr. V. A. Brodie, for his sympathetic administration of famine relief in the Agency portion of this district.

3. There was a time in the history of this district when famine and distress were of frequent and periodical recurrence, and when the condition of the people was a source of great anxiety and embarrassment to the Government. Population declined. Adverse seasons were of frequent occurrence. Agriculture was an uncertain source of revenue both to the people and the Government. It was due to the genius of Sir Henry Montgomery, Sir Arthur

Cotton, the Marquis of Tweeddale and other authorities that those measures were adopted, of which we witness the beneficent effects to-day. The anicut works have not only secured the district from Famine, but have enabled it to assist other districts to some extent in times of need. They testify to the humane intentions of the Government under which Providence has placed us. We gratefully acknowledge all the benefits which British rule has secured to us by maintaining undisturbed tranquillity and guaranteeing our safety against foreign invasion, by encouraging education, by developing a system of useful public works, and by introducing other improvements incident to a high state of civilization.

4. We, however, venture to earnestly urge upon Your Excellency the necessity of giving a legislative sanction to the policy of Government in regard to land settlements, notably in respect of guaranteeing by law the exemption of private improvements from all liability to extra taxation in revision operations. In the settlement of the much disputed land question, the authorities in India, as well as the Secretary of State, as far back as 1862 definitively pronounced themselves in favour of extending the permanent settlement in all the more settled districts of the country; but that despatch, though not formally overruled, has remained a dead letter to this day. As matters stand at present, the discretion of Settlement officers is, to a great extent, uncontrolled by fixed principles. There is no limitation of the possible increase of assessments at revision of settlements.

It was with a view to regulate this discretion that the Government of India under the Marquis of Ripon issued their famous resolution containing instructions for the guidance of the authorities in the North-West Provinces, and recommended the same to the Madras Government for its consideration. The Government of Madras has accepted the said policy in its essential features. The same was embodied in the Settlement Manual and Board's Standing Orders and other public documents as the policy that should regulate future settlements. We refer especially to the principle of revising the assessments solely with reference to changes in prices—a principle which, while securing to Government its due share of the land revenue, is calculated to give fixity and inspire confidence in the classes most intimately affected by these settlements. In the re-settlement of this district, we regret to note, however, that there has been a complete reversal of the past policy of Government in this respect. This question affects interests so great and so large a portion of the population—and that the most helpless portion—that it is not too much to say that no single measure of Government is likely to promote so effectively the well-being of the community as progressive reform in this direction. We venture, therefore, to hope that Your Excellency will signalize your administration by taking the necessary steps to grant to the cultivators of the soil in this district and indeed the Presidency, fixity of tenure and a legislative limitation of the

Government demand in order to give them confidence in the pursuit of their industry.

5. The subject of affording special credit facilities to meet the wants of the indebted agricultural classes by the constitution of Agricultural Banks is also one of paramount importance to the ryot population. Mr. Nicholson's proposals regarding the establishment of such banks will soon engage Your Excellency's attention. Your Excellency's acquaintance with similar undertakings carried out successfully in other countries, inspires us with a hope that the subject will receive careful consideration at Your Excellency's hands, and that the difficulties which have been raised will be satisfactorily solved.

6. The present system of cultivation is, as observed by Dr. Voelcker, one of gradual soil exhaustion which must end in a decline, slow though it may be, but still a decline of fertility and productive power. We beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the recommendations made by Dr. Voelcker regarding the opening of experimental farms for the purpose of showing how manurial resources can be best used and conserved, and for demonstrating the value of, and extending the better practices of other parts of the country. In this connection, we beg also to suggest the advisability of diverting a portion of Local funds to the establishment of agricultural schools in villages where primary but practical instruction might be imparted to the rising generation of cultivators through the medium of their respective vernaculars. If the curriculum of the

existing village schools be slightly altered, so as to make room for agricultural education by dispensing with some of the less important, because less practical, subjects, the association believes that, for the present, at least a good beginning will have been made.

7. We respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency with a proposal which, if carried out, would conduce to a better and more uniform supply of water in the canals of the western section of the delta. The Gódlávári project works are looked upon by Government as completed; still there remains, in our humble opinion, much to be done to fully utilize and conserve the existing supply. The Bank canal in the Western delta, which has cultivation only on its right, draws off too much water, depriving Narsapur canal of its fair share. Several Executive Engineers have advocated the construction of a lock at the head of the Bank canal. We pray that favourable consideration may be given to this proposal, in view of preventing wastage of water under the Bank canal. Similarly, do we pray for the adoption of measures which would have the effect of preventing the wastage of water under the Junction canal in the eastern section of the delta.

8. We are not aware of the reasons which induced Government to order the removal of the headquarters of the Superintending Engineer of the No. I Circle to Waltair from Dowlaishweram, where they had been located since the construction of the

anicut. Gódlávári is the most important portion of the Circle, both as the site of the anicut and other important irrigation works and as the centre where the administrative experience and energy of the superior officers of the Public Works Department are often called into play. The Superintending Engineer is the appellate authority in the matter of water-supply and his presence is greatly needed in this district in the irrigation season, when the complaints of ryots are numerous. It is a great hardship to the Gódlávári ryot to leave his cultivation and go to Waltair to represent his grievances to the Superintending Engineer in person. Moreover, his presence at Dowlaishweram and the chance of his visiting different canals without notice exercises a wholesome influence on the subordinate agency charged with the distribution of water. Added to this, an office for the Superintending Engineer was built a few years ago at Dowlaishweram at great cost. In the event of the permanent retention of the office at Waltair, another costly building will have to be built there. The East Coast Railway has placed Ganjám and Vizagapatam within easy reach of the office located at Dowlaishweram. We, therefore, respectfully suggest the retransfer of the office from Waltair to Dowlaishweram.

9. In regard to local self-government, we gratefully acknowledge that Your Excellency's Government is doing its best to give effect to the large-minded policy embodied in the measures passed in 1834. Both the measures contain elastic provisions

which will enable Government to satisfy the demands of the more advanced localities for a larger proportion of elective members, and the power of electing their presidents and vice-presidents. The amendment of the Local Boards' Act will soon engage the attention of Your Excellency's Council, and we hope that the local boards will be reconstituted on a more popular and independent basis, so that the main objects of the policy underlying the famous resolution of 1882 may be completely fulfilled. We submit that the success that has attended the introduction of the elective system into the municipalities fairly warrants its extension to local boards.

10. In conclusion, we thank Your Excellency for your kindness in condescending to receive this address of welcome at our hands and we fervently hope that Your Excellency's rule will be productive of lasting benefit to the people of this Presidency, whom kind Providence has entrusted to your care.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN FORMING THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, - I thank you for your kind welcome to your district. Last year there was, as you remark, a period of distress and sad calamity not only in Madras, but to a still greater degree in other parts of India. Here I hope we have got out of the worst, and even in the matter of high prices that we have turned the corner. I think there is fair reason to hope that, during the

ensuing year, we shall be gradually working back to our ordinary and former state of prosperity. I am glad to see that you recognise as fully as you do the services of the Collector and the District officers during the late distress in the district, and in common with all other officers charged with protecting the population against misery arising from dear provisions and scarcity, the Collector of the district did his duty with devotion and success. The history which you give of the advance of the Gódávári district is interesting as showing the good results of British rule. I am glad to read your testimony to those magnificent monuments of engineering skill and of good Government to which you owe so much in this district and in the neighbouring district of Kistna. I allude to the magnificent irrigation works initiated by the genius of Sir Arthur Cotton and others. In the next paragraph of your address you touch upon a subject which is a very difficult one, and at the same time, a most important one as regards the population of the country. That is the question of land settlement. The first request you make is an important one, too important a one for me to deal with now. You ask that Government should fix a legislative limitation on its own land revenue assessment, firstly, for the country generally and, secondly, for this district in particular. In regard to this district, I am, of course, aware that its resettlement is now in progress and that in connection with such resettlement, several important matters, both of principle and practice, have arisen.

But so large a matter demands a careful and lengthy consideration at the hands of the individual members of the Government, and the papers in their full detail have not as yet come before me for actual disposal. I am aware that for some months past, my honourable colleagues in the Government had been working with care and assiduity at the numberless difficult points which this land settlement question has raised, and at the present moment the papers are still in the hands of one of my honourable colleagues, and as I have already observed, have not yet reached my hands. Your arguments and opinions shall receive the fullest consideration on my part, as I am sure they will, on the part of my honourable colleagues. I have also, while here, had the pleasure of hearing your chief arguments from yourselves, at first hand, and have received special memoranda drawn up by you dealing with the more important points--the memorandum, for instance, on the commutation of prices, and reclassification of soils, and grouping of villages, on the consolidated wet-rate, and on the proposed graduated water-rate, and on some other points. In addition to these, I have promised to receive, later on, a deputation from this district and to discuss the matter more in detail with them, so that before the final orders are issued, we shall have had the advantage of understanding each other fully. Whether the results be favourable to you or not, you shall, at any rate, feel that it is the result of careful consideration. In regard to the Presidency generally, you must, I

imagine, yourselves feel that your request is bound to be refused. For no Government can be expected to tie its own hands in the way that you request; and even if it did so, it would be practically impossible for it to lay down on paper any limitations which would completely meet the ever-varying conditions of the case; and the result would be misinterpretation, litigation and much administrative inconvenience; nor is there any real need for such an enactment. Although Government may decline to tie its hands in the matter, still I think you may rest assured that its wishes and sympathies are in the direction of making the settlement of the district as permanent as is reasonably practicable. No class of the population has greater claims on the consideration of the Government, none has a greater share of the sympathies of the Government, than the agricultural classes, and the Government is not blind to the advantages and expediency of assisting these classes by all the means in its power, and notably by making its periodical settlement of land revenue as stable and permanent as, consistent with an adequate initial assessment, local charges, and justice to other districts, is practicable. On the question of Agricultural Banks, I am not able to express any definite opinion at the present moment. Mr. Nicholson's proposals have been before me, but I have not had time to go into this somewhat complicated and thorny subject in the full manner that it deserves. The one objection that has presented itself to my mind against the system of banks, such

as Mr. Nicholson, I believe, suggests is, that, I think, it will necessitate, as a preliminary measure, some restriction on transfer of lands. For myself, I should be very sorry to see any such restriction imposed and I imagine that such will be the sentiments of great many land-owners with whom I am in conference to-day. You advocate the extension of some system of education which will make the teaching of agricultural matters more generally followed than at present. I may tell you that the Government of India has recently proposed a scheme in this direction, by which it is intended to make the teaching of improvement in agriculture a part of the primary system of education. It will be a long time, I fear, before any teaching of this sort has much practical effect, but I have no doubt that in the end it may be of benefit. Unless one makes the beginning, one will never come to the end. We must be satisfied, therefore, with small beginnings. In the meantime, however, I will suggest as a possibility that some of the more wealthy proprietors should take in hand themselves the education of the people in this matter. They might make experiments on their own fields and impart the results of these experiments to their poorer neighbours. You next suggest measures which will conduce to a better and more uniform supply of water in the canals of the western section of the delta. This is a technical matter which I do not pretend, with the information before me, to understand, but I am able to tell you that the Collector takes much interest in it and has his own

views on the subject. At his suggestion the question will be referred for the consideration, and if necessary, for the action, of the Public Works Department. With respect to your proposal that the head-quarters of the Superintending Engineer should be retransferred from Waltair to Dowlaishweram, I may tell you that I made the matter a subject of enquiry while I have been in the Circars; and in this matter I have been assisted by the presence and advice of Mr. deWinton, the Chief Engineer. There are reasons on the one side and there are reasons on the other; but on the whole, we are distinctly of opinion that there are stronger reasons for keeping the head-quarters at Waltair, to which they were transferred in 1895, than for removing them to Dowlaishweram as at present advised. Therefore I am bound to tell you I do not think there is any prospect of your desire in this respect being gratified. I have read with much interest the remarks which you have made with regard to local self-government, and I have noted your hope that, when the Local Board Bill, that is being prepared for the consideration of the Council, is before it, these local boards will be reconstructed on a more popular and independent basis. I have no doubt that this matter, in connection with many others which will come for consideration in the Local Board Bill, will receive the consideration that they fully deserve both at the hands of the Government and the Select Committee, which will be charged to examine and report upon the Bill. I thank you in conclusion, gentlemen, for

the interesting and important address which you have presented to me, and I beg to assure you of my deep interest in the important subjects that you have brought to my notice, and to promise you that they will ever receive my most careful attention and consideration.

ADDRESS FROM THE GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT PORTS
CONSERVANCY BOARD.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, - We, the Members of the Gódávári District Ports Conservancy Board, desire to offer to Your Excellency our congratulations upon your visit to Cocanada.

We thank Your Excellency for receiving us and would request permission to refer to one or two points in connection with the working of the board.

The port of Cocanada was in 1871 most favourably reported upon by Mr. George Robertson, an expert specially sent by the Government of India, and, in the opinion of commanders of coasting vessels and steamers, it is held to be the only safe roadstead between Calcutta and Trincomallee, being the only one where shipping can lie at anchor during a cyclone.

The trade of this port, in 1862, aggregated only twenty-nine lakhs in value; in 1872 it was nearly seventy-four lakhs; in 1882 one hundred and forty-three lakhs; and in 1896-97 over two hundred and sixteen lakhs.

On this trade the merchants of the port pay annually about forty thousand rupees in landing and shipping dues.

The levy of these dues was spontaneously suggested by the local merchants as a voluntary contribution towards the maintenance of the port in an efficient state on the understanding that the administration and control of such funds were to be in the hands of a board chiefly representative of themselves.

These proposals were approved of and put into effect by Government orders.

To any one, who remembers the condition of the port before the board came into existence, the improvements which have since been effected must be patent; and the board feels that it may safely challenge criticism of its work and its economy in expenditure.

An extension of the groynes was effected by the board up to a certain point, and it was then thought desirable to discontinue any further extension and to carry out dredging operations in an energetic manner. With this object in view, Government was addressed for permission to obtain a dredger, but sanction has not yet been received, and the delay is much to be deplored as being very detrimental to the well-being of the port.

Last year Government further extended the groynes of their own motion and by their own officers, and the board has just now learnt that the cost thereof has been charged to the board's funds

and debited without reference to, or informing, the board of the same.

The board would beg most respectfully but firmly to protest against such action. The success of the recent extension by Government, which has cost nearly half a lakh of rupees, appears to be very doubtful, as sand is accumulating at the mouth.

The board would earnestly desire Your Excellency to issue immediate instructions for the cancellation of the above-named debit (which appears to have been made in direct contravention of the Government order constituting the board), and to sanction the purchase of a dredger through the board's own agents and of such type as they may be advised would be the best.

The chief reason for the formation of the board was that they might collect and administer funds for dredging purposes, and the board was placed by Government order in charge of the port. Unless they remain so, they do not see any need for their further existence.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
COCANADA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the two Chambers of Commerce and of the Mercantile Community of this place we desire to express to Your Excellency our gratification at your advent among us and at your visit to that part of

the Coromandel Coast in the prosperity of which we are deeply interested.

We especially wish to thank Your Excellency for affording us this opportunity of bringing to your notice a few matters connected with the trade of this port to which we beg Your Excellency's kind attention.

At a general meeting of the Mercantile Community held on the 4th instant, we were deputed to support the Gódvári District Ports Conservancy Board, in their view that the monies collected from the landing and shipping dues should be under their own control. The tax is a voluntary one, paid by us for the improvement of the port, and we are of opinion that the members of the board, the great majority of whom are our elected representatives, and in whom we have every confidence, should have full control over the monies.

The sugarcane, one of the principal productions of this district, has been subject, the past few months, to destruction by some insects. This is the cause of a considerable decrease in the crop, is a serious loss to the ryots and must ultimately result in a loss to Government, and we are desirous to urge upon Your Excellency's consideration the necessity for sending an expert to enquire into the cause of the appearance of these insects.

We are also to respectfully draw the attention of Your Excellency to the police supervision of this town, the senior officer here being only an Inspector, whose authority is necessarily of a limited nature,

and we are of opinion that an officer of a higher grade should be permanently located here, more particularly as the Superintendent seldom visits the town.

Finally, and not the least important of the subjects that we desire to invite Your Excellency's early attention to, is the Collector's and district board's scheme for a light railway from Samalkot to Yeleswaram, for such a railway will be a powerful agency in developing the natural resources and trade of the Agency tracts and in bringing the hillmen under the civilizing influence of easy contact with the plains.

Resting assured that the well-being of Cocanada will meet with every consideration at Your Excellency's hands, we beg to remain, &c., &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT PORTS CONSERVANCY BOARD, AND MEMBERS OF THE TWO CHAMBERS AND MERCANTILE COMMUNITY OF COCANADA,—I congratulate myself with you that I have been able to pay a visit to the town of Cocanada and to make myself acquainted on the spot with some of your needs and wishes. The figures that you give with regard to the port of Cocanada only impresses more strongly in my mind than ever before, the importance and growing value of the port of Cocanada. I regret that there seems to have been some misunderstanding with regard to carrying out certain works for the improvement of

the port and appropriation of certain funds in the carrying out of the work, to which you make allusion. It may be of use if I give briefly what I believe to be a correct statement of what has taken place in this matter. I am informed that the board had extended the north groyne one thousand and eight hundred feet in advance of the south groyne, and in this way considerable shoaling had naturally been produced in the channel. It was to remedy the shoaling, and on the strength of urgent petitions from persons in Cocanada, that Government undertook further extensions. In submitting an estimate for the proposal, the Superintending Engineer of the First Circle stated that he had asked for the opinion of the board on three alternative proposals for the improvement of the port, one of which was the extension of these groynes; but he added that no such information has ever been given. The advisability of contributing a portion of the cost from the Provincial funds in view of the importance of the port was also considered by the Government. It was found that the condition of the Provincial funds did not admit of such payment, and it was then ordered that the expenditure should first be met from Port funds and be subsequently charged off to landing and shipping dues as they became available. The Landing and Shipping Dues Committee was, at the same time, asked to consider whether the landing and shipping rates should not be raised at once for this purpose. Now I am afraid that on this point some oversight took place, and the wish of

the Government that this communication should be made to the committee, appears never to have been carried out. You may gather from what I have said that it is shown by our action in the matter that there was no intention on the part of the Government to pass over the Conservancy Board in this affair, and I will give you my personal assurance that there was no intention of that kind at all. We really had no wish to act in this matter without the concurrence of the board. I think you will admit, in fact I assure you such was the case, that the desire of the Government was to benefit the port; and the works which have been carried out being works in their nature debitable to Port funds under section 36 of V (b) of the Act, it is to be hoped that the Conservancy Board will itself, if need be, adopt the work as its own. According to Mr. Larminie, the Superintending Engineer, the extension of the groynes does not obviate the necessity for dredging, but it certainly diminishes the distance to be dredged, so that the board must admit the work, so far as it has gone, to have been more or less a beneficial one. I hope, gentlemen, that I have made clear to you that whatever mistakes might have taken place, whatever oversight might have been committed, there was no intention on the part of Government either to show discourtesy to the Conservancy Board or to act without getting its wishes and opinions. If there has been an oversight, as I think there has been to some extent both oversight and misapprehension, I beg to express on

my behalf and I think I may include, on behalf of the Honourable Members of Council, the regret that such should have taken place. I now come to what is really the most important point in your address, that is, your strongly expressed desire to sanction the purchase of a dredger through the board's own agents, and of such type as they may be advised would be the best. I am convinced that you are right in this matter. I have had several consultations on the subject of the port with Colonel Campbell and with Mr. Larminie. I remember distinctly that it was considered a perfectly inseparable part of any scheme for improving the port in the way which Mr. Larminie advocated, that there should be a dredger to keep the channel clear of any mud. The only question that remains unsettled, as far as I can understand from these papers, is the providing of ways and means. That, I am told, is under the consideration of the Government in the Marine Department. I do not think that I am divulging improperly any official secrets when I tell you that the Marine Department is not at present under my immediate charge. I am therefore not able to speak on my own personal knowledge how this question at the present moment stands; but I assure you that I shall consider it my duty, when I get back to Madras, to inform myself on the subject. I give you my assurance that if I can in any way forward what I believe to be the true interests of the board, by solving any difficulty that there may exist for the provision of funds, or for removing any

other obstacles in the way of providing you with the dredger you require, my best endeavours will be used to obtain them.

I now turn to one or two points apart from the question of the port, which are dealt with in the address of the two Chambers of Commerce and the mercantile community. You mention that disease has appeared in the sugarcane which is cultivated in this district. You say that this is the cause of a considerable decrease in the crop and is a serious loss to the ryots, and you request that an expert should be sent to enquire into the cause of the appearance of these insects. I think I am right in saying that your wishes in this respect have already been anticipated, and that a man possessed of the best knowledge on the subject, whose services we could command,—Dr. Bourne—has already been in this district to enquire into the pest injuring the sugarcane. I have not yet seen Dr. Bourne's report, but it will no doubt reach me before long, and in due course of time will be communicated to you. I may say that, personally, I am very much in sympathy with the cultivation of sugarcane. I attach great importance to it, because it seems to me to contain the possibility of a new industry in the Presidency or rather the extension of an industry that already exists. Where I can find any possibility of extending any industry or introducing a new one, I do not think that the opportunity should ever be lost. I am very much struck with the fact that a large portion of the sugar consumed

in the Bombay Presidency is imported sugar—sugar mainly imported from the island of Mauritius. The last return for 1894–95 shows two and a half million cwts. were imported into India, mostly into the Bombay Presidency, because in Madras, I believe, we provide locally to a great extent for our wants. Of these two and a half million cwts., one and three-quarters came from Mauritius. The cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius is subject to good many drawbacks and disabilities. In the first place, the cost of labour in the Mauritius is very large. They have a complicated and elaborate system of cooly emigration, supervised by Government, with high rates of wages and many appliances which cost a considerable sum of money. I myself had been several times in the Mauritius, and can speak from personal knowledge of these facts. The soil of Mauritius, too, is much exhausted by cultivation of many years. They have to use immense quantity of expensive manure to maintain the richness of their crops. Beyond this, in order to bring their sugar into the Indian market, there is a long voyage from the Mauritius. I believe freights are low, but of that I am not certain. On arrival in India, Mauritius and all other foreign sugar is subject to an *ad valorem* duty of five per cent. With all these difficulties and disabilities, it has always been a matter of surprise to me that the Mauritius sugar should have been allowed to hold its own in India. Charity begins at home: I will therefore commend it to the notice of merchants and others interested in the production

of sugar, that they should endeavour to find some means of shutting out the Mauritius market by supplying the demand themselves. The next point on which a request is made in the address of the two Chambers of Commerce, is that a senior Police officer, instead of an Inspector, should be appointed for service in this town. I have consulted the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police on this subject. I find from them that, so far as it is known up to this time, the question, viz., that of supplying an additional Police officer as Assistant Superintendent in Cocanada, has not been previously mooted. All that an Assistant can do, an Inspector can do, as regards the sanitary and police duties of the town. Crime, I am sure, is not heavy. Detection is fair. No complaint has ever been received from a public or private body of misconduct on the part of the police. The present location of two European officers is the best possible, and I do not think it will be possible to comply with the request the address embodies, viz., the appointment of a second Assistant, as under the circumstances you are not specially entitled to it. The District Superintendent, I am told, visits the town two or three times a year. It is difficult for him to do so oftener than that. Of course, it is added that if there is anything urgent requiring his presence at any time, he will no doubt come at once. The Police officer and the Collector inform me that, in their opinion, all that is required for the service of Cocanada is a smart and experienced Inspector. I think,

therefore, I am unable to hold out any hope of this request being complied with. Lastly, you touch on the scheme for a light railway from Samalkot to Yeleswaram. In an address which I have just answered, I said what I repeat now that this line is one that the Collector has much at heart, and it is believed it will be a very useful one as a feeder to the railway and also as opening out an important part of the country and bringing us nearer to what is called the Agency tracts. But the information before us is not sufficient to enable us to form any very decided opinion as to whether the line is likely to be a paying one. The Collector hopes to be able to give further information in a very short space of time, which will be placed before the Government, when the matter will receive the consideration which it so highly deserves.



ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

NINTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.



MADRAS :

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1899.

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ADDRESS FROM THE MUHAMMADAN CITIZENS OF TRICHINOPOLY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Muhammadan citizens of Trichinopoly, beg respectfully to approach Your Excellency with a cordial welcome as the representative of our Sovereign Lady, the Queen-Empress of India, under whose protection, we are proud to say, there is a larger Muhammadan population than under any other ruler on earth, and to express our heartfelt gratitude to Your Excellency for honouring this city with a visit which we have been anxiously awaiting since Your Excellency's last tour in the Southern Districts.

2. We feel much pleasure in seeing Your Excellency amongst us in this town which is full of historic interest; it was here that the Nabobs of the Carnatic held their seat of government, and it was here that the fierce battles which established the British supremacy in the South were fought.

3. We embrace this opportunity to express our warmest thanks for Your Excellency's able administration of this country, and we are fully alive to the solicitude which Your Excellency has for the advancement of our race, and we sincerely trust that it will be continued and maintained till a

fair proportion of our community is secured in the higher ranks of the several departments of the Public service, such as the Judicial, Public Works, Police, Salt and Forest departments, in which duly-qualified Muhammadans are not altogether wanting.

4. In this connection we feel bound to express our deep gratitude to our esteemed Collector, Mr. R. H. Shipley, who does not forget our race in the fair disposal of his patronage.

5. In consideration of the large Muhammadan population of this town, and as the result of our prayer at a personal interview, His Excellency Lord Connemara was pleased to post a Muhammadan Deputy Collector for this town, and this policy was maintained by Your Excellency's immediate predecessor, His Excellency Lord Wenlock, whose view on the subject was fully manifested in the reply given by His Excellency to our address whilst amongst us in this town; and we sincerely trust that Your Excellency will be kindly pleased to continue the precedent by posting a Muhammadan Deputy Collector to this town.

6. Again thanking Your Excellency for honouring this ancient town with a visit and praying for Your Excellency's and Lady Havlock's long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MUHAMMADAN COMMUNITY OF TRICHINOPOLY,—I beg you to

accept my sincere thanks for the cordial welcome which you have given me to your town. It affords me, I assure you, great pleasure to find myself at last in Trichinopoly. I have now been Governor of Madras for nearly two years and a half, and it has often been a cause of regret to me that circumstances should have prevented my paying at an earlier time a visit to your old and interesting town. You are right in saying that our august Sovereign is the ruler of a larger number of Muhammadan subjects than any other potentate in the world. In numbers Her Majesty's Muhammadan subjects far exceed even those of the Sultan of Turkey. I take this opportunity—an opportunity which I never lose when I address Muhammadan gentlemen—of assuring you of the special and deep interest and sympathy that our gracious Queen has in all that concerns the welfare of her vast number of Muhammadan subjects. Her love for them and her interest is large and deep. I know well that Trichinopoly has been the scene of many important historical events; that the struggle for dominion between the French and the English was, to a great extent, fought out in this neighbourhood. It would afford me the greatest interest to visit, as far as time will allow, these spots of interest. I thank you for the too flattering terms in which you speak of my administration of the Government of this Presidency. The Government of Madras are fully alive to their obligation to do all they can to advance the intelligence and position of the Muhammadan community

of this country. We sympathise very heartily with your aspirations, and I think, if you will give a moment's consideration to all the measures of Government in education and other matters, that you will recognise that its efforts have not stopped short of mere good wishes, but that a very considerable and practical effect has been given to them. I will not say anything more on this subject at the present moment, except to assure you once more that the Government desire to give the Muhammadan community in this part of India every help and encouragement in their power, but that it is impossible that they could exercise either favouritism or partiality. You must show yourselves worthy of the high position in the public service and elsewhere to which you aspire. I can assure you that these aspirations will receive from the Government the most cordial support and practical encouragement. I am glad to hear from you your appreciation of the good feelings and kindly interest which your Collector takes in your affairs. You mention in your address your desire that a Deputy Collector of the Muhammadan community should be appointed to the town of Trichinopoly. I have made some little inquiry on this subject. I can only tell you that the matter will receive the most favourable consideration which I can fairly give it. I find that in the Trichinopoly taluk there are about three hundred thousand and odd inhabitants altogether, and of these about 17,000 or about $\frac{1}{18}$ belong to the Muhammadan community. It is plain, therefore,

that the Hindus are vastly in the majority; and if one settled a question of this kind entirely on the basis of the greater number, there being only one Deputy Collector, I understand, appointed to the town, it would afford them by far the strongest claims for consideration. In addition to this, I may also mention that apart from the great numbers of the Hindus in the Trichinopoly taluk, there are other interests very specially connected with the religious institutions which give their religion particular importance in this locality. But as I have already said, should an opportunity present itself and a good man be forthcoming, we will consider, with the most favourable and kind wishes towards your community, the desire which you have expressed. I conclude by thanking you very much for your good wishes for my health and prosperity and for those of Lady Havelock.

ADDRESS FROM THE ZAMINDARS, MIRASSIDARS, MERCHANTS AND RESIDENTS OF THE TRICHINOPOLY DISTRICT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned Zamindars, Mirassidars, Merchants and Residents of the Trichinopoly district, beg most respectfully to approach Your Excellency to accord you our heartfelt welcome to this most ancient and ever loyal city.

2. This city with its historic surroundings and its most sacred shrines of both the Hindus and

Muhammadans and the Christian churches with the fine and picturesque rock, around which the streets and buildings have been growing and extending several hundred years, has always been one of interest to all our Governors and we are proud that it has been included in Your Excellency's programme also. In the vicinity of this town there are several places which it may interest Your Excellency to inspect and note. The Cauvery with a series of weirs (the upper anicut and the grand anicut in this district and the lower anicut in the Tanjore district) across it for adjusting and regulating the waters thereof; the sacred Vishnu and Siva shrines, to which pilgrims from all parts of India resort for purposes of worship, in the large Island of Srirangam with beautiful scenery all round; the fine old palace buildings right in the midst of the town, which were preserved intact and fitted up as public offices by one of our Governors, Lord Napier,—all honour to him and to his taste and partiality for the noble art of architecture; the Nuthed Ovuliah Mosque in which many of the Carnatic Nabobs are buried; and the rocks of military reputation around it.

3. Your Excellency's deep sympathy and anxiety for the famine-stricken people and the ready aid and relief which your administration afforded them, your liberal sympathy with municipal aspirations, your exertions to secure railway extension, and the devotion of your anxious thoughts to develop the irrigation resources of the country for prevention of

famine, are ample proofs of your paternal care for the people over whom you hold sway.

4. We fervently hope and pray that Your Excellency may be long spared to preside over the destinies of people and shine in the list of the illustrious sons of England who have won glory to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Government of the vast dominions in which the sun never sets.

5. We cannot conclude without expressing our regret that Lady Havelock has not been able to accompany Your Excellency to this place. It is unfortunate that we were not given the opportunity of thanking her personally for the very many acts of charity and usefulness with which her much respected name has been connected in this Presidency.

6. Now that Your Excellency is amidst us, our most humble and only prayer is that Your Excellency may remember this district and its people, and bear their weal at heart.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN, ZAMINDARS, MIRASSIDARS, MERCHANTS AND RESIDENTS OF THE TRICHINOPOLY DISTRICT,—I beg you to accept my warm acknowledgments for the kind welcome and for the interesting address which has just been read. Your address contains a charming description of the attractions, historical, religious, and architectural, which Trichinopoly and its neighbourhood offers, and of the beauties of Nature which it presents. I look forward to visiting these scenes of interest and of beauty with no

less delight than my predecessors to whom in your address you allude. You observe that my Government, during the period of the famine of last year, showed sympathy and anxiety for those who were in this way so terribly distressed. I think we may fairly congratulate ourselves that our measures met with a very fair degree of success, and I take this opportunity of congratulating you, who live in more favoured parts, that only the shadow of this terrible calamity fell upon you and not its reality. Long may this be your good fortune! You make allusion to the efforts of my Government to secure railway extension and the improvement of irrigation works in the hope of reducing the dangers of famine and of developing the resources of the country. It is true, as you may have observed from past utterances of my own on this subject, that I attach the greatest possible importance to measures of improvement, such as extension of railways and the construction of irrigation works. Without the construction of irrigation works it seems to me that the extension of railways is simply an imperfect measure in itself. With regard to our railway policy and prospects I may tell you that out of about twenty different railway schemes which the Government of Madras have submitted to the Supreme Government a very large number have been under consideration. With regard to twelve of these schemes we are in hopes that some day fulfilment may be obtained. In the case of four more of the twenty we still wish for and hope that some day success may be achieved. With

regard to the remaining schemes I think it possible that many a long day may pass before they are likely to be carried out. I may say, roughly speaking, that schemes which will altogether include about 4,428 miles of new railway are pretty well secure; and further schemes, which will cover 300 more miles of railway, are now progressing satisfactorily; that is to say, that our representations with regard to them are likely, before very long, to receive support and consideration from the Government of India. I think you are aware that the Government of India is the power which regulates all matters connected with the extension of railways. Now with regard to our irrigation works. In this Presidency, we have a vast number of small schemes on hand which are constantly being carried out. We have a large quantity of work done in the improvement of old irrigation works which have fallen into disrepair. The two schemes of the very largest description which the Government now have in their mind's eye are, first of all, the Bhavani scheme which I have no doubt must be well known to you in Trichinopoly as it will largely affect the wide scope of the great Cauvery irrigation system, and in that way will, in some degree, benefit the neighbourhood of Trichinopoly. We have also in consideration a scheme for utilising the surplus waters of the Tungabhadra river. Millions of tons of water from that river, flowing through the Kistna into the sea, run into waste. We are now making our very best endeavours to elaborate some scheme

by which this waste water may be secured and turned to use in the regions of Bellary which, as you know, are so subject to famines. I thank you very heartily for your kind wish that I may be long preserved to preside over the destinies of this Presidency. No wish of mine could be more fervent than the one which you have there figured. I thank you very heartily for the regret which you express that Lady Havelock has not been able to accompany me on this tour. I am sorry to say that Lady Havelock has for some time past been unwell and she has, therefore, been unfit to undertake the fatigues of a tour at this time of the year, and a very hurried one, such as those I am always on these occasions obliged to make. It will afford me great pleasure to communicate to her the kind thanks which you express for her small efforts to be of use in this country, efforts which I am sure she will herself feel that you greatly over-estimate. I thank you again, gentlemen, once more for your kind wishes and for the hearty welcome which you have accorded to me.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE TRICHINOPOLY MUNICIPALITY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with the liveliest feeling of satisfaction that we, the Chairman and Councillors of the Trichinopoly Municipality, tender you a hearty welcome to this old and historic city. Your Excellency is aware how

much there is of deep interest to see, and we trust you will find much to please you, in and round the home of those we have the honour to represent—the seat of an ancient Hindu dynasty, the monuments of which centuries have failed to efface—ground made memorable by many a fierce encounter between the two great nations who were contesting, a hundred and fifty years ago, the dominion of this country—scenes that recall those deeds of heroic daring which shed a lustre on the British arms and those of their foes and allies alike—a city whose name is so intimately connected with a Clive, a Lawrence, a Dalton, a Dupleix—the site of the once celebrated fortress crowned by its picturesque rock and possessing an elaborate system of water-supply that survives a record of the engineering skill and ability of its former Muhammadan rulers. The neighbouring island, too, of Srirangam with its massive stone gateway and tall towers of its temple lends its attraction to this city.

Of points of interest, Trichinopoly has to present to you its popular municipal hospital, its railway offices, its ancient mosques, two first-grade colleges and a flourishing national high school, several orphanages and mission churches (some of which, if Your Excellency has the time, may be found worthy a visit), its town hall and new and costly water-works, and last not least a prosperous and loyal population whom you will find ready to add their welcome to ours as you pass through the streets, and to express the contentment they feel

for the numerous blessings of peace and security which they enjoy under the beneficent rule of the Royal and Imperial Lady whom Your Excellency has, in this Presidency, the privilege to represent.

To Your Excellency's Government we have to render our grateful thanks for the blessing of a pure water-supply and the immediate prospect of railway extension and irrigation improvement.

In conclusion, we regret that Lady Havelock has been unable to accompany Your Excellency on your present tour; and with the respectful expression of our best wishes for the health and happiness of Lady Havelock and Your Excellency.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF TRICHINOPOLY,—The lively feelings of satisfaction which inspire you in receiving me and in offering me the kind welcome that you have done are, I assure you, warmly reciprocated by myself when I express the pleasure that I feel in making your acquaintance and that of the city of Trichinopoly. Trichinopoly, I believe, stands among the cities of Madras, in point of population, as the second. I think it ranks after the city of Madras itself. In point of historical, architectural, and religious interest it probably takes almost the first place; I should be afraid to say quite, for fear of making enemies in other places. The address which you have presented to me has been very pleasant to listen to, reflecting as it does prosperity,

contentment, and loyalty. A most unusual circumstance I remark with regard to your address is that it contains no expression of grievances and avoids asking for any favour. The programme which you have set out for anybody wishing to make the acquaintance of Trichinopoly is a very enticing one, and during the short time that I shall be able to spend among you I shall do my best to carry out fully the programme which you have suggested. I am glad to gather from one paragraph of your address that a defect in your water-supply, or rather in the working of your water-works, which I was sorry to hear of some months ago, has been remedied. I believe there is a desire on your part to extend the operation of your water-supply scheme, and I believe that it is the wish of the Chairman and of the members of the Municipal Council generally to address me informally on this subject later on. I shall be glad to receive such representations as you wish to make. I beg to thank you once more for your kind words of welcome and for the touching way in which you have alluded to the absence of Lady Havelock on this occasion. It would, I am sure, had her health and strength been sufficient at present, have given her great pleasure to have accompanied me and to have joined with me in the pleasure of seeing all that is beautiful and interesting in this town and its neighbourhood.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF SRIRANGAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and the Municipal Councillors of Srirangam, avail ourselves of this opportunity of Your Excellency's visit to this holy island to approach Your Excellency and tender our respectful and warm welcome.

This island, situated between the branches of the Cauvery, which is second to the Ganges only in sanctity, is famous for its antiquity and is celebrated for its sacred shrines, and the same has attracted from time to time the attention of Royal visitors, like His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Foreign magnates, as His Imperial Majesty the Czar of Russia, and other illustrious personages as His Excellency Lord Elgin.

This town with its suburbs, consisting of 21,632 inhabitants as per last census, was constituted a municipality in 1871 and we beg to express our heartfelt feelings of gratitude to the benign British Government for having extended to us the much valued and the full privilege of electing three-fourths of the Councillors, which privilege was enjoyed by the people till the year 1893-94, when the same was curtailed to a half. The Councillors believe that they have spared no pains to carry on the administration for the benefit of the rate-payers, and all such sanitary and other measures as could be carried out with the limited resources of the municipality have been adopted and executed, and

that their works have been well appreciated by the people. We pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to restore the full franchise to be gratefully remembered in connection with Your Excellency's visit to this town and thereby add another instance of your kind, generous and sympathetic rule.

A much-felt want was supplied by the establishment in 1873 of the hospital which has been affording useful relief to the inhabitants of this town and the numberless pilgrims resorting to the same. The hospital buildings were accidentally destroyed by fire in 1884 and the benevolent Raja Sir Savalai Ramasawmi Mudaliyar, *Kt.*, *C.I.E.*, restored the same at a cost of about Rs. 10,000, and a tablet on the parapet wall and an oil-painting of his in the consultation room of the hospital have been put up in memory of his charity.

This town sadly wants a good water-supply and a perfect system of drainage. The Council was prepared to start the water-supply scheme and for that purpose had addressed the Government to favour them with the usual grant and a loan under the sinking fund arrangements, but the Government had decided in 1897 that they could not give any hopes of being able to give a grant or loan towards the cost of this project in the then existing state of provincial finances. The Council begs to express its opinion that, without the grant and the loan, it would be impossible for it to move in the matter, and considering the importance of the town and the number of pilgrims resorting to the holy shrines,

Your Excellency will be pleased to specially favour it with the same as soon as convenient. If the water-supply scheme is completed, the Council hopes that from private contribution the drainage scheme may be perfected.

Before concluding, we beg to express our grateful thanks to Your Excellency for the great honour done to us by your kind visit to this town and offer our earnest prayers to God to spare Her Excellency Lady Havelock, whose absence here is much felt by us all, and Your Excellency for a long time, and in sound health, and humbly request Your Excellency to convey our feelings of devout and firm loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India, who, in her long and illustrious reign of over 60 years, was ever ready to rejoice in the prosperity of her humble subjects and to feel sympathy for their even slight sufferings.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF SRIRANGAM,—I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for your kind welcome to this beautiful and sacred island, and to believe in the interest with which I have been filled in going over this venerable temple. In approaching the island I crossed by a very fine bridge over the sacred river Cauvery, which at the present moment presents an appearance of great beauty. I am glad to have seen that river for the first time under such agreeable circumstances. It is well known to me that

this island and the river Cauvery, on account of its sacred character, have aroused great interest in the minds of many illustrious visitors, among whom are those whom you name in your address. I have listened patiently to the representations that you have made with regard to the rights which the electors have in your Municipality. As you observe yourselves, Government for certain reasons found it necessary for some few years to curtail your elective rights. I should be very glad if it were possible at this moment to accede to your request that these rights should be restored in full; but I think it is only my duty to tell you that I think you will have to wait a little longer before that privilege can be accorded. I may say, however, that the Government will earnestly watch and will take the first opportunity that they think suitable for restoring to you these privileges which you appear so highly to value. I will just here make the remark that, while I and my Government are in warm sympathy with Municipal institutions in this country, we are bound to keep a watchful eye upon them. We look upon the Municipal institutions as valuable in more ways than one. In the first place, they relieve Government, which is already overpowered with an amount of administrative details which fall upon it, of a considerable number of important duties; but in the second and far more important place, these Municipal institutions serve as a school for teaching the people of this country the duties and capacity of self-government. While, therefore,

we value these institutions for these reasons it becomes all the more important that we should watch them with a jealous eye. I do not mean to say that this is the only country in which Municipal bodies make mistakes and even do worse than make mistakes; among far more advanced communities than that among which I am living at the present moment, Municipal faults and Municipal crimes, I may say, are of very frequent occurrence, I regret to confess. You must not imagine from my admission in this way that I mean at all to encourage you to believe that we look lightly upon these faults or upon the mistakes to which I allude. The lesson I hope you will take from me, if you will take any lesson at all, is that you are to set an example to the more enlightened Municipalities who are guilty of the shortcomings to which I have been obliged regretfully to allude. I have heard with pleasure in your address of a yet further example of the munificence of my friend Raja Sir Savalai Ramasawmi Mudaliyar, in that he has restored the hospital which formerly existed in this island. You next allude to your want of a good water-supply and perfect system of drainage. I am glad to observe in the paragraph of your address, which refers to this subject, that you express your willingness and possibly your ability to raise funds among yourselves for the drainage system. I should say from a casual observation of the general condition of this island that after all drainage system is not of the very first urgency, and in any case, from the peculiar

conformation of the island here, I am certain that it will be a very expensive enterprise. If, therefore, you have any funds which you could devote to public purposes of this sort, I should strongly recommend your putting them into the water-supply scheme. You have already been told, I think, that the Government at the present moment, in the financial straits to which we have been temporarily reduced by the recent famine and other misfortunes, which have during the last year visited this country, are not in a condition at present to make advances in the usual manner, but I have no doubt that the present prosperity which appears to be returning to this country will before long put us in a position to exercise greater liberality in this respect. At any rate your wishes and aspirations will be made a note of. In conclusion, I beg you to accept my grateful thanks for your kind wishes and prayers for the prosperity of myself and Lady Havelock.

ADDRESS FROM THE PROFESSORS AND TEACHERS
OF THE S.P.G. COLLEGE, TRICHINOPOLY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Professors and Teachers with the 1,514 students of this college and its branch schools, beg permission to accord to Your Excellency our most loyal and hearty welcome to this institution of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Small beginnings were made about the middle of the last century by that great and earliest missionary of the S.P.C.K. in South India, the Rev. C. F. Schwartz, whose centenary we were celebrating on the 13th of last February. He, regarding education as a powerful instrument for disseminating Truth, opened schools, first at Trichinopoly where he began his missionary career in connection with the Church of England, and subsequently in his second station, Tanjore. Following the same policy of mission education, and long before Government inaugurated its educational policy, he established, with the help of one of Your Excellency's illustrious predecessors, Lord Hobart, provincial schools in Tanjore, Kumbakonam and Ramnad. From such beginnings, Sir, the original school at Trichinopoly has now developed into a first-grade college, the largest Church of England Mission college in all India, affiliated to the University, of which Your Excellency is the worthy Chancellor.

We would also remind Your Excellency of the interest evinced by that great prelate Reginald Heber in the education of Trichinopoly. He visited this part of the then diocese of Calcutta soon after the S.P.C.K. transferred the mission and its schools to the S.P.G., and the last expressed wish of the good Bishop on that fatal day, the 3rd of April 1826, was for the improvement of the S.P.G. schools in this town. Three schools connected with the college bear his great name, having been erected

with the help of the memorial committee who gave effect to the wishes of the lamented Bishop.

The great work of education which Schwartz began in this town in the last century with the liberal aid of the military officers of the cantonment is now carried on in the very buildings which formed the residence of the heroes of the Carnatic War, Major Lawrence and his companions in arms. Though we are proud of being thus connected with the past history of the Empire, Your Excellency must have observed that the buildings in which this most important and successful work is carried on are not in appearance imposing. The Society's agents, notably the Rev. T. H. Dodson, M.A., have done their best to improve the buildings, and with the co-operation of our old students, gentlemen of means and position, the high school buildings have been re-fronted to the great satisfaction of the Trichinopoly public and of the Society. Much, however, remains to be done; and we hope that in the event of further improvements being effected, we may obtain the assistance of Your Excellency's Government.

The S.P.G. was the very first missionary body to throw open her schools to Government inspection; and the connection then formed with the Government has been maintained to the present day. Until quite recently all the Government officials of the district were *alumni* of this institution.

This college has been honoured by several illustrious visitors. The first was Lord Napier of Ettrick, to whom we are indebted for this hall in

which we have the honour of receiving Your Excellency, then Lord Hobart, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Lord Connemara and our present Viceroy. Though they all came, saw the work and encouraged the workers, to-day for the first time the students of this time-honoured and popular institution see one bearing a name rendered famous in Indian History and therefore known and honoured by them, and receive their prizes from the hands of the Chancellor of the University of Madras and the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India.

With renewed expressions of welcome, and praying that the Lord Almighty will confer His choicest blessings on Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRINCIPAL, PROFESSORS OF THE S.P.G. COLLEGE, TRICHINOPOLY,—I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the pleasant welcome which you have given me to this interesting and very important institution, the largest educational institution of any mission of the Church of England in India. It is a source of regret to me that I should only be able to give you half an hour towards the close of a long tiring day, and I must further apologise for having made the matter still worse by arriving more than a quarter of an hour behind the appointed time. The address which you were kind enough to present to me gives a short but very

interesting and satisfactory history of this institution, and the report of the Principal at which I was able to glance, before I entered the college, has given a very satisfactory history of last year's performances. I can only now, as the time is getting very late, ask you to accept an assurance of my deep interest in this college, and my hope that the success which has attended it in the past, no less in last year than in previous ones, may be continued from year to year.

There is one point in your address, which I must not leave unanswered. That is, your representation with regard to the need for increased accommodation. The very short acquaintance I have made now of the college and its premises has been quite sufficient to show me that your complaint on this point is well founded. And I think I may say that, when the time comes for increasing the accommodation, as is suggested in your address, and funds are needed in the usual way from Government to assist you in the purpose, those funds will be cheerfully given.

I thank you once more for your kind welcome, and beg you to accept my assurance of the interest I take in your college. I beg you also to accept, for what they are worth, my best wishes for your future advancement and success.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, TRICHINOPOLY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Council of the National High School, Trichinopoly, beg most respectfully to approach Your Excellency and offer our heartfelt thanks for your kind condescension to lay the foundation stone of this school.

This institution was started in 1886; and for the last thirteen years, we have been striving hard to maintain its usefulness and the standard of efficiency required by the rules of the Educational department presided over by that veteran educationist, the Honourable Dr. D. Duncan, M.A., D.Sc.

The want of a suitable school-house having been felt, an application was made to the Government of Madras for this site which was granted to us on the recommendation of J. Andrew, Esq., the then Collector of the district.

Unaided and unendowed, this school is maintained entirely from fee collections; and, as the savings from this only item of income were insufficient, an appeal for requisite funds was made to the public; and we are glad to report to Your Excellency that it has been meeting with a cordial response. Some of the princes of Southern India, a few zamindars, and many philanthropic mirassidars and friends have come forward with liberal help. Among others may be mentioned the Raja of Ramnad and the Prince Raghunatha Tondiman

Sahib of Pudukkottai, who have subscribed each Rs. 2,000. The total sum subscribed amounts to Rs. 16,000. The building is estimated to cost Rs. 30,000; and an application for building grant has been made to the Director of Public Instruction, whose sanction is awaited. In this connection, we beg to report to Your Excellency that the Zamindar of Udaiyarpálaiyam, one of our patrons, has kindly consented to build the primary school at a cost of Rs. 4,000 inclusive of the grant which the local Municipal Council has generously sanctioned.

We beg Your Excellency to grant the request of our President M.R.Ry. K. Vasudeva Aiyangar Avargal to erect a hall in Your Excellency's name in commemoration of this important event.

Our grateful acknowledgments are due to the local Diamond Jubilee Committee which has granted Rs. 1,500 for the construction of a hall to perpetuate that grand occasion.

Our thanks are also due to His Holiness Sri Jagath Guru Sringeri Swamigal who has been materially helping us, and also to the late lamented Kaniyur Krishna Aiyar Avargal, a wealthy mirassidar of the Coimbatore district, who has established a free boarding house at an annual cost of about Rs. 2,000.

The school counts among its patrons some of the distinguished personages of Southern India.

Your Excellency's benevolent administration of this Presidency has so endeared you to all of us, Her Most Gracious Majesty's loyal subjects, that

it is our firm belief that God will help any institution, the foundation of which has been laid by Your Excellency's hands.

Nearly one thousand children, boys and girls, join us in greeting Your Excellency with feelings of reverence; and our only regret is that we have been denied the pleasure of paying our respects to Her Excellency Lady Havelock.

Praying that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to permit us to associate Your Excellency's name with the school as its grand patron, and wishing Your Excellency a long and useful career, and Lady Havelock renewed health and vigour to help the many millions of Her Majesty's subjects.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, TRICHINOPOLY,—I must in the first place express my regret at not having been able to carry out punctually my engagement with you. The programme which was laid out for me this morning has taken longer than was anticipated. Therefore, much to my regret, I have arrived here later than I intended. I am myself a strong advocate of punctuality; therefore in this case I ask you rather to follow my precept than my example. It affords me, I assure you, great pleasure to accept this invitation to lay the foundation stone of a new building for the National High School of Trichinopoly. The short history which is given to me of your institution in the address which has just been

read shows that it is an institution, although of no great age, possessing great vitality. In the short period of thirteen years, it has grown to such an extent as now to number about 800 scholars on its lists, and I have no doubt that the necessity of new and suitable premises has been most strongly brought home to you, and therefore I congratulate you very much on this auspicious day, and on the fact that you have secured here a suitable and convenient site for the purposes of your new building. The account you give in your address of the liberality which has been shown by the noblemen and gentry of this part of India towards contributing to the cost of this work is truly gratifying; I find that something like one-half of the sum required for the construction of your new premises has already been promised, and that a portion of the money thus promised has been collected. I trust I may be pardoned for expressing the hope that those who have promised to contribute to this excellent work will remember the proverb that, he who gives quickly, gives twice, and will send their subscriptions to the council with as little delay as possible. It gives me special satisfaction to be able to announce that a new act of generosity is about to be performed by the Raja of Ramnad. I have been informed within the last few minutes that the Raja has offered to subscribe sufficient to build a separate block, one of the numerous blocks which form the surrounding premises of the central hall of your future institution. The President of

your Council has done me the honour of asking that he may be allowed in erecting a hall to name it after myself. I am very proud and pleased to give permission for this to be done. I am also asked that I may allow you to associate my name as patron of your school. Believe me I am proud to do so. I hope that to-day the Trichinopoly National High School will take a fresh start in its career of prosperity and usefulness, and that we shall in the future feel throughout, not only in this part of India, but everywhere else, the undoubted power and good which an institution of this size is capable of working amongst the population which surround us. Boys of the high school, I commend to your notice much of what was said in the discourse which was delivered by one of yourselves. There was a great deal of high principle and sound advice in that discourse. I beg you to lay it to heart. I thank you for the grand reception which you have given me. I now proceed to undertake the task of laying the foundation of your future school premises.

REPRESENTATION BY THE TRICHINOPOLY MUNICIPALITY AT THE WATER WORKS, AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The Chairman represented to His Excellency that the Municipality of Trichinopoly was desirous of extending their water-works so as to supply the requirements of three outlying districts of the town

containing a population of 30,000, and also of improving the arrangements for the general supply. An estimate for this object had been made, examined and approved by the Sanitary Engineer, amounting to Rs. 2,08,000, but for further perfecting the system an additional sum of Rs. 75,000, or a total of, say, nearly Rs. 3,00,000 was required. The Municipal Council would be thankful to Government if the latter would advance a loan of the same at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. His Excellency remarked that their request was a proper and reasonable one, and that, if the Government could accede to it, they might not unreasonably expect to be granted the same. Before he came there he was not fully prepared to go into the subject. But he had had a consultation with Sir Henry Bliss, who looked after the financial branch of the Government, and learnt from him that the present state of the finances was such as would make it probably impossible to grant any loan of the kind sought. But His Excellency would say that their request was so far reasonable as to perfectly warrant his going afresh into the subject and seeing if there was any possibility of Sir Henry Bliss getting over the difficulties in their way. If it was possible for His Excellency, without injuring other interests, to do that for them, it would afford him great pleasure to meet their wishes. The next want sought to be remedied was a contribution by the District Board from the income from the tolls towards Municipal expenditure. It would appear that till a few years the

Municipal Council was in receipt of one-half of the income from the tolls, but since 1887 the District Board had reduced the contribution to one-third on the ground that the amount contributed was not actually spent on the legitimate object of repairs to roads. The Municipal Council, the Chairman assured him, however, was spending a great deal more on roads and found the contribution inadequate. On behalf of the Council he gave the assurance that if the contribution should be increased the sum would be spent entirely on roads. His Excellency promised to give the matter careful consideration if a recommendation should come from the District Board in the proper course.

The third representation to His Excellency was about the restoration of the privilege of electing a greater proportion of Councillors. The Chairman said that in 1895, when there had been a general reform introduced into the Municipal Council, the number of elected Councillors was reduced from 18 to 8 and also the privilege of having an elected Chairman was withdrawn. But in the Jubilee year the Government kindly restored the privilege of having an elected Chairman. It might have looked strange to His Excellency that a Council which had on it a proportion of two-thirds nominated members to a third elected, should have come forward with request for an increased proportion of elected members. But the Chairman explained that the majority of the Councillors being Native gentlemen felt very keen on local self-Government and urged that

the frequent transfer of Collectors made it impossible for suitable men to be nominated, as a new Collector had not the necessary knowledge of men in the station. Dr. O'Hara thought the disgrace the Council had been subjected to was sufficient punishment and requested His Excellency to favourably consider their representation. His Excellency at once tried to disabuse the minds of the Municipal Councillors of the idea that a Collector, because he was new, could not nominate suitable men; for he remarked that the Collector was surrounded by capable and experienced officers whose advice he was sure to seek before taking upon himself the responsibility of nominating a person to the Municipality. In answering this request of the Councillors His Excellency made some very wholesome observations in regard to local self-Government. He said that he could quite understand the desire of natives of the country to see Municipal privileges extended. He himself was quite in accord with them, and would like to see local self-Government extending in the country; but what they really wanted was good self-Government, not an indifferent one. He would rather go slower and go more surely and more satisfactorily than go fast and do it inefficiently. He therefore preferred to watch for a little time longer the working of their Municipality under its present constitution. He would make it his particular duty to make special examination of the report on their working, and if any improvement was noticed he would give his best

consideration to their prayer for the restoration of the privilege they valued so much.

The last representation of the Councillors was in regard to the introduction of a drainage system in Trichinopoly. But Dr. O'Hara was not himself in favour of any drainage scheme for the present on the score of enormous expenditure. He was of opinion that improvement in water-supply was more necessary and as such should take precedence of any attempt at drainage. His Excellency also expressed himself against any drainage scheme for the present. He commended to their notice the powers of the sun as a deodoriser, as also the climatic condition of Trichinopoly as being circumstances which make it unnecessary to have recourse to a drainage scheme for Trichinopoly. He also advocated attending better to scavengering and other minor sanitary measures.

ADDRESS FROM THE PUPILS OF THE ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, TRICHINOPOLY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We venture to approach you, by desire of the Rev. Father Rector, Professors, and Students of this College, to beg you to allow us to present Your Excellency with a short address on behalf of the College of St. Joseph, Trichinopoly, which we have been selected to represent on the present occasion.

We feel it indeed an honour and a privilege to be thus selected, and we hasten to express to you

the very great pleasure and satisfaction we all feel in welcoming you to our institution.

Lest Your Excellency may be tempted to think this address somewhat short, we beg to assure you that we have had several meetings to consider it, and, fearing that all we ought to say would be too lengthy for embodiment therein, we came to the decision to have such portions, as we should have wished to insert, printed separately in a book for presentation to Your Excellency, and to ask you graciously to accept it and to allow it, on the present occasion, to be taken as read.

Your lines, Your Excellency, have been cast in more peaceful times than those of your noble uncle, who laid down his life in the service of his country. But if we may be permitted to allude to it, you too have spent your life in your country's service, in which you have attained to the position of eminence you now hold. We have heard golden opinions of your several tours and the voices of our friends recognise everywhere, in your utterances on these occasions, the manifestation of those same large-hearted and generous views of men and things which so distinguished your illustrious uncle and have enabled you, as they did him, to recognise and welcome all that is good under whatever form it is brought before you.

We venture to hope that our little efforts, this day to please, have not been without success, and wishing, on behalf of St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly, its Rector, Professors and Pupils,

a long life of prosperity and happiness to Your Excellency and Lady Havelock, and assuring you of our most devoted allegiance to that great power, over which the august Lady, whom Your Excellency represents in this country rules, a power which has been the fountain of so many blessings to India.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

PUPILS OF THE ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE,—I thank you, as representatives of the Rev. Father Rector, Professors and students of the College of St. Joseph, for the kind welcome, the agreeable reception and the interesting entertainment which you have given me. You apologize for the shortness of the address which you have just read. Had it not been that you have also presented me with a volume containing, I believe, the history of your college and other interesting information concerning it, the address might be said to have been short. But under the circumstances it was of sufficient length. I commend the discretion which you have used in suggesting that the contents of the large volume that you have presented me should be taken as read. Those are blessed words "taken as read"! How often have they given rest to the weary and encouragement to the despondent! Boys, I congratulate you on the blessing and advantage of being trained under a system upon the perfection of which the Mighty Society of Jesus has brought to bear the great power of intellect which pervades it and the vast experience which it has gained. It was my

good fortune, two years ago, to visit an institution in the western part of India at Mangalore conducted by the same Society of Jesus, and there as here I was charmed by the cheerful and intelligent appearance of the students and surprised and interested by the extent and perfection of the organization of the institution. I feel much touched by the allusions that have been made, not only in your address but in the little play enacted by you, to the services of my late uncle. I thank you warmly for the too flattering references which you have made to my own career. I have heard with pleasure your assurances of loyalty to our Queen-Empress. It cannot be doubted that training in loyalty to the ruling power is one of the first duties of every educational institution, and that such training should be given in a college, such as this, led and conducted by soldiers of the Army of Christ, a body who in common with other great bodies have as one of their leading maxims "Honour the King," is a matter of certainty. And now, boys, in conclusion, I will make reference to a hint, a very broad hint, which was made by one of the actors in the little play. You should not make hints, and it would serve you right if on this occasion I passed by that hint without notice; but I am so pleased with you that I will forgive you and I will turn to the Rev. Rector and ask him if he would do me the great pleasure and honour of granting you a holiday (the Rev. Father Rector expressing his willingness, His Excellency continued). It gives me great pleasure to announce

that the Rev. Father Rector has kindly acceded to my request and that in pursuance of it you will have a holiday.

ADDRESS FROM THE LANDHOLDERS OF THE
TRICHINOPOLY DISTRICT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the landholders of the Trichinopoly district, beg most respectfully to approach Your Excellency with feelings of gratitude and thankfulness for your kind visit to our place and to accord to you our hearty welcome.

Our district has all along been famous for its loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, and this has been amply shown by the demonstrations, which have been displayed from time to time, on important occasions, when royal personages and illustrious representatives of Her Majesty visit this town. The latest instance was the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of our Gracious Sovereign which was celebrated with very great enthusiasm and *eclat* last year. We are conscious that our town has not kept up its reputation of appearing at its best at this time; and this is partly owing to the lateness of information we had about Your Excellency's tour, and also owing to the mental depression caused by the malicious withholding of the rains for many months and the unusual mildness of the south-west monsoon and the consequent break of water-

supply in our Cauvery, where the supply used to be plentiful at this time of the year. However, we are in the humble hope that the little that we have been able to do towards making Your Excellency's stay amidst us pleasant and enjoyable will be appreciated and taken as showing only a small fraction of what we really feel in our heart of hearts on this memorable occasion.

We take this opportunity of representing to Your Excellency some of our grievances which press somewhat heavily upon us; and we are induced to do so by several acts of sympathy and benevolence which have won the hearts of several millions of people entrusted to your care. The first subject to which we earnestly solicit Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration is the re-settlement of this district, which, we believe, has been already engaging your attention. It is hardly necessary for us here to reiterate at length the views of the rulers of this country, both here and in England, beginning from Lord Cornwallis up to a very recent date, the consensus of opinion being that the fixity of tenure alone "would accelerate the development of the resources of this country and insure, in the highest degree, the welfare and contentment of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects." Having this principle in view, the first settlement of the district, was completed by Mr. R. K. Puckle in the year 1865 and was accepted by the then Government as "reliable." We were assured that there would be no interference with that arrangement, and we were

strengthened in this belief by the orders of the Government, dated 13th August 1883 and 4th July 1889, in which it has been laid down that Trichinopoly "is one of the districts which can be taken to have been adequately assessed and the Government has no intention of revising the classification of the soils." In spite of all these a re-settlement including re-classification has been ordered and completed in a manner that has affected the welfare of thousands of people in this district. The hardships consequent upon this would not be so keenly felt if the settlement operations were conducted in a somewhat liberal spirit as has been laid down in the despatch of the Court of Directors in 1856. The inferiority of the soil of this district and the enormous difficulties attending the diversion, for the purpose of irrigation, of the Cauvery, which is in a lower level, by means of earthly dams or *karumbus*,—these are peculiar to this district—are so well known that they must have obtained for the lands much lower rates than we find imposed on those of the neighbouring districts. The main object, which the Government had in view in ordering the re-classification, *i.e.*, the removal of the supposed inequalities in the original classification, far from being gained by the present measure, has been frustrated owing to the rough and hasty manner in which the operations were conducted. It would be only telling a sad story to Your Excellency to enumerate the difficulties which the people have been obliged to experience at the time of paying the

periodical kists. The accounts of the several Nattukottai Chetties, who have since found a lucrative market at Trichinopoly and Kulitalai, would go to show at what exorbitant rates of interest large sums are borrowed by the Mirassidars during the kist season. Even this resort is, in many cases, found unavailing, as the market value of lands has considerably deteriorated. Again, there are some lands which are cultivated under what is called "baling system," *i.e.*, by lifting up the water for irrigation. Even these are almost as heavily assessed as ordinary wet lands without any regard to the additional cost of labour that has been bestowed on them. The difficulty above mentioned of turning the Cauvery water into the irrigation channels is felt in a greater degree when the second crops are raised in consequence of the great fall of water in the river at the time. While so, most of the lands, including some of the worst lands, under the drainage irrigation, are taken under the first-class irrigation; and not only are they taxed very heavily, but they are also subjected to the imposition of one-half of the first-crop assessment on occasions when the second crop is raised on them. In this connection, we are sorry to submit that, while the assessment has been so abnormally increased, there has not been corresponding degree of attention and care paid to the facilities of irrigation and to other conveniences that are absolutely required for getting a sufficient supply of water and for protecting their lands from floods. Under the circumstances we entreat Your

Excellency, whose sympathies for the real sufferings of the people have been manifested in so many instances, to take the subject to your benign consideration and alleviate our sufferings by ordering the cancellation of the grouping of such of the lands as have been brought under first-class irrigation—a measure which will not only tend to generally lighten the burden to some extent, but will also enable us to enjoy the benefit of composition of rates as regards second-crop lands and also the issuing of instructions for proper attention being paid to irrigation.

The next subject to which we invite Your Excellency's attention is the Madras Tenancy Bill. It is not possible for us here to discuss at length the several principles enunciated in the Bill, but we will content ourselves with bringing to Your Excellency's notice and kind consideration some of the provisions which, if retained, would seriously affect the vested interests of the landholders—

Firstly, there does not seem to be any reluctance on the part of the proprietors, at least of these parts, to recognise the existence of occupancy rights in tenants who have been in possession of lands for a long time. But the creation of occupancy rights under several clauses of section VIII is what they consider to be an encroachment on their rights. The lapse of the occupancy right if the proprietor purchases it from the ryot, the procedure laid down as regards the enhancement of rents even in ordinary circumstances, the commutation of rent in kind into money rent without the consent of the

proprietor, and making it impossible for the landlord and the tenant to enhance the rent by mutual contract are provisions which are highly prejudicial to the interests of the proprietor.

Secondly, the introduction of a new class of tenants as non-occupancy tenants with special privileges for them will seriously hamper the free exercise of the proprietors' choice in the leasing out of unoccupied lands to persons as they like. The recognition of rights on behalf of the leaseholders under ryotwari landholders, after the expiration of the period of the lease, is equally objectionable. The power of summarily ejecting these, if their rents fall in arrears or if the terms of the leases granted to them expire, should find a place in the Bill.

Thirdly, the tedious process of the exchange of pattas and muchilikas once in a year may be dispensed with; and pattas once given may hold good as long as the conditions mentioned therein remain unaltered.

Fourthly, the extraordinary procedure mentioned in chapter VIII, allowing the tenants to have the repairs executed by applying to the Revenue Divisional officers at the expense of the proprietors, without their knowledge, cannot but be productive of enormous evils to the latter. The proprietors should be first asked to attend to the reasonable request of the ryot.

Fifthly, the decisions of the Revenue officers in some cases, as under chapter III, are made final.

It will be wholesome if in all suits decided by these officers under this Act appeals are allowed to the District Court.

Sixthly, section 162 is against the principles of the Law of Contract. It is not to be presumed that the landlords generally will act against the interests of the tenants.

These are the few points that we wish to lay before Your Excellency in connection with this matter, with the humble request that the Bill will be so modified as to suit the requirements of both the parties concerned and not unjustly curtail the already crippled rights of the proprietors, who are admittedly the weaker party at least in these parts.

We beg to thank Your Excellency for the true sympathetic spirit with which the statement as regards the working of the Forest rules was interpreted and published, and to pray Your Excellency will be pleased to make the Forest administration really more useful to the agricultural villagers by creating special privileges to them for grazing their cattle *free*, and for using forest produce for manuring purposes even within reserved areas if necessary.

The necessity for having a legislation to efficiently protect the temple funds from being abused has been so often brought to the notice of Your Excellency's Government; and we humbly beg to express the feelings of thousands of people, especially of this district, where the closing of the most

distinguished predecessor is carrying out its object in such a successful manner and that the advantage of a good water-supply is so highly appreciated by you. You make a short allusion to the possibilities of a drainage scheme. I understand that a portion of a drainage scheme is now under the consideration of the Government, and I understand also that the funds necessary for these modified or initial schemes are forthcoming, and I trust therefore that before long the work may be taken in hand. I thank you once more for your kind welcome and I beg you to accept my best acknowledgments for the good wishes contained in the last paragraph of your address for my long life and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE TANJORE
PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Tanjore People's Association, beg leave to offer Your Excellency our most hearty welcome on this the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this district. It has been our gratifying privilege to have had the honour of welcoming Governors and Viceroys on other occasions, and we reckon it our special privilege that on the present occasion we are welcoming in Your Excellency a ruler whose sympathies are with the people and whose sole ambition is to uphold and maintain the cause of right and justice.

2. We are gratefully alive to the anxious sympathy and solicitude Your Excellency has evinced to get yourself personally acquainted with the manifold wants and grievances of the millions entrusted to your care. The promptitude and earnestness with which Your Excellency, regardless of personal comfort and convenience, travelled through the famine-stricken districts and alleviated the sufferings of the starving millions, have already secured for Your Excellency a lasting place in the hearts of the people.

3. We are also grateful for the liberal and generous spirit in which Your Excellency has recognized the fairness and fitness of appointing deserving natives to some of the highest posts in the service of Government.

4. Our association represents the agricultural, mercantile, and other interests of this district and has, on its rolls, mirassidars, traders, and members of the professions of law and education, and has been enjoying the privilege of making suggestions to Government on important matters and of faithfully representing from time to time the wants and grievances of the people. And on occasions like this amidst the demonstrations of loyalty and rejoicings at Your Excellency's visit, we would be wanting in our duty if we did not invite Your Excellency's attention to a few wants and requirements of the people which in our humble opinion are entitled to Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration.

5. The recent revenue settlement of this district, we respectfully submit, presses very heavily on the people and has driven an already impoverished people to run more and more into debt to meet the increased assessment. From the special facilities our association possesses for ascertaining accurately the condition of the agrarian population of this district, it was of opinion that when the re-settlement scheme was about to be sanctioned that the burden imposed by the settlement would be too much for the mirassidars of this district to bear, and a deputation consisting of the leading members of the association was accorded the privilege of waiting upon His Excellency the Governor and making its representations on the subject, and the facts that have since transpired go a great way to confirm the opinion originally entertained.

6. Our district suffers a great deal by its defective irrigation and drainage. These defects affect the agricultural prosperity of our district, and the Government, in sanctioning the recent revenue settlement, was gracious enough to concede that a great deal of improvements had to be made in that direction at a considerable outlay to make the increased taxation bearable. But so far nothing has been done in that direction notwithstanding that increased assessment is being collected these four years. The association prays that the Government will devote its attention to this matter and improve the irrigation and drainage of the district.

7. This association also begs to submit that in many parts of the district the present *kistbandi* (i.e., the instalments in which the land revenue is payable) works hardship. The recently-introduced *kistbandi* makes it payable in four equal monthly payments, beginning from January. Now the *samba* crop harvest does not even begin till after the middle of January and it usually occupies a month and a half. The mirassidars can arrange to sell their paddy conveniently only after this period. It may be said that the January kist may be paid out of *kar* harvest which ends nearly two months before the beginning of the *samba* harvest. But it should be noted that in many parts of the district there is little or no *kar* cultivation at all, and it is therefore impossible for mirassidars who have no *kar* crops to pay the first instalment without borrowing the same from the money-lender. And the scarcity of money produced by the closing of the mints has, the association begs to submit, contributed its own quota towards increasing the difficulties of the mirassidar in paying the instalments of kist for crops not then harvested. The association therefore begs to submit that, while maintaining the four instalments, they may be made to begin from February instead of from January, as at present, to the great relief of the mirassidars.

8. Our association also begs earnestly to call Your Excellency's attention to the disabilities imposed upon British Indian immigrants and the harsh treatment they are subjected to in the British

Colonies in South Africa. The association learns with pain that British Indians are not permitted to acquire real property in the Crown Colony of Zululand and in the Chartered Company's territories, and that in Natal a free British Indian subject is not permitted to acquire land by a recent legislation if unacquainted sufficiently with a European language, and that in Cape Colony and Natal various vexatious restraints are being placed on free Indian immigrants, and that various steps are being taken to keep the free Indian out and to send back the indentured Indian after the expiry of the indentured period. The above restraints seem to be very harsh. And as the Madras Presidency and Tanjore, in particular, furnishes the major portion of the immigrants, the association earnestly entreats Your Excellency to use the influence of the Government in bettering the lot of the immigrants and in insisting on the free Indians being accorded all the rights of British citizenship.

9. There is no district in the Presidency which comparatively for the area contributes so largely to the Imperial exchequer and where the people are so orderly and law-abiding. The association earnestly prays that during Your Excellency's reign the grievance of the mirassidars of this district will receive Your Excellency's special attention and sympathy.

10. The people of this district are entirely dissatisfied with the manner in which the religious endowments are managed. Tanjore is emphatically

the land of temples and charitable institutions. The defect exists in the legislation and the remedy therefore should be from the Legislature. We pray for speedy legislation for the better management, superintendence and working of these religious institutions.

In conclusion, we thank Your Excellency for the patient hearing that has been accorded to us and rest in the belief that the representations herein made will receive the kind consideration of Your Excellency's Government.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE TANJORE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION,—I thank you for your pleasant welcome and for the kind terms in which it is couched. Your association is formed for the purpose of watching our interests which, in a country depending almost entirely on the cultivation of the soil, are matters of the first importance. I am not surprised therefore that you should have brought to my notice the subjects which form the matter of your address. In a reply which I have just given to the address which was presented to me a few minutes ago, I have admitted that there were defects in the irrigation and drainage of the district. It is certain that the Tanjore district is possessed of the most wonderful system of irrigation, but that it is imperfect is only one of the usual results of everything that is human. I have no doubt that it is capable of improvement, and as you imply in your address the

Government have given you some sort of understanding that measures will be taken to improve it. When you state, however, that nothing has been done in the direction of improvement during the last four years I must beg to join issue with you. In the answer which I gave to the last address presented, I dwelt at some length on the steps that have already been taken towards carrying out the improvements which were fully and ably suggested in that address. Perhaps you will allow me to refer you to my answer to that address for information on that point. My answer will be printed in the public papers, and will be within your reach in the course of a day or two. You draw my attention to the inconvenience caused by the way in which the *kistbandi* is at present paid, and you ask that while the four instalments, which are now in force, may be maintained, that they should begin from February instead of from the month of January. You are aware, I have no doubt, that the principle in this matter which is followed by the Government is that the land revenue should be paid while the crops are on the ground, so that those crops may serve as security for the revenue due. If the postponement which you ask for were sanctioned, this principle would, to a certain extent, have to be sacrificed. It is possible, however, I think, that some modification of the principle might be adopted without any serious risk to the interests of the revenue, and I may tell you, without divulging secrets improperly, that this question is now and has been for some little time

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under the consideration of the Government. I have listened with regret to the complaint that you make of the disabilities which British Indians suffer in Zululand, Natal, and in other parts of South Africa. I am sorry to say, however, that it is quite beyond the power of the Government of Madras to bring about any important improvement in this respect. All we can do is to remonstrate with the Governments of the Colonies in South Africa, and that, I believe, we have done; but as they are in possession of what are called self-governing powers and are very tenacious of them, it is not at all likely that they will listen to our representations unless it is to their interest to do so. If the natives of Tanjore find that they suffer in South Africa, disabilities which they cannot endure, their best course will be to refrain from going to South Africa. You attribute to this district a spirit of orderly and law-abiding conduct. I believe you fully merit the praise which is contained in your remarks, and you will be sure that this and other circumstances will only contribute towards making the Government desire to meet the difficulties and to redress the grievances under which you believe you are labouring. I am glad to find that you refer to the question of religious endowments. There is some sort of belief in certain quarters that there is really no strong popular feeling with regard to these religious endowments. I am glad, therefore, to receive in the course of my tours assurances, as I do to-day and such as I received at Trichinopoly, that there is really a strong

and widely prevailing feeling among the people that something should be done in the matter. I can tell you, as I did to the people of Trichinopoly, that the Government of Madras have now under preparation a Bill of their own which, I hope, may meet the circumstances of the case, and at the same time will satisfy the requirements of the Government of India in this matter. The Government of India, as I dare say you know, have their own views on the policy of the question, and we have, as is our duty, to submit our legislation as far as possible to them to carry out the high political views of our superiors in the Supreme Government. I will not detain you longer, but merely express, in conclusion, the satisfaction I have had at making your acquaintance and at receiving from you a frank expression of your grievances and wants.

ADDRESS FROM THE MAHRATTA COMMUNITY OF
TANJORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the Mahratta community of Tanjore, we beg to offer our hearty welcome to Your Excellency on this the first occasion of Your Excellency's visit to our ancient and historic city.

Tanjore rich in historical associations has in the past been one of the chief seats of the Naik dynasty, and thereafter the capital of the Mahrattas. It has always been the centre of learning and the fine

arts. It has passed through all vicissitudes, but never throughout the course of her long history has it enjoyed such peace and prosperity as it has been her privilege to enjoy under the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India.

Our community especially has good reasons to feel a deep debt of gratitude to the British Government. We may search—and we are afraid we shall have to search in vain—the histories of nations for another instance where a conquered race like ourselves has been treated with so much of kindly and generous consideration. We know that, as far as the Mahrattas are concerned, the one desire of all those who have represented Her Majesty in the Government of this country has been to enable them to develop that faculty of self-help and self-reliance which is of paramount importance in the daily concerns of life. We are keenly alive to the fact that, if the result has not been, what it ought to be, the blame rests entirely with ourselves. We, however, hope and feel confident that the Mahratta race will show itself to be worthy of the generous sympathy and solicitude which has always been extended to it.

It is, therefore, with no mere empty professions of gratitude that we welcome Your Excellency to our midst. The deep personal interest Your Excellency has been taking in the welfare of the several millions of people entrusted to your charge and the even-handed justice that you have been dealing out to them has endeared you to all of us, and we pray that Your Excellency may be blessed with long life

and sound health to carry out the several measures conducive to the interests of Her Majesty's subjects. In conclusion, we take this opportunity to express our profound loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAHRATTA COMMUNITY OF TANJORE,—I accept with pleasure the address which has just been presented to me. I beg you to accept my thanks for the kind welcome which you have accorded to me. I have heard with gratification your high tribute to the results of Her Majesty's rule in this city of Tanjore. You say that your city has never in any previous period of its interesting and chequered career enjoyed such complete peace and prosperity as it now experiences. I have heard, with the most profound satisfaction, your unqualified expressions of contentment under Her Gracious Majesty's rule—expressions which are as satisfactory as they are rare. I thank you heartily for your good wishes for my long life and good health, and I accept with satisfaction your assurances of continued loyalty to Her Majesty's throne and person.

ADDRESS FROM THE MANGALAVILAS OF THE TANJORE PALACE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the Mangalavilas, Tanjore Palace, we, the sons and

grandsons of His late Highness the Maharaja of Tanjore, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with these our expressions of sincere loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India, and our deep sense of appreciation of the benefits of Your Excellency's Government.

2. Your Excellency's fame for a broad heart and indefatigable exertions for the amelioration of the condition of the peoples entrusted to Your Excellency's care reached us long before Your Excellency took charge of this Government, and experience only shows that the rumour is far short of the actuality realised by us, for it can be confidently asserted that in no régime before this were the heterogeneous masses of the Presidency so equally satisfied; and what more than anything else endears Your Excellency to our hearts is, that suitors to Your Excellency, successful and unsuccessful both alike, are satisfied with the verdict, because of the care and consideration shown in the disposal of the matter, whether it related to a class or to a single individual.

3. We are aware that Your Excellency has taken the trouble to come amidst us for knowing the conditions of your subjects, in view to bettering their prospects, and it would not be proper for us if we did not use this splendid opportunity to humbly submit to Your Excellency a problem which involves the question of our very existence in the future.

4. Maharaja Sivaji, the father of some of us and grandfather of others, was the last of the Rajas of

Tanjore. They were all allies of the East India Company, and they had such entire confidence in British justice and efficiency of administration that they gradually entrusted themselves and their raj to the care and protection of the British Government. We represent the heirs of the body of His late Highness and our descendants alone will in future name the Rajas of Tanjore as their ancestors. This humble representation is made for the welfare of the descendants.

5. The Mangalavilas section of Tanjore Palace was specially cared for by His late Highness, and, after his demise, the British Government granted allowance to all and every one of the then existing 57 members to the aggregate amount of Rs. 6,865 per mensem, in order that "no person of the Raja's family may be placed in a worse condition, so far as stipend can secure, than heretofore." At present there are only 21 members drawing stipends to the extent of Rs. 1,990. Thus owing to the several stipends having lapsed there is a saving to Government of Rs. 58,500 per annum. Eight of the twenty-one who draw stipends are aged ladies and their pensions amounting to Rs. 1,200 per month will in the course of nature soon lapse. But the families of the stipendiaries have increased very much, and what with adherence to old forms and customs and continually dwindling incomes, there is a state of such helplessness that may well merit Your Excellency's consideration.

6. Eventually the coming generations of the Mangalavilas must be absorbed into the general mass of Her Majesty's subjects and be made to depend upon individual exertions and skill for a position in society, nay for their very subsistence. Meanwhile that they may have a fair start in life and a means of gradually and smoothly sliding into the position which must be theirs in the future, we pray that care may be taken of them and that they may not be reduced to a state of hopeless indigence without the wish and power to get on in the world.

7. The perpetuation of a family, ever loyal to the British rule, will surely be a consideration for Your Excellency. That they will prove the most loyal of subjects can be vouchsafed from their antecedents. Their past will show that they are suited for the profession of arms also. To educate their youth in the arts and professions congenial to them and by such means as may suggest themselves to Your Excellency, to withdraw them from their segregation, and from their oriental and now absolutely useless ideas of dignity and past positions, may be reasonably claimed at the hands of Your Excellency. Our means are getting narrower and the wish that has arisen in us to give a proper education to the coming generations, and to make them thus independent of subsidies is impossible of accomplishment. The funds that will soon be available will be barely sufficient for the sustenance of the members. The prospect at a large number of hopelessly indigent people

will be pointed out, in the not very distant future, as the descendants of the Maharajas, is unbearable.

8. We are confident that the fostering care of Government will considerably improve the condition of our young men if they are properly educated. The difficulty now is in finding the wherewithal for that purpose and in carrying it out in such a manner as to suit the aptitude and tendencies of the young people.

9. We beg Your Excellency to devote, as usual, some attention to the past history of the raj and to devise such measures as may suggest themselves only to broad hearts for the prosperity of generations to come in this section of the Tanjore family and to protect us, who, in approaching Your Excellency, feel ourselves in the presence of a parent.

10. We pray our Gods to grant Your Excellency long life and health.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MANGALAVILAS, TANJORE PALACE,—I am glad to receive you and accept the expressions of loyalty which you have given me in your address. I am gratified at the confidence that you repose in me. I have gladly listened to the requests which you have made. When you say that the coming generation of the Mangalavilas must be absorbed into the general mass of Her Majesty's subjects, and be made to depend upon individual exertions and skill for a position in society,

may for their very subsistence, you show good sense in recognising your position and the best means of dealing with it. I can assure you that the case of each member of the family will be a matter of careful inquiry, and the aim of Government will be to render each member fit for the position in life which, in the future, he must be prepared to fill. I thank you for your good wishes for my long life and health.

ADDRESS FROM THE ZAMINDARS, SHROTRIEMDARS,
AND MIRASSIDARS OF THE TANJORE DISTRICT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—That they feel the greatest pleasure in most heartily welcoming Your Excellency in their midst and beg leave to take this opportunity of laying before Your Excellency their grievances and craving redress at Your Excellency's hands.

2. Our lands had, by mere age, already become poor and their average yield deteriorated to half the original on that account and on account of the inefficient state of the irrigation sources and defects in drainage. Yet our assessment was recently enhanced by more than one-third. This we felt, and feel very oppressive, and we complained of it. In response to that complaint, we believe, the Government was pleased to order the investigation and accomplishment of measures for improving our irrigation and drainage, organising

a special party for that purpose, for working out the Cauvery completion estimates.

3. The defects in our irrigation are—

(1) The rivers generally do not bring down freshes sufficiently early in the season for enabling us to start cultivation on lands that have to bear more than one crop. In consequence of late freshes both first and second crop cultivation is seriously affected.

(2) The rivers have not sufficient water in them in the middle of our cultivation season, about 15th August to 15th October, for the crops then on the ground and for pushing on with the second crop operations. Water becomes insufficient, again, towards the close of the cultivation season for bringing to maturity the standing crops, about the middle of December to middle of January.

(3) The rivers in many cases do not get their fair shares of available water.

4. The defects in our drainage are—

(a) The floods admitted into the deltaic rivers at their heads combined with floods due to local rains tend to keep the lands in the lower portion of the delta for several days under water resulting in serious loss of crops.

(b) Many of the rivers in their lower reaches are contracted and floods do not easily and readily flow on into the sea.

(c) The present Vennár floods, more than others, with the local drainages entering in its

course, swamp the south-eastern portion of the delta and cause great loss to standing crops.

5. The irrigation defects, as per paragraph 3 (1) and (2) *supra*, are, we hear, proposed to be remedied by forming the Bhaváni reservoir and issuing out from thence water for the Tanjore lands in the early months of the cultivation season, and in low supply times in August, September and October, and in the end months as necessity arises. This will certainly be a very great help to us and we most humbly pray for early arrangements to construct that reservoir. Without it there is no hope of putting the irrigation of the present delta nanja lands on a satisfactory basis.

6. What is wanted under paragraph 3 (3) *supra* would be secured by building proper regulators at heads of all the rivers, so that their discharges may be easily controlled, and by instituting suitable 'morais' among them, wherever necessary, and by regulating the distributary sluices on the river banks, all the way.

7. The drainage defects alluded to in paragraph 4 (a) and (b) *supra* would be improved by widening out the rivers in their lower reaches wherever the waterway is contracted, and by improving the obstructing dams existing in many of them.

8. What is referred to in paragraph 4 (c) *supra* can be rectified by taking away, from some convenient upper point of the Vennár, a portion of its floods and diverting it away from the delta.

9. (1) Under paragraphs 5 and 6, Tanjore urgently requires the construction of the Bhaváni reservoir for the *exclusive* benefit of the existing nanja lands of the delta, about 900,000 acres; that is, all the stored water of that reservoir should be solely utilised for the present delta nanja lands, whose supply at present is very defective, by sending out water from thence in the early months of the cultivation season when the river freshes happen to be scanty or late, and towards the middle and end of the season when an adequate supply is badly wanted for the first and second crops to bring them to maturity.

(2) The main regulating works at the very head of the delta should be remodelled and improved so as to prevent all undue waste and to divert all available water into the delta.

(3) All rivers should be fitted with regulating head works and the sluice on the river banks regulated so as to enable, throughout, an economical distribution of water for irrigation being made.

(4) When the rivers are low a system of well-organised "morai" among them is very necessary.

10. (1) Under drainage improvements, all rivers in their lower reaches should be cleared out up to their mouths in the sea, altering to the required extent all existing masonry dams in them.

(2) A fairly large sized river should be excavated from some point in the upper course of the Vennár to take away a part of its floods and put

it into some of the jungle streams in the Pattuk-kóttai taluk.

11. The works enumerated in paragraphs 9 and 10 *supra* are very urgently required, every one of them, in the interests of the existing delta irrigation. None of these can be any longer postponed under the present oppressive enhanced assessment and the defective state of irrigation and drainage. Our losses and difficulties and defects are very great and we cannot suffer any longer. Want of water and excess of water are equally injurious to crops, and works calculated to minimize ryots' losses on both heads cannot be too strongly urged. With the utmost respect to Your Excellency the poor ryots of the district most humbly pray for early orders to get all these works done without any more delay.

12. Some of our lands in parts of Tanjore and Mannárgudi taluks and nearly the whole of Pattuk-kóttai are mostly punja or dry, and depend upon the whimsical rains. They are all very good lands for "nanja," and if only facilities for their irrigation be afforded they could all become wet lands, far superior in quality and yield to the present delta lands. If only the necessary water be forthcoming we could easily get that side, to start with, nearly 200,000 to 300,000 acres of waste and dry lands converted into valuable "nanja," securing to the Government, at the same time, a considerable revenue. Any measures to extend irrigation into the dry parts of this district will be

a great boon and will considerably improve the status of the present poor ryots of that side. While our co-ryots in the deltaic portion are comparatively better off in the midst of miles and miles of paddy fields, those of the upland and southern portions of the district have to be mutely staring at the miles and miles of unbroken, poor, waste and dry lands, with no hopes of ever getting anything out of them. We have been in this forlorn state for years, but, under the British Government, certainly we may lay claims to a share of their munificence and entreat for advancement, the means for the end being within easy reach and the Government having very good prospects of a splendid return for the capital laid out.

13. In ordinary floods there is much Cauvery water going to waste into the sea. In high floods, millions and millions of cubic feet of water roll into the Bay of Bengal. A portion of the former and an infinitesimal fraction of the latter, if made available for extension of irrigation, our needs would be amply satisfied, and we could very easily irrigate new nanja lands to the extent mentioned in the last paragraph. Being under the protection of such a benign Government, the easy facilities for improvement being so near at hand and the Government having an absolute certainty of obtaining very considerable additional revenue, it is the great misfortune of these poor ryots that they have to, with folded hands, be simply looking, on the one side, at the enormous volumes of Cauvery water going to waste into the

sea, and, on the other, at the miles and miles of otherwise precious lands lying waste.

14. There is not the slightest doubt that there is plenty of Cauvery water available, as explained in paragraph 13, for even doubling the present Tanjore irrigated area if only a portion of the unrequired floods is possible to be made use of. Two to three hundred thousands of acres of present dry and waste lands can very easily be irrigated, directly water is made available. Again, further extension of irrigation on that side, if only circumstances would serve, is also ultimately possible.

15. The extension of the irrigation now prayed for must necessarily be from stored water, the stored water being obtained from Cauvery water not wanted for the delta irrigation. There is plenty of water available for such storage. There are suitable sites for capacious reservoirs in that part of the country. The urgent necessity for a *flood moderator* from the Vennár has been explained in paragraph 10 (2) *supra*. All that is now wanted is to make this flood moderator serve at the same time as a means for extending cultivation in the upland and southern portions of the district. This can very easily be done. The *new river* from the Vennár (*flood moderator*) can be taken on into Pattukkóttai taluk, as far down as necessary, across the various valleys; and a number of large tanks can be formed on the way, wherein to store the Cauvery flood water for new irrigation.

16. This project will afford means of irrigation for at least 200,000 acres and the cost will only be very moderate, there being no engineering or other difficulties in its connection involving any undue large expenditure. This will be *the best* of all the similar projects till now worked out in India, comprising in it comparatively *small cost* and *high return* to Government.

17. We most humbly beg Your Excellency this project be ordered to be worked out to its fullest possible scope. Otherwise the backward upland and southern portions of this district should be doomed to poverty and hardship for ever.

18. It has fallen to the lucky lot of successive Governors to accomplish grand feats for the material welfare of the country and people entrusted to their hands. In every way this project is well worthy of Your Excellency's kind patronage, especially looking at its unique advantages in its finance point of view. This will be the *cheapest* of all projects as yet undertaken and brought about, and the *best paying* to Government at the same time. Besides it will be a very great boon to us, poor ryots of that part of the district, who, for want of proper means of irrigation, have to keep square miles and square miles of country waste or nearly so.

19. This project so very favourable to Government and so much wanted in the interests of the people, if not accomplished now under Your Excellency's régime we can never hope for in the future.

Your Excellency was graciously pleased, in unqualified sympathy with the poor ryots of Tanjore, to organize a costly special party to investigate the improvements Tanjore stands in sore need of, and they have been working already at it for these three years, and we believe they have advanced fairly well with the investigations. This is a great crisis with us of the southern portion of the district—either to leave us for ever in our backward poor state, or pull us up from it and bestow on us the advantage of this project worked out in its full detail.

20. We most humbly beg again to summarise all we have to lay before Your Excellency in connection with this project.

(1) As a *flood reliever* of the Vennár this *new river* is absolutely *necessary* to save a good portion of the *delta* from injurious inundations.

(2) Extension of irrigation in the southern portion of the district is only possible with flood and other waste water stored in suitable reservoirs entailing no disadvantages whatever to the present irrigation of the delta.

(3) There is *plenty* of flood and other waste water available for storage for *new irrigation*.

(4) The ground to be covered by the new flood river and the tanks that would have to be formed is simple in its general feature and the accomplishment of the project will involve no difficulties of any kind.

(5) The *cost* of the whole project in its fullest amplitude would be only very *moderate*.

(6) The *return* to Government will be very *considerable*.

(7) Unlike other projects as yet sanctioned or completed, directly we see water in our lands, we would begin to cultivate, the lands this side requiring no preliminary preparations to receive nanja crops; and the Government would get revenue from the *very first year* after the completion of the works.

(8) The project will afford relief and improvement to a large portion of this important district, liable to famine whenever local rains fail.

(9) Our anxiety is so very great to see Cauvery water in Pattukkóttai and see all our lands cultivated as “nanja.”

21. In conclusion, we most humbly beg Your Excellency to be graciously pleased to order the execution, without any more delay, of the works mentioned in paragraph 11 and the long-talked of Pattukkóttai project in its fullest scope, alluded to in paragraphs 12 to 20.

For which act of kindness Your Excellency's humble memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE ZAMINDARS AND MIRASSIDARS OF THE DELTAIC AND NON-DELTAIC PORTIONS OF TANJORE DISTRICT,—I thank you for your

kind welcome, and I assure you that I am glad to receive from you a frank expression of your grievances and wants. You say that the recent assessment of the Tanjore district was complained of as being excessive, and that, in response to that complaint, the Government was pleased to order the investigation and accomplishment of measures for improving your irrigation and drainage, organising a special party for the purpose of working out the Cauvery completion estimates. You are quite right in your statement with regard to the action of the Government. It was recognised that, in consideration of the increased assessment levied in the Tanjore district, you had some claim to the improvement of the supply of water for irrigation purposes. You have, in your address, most fully and correctly stated the case. You evidently have a very full comprehension of the position of matters, and you understand, apparently as well as we do ourselves, the remedies which are required to meet the defects which exist. The defects in your irrigation are, as you say, faults of distribution of water, or rather defects in the distribution of water. We admit that. You also point out that there are defects in your drainage system. Government also admit that. Having made these admissions I may say that Government have taken proper measures in these respects. Colonel Smart, the Superintending Engineer of this Circle, who has an intimate knowledge of the country and who has special experience and unusual talent for dealing with such matters,

has been in charge of this work for some time past. I think I can show you from Colonel Smart's own statement, which he has been kind enough to hand me this morning, that considerable progress has been already made in the necessary preparations for carrying out the important works which you have in view. First of all, with regard to the improvement of distribution in the delta, the following estimates have been sanctioned:—The Upper Anicut, Rs. 6,57,000; the Grand Anicut, Rs. 1,29,200; the Lower Anicut, Rs. 1,25,000; a second estimate for the Lower Anicut, Rs. 3,27,000; minor regulators, Rs. 49,670. There have been submitted for sanction for the Kodumurti regulator Rs. 1,00,000. There are estimates also for three other main heads under preparation. Velocity observations are being made in certain chosen channels in order to ascertain the effect of silt deposits in discharge. Then with regard to the drainage, the want of sufficient drainage being, as we admit, another of the leading defects of the system of out-door work, surveying has been completed for about 15 branches which require improvement. In-door work connected with this will probably take a year to complete. In the Lower Coleroon, the project for embanking below the Lower Anicut is nearly completed. The estimate will probably amount to Rs. 1,20,000. The Ponnéri Project investigation in progress has the possibility of forming reservoirs in the Udaiyarpálaiyam taluk to be led from the channel taking off at the North Anicut. A project suitable for

famine labour may be possible. Investigation is not yet sufficiently advanced to give an opinion. It is fully admitted and strongly substantiated by Colonel Smart's observations that there is a vast amount of water from the Cauvery running to waste, and the possibility of further utilising it for irrigation purposes by storage and otherwise is prominently brought forward by Colonel Smart, and the project to which you allude, the Pattukkóttai Project, is one that has most specially engaged Colonel Smart's attention, and one which he supports as being not only feasible, but as probably most advantageous. It is proposed to irrigate with the help of the Bhaváni water 50,000 acres of land; under anicuts, 33,000 acres. There will be lands commanded and available 70,000 acres, the total being only half the area actually commanded. To fill the storage tanks, there will be required three thousand millions of cubic feet. The surplus available in the very worst year in the Cauvery alone is 12,235 millions in the south-west monsoon. The above takes no account of the surplus available at the Upper Anicut and the Grand Anicut and the Vennár. Designing and estimating have advanced sufficiently to allow of the whole project papers being submitted within three months' time. Alternative estimates are under preparation. The Revenue Department are now occupied in obtaining a forecast of revenue particulars; village maps of the areas commanded will be shortly forwarded to that department for the whole area.

I think, gentlemen, from what I have read to you—this extract supplied to me by Colonel Smart—you will see that as far as preparations are concerned, the objects that you have in view are in a forward state. The only difficulty that may possibly arise and may yet be the cause of some little delay will be the provision of funds, but I am in hopes that as the revenue throughout India is now coming in well and the affairs generally of the country are returning to their usual prosperous level, this difficulty may not be insuperable. I do not think, gentlemen, that I can with profit detain you any longer. I have given you, as far as I can, a hopeful answer to the very natural requests which you have made to me. I only hope that the plans and projects which have been so very clearly and sensibly sketched by yourselves and which are generally endorsed by our Superintending Engineer may, in course of time, be carried out.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE
RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Reception Committee, beg to welcome most heartily Your Excellency to our district, and take this opportunity of expressing, on behalf of the people of the ancient Chola Desa, our deep loyalty and gratitude to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress.

This is the first occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this part of the Presidency, and we are of course highly proud of the honour that has been conferred upon us. Our city has been the capital of some of the ancient dynasties of Southern India and enjoys the distinction of being ancient and historic. This earliest Aryan Settlement of the South, long famous as a nursery of Sanskrit learning and the Indian fine arts, has exercised immense influence on the civilisation not only of Southern India but also of the distant provinces of the North.

The magnificent temples, and the many places of high sanctity have always attracted people of other countries to our district. We hope that Your Excellency has found this visit pleasant and profitable, and trust Your Excellency will carry away with you pleasant recollections of your stay in Tanjore and of the tour through the district generally. Before concluding we take this opportunity to thank Your Excellency for the deep solicitude which Your Excellency has ever evinced in the welfare of the millions entrusted to your care.

Wishing Your Excellency long life, sound health and a safe journey back.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF
TIRUVÁLÚR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Tiruválúr, most respectfully beg leave

to approach Your Excellency with feelings of profound gratitude for the manifold blessings conferred on us by the benign British Government, and the warm solicitude and anxious care evinced by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India, and by Your Excellency as her august representative, in the welfare of the millions of people entrusted to your care, and accord to you a cordial welcome in passing by our ancient and sacred town.

2. This little town was once the capital of the ancient Chola Kingdom before it was removed to Conjeeveram, and has been noted for its antique temple and huge car. It was also the favourite resort of the Tanjore Rajas on account of its religious sanctity. It has had the rare honour of two gubernatorial visits—one by His Excellency Lord Napier in 1871 and the other by His Excellency Lord Connemara in 1890. On the latter occasion, His Excellency Lord Connemara was graciously pleased to lay the foundation stone of the Máya-varam-Mutupet Railway, the first of its kind opened and maintained by the Local Fund Board.

3. We beg leave to offer our heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency for your strenuous efforts to keep off that monstrous plague that has devastated the sister Presidency of Bombay, for the wise and liberal policy pursued by Your Excellency for stamping out that dreadful scourge of famine from the land, for your generous recognition of the capabilities of the natives of the soil for filling the highest offices under Government, and for similar other

benefits, too numerous to mention here, conferred on the people of this Presidency.

4. We would also most respectfully beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the unsatisfactory state of the devasthanams, as at present managed, and to the impoverished condition of the ryots, who form the bulk of the population of this district, and we earnestly hope and trust that under Your Excellency's Government their condition will be much bettered.

5. In conclusion, we beg to express that we, though residents of a comparatively small town, are second to none in loyalty to the British Crown, and that we fervently pray that Divine Providence may bless Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock and children with long life, prosperity and happiness.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

INHABITANTS OF TIRUVÁLÚR,—I thank you for your loyal address and for the hearty welcome which you have given me during the few minutes that I am able to spend at your railway station. I have noticed with interest the short history which you give of your town. You tell me that it was once the capital of the ancient Chola Kingdom before it was removed to Conjeeveram; and I see also that on two previous occasions you have had visits from Governors of Madras. On one of these occasions it was that the Governor paid his visit here for the purpose of opening the Máyavaram-

Mutupet Railway. This fact gives me the opportunity of saying how very much advanced this Tanjore district is in matters of railway construction. I think yours is the only district in the Madras Presidency which has had the enterprise to construct railways on your own account and which has shown sufficient foresight and economy to save up money for the purpose. I very strongly commend your providence and enterprise in this direction. You make mention in your address of the plague which has prevailed for the last year and a half or two years in the neighbouring presidency of Bombay. We have hitherto been sufficiently fortunate to escape this terrible visitation in Madras, but it is possible, and, indeed, I fear it is more than possible, that we may have to fight this enemy on our own ground. The Government are fully prepared to do so, but in doing so they look to the inhabitants of the country and the community in general to support them in the measures which they will be obliged to carry out. It is possible that some of these measures may be such as will be distasteful to the inhabitants of the country and foreign to their habits and customs. But it will be your duty to make the best of these difficulties and to submit yourselves to anything that is deemed absolutely necessary for keeping this terrible visitation at bay. I look to the inhabitants of the country, more especially to the enlightened gentlemen whom I have the pleasure of meeting to-day, and who have their representatives here and in other localities, to

set a good example in this matter and to explain to those over whom they have influence the necessity of submitting themselves to such measures as may be found indispensable. At the same time I may tell you that the Government wish very heartily to arrange their measures so as to make them fit in with the habits and customs of the people. You make allusion to the unsatisfactory state of the devasthanams. This is the third or fourth address which I have received within the last few days which has brought to my notice this important subject. I am glad on every occasion to receive representations of this kind, as each representation only goes still further to prove that there is a popular demand for reform of these devasthanams. We have at the present time—when I say we I mean the Government—a Bill under consideration for the purpose which I hope may be perfected before long and which will be of course given very wide publication. I thank you in conclusion once more for your loyalty and your hospitality, and I admire very much the elegant preparations which you have made to give me pleasure and to do me honour.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF
NEGAPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Council of Negapatam, respectfully beg to

approach Your Excellency on this the first occasion of your visit to this town, and to offer you a most cordial welcome.

2. Your Excellency has always been known to take a warm interest in local self-Government, and we acknowledge with pleasure and gratitude the several acts of sympathetic encouragement by which your administration of the Municipalities and Local Boards has been marked.

3. In this connection we acknowledge with gratitude the provision in the Municipal law, recently made by Your Excellency's Government, which permits Municipal Councils to entertain paid secretaries for executive work. This provision made by the Legislature is a very beneficial one, and will be an excellent means of relieving honorary chairmen of the bulk of their office routine and out-door executive work. The chairmen thus relieved will be in a position to devote more of their time and energy to important matters. The officer selected by us for this responsible post and approved of by Your Excellency's Government has just entered upon his duties. This provision of law is yet in an experimental stage here and elsewhere. In the course of its practical working, we have no doubt that several knotty questions will arise for solution by Your Excellency's Government. On the present occasion we shall content ourselves by referring to section 32, clause (i), of the Municipal Act, as amended. Under this section the entire executive power of the

Municipal Council is vested in the chairman who is directly responsible for the due fulfilment of the purposes of the Act. It is a question whether the delegation of all executive powers under this section to the secretary will not operate so as to divest the chairman of all responsibility; we desire merely to invite Your Excellency's attention to the point, which, we believe, is one of general importance.

4. Our standing grievance is the want of a system of protected water-supply and drainage without which it is absolutely impossible to maintain the health of this town and prevent the periodical recurrence of epidemics of cholera. We have been sedulously endeavouring from 1886 to supply the want, but without success. Government has resolved to keep the question of drainage in abeyance till the town should be supplied with pure water. As regards the water-scheme which, according to the latest investigation by the Sanitary Engineer, is estimated to cost 10 lakhs of rupees, Your Excellency's Government has in its Order No. 252 M., dated the 19th February 1897, expressed its inability to provide the requisite funds in the near future. This question will be exhaustively dealt with in the public address, and we, therefore, refrain from going into further details. But we may be permitted to express an earnest hope that, as Your Excellency has now an opportunity of seeing things for yourself, you will be pleased to give the matter your anxious consideration and take steps towards the realization

of our long-deferred desire at as early a date as practicable.

5. The question of substituting the existing ferry over the Uppanar by a bridge will also be dealt with in the public address. In regard to this matter we beg to state that till 1891 the ferry collections went entirely to the credit of the District Board Funds. From that year the ferry revenue has been shared equally by this council and the Taluk Board. We beg leave to join the citizens in their prayer for the construction of a bridge in lieu of the ferry. In doing so we respectfully submit that it is only just that the past collections from the ferry derived by the District Board up to 1891 should be made available for the construction of the bridge referred to; otherwise it will become necessary to aid the work by a substantial contribution from the Provincial Funds. The connection of this town with the rural tract beyond the Uppanar by a bridge will certainly relieve some of the overcrowded parts, and tend to promote public health.

6. In the matter of the regulations framed by Your Excellency's Government in G.O., No. 1536 M., dated 9th September 1896, for the purpose of combating cholera in municipalities, we feel bound to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the strict working of the rules involves a financial burden which we cannot bear. Further, the expenditure enjoined is out of all proportion to the necessities of the occasion, and is not called for. The rules

require that, on the prospect of the appearance of cholera or the occurrence of a solitary suspicious case, the full establishment of observation and preventive staffs prescribed shall be put on in all the circles of the municipality. This means an outlay of Rs. 800 per month, or about Rs. 10,000 per annum, exclusive of medical and disinfecting stores. This charge has to be indefinitely continued as long as there is a prospect of the appearance of cholera. The observation and preventive work may well be allowed to be done by the ordinary sanitary staff so long as the disease is only sporadic, and the special staff may be entertained when it assumes an epidemic form. The matter is one of universal complaint, and we request that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to modify the rules on the lines indicated by us. We beg to assure Your Excellency that the modification recommended by us will not, in the least degree, impair the efficiency of the preventive and remedial measures that may be necessary on such occasions.

7. One other matter, which we crave leave to place before Your Excellency, is the question of a substantial contribution from the Port Funds towards the upkeep of our hospital and dispensary. This is an important seaport with regular lines of service by the British India and Asiatic Steam Navigation Companies, and a large number of native sailing vessels plying between this port and others. The hospital and dispensary are largely resorted to by

seamen visiting this port. Medical help in the case of such seafaring population is a legitimate charge upon the Port Funds under section 36, sub-section 5, clause (d) of the Indian Ports Act X of 1889, and we pray that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to direct a substantial contribution to be paid to this council from the Port Funds towards the upkeep of the Municipal Hospital and Dispensary.

8. In conclusion, we beg to thank Your Excellency for paying a visit to this town in this trying weather and in the midst of your multifarious duties, and we pray for the long life, health, and happiness of yourself and of Her Excellency Lady Havelock.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF NEGAPATAM
AND ITS SUBURBS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the citizens of Negapatam and its suburbs, beg to convey to Your Excellency the expression of our pleasure at your visit to this town, and to offer you a most loyal and cordial welcome. We regret our inability to give you a reception befitting Your Excellency's exalted rank and position; but we yield to none in our heartfelt attachment and loyalty to the throne of Her Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress, and whilst welcoming you, as the representative of our august and beloved Sovereign, we also gratefully recognise Your Excellency's own many sterling

qualities, and your assiduous devotion to the welfare of the people committed to your charge. Negapatam is an ancient town, not without interest to the historian and antiquarian. But we respectfully claim your attention to it not on these grounds of sentiment, but on consideration of its practical utility at the present day. As a centre of commerce and industry, as a flourishing seaport with an increasing export and import trade with Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and several other places, as the only port of embarkation for Indian emigrants for the Straits Settlements, and as the seat of the workshops and stores of a large and growing railway, we confidently hope that Your Excellency will not find our town undeserving of your attention and interest.

1. Considering the continual extension of the town and its increasing sphere of usefulness, we desire to point out that its health is a matter of deep interest. An organised system for a pure water-supply and efficient drainage are amongst the most pressing and urgent requirements of this town. In fact, without them, it is absolutely impossible to maintain its health. This important subject has been engaging the attention of the Municipal Council and Government for upwards of twelve years. So early as 1886 Government deputed, on the representation of the Municipal Council, Mr. G. E. Manson, Executive Engineer, to investigate and draw up a scheme of water-supply and drainage. Mr. Manson framed a water-supply scheme estimated to cost eight lakhs, and a drainage scheme to cost two

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lakhs and a half. These schemes were directed to be further investigated. Mr. Jones, the Sanitary Engineer, framed a scheme of drainage in 1894 costing four lakhs. Government ordered the drainage scheme to be held in abeyance and the water-supply to be taken up first. Mr. Jones accordingly framed a water-supply scheme in 1896, the cost of which was estimated at ten lakhs. Government, in its Order, No. 252 M., dated the 19th February 1897, however, directed the postponement of both schemes *sine die*, as Government did not then consider that it would be possible in the near future to provide the requisite funds for the execution of the Negapatam water-supply and drainage schemes, which were roughly estimated to cost ten lakhs. We very much regret Your Excellency's Government was compelled to postpone indefinitely the execution of these schemes. The Sanitary Commissioner, in pressing again upon the attention of Government the urgency of providing Negapatam with a water-supply, wrote as follows on the 28th May 1894 in a letter embodied in G.O., No. 836 M., dated 3rd July 1894: "Negapatam is a port where not only trade is extensive but whence much emigration takes place. Cholera occurs therein year after year, and with reference to certain quarantine rules of Ceylon, loss of trade is frequently incurred. To secure quickly the correct sanitary state of the town is therefore not only highly desirable with respect to the inhabitants themselves but also in the monetary interests of those interested in the trade of the Presidency generally. Further

a large population (estimated at 61,107) and its notorious liability to outbreaks of cholera are good reasons why the provision of a safe water-supply should be quickly attended to." We beg to commend to Your Excellency the above recommendation of the professional adviser of Government, and to express our earnest hope that the matter of the water-supply at least be taken in hand as early as practicable. In this connection it is only due to the Municipal Council to mention that it has for upwards of twelve years been moving in the matter of providing the town with proper water-supply and drainage incurring considerable outlay in preliminary investigations, and keeping the subject constantly before Government. The Council started in the matter originally by endeavouring to sink an artesian well, but after proceeding to a depth of nearly 250 feet it had to abandon the venture under instructions from Government, based upon professional advice.

2. Another direction in which the health of the town may be improved is by connecting it with the rural parts beyond the Uppanar river by a bridge. This river can only now be crossed by a ferry, and in the absence of a bridge, the rural tract lying along the sea, south of the river, cannot be made available for relief of our congested population. The proceeds of the ferry are at present shared equally between the Municipality and the Local Board. The Municipality corresponded with Government in view to the erection of a bridge in lieu of the ferry, but the subject was dropped, when Government declined in

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G.O., No. 166 Mⁿ, dated 9th February 1891, to accede to certain proposals made by the Municipal Council. As the Municipality and the Local Board are jointly interested in replacing the ferry by a bridge, we request Your Excellency will be pleased to direct the attention of these authorities to the matter in view to its being taken up at an early date.

3. In view of the commercial importance of the town we beg respectfully to suggest that Your Excellency may be pleased to establish a Government School of Commerce here on the same lines as the one at Calicut. Such an institution will give instruction in book-keeping, commercial correspondence, banking, commercial geography, short-hand, &c., and could supply trained accountants and clerks for numerous mercantile houses and traders on the East Coast and inland districts.

4. The necessity and urgency of the provision of a pier here as strongly recommended in the report of the Special Committee which considered this requirement in December 1890 has doubtless been again brought to Your Excellency's attention through the memorial we submitted to Your Excellency, dated 14th April 1898. It has been objected to the provision of a screw pile pier here that the pier would be liable to be carried away by a cyclone or bad weather during the north-east monsoon. With reference to this, we beg to draw Your Excellency's attention to the report on the Madras pier on page 723 of the Lawrence Asylum Almanac for 1897, in

5. We touch briefly on the subject of emigration to the Straits Settlements, as the same has recently received the earnest consideration of His Excellency Sir Charles Mitchell, Governor of the Straits Settlements, who satisfied himself when here that any irregularities complained of were exaggerated. His Excellency the Governor of the Straits Settlements indicated his preference on behalf of his Government, and in the interests of the planters in the Straits Settlements for indentured coolies, and

loyalty
inhabitant
settlements

expressed his full approval, on the whole, of Your Excellency's Government's present provisions for the emigration of Tamil coolies hence to the Straits Settlements.

By that of Their Excellencies the Governors of Ser this to Negapatam are unavoidably infrequent, so we regret to have to address you at longer length than may be convenient, but we pray Your Excellency will forgive us this shortcoming; we are confident in Your Excellency's earnest desire for the welfare of all Her Majesty's subjects, official, commercial, or otherwise, in this Presidency. We beg to express our cordial wishes for Lady Havelock and Your Excellency's prolonged welfare and happiness.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF NEGAPATAM AND GENTLEMEN AND CITIZENS OF NEGAPATAM AND ITS SUBURBS,—It has been represented to me that as the two addresses which have just been read travel to a certain extent over the same ground, it may be convenient that I should combine my answers to both of them in one speech. I will proceed to do so to the best of my ability. First of all, gentlemen, I must thank you very heartily for the cordial reception which you have given to me. Far from your preparations and arrangements having been less suitable than they should be for my dignity and station, I consider that they have been most admirably and generously

carried out. The entertainment ^{was} ~~w~~LIES. given to me beneath this magnificent pavilion (1,107) yesterday afternoon must have caused you a great deal of trouble, not to say expense. Believe me that I greatly appreciate the good feeling, ^{and} ~~the~~ kindness which must have inspired the ^{members} ~~the~~ of Negapatam to have undergone so much trouble and to have put themselves to so much expenditure of money. In the opening paragraph of the address from the Municipal Council of Negapatam, reference is made to a certain point in the working of that Council. I always make it my duty to inquire into the character and working of each municipality which I happen to visit. I have done so in the case of Negapatam. I find to my satisfaction that during 1894-95 in the Government review on the work of the municipality that the opinion is given that things had gone on fairly satisfactory. In 1895-96 the report may be summed up as being "fair." In 1896-97 again fair. Some slight exception is to be made to this general verdict of approbation. It is said that, in the extension of private scavenging, the supply of trained teachers to Municipal and aided schools and the registration of vital statistics, the administration during the year under review was fairly satisfactory. Now I may say that I have observed in many other municipalities that these are the very heads under which there seemed to be an inclination to yield to a little want of zeal and care. I commend these particulars to your careful consideration and best

efforts in the future. The Municipal Council also makes mention of the new provision whereby paid secretaries are appointed to do the executive work of the Municipal Councils and it suggests the possibility of the delegation of all executive powers under that section to the secretary must operate so as to divest the chairman of all responsibility. There was no intention, I can say, on the part of Government, that this should be the case. Our object, as far as I understand it, was to relieve the chairman of a portion of his duties, not to divest him of his executive authority, and I hope it will be found that the result that you suggest as being possible will not arise in point of fact. The next subject on which I will touch and which is alluded to at considerable length in both addresses is the need for a water-supply and drainage scheme. I have listened to your appeal on this subject with great sympathy. I feel that there is nothing, in this hot country especially, which is so much needed as a good water-supply, and when in addition to the great heat, you are exposed, I know, to epidemics of cholera, it is especially necessary that this everyday want should be most carefully supplied. It is therefore with great regret that I am much obliged to endorse what has already been said with regard to the scheme for a water-supply. It appears to be a difficult scheme and a particularly costly one, one which is estimated to cost ten lakhs of rupees. I am sorry to say that such expenditure, even half of that, by the Government at the present time is

quite impossible. When I tell you ^{LIES.}
 appropriation for Public Works during that our whole
 year is only twenty-five lakhs for the present
 dency, it will be apparent to you that the whole Presi-
 dent could not possibly afford to spend the Govern-
 half of the ten lakhs on one particular to which the
 should mention also in connection with this subject. I
 that there are many other places in the Presidency
 which have pressing wants for the same important
 work. The port of Tuticorin, not very far from
 your own, has, I think, a still more pressing want.
 There are other places in the Presidency to which I
 have been where this want has been prominently
 brought to my notice, and to whose claims I have
 been unable to shut my eyes. With regard to the
 question that is raised of substituting the existing
 ferry over the Uppanar by a bridge I have made
 some slight inquiry, and I find that, when this matter
 was brought forward in 1890-91, the Municipal
 Council expressed its willingness to undertake the
 work on condition of any one of the three following
 concessions being granted, namely, (1) that one-third
 of the aggregate cost be contributed by Govern-
 ment; (2) that the loan required be advanced free
 of interest; and (3) that future ferry receipts be
 made over to the Council in view to forming a sink-
 ing fund, and that the Council be permitted to take
 up the work in hand after five years' transfer. The
 Government at that time declined to accede to
 any one of the three requests of the Council and
 the matter was there dropped; and I am not aware

that any further representation was since made on
 this important subject: but I will cause inquiry to
 be instituted into it on my return to head-quarters.

All that is made in the address of the Municipal
 Council is the extraordinary cost of our regulations
 for combating cholera in municipalities. I believe
 I am right in saying that a considerable amount of
 discretion in this matter is vested in the hands of
 the Collector, and it is for him to decide on his
 own responsibility to what extent these rules should
 be carried out and consequently what expenditure
 should be incurred. But I must say this, that if I
 were the Collector I should be very chary of reduc-
 ing the responsibility, or revising or relaxing the
 rules which are calculated to check or prevent such
 a fearful visitation as cholera.

In a paragraph of the Municipal Council's
 address I am asked to order that a contribution
 should be paid to the Council from the Port funds
 towards the upkeep of the Municipal hospital and
 dispensary. This is a request which has been
 made to me in one or two municipalities in which
 there are ports; and as is pointed out in this para-
 graph of the address, I understand that there is a
 Legislative authority for carrying out the measure
 which is here suggested. I understand that in
 Negapatam the hospital and dispensary are con-
 siderably used by seamen frequenting the port. It
 seems at first sight therefore that the request is a
 reasonable one and may possibly be met under the
 provisions of the law referred to. But I shall

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not like to commit myself further on the subject at the present moment. I can only assure you I will cause inquiry to be made into it and a reply to be sent in due course.

In the second address that was presented by the citizens of Negapatam and its suburbs, I find a paragraph which deals with the proposal to establish a Government School of Commerce here on the same lines as the one at Calicut. I have had the satisfaction of visiting the school at Calicut to which allusion is made. I may tell you that the Government considers the creation of a good practical system of technical and industrial education as one of the most important and most pressing questions of the day and that it is now giving its most careful consideration to this question, and I hope that before very long some sound conclusion may be arrived at, and when such a conclusion is arrived at this particular request of the citizens of Negapatam will receive the consideration it deserves. I now come to the important subject of the improvement of your port. You advocate the construction of a pier. I have had the satisfaction of taking a short glance at your port this morning in the company of the Port officer, who gave me an extremely lucid and interesting description of the present situation of what is considered necessary by you. I find that the Government have the greatest sympathy with your desires in this respect and have given you assurances that your needs in the way of improvement of the port will not be lost sight of. Provision

has been made in this year's estimate for Rupees 15,000, which sum is to be spent on certain works which are likely to improve the inner harbour, —the river harbour. This you will say is not what you want, that a pier is what you consider to be the necessity of the place. I think that quite possible, and the best authorities on the subject have admitted to me that a pier is what we shall have to come to in the end; but a pier will be a very expensive business. I believe some estimate has been prepared which gives the cost of this pier at something over two lakhs of rupees, but it has been intimated to me on the best authority that that sum will not suffice, but that the cost will come nearly to four lakhs. I gather that the Landing and Shipping Dues committee are willing to pay interest on a loan for the purpose of carrying out this work if the Government will advance the money. As I have been obliged to say in various other places where applications have been made to me for money to carry out important works, our treasury at the present moment is at a very low ebb, and I am afraid that when I consult the Financial Member of Council he will tell me that there are absolutely no funds at our disposal even to lend; but things are improving, and it is possible that before long we may be in a position to give you a more hopeful answer. Meanwhile, as I have already said we are spending a certain amount of money on works which will improve the boat harbour; and I understand from what was told me this morning these small

works will really be beneficial in themselves and I hope they will be.

A brief allusion is made in the second address to the subject of migration to the Straits Settlements, but I gather from that and also from my conversations with Sir Charles Mitchell, who paid you a visit, which he very much enjoyed some months ago, that no particular action is at present required on the part of the Government of Madras; and now, gentlemen, let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and for the hospitality which you have shown me here, and to express my deep acknowledgments for your kind wishes for my health and prosperity and for your expression of regret at Lady Havelock's late illness. I am happy to say that she is now quite convalescent, but still not able to incur the fatigues of the present tour.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF TRANQUEBAR
AND THE LANDHOLDERS OF THE TRANQUEBAR
SUB-DIVISION OF THE MÁYAVARAM TALUK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the inhabitants of Tranquebar and of the landholders of the Tranquebar sub-division of the Máyavaram taluk, we beg most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency to this ancient and historic town, once the seat of the Danish settlement.

2. We beg humbly to submit for Your Excellency's kind consideration, the necessity of a railway

line connecting this port with Máyavaram, a subject which has engaged the attention of the District Board, Tanjore, and the Government for more than twenty years. In this connection, we earnestly entreat Your Excellency to peruse the memorial submitted to Your Excellency's Government in July 1896, copy of which is appended. If proper statistics be taken, the proposed line will, we believe, prove remunerative as it will tap a rich and populous tract needing an easy outlet for its surplus. We pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to commemorate Your Excellency's visit to this once flourishing port, known as "the Queen of the Coromandel Coast," by connecting it with the railway system of the district, and thereby enable this town to regain some part at least of its former importance.

(a) It has a port favourable for shipping and landing purposes with many godowns, large and substantial buildings and other advantages which are scarcely found united in any other town in the district.

(b) Since 1871, when Lord Napier visited these parts, the Tranquebar Railway project has engaged the attention of Government and the scheme matured under the Duke of Buckingham, who also favoured the place with a visit and sanctioned the levy of a special cess to form the Railway Guarantee fund for the construction of the Máyavaram-Tranquebar Railway and other feeder lines subsequently to be formed in the district. But, after the originators

and supporters of the project left these shores, it has unfortunately been set aside in favour of other lines which have evidently but a secondary claim upon the Guarantee fund and thus the capital publicly raised under a Government notification has been diverted from the original purpose for which it was explicitly collected.

3. We crave permission to bring to Your Excellency's favourable consideration the difficulties we are labouring under from the yearly accumulating silt of the irrigation and drainage channels not being cleared departmentally, as is the case with the irrigation systems of the Northern district. When the assessment was raised at the last settlement, the Government was pleased to recognise the existence of defects in the irrigation and drainage of the district and to promise to remove the same at an early date. We beg humbly to submit that the delay in carrying out this work is aggravating our difficulties, and we pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to redeem the promise of the Government by directing the speedy execution of this important work.

4. There is another matter which deserves Your Excellency's consideration: when stones were fixed to mark off the limits of channel and other poramboke lands in villages at the time of the last survey and demarcation of the district, the officers who carried out the work planted such stones, in some cases on lands in the occupation of pattadars, after inducing them to waive their objections by giving

them to understand that a margin of five links in the case of wet lands and of ten links in the case of dry lands would be allowed to pattadars, and that their continuing to cultivate this extent of land beyond the boundary stones so planted would not be objected to. In violation of this understanding, there are numerous cases in which pattadars continuing to cultivate such lands is sought to be prevented by the levy of prohibitive penal assessment. This action of the revenue authorities not only puts land-holders to much loss, but is making them lose faith in the promise of accredited Government officers. It is our belief that this grievance is widespread, and we submissively beg that Your Excellency will be pleased to cause proper enquiries to be made about it, and to remove the same by prohibiting the levy of penal assessment in such cases.

5. In conclusion, we beg to thank Your Excellency for allowing us an opportunity to approach Your Excellency with our humble address and to testify our loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and to pray that the Almighty Providence will be pleased to bless Your Excellency with long life and health and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INHABITANTS OF TRAN-
QUEBAR,—I beg you to accept my best acknowledgments for the welcome which you have accorded me to your town. I made up my mind when starting

on this tour that I would not miss Tranquebar from the list of places which I should visit, and the glimpse which I have had of your town coming through the picturesque country has satisfied me that I did right in coming to the conclusion. I will now briefly reply to the points which you deal with in your address. You first advocate the construction of a railway to Tranquebar. At the present time the Government of India, who conduct all our railway policy, have such an enormous number of schemes of railway construction under consideration or under actual operation that I fear it is useless for me at this time to hold out any hopes of your request being granted in this respect. As regards the clearance of silt, the failure to do so I am told is probably due to the most recent idea that there must always be a certain depth of silt in the channel and that it is mere waste of time and money to attempt to remove it. I am informed on good authority that it is so, and that the clearance of silt is being held in abeyance while this matter is being investigated and this investigation is now going on. You rather surprise me by the statement that you make with regard to the manner in which boundary stones are placed. You say that they are placed inside the boundaries of the field. I will cause inquiry to be made into it and any redress that may be necessary will, of course, be granted. You dwell in paragraph 3 of your address on the defects in the irrigation and drainage of the delta. When I was at Tanjore an address was presented to me which went largely into this subject.

I then admitted that there were certain defects in the irrigation and drainage of the delta, but I told them that the Government were making plans and framing estimates for remedying those defects. Some of those estimates as I told the presenters of the address in Tanjore have already been sanctioned. Others are in contemplation. You will see my full answer on this subject on reference to any of the local papers, probably printed within the last day or two. I think I have now, very hurriedly it is true, but as well as I can, answered the various points which you bring forward in the address. It only remains for me to express my confidence in the assurances which you give of your deep loyalty to Her Majesty's Government and to thank you for your good wishes for myself and Lady Havelock. I again express the great pleasure I feel in being in Tranquebar, enjoying the delightful breeze which now comes off the sea.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF TRANQUEBAR
AND ITS SUBURBS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Tranquebar and its suburbs, most respectfully beg to lay before Your Excellency the following points which had been inadvertently omitted in the address presented during Your Excellency's recent visit to the town.

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

2. We beg to submit that Tranquebar was, for many years, the head-quarters of the North Tanjore district and the seat of several Judicial Courts—the District, Sub. and Munsifs' Courts and other public institutions, such as the Jail, Zillah Surgeon's office, &c. The removal of all these establishments from the station has, among other causes, tended to the gradual decline and decay of the town. We, therefore, pray that Your Excellency will generously be pleased to order the location of any of those courts, and transfer the Joint Magistrate's office from Kumbakónam to this Fort, where commodious public buildings are available for accommodating them. In this connection we beg to suggest that the District Munsif's Court at Shiyali might with advantage be transferred here, as we are given to understand that a new building for the said court has been sanctioned to be erected at public cost which would be saved by the transfer so as to serve a double purpose.

3. The state of the public roads from this port to Májavaram being far from satisfactory, traffic is very much impeded to the detriment of local trade. We, therefore, respectfully request that the attention of the authorities concerned may be drawn to the present condition of the roads in question, so that early steps might be taken to gravel the road between Tranquebar and the above-mentioned railway station.

4. The exclusion of the town from the network of railways traversing the district having been the

chief cause of the present abandoned state of the place, once more we beg to bring to Your Excellency's favourable reconsideration the great advantage which the town will derive if a railway line is opened either from Májavaram or Shiyali *via* Tirumulavásal along the sea coast. This line would connect important ports and places of pilgrimage, such as Kávéripatnam, Tiruvenkádu to which thousands of pilgrims annually resort. If the construction of the line be not feasible at present, we beg Your Excellency will be generously pleased at least to recommend to the Government of India the necessity of a railway line to this important historic town which is at the same time a sanitarium of the district as would have been observed by Your Excellency during the recent visit.

5. We also beg leave to mention that, in and round the port and along this coast, the fish-curing industry has lately developed to such an extent that dried fish has become an important article of export to Ceylon and other ports, and the opening of a railway would give additional stimulus to this industry as fresh inlets and outlets will be found for the trade.

In conclusion, we beg to apply ourselves to Your Excellency at this juncture with the sanguine hope that Your Excellency's helpful sympathy and wide administrative experience would generously adopt some effective measures, so that even the last vestige of its palatial buildings and spacious godowns might

not vanish altogether, and the extinction of this once flourishing but ill-fated town might be avoided.

Hoping that Your Excellency's kind visit will give us the needed relief in time.

ADDRESS FROM THE MISSIONARIES, PASTORS AND
ELDERS OF THE LEIPZIG EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
MISSION, TRANQUEBAR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned Missionaries, Pastors and Elders of the Leipzig Evangelical Lutheran Mission at Tranquebar, beg leave to bid Your Excellency our hearty welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this venerable birth-place of the Protestant mission in India. It was here that the first Protestant missionaries, Ziegenbalg and Plütschau, set their foot on the shores of India (9th July 1706) under the auspices of King Frederick IV. of Denmark. Here was the first Protestant mission church built 1718, in which we have the honour to-day of addressing Your Excellency. Here were opened the first Protestant schools and the first printing press and paper mill established. The Protestant missions at Madras, Cuddalore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Tinnevely and Travancore were founded by Tranquebar Missionaries.

The old Danish-Halle mission was formally entrusted to the Leipzig Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Society in the year 1847 and Tranquebar

is still the head-quarters of the mission. There are at present nearly 2,000 Lutheran Christians in the former Danish territory. Tranquebar has a theological seminary for native pastors and catechists, a training institution for teachers, two middle schools—one for boys and one for girls—two large boarding schools for boys, a printing office and an industrial school where various handicrafts are taught. With the mission are connected 35 stations in 6 Tamil districts of the Madras Presidency, British Burma, Mysore and Pudukkóttai, 30 European missionaries (including 4 lady missionaries), 22 native pastors, 381 teachers, catechists and evangelists, 60 school mistresses, 211 schools, 16,678 Native Christians and 6,664 school children (5,115 boys and 1,549 girls).

We sincerely thank Your Excellency for your kind visit and for the opportunity thus granted to us to express our heartfelt gratitude for the security, peace and protection which we enjoy under the rule of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and her Government. Being fully aware of Your Excellency's interest in missionary efforts we venture to offer for Your Excellency's kind acceptance this small history of the Old Tranquebar Mission in remembrance of this memorable occasion.

May the Lord bless Your Excellency and crown with success all your work for the good of the millions whom He has called you to govern.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency complimented them and told them he was much struck with the beauty of Tranquebar and its interesting associations.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS,
MÁYAVARAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors, Máyavaram, on behalf of the citizens of the town, beg most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency to this small and rising town and to express our loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress.

2. We beg to thank Your Excellency sincerely for the warm sympathy shown and kind support given by Your Excellency to municipalities, and the readiness with which Your Excellency's Government has been pleased to appreciate good work done by local institutions.

3. We are happy to state that this municipality is working smoothly under the present Chairman, who has been successively elected five times and we are thankful to Your Excellency's Government for having allowed us to continue to work without a paid secretary, the burden of which office this municipality is unable to bear out of its poor income.

4. We are not unmindful of the fact that the drainage of the town is not as good as it might be and that the question of improving it will have to

be taken up at an early date. But we would beg leave to suggest that our work may be facilitated and the town itself may be greatly benefited by the proposal in the Public Works department to raise the flood embankments of the river Cauvery being carried out at an early date.

5. In conclusion, we beg to thank Your Excellency for having allowed us an opportunity to meet Your Excellency and offer our heartfelt gratitude to Her Most Gracious Majesty for the numerous benefits vouchsafed to us during Her Majesty's long and most glorious reign.

6. We pray to the Almighty Providence to bless Your Excellency with long life and health.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MÁYAVARAM,—I thank you for the kind reception which you have given me and for your cordial welcome. I am glad to be able to congratulate you on the work of your municipality. I find on examining the reports for the last three years that in 1894-95 Government considered that the municipality had worked fairly satisfactorily; in 1895-96 your work was good; in 1896-97 it was good again. This will be considered a very satisfactory record. I congratulate your Chairman on the confidence you have shown by re-electing him to the office for consecutive years. It is quite possible that the confidence reposed in him has resulted in

the carrying out of his work in a more satisfactory way than he would otherwise have been able to do. I am glad that we should have been able to allow you to continue the work of your municipality without a paid secretary, as the expense of the new office upon you would have been rather considerable. I gather, however, from all I hear that Májavaram is a growing place. I am told that even people who would come to settle in Kumbakónam are now coming here because Kumbakónam is already overcrowded, and because it is difficult to find building sites in the neighbourhood of that town, it being as it were, encircled by paddy lands. In paragraph 4 of your address you suggest that your work may be facilitated and the town itself may be greatly benefited by the proposal in the Public Works department to raise the flood embankments of the river Cauvery being carried out at an early date. I may tell you in reply that Colonel Smart, Superintending Engineer of the Circle, says that the matter of raising the bank is being looked into and that what is necessary will be done. I thank you, in conclusion, for the loyal expression of love and respect for our Gracious Sovereign and for your kind wishes for myself and my prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS,
KUMBAKÓNAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Kumbakónam, beg to offer Your

Excellency our most hearty welcome to this town and thank you for giving us this opportunity of expressing our sentiments of gratitude and loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India.

This town is noted for its educational importance, for its sanctity and its industrial activity.

We have a first-grade college and schools of all grades of general education; and we hope to see the art class we have in the town soon developed into a good technical school.

The Cauvery which is considered a sacred river and the grand temples in the town always attract a large number of pilgrims. And the *Mahamakham* festival, which occurs once in 12 years and was celebrated last year, brings thousands of them from all parts of the Indian Continent.

Our town has always held a high place as an industrial centre, being noted especially for its weaving, brass and copper wares.

We have been doing our best to make the municipal administration a success. We are still without a supply of pure water and a system of drainage. When our turn to have these comes, we are certain that Your Excellency's Government will contribute liberally towards the cost, as our own resources would never be sufficient to meet the same without material help.

We once more welcome Your Excellency to our midst and pray that you may be spared long to

enjoy your career of extreme usefulness and benevolence.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF KUMBAKÓNAM,—I beg you to accept my warm thanks for your kind address of welcome and to believe that I am very glad to give you this opportunity of expressing your sentiments of gratitude and loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. The reputation of your town for educational advantages, for sanctity and for industrial activity are already well-known to me. The existence of an important Government college, as you say in your address, makes your town important for educational purposes. I shall have, in answering another address which is to be presented to me this afternoon, to deal more fully with questions connected with the Kumbakónam College. Your great *Mahamakham* festival which I think took place last year is one which I know attracts many thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India, and for the time being makes Kumbakónam a most remarkable centre of population and the scene of a very remarkable religious demonstration. I have seen photographs of what took place last year and was very much struck by them. I am glad to be able to congratulate you on a fair degree of success in your municipal work. The Government were of opinion that during last year, having regard to the difficulties entailed by the *Mahamakham* festival,

the administration of the municipality during the year under review continued to be fairly satisfactory; but the collection of taxes, the improvement of roads, the extension of vaccination and the registration of statistics demand closer attention. I hope, Mr. Chairman and members of Council, that the point in which some deficiency has been found in the Government report will receive during the present and following years closer attention from you than they have in the past. You mention the important point that you are without a supply of pure water and a system of drainage. I fear there are a great many places in the Madras Presidency which are little better than Kumbakónam. Your turn will no doubt come some time or other, but I am bound to say it is rather far off. Meanwhile you have the water of the Cauvery flowing close by. I imagine for that reason you are not in as bad a condition as many other places. I thank you once more for your kind welcome and for the goodly wishes which you express on my behalf. I wish to express my thanks for the trouble which has been expended on giving me a fitting reception at the railway station.

ADDRESS FROM THE RESIDENTS OF KUMBAKÓNAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the residents of this ancient town of Kumbakónam, beg permission to accord to Your Excellency a

most cordial welcome to our place. We are deeply sensible of the solicitude of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, to promote the happiness of Her Indian subjects, and it is our conviction, that there can be no better proof of that solicitude of Her Majesty's than the appointment of Your Excellency as Her Majesty's representative in this important province of the Indian Empire. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we are in the enjoyment to the fullest extent of the blessings which have accrued to the Empire from the British rule and are sincerely thankful to the British nation and its representatives in India for the material and mental elevation of the Indian races, for which they have been so strenuously labouring for a century and more; and it is our prayer to the Almighty Giver of all blessings that we may continue for ever and ever under the benign shelter of the British Raj. We beg that you will kindly convey to Her Most Gracious Majesty our feelings of deep devotion and loyalty to Her person and throne.

2. We beg Your Excellency's gracious permission to offer a few remarks on some questions of importance to us, encouraged thereto by the well-known benignity of the Government and by the patient and sympathetic hearing, which Your Excellency has always been pleased to accord to such representations. We would in the first place refer to the generous gift of Western culture which alone is sufficient to entitle the British administration of

India to the eternal gratitude of the subject races. The Local Government College called at one time, not without reason, *the Cambridge of Southern India*, has been instrumental to no small extent in the dissemination of knowledge among the vast population of the southern districts. It was formerly among the foremost colleges of the province, if not the foremost, in the days of Mr. W. A. Porter and Rao Bahadur T. Gopal Row, and year after year it sent its alumni to the furthest corners of the presidency and even to the other presidencies, spreading in their turn as far as their powers and opportunities permitted the blessings of education to those places. But the college has not been able in recent years to maintain its high position owing to a variety of causes. We submit that this Government institution, being the only secular college for the whole of the populous tract to the south of Madras, deserves to be kept up in a state of sufficiency, and our district besides has, in our humble opinion, a special claim for favourable consideration at the hands of Government in consequence of the large contribution it makes to public revenues. Conscious as we are of the self-sacrificing effort of missionary bodies in the cause of education, we have yet to confess that our countrymen would gladly send their sons to a secular institution in preference to mission institutions whenever possible. We pray therefore that Your Excellency would be pleased to take such steps on its behalf as may bring it up again to the position it occupied in the past.

3. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we are thankful for the reforms which are being gradually introduced into the administration. The separation of magisterial and revenue functions as far as it has been introduced has been a source of considerable good to us and we hope that Your Excellency's Government will be able to carry out the principle of separation of the two functions more fully.

4. We crave Your Excellency's attention to the many inconveniences arising from an absence of definite and uniform rules regarding several questions connected with the revenue administration of the district and also from the long delays in the disposal of petitions, &c., by the Revenue department.

5. We believe that the Government is aware that the land-tax as fixed by the recent settlement is at least as much as the land-owner can afford to pay; and we submit that it is in consequence due to them to be left as free as possible from anxiety in other respects by the officers of Revenue. We regret however to have to state that (1) in the levy of water-cess, (2) in the disposal of our topes and tope-lands, (3) in the varying rules in regard to our manackats, (4) and in the several ways in which the penal assessment is levied from the land-owners, much consideration is not shown either to their long enjoyed rights or to the recent additions to the ordinary taxation on their lands. We submit that

a careful scrutiny into the rates and amount of the water-cess, of the penal assessment into the occasions for the levying of the same in recent years, as also into the several decisions by the Revenue officers in regard to tope-lands will disclose a change of policy in recent years highly detrimental to the interests of the mirasidars of the district.

6. The next point we beg leave to advert to is even of greater importance to the cultivators of Tanjore. In the final order of the Government in the recent settlement of Tanjore, it was pleased to direct that allowance must be made for varying degrees of efficiency in the supply of water in individual villages or groups of villages, and that attention should also be paid to variations in the productive power of the fields, due to their getting their supply of water in some cases from the chief branches of the Cauvery and in others from mere drainage channels. But we are not in a position to say what the actual result was of these directions, and so far as our knowledge goes we regret to have to say that little or no benefit has accrued to us from these benevolent instructions. One result of the hasty methods adopted at the recent settlement of Tanjore is the enormous number of joint pattas indulged in by that department to the great annoyance of the parties concerned. We know that the Government is aware of the evil and beg that Your Excellency will be pleased to order an early investigation into it, so that it may be at least reduced to the narrowest limit.

7. We are grateful to the Government for the special efforts now being made to improve the irrigation and drainage of the delta and hope that in a short time we shall have in a tangible form the beneficial result of the work of officers specially deputed to these questions.

8. In the change in the kistbandi recently introduced in the revenue collections of the district, we submit that no account whatever seems to have been taken of the usual harvesting seasons and of the other circumstances affecting it. We appreciate the benefit of the equalisation of the several instalments of payment, but feel it a great hardship to have to pay in four instalments what we were able to stretch over a period of eight months. Our main crop is harvested never earlier than the latter half of February, but by that time we have to pay up under the present arrangement fully one half of our dues; and the difficulties we are put to in consequence of this and in consequence also of the scarcity of money are indescribable. A change in the number of instalments from four at least to six, beginning as now with January, will, we submit, afford us much relief.

9. It was the practice for the department of Public Works to clear up the silt in our channels once in three or five years or oftener if necessary from the points where they take off from the main rivers to where they actually enter the limits of the villages they irrigate. But in recent years this is entirely neglected and we crave Your Excellency's

favourable consideration to our request for the revival of the old practice, as without this help the mirassidars are now suffering much needless loss.

10. We submit that Tanjore contributes a much larger amount than what is spent in the district itself (in the form of village-cess), but that the village establishment in Tanjore maintained by Government does not come up to the standard sanctioned by Madras Act IV of 1893. We beg therefore that the establishment be brought up to that standard or the cess be reduced.

11. The testing of the efficiency of the Police administration by the smallness of the number of the reported crimes as well as by the number of detections generally leads to imperfect registration of crimes especially in outside stations. We beg to state that cattle-lifting in rural parts remains unaffected by the vigilance of the Police department. We pray therefore that special measures will ere long be adopted either by means of a special enactment in respect of the criminal classes or in some other way to put down this and other similar crimes. We would also mention here that petty thefts in the villages now left in the hands of the village munsifs show a tendency to increase and that some attention should be paid to them to protect the properties of the land-owners of the district.

12. We beg to state that our District and Taluk Board roads are not in as good a condition as they ought to be, considering the very large sum of money

that is annually spent on them by the Local Fund department. The upkeep of the roads requires no high professional skill, and we submit that without more discretion in the management and a large measure of supervision the roads cannot possibly be brought up to a better condition.

13. The last subject on which we would say something is, though the last in our list, second to none in its intrinsic importance. We refer to the sad plight to which our religious institutions have been brought by the serious defects in Act XX of 1863. The tenure of office for life by committee members, the absence of proper provisions in that Act for the due control of the temple trustees, for the revision of the voters' lists and more important than all for the proper scrutiny of the accounts of the temples—these and other defects in that Act in a large manner account for the misappropriation of temple funds now going on unchecked, and we pray that Your Excellency's Government will do the Hindu nation the high favour of so recasting the provisions of the existing Act as to lead to a better management of the properties dedicated to our temples and other religious institutions.

14. We are glad to assure Your Excellency that we are at the end of our list of grievances; that we have brought these questions to Your Excellency's notice is in itself, we submit, conclusive evidence of our confidence in the paternal solicitude of Your Excellency's Government to promote our welfare and loyal devotion to our beneficent rulers.

15. We again welcome Your Excellency to this town and most kindly pray that Your Excellency will kindly accept our assurances of loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress whom all India looks up to as their mother and who in Her turn never misses an opportunity to show Her maternal solicitude for their well-being and happiness, and also accept our similar assurances to Your Excellency's self whom we regard, respect, and love as a most worthy representative of such a sovereign always sympathetic and ever intent in doing everything in his power to redress the grievances of the people and make them happier than before.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

RESIDENTS OF KUMBAKÓNAM,—It has been a great pleasure to me to receive your kind words of welcome and your assurances of loyalty to our great Queen-Empress. You are quite right in alluding to Her solicitude for all that concerns you. You cannot feel too fully assured of the deep interest and love that Her Majesty has for Her Indian subjects and Her Indian Empire and all that concerns it. Your address enters upon a considerable number of subjects, some of which I have already dealt with in answers to addresses in other parts that I have recently toured through. It may, however, be as well that I should shortly answer all the points, as

far as I am able at the present moment, that you bring forward in your address. The first matter upon which you lay stress is the failure of the Government College of Kumbakónam to keep up its former reputation or at any rate to be as attractive as it used to be. This is an institution upon which the Government spends a large sum of money, and we believe it is possessed of a full and able staff, and that it is furnished with all the building equipments and appliances that are necessary for a first-rate establishment of its kind. It is therefore disappointing to hear from you that such an institution, situated in a town such as this, where one would imagine its advantages would be highly appreciated, has lately been showing signs of decadence. I would suggest the possibility that the decadence you speak of may be rather due to the springing up of other educational institutions in the neighbouring district than to the decrease of efficiency in itself. In old days Kumbakónam College was looked upon as one of the most successful up-country institutions of the Presidency. But it is true that in those days up-country institutions were few. Your representations, however, on this point will, of course, be inquired into, and if the Education department find that there are any removable causes for the decadence which you point out, I am sure necessary measures will be taken to remedy matters. It has however suggested itself to my mind, and the suggestion has been supported by remarks that have been made to me within the

last few days, that the low fees charged by some of the religious colleges in Trichinopoly may have something to do with the falling off in the numbers attending Kumbakónam College. I am aware that the religious institutions which I speak of charge lower fees than those charged in the Kumbakónam College. Though I am sorry to think it, I cannot help imagining that this may have something to do with it. If that is the case I would point out that the remedy is in your own hands. Surely if you value the Kumbakónam College and value secular education such as you get there more than you value the education imparted in the religious institutions, such as those of St. Joseph's and the S.P.G.'s at Trichinopoly, it is worth while for you to pay rather higher fees in order to secure the advantages to which you profess to attach importance than to save a little money and to lose them. I may be unjust in the insinuation which my words are meant to convey; if I am, I am sorry for it; but if I am unjust I would ask you to think over your own action in the matter and to take your own remedy. In paragraph 3 of your address you allude with thankfulness to the reforms which have been lately introduced into the administration in the direction of the separation of revenue and magisterial functions. This is a matter which can only be dealt with very cautiously: the results of the steps that have been already taken in that direction will have to be watched before any further advance is made. In any case I must tell you that the additional cost

of any sound scheme for really and completely separating the two will be very great, and for that reason and as our revenue is not one that rapidly increases complete separation of the revenue from the magisterial functions will have to be a work of time.

In paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of your address you deal with questions of which I am sorry to say I am unable at the present moment to give an explanation or really to give a satisfactory answer. The matters that you there bring to my notice will have to be submitted to the Collector, who will give his report upon them in due course, and the answer will reach you by and by. In paragraph 7 you say that you are grateful to the Government for the special efforts now being made to improve the irrigation and drainage of the delta, and hope that in a short time we shall have, in a tangible form, the beneficial result of the work of officers specially deputed to these questions. I have been in company with Colonel Smart, Superintending Engineer of the Circle, for the last two or three days, and he has given me information with respect to the improvements in the drainage and irrigation of the delta, upon which information I made some remarks in a reply which I gave to an address at Tanjore a few days ago. I do not propose at the present moment to enlarge upon those remarks. It is quite certain that most of you are readers of local papers and I will ask you to refer to my answers as contained in the newspaper reports. You next refer to the question of *kistbandi*, and while admitting that it

is important that the four instalments should be equalised, you still feel it a hardship to pay in four instalments that which you were able in former times to stretch over a period of eight months. You suggest that a change in the number of instalments from four at least to six, beginning as now with January, will afford you much relief. I can only repeat now what I said on a previous occasion that this is a matter that the Government has under consideration. The reversion from four to eight or even six instalments is probably not feasible; but the principle that a ryot should not be called on to pay his costs until he has money for his crop in his pocket is one that we must sympathise with, and which we should be glad to adopt as far as is compatible with security to the revenue. With regard to the points dealt with in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of your address, I am also unable to give you satisfactory answers at the present time. They must be referred for report and you will receive your reply in due course. You state in paragraph 12 that the roads of your district and taluk are in bad order. I will suggest that it is probable that the nature of the soil and the absence of road metal from the district make the upkeep of roads in Tanjore especially costly; but I have no doubt that the Collector who is present here will, if necessary, look into this complaint. In paragraph 14 you bring forward your last grievance or subject of complaint, that is, the absence of proper legislation in the matter of Hindu temple endowments. This has been a

subject upon which I have been addressed on many frequent occasions during my present tour, and coming now as it does from the representatives of a community such as that inhabiting Kumbakónam—a very high caste Hindu community—it carries particularly strong weight. I am very glad to receive the representation, inasmuch as it serves, or will serve, to strengthen the hands of the Government in the proposals which they have now under consideration for the reform of the law regarding these religious endowments. The weak points in the existing law which you dwell upon in this paragraph of your address have been already perceived by us and remedies for them have been suggested. I am able therefore to give you in reply to that portion of the address a fairly hopeful answer. I quite appreciate the confidence which you have placed in me and state your wants and grievances. I am only sorry that I have not been able to give you a more complete and satisfactory reply to the requests that you make. I thank you in conclusion once more for your kind welcome to your town and for the preparations which you have made to give me pleasure and to do me honour; and I beg you to feel confident that I most thoroughly believe in your expressions of deep loyalty to the Queen and to me as Her representative among you. I specially wish to express my thanks to the Reception Committee members whom I see before me now, for the kind efforts they have made to do me honour and to make my stay here pleasant.

ADDRESS FROM THE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF KUMBAKÓNAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, — We, loyal subjects of our beloved and august Sovereign, the Queen-Empress of India, welcome Your Excellency, as our Majesty's worthy representative, to our part of the country. We are deeply grateful to the Sovereign of the Universe for His having placed us under a Sovereign, like our Queen-Empress, and associated us with a people whose aim is always to raise all nations to their own level. We appreciate with thankfulness the truth that our forefathers never lived under an Empire like the one under which we now live, where our persons and properties are safe from foreign invasions and marauders of various classes; where the highest officials of the State vie with one another in leaving marks of their administration on the country; and where the district heads, as a class, have been remarkable for sustaining the fame of a service, all round applauded as the best of all services on the face of the earth.

From experience, we see that this Empire is upheld mainly by four departments, the Judicial, the Police, the Revenue and the Department of Public Works. The highest authorities of these, as a rule, have been the fathers of the people, and are highly mindful of its well-being. The highest judicial functionaries have been protecting the lives, properties and honour of the subjects, while their subordinates have been admired by the highest Judge of

Great Britain for the excellent work done by them. The good done by them is, however, much dependent upon the lowest officer, the bailiff; so is the Police department, dependent upon the lowest Police constable; the Revenue, upon the village accountant; and Department of Public Works, upon its lowest overseer. As these are honest and good men, so the Government rises in the estimation and love of the people. It is often said that these can be made honest and good by granting them better salaries, a proposition which is not borne out from people's experience from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. Even if it is possible, such an increase of expenditure the finances of the country cannot stand. That these lowest officers, as a rule, behave in such a manner as not to increase the love of the people to Government is too notorious to require any proof. If so, it becomes a question of vital importance to suggest a remedy for this known and true grievance of the people. It is not very easy to propose a remedy, which would be approved of by all concerned.

Your memorialists however venture respectfully to suggest the following remedies for Your Excellency's consideration.

The bailiff is found to be irrepressible; hence it was said by a great authority that the troubles of a successful suitor commence after a decree is obtained in his favour. The remedy seems to lie in increasing their number and making them act jointly with the village officers in villages, and with the superior

Police in the town. No report made by them must be considered correct, unless it is witnessed by the superior Police or village officers. An officer next to the Judge should be their head and he should be held responsible for scrutinizing the doings of the bailiffs or amins.

The constable nuisance might be got rid of by the appointment of a large number of persons as Justices of the Peace or Honorary Magistrates, these being selected from the body of pensioned Sub-Judges, Magistrates and District Munsifs. Anything that comes under their personal observation they may record, and it should be evidence against offenders. The number of these Justices of the Peace and Honorary Magistrates need not be limited and these would prove capital detectives of the offences committed by the Police. Not a day passes in which such men do not see the Police committing various offences and often getting scot-free. Such pensioners are available and there would not be any difficulty in securing their services, if they are well treated.

As Justices of the Peace they would have unlimited territorial jurisdiction and very often the Police may not know them. This would be a reason for their being always afraid to do any wrong lest some Justice of the Peace may be observing it.

Good many petty offences may be declared not cognizable by the Police, making the Municipalities and Unions prosecute them before Honorary Magistrates. The number of these officers should be

increased and their nomination and selection should be left to the pensioned superior Magistrates in the district. The Honorary Magistrates should be declared subordinate only to the District magistrate and to the District Sessions Court and should have no concern with any other paid magistracy. On this subject much useful discussion was held in England only a few days ago.

As regards the karnam or village accountant, the old remedy is the only remedy, that is, that the account he submits and the statements he makes must be attested and verified by at least a few of the chief ryots of the place and the village munsif, who should be all literate. When these refuse to attest or verify them, the Taluk Sheristadar should inquire and ascertain which of the two versions is true, and that version should be adopted and the defaulter, if he be the karnam, should be punished, and, if he be the ryot, he should be deprived of the privilege of attesting the account. During the short stay the Honourable G. Stokes made in this district, he tried to re-introduce this system, but the district was unfortunate to lose him, though on promotion.

As regards the Department of Public Works the remedy seems to be attended with the greatest difficulty. Much depends upon the honesty and shrewdness of the Executive Engineer. All irrigation works, except those which require the daily superintendence of the skilful Engineer, should be entrusted to villagers, and the works executed by them should be examined by officers not lower than

the Sub-divisional officer. The villagers who executed the work should be paid by transfers in the account and not in cash, as a rule. Suppose a canal has to be dug at a cost of a thousand rupees, the villager must do the work according to the design and estimate, and when the Sub-divisional officer finds that the work has been satisfactorily done, he should issue a cheque which should be delivered into the Taluk Treasury as a payment of the land revenue of the village.

We will touch, before we conclude, upon only one more subject which, though the last, is the first in importance, which serves to disturb that universal rest, the characteristic of British good government. It is the periodical re-settlement of land revenue and the annual disturbances of the demands against each ryot.

The first impoverishes the people, prevents improvements of land, and stops all increase of its production, and causes much demoralisation of the people. It has created a conviction in the minds of people that necessity for money creates a wilful forgetfulness of what the people had been made to believe, the unchangeable resolution and promise of the Government.

The annual disturbance creates causes of much discontent among the people, makes them not to know what their liabilities are, and places them very often under the whim and thumb of the village accountant.

We do not mean to hold that the aforesaid proposals to remedy these grievances are the only ones

that should be adopted, but leave to Your Excellency's sense of justice, good policy, and statesmanship to find out what other remedies are possible and how they should be introduced.

In conclusion, we beg to assure Your Excellency that we will not allow our loyalty to the British throne to be exceeded by that of our fellow subjects in any other part of the British Empire, that we always wish to continue under its protecting wings and are always prepared to offer our all in supporting the authority, dignity and continuance of that Empire on which the sun never sets.

We beg to represent that there exists an absolute necessity of the improvement of the Religious Endowment Act XX of 1863 by a local legislation without interfering with its principles of which the Government of India is very tenacious.

The Executive Government can effect immense improvement in the existing state of things by modifying the rules they have framed under section 10 of the aforesaid Act, one of the main features of which should be to raise the qualifications of voters.

ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

TENTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.



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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF HINDUPUR TOWN.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the public of Hindupur town, respectfully beg to express our heartfelt joy at being permitted to approach Your Excellency on this auspicious occasion and to accord you a hearty welcome on your arrival into our town.

Your Excellency's arrival will be long remembered by the public as an important event, especially as this is the first occasion on which Hindupur has been honoured with the visit of the Governor of the Presidency and the representative of our beloved mother, Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India.

The town of Hindupur was founded some 200 years ago and named after its founder Hindu Rao Ghorpadai, a former Mahratta ruler of the place.

The town is gradually rising in importance as a commercial centre; and the traffic of the place has been increasing from the time it was connected by railway communication. This town has one of the largest local markets, and in fact it can be said, as rightly observed by the Famine Commissioner, Mr. LeFanu, to be the place where the pulse of the Ceded Districts beats.

2. A few months ago the Government intimated its desire of introducing a municipality into this town. We were very grateful that we should be thought worthy of the privilege, dignity, and responsibility of exercising municipal functions; but as there was famine in the district during the greater part of 1896-97, and as the coming year *Vikari* is associated in the Hindu minds with calamities, we begged the district authorities that the question of making this town a municipality might be postponed till after the *Vikari* cycle was over. We beg therefore that Your Excellency will be pleased to order that our prayers to the above effect may be granted.

3. We feel extremely thankful to Your Excellency's administration for the very liberal arrangements that were made to alleviate the sufferings of the distressed people during the famine of 1896-97 which was nearly as severe, in some places, as the Famine of 1876-77. The liberality with which all the arrangements were made, and the zeal displayed by the several officers concerned enabled the people to tide over the distress without experiencing the horrors witnessed in 1876-77, and impressed the people with the conviction that the benign Government of Her Majesty is fully prepared to lend all possible aid to its subjects at times of emergency. Not satisfied with the relief given to the distressed at the expense of the State, the generosity of the people in England and on the Continent was also excited to procure additional help to the

affected districts. Nearly Rs. 10,000 of the liberal donations so freely subscribed and remitted to India were expended in this taluk for advance of seed-grain and ploughing cattle to the distressed agriculturists. But for this, they would not have been able to raise much spring crop.

4. We are also highly delighted to see Your Excellency amongst us at a crisis when the taluk is threatened every moment with plague. Excellent plague measures were promptly adopted by our esteemed Collector, Mr. Bannatyne Macleod, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. Having been Head Assistant Collector here, before, for four years, he knows the district well; and we are grateful, that at a time when great powers of persuasion, courtesy, tact and kindness, are required in the district head, we have in Mr. Macleod, a gentleman, who possesses all the above qualities, and is ever actuated by a sincere desire to do good. The construction of the plague sheds was at once put in hand at the railway station of Hindupur and the services of medical officers were also procured. The people, however, were greatly terrified at seeing these preventive measures adopted by Government, and a large number of the lower classes took flight to the interior of the taluk. The timely arrival of the Collector and the notices he is circulating broad cast regarding the scope and aim of the preventive measures of Government, have soothed public anxiety; and the people who had already left are gradually coming back to the town. We

respectfully beg to submit to Your Excellency that the chances of introduction of the plague into the district may be minimised by restricting through passenger traffic, *e.g.*, Tungabhadra may be declared the terminus station for all lines of railway on the north, and no third-class passengers booked from the north beyond that terminus, nor any native railway staff allowed to travel with the engine or train. Similarly, that Eswanthapur may be the terminus station on the (Bangalore side) south.

5. We take this opportunity of putting forward before Your Excellency a grievance to which this part of the country is subject on account of the action of the Mysore authorities in restoring irrigation works in these territories. The Mysore Government have recently put in hand the improvement or construction of a number of tank works in villages bordering on the Hindupur taluk with the result that the water-supply of numerous tanks in this taluk is materially cut off. It may be contended by the Mysore Government that inasmuch as their tanks receive only the surface drainage of their country the villagers of this taluk have nothing to complain of. We respectfully beg to submit to Your Excellency that the measure, if allowed to continue, will produce injurious results to the ryots of the villages owning lands under our tanks so affected. The interests of Government and also of the public are seriously affected, and we respectfully pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to give the matter your kind attention.

6. We beg also to submit for the favourable consideration of Your Excellency, a project known locally as the Pennar anicut work. It is an officially admitted fact that rains in this particular district, even of the Ceded Districts, are precarious, and it is desirable and expedient that any measure calculated to diminish the hardship of the failure of rains, and the consequent expenditure on relief measures which leave no lasting benefit behind, should receive favourable consideration; and in this light the Pennar river project commends itself. The Pennar river flows through several of the villages of this taluk; and if an anicut were to be constructed across the river to the south of Hindupur, it would feed the two tanks of Hindupur, also the Kotnur, Sreekantapur, Ootukur and those Kalipi tanks, which have in all an ayacut of 5,000 tselacres. We understand that the Public Works Department are not disposed to recommend it, and because it will not pay. We respectfully beg to submit to Your Excellency that, in dealing with any irrigation project in this district, it should not be judged solely by its financial results, but by the extent of whether the work would in any appreciable degree increase the water-supply of the tanks and their wells of the villages commanded by it. From this point of view, there is much to commend it; and its usefulness is demonstrated by the state of things this year. Your Excellency is aware that this district has had no early south-west monsoon. In September, there has been about 5 inches of rain;

all rainfed tanks have received only short supplies, of less than a month. But, because, owing to the exertion of the Tahsildar, the supply channel of Hindupur big tank was deepened, it is now nearly three-quarters full from the few days freshes that flowed in the river. If there had been a masonry anicut instead of mud dams which are thrown up by the ryots and washed away at the first freshes, we are sure the tank would have overflowed, and the kunta below it, and the Kotnur tank would have filled; we beg to submit that no more practical demonstration of the utility of the project could be offered, that the measure, if carried out, would greatly augment the water-supply in the several tanks and wells commanded by it.

7. We further beg to submit to Your Excellency that, owing to frequent famine charges to which the district is subjected, grants for the maintenance and improvement of communication as also for promotion of primary education are much crippled. Several of the Local Fund schools in the district are already closed, and the few that are now lingering are also on the verge of vanishing soon. The condition of the Local Fund roads also is very unsatisfactory; and no wonder that the Ceded Districts are known as 'backward' districts. And this reputation they will not get rid of so long as their education is made to depend on funds crippled by the demands made on them for famine expenditure. We respectfully pray that, as a special favour, the Local Funds of this district may be supplemented

by liberal grants from the Provincial funds for expenditure on roads and schools.

8. We also further beg to submit to Your Excellency that the districts of Anantapur and Bellary have been formed into one sessions division, the District Judge appointed to Bellary district who resides at Bellary disposes of the civil work of both the districts, at Bellary. The sessions work of the division is disposed of by the Sessions Judge of Kurnool who goes to Bellary for the purpose. Thus, the civil work of the district is done by the Bellary Judge; and sessions work by the Kurnool Judge, who goes to Bellary for the purpose. We respectfully pray that the Judge who comes from Kurnool to do the work of this district may be deputed to hold his Court at Anantapur, and dispose of the criminal work in Anantapur district itself. To us, it appears that the Bellary Judge may be let alone with his district work, both civil and criminal; and the Kurnool Judge may be ordered to sit in Anantapur and do our civil and criminal work. This measure, if carried out, would be a considerable convenience to the people of the district, and would relieve them from the painful necessity of a tedious journey to Bellary-passing on their way through plague-inspecting stations. It cannot fail to be a gain to the district administration too.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC OF HINDUPUR,--I accept with thanks and with much pleasure

the address which has been just read. I must express my regret that circumstances made it impossible for me to carry out the original plan of my programme, which would have taken me through Hindupur, and would have enabled me to receive your address and public welcome by you on your own ground and in your own town, but the next best business has been your presence here to-day, and the welcome which you have accorded me in Anantapur. I listened with interest to the description which you have given of the founding of your town of Hindupur, more than two hundred years ago, and the statement that you make of its increasing business and prosperity. The fact that Hindupur has increased considerably in population ever since the last census was taken, while the other towns of the district of Anantapur have practically remained stationary in the matter of population, show that your views on the subject are fairly correct, and that Hindupur, as a trading centre, is making steady advance. I compliment and congratulate you upon this. You quote the remark of the Famine Commissioner, Mr. LeFanu, that Hindupur is "the place where the pulse of the Ceded Districts beats." That sounds a very pretty phrase, but I am inclined to think that it possibly savours slightly of exaggeration. There are other towns in the Ceded Districts such as Bellary, which I imagine, would be inclined to dispute the statement. It remains, however, that Hindupur is a place that is doing exceedingly well, advancing and flourishing.

In the second paragraph of your address you deal with the question of the establishment of a Municipality at Hindupur, and while you acknowledge the compliment that is paid to you, in the Government wishing to give you this institution, you express the hope that the matter may be somewhat delayed. I am not perfectly well informed of the facts of the case, but I do not think I am wrong in saying that there is no immediate intention of introducing municipal institutions into Hindupur. Hindupur is one of those towns among many, which, we think, should before long receive institutions of this kind, but as far as I have been able to ascertain from the officers here, the Government has not hitherto issued any decided instructions in the matter, and I think it is probable that your wishes that this may be delayed, until some time in the immediate future, are likely to be fulfilled.

THE FAMINE FUND.

I am glad to see the appreciation that is felt by you of the efforts of Government to meet your difficulties with famine during last year. I do not think that the Government of Madras is presuming if it attaches to itself some credit for the work that was done. We were liberally assisted as you may know, and as indeed you also draw my attention, by the funds that were raised in England and in foreign countries. I am glad to see the thankfulness and appreciation which you exhibit for the charity and liberality of our fellow subjects of Her Majesty in other parts of the world in contributing as they did,

to aid us in our difficulties of last year. The way in which funds provided from England and elsewhere were administered in this Presidency was, I think, admirable. We owe to Mr. Crole and others connected with that work, our very heartfelt and sincere thanks for the excellent work they did in this direction. The fact that you received in your district nearly Rupees ten thousand for the purpose of providing seed-grains and ploughing cattle, testifies in an admirable way to the correctness of the judgment which I have ventured to express, on the administration of the Charitable Fund last year.

THE PLAGUE.

You next enter upon the subject of plague, which fills our minds at the present time. I am glad to observe that you appreciate the good work done by your Collector in this connection, and it pleases me to take this opportunity of saying that the Government in common with yourselves have observed and highly appreciated the energy, the zeal and judgment that Mr. Macleod has brought to bear upon the threatening situation in this district of Anantapur. Your proposal that quarantine should be established at Tungabhadra and on the Bangalore side of the Railway by closing traffic at two stations is, I am afraid, impracticable. Such a course of action would cause a fearful dislocation in all business traffic, and very great inconvenience to the public, and, moreover, I think it would practically be useless for the purposes which you indicate. People must travel and goods must be transported. If you stop

the work of a Railway, passengers and goods will still find their way to the points at which they wish to arrive, by roads or by some other means of communication; instead of being carefully watched as they would be, travelling by Railway, they would pass without being observed; and it would be more likely to carry the disease than under existing circumstances.

IRRIGATION.

In paragraph 5 of your address you deal with what appears to be a very practical grievance, that is, that the Mysore Government are, by the restoration of their irrigation works, or by the construction of new irrigation works, doing injury to the water-supply in this district. I may tell you that there is an agreement between the Madras Government and the Mysore Government, whereby the latter are precluded from starting any new irrigation works, without having consulted the Madras Government. I hope that this agreement is carefully carried out; but as you have drawn my attention to this, I shall make it my duty to institute special inquiry into this matter. Then, with regard to possible injury that may be done to you by the restoration of existing works, that is, by reducing the flow of water from Mysore into this district, there is a little more difficulty than in the other case. Into this also I will cause inquiry to be made. I think, however, it will be only fair that the Mysore Government should, when they are restoring old work, be very careful not to make

that restoration take the form of extension, that they should be bound not to go beyond the demand upon water that was caused by the work as it existed before restoration. You next deal with the question of irrigation works in the district, and you make special reference to a scheme which I think is called the Hindupur project. I have been supplied by the Public Works Department with a note giving the history of what has been done with regard to this project. It appears that it was investigated in 1869, and that it would provide for the construction of an anicut across the Pennar in the Bellary district, which will supply eleven tanks, and the cost of the work was estimated at Rs. 1,77,550. The work appears to have been considered by the Public Works Department at various times, and in various stages, but it does not seem to have been looked upon with any great favour, and finally I find that in 1890 definite orders to abandon the large projects were given; but I have not been furnished with any reasons for this decision. You suggest in your address that the possible reason was that it was found that the work was not likely to pay the required interest upon the outlay. It has been pointed out to me that the District Manual for this District of Anantapur, in talking of this particular work, represents that a return of 6·19 per cent. on the outlay was the estimated profit. If the District Manual is correct on this point it would be a highly remunerative work. I feel therefore rather puzzled at the present

statement. I may tell you that I was rather unprepared for your representation on this point. I only had a bald note on the subject which was furnished to me on the chance of some reference to this subject being made here. But as you have raised this question, and as I myself take a very great interest—as I think you may know from my previous utterances—in this subject of irrigation works, and as I believe irrigation is one of the factors, if not the most important factor, in the checking of famine, I shall consider it my duty to revive the inquiry into this particular Hindupur project. I cannot promise you that there will be a satisfactory result to you. But of this you may rest assured that this will not be dropped unless I am satisfied that the work is either undesirable or impracticable.

CHARGES ON LOCAL FUNDS.

You next allude to the financial difficulties into which the district has been driven by its poverty, and also by the heavy drain which has fallen upon its resources owing to famine, and now to plague. It is very difficult for me to offer you much consolation on this point. It would be perhaps invidious for the Government to aid the Local Fund of Anantapur, unless it were prepared to grant the same favour to other districts. At the same time I cannot help feeling sympathy for this district. I know that it is by no means a rich one, and that it is particularly subject to the vicissitude of famine; perhaps more so than any other district in the

Presidency that I can think of. With regard to the charge for the cost of plague prevention on Local Funds I am afraid it would be impossible for me to say that the whole will fall upon the Provincial revenue; but the Provincial revenue will bear a portion of it. Local Funds, I think I am right in saying, will not be expected to bear more than their fair share in the expenditure incurred in plague prevention and cure. You must excuse my speaking guardedly and perhaps rather doubtfully on this point; but your address did not reach my hands until after I had left Ootacamund, and it was therefore impossible for me in this short time to get the complete information that I should prefer having before answering you.

THE DISTRICT COURTS.

In the concluding paragraph of your address, you enter upon the consideration of a very practical matter, and that is that some arrangement should be made whereby the judicial work of Anantapur may be done in Anantapur itself. I have made some inquiries of the Collector with regard to this subject since I have been here, and this morning I took the opportunity of inspecting the public buildings here in regard to the measure, with a view to ascertain whether it would be possible to find accommodation in the existing buildings. I think it possible that some such arrangement could be made as far as the Sessions Court, that is the criminal side of judicial work, is concerned. I cannot express much

hope as regards the civil side of judicial work here. Even saying what I have said, I must safeguard myself by observing that I am now speaking without any decision of Government, and without any intimate knowledge of what the Government has thought about the matter; and what is still more important, without knowing what are the views of the High Court. The question, I believe, is under the consideration of the High Court at the present moment. All I can say for myself is, that I am fairly well satisfied if the High Court has no objection and the Government sees no insuperable objection—that there is no very great difficulty as far as accommodation is concerned in providing for the criminal side in Anantapur. If what you suggest can be carried out it will give me great satisfaction. Gentlemen, I have now come to the end of the address which you have been kind enough to present. I thank you once more for your kind words of welcome and for your presence here to-day.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF ANANTAPUR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors representing the people of Anantapur, beg leave to approach Your Excellency, with an expression of our heartfelt devotion and loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, whose representative, it is our great

pleasure and privilege to welcome to-day to our midst.

2. It fills us with extreme pleasure that we are here face to face, with one, who helped us, so lately and in such a remarkable degree to tide over one of the greatest public calamities that have befallen us of recent years. Ours is a part of country peculiarly subject to the visitation of famine and we have more frequently drawn upon the kindness and generosity of Government than our neighbours, and we take this opportunity of acknowledging, however feebly and inadequately, the immense debt of endless gratitude towards the august sovereign, to whose care we have been committed by the All-knowing Providence, and whose love and solicitude for the happiness of Her subjects so strongly animate Your Excellency's heart.

3. To the blessings of a sympathetic famine administration, which we have enjoyed in common with several other communities in this Presidency, we feel bound to add as additional links in the chain of gratitude which bind us to Your Excellency, the special favours conferred on us in the matter of the presentation of a costly and excellently constructed building for our High School, the sanction of half grants for all its staff, the transfer of the Police Hospital building to our use, the liberal grant of a couple of thousands at a time when our necessities at least trebled its value, and several other items too numerous to mention, any of which would have

sufficed to make Your Excellency's name a household word amongst us.

4. We are unwilling to press upon Your Excellency's attention the details of our difficulties in making both ends meet, our very slender finances not enabling us to satisfy all our requirements according to present day progressive ideas. Though at first sight we may appear very unreasonable, we beg to assure Your Excellency that the special circumstances of our case afford a complete justification for our request to be relieved of all expenses under the head of 'plague,' which has been acknowledged by some high authorities to be imperial, or at any rate provincial, and not municipal.

5. We shall not tire Your Excellency by presenting a formidable bill of grievances real and imaginary, but would content ourselves with merely referring to the very great inconvenience caused by housing the Government Training School in the same building with our High School, and would respectfully suggest for Your Excellency's gracious consideration the pressing necessity of its removal at an early date.

6. We would also beg to mention here that, under the present arrangements, the Sessions Judge of Kurnool sits at Bellary as additional Sessions Judge, and disposes of the criminal work of both the Bellary and the Anantapur districts which form one Sessions division. Our district is unfortunately somewhat noted for grave crimes and a large

number of cases are committed from the various Criminal Courts in this district. We would respectfully beg to submit that it would be conducive to public convenience and the property of Anantapur in particular, and also economical to Government, if the additional Sessions Judge be made to try cases of this district at Anantapur.

7. We are extremely anxious that Your Excellency's stay amongst us may be attended with comfort and happiness, and deeply regret that there is not in our town or close to it any object of curiosity or interest to enliven your sojourn amidst us, and conclude by once again expressing our heartfelt pleasure in welcoming to our little town, Your Excellency, who so nobly represents in your personal and public character, the exalted virtues of our august sovereign the Queen-Empress.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF ANANTAPUR,—I thank you for your kind and flattering address, and I accept with pleasure the welcome which you accord to me to your town. I have made it my duty to make some little inquiry as to the position at the present time of this Municipal Council. I find that Government has recently accorded to you the right to elect a third part of your members, but up to the present time no actual election has taken place. I therefore gather that the Municipal Council, as at present constituted, is entirely a nominated body. I have before me notes

of the reviews of Government on the work of the municipality during the last three years. I am glad to be able to notice that on the whole it is satisfactory. In 1895-96 Government was of opinion that the administration of the municipality during the year under review was a considerable improvement on that of the previous year, in several respects, and with the exception of registration of deaths, was satisfactory. In the following year the administration of the municipality was fairly satisfactory, but sanitation and registration of vital statistics demanded increased attention. Government notes with pleasure the testimony borne by the Chairman, to the assistance rendered to him by Audimurti Rao Garu, one of the Councillors. Then the review for the last year is as follows:—"The improvement of roads, vaccination and sanitation demand increased attention. In other respects the administration of the municipality continued to be tolerably satisfactory." Gentlemen of the Municipal Council, I wish to call your particular attention to these points in which the Government has noticed as being somewhat defective or behind hand, and hope that you will apply the necessary remedy.

It is now, as it always is, a great satisfaction to hear from the mouths of Her Majesty's subjects, expressions of their love and loyalty to Her person and throne, and I have no doubt that these sentiments exist strongly in Anantapur, as they do in all parts of Her vast dominions. I am glad to hear from you your appreciation of the efforts of the Government

during the terrible visitation of famine last year, and also that you have received in grateful spirit the little privileges and concessions that the Government from time to time has been able to confer on your town. You make reference to the Police Hospital, as being a building likely to be transferred to the use of the municipality. In the course of my inspection of your town this morning, I visited the hospital and I was obliged to record there that I did not consider it was a suitable institution, either as regards its premises or its fittings and appliances. I am glad therefore to learn from you that it offers a possibility of improvement taking place in this direction. I understand that the Government has consented to turn the present Police Hospital, which is a new building, into the Municipal Hospital, on the condition that the municipality build a special ward for the use of the Police, a ward which must have accommodation for sixteen beds. I give you to understand that the Government will expect, before handing over the Police Hospital for municipal purposes, the municipality to carry out their engagement of constructing a ward for the Police.

PLAGUE EXPENDITURE.

You make the request, in view of the small amount of revenue you are able to collect in your municipality, that you should be relieved of all expenditure under the head of plague. I am sorry that I cannot go so far as to say that your request can be complied with in its entirety. I think,

however, that I am right when I say that it is, I believe, the intention of Government not to impose on the municipality the whole cost of plague, that a considerable share will be borne by the Provincial Government. At the same time I must tell you that if you at the present moment are hard up, so is the Provincial Government; we have considerable difficulty in finding the necessary funds to meet the emergencies which have arisen during the present year on account of the plague, coming so soon at it does upon the large amount which famine cost us during the last year.

You next make allusion to the proposal that the Sessions Judge who now sits as Additional Sessions Judge for the purpose of hearing cases of Anantapur, should sit in future at Anantapur. I made a tolerably full reply on this matter in the answer which I gave to the address from Hindupur a few minutes ago. I will not therefore detain you by repeating it now to you. My answer to the Hindupur address will be published, and I beg you will do me the favour of reading the reply in the newspapers. I beg to thank you once more for your kind welcome and to assure you that it has given me pleasure to see Anantapur and to meet you here. I think you speak modestly of the town. At this season of the year it presents a charming appearance viewed from the top of the public buildings. You have also the blessing of possessing a healthy climate which is a matter for which you cannot feel too thankful.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF KURNOOL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the citizens of Kurnool, most respectfully and cordially welcome Your Excellency to our town. It is hardly necessary for us to say that Your Excellency's visit affords us very great pleasure, because visits to this place from such illustrious representatives of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India are few and far between. We do not deem it proper to trouble Your Excellency with any lengthy address now, considering the tedious and tiresome journey which Your Excellency has had to perform to-day, and in view of the fact that Your Excellency has kindly arranged to stay in our midst for a couple of days, during which there is enough of work to occupy Your Excellency's time. We, therefore, beg to take leave of Your Excellency for the present and to wish Your Excellency a happy night.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind words of welcome, and for the consideration you have shown in not at this time addressing me at any great length, and putting before me your wants and desires. And I believe an opportunity will be given to you of doing so during the two or three days I shall have the pleasure of remaining among you. I thank you once more for your kind welcome, and I beg at the same time to assure you of the pleasure that I feel in reaching Kurnool which is a somewhat infrequently visited point of the presidency, and one

remote from places which are frequently visited on account of their being easy of access.

His Excellency the Governor in proceeding to open the fountain constructed by Sultan Mahomed Sahib, Khan Sahib, said :—

GENTLEMEN,—I have come here for the double purpose of opening a fountain constructed in my honour by Mr. Sultan Mahomed Sahib, Khan Sahib, and at the same time of presenting him with the *sunnad* of the rank of Khan Sahib which he has most deservedly attained. Gentlemen, Mr. Mahomed Sultan, Khan Sahib, comes of a fighting stock, his father having been in the service of the Nawab of Kurnool, and afterwards in the British service. He himself has served the public for many years having first employed his time under the Kurnool Canal Company from 1860 to 1866. In 1867 he entered the service of Her Majesty, and he has faithfully served Her now for 31 years, and under no less than twenty-four senior Collectors of this District, all of whom have testified to his worth and to his good work. It affords me great pleasure in the first instance to hand to Mr. Sultan Mahomed Sahib his *sunnad* of Khan Sahib, and I will now proceed to declare this fountain duly opened. A man who digs a well or who plants a tree or who erects a fountain may be reckoned a benefactor of the people among whom he lives.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KURNOOL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council, Kurnool, beg to approach Your Excellency with this humble address of welcome to our town and to take this opportunity to express our feelings of loyalty and gratitude to Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Empress of India. We feel bound also to express, at the outset, our heartfelt thanks to the Government for the very munificent and generous grant of nearly two lakhs of rupees, being three-fourths of the total charges, on account of our new water-works, which were completed in October last. Were it not for this liberal contribution from Government, the municipality, considering its limited sources of income, could never have undertaken the water-works, the incalculable benefits of which are realized by the supply of pure filtered water throughout the year, which must tend to improve the health of the town. We think it our duty also to give expression to our feelings of gratitude to Your Excellency's Government for the immense sympathy and gracious consideration for the welfare of the people of the Presidency, which have prompted Your Excellency in Council to frame the Rules and Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, so as to meet the wishes of the people to a considerable extent and to interfere as little as possible with their feelings and prejudices. The publication of these conciliatory measures, at a time when dire disease was threaten-

ing the Presidency, was very opportune and tended to allay, in a great measure, the fears of a vast majority of the population regarding the working of the Plague Regulations.

2. As regards the plague charges, Your Excellency is, no doubt, aware that, in the present slender state of our finances, we have managed, with the utmost difficulty, to maintain for the past few months a costly establishment and to incur an expenditure of nearly two thousand rupees for the erection of plague sheds, and that it is beyond the means of this poor municipality to continue to bear the burden of maintaining such establishment without aid from Provincial funds. As regards our resources, we need hardly submit to Your Excellency that the house-tax is being levied at nearly the maximum rate from the beginning of the current year, and that water-tax at the maximum rate of four per cent. has been newly imposed from last year. Taking the two taxes together there has thus been a sudden increase of taxation by sixty per cent. as compared with what the rate-payers had to pay two years ago, and that too, at a time, when they have hardly emerged from the effects of a severe famine. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we have exhausted all the available sources of income by taxation upon a population, which consists of an exceptionally large proportion of poor Muhammadans, the greater portion of which has to depend for its livelihood upon a declining weaving industry, and upon the resources of a restricted commercial activity.

3. A complete system of drainage has become a pressing necessity after the opening of the new water-works, but there is no chance of our being in a position, within a measurable distance of time, to consider the question in the present financial difficulties of the municipality without aid from Government. The provision of such a system is thus not only too costly in itself, but it also involves a considerable increase in the already heavy working expenses of the water-works, as, under the existing arrangements, the flushing of the drains has to be carried out by means of costly filtered water from these works. In this connection, we beg that the Government may be pleased to consider the question of the feasibility of devising a cheaper arrangement for the supply of water for flushing the drains, and thereby affording relief to the municipal finances.

4. The Municipal Hospital buildings stand in need of several improvements, which have been urged by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras upon the consideration of the council, but, here again, considerations of finance preclude us from taking any of them in hand. In the new market, which was opened for public use in December last, and which we have named the 'King Market' after Doctor W. G. King, the present Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, in commemoration of the services rendered by him to this municipality, substantial provision has been made only for the sale of meat and vegetables, and it will be some years before the municipality can provide the necessary

accommodation for all purposes, so as to make the market complete in itself.

5. The new Municipal Secretary, who was appointed under the provisions of the Municipal Amendment Act of 1897, entered on his duties in May last, and we are happy to state that he has fully justified our selection and is giving every satisfaction.

6. In conclusion, we beg leave to wish Your Excellency and Lady Havelock long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF KURNOOL,—I accept with thanks your kind and pleasant welcome, and I listened with satisfaction to the assurances which you have given me of your continued loyalty to our Gracious Sovereign the Queen-Empress of India. I am glad to receive your expressions of gratitude for the liberality which the Government has extended to this municipality in giving you a generous grant for the construction of your water-supply works. I can tell you that in the case of Kurnool the Government has granted a larger proportion of the cost of the undertaking than it is usual for the Government to do. I have had the pleasure of going over the water-works which supply your town, and as far as I could gather from what the Chairman and the officers in charge were able to tell me, it appears that the work has been satisfactorily carried out, and that a constant supply of something like twelve

to fifteen gallons per head of the population can be supplied, except possibly at periods when the river is very low, when I suppose it will be necessary to exercise greater economy in the amount of water that is supplied. I trust that your hopes that the sanitary condition of the town will be materially improved by the completion of this important work, will be realized.

PLAGUE REGULATIONS AND CHARGES.

I have heard with satisfaction your expressions of gratitude for the efforts that have been made by my Government to modify the Rules and Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, in such a manner as to meet the wishes of the people as far as we possibly can, and to interfere as little as possible with their feelings and prejudices. I may tell you that in carrying out these modifications in the rules, we received very valuable assistance from a number of native gentlemen whom we thought it wise to take into our confidence in the matter, and from whom we sought advice. With regard to the charges which are likely to fall upon the municipality in connection with plague prevention, I am inclined to think that you are possibly under some slight misapprehension. I think I am right in saying that it is not the intention of Government to attempt to throw upon the municipalities the whole cost of this necessary work. I think the contribution which we expect to get from the municipalities is one-third of the total. At the present time it appears from what

you tell me that a very limited sum has been expended on plague prevention arrangements, something like Rs. 2,000 or 3,000. I had the satisfaction of inspecting the sheds which have been erected for the purpose before I entered the town of Kurnool two days ago, and I was well satisfied with what has been done in the matter.

INCREASE OF TAXATION.

You dwell upon the heaviness of taxation among you, pointing out that the two taxes together, namely, the water-tax and house-tax, now amount to an increase of sixty per cent. as compared with what the rate-payers had to pay two years ago. I learn that two years ago house-tax was levied at seven and-a-half per cent. of the annual rental and that there was then no water-tax. At present the house-tax stands at eight per cent. and the water-tax at four per cent. of the estimated annual rental, the two taxes together coming to twelve per cent., which is as you say an increase of sixty per cent. over the previous rate of seven and-a-half per cent. But let me ask you to remember that in return for this you received a very valuable addition of the water-supply which you had not before. I am not able to speak with any degree of certainty, but it is possible I think that there are yet means of raising further revenue, if it is absolutely necessary that you should have it. I should therefore advise the Municipal Council to scrutinise very closely their means of raising revenue, and at the same time their outgoings, so that in the one case they may have the

necessary means of still further raising taxation to increase revenue, and on the other hand they should practise economy wherever it may be possible.

THE DRAINAGE QUESTION.

The next subject on which you address me is that of a drainage scheme for Kurnool, and you express the opinion that a long time will elapse before you will have sufficient means to carry out such a scheme. I have no doubt that it will be a long time before you will be able at your own cost to effect a complete drainage scheme for your town. If I were you, I would not be in any great hurry about it. I should content myself with improving, as far as possible, ordinary simple sanitary arrangements. Let your scavenging be made as perfect as it may be, let your arrangements for removing, burying or destroying night-soil be carried out carefully. I would leave the rest to the effects of the sun; you have here a dry climate, a dry soil and a very hot sun. Those items combined are the best help you can possibly have in the matter of sanitation and to a very large extent will enable you to dispense with a regular system of drainage, which under any circumstances would cost you a very large sum of money, and which might be rather doubtful in its results. There is nothing more difficult, especially in a place which lies on a flat surface, such as Kurnool, than to devise a really satisfactory effectual system of drainage; and in my opinion, and I think in that of many sanitary judges, it is better to have

no drainage system at all than to have a bad one. I would therefore put this matter out of your minds until you are really in better circumstances than you are now.

THE HOSPITAL AND MARKET.

I had the pleasure of visiting your Municipal Hospital buildings, and although I must admit they do not come up to the highest standard in that respect, they seem to me to be sufficiently good. I should describe them as being somewhat rough and ready, but simple, and, on the whole, fairly satisfactory. Some little improvements, such as the substitution of a better class of bed and bedstead for that now existing there, may easily be devised. I should rejoice with you when you are able to complete your new market. As far as it goes at the present time, it seems to me to be fairly satisfactory. It is satisfactory to me to learn that your new Municipal Secretary appointed under the recently passed Municipal Amendment Act has entered upon his duties and has justified the selection that you have made of him. In conclusion, gentlemen, I beg to thank you for the kind wishes which you have expressed for the long life and prosperity of Lady Havelock and myself.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS AND RATEPAYERS OF KURNOOL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants and ratepayers of Kurnool, beg leave to

tender a cordial welcome to Your Excellency to our town, and to approach Your Excellency with this humble address. As loyal and faithful subjects, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to convey, through Your Excellency, our feelings of profound respect and everlasting gratitude to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India for all the manifold blessings we enjoy under the British Government. We cannot sufficiently express our thanks to Your Excellency for the timely and sympathetic measures adopted to combat the severe famine, through which we had lately to pass, and to alleviate the distress of the famine-stricken poor. In this connection we beg to acknowledge our heart-felt gratitude to the philanthropic English nation, which, so generously, came forward to relieve the sufferings of the starving millions of India.

2. Kurnool was, at one time, known to be a very healthy place and a military station. The introduction of the late system of water-supply from the irrigation canal through masonry channels in the year 1864, completely affected the health of the town, and, ever since then, this place has not maintained a good reputation for its healthiness. However, by the generosity of the Madras Government, for which we shall ever feel thankful, this system of water-supply has been replaced by the new water-works, at a cost of about two lakhs and fifty thousand rupees, three-fourths of which sum has been liberally contributed by the Government, and the remainder also advanced by Government

as a loan to the municipality. As a result of this we are provided, since last year, with a sufficient supply of clear and wholesome water throughout the year and we feel confident, that our town will ere long regain its former reputation for its healthiness, and come to be placed in the category of healthy stations in the Presidency.

3. It may not be out of place to state here that the Government of Your Excellency has also laid the people of this Presidency under a debt of deep gratitude to Your Excellency by the sympathetic and liberal measures concerted for combating the plague, and the timely issue of rules and regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, conceived in the same spirit—before the disease made its appearance in this Presidency. These measures have greatly allayed the anxieties of the people.

4. We crave Your Excellency's pardon for making prominent mention of the fact that we have always urged the absence of railway communication to our town as one of our foremost and pressing wants and that we cannot help urging it again, on this august occasion, as our town remains unconnected with the railway even to this day. It seems hardly necessary for us to state that this want is felt very keenly whenever, in consequence of the failure of the monsoons, famine and distress overtake us. Within the last decade we have been led to hope on two occasions that the railway would be extended to Kurnool, once when a survey of the proposed

line was made at a cost of about ten thousand rupees a few years ago, and again, during the current year, when the Southern Mahratta Railway Company proposed to lay a line of light railway along the District Board road from Kurnool Road to Kurnool city and the Board agreed to it. But, as yet, nothing has actually been done, and the prospects seem as distant as ever. We do not wish to trouble Your Excellency at present by repeating the arguments, supported as they are by statistics, that have been advanced from time to time, in favour of the scheme, but would earnestly entreat Your Excellency to look into the matter at leisure. Knowing, as we do, the solicitude displayed by Your Excellency for the welfare of the people entrusted to your care, we are not without hopes that our representations will receive Your Excellency's favourable consideration, and that the extension of the railway to Kurnool will be an accomplished fact before Your Excellency lays down the reins of office.

5. We feel much concerned to hear that it is in contemplation to remove the District Court from Kurnool. If this be so, we earnestly pray that the Court may be retained here. Your Excellency is aware that there was a similar proposal in 1863 and in fact all necessary arrangements had been made for abolishing the District Court. On reconsideration, however, the Government was pleased to cancel the proposal and to direct the retention of the Court. We most respectfully beg to urge that the grounds, in which the Government gave up the idea of doing

away with this Court fifteen years ago, apply with equal, if not greater, force at present, as a comparison of the state of the file of the Court for five years before 1883 with that of the last five years, will disclose. We beg to say that even the present arrangement, under which the District Judge has to proceed to Bellary every month and dispose of the sessions work there, is itself working a great hardship on the litigant population of the district, by necessitating the accumulation of arrears, delays in the disposal of the work and the practical denial of justice to the public, as already brought to the notice of Government by some of those concerned, in a memorial submitted to Government last year. It becomes, therefore, unnecessary for us to urge, at length, the grounds for the retention of the Court itself in Kurnool. If the work of the Bellary Court is too much for a single Judge and, if the work of this Court seems inadequate for one Judge, we respectfully venture to suggest that the work might be equalized by a re-distribution of the jurisdiction of the respective Courts.

6. We have appreciated, with much pleasure, the sympathetic policy enunciated by Your Excellency, ever since the assumption by Your Excellency of the exalted office of the Governor of this Presidency, regarding the working of the Forest Laws. We, therefore, beg leave to take this opportunity and to respectfully suggest that Your Excellency may be pleased to issue directions to the District Officers that, before converting any areas into 'forest

reserves,' such officers should be careful to exclude ordinary jungle land and Government 'poramboke' and waste lands near villages, so as not to interfere with the immemorial privileges of the ryot population (a majority of whom are poor), such as the right of free grazing of cattle and sheep, and of obtaining the wood necessary for the ordinary implements of husbandry, the fuel required for daily use and the leaves required for manure and other purposes.

7. While, as already stated, we are deeply grateful to Your Excellency's Government for the great boon which has been vouchsafed to us, in the shape of a pure water-supply, and for the exceptionally liberal aid, which the Government was pleased to grant for that purpose, and but for which the project could never have been thought of by the Municipal Council with its poor and limited resources, we shall, at the same time, be wanting in our duty to ourselves if we do not represent to Your Excellency that, even with such generous assistance from Government, the introduction of the water-works has resulted in a material increase of taxation to the rate-payers, an increase which presses heavily on the population of this town, consisting, as it does, of a large proportion of needy Muhammadans and other poor persons, with uncertain and limited means of livelihood. To add to these difficulties, the measures, which the Municipal Council has had to adopt, under the orders of Government, for the purpose of preventing the appearance of plague into the town, have already resulted in a considerable

increase of expenditure. This expenditure will, we fear, cause a great drain on the impoverished finances of the municipality, which must make it almost impracticable for the Municipal Council, even with its present able and experienced Chairman, to devise any ways and means of meeting the extra demand on its limited resources. Moreover, now that the water-works have been opened, the necessity for providing the town with a complete and costly system of drainage has become pressing, and the Municipal Council, whether they will or no, may soon be obliged to take it in hand. In that event the problem of the municipal finance will become still more difficult to solve, and naturally we, the rate-payers, are anxious lest, in order to meet these various necessary demands on the municipal funds, any further increase of taxation be resorted to. We, therefore, beg to be pardoned for earnestly praying Your Excellency's Government to earn the everlasting gratitude of the townspeople by helping the municipality to complete the present imperfect system of drainage, and to meet the ordinary, and any unforeseen and unavoidable special charges, without resort to additional taxation.

8. One other point, which we desire to press on Your Excellency's attention, is the want of a secular institution for the education of caste Hindu girls, which is so very essential in the interests of female education. The necessity for such an institution was felt about two years ago, and one was started about August 1896 by the community concerned.

It is being maintained on a very low scale from private subscriptions. The difficulties, attending its maintenance, already felt, are so many that it will not be a matter for surprise if the institution suddenly ceases to exist. The town would then be left without any school for caste Hindu girls. Representations were made to the educational authorities, on former occasions, for the opening of a Government Caste Girls' School, but with no practical results. It may not be out of place to mention here, that there is one such institution at Nandyal, a comparatively smaller town in the district, and that there is a Government school in this town itself for Muhammadan girls. We need hardly submit that education is not less backward among the Hindu female population than among the Muhammadans, and that, in justice to the former, the Government should be pleased to provide it with the same facilities in this respect, as in the case of the Muhammadans.

9. We have now to discharge the most agreeable and pleasant duty of thanking Your Excellency for having given practical effect to the recommendations of the Public Service Commission, in appointing a native of the land permanently to the responsible office of District Collector, and we have reason to feel doubly thankful to Your Excellency for having made the first permanent appointment in connection with our district and given us a sympathetic Collector.

10. It now remains for us to express our thanks to Your Excellency for the patience, with which

Your Excellency has condescended to listen to this lengthy address, and to offer our fervent prayers to the Almighty to bless Lady Havelock, Your Excellency and family, with long life, perfect health and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE INHABITANTS AND RATEPAYERS OF KURNOOL,—I beg you to accept my warm thanks for your kind welcome to your town, and to believe me when I say that I accept your address with sincere pleasure. It is gratifying on all occasions to receive an assurance from Her Majesty's subjects of their loyalty and affection, and a repetition of these sentiments on this occasion is, therefore, as usual, gratifying to me. I listened with pleasure to the just sentiments which you express with regard to the efforts of my Government to relieve the fearful distress which existed throughout the country, and more especially in this district last year. I think I am right in saying that of all suffering districts in the Madras Presidency, Kurnool suffered most, and I believe Kurnool received larger assistance from Government and a larger grant from the Famine Relief Fund than any other district. I am very glad to hear from you, your opinion of the results of the new water-supply of Kurnool, and I join with you in your hope that the reputation which Kurnool previously enjoyed for being a healthy place, will soon be restored. I am glad to learn from you that you appreciate the

effort that has been made by the Government to bring our plague regulations into sympathy with your own views and habits in the matter.

THE RAILWAY TO KURNOOL.

You deal in the next paragraph of your address with the question of your railway, and I believe you give a fairly accurate description of the history of the negotiations which have taken place for carrying out this important work. The proposal to lay a line of light railway along the District Board road from Kurnool Road to Kurnool city has been agreed to by the Board and the Government has approved of it. When I say Government has approved of it, you must not understand that the work will be carried out at once. It is to be carried out by the Southern Mahratta Railway Company, and I am not able at present to inform you of the exact views of the Southern Mahratta Railway Company, but I was anxious as far as possible to give you the latest information on the subject of prospects of Railway extension to Kurnool. I therefore telegraphed yesterday to the Public Works Secretary to the Government of Bombay, asking him in what position the matter stood. I received an answer from him to the effect that up to the present no action has been taken on the Government Order from Madras, to the effect that they and the District Board of Kurnool had agreed to the proposal, but that they were awaiting the receipt of final application from the Southern Mahratta Company, which

had, up to that time, not come to hand. But I will, as soon as I can, suggest to the Southern Mahratta Railway Company that they should make the application referred to in this telegram from the Bombay Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department. I join with you most heartily in the hope that before the time comes for me to leave Madras, Kurnool will be connected with Dhone by railway.

THE KURNOOL DISTRICT COURT.

You express your concern at the report of a plan for the removal of the District Court from Kurnool. All I can tell you with regard to this is, that I know absolutely nothing about it. Proposals have been made for some alteration of the distribution of the work of the Criminal Court of Anantapur, which is at present done at Bellary by the District Judge of Kurnool. It has been proposed that instead of that work being taken up at Bellary, it should be taken at Anantapur; but I do not think that it will in any way, even if it should be carried out, alter the position of Kurnool with regard to the work of its District Judge.

FOREST REGULATIONS.

In paragraph six of your address you deal with the subject of Forest Regulations. You are quite right in saying that I view with displeasure anything that is done to make the Forest Regulations an undue worry and trouble to the people. I have often expressed myself in this sense before, and it

gives me satisfaction to repeat it to you. Any district forest officer who works these regulations in such a manner as to unnecessarily worry and harass people, will earn my displeasure. With regard to your request that immemorial privileges described in the paragraph of the address to which I alluded, should be extended to you, I wish to point out to you that the old village forests, that is forests composed of waste lands and jungle in the plains, yielding fuel, fodder and small timber, and left to the management of village communities, were abolished long ago by the Government, who were of opinion that there could be little doubt that without constant supervision, lands assigned for this purpose would be worked unfairly and would be rapidly denuded of all tree growth; that to preserve forests and prevent disputes, discontent and injustice it was desirable to have the sources of fuel and fodder supply under control. It was in accordance with this principle that the whole terai and every jungle land which were formerly opened for free grazing, &c., were notified for reservation, and the area for the exercise of communal privileges was consequently diminished; but, however, in this district I may assure you that care is taken, that every scope is afforded for the extension of cultivation, and also for the enjoyment of customary privileges of villagers, so far as may be consistent with the policy enunciated by the Government, and which I have just quoted. I learn that in the Kurnool district the total area of which is 8,070 square miles, there

are under reserve, lands for the ^{or}excise of the privilege of free grazing extending over 1,917 square miles.

MUNICIPAL FINANCES.

In the next portion of your address you draw attention, as did the Municipal Council of Kurnool, to the limited means at the disposal of your representative body here. I know well that your means are not large, and that a large proportion of them is taken up in maintaining your water-works; but although this may be the case, I am afraid it will be useless for me to hold out any hope that the Government would be able to come to your assistance by an exceptional grant. The bestowal of such a concession would be a most inconvenient precedent. We should have many other poor municipalities making a like claim, and it will then become such a burden on provincial funds, that it will be impossible to be borne. I may add, also, that while the Municipality of Kurnool may at the present time, and indeed generally, be rather short of funds, that the same condition applies to the Provincial Government at this moment. We are in very straitened circumstances I assure you, and many necessary and desirable works, which we have been contemplating for a long time past, have had to be suspended for the present.

FEMALE EDUCATION IN KURNOOL.

With regard to the desire you express, that a secular institution should be established for the

education of caste Hindu girls, I may tell you that the Government have a strong desire to promote, as far as possible, the education of the women of this country. I will cause the particular request you make here, to be brought to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction; but I warn you that it is probable that for want of available funds, the Director of Public Instruction may say that it is difficult, or impossible, at present to consider the proposal.

MR. MAHOMED RAZA KHAN.

I listened with pleasure to your expression of rejoicing at the appointment of your present Collector. I can assure you that it has been one of the most agreeable and satisfactory official acts that I have performed since I entered upon the Government of Madras, to promote your Collector to his present high rank in the service.

I now come to the last paragraph of your address, in which you express in very kindly terms the best possible wishes for the health and prosperity of myself and of my family. I beg to thank you, gentlemen, for these good wishes.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MUHAMMADAN ASSOCIATION, KURNOOL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Muhammadan Association, Kurnool, most respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency

to express our heart-felt gratitude for honouring this ancient town with your gracious presence, and we consider ourselves very fortunate in seeing Your Excellency amidst us, just at this juncture, when scarcely recovering from the effects of the late famine, we have to face another adversary, the plague, more formidable than famine if it should unfortunately overtake our town, for keeping of which most energetic measures have already been organized and set in motion.

2. Your Excellency's sympathetic administration and acts of generosity and munificence, unique in their extent and character, have saved the life and honour of many a respectable but poor family from starvation and death during the late famine, and we, Your Excellency's Muhammadan subjects in the district, and our gosha ladies, whose purdah system was preserved by affording relief to them, wherever they wanted it, at their own doors, in grateful acknowledgment of Your Excellency's benevolent rule and very sympathetic administration, offer our earnest prayers to the great Ruler of the Universe to bestow his choicest blessings on our beloved Sovereign Mother, the Queen-Empress of India, on Your Excellency her worthy representative and on your noble partner Lady Havelock and family.

3. The paternal care which was taken by Your Excellency's benign Government to protect the poor from famine, fills us with confidence that the same care will be shown to keep us from the clutches of plague and Your Excellency's present tour through

the infected parts of the Presidency, at great personal risk and discomfort, furnishes us with abundant proof of Your Excellency's solicitude for the welfare of Your Excellency's humble and loyal subjects.

4. Your Excellency is aware that this town is one of the earliest Muhammadan colonies, and contains amongst its population a larger proportion of Muhammadans than any mofussil town in Southern India. It contains many ancient and respectable Patan, Syed and other families, who though once great have now become so impoverished, as not to be able to maintain their members and to educate their children. To ameliorate the condition of such of the families as were in need of immediate help, a late Treasury Deputy Collector and a co-religionist of ours, Syed Ali Sahib, Khan Sahib, started, though under various difficulties, an association whose object and aim was to raise funds, by appealing to the more well-to-do and generous native public, Hindu and Muhammadan, and from the funds so raised to provide free boarding and education to the poor Muhammadan lads in the town. Though the association has already existed for about twelve years, yet it is struggling for its existence for want of sufficient encouragement from the quarters from which it was sought, but it is a great satisfaction to us, and we doubt not it will be a pleasure to Your Excellency to learn that all our Collectors from the time of Mr. E. C. Johnson to the present day have sympathized with us in the cause of our association and that, but for the moral

support nay pecuniary aid received from some of them, the association should have ceased to exist ere long.

Mr. Johnson who was the first to extend his liberality to this association, very kindly promised us that he would recommend our poor case to Government, and obtain a lump grant of Rs. 5,000 for our support, if we should be able to collect an equal sum by private subscriptions and donations. Though the assurance was reiterated by his successors, yet we regret we have not realized its effect owing to our inability to fulfil our condition. In spite of our energetic and unceasing efforts we have not been able to collect more than Rs. 3,700. This sum being too small to give free boarding and education as was originally intended, the association had to content itself with changing its plan, and substituting for its purpose the payment of only the school fees to a limited number of boys who were the poorest. One boy who was aided from its funds studied up to the Matriculation class, and after passing the preliminary examination for the Hospital Assistants' grade is now studying in the Medical College, Madras, on a monthly scholarship of Rs. 5 from the funds of this association. Others who were aided by the association gave up their studies, other means for their support having failed. We, therefore, most humbly beseech Your Excellency to grant us a donation of Rs. 4,000; so that this added to the sum collected may enable us to make an investment and raise a sufficient income in the shape of interest, to permit

us to render adequate help to a few, if not to as many as we should wish, of our poor helpless children, in order that they may prosecute their studies without interruption and equip themselves sufficiently well for public service or other callings in life.

5. Another matter which we most humbly beg to lay before Your Excellency, hoping it will receive Your Excellency's generous consideration and sympathetic response, is, that although there are about a dozen Muhammadans employed in this district in the various branches of the public service and especially in the Revenue Department, yet the field for their future advancement is very limited, on account of the disabilities imposed upon them by the order of Government, that Matriculates cannot appear for the Revenue Test, Higher, and Judicial Tests, both Higher and Lower. Though in consideration of the backwardness of the Ceded Districts in educational progress, the Government was so kind as to grant public servants of these districts the concession of appearing for these tests till 1895, yet very few among us have benefited by it. The period of concession was too short for many of us, who were prevented from availing ourselves of it, on account of pressure of official duties and other causes, which were beyond our control. We crave Your Excellency will grant us, the Muhammadan public servants, a further extension of the concession for a period of at least five years, and we feel confident that our prayer will receive Your Excellency's cordial assent.

6. In conclusion, we beg to tender our humblest thanks to Your Excellency for the great interest Your Excellency has always evinced for the advancement of our race, of which there is a ready example in the person of Rafi-ul-Mulk Bahadur, a leading member of our association and a lineal descendant of our royal family.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MUHAMMADAN ASSOCIATION OF KURNOOL,—I wish to express the satisfaction with which I find myself in this town of Kurnool, and to say that I consider an address from your association to be a very fitting mark of respect to be paid to me inasmuch as of the population of 24,000 in this town, your body amounts to over 12,000, being half the total population of Kurnool.

PLAGUE MEASURES.

I am glad to see the expression of confidence in the efforts of Government to save you from the clutches of possibly approaching plague. As you are aware, the Government have made every effort to suit their regulations to the prejudices and wishes of the people. I think this has been generally admitted, and we look to you Muhammadans who are educated, to use your proper influence with those of your own denomination to induce them to submit loyally and cheerfully to such regulations as the Government have found it necessary, after due consideration, and after consultation with your own representatives, to insist upon. I think it may be

fitting at the present moment to repeat a portion of the Government Order which has reference to the regulations as they now stand. It runs as follows :—“The Government desires to meet every reasonable wish of the people and to interfere as little as possible with their habits, feelings and prejudices. They will be permitted, and should be encouraged and aided, to erect their own hospitals and their own segregation huts, in sites shown to them, or selected by them and approved by the authorities. Friends, and relatives will be allowed to visit the patients, and if desired, to reside near them. They can have their own food and they can bring their own doctors. Every arrangement will be made to respect the privacy of women. No particular mode of treatment will be forced on any one, and women will, under no circumstances, be required to be examined by men.” Further we have published the following paragraph :—“It has been urged by some of the gentlemen consulted with regard to the plague regulations that there should be no compulsory removal to hospital as long as segregation of plague patients in isolated houses or sheds, or in such localities and with such precautions as might meet with the approval of the sanitary authorities. His Excellency the Governor in Council has given mature consideration to these views, and has arrived at the conclusion that, to a certain extent, it may be experimentally accepted.” I think the passages that I have read from Government orders are sufficient to prove to you that the Government has desired to be as gentle and a

conciliatory in this matter as possible ; and we expect in return that you will yield us ready assistance and obedience to such measures as we consider necessary, as the minimum for the protection of yourselves and of those around you.

SPECIAL CONCESSIONS.

You address me at some length on the subject of educational institutions for the benefit of those belonging to the Muhammadan faith in Kurnool. I am unable, at the present moment, to give you any definite answer with respect to your representatives in this matter. I will cause them to be placed before the Director of Public Instruction, and will take his opinion upon them. But I think I may at once say that, in our present financial position, I think it is probable that the Director of Public Instruction will report to me that it is impossible, at any rate, for some time to come to grant you the donation of Rs. 4,000 which you ask for. In the succeeding paragraph of your address you ask for a further extension of concessions that were granted to Muhammadans to appear for the Revenue Test, Higher, and Judicial Examination, both Higher and Lower. That is a matter on which it is impossible for me to give an answer, without consulting the head of the Educational Department. The Director of Public Instruction will be asked to advise, and you will receive an answer in due course.

I am glad to see the reference you make in the concluding paragraph of your address to the

appointment of Rafi-ul-Mulk, as a member of our service. It has been a great satisfaction to me to show my appreciation of this gentleman himself, and my sympathy with the past history and present condition of the great family to which he belongs. Gentlemen, I thank you once more for your address.

ADDRESS FROM THE MISSIONARIES OF THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION,
KURNOOL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union, on behalf of the Native Christians of our mission in the Kurnool district, most heartily welcome Your Excellency on this occasion of your visit to Kurnool. We, as the representatives of a great nation politically distinct, yet bound by the closest ties of race and language and social affinity, and drawn yet closer in brotherly union by the providential course of recent great national events, take the greatest pleasure on this occasion in expressing our loyalty to our Gracious Sovereign, the Queen-Empress of India, under whose benign reign we enjoy the fullest protection of life, the most impartial justice and the largest freedom.

2. The American Baptist Mission carries on its operations in three districts of this Presidency—Kurnool, Kistna and Nellore. Your Excellency saw something of our mission during your recent tour

through the Nellore district. The work of our society in this district began twenty-two years ago, with the opening of this Kurnool station. Six years after, a second station was opened at Cumbum, and three years ago a third station at Markapur. The work has been carried on under many difficulties, owing chiefly to the unhealthiness of the district, and many lives have been sacrificed to the cause. In spite of all obstacles, however, we have now three stations with three missionaries and their wives, 151 preachers, teachers, colporteurs and zenana workers and a membership of 8,000 Christians, representing a Native Christian community of not less than 20,000, increasing yearly at the rate of about 500. We have three Boarding schools—two of the Lower Secondary grade, one at Cumbum and one at Kurnool, and one of the Upper Primary grade, and 61 Village schools with 1,084 pupils. Our work is carried on for the most part among the poor and the out-caste, and our effort is, through the establishment of schools and the preaching of the Gospel and the organization into Christian communities for mutual helpfulness, to elevate this down-trodden class, materially, morally and spiritually.

3. As to the needs of our mission they are such as we trust will readily appeal to Your Excellency—

(1) *An Industrial School.*—Our work being, as stated above, very largely among the poor and destitute, one of the greatest problems that confronts us is the material elevation of these people. This must be done without, at the same time, pauperizing

them. There seems no better way to accomplish this than by the establishment of Industrial schools in which they shall be taught useful trades. We beg to request therefore that Government aid us in the establishment of such a school to be centrally located in our mission in which poor Christian boys may be taught useful trades.

(2) *Additional Aid from Provincial Funds for Village Primary and Municipal Lower Secondary Schools.*—It is through schools that we hope to raise our Christians into an intelligent and respectable community. They are fundamental to all our work. As to the village schools, local funds are at so low an ebb that the aid from that source is very small, and that from provincial funds is a bare pittance. As to our Lower Secondary school in the Kurnool municipality, no aid whatever is received from the municipality from lack of funds. We beg to request therefore that additional aid be given from provincial funds for our village schools and some grant for our Lower Secondary school in the Kurnool municipality.

(3) *Free Grants of Forest Reserve and Government Waste Lands to Pauchamas in preference to other applicants.*—There is no truer way in which we can help these depressed classes to independence and manhood, than by making them land-holders. To purchase the lands is out of the question. There must be free grants. There are now large tracts of forest reserve which seem to be of little value as forest, but which, if granted to these poor people,

would be an inestimable boon. As to waste lands, we acknowledge with deep gratitude the action of Government in making free grants of such lands on darkhast. But the good will of Government is very largely thwarted in the practical working of the rule. We have had some experience in the matter and we have found in almost every case where we have made application for such lands, some adjacent holder has put in a counter-application, thus diverting the lands from those who really need them.

(4) *Free Licenses to the poor for head-loads of firewood.*—Large numbers of our poor people live by getting head-loads of firewood from the forests and selling them in the bazaars. The license system works very great hardship for them. To pay the amount of the license is in itself a heavy burden on their slender resources, but—what is more serious—through ignorance of the many rules and inability to secure the license when desired, they experience great difficulties and often suffer much loss.

(5) *Change of market day in the villages to some other day than Sunday.*—In at least two villages in our district where we have Christians, Sunday has been appointed market day. This forms a great temptation to our people, as all buying and selling must be done on that day. If an order could be passed that Sunday should not be designated market day, it would be a great boon to the Christian community, without working hardship to any other class.

With all good wishes to Your Excellency and Lady Havelock.

ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION,—I thank you very heartily for your kind welcome to Kurnool, and I have listened with great pleasure to the allusion you have made in your address to the drawing together that has lately taken place between the two grand Anglo-Saxon nations. Not only in this part of India, but also in other parts that I have travelled through, where I have had the pleasure of meeting representatives of the American Mission, and many other parts of the world where I have served, the same high compliment to the justice and impartiality and the perfect freedom under which they live, while residing within British territories and colonies, has been repeated to me. I have heard with interest the short history you have given of the work of your mission in this part of India. The work which you had succeeded in accomplishing appears to me to merit the highest compliment and praise.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS.

I will next proceed to deal with the needs of your mission, to which you call my attention. First of all is the Industrial school. I may tell you that the general matter of establishing Industrial schools is now under the consideration of Government, and I am therefore unable to pronounce any positive decision in the matter. It will be necessary to await the consideration of the different and difficult aspects of the question which are still before us.

With regard to the additional aid from Provincial funds for Village Primary and Municipal Lower Secondary schools, I fear I can only give one answer to this, that is, there are no funds. It is an answer which I am sorry to say has to be given to almost every representation which is made to me just now. Wherever we turn, whether to the Provincial treasury, the Municipal treasury, or the Local Board treasury, it is the same story—we have no funds. I am afraid I can give no other answer on the present occasion.

AID TO PANCHAMAS.

You next ask for free grants of forest reserves and Government waste lands to Panchamas, in preference to other applicants. I may say that Government has for some time evinced practically their desire to raise the lower classes, but it is impossible to give them general preference. If particular lands be applied for, the application will, as it has been in many cases, be carefully considered on its own merits. I think I am right in saying that there have been three instances in which this mode of proceeding has been adopted. The first was in the case of the Pariahs of the Chingleput district; second in the case of the colonies of Pariahs proposed to be formed in Kistna district; and third in the application for a certain piece of waste land by a denominational clergyman for a Pariah settlement in the North Arcot district. In dealing generally with this matter of raising the condition of Pariahs,

the Government some time ago issued an order, from which I may, I think, not inappropriately quote : "Pariahs being usually without capital, it is not for the public advantage that they should hold more land than they can cultivate. To carry on agricultural operations properly, capital is an absolute necessity and unless land is well cultivated it had better not be cultivated at all. The Government will however be prepared to give such facilities as they can to Pariahs and non-mirasidars generally for obtaining land for cultivation, by making small allotments to them out of the areas which have been freed from preferential rights, by purchase on sale and for arrears of revenue, as are at the disposal of Government.

FREE LICENSES FOR FIREWOOD.

You say that some of your poor people make their living by selling firewood. I think it might be possibly fair to let them have free licenses if they wanted firewood for their own use, but if the firewood is wanted for the purpose of sale, I am of opinion that it would be hardly fair to give free licenses without the payment of the ordinary fee.

MARKET DAY IN VILLAGES.

With regard to the change of market day in the villages to some other day than Sunday, I am afraid that this is a matter in which it would be hardly fitting or proper for the Government to interfere, as a Government. We must, I think, leave it to the influence which the missionary body, and those who

have, very properly, a respect for the first day of the week, can bring to bear upon people among whom they work. I am afraid that the reply which I have given to your address is in very few particulars quite what you would wish. But I think it would be best to be perfectly frank and open with you, and not to raise hopes which are not likely to be fulfilled. I hope you will appreciate the candour which I have used, if you do not quite like the actual substance of the answer which I have been obliged to give. I thank you, gentlemen, for your kind welcome and for the excellent wishes which you express for the health and prosperity of myself and my family.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE NANDYAL READING-ROOM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with feelings of no little joy and gratification that we, the Members of the Nandyal Reading-room, on behalf of the inhabitants of Nandyal, beg to approach Your Excellency on the occasion of your visit to this ancient town, to accord a hearty welcome and to express our sentiments of love and loyalty to the august and Imperial Lady, whom Your Excellency so worthily represents.

This reading-room, of which we are members, was started in 1837, through the exertions of Mr. Venkatajaga Rao, the then Head Assistant Collector, out of the funds raised to commemorate the fifty

years' glorious reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Empress of India, and it is but fitting that we, the members of such an institution, should approach the illustrious representative of Her Majesty with an address of welcome. At present there are thirty-six members, including almost all the pleaders, schoolmasters and important Government officials of the place, and the District Munsif is our esteemed President.

We, on behalf of the people, beg leave to express our heart-felt gratitude to Your Excellency's Government for the successful operations made last year, when the unwelcome famine visited this district. The readiness with which famine relief works were started, wherever necessary, and the deep sympathy and anxiety bestowed upon the famine-stricken poor, are all proofs of the paternal care of Your Excellency's administration. That dreadful scourge of plague is not far from us, and we should say it is knocking at the door of our district and might come in at any time, but, considering the vigilant precautions that are now being taken by the District officers, we fondly hope that the disease might even be kept off from us. We need not say that the wisdom and foresight with which the plague rules have been framed, redound to Your Excellency's credit, and we respectfully request that, in case plague breaks out, the feelings of the people be respected in point of segregation.

This town has of late increased in population and advanced in traffic, and its connection with the

main line of the Southern Mahratta Railway and its central position in the district, have made it an important town, and we have to render our hearty thanks to Your Excellency for sanctioning this to be made a municipality, and we earnestly hope that, under Your Excellency's kind supervision, it will prove a blessing to the people.

It is well known that in point of health this district forms the worst part of this Presidency, and the many ills human flesh is heir to can be traced to the impurity of water. The water we obtain is scarce and dirty in summer and tasteless and unhealthy in the rainy season. Our humble prayer, therefore, is that Your Excellency be pleased to confer on us the blessing of a pure water-supply by making arrangements for the opening of water-works in this town, as Your Excellency has done in many other towns of this Presidency. There is a perennial spring called Mahanandi, about 10 miles off Nandyal, the water of which is sparklingly pure, and was formerly brought over to the Nandyal tank in a fine stream and used by the people for drinking and other purposes. It is said that people were then enjoying better health. That water might now be utilized again by bringing it over through the old channel, or by means of a pipe. If that be not found feasible, there is the Nandyal tank, built in the thirteenth century by Kolumalamma, a Chola Princess, and we crave permission to suggest that its water be purified and distributed by pipes into the town.

Though this district is considered very backward with regard to health, it is none the less so in point of education. The fact that this district has not produced any indigenous graduate, and that almost all the men that hold decent appointments in different walks of life, are taken from other districts, shows that the natives of the soil are either unable to appreciate the blessings of higher education, or too poor to educate themselves. In either case, we are of opinion that an Industrial school, where different Arts, such as carpentry and tailoring are taught, will go a great way, not only to minimise the disadvantages under which the poor labour in the race with their more favoured brethren, but lead the people to improve the material resources of the district. We, therefore, humbly request that Your Excellency be pleased to open such an institution in Nandyal, than which no better place can be selected in this district.

In conclusion, we fervently hope and pray that Your Excellency may be long spared to preside over the destinies of the people, and shine in the list of illustrious Statesmen who have contributed to the glory and splendour of Her Majesty's vast Empire over which the Sun never sets.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE NANDYAL READING ROOM,—You inform me in your address that there are included among your members, pleaders, schoolmasters and important Government officials of the place, and that

the District Munsif of the place is the President. You also inform me that you present this address as representing the people generally of Nandyal. I receive your address in that way, as representing the people of Nandyal, and in doing so I thank you for the gracious words with which you have welcomed me to your town, and I receive with satisfaction your well expressed sentiments of love and loyalty for our gracious sovereign.

FAMINE AND PLAGUE.

I observe with satisfaction your expression of gratitude for the efforts made by Government to assist you in the terrible difficulty which fell upon you from famine. It was in the Kurnool district that we had the largest number, proportionately speaking, of famine sufferers to relieve. Vast sums of public money were spent here, and I am glad to know from you that you feel proper gratitude to the Government which intervened in this period of terrible distress. I join with you in the hope that this new calamity, the plague, which is approaching, or, at any rate, is in sight, may be averted from this part of the country, but we must be prepared for the worst, and I hope that all the people here will support the Government in carrying out such measures of precaution as may be deemed necessary for keeping this terrible enemy at bay. You may rest assured that, as far as is possible, the Government will respect the prejudices and feelings of the people.

MUNICIPALITY FOR NANDYAL.

You mention that the town of Nandyal is increasing in prosperity and in population. Government became aware of that, and it was for that reason that it was proposed that you should enjoy the privilege of Municipal Government. I am somewhat surprised to receive from you your thanks for the grant of this privilege, because I am under the impression that there is, at the present moment, a petition from you asking that the gift of this advantage may be postponed. However, I have it not from yourselves that you desire to have municipal privileges and that you thank the Government for them. But, as a rule, I have found that in towns of this class, these privileges are not very highly appreciated. They are looked upon somewhat in the same way as a nasty dose of medicine is looked upon by a child. But it appears that in Nandyal you differ in this respect from other communities of the same kind. I am not able to say, however, at what precise time these municipal privileges will be publicly accorded to you, but at any rate, it will not be at the earliest before the 1st of next month; for this reason that the Divisional officer whom we intend to make Chairman of the Municipal Council has not yet attained the age of twenty-five, and it is necessary under the law that a Municipal Councillor should be at least twenty-five years of age. I am glad to be able to say that that difficulty will be removed in the course of the next few weeks, as

the Divisional officer's twenty-five years will be completed on the 9th November next.

WATER-SUPPLY FOR NANDYAL.

You devote a long paragraph in your address to the subject of water-supply for your town. I am sorry, but not surprised, to hear from you that you suffer from the disability of bad water. Your Collector informs me also that the water-supply is not as it should be. At present no scheme, as far as I know, has been investigated, that is to say, no estimate has been formed of the cost of a scheme for supplying you with water. It is therefore perhaps rather too soon to speak in a definite manner on the subject; but I am afraid that for financial reasons, unless water-supply can be provided at a very low cost, this work will have to be postponed for some time. You as a municipality will, on first starting, find yourselves to be somewhat cramped in the matter of funds and will not be able to carry out this important work at your own expense. You will expect Government, therefore, to come to your aid. I am sorry to be obliged to tell you that at this time, and probably for some time to come, Provincial finances are likely to be in such a condition as to preclude giving such aid as we may otherwise be inclined to bestow. There are many other towns of greater importance in the Madras Presidency very badly in need of water-supply. I am afraid there are several which will take their place before Nandyal. I may mention Tuticorin and

Negapatam, two large important trading towns in the south which are probably worse off in the matter of water-supply, even than Nandyal. They and several others will come on the list before you. I wish to speak thus plainly on the subject, because I fully sympathise with your proper wish to have a water-supply; but at the same time I desire to avoid raising any false hopes with regard to early assistance at the hands of Government.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Now, with regard to educational advantages, you observe that education is so backward in this district that nearly all those who hold appointments are taken from other districts; and you urge that an Industrial school should be established here. Now, although an Industrial school may be an excellent institution, and indeed I think it is, I do not quite see how the possession of an Industrial school will assist you to fit yourselves in such a manner as to enable you to claim the Government appointments to which you make reference. That is quite a different kind of education which is required to qualify for Government posts. With regard to industrial education, I may tell you that the whole matter is now under the consideration of Government, and as a general idea, we think of introducing industrial teaching into the whole system of education throughout the country. Beginning at the bottom, industrial education will pervade your primary teaching, and all the grades of teaching.

As one gets to the top, special Industrial schools of a more advanced kind will probably be started to meet the higher requirements; but the general idea of Government, is to give industrial teaching in some simple form, throughout the whole scope of our educational scheme.

It only remains for me now to thank you very sincerely for the kind wishes contained in the last paragraph of your address, and to reiterate the expression of my satisfaction at making the acquaintance of Nandyal, which is a place compared with others, rather remote from the head-quarters of Government, and therefore not very often visited by the Governor of the Presidency. I should like to say, that I value much the casket in which your address is enclosed. It is a specimen of Nandyal work, which I have always very much admired, and of which I hope to see some good samples before I leave the town to-day. It is a species of industry which I should be very sorry to see lost sight of and fall into decay.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BEZWADA MUNICIPALITY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Bezwada Municipality, beg to welcome with redoubled joy Your Excellency to our town, in times far less trying and more happily circumstanced, than those which occasioned the recent gubernatorial tour to these parts.

We are already impressed with the deep interest which Your Excellency's benign administration has been evincing in the improvement in every direction of the Presidency in general, and of thriving towns such as ours in particular, and the condescension within this interval, of a second visit to our town, affords us cause to congratulate us on the readiness of Your Excellency to listen to and assist the realization of the legitimate aspirations of this town in special.

Your Excellency has already placed us under deepest obligations by urging, with kind concern, on the speedy completion of the East Coast Railway, and we beg to cherish the pleasing hopes of seeing our town raised ere long to the enviable position of a grand junction station between the Metropolises of the three Presidencies.

While here we most humbly beg to request that the scheme of water-supply to this town, of which the plan and estimates are now before Your Excellency's Government, will soon receive Your Excellency's approval, and that the Government will, with its wonted liberality, be pleased to expedite the successful undertaking and completion of this all important project, by bearing one-half of the required cost, and thereby relieving our infant municipality from the crushing financial strain, which she will otherwise become subject to, in securing this long felt desideratum.

One more request and we will be done. We beg to pray that Your Excellency be pleased to

direct the removal of the spoil banks between the river and the main canal, which now shut out the salubrious and refreshing southern breezes from the interior of the town, as this will tend to improve the sanitary condition and promote the public health.

We cannot close this our humble representation without expressing our hearty thanks to Lady Havelock for her sympathetic efforts towards the elevation, intellectual and social, of the native female community, and our best regards to the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel and Mr. J. N. Atkinson for the continued interest they have been taking in the improvement of our town, and to Mr. R. Morris, our worthy and popular Collector.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF BEZWADA,—This is the second occasion, within less than a year, that I have had the honour of visiting your town and receiving from you a kind welcome. I repeat my thanks for the kind welcome which you give me to-day, as I did on the last time on which I met you. On that occasion, if you will remember, it was late in the evening, after sunset. I was consequently unable to form any impression of the outward appearance of Bezwada. This morning, I entered your town at day-light, and I must say I was much struck with its picturesque and attractive appearance. The magnificent river, the noble bridge and the splendid anicut, are in themselves monuments that would do honour to a place of far greater

importance than even Bezwada; and the two hills, forming as it were two gate posts on the side of the bridge, and the anicut are very striking objects. It looks as if they were placed purposely to make a good position for a gateway in between. I was also struck with the wide and open spaces which exist around the central part of your town. I am aware that when the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel, now one of my colleagues, was Collector here, he took a vast amount of interest in improving the sanitary condition of the town of Bezwada, and in doing what he did, that is to say, opening the town out and removing some of your crowded parcherries and giving you open spaces in which to build, with plenty of room for air and sun to penetrate, he bestowed upon you a very great boon. Buckinghampet, Wynchpet and Arundelpet were, I think, all of his creation. I think at the present moment we are within the suburb of Buckinghampet, a very pretty one indeed. Arundelpet, I am afraid, is not so fully taken up. I am informed that the drainage there is somewhat defective, but I have no doubt that this Municipal Council will, in due course, put things right, and we shall see Arundelpet covered with good streets and buildings. You will specially find the openness of the town, admitting, as I said just now, plenty of sun and plenty of air, a vast benefit to you, if it happens to be your misfortune to receive a visit from the plague. There are no two things which the plague shuns and dislikes more than plenty of air and plenty of sunshine.

You make allusion to the subject of the completion of the East Coast Railway. I think the consummation of that important work is probably not far off. On Wednesday next I start from Bezwada by the East Coast Railway straight through to Madras. There is a small portion of it which is still on the narrow gauge, at which I shall have to change. But, with the exception of that small portion between Nellore and Gudur, the whole wide gauge connection between Bezwada and Madras has been established, and I suppose before long it will be opened to the public; and then, as you say, this town of Bezwada will be a junction for the three capital cities of India, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. I hope that this distinguished position which Bezwada will then occupy, will bring to it a greater increase in prosperity than it has even at the present time.

WATER-SUPPLY.

You next refer to the subject of a scheme for water-supply. I think you mentioned this in the previous address, which I received from you in February last. I learn that an amended scheme is now under the consideration of the Sanitary Board. I am not in possession of facts as to the exact cost of the scheme, but I was told this morning, that it would roughly cost somewhere about two and-a-half lakhs. I mention these figures with all due reserve and caution. I am afraid from what I know of the

position of this municipality, that you will hardly be able to undertake this work at your own cost, and as you hint in your address you will be probably compelled to have recourse to an application to Government for assistance. I have no doubt the Government will be disposed in your case as in other cases, to aid generously, if it is shown to them that, you really have not the means to carry out the work at your own cost. But I am obliged to say that, for the present and in the immediate future, the Provincial Government is so hampered for want of funds, that I fear it may be impossible to respond to any request in this direction, that you may make. I say this with reference to the present year, and probably with reference to the next year. After that it is impossible to foresee. We may then I hope be in a position to render help to poor and struggling municipalities, as we have been able to do in the past.

THE REMOVAL OF SPOIL BANKS.

You mention also your desire that the spoil banks between the river and the main canal should be removed. I took the opportunity which driving through the town this morning, to ask the Collector to show me what the spoil banks specially referred to, were. They were pointed out to me, and I must say that I was not convinced that they are after all doing the town very much harm. At any rate I am afraid their removal will be more than we can afford. I am told it will cost sums estimated at

various amounts, but ranging between ten and forty thousand rupees. A work of this kind is not one in which the municipality could reasonably expect aid from Government. They must do it themselves and at their own cost. If the municipality think it worth while, of course, it is open to them to propose expenditure for the purpose. But for my own part, I should say—to use the translation of a French phrase—the game is not worth the candle.

CONCLUSION.

It will give me pleasure to make known to Lady Havelock the kind expressions which you use with regard to her interest in the improvement of the female community in Southern India. I am very pleased to hear the reference you make to the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel. I can tell you that he still takes a most affectionate interest in Bezwada and all that concerns it. He gave me a most interesting and detailed note before I left Ootacamund, calling my attention to the principal points of interest, and mentioning by name some of his old friends here. Mr. Atkinson, your former Collector, I know also did good work for you, and Mr. Morris, your present Collector, is, as you say, a worthy and popular Collector. I am sure you are perfectly right in using these terms in respect to him. I thank you for your kind welcome.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THE PALNAD,
NARASARAOPETA AND VINUKONDA TALUKS OF
THE KISTNA DISTRICT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the Palnad, Narasaraopeta and Vinukonda taluks of the Kistna district, most humbly and loyally beg to approach Your Excellency with an expression of our wants, assured as we are, by our experience of Your Excellency's beneficent administration, that our humble representations will receive the kindest consideration at Your Excellency's hands.

2. The tract of country, which, we inhabit, is the most backward part of the district. It possesses no large systems of irrigation; its soil is poor and so are its people. In fact, it is very much like the Ceded Districts, which it adjoins. It is consequently the foremost part of the district to be affected by famine. In the great famine of 1877-78, hundreds of families emigrated from the country never to return. We suffered also from the famine of 1891-92. The season has been far from good with us for the last two years, and that we have not had another famine is due entirely to the Southern Mahratta Railway, which daily brings in wagons after wagons of grains from other districts, and it is these imported grains that have kept the people alive all this time. The Palnad taluk does not, however, fully share in the advantages resulting from this railway. It lies to the extreme west of the district, and is, as Your Excellency will see from the map, cut off, as it were

from the rest of the country, on the north and west by the river Kistna, which is unfordable during a portion of the year and on the south and east by the Eastern Ghauts. There are, comparatively, few roads in the taluk, and the black cotton soil of the country renders it difficult to keep them in a good condition. Locomotion in this taluk is, therefore, a matter of great difficulty. The nearest railway station is forty miles from the taluk head-quarters.

3. In 1897, we submitted a memorial, praying for a railway from Narasaraopeta to Pondugal, to join a line which we then thought that His Highness the Nizam's Government contemplated laying out from Hyderabad. Our prayer was strongly recommended by the then Collector of the district, Mr. J. N. Atkinson, and also by the Board of Revenue. In reply, we were informed that His Highness the Nizam's Government did not then contemplate the construction of the line referred to, and that the Narasaraopeta-Pondugal line should be regarded as a district line, and stand on its own merits. We have since learnt, with pleasure, that Your Excellency's Government has been pleased to recognize this line as one of the six lines that should be constructed in this Presidency, as famine protection works, and we pray that it may be constructed as early as practicable.

Although this railway should, perhaps, be recognized as a famine line primarily, we are not without hopes that it will bring in a decent return for the outlay spent on it. Nearly half the cotton grown

in the district (and this is not small) is grown in the Palnad taluk, and it is all exported. There are more forests in this taluk than in any other in the district and they are the chief source of timber supply to most other taluks. The taluk possesses iron, lead and diamond mines, the working of which will be facilitated by the introduction of the railway. The taluk also abounds in marbles, such as those used in the construction of those superb Buddhist Chaityâs which have been unearthed at Amarâvati, Jaggayyapeta and other places in this district, and we are sanguine that, with the advent of the railway, a large trade in all these things will spring up. Again, the Palnad depends upon the rest of the district, for rice, salt, oils and other necessities of life, including dry grains in times of scarcity. We believe statistics have been collected showing the extent of trade in the Palnad, and that the figures are encouraging.

Next in order, though not in importance, to the railway, we humbly beg to invite Your Excellency's kind attention to the necessity and feasibility of certain irrigation works. Our country is not without sources of water-supply which, if conserved, will irrigate large areas. Some of these projects engaged the earnest attention of the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel, when he was our Collector, and some have, through his exertions, become accomplished facts. His name will ever be remembered with feelings of gratitude for these and other ways in which he advanced the interests of the people of

this district. The most important projects which he conceived are (1) the Naikuralukanama tank project in the Palnad, (2) Gundlakamma anicut project in the Vinukonda, and the (3) Ogeru anicut project in the Narasaraopeta taluks. The pass called Naikuralukanama which lies between the Palnad and Vinukonda taluks, contains a ruined tank which, if put in order, is estimated to irrigate more than 14,000 acres of land which is either waste or under dry cultivation now. We believe the scheme is considered feasible by the Public Works Department. The Gundlakamma is a large stream which flows through the Vinukonda taluk. If an anicut is thrown across this stream in the neighbourhood of Neelagangavaram or some other more convenient place, and the water collected in a reservoir, we imagine that several thousands of acres of land in the Vinukonda taluk will be irrigated. The Ogeru is a large stream in the Narasaraopeta taluk and its waters can be made to irrigate a large extent of land by being conserved. We learn that the scheme of building an anicut across this stream near Purushottapatnam is being investigated by the Public Works Department. We pray that all these works may be ordered to be taken in hand as early as practicable.

In conclusion, we beg to assure Your Excellency that we shall cherish a very pleasant recollection of Your Excellency's visit to this district, and pray that the Almighty may shower His choicest blessings upon Your Excellency and Lady Havelock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVE INHABITANTS OF PALNAD, NARASARAOPETA AND VINUKONDA TALUKS OF KISTNA DISTRICT,—
I am gratified at the frank way in which you approach me and the plain terms in which you have expressed your wants and desires. The graphic description which you give of your part of the district, interests me very much, and on inquiry I find that it is, on the whole, very accurate.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Your first request is with regard to the railway from Narasaraopeta to Pondugal. You proceed to give a history of the various stages through which the negotiations for the construction of this have passed. You are right in saying that this line is selected as a famine protective work, and I hope that a survey of it may be begun shortly ; but I must make you understand that this does not depend entirely, or very little, upon the action of the Madras Government. All matters connected with railway extension are regulated by the Viceroy in Council. There is a special Conference, a Railway Conference, held at Simla every August or September, which decides the programme for the ensuing year. I have not yet been put in possession of what was decided at the last Conference, and therefore I am unable to say whether this particular line of railway was sanctioned, or whether any orders were given for carrying out the survey necessary for it.

THREE IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

You then dwell on the desirability of three irrigation works; first the Naikuralukanama project in Palnad, secondly the Gundlakamma project in Vinukonda, and thirdly the Ogeru tank project in Narasaraopeta taluk. With regard to the first of these, it has been under consideration for some time. I believe the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel is interested in it, and I wish to say that it has been sanctioned as a project to be investigated, but no estimates have been passed. With regard to the other two projects, they are under the consideration of Captain Ellis, the Executive Engineer. He is investigating these and other projects in the upland division, and I believe he is of opinion that it is not reasonable to expect that much benefit would be got from any one of these; the expense would be great, the returns small; the rainfall and catchment area insufficient for any considerable irrigation work. Captain Ellis is speaking now on his several observations. We cannot give any decided opinion on the works until investigations have been completed. I don't mind saying that when these schemes and their estimates come before us, we will look at them in a generous spirit, as I feel sure—I am only repeating what I said on many previous occasions—that irrigation works are a very important factor, perhaps the most important factor in warding off famine from the inhabitants of this country. If, therefore, these works can be shown to be feasible and can be carried out for a reasonable sum of

money, with a fair return—I don't expect to get much return—I for myself would be glad to look at them with considerable favour. I think I have now answered the only two points in your address, and I beg you to accept my thanks for the good wishes which you express in the last paragraph of your address.

ADDRESS FROM THE PROFESSORS, ETC., OF THE
NOBLE COLLEGE, MASULIPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Professors, Masters, and Students of the Noble College, would desire to express our hearty appreciation of the honour of Your Excellency's visit, and our pleasure at welcoming one, who has always shown so deep an interest in the schools and colleges of the Presidency.

The ancient fame of Masulipatam depended on her manufactures: her modern fame rests upon her educational resources. We feel therefore that, as representatives of the leading educational institution of the town and district, we may with propriety address Your Excellency, and bring to your notice a few points of interest in connection with our College.

We would remind Your Excellency that Robert Noble, the founder of this college, who began his school with two pupils on November 21st, 1843, and died at his post on November 1st, 1865, without once returning home, bears a name honoured by the supporters of Christian missions throughout the world,

so that Masulipatam is known as the sphere of Noble's labours, to hundreds who have heard of it in no other connection. Since his days, the college has had an honourable career of usefulness, and has turned out many men who have served the State with distinction in these parts.

Among our academic successes, we have had the honour of numbering the first Master of Arts of the Madras University, V. Sundararamayya Garu, who was a student of the college in 1864-65; and last year Miss K. Krishnamma, now Mrs. S. Sathianadhan, who took her B.A. degree from this college as the first native lady graduate of the Madras University.

Physical education has always been given a prominent place in our system, and we have, for many years, had inter-scholastic sports, widely supported both by the European and Native gentry of the town. But for before any intellectual or physical merits which our system of education can claim, we put the moral and religious training imparted to our students. It was on this ground that the college won its renown in days of yore, and it is to this we look to-day as our distinguishing characteristic.

Our numbers have increased to over 900 boys in all departments, of whom some 70 are college students, and over 150 are Muhammadans, to whom free education is largely imparted.

As a large proportion of our students come in from the neighbouring villages and towns we feel acutely the need of more certain and rapid

communication with the outer world. The canals are closed at the most critical time of the year, when large numbers of our students are returning to their homes. We feel deeply impressed with this fact, that unless greater facilities of communication are afforded to this town, its days as a great centre of education are numbered, as students will necessarily select more easily accessible centres. Moreover, we feel the need of being in closer touch with Madras, the head-quarters of the University, and the centre of the intellectual life of the Presidency. The hope expressed by Sir Charles Trevelyan, an honored predecessor of Your Excellency, long years ago, that Masulipatam through the influence of the Noble College might become to the Northern Circars, what Oxford and Cambridge were to England, is doomed to final extinction unless the town is connected more effectually with the living centre of the Presidency.

We are emboldened to urge this matter upon the attention of Your Excellency, because the C.M.S. and Rugby school during the last fifty-five years have spent many lakhs of rupees upon the great work of giving the highest Christian education to the youth of these parts, and they may well look for the co-operation and encouragement of the State in their disinterested efforts for the welfare of the people.

In conclusion, we beg to be allowed once again to express the pleasure it gives us to welcome Your Excellency within these walls, and the hope that the same blessing and success which have hitherto attended your administration may continue to attend it to the end.

ADDRESS FROM THE COMMITTEE, SUBSCRIBERS,
AND STUDENTS OF THE BRAHMIN HOSTEL OF
THE NOBLE COLLEGE, MASULIPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the committee, subscribers, and students of the Brahmin Hostel of the Noble College, desire to welcome Your Excellency on this occasion of your visit to our town, and to express the gratitude we feel for the kindly interest which has prompted you to give a portion of your valuable time to the opening of this institution.

On the great value of well-managed hostels as means of improving the moral tone, the discipline, and the physical comfort of students we need hardly dwell, but would remind Your Excellency of the strong pronouncement in favour of this system by the Madras University within the last few weeks. We have for many years had a hostel for Christian students of the Noble College, but the large proportion of Brahmin students in the College and High School Departments, amounting to over 65 per cent. of our total numbers, and the large number of this class again, amounting to some 65 per cent. who come from the neighbouring villages and towns of the district, and have to be accommodated in hotels and lodging houses, where the arrangements are often inconvenient and the food indifferent, led the college authorities years ago to endeavour to open a hostel in connection with the college. The year 1893, being the jubilee of the foundation of the college, was celebrated by raising the institution to the

first grade, and collecting funds in India and England for opening a Brahmin Hostel and founding scholarships. A sum of over Rs. 10,000 was raised for this purpose, of which Rs. 5,000 were devoted to the hostel. It was decided, if possible, to secure a suitable building near the college, and this house coming into the market was purchased in March 1895 for a sum of Rs. 2,250. After its purchase one occupant refused to give up possession, alleging some irregularity in the sale, and it was not until October 1897 that a judgment was given in our favour, and not till April of this year that we obtained actual possession of the property. The repairs have necessitated an expenditure of over Rs. 1,000 and law expenses, which we hope soon to recover, a further Rs. 400.

We have now 23 Brahmin students boarding in the hostel, and some 20 more who take their mid-day meal there. This latter provision is no small boon in a town where the distances are so great, and where many boys are unable to return home in the mid-day recess.

We are hoping to raise funds sufficient to build a house for a resident master, that the discipline and moral tone of the students may be more effectually cared for than by the present system of self-government under external supervision.

The size of the property acquired and the convenience of the situation with reference to the college, lead us to hope that in years to come we

may be able to open similar hostels here for other classes of the community.

This is an aspiration which must depend for its fulfilment upon the growth of the student population of the town, and that again we cannot but feel will depend largely upon whether this town is made accessible to the outside world, by surer and readier means of communication.

Again thanking Your Excellency for so kindly coming amongst us we request you to publicly declare the hostel open.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRINCIPAL, PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS OF THE NOBLE COLLEGE,—I feel greatly honoured by the welcome which you have accorded to me. To everybody in any way acquainted with the educational institutions of Southern India, the Noble College is necessarily well known as being a monument of the educational energy and of the christianising zeal of the great missionary society. But I think there are comparatively few who understand the association of the name of Noble with the College. I must confess myself that my ideas on the subject were somewhat vague. I have therefore been much interested to learn by the address which has just been presented to me, that the Noble College perpetuates the memory of its founder in the name which it bears.

VALUE OF CONTINUITY.

The short history of the work of your founder which has just been given, has one particularly

strong point in it, and that was the persistent continuity of the founder's work. It appears that he began here with two pupils in November 1843 and that he died at his post in November 1865, twenty-two years after, and during that long space of time, he did not leave his work.

This continuity of work is of immense value, and, speaking from my own administrative work, I feel very much the misfortunes that arise from the reverse. Everybody who has been connected with my branch of work, knows that the loss that is sustained by a want of continuity, by leave on urgent private affairs, is one of the greatest banes of good administrative work, and is one we have to face continually. If continuous work of this kind can be given, I think the result must be far more satisfactory. One head, one eye, one hand,—it being assumed it is a good head, a good eye, a good hand,—must produce far more valuable work at the end of a given period than half a dozen heads, eyes and hands. If we can only put aside the little worries and troubles that necessitate, or, as we think necessitate, change of air and scene and visits to one's native country, I feel certain that our work would be more successful in its results.

The academic successes obtained by the Noble College have, as shown in the address, given two very remarkable examples: the first was the honour of numbering among its pupils the first Master of Arts of the Madras University, and second Miss K. Krishnama (now Mrs. Sathianadhan) who took her

B.A. degree last year. I remember that it was with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction that I myself handed the diploma of her degree to this lady.

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

You draw attention to the great need that there is far improved communication between Masulipatam and the outer world. In a number of addresses which it will be my pleasure and duty to receive during the course of the day, I do not think there is one in which this matter does not form a subject. I can see that the people of Masulipatam feel keenly their isolation and importance as communication with the outer world is to them, it is not surprising that they should. I wish it were in my power to give you more positive assurances of early relief in this respect. I can only tell you, as I shall have to tell the rest who are to address me on the subject, that the Government of Madras has for some time been convinced of the great importance of railway communication between Masulipatam and Bezwada; and I may add that we have pressed our views persistently on the Government of India, and it rests with that Government to decide what particular lines of railway shall be undertaken. As you doubtless know, it is the Government of India which is responsible for the financing of works of that description. Our reply has hitherto been that it will come some day, but that we must wait. All I can undertake to do therefore is to keep persistently and perseveringly before the Government of India the

wishes of my Government that this work should be undertaken.

STUDENTS' HOSTELS.

Under the circumstances described in your address, I can well understand the great importance of the establishment of hostels for those students of the college who either live at a distance in the town, or who have their homes in some remote locality and who have in consequence to find for themselves board and lodging in the town, in order to enable them to attend college. In the case of this latter class of students, it seems to me evident that the establishment of hostels is of primary importance, I may say indispensable, to a complete and perfect system of education, for without them it will be impossible to give that training in character and conduct which form such a vital part of a perfect system of education. One can well understand that the teaching that has been obtained within the walls of the college suffers, or is liable to suffer, serious deterioration when the students leave the influence of the college and fall under those which may probably surround them in the lodging houses and hotels to which they are obliged to have recourse, for want of boarding and lodging accommodation on the premises of the college itself. It is therefore with peculiar satisfaction that I shall undertake the duty of declaring this hostel, intended for Brahmin pupils, to be opened for their reception. I gather, however, from your address, that it has already been in operation for some little time, there being already 23

Brahmin boarding pupils and some 20 more who take their mid-day meal there. This is an excellent beginning and I can only join in the hope, which the governing body of the college express, that they may be able to extend this very useful, I may say this indispensable, form of organisation to a far greater extent than they have been able to do up to the present time.

Gentlemen, I thank you once more for your kind welcome, and I wish to express the pleasure and satisfaction with which I make the acquaintance of the Noble College of Masulipatam.

ADDRESS FROM THE MANAGER AND MASTERS OF THE CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY NORMAL SCHOOL, MASULIPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Manager and masters of the Church Mission Society Normal School, Masulipatam, approach Your Excellency with feelings of unmixed pleasure at the honour you have done us in coming to this our town and neighbourhood, and especially in condescending to visit our school and to lay this memorial stone.

We indeed feel ourselves highly honoured, and this day will be reckoned as a red-letter day in the annals of this town; for it is the first time for the last fifteen years that we have had the pleasure of welcoming in our midst a Governor of this Presidency. We rejoice the more to-day knowing, as we do, your hearty sympathy in all matters pertaining to the

welfare of the people, and the personal care and scrutiny which you exercise over every department of work which is under your control. We, therefore, beg to tender you our loyal respect and our cordial welcome on the occasion of your visit to this town, and of your presence here this afternoon.

The town of Masulipatam has for many years past stood high in the presidency as a great educational centre, and though the word Ichabod might be written over it as regards its former commercial and military renown, yet in the matter of education and in the proportion of school-going children to the population, it maintains the high traditions of the past and yields to no other town in the presidency.

The school in which you have deigned to lay this memorial stone is, in some respects, a new departure in the educational work of this town. It is an effort on the part of the Church Mission Society to raise the social status and ameliorate the condition of the Panchama or lower classes. It is to be a sort of secondary school, the object of which is to impart to Native Christian boys an education supplementary to, and higher than, that which is afforded in the District Board schools.

From these youths a selection will be made of those who are deemed best fitted to become spiritual agents and to engage in Mission work, while any pupils who show particular ability will have an opportunity of going on to the Noble Collego, and thus prosecuting their studies in the higher branches of learning. The school building is to be located in

the town, but the special object of these new buildings is to provide dormitories for boarders, and a hall for prayer, preparation of lessons, Sunday classes, &c., for the boys of the Central Boarding school, and the normal students, with two smaller class rooms for divinity students.

The buildings are intended to accommodate 20 Normal students and 50 boys of the Central Boarding school. They will be capable of extension at any time in the simplest possible manner, by a mere continuation of the length of either building. These two buildings are being erected at an estimated cost of Rs. 14,600, of which sum the Church Mission Society has provided only Rs. 12,500.

In the *Fort St. George Gazette* of August 23rd of this year, in the code of rules relating to the allotment of grants-in-aid to schools as revised up to date, it is stated that "grants not exceeding one-third of the total cost may be given towards the erection or enlargement, or purchase of schools buildings, and hostels or boarding houses for students attached to educational institutions;" but, later on in the same section, it states that "grants shall not be given for a building regarding which the sanctioning authority has not been consulted and for which aid has not been promised previous to its erection, enlargement or purchase." As this new regulation only appeared in the end of August last and these buildings were commenced in March, it seems hard that we should miss this help when it has been impossible for us to fulfil the conditions.

We trust Your Excellency will encourage us to hope that we shall receive a grant for this excellent object, and thus give us a practical proof of your sympathy in the noble cause of the elevation of the lower classes.

The establishment of a Central Boarding School and the erection of buildings such as these has been under consideration of the Church Mission Society for the last twelve years or more, but owing to want of funds and other causes it has been delayed. Now at length, deferred hopes bid fair to be realized, and the central boarding school scheme to become an accomplished fact.

And I may say that the commencement of the building in this year has been most opportune, for it has been a real famine relief work, giving work and maintenance to many poor persons who have been suffering privation in these hard times.

In conclusion, we beg once again to thank Your Excellency for the interest you have shown in coming here to-day and in laying this memorial stone; and we shall, as in duty bound, ever pray for Your Excellency's welfare and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in accepting the invitation of the Managers and Masters of the Church Mission Society Normal school of Masulipatam to undertake the task of laying the foundation stone of their new boarding house. I understand that the object of this school is to pro-

vide educational advantages for the Panchama or lower classes of the society. It fulfils a most useful work to which other institutions can hardly be expected in full measure to give effect. I understand that the course which is followed here will eventually in the case of promising lads, lead up to an entrance into the Noble College, where the higher degrees of education will be imparted and better qualifications obtained. This special building is intended to accommodate 20 normal students and 50 boys of the central boarding school and they are to be planned so as to be capable of being extended at any time.

An allusion is made in the address which has just been read, to a new regulation which appears to have been introduced into the Educational Code during the last few weeks. It is represented that it would be hard on this institution to make this rule retrospective. Speaking for myself, and I can only speak for myself in the present instance, I am inclined to agree with what is said, that a rule of that kind can hardly be made applicable to this particular case, as this building was, we are informed, commenced several months before the rule in question was promulgated. The matter will have to be considered in the usual way by the head of the Educational department. As far as I am personally concerned, the desire of the Managers to obtain the building grant will meet with sympathy. I am unable, however, in fact it will be wrong on my part to commit myself without knowing all the facts of the case,

and the views of the head of the department, to any positive promise. You must remember that in all official matters, one has to be extremely guarded in the promises that one has to make and the expressions that one uses. I beg, in conclusion, to express my warm sympathy with the object of this school and more especially with the purpose for which the building, the foundation stone of which I have great pleasure in laying, is intended. The accommodation in boarding houses of boys attending all educational institutions is, as I have already remarked in the Noble College, an indispensable factor in any educational programme. The good that the boys get during the day's teaching, is so apt to be lost or damaged when they leave the school, and it is therefore with the object of securing that training in character and conduct which is of the very first importance, that they should, if possible, be boarded in the educational establishments to which they belong in order that they may have that supervision and assistance which is so very helpful. I will conclude my remarks by wishing great and increasing success to this important branch institution of the great Church Mission Society's establishment of Masulipatam.

ADDRESS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF
THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE HINDU
HIGH AND BRANCH SCHOOLS, MASULIPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the President and members of the Managing Committee of the

Hindu High and Branch schools, Masulipatam, beg leave to offer a most loyal and cordial welcome to Your Excellency on this occasion. We deem it a great honour and a proud privilege to receive in our school the august representative in the Southern Presidency of Her Gracious Majesty who, with maternal solicitude, has granted us, amidst other blessings too numerous to be told, the priceless boon of liberal education. Your Excellency's noble and generous sympathies with the claims and aspirations of the educated natives of this country, and your free and ungrudging recognition of merit wherever found, have filled the hearts of the intelligent classes with the deepest sentiments of gratitude; and we shall always remember with the most grateful feelings the kindness and condescension with which Your Excellency has been pleased, amidst a variety of engagements, to accept our invitation to visit this institution.

On an occasion like this, we dare not trouble Your Excellency with details respecting the institutions which we have the honour to represent, but we think it will interest Your Excellency to know that our High school, which is one of the largest and oldest institutions of its kind in these parts, was founded so far back as 1856 by the Hon'ble A. Seshiah Sastriar, c.s.i., of Kumbakonam, who was then and for many years connected with the Revenue Department of this district; that it commands the entire confidence of the loyal people of this district, who have founded in connection with it

four scholarships of the annual aggregate value of Rs. 200, two on the occasion of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales' visit to India, and two in commemoration of Her Benign Majesty's Jubilee in 1887; that the institution has had an almost uniformly successful career; that its discipline and efficiency have ever made a favourable impression upon successive Directors of Public Instruction and inspecting officers; and that it has always taken a keen and active interest in physical training, for which ample provision has been made by this committee.

We crave once again to offer Your Excellency a most hearty welcome.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE HINDU HIGH AND BRANCH SCHOOLS OF MASULIPATAM,—It was, I assure you, with sincere pleasure that I accepted your invitation to visit your school, and it has given me great satisfaction to have passed, as I drove up to the school building, the number of boys assembled outside with their bright faces and intelligent appearances. Even if there had been no other reason for my taking an interest in this school, it would have been sufficient for me that it was founded by my friend, Mr. A. Seshiah Sastri, whose acquaintance I had great pleasure in making a few weeks ago in his own house at Kumbakonam. I sat at Mr. Seshiah Sastri's feet for more than an hour, obtaining from him most useful infor-

mation with regard to the social, political and all other matters connected with Southern India, and I should have been glad, if time had allowed, to have sat considerably longer. It is evident from the statement that you make in the address which has been read, that the work of this school is very much appreciated in Masulipatam and in its neighbourhood. I am glad to see from what you tell me that the Director of Public Instruction and the inspecting officers have ever been able to pronounce a high opinion of the work done here. I only repeat, in conclusion, that it gives me great satisfaction to have made your acquaintance, and I express the hope that the good work you have been doing will be continued in usefulness and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE OF MASULIPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the citizens of this town, beg to accord to Your Excellency a most hearty welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's arrival in our midst. It is always our duty to receive the representative of our Sovereign with genuine feelings of loyalty, and when we remember how sympathetic and beneficent your administration has been during the past two and a half years—a period in which the Government has had to combat, on the one hand, a dire and widespread famine, and, on the other, a dreadful pestilence at our

very doors—these natural feelings of loyalty have deepened into personal love and reverence.

It is not our purpose here to expatiate either on the benefits your Government has in the past conferred upon us, and the hope it has raised in us of the continuance of a wise, statesmanlike and sympathetic administration during the period that yet remains of your régime, or on the wants and grievances which people have felt and must always feel, even under the best of rulers. These things, we trust, will be dwelt upon, in detail by other representative bodies who will approach Your Excellency with similar addresses on this occasion. We feel, however, we cannot conclude this our brief address without at least a passing reference to the pressing necessity of a railway to connect us with the system of railways which lies within forty miles of us, in the absence of which we find ourselves cut off from the outer world. We beg leave once more to offer Your Excellency a most cordial welcome, and to fervently express our hope that Your Excellency and Lady Havlock, whose absence on this occasion we sincerely regret, may enjoy long life and continued prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE,—I beg you to accept my sincere acknowledgments for the kind welcome which you have given me to your interesting town, and to believe in the appreciation which I feel of the efforts—the successful efforts—you have made to show your

loyalty and regard for me personally, and still more as representative in this presidency of our beloved Sovereign. You make allusion towards the conclusion of your address to the need you have for railway communication with the outer world. It is evident from your address and from those which are to follow it, and from conversations which I have had ever since I have been in this neighbourhood, that this railway communication is uppermost in your thoughts. I do not propose in answering this address to give any lengthy reply on this subject. I will reserve my reply for the address which will presently be presented by your municipal council. Thanks to the enterprise of the Madras Press, and much to my advantage and convenience, my replies to the addresses are very fully and accurately reported. You will, therefore, be able to read the reply that I give on the subject of railway extension to Masulipatam in the public newspapers. I hope therefore that you will excuse my not giving that reply in answering your address, as I wish to avoid trespassing on your time as much as I can. I beg once more to thank you for your kind and pleasant welcome and for the preparations that have been made all over the town in the way of triumphal arches, and in other ways of outwardly demonstrating the feelings of love and regard you have for me.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, MASULIPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council, Musulipatam, beg to accord to Your Excellency a most hearty and loyal welcome to this ancient and historical town. We feel a genuine and intense pleasure at this opportunity afforded to us of greeting Your Excellency. It was in 1883 that this city was honoured with the visit of the ruler of this province. After this lapse of fifteen years, we have particular reasons to congratulate ourselves now, specially as we know that it is your sympathetic solicitude for the welfare of your people that has brought you among our midst. Our joy on this occasion would have been greatly heightened, if it had been possible for Lady Havelock to have accompanied Your Excellency. Though we regret Her Ladyship's absence, we request permission to express that we welcome Your Excellency with great joy and pleasure.

2. Apart from Your Excellency's just and sympathetic administration which has won the lasting affection and gratitude of the people of this presidency, Your Excellency has a claim for our respect and devotion, in that Your Excellency worthily represents our gracious and beloved Sovereign. Her Gracious Majesty's reign has been one long period of peace, progress, and prosperity. Privileges and rights have been voluntarily conferred upon a helpless people, and that is the basis of our sincerest

loyalty and devotion to a sovereign, whose magnanimity and nobility of mind, have been the guiding forces of British rule in this country. As members of the council we assure Your Excellency that we and the people whom we represent value highly the grant in a measure of local self-government. We take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency this feeling that rests in our minds upon a sure and rational basis.

3. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to place before Your Excellency the most important of our wants, with the full confidence that they will be sympathetically enquired into, and that all that could be done would be done to satisfy our needs.

4. We first make mention of a railway that we desire to be opened, connecting Bezwada and Masulipatam. We are exceedingly thankful, that this district at least, if not the head-quarters of the district, has been connected with the net work of the railways in the Presidency. We anticipate great advantages by the opening of the line from Bezwada to Madras, in the way of developing the internal trade of this district and putting it in closer touch with the other parts of the province. But we most respectfully beg to submit that, to our regret, the crowning work of this system of communications—the connecting of Bezwada and Masulipatam—has not been done and does not even stand a chance of being effected in the near future. The delta between Bezwada and the sea, which is known as the

Eastern Delta, is a vast and cultivable tract of land. It so abounds in crops of paddy and other grains, that the whole area may be spoken of as one corn field. It is full of growing and populous villages all along, until it terminates with this town. The town itself has a population of nearly forty thousand. As a port, it has a sea-borne trade of an appreciable magnitude. Besides being the headquarters of one of the richest districts of the province and a place of historical interest, it is the nearest opening by sea available to the merchandise and manufactures of a large tract of country, which includes a part of the dominions of His Highness the Nizam. The estrangement of such a country and such a town appears to us to be unprecedented. We need hardly make mention of the effects of such a seclusion. We are left behind in the race of commercial progress. Internal communication is tardy and wearisome. And one other effect which we have already alluded to, is that we have fewer opportunities of meeting the ruler of our province and laying our representations before him. We are greatly obliged to Your Excellency's Government for having expressed itself favourably in this matter, and have now ventured to represent this subject to Your Excellency, trusting Your Excellency will be pleased to render us all help in Your Excellency's power.

5. *Secondly*, we beg to place before Your Excellency the defective supply of good drinking water to the people of this town. There is at present maintained a system of water works at an annual

cost of about Rs. 3,000 including contribution to the Government. They are, however, of a primitive and imperfect character. The water coming through the earthen pipes gets so adulterated in the loose and porous soil of this town, that it is rendered unwholesome. If it is allowed to be used for drinking purposes, it is only from sheer necessity and in the absence of any better supply. Even this supply of water fails for three months in the year in the hot season, when it is needed most. The health of the people of this town depends upon the supply of this all-essential element being based upon a sure and sound basis. Any scheme, however, for carrying out this measure will involve a large expenditure of between two and three lakhs of rupees, and the slender resources of this municipality cannot bear even any considerable proportion thereof. But the pressing need that we daily and hourly feel has emboldened us to approach Your Excellency with this representation, specially as we have observed the liberal attitude of Your Excellency towards questions of such paramount public interest and welfare.

6. In this connection we venture to make a suggestion. The contribution to Government that we have alluded to is nearly Rs. 1,400. This contribution was assessed in 1869 on the costs of the works done by the Government. If in view of the period for which this has been paid, and the fact that revenue is now derived for irrigation under the channel which supplies this town with water, it would be possible for the Government to remit this contribution for

the future, we would be able to keep the present works in a more satisfactory state.

7. We next venture to ask similarly for the helping hand of Your Excellency in providing this town with a sound and effective system of drainage. The want of such a system is a source of discomfort, and it is believed of disease to the inhabitants. The municipal council has just been able to carry out an imperfect scheme of drainage, together with temporary works erected here and there. But the vastness of the city, the scattered situation of the houses, and the smallness of the funds available, render it impossible to design and execute an adequate system of a permanent character.

8. Our municipal administration is beset with natural difficulties, the town being situated in the midst of an imperfectly drained swamp, and far from any place from which road and building materials could be had. It is besides a vast and straggling town. These difficulties have also been enhanced on account of the fall of income from the change in the schedule of rates relating to profession tax. But we beg leave to express to Your Excellency that we shall honestly endeavour to carry out the work entrusted to us to our best abilities. We take this opportunity of stating that our hope to efficiently discharge our duties is in a great measure based upon the sympathetic and kind help which we have always received and expect to receive in future from the energetic and noble-minded officer, who is now the Collector of our district,

9. In conclusion, we request to be allowed to express our best wishes for the long life and prosperity of Lady Havelock and Your Excellency. Expressing once more our pleasure in welcoming Your Excellency.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MASULIPATAM,—I have listened with deep pleasure to your kind words of welcome. Your address deals prominently with three important subjects: *first* railway communication with Bezvada, *secondly* water-supply, and *thirdly* drainage. I will take them in the order in which I have mentioned them.

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

You ably state the position of your town both with regard to its importance, and its disability in the matter of communication with the outer world. I may say that the importance to this part of the district of a railway connecting Bezvada with Masulipatam, is admitted by the Government. It might be possibly urged that with road and canal, the railway is superfluous. But my reply to this would not be a difficult one. The canal, I am credibly informed, is closed for three months in the year, and that during the very time when traffic is most busy. In the matter of roads, it may be answered that the condition of this district does not differ from those of other districts where roads exist, and yet railways have been deemed necessary.

I understand that the railway if constructed would not be parallel to the canal, but would be carried through a richly-irrigated and thickly-populated country likely to give much goods and passenger traffic. Whether a railway would improve or injure the prospects of the port of Masulipatam, is a question which can only be solved by actual experience. Now putting aside the special interests of this Kistna delta and of the Masulipatam town, the railway would be of great service in the event of famine in the tracts of Kurnool and Bellary, giving as it would facilities for transporting quickly the surplus rice from the delta to those tracts. I am now stating to the best of my ability your case for a railway, and I would add one other possible reason why a railway should be constructed, and that is this. If it be not finished within a reasonable time, it may be necessary, or it may be advisable to transfer the head-quarters of the district from Masulipatam to Bezwada, and this, as you can well understand, could not be carried out without a large expenditure of public money in the construction of the necessary buildings at Bezwada. With all these reasons and considerations before it, the Government of Madras has persistently pressed the Government of India to permit the line to be made by the Southern Mahratta Railway Company. The Government of India has given us to understand that the work will be carried out some day after the East Coast Railway is finished. All that we, that is, the Government of Madras can do, and this the

Government of Madras will do, is to continue to urge on the Government of India, the necessity of hastening the consummation of this important work. I have but one suggestion to throw out with regard to it. I think I am right in saying that it is intended to provide in the Local Boards' Act, for powers enabling the Local Boards to increase the land-cess for the purpose of raising funds for railway construction, if they should deem it advisable or right so to do. When, or if, this is done, it will be open to the Kistna Local Board to consider whether they will undertake to build this section of the railway themselves, following the good example of the Tanjore District Board, which, as you know, has constructed a considerable mileage of railway, and has further extensions in contemplation. In making this suggestion, I am merely proposing a possible alternative in the event, which we hope will not take place, of the Government of India finding it impossible to build the railway itself, or to allow it to be built by the Southern Mahratta Railway Company. I am sorry that on the occasion of my visit I am not able to bring you more definite news with respect to this matter in which your interests are so vitally concerned. But I rather gather from what was said in the address which has just been read, that your hopes with regard to this railway are possibly less strong and less assured than they need be. I do not look upon it at all as a matter for despairing about. It is, I consider, merely a case of little more patience. You may

rest assured, as I have already said, that we will persist in pressing the Government of India in the matter. If we fail from inability on the part of the Government of India to carry out this, I ask you to give some consideration to the suggestion that I have made for action by your own Local Board.

WATER-SUPPLY.

I now turn to the subject of water-supply. I am aware that some scheme has been prepared, but it is a very costly one. Indeed, I gather from the Collector that the amount of the estimate is considerably in excess of the sum which is mentioned in the address which has been read. It is clear that any scheme based on the taking of water for the supply of Masulipatam from the canal, must be rendered both difficult and costly for the reason that it involves the construction of a very large reserve basin or reservoir to contain a sufficient supply of water to meet the necessities of the town, for the period of the dry season, which I believe extends for something like three months or a hundred days; a town of 40,000 inhabitants needing a water-supply, we will say, of ten gallons per head per day, would need 400,000 gallons a day. To meet such a want as that for a period of three months, and making allowance for heavy loss of water through evaporation, would necessitate a reservoir of immense dimensions, which could not be constructed except at a very high cost. The statement that I have made sounds rather discouraging, but I cannot help it.

The only ray of hope that I see left of a more economical mode of introducing water, is by means of artesian wells. I know that the Director of the Geological Survey of India has given a discouraging opinion as to the chances of success of such a scheme. But I am informed that experiments of this kind have been made with a certain amount of success at Samarlakota in the Gódvári district; and I am not aware of any possible reason why if an artesian well can be dug successfully at Samarlakota, equal success may not be found at Masulipatam. I understand that the Government are in possession of the well-boring apparatus. If I find that I am right in this assumption, and if the Municipal Council of Masulipatam would be willing to provide a sufficient sum of money to enable the Government to carry out the experiment of well-boring in Masulipatam, I should be very strongly inclined to favour a trial.

DRAINAGE.

I now turn to the subject of drainage, and here I will repeat what I have said on this subject in other localities on similar occasions, that I do not think that you can hope within any measurable space of time to provide yourselves with a satisfactory, scientific drainage scheme in Masulipatam. The town is situated on a dead flat not far removed from the level of the sea. There is practically no fall for the water. Even a slight shower such as that which fell last night, takes some time in draining off. Any drainage work of really effectual

modern description would necessitate an enormous expenditure upon the pumping apparatus, and I am certain that it would be far beyond any possible means of Masulipatam, to undertake such a work; and indeed I am not satisfied that it is one of the very first necessity. I should recommend the municipal council to exhaust all the simpler means of sanitation, such as the perfection of their scavenging arrangements, the most careful attention possible to the removal and destruction of night-soil, to remedy as difficulties arise any little defects there may be in the way of water finding its escape by such measures as suggest themselves to all practical men. I am afraid you will have to be content with small efforts of this kind for many years to come.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION.

Towards the conclusion of your address you make allusion to the difficulties arising from want of sufficient revenue. The Government, I may tell you, has under consideration the question of restoring the old professional tax schedule of the Municipalities Act. If this be done, I believe that some of your difficulties with regard to deficient revenue may possibly be made good. It will enable you considerably to increase your receipts. And now I feel bound, as I am speaking about the operations of the municipality, to make comments, as I always do on occasions of this sort, on the recent working of the municipality. I find that for the year 1896-97 the operations of this municipality are summed up by the Government in the following

words: "The administration during the year under review cannot be regarded as efficient. Collection of taxes was even worse than in the previous year. The private scavenging service continued to be in the same unsatisfactory state, while vaccination and sanitation left much to be desired." The Government opinion for the last year of which we have reports, 1897-98, is as follows: "The administration of the municipality during the year under review continued to be inefficient. Collection of taxes and private scavenging service, which were in an unsatisfactory state in the previous year, show no appreciable improvement, while vaccination and registration of vital statistics and sanitation leave much to be desired." Now I am not at all fond of finding fault, especially on such an occasion as this when I have been met by kind welcome and by gracious words; but I should not be doing my duty when I am paying an official visit to Masulipatam, if I omitted to call public attention to what the Government considers the unsatisfactory working of the municipality. It is a matter which so intimately concerns the health and the comfort of the citizens of the town that I feel compelled to thus publicly urge upon the municipal council to take heed of the reproach which the Government has been obliged to cast upon them, and to beg that they will pay in future a more careful attention to the points in which the Government found fault with their administration. More especially would I advise them to take more stringent measures for

the collection of revenue. You have already made remarks about the insufficiency of the means at your disposal. Here there seems to lie a very ready means of remedying that defect. I commend it most strongly to your notice. Now, gentlemen, I will leave this subject, which is not pleasant for me to dwell upon, and conclude by asking you to accept my very warm thanks for the kind wishes you have given for the long life of myself and my family.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUHAMMADAN COMMUNITY
OF MASULIPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We beg leave very respectfully to accord to Your Excellency a most hearty welcome to this our ancient and famous town, which was once the capital of the Northern Circars. The auspicious opportunities which we, in this rather secluded place, have of hailing into our midst the august representative of our Gracious Sovereign, are like *angels'* visits few and far between; and we are second to none in our joy and thankfulness on a truly happy occasion like this.

2. Once a centre of Muhammadan influence and prosperity, Masulipatam has a very large population of Muhammadans; but fallen, poverty-stricken and miserable is the plight of a large majority of them. Truly benign, above all praise, has, therefore, been the very generous consideration which the Government has of late been bestowing on our community

by granting lands to ameliorate our present distressed condition. We understand that our present beloved Collector has submitted to the noble Government certain proposals for the grant of lands to better our present condition. It is our devout and fervent prayer that the Government may be graciously pleased to empower our highly-honoured Collector to elevate us from our present degraded condition, by favourable grants of lands, adequate to our respective wants and positions. For all time to come will the revered names of the benign British rulers of this country, be hallowed in the grateful hearts of a large community for this invaluable boon now proposed to be conferred on us.

3. We gladly join with the other sections of our townsmen, in the old and oft-repeated prayer that Your Excellency may be generously pleased to urge the claims of this historical town to railway communication with the rest of the Indian Empire, as it will, we beg very humbly to submit, immensely improve the condition and develop the resources of this part of Her Majesty's dominions.

4. We thankfully avail ourselves of this important opportunity to give our humble expression to our very heartfelt gratitude to our honoured Collector, Mr. R. Morris, M.A., I.C.S., whose name has become a household word amongst us, for his exemplary zeal and generous exertions to promote the welfare of this district in general, and our poor community in particular; and it is the devout prayer of Your Excellency's very humble servants that our

beloved Collector may soon be made, and long continue to be, the permanent head of this district.

5. Once more, in conclusion, tendering, with the utmost submission, a most cordial welcome to Your Gracious Excellency, and devoutly praying to the Almighty, who is the Great Giver of all good, that He may bless Your Excellency and Lady Havelock with long life, health, happiness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE MUHAMMADAN COMMUNITY OF MASULIPATAM,—I thank you for your kind welcome and for the gracious expressions of regard and kind wishes, which are contained in the address that has just been read. I have listened with regret and sympathy to the statement which you make of the fallen and poverty-stricken condition of many of your countrymen, and of those belonging to your faith in Masulipatam. I think you are under some slight misapprehension with regard to the details of the measure which the Government has adopted, with the object of affording relief to the impoverished classes in this part of India.

There has been no intention simply of relieving the poverty or the wants of any one particular community, be they Muhammadans or others, but generally those who are in depressed condition. And the means of doing it, we do not consider, would be by giving grants for large tracts of land, for the very evident reason that the persons whom we desire

to relieve are necessarily without capital, and the development and working of anything but a very small piece of land, needs capital—the very thing you do not possess. It would be, therefore, waste of land and be putting you into an undesirable position, if we were to attempt to give you more than you can properly work. I believe in this Kistna district a certain area of land, somewhere about 10,000 acres, was set apart for this purpose. Out of that area, about 5,000 acres have already been allotted. With the portion that remains, the Collector has within the last few days received instructions how to deal. He will in some cases make free grants of small lots of this land; and in other cases he will grant land on favourable terms, that is at a very cheap rate. I will not now take up your time by going further into the particulars of the arrangements that have been made. The Collector has received his instructions, and he will in due course make them known to you and act upon them. But you will be disappointed if you are under any expectation that the Government has the remotest intention of allotting large tracts of land for the purpose, as you imagine, of relieving the needs of poor people. It would be unwise policy to attempt to do so. In common with all others who have addressed me since I came to Masulipatam, you dwell on the subject of railway communication. I have already, in replying to the address of the Municipal Council, said all that I can possibly think of on that subject. I will ask you to refer to the

newspaper reports of my speech for such information as I am able to give. I thank you, in conclusion and once more, for your kind welcome and for your good wishes.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE KISTNA
DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Kistna District Association, beg to express our heartfelt joy in welcoming Your Excellency to this ancient town. We appreciate this privilege all the more, because it is not often that we are allowed the opportunity of enjoying it here. Ever since you assumed charge of your exalted office, Your Excellency has always evinced an earnest solicitude for the material and moral well-being of the many millions of Her Majesty's subjects entrusted to your care. We, therefore, beg to take this opportunity of representing to Your Excellency some of our most important needs, in the hope that they may receive Your Excellency's attention.

The first subject for which we crave Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration, is the early extension of the railway to Masulipatam. We have already addressed several memorials on this subject, both to the Madras Government and the Government of India, setting forth the various facts and figures, which conclusively prove the necessity for the speedy construction of a railway to this town, on economic

and commercial grounds. The importance of this town, which is one of the richest and largest in the Northern Circars, and its inaccessibility, except by a tedious journey occupying from twenty-four to thirty-six hours, the necessity and desirability of opening up the highly fertile tract of about 2,000 square miles of the Kistna Eastern Delta, the closure of the canals in summer, when the traffic in grains is mostly carried on, the almost absolute certainty of the proposed line being profitable, on account of the very considerable amount of sea-borne trade carried on in the port of Masulipatam, and the comparatively small cost at which the line can be constructed, on account of the country to be traversed being level and plain, are some of the weighty arguments repeatedly urged in favour of the construction of this line. We understand that the Madras Government has also more than once recommended the construction of the line. We, therefore, pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to obtain the sanction of the Government of India for conferring this boon upon us at an early date.

In this connection we also beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that if the authorities of the Department of Public Works be good enough to guarantee a uniformly sufficient depth of water all along the canal to Masulipatam, the difficulties of the travelling public will be, to a very great extent, mitigated; for in that case steam-boats can easily ply from Bezwada to Masulipatam, and lessen the duration of the journey to six or seven hours.

Private enterprise has more than once attempted to ply steam-boats, but somehow the authorities concerned have not been pleased to afford sufficient facilities for the enterprise to succeed. At present, with great difficulty, the steam-boat is able to ply only a little over half the way down to Pamarru, from whence the passengers have still to travel by an ordinary boat, the whole journey occupying about seventeen hours. We, therefore, pray that Your Excellency may be pleased, in consultation with the Public Works Department, to concert efficient arrangements for the steam-boats plying at the rate of eight miles an hour down to Masulipatam.

The next subject to which we invite Your Excellency's favourable attention is the "Resettlement Scheme of the Kistna Eastern Delta" now under the consideration of the Madras Government. In an address of this kind, it will be impossible to attempt in detail an examination of the whole scheme; but we beg permission to state the more important points, which seriously affect the cultivating population of this district.

The first point is about the reclassification of soils of the delta. The wet lands, as well as the dry unirrigable lands of the delta and the Devi island, and the lands that may be commanded by the Muniyérú Project, are proposed to be reclassified by the Deputy Commissioner.

The whole delta has been adequately assessed at the last settlement, and the grain out-turns of wet white paddy then calculated and now adopted as

the basis of the consolidated wet assessments, clearly show that the capacity of irrigable lands was duly considered. The settlement was effected several years after anicut irrigation was introduced; and hence, there are now no valid reasons for the reclassification of the soils of the irrigated lands, especially in opposition to the declared policy of the Government, that in the case of adequately assessed lands like this, revision of settlement would be only with reference to the increase in prices.

In the case of the unirrigable dry lands in the deltaic tract, there is absolutely no justification for reclassification. With respect to some villages in the Bezwada taluk so reclassified, the Deputy Commissioner himself remarks there is very little or no anicut irrigation; but he has included them in the reclassified tract, as the Ellore canal furnishes a definite and a fairly accurate boundary of the delta. These villages and also lands in delta villages, which cannot be brought under irrigation, are exactly in the same position as dry land in upland taluks; and excepting the fact that they are unfortunately near wet lands, no reasons are shown why they should be subjected to reclassification at all.

The Devi lands are irrigated only by shallow tanks, precariously supplied from the Kistna river in high floods, and are not at all in a better condition than they were at the time of the previous settlements; and there is no reason why they should now be reclassified. The Muniyérú Project is still in a very early stage of development, and it is too early

to think of imposing consolidated assessment upon Muniyéru lands.

If Your Excellency should, for any good reasons, find it impossible to comply with our prayers in their entirety, we still beg to represent that, in the interests of the ryot population, it may be decided that there will be no more reclassifications, and that future revisions of settlement will be conducted solely with reference to fluctuations in prices. Further the present uncertainty as to the duration of the settlement period is highly prejudicial to the investment of capital and labour in agricultural improvements; and we therefore pray that Government may be pleased to declare that the period of resettlement will not, in any case, be shorter than thirty years.

The reclassification of dry lands in the delta, results, according to the Deputy Commissioner's scheme, in an increase of sixty per cent. over the present assessments, rising to as much as one hundred and seventeen per cent. in Bezwada taluk. This result is achieved by transferring the whole of the reclassified dry areas in the villages of the said taluk, from third class into first class. The Deputy Commissioner says that these villages, though placed in the first class by Mr. Morris, at the original classification, were placed in the third class at the introduction of the settlement. The Deputy Commissioner, holding that the reasons for this reduction are not known, justifies the present abnormal increase, on the assumption that the rates must have

been unduly lowered by the villages being placed in the third class at the settlement. This is altogether an unsound method of judging things; for considering the fact that the existing settlement was carefully conducted, the presumption ought to be that there must have been valid reasons for the said classification.

A point of very great importance, which affects the commutation rates given by the Deputy Commissioner, is the adoption of cholum as one of the staples for the deltaic dry lands in Bandur and Gudiváda taluks, and the abnormally high value fixed for cholum, namely, Rs. 200 per *garce*. The percentage of cholum crop in the said taluks is only 6·6 and 5·4, while ragi is 12·8 and 16·8 respectively. There is, therefore, no reason for fixing cholum as one of the staples for these taluks. Again, the highest commutation price adopted for cholum in any settled district, including the neighbouring district of Gódávári, is Rs. 173, while the price for Kistna is put down at Rs. 200. This rate must very probably have been arrived at by taking into consideration the high rates prevailing at markets, where cholum is imported in comparatively small quantities, as it is not the staple food in this part of the district. The Deputy Commissioner is, therefore, wrong, first, in taking cholum as the staple grain and then in fixing the price at Rs. 200 per *garce*.

One other point of importance in the calculation of rates with respect, both to deltaic and upland tracts, is the allowance of cultivation expenses.

According to the Deputy Commissioner, the expenses for dry cultivation range between Rs. 7-8-0 and Rs. 2-4-0; and those for wet cultivation between Rs. 13-0-0 and Rs. 5-0-0. In both cases the maximum figures may be taken to fairly represent the cultivation expenses. But it is contrary to all experience that poorer soils can be cultivated at such small cost as the Deputy Commissioner fixes. On the contrary, it is the poorer soils that require more manure and labour; and in any case, the difference in cultivation expenses, between the best and the worst lands, cannot be more than two or three rupees per acre. These expenses, no doubt, leave very little profit to the cultivator; but as the labour is supplied by his own family, the manure, from the excavations of his house-site, the ploughing animals, from his own milch cattle, and as he thus has nothing to pay for any of these, the poorer ryot is satisfied with what little produce he may derive from his land.

The only other point which we bring to Your Excellency's notice, is that the proposal of the Board of Revenue to increase the assessments of upland dry by $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. is highly unjustifiable. Even the Deputy Commissioner's proposal in this respect to raise the rents 25 per cent., leaves no margin whatsoever for the increase of the cost of the ryot's living, and is more than what the ryot can bear. We request that Your Excellency will be pleased to make due allowance for the increase in the cost of the ryot's living, before passing final orders on the subject.

In conclusion we pray that Your Excellency's Government will give this question deep and earnest consideration, and adopt such measures as will improve the position and prosperity of the ryot, and enable him to successfully withstand the oft recurring famine in the country.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE KISTNA DISTRICT ASSOCIATION,—
I beg you to accept my sincere acknowledgments for your kind welcome and good wishes. You state the case for railway construction from Masulipatam to Bezwada with great ability, but as I have said in answering another address, the Government admits the desirability of this work; and it is therefore, perhaps, unnecessary to dwell further on the reasons for carrying it out. For such as I am able to give you with regard to the prospects of the consummation of this much desired undertaking, I would ask you to allow me to refer you to my reply to the municipal council, which you will in the course of a day or two find faithfully reported in the Madras newspapers. You suggest, as a possible alleviation of your present difficulty of communication between Bezwada and Masulipatan, that the canal should be deepened, so as to enable steamers to ply the whole way through. I am not prepared at present to say how much the deepening of the canal, even to enable steamers to ply at a very low rate of speed, would cost. But I imagine that it would be a considerable sum. To make it possible for a

steamer to go at the high rate of eight knots or eight miles an hour, I am certain that the work will be extremely costly to carry out, and that a steamer plying at that rate along the canal, would subject it to such a great amount of damage from the washing of the water, that the upkeep of the canal would come up to an extremely high sum. I think that the rate allowed for steamers going through the Suez Canal, which has been opened for many years, and upon the upkeep of which an enormous sum of money is spent, is considerably lower than eight miles. If my memory serves me right, it is something like five or six miles an hour, except when going through spaces of open water. I am afraid, therefore, I am unable to hold out much hope of your getting comfort in the way you suggest. I would also recall to your mind that the canal is closed for three months in the year, that even if the scheme suggested be carried out in its entirety, your traffic cannot be carried on during that period.

RE-SETTLEMENT OF KISTNA.

You dwell next at great length on the consideration of the matter of land re-settlement of the Kistna district, and you enter into great many points which are extremely interesting in themselves, but which are somewhat of a controversial nature. And being of a controversial nature, they would be improper for me to discuss in public on such an occasion as this. I may, however, tell you that the papers connected with the re-settlement of

the Kistna district, as well as with the re-settlement of the Gó dávari district, have been in the hands of Government for a considerable time past. They have not yet reached my hands; but I know in a general sort of way what the proposals are. But I have not yet had an opportunity of looking into them myself from the documents, still less of forming any final opinion with regard to them. When I had the pleasure of visiting the Gó dávari district in February last, I was addressed on this subject in much the same way by the Gó dávari District Association, who put before me much valuable information and made strong representations in very much the same tone as you have adopted. I told the Gó dávari Association that I would not myself pass the papers or give a decision upon them, until I have had an opportunity of conferring with a deputation from them in Madras, and my present intention is to offer to the members of the Gó dávari District Association, an opportunity of meeting me in Madras and discussing the question on all the points that they have raised, objecting to the proposals of the Settlement Officer, some time probably in November or December. If the District Association of Kistna would like to join with the Gó dávari District Association in coming before me with the like object, it would give me the greatest possible pleasure to meet them, and to hear all that they have to urge. A communication addressed to the Private Secretary on the subject, will meet with the fullest attention. I can assure you, gentlemen,

that in all matters connected with the interests of the ryots of Madras, who form the great bulk of the population, I take the deepest interest, and that I desire to act by them with as much liberality and consideration, as is possible, consistently with the revenue interests of the country.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL OF MASULIPATAM.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—This institution was first started on the 16th of May 1860, with only two classes, under the name of “Government Anglo-Vernacular School, Kurnool.” Mr. N. Murugasa Mudali was the first Headmaster. In 1861, Mr. Greathurst became the Headmaster, and he changed the name of the school into “Zillah School, Kurnool.” In 1862, the standard of instruction was raised to the fourth class, which corresponded to the present third form or Lower Secondary class. In 1865 again, the fifth or pre-matriculation class was started. Mr. Greathurst died in 1866, and was succeeded by Mr. Perrett, and on his transfer in 1868, Mr. McCarthy was appointed to the headmastership. The Matriculation class, which is now the highest class in the school, was first started in 1872 under the headmastership of Mr. Elliot, now on the staff of the Presidency College. Mr. Elliot served in this school from 1871 to 1880, with but a short break in the middle, and no other headmaster either before or after him, has worked in this school

for so long a period. The school greatly increased in strength and efficiency under his management; and though he left the place more than 18 years ago, his memory is still cherished with deep love and esteem. It was in 1886 that the school was transferred with the building, furniture, library and apparatus to the management of the Municipal Council; but as the municipality could not afford to maintain the school from its own revenues, even on a reduced scale, the Government undertook to pay the municipality the net cost of the High School Department. The Middle School Department has to be maintained wholly by the municipality, but it is almost self-supporting. Thus the cost incurred by the municipal council for the management of the High School, is in ordinary years very little. Of the Headmasters of the school since its transfer to the municipal council, the late lamented Mr. K. S. Rama Rau deserves to be prominently mentioned, as the school produced splendid results during his tenure of office.

The present strength of the school, including the Primary classes, is 309. There are 39 boys in the High School Department and 84 boys in the Lower Secondary Department. The Hindu Department in the Primary School is 128 strong, while the Muhammadan Department contains 58 pupils.

The school did fairly well in the last public examinations. Six pupils were sent up for the Matriculation Examination, and of them four passed with one in the first class. It is to this pupil who

has also won the Christian College scholarship for this district, that Mr. T. Chidambaram Rau, the Municipal Chairman, awards his medal. Twenty-two pupils were presented for the last Lower Secondary Examination, of whom seven were successful. Although this result was in itself not good, it was an improvement on the results of the previous year. Twenty-eight pupils appeared for Primary Examination from the Hindu Department of the Primary School, and five from the Muhammadan Department; and all these thirty-three pupils came out successful in the examination.

Almost all the prizes that are now to be distributed by Your Excellency, are given by the officials and other gentlemen of the town, to all of whom I take advantage of this opportunity to offer my hearty thanks. The winners of all the prizes have been fixed except the one for the special prize given for recitation by Mr. Rajarathnam Mudaliyar, our Municipal Secretary. I request that Your Excellency will kindly select for this prize one of the pupils that will go through the second item in the programme. Among the prize winners in the Lower Secondary Department, is a Muhammadan lad, who deserves to be made special mention of, as he has succeeded in competition with Hindu boys in spite of the difficulties of Muhammadan boys, in schools not specially intended for them. I should also state that of the four prizes reserved for the Muhammadan Department of the Primary School, two have been won by the only two Parsee pupils of the town,—

a fact which shows in a most remarkable manner, the intelligence and industry of the Parsee community.

The total annual expenditure for the institution is about Rs. 6,000, half of which is met from fees. The annual contribution from Government on account of the net cost of the High School Department is about Rs. 2,500.

Before concluding, I think it my duty to invite Your Excellency's attention to two matters specially relating to the education in this town. One of them pertains to Muhammadans. About half the population of this town are followers of the prophet, and I believe that it stands at the top of mufassil towns in point of the number of Muhammadan inhabitants. Your Excellency will be surprised to hear that, nevertheless, the number of Muhammadan pupils that have successfully passed through a course of instruction in this school since its establishment, could literally be counted on one's fingers. The main reason for this truly deplorable condition is, I am strongly of opinion, that the Muhammadan children are forced, at too early a stage of their school career, to obtain all knowledge through the medium of a foreign language (not English, but Telugu) of which they know little or nothing. The inevitable consequence is that the Muhammadan pupils have to remain in each class for two or three years until both they and their parents get disgusted with education. One great incentive to education, at any rate in our country, is the desire

to emulate the success of persons that have gone before. But in the case of the Muhammadan community of Kurnool, the repeated failure of those that had the courage to attempt an English education to their sons, must have been exerting a decidedly deterrent influence on others; and in these circumstances, it is no wonder that education has been making so little progress in that community. Several experiments have till now been tried in this town to improve matters, but the one remedy for it lies still in the womb of the future. The remedy that I refer to, is that the Muhammadan boys should be trained at least up to the Lower Secondary standard, in separate classes which are solely intended for them, and in which instruction could be imparted to them, through their mother tongue, an advantage which in spite of its vital importance they have not till now enjoyed.

The next matter with which I shall trouble Your Excellency, has a much deeper bearing on the education in this Presidency. It is an open secret that since the wholesale transfer of Government institutions to local bodies in 1886, the standard of merit in the class of persons available for the teaching profession has greatly gone down in all parts of the presidency. This is no doubt due to the prospects of promotion being greatly narrowed, so that our schools and colleges, as a rule, only get persons of mediocre abilities, who could not aspire to anything very high in other walks of life. In Kurnool the cause of education suffers not only from this general

deterioration, but also from additional disabilities arising from its notorious unhealthiness, and its distance from centres whence the teachers have to be imported. I could not better impress the magnitude of this evil on the mind of Your Excellency, than by telling you that on my examining the records of the school in 1893, the figures led me to this surprising conclusion, viz., that the average service of each teacher in this school during the seven years of its local management, was just 18 months, and that 38 teachers had come and gone from the school during the same period. If a similar calculation should now be made, I fear that it will show a worse state of things. The fact is that in spite of the best exertions of the Municipal Chairman and of the Inspector of Schools, the vacancies that frequently occur continue for long periods, owing to the great difficulty encountered in securing suitable men. The remedy that I propose is very simple. All Local Fund and Municipal schools are already more or less under the control of inspecting officers of the Educational Department; and as the rules at present stand, no appointments could be made in such schools without previous consultation with inspecting officers. May not all board schools at least within each Inspector's range, which comprises five or six districts, be organised in such a way that, when a vacancy occurs in any particular school, the selection of persons may be made, if possible, from among the employes in the schools within the group. Thus teachers may not, as they do at present, shun

unhealthy localities, because they could hope to be transferred to a better place, if the climate should tell upon their health. Promotions would be more rapid in the case of really deserving men, and if, in addition, the service of the masters be made pensionable by means of the usual contribution from pay, the newly-organised Local Board Educational Department will regain most of the original attraction to the teaching profession. Better men would seek service in it, work would be more cheerfully and therefore better done, and the quality of the education imparted would improve throughout the presidency, thereby solving certain difficult problems which have for some years baffled the attempts of both the Government and the University to grapple with.

The question is so wide and far-reaching in its results, that I do not expect Your Excellency to give your opinion on it on such a short notice. But if during Your Excellency's administration Your Excellency should devise suitable measures to remove the evils that undoubtedly exist, Your Excellency would confer a real boon on the people not only of this generation, but of future generations as well.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRINCIPAL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It affords me great satisfaction to make the acquaintance of the Kurnool Municipal High School. I must plead ignorance of the history of this school and of the circumstances connected with it, until I entered the

room. But the Headmaster's report gave us a clear and succinct history of what has taken place since the school was first called into existence, now 38 years ago. It appears to me that the school is very economically managed, the whole cost being about Rs. 6,000, the number on the rolls being 309. The results of the recent examinations appear to be fairly satisfactory, and I congratulate the school on the distinctions that have been won. The Headmaster draws attention to two very important points, which he considers requires reformation. He points out what has often come to my notice on previous occasions, in many other places, that the Muhammadan population do not take that full advantage of the educational facilities that are offered to them, and even among those who generally take advantage of these good things, there are not many who show the best results. I know that to a certain extent this is the case at other places, and I am not surprised to find that it should be so here. The Headmaster suggests a remedy for this, and that is that the teaching of the Muhammadan boys should, in future, be Hindustani, which he describes as their native language, instead of in Telugu, which the Headmaster is of opinion is to them a foreign language. I am not at this short notice able to express any opinion on this point, but in connection with this disability, and with that to which I am about to allude, which forms the second subject of representation by the Headmaster, I shall make a reference to the Director of Public Instruction. The second

defect to which the Headmaster drew attention, was the falling off in the standard of the teaching staff in this Municipal School, in common with other Municipal Schools. This, I need hardly say, is, if it exists, a most important defect, and as I have just intimated, I shall draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to what the Headmaster has said as to the defect, and ask him to report on the suggested scheme of reform. I thank the school for the welcome that has been accorded to me and for the amusing and instructive exhibition that they have made of recitation.

7421

ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

ELEVENTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

MADRAS :

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1899.

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE SUBJECTS OF THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH ARCOT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, in the district of South Arcot, beg to offer our most heartfelt welcome to Your Excellency.

2. We assure Your Excellency that, although our demonstrations of welcome may be feebler than the demonstrations that were made by our more affluent countrymen in other districts of the Presidency, we stand second to none in loyalty and love for our august sovereign and Your Excellency, her representative. Cuddalore is one of the earliest British settlements in Southern India. It will interest Your Excellency to note that the boundary of the original grant of this settlement to the East India Company is still preserved in the semi-circular line of palmyra trees, known as Goondy Salai, or cannon shot avenue encircling Cuddalore, the extent granted having been determined by the range of a random shot fired from a gun brought down from Madras for the purpose.

3. It will also interest Your Excellency to know that the house in which the East India Company

carried on their business as merchants is still standing, and is used by the firm of Messrs. Parry & Co., and the most interesting circumstance of all is that Lord Clive, the founder of the British Empire in India, resided in this very house where Your Excellency is pleased to meet to-day your most loyal subjects. Historically then, it pleased Providence to place us in the hands of the British rulers long before many of our fellow-subjects in the other districts, and we have been, therefore, longer in the enjoyment of the blessings of the British rule than they. We are specially gratified at Your Excellency's condescension in visiting the ancient temple of Chidambaram, which is noted for its superior architecture and its jewellery, and we fully hope that Your Excellency will enjoy the visit.

4. We beg leave to state that we have been watching Your Excellency's tours in the Presidency with great interest, and the sympathy and concern that characterized Your Excellency's interviews with Her Majesty's subjects, wherever Your Excellency met them, have struck us with admiration and intensified our loyalty and gratitude to Your Excellency; and it goes without saying that nothing pleased Your Excellency more in your various tours than to exchange thoughts with your subjects, and to learn from them directly, and at first hand, their condition, wants and needs.

5. Encouraged thus, we crave permission to approach Your Excellency with a statement of a few of our wants, and we submit that statement with

the fullest confidence that it will be accepted and considered by Your Excellency in Council with that paternal interest that characterizes Your Excellency's attitude towards your subjects.

6. Among the most pressing wants of the district comes the provision of good drinking-water supplies for the important towns of Cuddalore, Tiruvannámalai and Chidambaram, especially the two latter which are largely resorted to by pilgrims from all parts of India on the occasion of the annual festivals. These matters, we understand, will be more particularly pressed upon Your Excellency's notice in the municipal addresses of these towns.

7. We have next to crave Your Excellency's attention to another circumstance referred to, as we mentioned, in the addresses from the Municipal Councillors of Cuddalore. We refer to the action taken by Your Excellency's Government in reducing the number of elected councillors from fifteen to seven. We most respectfully state that, while we do not intend to complain against the action of Government, the reduction of elected councillors from fifteen to seven, the total strength of the council being twenty, has seriously tended to affect the independence of the council. We, therefore, implore Your Excellency to reconsider the matter and to restore to us the privilege that we were in enjoyment of for a long series of years.

8. We next beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the fact that through and adjoining

Cuddalore run two rivers, the Gadilam and the Ponniar, which, during the rainy weather, flood their banks and endanger Cuddalore and its suburbs. At frequent intervals these rivers cause anxiety to the population, and it is not now three months since the town was exposed to the same danger during the last freshes. We respectfully beg to suggest that embankments on the sides of both the rivers may free the town from such danger; but as the matter is one that must be duly deliberated on by professional men, we humbly pray that Your Excellency may institute such enquiries as to Your Excellency may seem meet in order that effective arrangements may be made to prevent the rivers from inundating the town. We also beg to point out to Your Excellency that the danger caused by the freshes in the said rivers is not confined to Cuddalore only. Even higher up the Ponniar, and more especially where the Ponniar flows through the Villupuram taluk, villages adjoining the river are exposed to the same danger, as was the case during the last freshes, to which our energetic and sympathetic Collector will bear testimony. We beg also to add that the town of Vridhachallam is exposed to similar danger during the freshes in the Manimukthanadhi, and beg leave to suggest as a relief therefor an embankment on the southern side of the river for a couple of miles or so.

9. We next crave Your Excellency's attention to an important want which affects the ryot population. Your Excellency may be aware that the regulation of water-supply in the main distributaries

from imperial tanks and river channels, such as Vadavar, &c., is now vested solely in the hands of the Public Works Department. Your Excellency is also aware that the Revenue authorities are more in touch with the ryots and more easily accessible to them than the officers of the Public Works Department, and, as the chief function of the Revenue Department is to protect the State revenue any grievance of the ryots regarding water-supply is likely to be sooner attended to by that department than by the Public Works Department, and we, therefore, pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to adopt such measures as Your Excellency may deem best to help the ryots in this direction.

10. We have another matter to place before Your Excellency connected with irrigation. The anicut across the northern branch of the Coleroon, from which the main channels Raja Vaikal and Vadavar take their rise, is now under the control of the Public Works Department of the Tanjore District. We humbly believe that a more satisfactory arrangement will be to place the anicut under the control of the Public Works Department of our own district, because we believe that the latter will understand the wants of our ryots better, and supply them with water in season. As matters stand at present, the channels do not get their supply in the early part of June, which is the season for the commencement of the cultivation of the wet crop; and the ryots suffer damage consequent on their having to raise the crop hurriedly and out of season. We therefore pray

that Your Excellency may be pleased to order that such arrangements may be made as will ensure an earlier supply of water. In this connection we beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the beds of some of the river channels in the district are being silted up for want of sand sluices to scour away the silt during the freshes, and to the fact that most of the head sluices of the channels branching from Raja Vaikal have not been provided with shutters, the result thereof being unequal distribution and waste of water; and we humbly pray that orders may be issued to remedy these defects.

11. We beg leave to lay before Your Excellency one other matter for consideration. Some parts of the district, especially the coast taluks, are getting densely populated; and as agriculture is the main source of living and as the land available for tilling must be limited, living for a considerable section of the population is becoming next to impossible for want of demand for labour. It is also a fact that in the western taluks large extent of assessed land fit for cultivation is this day lying waste. We venture, therefore, to make a suggestion both in the interest of Government and in the interest of needy ryots, that sufficient facilities and encouragement may be held out by Government to enable the formation of fresh settlements in the western taluks.

12. We also beg leave to lay before Your Excellency another measure, which, when adopted, will, we most respectfully beg to submit, improve the material condition of the district vastly. We have

now got the coast line of the South Indian Railway and another line known as Villupuram-Dharmavaram line branching off from Villupuram. We are informed that a railway line connecting Porto Novo and Salem is in contemplation. While the opening of this line will be an advantage to the district, we venture to propose to Your Excellency the formation of another line between Tirukkóyilúr and Trichinopoly in the belief that it will prove beneficial in various ways. Such a line will prove a boon in times of scarcity in the district, for by that line the drier taluks of South Arcot may receive prompt and large supplies of food-grains from its richer neighbours. The line also will help passengers from the south to perform their journey to the north in a much shorter time than they are now doing; and viewing the matter financially, we submit that the opening of such a line will obviate the necessity for building a masonry bridge across the Pennar at Tirukkóyilúr. We have ventured to place this measure before Your Excellency in the belief that it would commend itself to Your Excellency. If, however, it should not, we have then to bring to Your Excellency's notice that a bridge across the Pennar near Tirukkóyilúr is a great want, and that for want of a bridge great inconvenience to passengers and to trade is occasioned during a considerable period of the year by the frequent freshes in the river.

13. The last request we have to make of Your Excellency is this. We have in this a second-grade college, known as the "Cuddalore College." It was

formerly a Government college, but in the year 1887 the Government having resolved to abolish it, the college was taken up and managed by a committee of native gentlemen in the district, and it has since continued under their management. It is the wish of the people of the district that a technical school be opened in Cuddalore; and in a public meeting held on the 18th ultimo, they resolved that the technical school be opened and that it be attached to the Cuddalore college and managed by the college committee, and they resolved further that in commemoration of Your Excellency's visit to this district, the school be called after Your Excellency's name. It was intended to invite Your Excellency to visit the college and to declare the technical school open; but having ascertained that Your Excellency's time was already fully occupied, we content ourselves with asking Your Excellency's permission to have the school called after Your Excellency's name, and pray that the permission may be granted.

14. We fear we have already trespassed on Your Excellency's valuable time by the foregoing recital of our wants; but before concluding, it is our agreeable duty to express our gratitude to a generous benefactor for coming here to-day and invoking Your Excellency's kind assistance in taking the first step towards the fulfilment of a want which has been long felt. Raja Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliyar, *Kt.*, *C.I.E.*, is a native of Cuddalore, and in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee he undertook for his part to present the town

of Cuddalore with a dispensary for women and children. We have to thank Government for placing at the disposal of the Municipal Council a fitting site on which to raise the building so munificently given, the foundation stone of which Your Excellency has been pleased to undertake to lay this afternoon. The building when completed will form another monument of Raja Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliyar's generous solicitude for the welfare of his countrymen, and will be a lasting memorial of the time-honoured name of Savalai.

In conclusion, we beg to repeat that we feel most thankful for Your Excellency's condescension in visiting our district, and we most fervently pray for the long life and prosperity of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, and of Your Excellency and Lady Havelock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF SOUTH ARCOT,
—I beg you to accept my best acknowledgments for the kind welcome which you have given to me to your district. Out of the twenty-two districts which constitute the Madras Presidency, South Arcot is the twenty-first to which I have paid an official visit. South Arcot has, it is true, come rather late on the list, but it is not because South Arcot is less important or less interesting than the other districts which I have visited; attribute the lateness of my visit rather to the fact that South Arcot is easily accessible

from Madras, and owing to the not unnatural feeling that a visit there can be paid any day, one is prone to put off repeatedly what may be very easily done; or attribute it if you like to the tendency that one often has of reserving the most agreeable bit for the last. I assure you that your demonstrations of welcome which I have yet to see in their perfection by daylight—I only had slight glimpses of them as I drove through last night—will be warmly appreciated by me and will not be compared with those of other districts. I shall take them for what they are, loyal demonstrations of regard for myself and of loyalty to the office which I have the honour to fill.

The historical interest of the district of South Arcot is, as you point out, very considerable. It is the scene of struggles between the British and the French, resulting in our present dominions. The instance which you relate of the way in which the present grant of land was given to the present Government by the range of the gun brought down from Madras, is curious and interesting. There are other instances on record in history in which much the same way of settling grants was made use of; for instance, in one case that I remember, a grant of land depended upon the distance to which ploughing oxen can go during a given time, and other grants depended on the length of an arrow shot from a bow. The house in which we are now standing is, as you point out, interesting from a historical point of view, as having been the residence, for a time, of Lord Clive, of whose name we, British,

who are ruling in India, are justly proud, and cannot be too proud.

I now come to that part of your address in which you put before me your wants, and the difficulties under which in some ways you are labouring. Many of these points are not easy to deal with, and they involve a great deal of detail and technical knowledge which, I am sorry to say, I have not had the time to acquire; but I will proceed to answer what you have said to me, as well as I can, and if my answers do not entirely satisfy you or come up to your expectations, you must attribute their deficiencies to want of power, not to want of good will. You first mention the necessity of a good drinking water-supply for the important towns of Cuddalore, Tiruvannámalai and Chidambaram. I shall in answering the address, which I shall receive from the municipal bodies, representing those towns, deal more fully than I shall now with this important question. I think you will admit that it is a matter which concerns them more directly and intimately than it does a district board, which represents the community of the whole district, and I would make the same remark with regard to the representations contained in your address on the subject of the recent reduction of the number of elected councillors in this Municipality of Cuddalore. The next important point, which you bring to my notice, is the need which exists in the district, especially in the neighbourhood of Cuddalore, for protection from flood waters. I believe that serious floods are after all not of very

frequent occurrence. I learn that one of a very serious nature took place here in 1864, and that there was another in 1884, and that a short time ago, during the last north-east monsoon, there was a threat of a serious flood. I mention this circumstance to show that after all, the danger of flood does not seem to be one of very frequent occurrence. I will also venture to remark that a flood, serious as it is, is not as great a calamity as many others, for instance an earthquake or famine. The results of floods are generally very temporary; a certain amount of damage, it is true, is done, but that damage is generally repaired without any very great cost or difficulty; and a flood in some respects is calculated to do good. It washes away what should be removed, and it also is likely to improve the soil by a deposit of silt. Do not think from what I have said that I want to minimise the seriousness or danger of floods. All I want to show is that I do not think that floods demand such a very serious consideration and outlay as other calamities which might possibly happen to you. I will also observe that all works which are intended for the prevention of floods, are such that require the greatest care in construction, and if made without due consideration and without proper calculations, they are apt to do more harm than good. I am informed, however, that a good deal has already been done in the matter of protecting the town of Cuddalore from the effects of these heavy falls of rain. The Collector informs me that the bridges have since been restored, in

fact I have personal knowledge of that because I crossed one of them at least last night, and that precautionary measures have been taken for the protection of Tiruppáuliyúr. The Collector tells me that Pudupolliam, Manjakuppam and Vannarpolliem still remain exposed. The erection of flood banks was proposed I am told as a famine work, but the proposal has recently been struck out from the famine programme. The Chief Engineer of Irrigation has been asked to report on the possibility of making the Pennar embankment upon the South Indian Railway permanently secure. I am afraid that on this subject it would be rash for me to hold out hopes in the present time of anything on a very expensive scale being done.

The next most important point upon which you make a representation, is the subject of the regulation of water-supply in the main distributaries from imperial tanks and river channels, such as the Vadavár, etc., which is now vested solely in the hands of the Public Works Department. This subject has on more than one occasion been brought to my notice when I had the pleasure of meeting deputations from other district boards, and I must admit that there is a good deal to be said on both sides, and I think I am right in saying, but I will not be absolutely sure of the point, I think, I am right in saying that the matter is at present under the consideration of the Revenue Board. You next mention the fact that the anicut across the northern branch of the Coleroon, from which the main

channels Raja Vaikal and Vadavár take their rise, is now under the control of the Public Works Department officers of the Tanjore district, and you express the belief that a more satisfactory arrangement will be to place the anicut under the control of the Public Works Department of your own district. The Collector informs me that although the headworks and anicut are in charge of Tanjore Public Works officers, the regulation of water-supply in the Vadavár is under the control of South Arcot officers, which is only by the authority of Tanjore officers on special occasions, as for example when the anicut is under repair. The Vadavár has an open head and gets water whenever it is available in the river unless, as remarked above, the anicut is under repair. The Collector has just told me that a proposal is now under consideration for lowering the crest of the anicut, which he informs me will probably improve the head of the Vadavár channel crest. In continuation of the remarks to which I have already alluded, you draw my attention to the fact that the beds of some of the river channels in the district are being silted for want of sand sluices during the freshes. The Collector informs me that the question of silting the Vadavár channel, which is the most important one of those under consideration, is now being looked into by Colonel Smart, who is on special duty for that purpose. Many other channels are silted up no doubt, but the Executive Engineer is of opinion that in most cases

local conditions would not permit of scouring sluices being provided.

You then proceed in your address to deal with an important question arising out of the increasing density of population in your sea-coast taluks. It is perfectly true that these coast taluks of the South Arcot district have a very close, dense population. I see that they have respectively 753 and 672 souls to the square mile. That represents a far denser population than exists even in England or even in Belgium, which is the most thickly populated country in Europe. I must admit that there seems to be some ground for desiring that this population should be spread over a wider area. I understand your suggestion to be that endeavours should be made to get the surplus population of these taluks to migrate into thinly populated parts of the district which lie inland. The Collector tells me that very much of the waste land in the Tiruvannámalai taluk is comparatively poor land, on which catch crops are raised in seasons of exceptionally favourable rainfall. If this is the case, it might be possibly difficult to induce people who are in occupation of fertile lands on the coast to occupy lands which they will find a difficulty in cultivating. This matter is one which has been just brought to my notice, and you must excuse me if I do not attempt to go into it at all closely now. I will ask the Collector, who has already given the matter some thought, to go into it more in detail and to report to the Government on the subject. I will only remind you of a feeling which

exists among you, and which exists among other people, of great reluctance to leave the land or country in which you have been brought up, and in which your ancestors have lived for many years. And even if you could find suitable lands in these taluks, I can well conceive that there will be considerable difficulty in inducing them to take them up.

You next touch on the subject of railway construction in the district, and I understand that you advocate, in preference to a railway line connecting Porto Novo with Salem, which has for a long time been in contemplation, that a line should be made between Tirukkóyilúr and Trichinopoly, or, I further understand you to say, that if possible you would like to have both. With regard to this matter, I do not think I am divulging any official secrets when I say that this line from Tirukkóyilúr to Trichinopoly has been under the consideration of the Consulting Engineer for Railways, and that his opinion, based perhaps on not a very detailed examination of the subject, but still on certain facts and considerations to which he is disposed to attach weight, is that the line between Tirukkóyilúr and Trichinopoly might be more advantageous from certain points of view than the Salem and Porto Novo line. But for the present, I think it right that I should tell you that the railway construction programme of the Government of India is very full, and that I do not think it right to hold out to you any very sanguine hopes of either of these lines being constructed for some little time to come.

You next advocate the construction of a bridge across the Pennar near Tirukkóyilúr. I am given to understand that this is a great want, and if it were possible for me to hold out expectation of the work being carried out soon, it would rejoice me to do so; but I am bound to tell you that the Provincial Government is at the present time rather in low water with regard to funds for public works. Our budget for the next year has been made out on a rather restricted basis, and I fear that a work of this kind will probably be a costly one, and cannot possibly find a place in it. But I will do this, however; I will make a note of this particular request of yours and will make it a subject of consideration in consultation with the Public Works Department during the ensuing year, with a view to seeing if it is possible to make some provision for it in the year to follow.

Before closing your address you make a very suitable and happy allusion to the benevolent works which have been started by your townsman, Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliyar. It will be my pleasure this afternoon to accept Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliyar's invitation to lay the foundation stone of a dispensary for women and children. I join with you in commending the munificence and kind-heartedness of Sir Savalai Ramasami, and I wish that there were more possessed with his good and ample means, his liberality and kind heart, among your community.

I beg to thank you in conclusion for the repeated good wishes which you express for my health and prosperity and for that of my family; and I end by saying that it is a satisfaction to find myself at last in the South Arcot district, and to be received by such a numerous deputation of the educated and wealthy representatives of this part of the Southern Presidency.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF CUDDALORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—We, the Municipal Councillors of Cuddalore, most respectfully beg to offer our heartfelt welcome to Your Excellency. We need hardly say how greatly our pleasure and honour would have been enhanced by the presence of Her Excellency Lady Havelock on this occasion.

2. Your Excellency is aware that the district of South Arcot is, historically speaking, one of the most interesting in Southern India. It was for many years the battle-ground of the Mogul and the Mahratta and latterly of the English and their diverse enemies, both European and Native. For Saint David, Gingee, Porto Novo, Chingam and Palamcottai near Chidambaram are places more or less famous for some stirring event which occurred in those times. It was in the midst of the struggles between the Mahrattas and the English that the old

English obtained possession of Gúdalúr, afterwards named Fort Saint David, an event which took place a little over two centuries ago. It was in this district too, that the military genius of Lord Clive, the founder of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Indian Empire, first displayed itself.

3. We are thankful that we have been granted this opportunity of giving spontaneous expression to the loyalty and gratitude we owe to Her Most Gracious Majesty for the many and great blessings of the benevolent and enlightened rule under which we live. It may also be permitted to us to repeat here, what has formed an almost invariable burden of the numerous addresses with which Your Excellency has been greeted during Your Excellency's tours through other parts of the Presidency—the unbounded confidence Your Excellency's Government has inspired in the minds of your subjects, as well as the sense of grateful appreciation felt by all, of the lofty rectitude of Your Excellency's acts and intentions, not to speak of the constant endeavours made by Your Excellency in all matters brought for your consideration, to study and promote the peace and contentment of the population.

4. On this day Your Excellency is to lay the foundation of the dispensary for women and children in this town, to be erected on the site kindly granted by the Government, and at the cost of Raja Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliyar, and we are greatly indebted both to Government and to that gentleman.

We submit that we have a few wants; the most important of them being a good water-supply to the town, which includes within its municipal area of 13.30 square miles, several suburbs separated from one another by considerable distances, so that a source of good water available in one place is inaccessible to others. The subject engaged the attention of Government, but was dropped for the reason that the Municipal Council was not able to contribute towards the cost of the scheme (*vide* G.O., No. 68 M., Mis., dated 12th February 1899). There are no merchant princes or wealthy inhabitants residing within the limits of this municipality, to assist the council with contributions to municipal funds to meet the cost of the water-supply scheme. We are therefore compelled to beg for the indulgent consideration of Your Excellency in Council to our prayer that the entire cost of the project may be borne by Provincial funds, more especially as the scheme would make provision for the water-supply of the District Jail at Mount Capper in accordance with a request made by the Inspector-General of Prisons so far back as 1895. In this connection, we beg leave to respectfully bring to Your Excellency's notice, the hardship that will be caused by G.O., No. 917 I., dated 28th November 1898, directing the payment of cess from the 1st April 1900, for water supplied to this town from Government sources of irrigation, and we pray that in view of the present unsatisfactory state of our finances, the order may be kindly kept in abeyance.

The only other and the last request we beg to make, with due deference and most profound respect, is for Government's benevolent and kind reconsideration of its order reducing the number of councillors to be appointed by election by the rate-payers, from fifteen to seven—a privilege enjoyed for a long period, and which we earnestly pray may be restored to us.

In conclusion we once more thank Your Excellency for your condescension in paying this visit to our town. And it is our ardent prayer that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may live long in the enjoyment of sound health and ever increasing prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CUDDALORE,—I accept with many thanks your kind welcome to your town of Cuddalore, and the address which has just been presented. I will specially value the beautiful casket in which the address is contained. It will serve me always as an agreeable memento of my present visit to this interesting town of Cuddalore, and of the kind reception I have met from the municipal body of this town. I understand that the casket is of local manufacture, and that adds to the interest and value which I attach to it. You speak with just pride of the halo of historic interest which surrounds the town of Cuddalore and its neighbourhood. It was in this region of India that the struggle for

dominion between France and England was mainly fought out. If the king who ruled in France at that time had had the wisdom to attach a proper value to the importance of French interests in the East, and had not looked at the affairs in this part of the world through the wrong end of the telescope, and had not neglected his men of genius and heroism who were fighting for his interests out here, it is difficult to say how matters might have been at the present time. However, here the British rule is now established, and it is very gratifying on this and on all similar occasions, to hear from representatives of the people in India of the feelings of loyalty to the throne and their attachment to British rule. The special interest which attaches to this house, the one in which we have met, as having been the residence of Lord Clive, appeals very much to the feelings of every Englishman, and every Englishman is proud of the name of Lord Clive, and his great achievements in India. This house has also the further interest of having been the residence of an ancestor of your present Collector.

You allude to the ceremony in which I am about to take part to-day—the laying of the foundation stone of the dispensary for women and children, which, by the generosity of Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliyar, is to be built in your town. I have no doubt that some of you will be present on that occasion, when I shall have great pleasure in expressing in your presence, our appreciation of the goodness and munificence of your countryman, Sir

Savalai Ramasami, and of the way in which he shows his benevolence and liberality.

You proceed in your address to make representations on the desirability of a good water-supply for Cuddalore and the neighbouring towns. You have my warm sympathy in your wants in this respect. It goes to my heart to be obliged to tell you that at the present moment the Provincial Government is not in a position to make you any definite promise on the subject. There are many other municipalities and localities which are in want of the same great privilege of a good supply of water, and I think there are many of those that are in still greater need of it than even yourselves. At any rate, there are a good many names of municipalities and localities in the Government list before Cuddalore, and I regret therefore to tell you that I fear you will have to wait. The small scheme for supplying water to the jail to which you allude, is a very inexpensive one, and will only meet the requirements of the jail population. It will be impossible to construct it on a sufficiently large scale to meet the requirements of the town of Cuddalore.

You next draw my attention to a recent Government Order, by which it was provided that after a certain date the town of Cuddalore will have to pay a cess for water taken from an irrigation work in its neighbourhood, and you ask that that date may be further postponed. I must remind you that the demand which the Government is making

upon you for payment on this occasion is founded on a sound principle—a principle which applies in other places in the Presidency. But I am willing to admit that at the present time, owing to the demands made upon local and municipal funds, on account of famine and plague, those funds are reduced to a very low ebb, and I will, in compliance with the representation which you now make to me, bring this matter again before my Government, with a view to seeing whether under the peculiar circumstances that we are in at the present time, your request may not be given consideration to.

You next touch upon the subject of the reduction of the members of elected councillors in the Municipality of Cuddalore. I regret that the Government should have found it necessary to adopt this measure. Such a strong measure is, as you know, not resorted to until a very great necessity for it has been shown. I admit that I am not fully aware of all the circumstances—I believe they have extended over a considerable number of years—which led the Governments to come to this determination. But of this I do feel sure, that it was not done without full consideration and without great reluctance. I do, however, assure you that the door of repentance is always open, and that there is a great willingness on the part of the Government to restore, whenever good cause is shown, a privilege such as this which has been withdrawn. I am glad to learn from the report of the Collector that there has been, during the last year or two, a very

considerable improvement in the management of municipal affairs, and the Collector attributes this, in a great measure, to the energy and activity of your present chairman. I earnestly hope that this movement in the direction of improvement will be persevered with, and if maintained for a reasonable time, say for another year or so, I think I may hold out hopes that the Government will favourably consider the representation which you have made to me now. If you will allow me to give you a piece of advice, it is this, that when the time for electing your new chairman comes round, you will give full consideration in carrying out that duty to the excellent work which has been done by your present chairman. The present chairman has, as I have already said, improved matters so much as to show that the municipality is moving in the direction of reform, and in your own interests, I think it will be well that you should try and keep at the head of your affairs the same strong directing hand.

I have now to take the liberty of asking your leave to introduce into my answer to your address, a portion of the reply which I should have given to the address which I received from the District Board. I see some members of the deputation from the District Board are still in the verandah, etc., perhaps within ear-shot, and in any case they will be able to read my reply in the Madras newspapers. The District Board did me the honour to ask me to allow the Industrial School which they are about to open, to be named after myself. I had fully

intended to tell them that I should be proud to give permission for this to be done, but I inadvertently omitted to deal with that portion of their address. I now take the liberty of expressing my willingness and my pride in allowing my name to be associated with this Industrial School.

I have now, in conclusion, only to tender my thanks to you for your kind welcome and for the pleasant words with which you have addressed me on this occasion.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF TIRUVANNAMALAI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council of Tiruvannámalai beg leave to approach Your Excellency and accord a hearty and loyal welcome.

Tiruvannámalai is a place of historical and religious importance. Since its connection by the railway in 1890, it has become a rising town with a population of 13,650. The annual Karthigai festival, during which there is also a large cattle fair, attracts more than 70,000 persons from all parts of the Presidency and Ceylon, and the serious outbreaks of cholera at the time have necessitated the expenditure of large sums of money on the sanitation of the town and the cattle market. We have been able to meet these costly sanitary arrangements with the kind help of the district and taluk boards from April 1896, when the Government was pleased

to constitute this town into a municipality, and it is a matter for congratulation that the festivals have been free from such epidemics ever since that date.

On the occurrence of a few indigenous cases of plague at Vellore, Tiruvannámalai has been made an inspection station, and we hope that, with the climatic advantages of this town, and the solicitude and the sanitary arrangements of Your Excellency's Government, Providence will help us to keep out the dire disease.

To remedy the long-felt scarcity of water, a scheme has been proposed for the supply of drinking water to this town. We are now considering our ways and means of financing the scheme. We humbly submit that, when we succeed in our attempt, we shall approach Your Excellency's Government with a request for a generous consideration of our case.

In conclusion we pray that the Almighty will be graciously pleased to bless Your Excellency and Lady Havelock with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF TIRUVANNAMALAI,—I accept with pleasure your kind welcome to Cuddalore and the district. It is interesting to know that your town is a rising place, increasing in population, amounting to the important total of 13,660 people. I know that, as you say, it is an important resort during the great

pilgrimage, and for that reason is exposed to considerable risks from cholera and other dangerous diseases, and therefore a considerable expenditure devolves upon you in measures of precaution. It becomes desirable that a place of that description should have a good water-supply. I, therefore, fully understand your anxiety in this respect. I am glad to hear you are considering the question of ways and means with the intention of making a proposal on the subject to Government. I can only repeat what I have been obliged to say to many other deputations, that for financial reasons the Government are not able at present to give that assistance for works of this kind which they would wish to do. But we are anxious and willing to do all we can, and especially to help a body of men who are, to judge from your own words, anxious to help themselves. If we find that the proposals you make are feasible, and you can show that the whole or, at any rate, a very large portion of the cost of your scheme will be borne by yourselves, you may be sure your proposals will receive earlier favourable consideration than they would, if you submitted a scheme under which it would be necessary that Government should come largely to your assistance. I am aware that the temple body of your town is one possessed of considerable means, and I venture now to express the hope in your presence, that this temple body, which derives large benefit from the pilgrimage, and which in this way indirectly exposes you to the risks of diseases, should bear a larger

cost than they at present seem willing to do. I join with you earnestly in hoping that the precautions which have been taken by the Government, and which I hope are well supported by your municipal body to keep the dire disease of plague from amongst us, will be successful. At present I believe the district of South Arcot is free from this disagreeable affliction. Long may it continue so. Gentlemen, I thank you for your address and your words of welcome.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MUHAMMADAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CUDDALORE AND OTHER MUSSALMANS OF SOUTH ARCOT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Muhammadan Educational Association, Cuddalore, and other Mussalmans of South Arcot, subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen-Empress of India, beg most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency to this district.

We need scarcely assure Your Excellency that we are second to none in loyalty to our august sovereign, whom Your Excellency so worthily represents in this Presidency.

We consider ourselves very fortunate in having at the head of our district administration one whose name is historically connected with the annals of Fort St. David.

Your Excellency has earned the gratitude and love of our community for the sympathetic interest. Your Excellency has been pleased to take in the amelioration of our condition.

We feel that our decay, which is partly due to political vicissitudes, partly to the apathy of our forefathers to take to English education, when the English language was substituted for Persian, as the official and court language, has been arrested by the generous policy inaugurated in respect of our community by the late lamented Lord Hobart, and which has been so sympathetically continued by Your Excellency and Your Excellency's illustrious predecessor, Lord Wenlock.

We have now more Mussalmans in the public service, except in the judicial line, and more graduates than at any time before. In this district, where Mussalman education has not made any rapid strides there are two amongst us, one, who has taken the degrees of Arts and Laws, and another the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In other districts also there are now Mussalman young men who have benefited themselves by higher education. As far as the progress of Mussalman education is concerned, the present bears a very favourable contrast with the past.

We are however alive to the fact that what has been already achieved is nothing in comparison with what still remains to be achieved. To further the progress of Muhammadan education, an educational association, under the presidentship of Muhammad Nurad Maracayer Sahib Bahadur, was started in the

beginning of last year. We have been not only maintaining a Muhammadan Girl school, Madarasai Muradia (Muradia school), but also with the benevolent concession of receiving half of the fixed rate of school fees for Mussalman youths from the association, kindly granted by the Principal of the local St. Joseph's College, and the Secretary of the Cuddalore College Committee, we have been enabled to assist a number of boys to prosecute their studies in the said institutions. We venture to hope that, during Your Excellency's tenure of office, these efforts will bear good fruit.

We respectfully beg to express that one of the chief impediments to our educational advancement, as already observed by Your Excellency on more than one occasion, is the late stage at which Mussalman youths commence their English education. This defect we respectfully beg to submit is in a great measure due to the desire of Mussalman parents to give Hindustani education to their children, before the commencement of their English education. It is rather difficult to overcome this obstacle, unless some provision is made for teaching Hindustani by the appointment of, at least one Hindustani Munshi in the Lower Secondary Department of every mufussil college and high school, by making provision in the Grant-in-aid Code for securing this object, in consultation with our sympathetic Director of Public Instruction, the Hon'ble Dr. Duncan.

We further beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that this district, which has a population of

about 60,000 Mussalmans, is in great need of a Mussalman Inspecting Schoolmaster who will, as in other districts, give impetus to Mussalman education. The question of appointing such an Inspecting officer, we understand, is already engaging the favourable attention of our sympathetic and esteemed Collector. We pray that, when the proposal is submitted to Government, it may receive Your Excellency's favourable consideration.

We venture also to crave Your Excellency's permission, to submit to Your Excellency for consideration, the desirability of amending the Act X of 1863, the Religious Endowment Act, and the Act XII of 1880, the Kazi Act. It is found by experience that both these enactments which have an important bearing on matters connected with our religion, have not been working satisfactorily. The provisions of the Religious Endowment Act are so very imperfect and the procedure prescribed for working them is so very complex, that they do not afford sufficient means for the protection of trust properties. As regards the Kazi Act, we humbly beg to represent that, owing to its limited scope, the Kazi is not now in a position to enforce the registration of all marriages within his jurisdiction and to maintain reliable records.

In conclusion we sincerely and fervently pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock and family may enjoy uninterrupted and unalloyed happiness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MUHAMMADAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CUDDALORE,—I am very sensible of the kindness which you have shown in presenting me with this address and the interesting and beautiful casket which contains it. That casket will be a pleasant memento of the kind reception you have given me here, and of the interest which you have aroused in my mind for your position in South Arcot. I can assure you that no fresh asseverations with regard to the loyalty of the Muhammadan community in India, are needed. We have full faith in their loyalty. It is, however, always satisfactory to receive from you a repetition of these very proper sentiments.

The difficulties of the Muhammadan community with regard to public employment have formed the subject of many representations since I have been Governor of Madras, and my replies on that subject are well known to you. I shall not therefore on this occasion repeat them to you. I will only say that all the efforts made by your community to improve your position have the warmest sympathy of Government, and that sympathy has already been shown in a very substantial way by the advantages which have been given to you in the matter of school fees and in other respects. I am glad to learn from what you tell me in the address that special efforts are being made in this district to fit yourselves for taking a higher position in the destinies of the country, than you at present occupy, and I join with

you in hoping that those efforts will bear excellent fruit.

You allude to the desirability of the appointment of a Hindustani Munshi in each Secondary department of schools and colleges in the mofussil. This question of cultivating the Hindustani language has, on several occasions, come before me during the last three years, and I must confess that, from my own point of view, I think there is something to be said for it. But it is necessary, I think, in this, as in many other cases, to move very slowly. It will, however, I assure you, not be lost sight of by me; and as connected with it, this proposal of the appointment of a Hindustani teacher in the school, will be a very important element. You next touch on the need that there is for a Muhammadan Inspecting Schoolmaster in the district. I am informed by the Collector that the Assistant Inspector of Schools in this district has been asked to report on this point but that no reply has been received. But when the matter comes before Government you may be sure that your representations will receive the due attention which it deserves.

You next call attention to the defects which you allege exist in your Religious Endowment Act and your Kazi Act. I must tell you that I had not until this occasion become aware that there were any serious defects in the administration of Muhammadan religious property. It is a matter on which I will not fail to make enquiry; and I am told at once by the Collector, that as far as this district is concerned,

he is informed that there is a considerable amount of mismanagement of endowments and misappropriation of funds. I will cause enquiries to be made on this point when I return to Madras. With regard to the Kazi Act I am informed that the Act does not render necessary the presence of a Kazi at a marriage or performance of any rite or ceremony, nor does it prevent any person from discharging the functions of a Kazi. And it is understood that a good deal of litigation arises from imperfect marriage registration, and the character of the marriage register, with regard to which fraud is easily practised. This points to the existence of a serious imperfection into which it will be my duty to make enquiry. I thank you, gentlemen, for your kind wishes for myself and for my family.

ADDRESS FROM THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS
OF CUDDALORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In the name of the Roman Catholic Christians of this district, we most humbly welcome Your Excellency, and wish to express our sincere happiness on this visit of Your Excellency to Cuddalore.

Our community, though numerically small, is second to none in the loyalty and gratitude with which it is animated for the benign Government, to which the destinies of India have been committed by Providence.

We have reason to entertain a peculiar devotion to the British Government, and to pray ceaselessly for its constant success, as it is a Christian Government, carried on by one of the most Christian and philanthropic nations in the World, and presided over at present by one of the very best and noblest of Christian sovereigns that ever graced a throne.

Our attachment to the Government under which we live, is strengthened sevenfold by our consciousness that the interests of our community are inseparably bound up with the prosperity of that Government, and that, under its protection, both the practice and the propagation of the Christian religion in the country enjoy the most complete freedom and immunity from those restraints and disabilities by which they were oppressed under former governments.

Under the impartial and generous support extended by the Madras Government to all classes of its subjects, we, Catholics, have been able, especially in more recent times, to keep pace with the general advancement of the country in its mental and material conditions, and to hold our own fairly against other sections of our compatriots.

Next to Government, our community owes its welfare and gradual amelioration to the labours of missionaries from far-off lands, who expend their talents, their money, and the best part of their lives, in fulfilling the lofty ideal which they have embraced from love of their Divine Master. We need not enlarge upon this topic: we wish only to make

a passing mention of St. Joseph's college, Cuddalore, an institution which is doing immense good work in the district in educating the young, and which has upwards of 700 pupils, not including the branch school situated at Tiruppáppuliyúr, with about 300 students reading there. The college is under the direction of Fathers belonging to the Archdiocese of Pondicherry, a branch of the Society of Foreign Missions, Paris—the same society that sent out Abbé Dubois, whose name is so familiar to all readers in India. Under their management also is a convent normal school, giving education to a large number of girls in this town.

We need not tell here of needs peculiar to our community, which we should like Government to help us in removing. We know full well that, whatever our aims and aspirations, if we did our best for ourselves, our benevolent rulers would not fail to encourage and, where necessary, materially support us according to their opportunities.

We are profoundly thankful to Your Excellency for having been pleased to accept this humble address, and from the fulness of our hearts we pray that God may keep Your Excellency and Lady Havelock and family under His holy guardianship, and bestow on you all His choicest blessings.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REV. FATHERS,—I feel deeply gratified by your kindness in coming to bid me welcome here, and I have listened with interest and sympathy to the

address with which you have presented me. It is very pleasing to me to know that the efforts made by the Roman Catholic Church in this part of India have met with so much success, and that the devotion and good work of the Fathers and Sisters sent out to this country are so highly appreciated by the natives of South Arcot. I am interested to know that the Roman Catholic community numbers more than 20,000 in this district. This shows how successful have been the efforts which have been so worthily bestowed on this district. I beg, Fathers, you will convey to the Rev. Sisters my thanks for the beautiful specimen of the work of their pupils, which they have been good enough to send me by your hands.

ADDRESS FROM RAJA SIR SAVALAI RAMASAMI
MUDALIYAR, *Kl.*, C.I.E.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I offer Your Excellency my most hearty and respectful welcome, and solicit your auspices at this ceremony, on behalf of myself and the assembly gathered here. When about three years ago, I visited this city during my pilgrimage to some of the sacred shrines of southern India, I learned from Mr. Castle Stuart, the then Collector of the district, and from the people of the place, that a dispensary for women and children was a want felt here, and I at once resolved to provide such a dispensary. My promptitude in arriving at that resolution was due not only to the pressing

character of the want, and to my loyal adherence to this species of benefaction, which is ever nearest to the heart of Her Most Gracious Majesty, but also to my special attachment to this city. My ancestors belonged to a village close by. Although the ancient records of my family were destroyed at a dacoity, the tradition has been handed down in the family that my great-great-grandfather, named Savalai Venkatachala Mudaliyar, who lived about the middle of the last century, was a dubash or agent of the East India Company in these parts, and was given shelter in Fort St. David when pursued by the emissaries of Hyder Ali, in consequence of his helpfulness to British interests; and, at his death, his funeral was graced by military honors. At a public meeting held in Madras, presided over by Your Excellency, in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's beneficent rule, I announced my intention to build a dispensary here, at a cost of Rs. 10,000, in commemoration of the Jubilee. Mr. Castle Stuart, who had suggested to me the happy idea having left the district, Mr. Wynch, his successor, kindly helped me in obtaining from Your Excellency's Government the grant of the site, and has otherwise earnestly assisted in pushing forward the success of the undertaking, and, in this connection, the happy circumstance has to be referred to, which it has pleased Providence to bring about, that a descendant of Savalai Venkatachala Mudaliyar should meet in this very town, and enjoy the sympathy and co-operation of a descendant of Mr. Alexander

Wynch, the Deputy Governor of Fort St. David, who succeeded Lord Clive. My friend Mr. J. A. Jones, the Sanitary Engineer, who has always been of help to me, furnished the design. My thanks are due to those gentlemen and to other officials of the district and the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Cuddalore, who have assisted me in this endeavour with advice and otherwise. I have placed in the hands of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. Rs. 10,000 in trust for the purpose, and the authorities of the district have been duly apprised of the fact. I am deeply grateful to Your Excellency for so kindly consenting to honour this occasion with your gracious presence, and respectfully invite Your Excellency to lay the foundation of this dispensary for women and children, which I intend to dedicate to the use of the public as an humble gift from me. Permit me, sir, to add that I have been strongly tempted to avail myself of your present trip in this direction, having realized the auspiciousness of your hand, which initiated my Maternity Hospital at Conjeeveram to be successfully completed and opened for public use in a year's time.

I pray that the Almighty may confer His choicest blessings on you and Lady Havelock, whose benign presence is so much missed at this ceremony.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Little more than a year ago, at the invitation of Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliyar, I performed the

ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a Maternity Hospital at Conjeeveram, which Sir Ramasami, with that combination of open-handed munificence and tender-hearted solicitude for the weak and suffering which distinguishes him, had determined to build. This institution, the Maternity Hospital at Conjeeveram, is finished, and it was opened and handed over to the Municipality of Conjeeveram a few days ago by my friend and Hon'ble colleague in the Government, Mr. Arundel. And now I am invited to perform a ceremony of a like nature here in Cuddalore. The ceremony of to-day is associated with a combination of circumstances, which are remarkable and interesting. In the first place the object of this institution is excellent. It is for the amelioration and the alleviation of the sufferings of women and children; and as Sir Ramasami has told us in the address which has just been read, he is building this institution as a memorial of Her Majesty's Jubilee. It was, at a public meeting, held in Madras before the Jubilee celebration that I had the pleasure of announcing the determination of Sir Savalai to build this dispensary. No act on his part could more suitably fall in with the wishes of Her Majesty, if they could be known, as a celebration of that event, for Her Majesty's loving and tender heart would be warmer if she knew what was being done for the weak people of her own sex, and for poor children. Another circumstance which makes this a particularly happy ceremony is the fact that this is an auspicious anniversary. This day, the 10th

February, is the anniversary of Her Majesty's wedding. Forty-nine years ago to-day, Her Majesty's happy married life began, which was only terminated after a duration of nigh 22 years, by the ever-to-be lamented death of Her Majesty's beloved consort. A third reason which makes this ceremony a particularly interesting one, is that it takes place in a very appropriate locality. Cuddalore, as we have heard, is the birth place of Sir Ramasami, and Cuddalore may well be proud of her son. I will conclude my remarks by the aspiration that Providence will long preserve, to be an ornament to his country, and a benefactor to his people, our friend Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliyar. Sir Savalai, I shall always keep these beautiful articles, which you have caused to be made with so much ingenuity and good taste, as a happy memento of this auspicious and pleasant occasion.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE OF CHIDAMBARAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Reception Committee, beg, with the most profound respect, to approach Your Excellency, the Representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, with this address of welcome on the auspicious occasion of your arrival in our midst. We feel gratified, at Your Excellency's visit to this district, so long and honourably connected with the early settlement of the Glorious British

Nation in this vast continent, and we take it as an assurance of your solicitude for the well-being of the millions entrusted to Your Excellency's care. We most humbly pray that Your Excellency will condescend to accept the entertainment which we have arranged in honour of Your Excellency's visit.

2. We beg leave to add, that we regret, very much, the absence of Her Excellency Lady Havlock, on this occasion.

3. With ardent prayers to the Almighty, for your long life, health and continued prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CHIDAMBARAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council of Chidambaram, beg to approach Your Excellency on this memorable occasion with feelings of the greatest pleasure and the most profound loyalty, and to accord to Your Excellency a most hearty welcome to this ancient town, which, small as it is, has played no small part in the early wars of the English for supremacy in India. Its fame, however, chiefly rests on the fact of its being one of the most important places of Hindu pilgrimage in India. We venture to hope that Your Excellency's brief stay here will be rendered very pleasant by the sights, Your Excellency may see in the local temple, of magnificent structure and world-wide renown.

We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to bring to Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration, the chief want of our town—a good water-supply. It was proposed that a few wells connected with one another should be sunk in an adjoining village, whence water should be pumped into the town through pipes, and an experimental well was accordingly dug, but though its water was pronounced by the Chemical Examiner to be usable, the proposal has been viewed with disfavour by the Sanitary Engineer, who is of opinion that the supply from the proposed source would not be equal to the demand. He has, however, expressed a hope that the investigation of another source of supply may be taken up early in 1899-1900, and we earnestly trust that this second experiment may prove both successful and economical, and that the benign Government will be pleased to extend its generosity to this municipality, whose resources are scanty, so that its object may be achieved, at an early date.

In this connection, we beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice a recent G.O. (No. 917-T., dated 23th November 1898), calling on this municipality to pay Rs. 1,300 annually for the water supplied to the tanks in the town. The Government Order in question is evidently based on the ground alleged by the Executive Engineer, South Arcot Division, that irrigation interests would suffer by the supply of water to the municipality. We beg to maintain that irrigation does not and cannot possibly suffer by the supply, as it is only during the hot

season when there is no cultivation at all, that any special arrangements have to be made for filling the tanks, the surplus water finding its way, as it must, into the reservoirs at other times of the year, and we have been all along defraying the expenses connected with these special arrangements. We beg to urge respectfully on Your Excellency's attention the fact, that this municipality, in spite of the late enhancement of the house-tax, finds itself unable to do anything like justice to the numerous calls on its slender purse, and we beg to submit that, without a water scheme, we cannot under the Act impose a water-rate, and the levy of the water charge in question would mean the neglect of both communications and sanitation. In these circumstances, we beg to pray that we be allowed, as recommended by the Collector of the district, to continue to enjoy the privilege we have been enjoying from time immemorial, until we have been provided with a proper drinking water system.

In conclusion, we beg to thank Your Excellency most sincerely for having done us the honour and the pleasure of including our town in Your Excellency's tour programme now, and we beg to wish many years of beneficent rule and perfect happiness to Her Majesty our Queen-Empress, whose loyal subjects it is our proud privilege to be, and who cannot be represented by a better or a more worthy personage than Your Excellency, whose love for the people and sympathetic attitude towards their just

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aspirations have rightly won for Your Excellency the enviable appellation of the People's Governor.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CHIDAMBARAM,—I feel much complimented by the kind welcome which you have accorded to me here, and I have much pleasure in receiving the address which has just been read. It was in some degree with the object of seeing the ancient magnificent and sacred temple of Chidambaram, that I made it an item in my programme to stop at Chidambaram on my way to Trichinopoly and Pudukottah. I am looking forward with great interest to viewing that magnificent and interesting structure.

I sympathise with you very sincerely in your desire for a good scheme of water-supply. I trust that the scheme, which you say in your address, is likely to be prepared during the course of the next year, may be a satisfactory and at the same time an economical one. In the present state of Provincial as well as Local finances, it is, I am afraid, useless to hold out any very sanguine hopes of an early construction of these works; when I say early construction, I mean construction within the course of the next year or two. After next year, I hope that if we are relieved from the charges which now fall upon us, in consequence of the impending plague and other things that have tended against an increase of revenue, or rather tended against a more

liberal grant from the Imperial revenues to the provincial revenues, that we shall be in a position to do more than we have been able to do during the last few years; and if your scheme, as I have said already, turns out to be a satisfactory and economical one, you may trust to Government to give you all such help as they legitimately can. You know perfectly well, probably, in what degree we have come to the aid of other municipalities in similar circumstances, and I have no reason for supposing that the Government is likely to be less liberal to Chidambaram, than it has been to other municipalities. The fact that your town is a place where there is a large assembly of people, on occasions of pilgrimages, makes it all the more necessary that you should be provided with a good water-supply.

You next deal with the question of payment, for the water which you now get from the tanks. I am aware of the Government Order to which you allude, and I make the reply to this request much on the same lines as I did to a like request which I received yesterday at Cuddalore, that is, that having regard to the heavy demands that have been made upon Municipal and Local funds during the last year or two, on account of the vicissitudes of famine and plague, I think I may be justified in raising the question once more. I promise you that the question whether payment of Rs. 1,300 per annum, against which you protest in the address, may not be delayed, will be considered. I would take this

opportunity of observing that the temple here being a rich one, as I understand, or at any rate receiving considerable advantage from the large concourse of pilgrims who come here periodically, should, in ordinary fairness, be disposed to make a liberal grant for improvements connected with the municipality, more especially with regard to the supply of water. The temple authorities must, I know, receive considerable sums of money from the fees collected by them from pilgrims, and it is only fair that they should contribute out of these fees towards the general maintenance of the town, more especially when you remember that by their presence, the risk of all those diseases being introduced from remote parts, is very largely increased. I will not detain you longer, but merely express my thanks for the welcome, and my warm acknowledgments for the good wishes which you have expressed in the last paragraph of your address.

ADDRESS FROM THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RAJA'S
COLLEGE, PUDUKKÓTTAI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—With Your Excellency's kind permission, I beg to recapitulate the salient points in the history of the institution during the last year.

2. *Numerical.*—The college had 753 students on the last date of the last fasli, against 703 on the

corresponding date of the previous year, showing an increase of 50 students. Of these, about 85 per cent. are natives of the State, and the remaining 15 per cent. are outsiders, from the British Territory, who have sought admission into this institution, in spite of the fact that free scholarships are awarded only to poor natives and no concession is shown to outsiders in the shape of reduction of fees. The average strength on the rolls was 717, against 667, the average daily attendance 661, against 615, and the percentage of daily absentees nearly 7.

3. *Financial.*—The total expenditure during the last fasli was Rs. 19,311-13-11 against Rupees 19,025-13-7 for the previous year. The total fee collection was Rs. 12,319-12-3 against Rupees 11,522-1-9, showing an increase of about Rs. 800. The fees thus covered a little more than 63 per cent., or nearly two-thirds of the cost of the establishment. The average ordinary cost per pupil was Rs. 25-10-4, against Rs. 27-1-0. The increase in the cost is due to the decrease in the number of students.

4. *Results of the Examinations.*—Out of 25 students that went up for the F.A., 13 passed, the percentage for the college being 52 against 37 for the Presidency. Out of 54 students that went up for the Matriculation, 32 have passed in all subjects except Science, in which subjects there is to be a re-examination, the percentage for the college in this examination being 59 against 34 for the Presidency. I beg to add that this college has been holding

always a high place and often a very high place in the University pass lists.

5. *Moral Education*.—We avail ourselves of all opportunities both in and out of school to inculcate to the students the value of respectful behaviour, self-restraint, truthfulness, kindness to inferiors, &c.

6. *The Library*.—About 50 volumes were added to the library during the last fasli, making the total number of volumes in the college library 3,657. The library is extensively used by students. It is considered to be the best of its kind in any institution of the same grade, and in addition to books bearing on subjects that are taught in the college, there is an extensive collection of instructive and interesting volumes. The college has also been taking several well-known English Magazines. There is also a unique collection of 1,205 Tamil books, forming the Tamil Public Library.

7. *Physical Exercise*.—The progress in gymnastic exercises and in cricket, tennis and foot-ball has been satisfactory.

8. *Drawing*.—The subject has been made compulsory in all the classes and the progress has been good.

9. It may be stated that this institution more than answers the conditions laid down in the Madras Educational Rules, as regards staff, accommodation, sanitation, furniture, apparatus and other appliances. It may also be here observed that we have not been

aiming merely at examination results, but attend to many things that conduce to real education.

10. I avail myself of this opportunity to submit to Your Excellency that the State maintains, in addition to this college.

(a) *Sri Marthanda Industrial School* where industrial training is given in carpentry, rattan-work, painting and varnishing, drawing, tailoring and smith's work, along with general education to artisan boys and others.

(b) *An Agricultural Training School* with a demonstrative farm attached to it, from which students are sent up for the Madras Government Technical Examinations in Botany, Physiology, Physiography, Chemistry, Surveying and Levelling, Hygiene and Agriculture; and thirteen of the twenty students were successful last April, some taking very high places in the pass lists.

(c) A Sanskrit College in which instruction is given by experts in several departments of Sanskrit knowledge, such as Sanskrit Grammar, Philosophy, Logic and Rhetoric, from which students can appear for the examinations on the Oriental Side of the Madras University, if these should be instituted, and to which is attached a Sanskrit Manuscript Library of 900 palm-leaf manuscripts.

(d) 34 State Primary and Middle Schools for boys, including 5 schools for Muhammadan boys and 3 schools for Pariah boys, and 15 State girls' schools, including 5 schools for Muhammadan girls and 1 school for Pariah girls.

In addition to these there are about 180 aided schools for boys and 10 aided schools for girls.

In these schools, about 7,800 boys and 850 girls are receiving instruction, the number of Muhammadan boys being 410, Muhammadan girls 230, Pariah boys 400, and Pariah girls 28.

We, the teachers and students, beg to acknowledge on this occasion our deep debt of gratitude to His Highness and the Diwan M.R.Ry. Vijaya Raghunatha Durai Raja Avargal, B.A., whom we are proud to reckon as one of our students, for the very encouraging and considerate treatment we have always received from them.

Hoping, in conclusion, that Your Excellency will carry a favourable impression of this institution and of our work in it, and wishing Your Excellency long life and continued prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

YOUR HIGHNESS, MR. PRINCIPAL AND GENTLEMEN,—I am very glad to have been given the opportunity of seeing this excellent and interesting institution. The college premises are evidently constructed on a most excellent model and are among the best that I have seen in Southern India. The report which the Principal has read to us seems to me to be satisfactory in all respects. It records an increase in the number of students on the rolls; it records a very excellent average attendance, and the

financial results also seem to be fairly satisfactory, and when I come to the results of the examination, we see the most marked feature of success in the whole of the report. It is pointed out that the averages of successful passes are remarkably high. I may mention that I have heard this point in connection with this college, before I came to the State. With regard to the various accessories of an educational institution such as this—library and physical exercises—good work appears from the report to have been done. The report contains, towards its close, a very interesting and compendious statement of the educational institutions in the State, which are attached to the college. That statement shows, as far as I am able to see, at a rather hasty glance, that the interests of education are exceedingly well looked after by His Highness and his officers. I am particularly glad to observe that there is considerable attention paid to technical teaching, and that the study of languages is by no means neglected. I will take this opportunity of joining with the teachers and students in expressing the sentiments of gratitude on behalf of the State of Pudukkóttá, for the exertions that have been made by His Highness and by his officers to establish this institution on a proper basis, and maintain it in that condition. It has afforded me great pleasure to have been allowed to distribute the prizes on this occasion. His Highness has in that way put in me the power of doing what is always a great pleasure to me, that is to give pleasure to other people. In conclusion

Mr. Principal, I beg to thank you for your kind wishes for my health and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE PUDUKKÓTTAI TOWN
HALL COMMITTEE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of "The Pudukkóttai Town Hall Committee," most humbly and respectfully beg leave to approach and welcome Your Excellency to the capital of this interesting and historic Native State. This State, though small indeed in extent and population, is second to none in India in fidelity to the British throne and loyalty to the British crown. Not long ago when Southern India was convulsed by all the horrors of a war between two mighty nations of Europe, fighting for supremacy in these parts, the valiant ancestors of our sovereign did yeoman service to the Honourable East India Company, and earned for ever the good will and affection of the British Crown. The unswerving and continued loyalty of the successive rulers of this State, strengthened the ties of mutual love and regard, and it was reserved for our beloved and enlightened ruler, His Highness Vijaya Marthanda Bhairava Tondiman Bahadur, to emphasise, in a marked degree, that feeling of loyalty and affection, by personally paying homage and respect at the feet of our august sovereign mother, Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India. We look upon this

event as auspicious and unique, pregnant with results most beneficial both to the ruler and the ruled, and forming an important epoch in the history of Pudukkóttai. We have therefore resolved upon commemorating this happy event, by erecting a town hall in the capital.

It is eminently fitting that the foundation stone for that town hall should be laid by such an august representative of our sovereign mother, as Your Excellency is, and we cannot sufficiently express our heart-felt joy and gratitude to Your Excellency for having kindly agreed to the wishes of our sovereign that the proposed town hall should for ever be connected with the worthy name of Your Excellency, which has already found a place in the deep recesses of the millions of hearts entrusted to Your Excellency's care.

We feel sure that Your Excellency's advent to this place amply testifies to the fostering care and abiding interest of the British Government, for the well-being of this Native State and to Your Excellency's kind and graceful recognition of the rare and sterling virtues of the head and heart of our beloved sovereign. We are not in the least surprised that His Highness has, by his admirable qualities, won Your Excellency's esteem; for as far back as 1886 when His Highness was a noble ward of tender age under the parental care of the Madras Government, Sir M. E. Grant Duff, the then Governor of Madras, remarked that His Highness would prove to be a credit to the British Government; and just a year

after, when another august predecessor of Your Excellency, Lord Connemara, visited Trichinopoly, His Lordship replying to the address of the Town Hall Committee, observed :—

“ There sits, on this occasion, on my left hand, a young prince who is born to a great estate. I have had several opportunities of seeing him during the last day or two, and I am quite sure, that, young as he is, he is quite sensible of the responsibilities which will devolve upon him. With the aid of the wise and able Diwan, he is fortunate to have as his adviser (here His Lordship alluded to the eminent statesman, Mr. A. Sashiah Sastriar, c.s.l., who is gracing the occasion with his imposing and venerable presence) I trust that he will, if spared, grow up to be a blessing to the people of his State.”

We now feel great pleasure in being able to assure Your Excellency that those weighty and prophetic utterances have been fully realised, and that His Highness has really proved a blessing to his people. We humbly beg to mention here one of the several measures of His Highness, which show his keen sense of the high responsibilities of his position, and his undoubted solicitude for the welfare of his people; and that is, the appointment of his brother and our esteemed fellow-citizen, M.R.Ry. Vijaya Raghunatha Durai Raja Avargal, B.A., as Councillor during the absence of His Highness in Europe. His Highness rightly thought that Mr. Vijaya Raghunatha Durai Raja, with his natural feeling of sympathy for His Highness's subjects, and his innate and

ingrained anxiety to maintain the prosperity and reputation of this State, as a model one, was the fittest person to be in charge of the helm of the State during his absence; and we sincerely feel that Mr. Vijaya Raghunatha Durai Raja has justified and more than justified the high expectations of his sovereign master, and has by his sympathetic, economic and able administration, won for him the affection and regard of all classes of His Highness subjects. As the past is but the index of the future, we feel no doubt of our ever-increasing prosperity, peace and plenty under the benign rule of His Highness, our sovereign master.

Once more thanking Your Excellency for the great honour done to us in kindly laying the foundation stone for the town hall, and praying for Your Excellency's and Her Excellency Lady Havelock's long life and continued prosperity, &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE PUDUKKÓTTAI TOWN HALL COMMITTEE,—I thank you for the kind welcome which you have accorded me to your town. In compliance with the request of His Highness the Raja I have had great satisfaction in performing this ceremony of laying the foundation stone of your projected town hall. I understand that the people of Pudukkóttai have determined to erect this building in commemoration of His Highness's recent visit to our beloved sovereign the Queen-Empress. It appears

to me that this is a very fitting way of showing the importance of the event, and your appreciation of what has happened on that occasion. I join with you in congratulating the State on the enlightenment and the devotion to duty of your present Raja. I thank you, in conclusion, for your kind wishes for myself and my family.

ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

FOURTEENTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF PERIYAKULAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the citizens of Periyakulam, beg to approach Your Excellency with feelings of immense pleasure and deep gratitude to offer our most hearty welcome, and to thank Your Excellency from the bottom of our hearts for this kind visit to our town.

Though this town cannot boast of any institutions which will specially interest and attract a personage of Your Excellency's unique position and rank, yet we feel proud of the fact that it has had the high privilege of being visited by two illustrious predecessors of Your Excellency, in consequence of its happy situation between the great Periyár Project works and the Kodaikánal hills, the chief centres of attraction, the one for its grandeur, and the other for its salubrious climate.

When His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Connemara visited this place, on his way to lay the foundation of the Periyár Project, the accomplishment of which has brought prosperity and plenty to this district, we presented an address to him praying for the sanction of the Berizum Project—a swamp on the top of the Palni Hills, which,

by its natural formation, affords great facilities for the successfully carrying out of the project, at a considerably small cost, and which will prove a never-failing source of water-supply for irrigation purposes to the whole of the Varahanady river basin, covered by more than 5,000 acres.

Having been favoured with a kind reply to patiently wait till the Periyár Project was completed, and prompted by the hopes of redress held out to us by Your Excellency's predecessor, we beg to come forward to press the matter again on the occasion of Your Excellency's arrival to this town, which we had been eagerly expecting all along.

• Our fields, which had once been classified as double crops, have been taken under single crop for want of water. The outturn of our fields is barely sufficient to pay the Government kist and meet cultivation expenses, and hence we are gradually becoming poorer. The want of rains in September makes the prospects still more gloomy.

In these circumstances, we venture to hope we may not be amiss in reiterating the necessity for the sanction of the Berizum Project, in the nearest future.

In conclusion we once more beg to cordially welcome Your Excellency to this town; we feel very grateful to Your Excellency for honouring us with this visit, and pray that the Dispenser of all Good may shower His choicest blessings upon our beloved Queen Mother, the Empress of India, upon Her

Most Gracious Majesty's Royal Family, and upon Her Representative in this land, Your Excellency, and bestow long life and prosperity to make us all happy.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

His Excellency told the ryots that a further investigation of the project would now be taken up.

ADDRESS FROM THE RESIDENTS OF KODAIKÁNAL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the residents of Kodaikáanal, have met to offer you a hearty welcome. We feel very highly the honour done to us by your visit, but we regret that there are so few persons up here now to greet Your Excellency. Although Kodaikáanal has been inhabited for over 45 years, and although it has for nearly 20 years been a place of considerable resort, and although for the last 15 years it has, year by year, been increasing in size, Your Excellency's visit is only the fourth visit paid to the place by a Governor of Madras. No doubt the discomforts and difficulties of the journey by rail and by road, and then up the ghaut have had a good deal to do with the fewness of those visits, and the same cause has no doubt prevented many persons from coming up here who would, otherwise, have preferred Kodaikáanal to other sanitariums. It has been stated by competent medical authorities that very few climates

would suit invalids so well as the climate of this place, especially invalids suffering from pulmonary disorders, but the journey from Ammayanáyakkanár, and especially that part of it which is up the ghaut, is so trying that it is quite enough to deter any person in feeble or bad health from attempting it. It is certain that a road, which would render more easy the access to this place, would induce a larger number of persons to come here each year. In this connection we most earnestly beg that Your Excellency will take into favourable consideration the proposed new driving road from the South Indian Railway, through the Lower Palnis, to Kodaikánal. This road, if constructed, could easily be extended to the planting centres in North Travancore. We understand that a road to the North Travancore tea plantations is in contemplation, if it has not been actually commenced, but it is a truism to say that there can hardly be too many roads into a district. The proposed road to which we beg Your Excellency's favourable consideration would, as was pointed out to Your Excellency's predecessor, tap the resources of the Lower Palni villages, would prove an enormous boon to the planters already on the Hills, would encourage others to take up land and develop the possibilities of these Hills. Another advantage which would attend the construction of a road would be a more plentiful, and probably, a cheaper supply of all the necessities of life. At present the inhabitants of Kodaikánal derive almost all their supplies from Periyakulam alone, the result

being that there are continual and loud complaints that supplies, &c., are bad, and often scanty. The new road would enable supplies to be drawn from a much larger area on the plains, which would create competition, and, undoubtedly, lead to an improvement in both their quality and their quantity.

No doubt it is in a great measure owing to the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's report, that Your Excellency's Government have sanctioned a municipality for this place. It is to be hoped that the results of that measure will be good in all points of view. And we trust that it will be found possible to carry out the remainder of Major Bannerman's recommendations. In connection therewith, we would point out to Your Excellency, that it is most desirable that an area should be reserved for the future water-supply of Kodaikánal, a matter which is likely to become more and more urgent year by year; and, further, that, in connection with the sanitation of the place, also a matter of pressing importance, an area of sufficient size should be allotted for the disposal of sweepings. We would ask Your Excellency to assist the municipality in the procuring of an incinerator to enable sweepings and refuse to be rendered innocuous, and even useful, in the most perfect and satisfactory manner. It has been stated that within a reasonably short period, an incinerator would repay its cost by the sale of converted refuse, for use as manure.

Another matter of very great importance to us, to which we would invite Your Excellency's

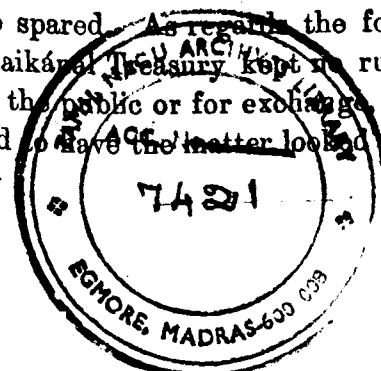
attention, is the fact that there is no Resident Physician here. Kodaikánal is almost, if not quite, as large as Coonoor, but, while there is a Resident Civil Surgeon at Coonoor, at Kodaikánal there is only a Civil Apothecary. If there were no Resident Physician at Coonoor, medical aid could, nevertheless, if needed, be easily and quickly procured from Ootacamund or Wellington. But if there were a case of urgency here, which called for skill greater than that of the Civil Apothecary, it would be impossible to get the Civil Surgeon from Madura without a delay of 24 hours, even if he were in Madura, and could start at once on receipt of a telegram. Therefore, we most respectfully beg that Your Excellency will be pleased favourably to consider our prayer that a Resident Commissioned Medical officer may be appointed to this place. The absence of such an officer has deterred many persons from coming here, and families from settling in this place, while the appointment of one would be attended by many advantages in several ways.

The last matter to which we would respectfully invite Your Excellency's consideration, is the great difficulty which is universally felt in getting cash for notes up here. We are informed that a sum of not less than Rs. 50,000, mostly in cash, is received annually in the Kodaikánal Treasury. We would request that orders may be passed that the amount received in rupees may be kept in the treasury, to be given out in exchange for notes, as may be required by the public. This would be a very great

boon and convenience. In conclusion, while we fear that we may not expect to receive another visit from Your Excellency, we would express the hope that, in the future, Governors of Madras will favour us with their visits more frequently than has been the case in past years.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

As regards the Atur ghât road through the Lower Palnis, His Excellency said that Government had called for estimate for a bridle-path in the first instance, that this estimate had recently been prepared and that it will shortly come up to Government for orders. As regards the second point, that areas should be reserved for water-supply, and for the disposal of the sweepings, and that an incinerator should be procured, His Excellency replied that Government entirely sympathize with their wishes in these matters, and that the Sanitary Commissioner would be asked to report what was advisable. As regards the third point, that is, their request for a Resident Medical officer, His Excellency said that he could only promise to bear this matter in mind, because the staff was now so short-handed that he felt certain no such officer could be spared. As regards the fourth point, that the Kodaikánal Treasury kept no rupees either for issue to the public or for exchange, His Excellency promised to have the matter looked into.



ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

FIFTEENTH TOUR

IN THE

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE RESIDENTS OF RÁNIPÉTTAI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the humble and loyal residents of the ancient and historic township of Ránipéttai, most respectfully beg to welcome Your Excellency, the fit representative of our great and noble Sovereign, Her Majesty the Queen. Ránipéttai was founded by a Raja of Ginjee, in honour of his wife, the then Rani, and was subsequently converted into a cantonment attached to Arcot, the ancient capital of the Carnatic. Since Arcot and the sister town of Wallajanaggar have long lost their ancient greatness and importance, Ránipéttai has sunk into comparative insignificance, though the relics of her former glory have not altogether disappeared. The fact that this town is the headquarters of a Civilian Divisional officer, and the existence of a number of beautiful and valuable buildings in the old European and Native Barracks, lend some importance to the place. It was here that the British and the Native troops, under their illustrious leader, Lord Clive, won immortal fame, the former by their prowess in the field, and the latter by their unselfish loyalty.

2. In approaching Your Excellency we crave permission to avail ourselves of this opportunity of

submitting to Your Excellency's consideration, certain matters which nearly touch the interests of the Ránipéttai Union, in the confident hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to comply with our humble requests.

3. We would represent to Your Excellency the necessity to transfer the Court of the District Munsif of Sholinghur, to this town. Sholinghur is not a convenient centre for the Court. It is more than nine miles from the railway station. It is not a very healthy town, nor does it command a good water-supply throughout the year. Again, during the rainy season, the roads to Sholinghur become almost impassable, whereas Ránipéttai has a most abundant supply of good water. We have a railway station in the very heart of the town. Perhaps the most pressing need for the transfer of the Court to this place, lies in the fact that over and above the improvement to Ránipéttai, consequent on such a change, the neighbouring towns of Wallajanaggar and Arcot will thereby be restored to their former importance. At the present time Wallajanaggar has lost all her trade; population has decreased and her material resources have been crippled; while in the Arcot taluk, the inhabitants of many villages have to go more than forty miles to Vellore to obtain civil justice. Much relief will be experienced by the people of the major portion of the Arcot taluk, should the Court be transferred to Ránipéttai and Arcot included in its jurisdiction. There are many large buildings in this town which could be used for

the Court house, in the event of the transfer being effected. Before leaving this subject, we beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that when His Excellency Lord Wenlock, Your Excellency's predecessor was here in the year 1892 to open the Wenlock causeway across the Pálár river we approached His Excellency on this subject, and His Excellency promised to give the matter his consideration in due course.

4. The next subject, about which we beg to approach Your Excellency, is the rumoured proposal to reduce our division which is now under a European civilian, to the charge of a Deputy Collector. We believe that we are expressing the view of the bulk of the population of this division, nay even of the district, when we say that such a change would be greatly detrimental to the interests of the public. This division includes the two important Zamin-daries of Kalahasty and Karvetnaggar, the Polliems of Kallur and Pulicherla, as well as the important towns of Tirupati, Tirumalai and Tiruttani, which contain rich temples resorted to by pilgrims from all parts of India. Questions of considerable importance and intricacy often arise in this important division, to decide which it will be more convenient if the divisional officer is a civilian. In the interests of all concerned we earnestly pray that the administration of the division may remain as it is at present.

5. The season out-look seems to be rather gloomy but we hope that through the help of our kind and

energetic district officers, and through such remedial measures as Your Excellency may be pleased to sanction, to ameliorate the condition of the poor and agricultural classes, we will be able to avert all fears of a famine.

6. Lastly, in all true loyalty, and with a sincere regard for the British people, we beg to express our united sympathy with that great people in their war in South Africa, and our anxiety on the score of the same. We pray the Almighty to bring the war to a speedy and successful termination, and to prevent the further loss of the lives of those brave men who may some day prove India's able generals and wise administrators. We also beg permission to thank Your Excellency for the manifold benefits which we have received during Your Excellency's short administration.

7. In conclusion, we pray that Heaven may bounteously endow Your Excellency and Lady Havelock with all good things, and bless Your Excellencies with long life and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF
WALAJAPET.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with feelings of profound gratification and pride that we, the Municipal Councillors of Walajapet, beg leave to offer Your Excellency our most hearty welcome to this town.

2. We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to give expression to our heart-felt obligations for the numerous benefits conferred on us by the British rule, not the least of which is local self-government, a monument of British liberality and wisdom, the latest instalment of the continuous and practical interest in it being the restoration of electoral rights to this Municipality by Your Excellency's benign Government. We feel sure that we only speak the thoughts of those whom it is our high privilege to represent, when we say that this and Your Excellency's numerous other acts of deep solicitude for the well-being of the large population of this vast Presidency, which, Providence, in its infinite mercy, has thought fit to commit to Your Excellency's parental care, are entitled to earn for Your Excellency the name of the 'People's Governor.'

3. We, however, owe it to Your Excellency no less than to ourselves to make a reference to the regrettable circumstance that for the past decade or two, this town has been steadily declining, year after year, in prosperity and commercial activity. Just a twelvemonth ago plague laid its merciless hand on the town, and, of course, told seriously upon it in more respects than one. Again, the aspect of the season is, in the immediate present, a source of not a little anxiety, alike to the authorities and the inhabitants of the town.

4. With a view to arrest the rapid decline of the town and render it more worthy of the enviable

dignity of a Municipality, we beg leave on this rare occasion of Your Excellency's presence here, to pray for the transfer of the District Munsif's Court from Sholinghur to this town, and for the amalgamation of the Ránipéttai Union with this Municipality, with the confidence that our humble requests will commend themselves to Your Excellency, especially as the far-reaching benefits of these changes will not be confined to this town and Ránipéttai. The former request especially, we beg to submit, we make at a very reasonable time, as we learn that it is under contemplation to erect a new building suitable for the location of the District Munsif's Court at Sholinghur.

5. We again offer Your Excellency a most hearty and loyal welcome, and, in conclusion, earnestly pray that the Almighty may be graciously pleased to confer His choicest blessing coupled with long life and prosperity on Your Excellency and Lady Havelock, whose august and gracious presence on this occasion we very much miss.

6. Thanking Your Excellency most warmly for the patient and sympathetic hearing accorded to our humble representations.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF WALAJAPET.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the townspeople of Walajapet, beg respectfully to offer a most cordial and loyal welcome to Your Excellency

personally and as the august representative of Her Gracious Majesty, our most beloved Queen-Empress. In doing so we feel it our bounden duty to give expression to our most sincere feelings of gratefulness and loyalty to Her Majesty, for the manifold blessings which we enjoy under her benign rule.

2. We take this opportunity to acknowledge in person, our deep indebtedness to Your Excellency for the sympathetic restoration of electoral franchise to this Municipality, and for the solicitude evinced by Your Excellency's Government during the prevalence of plague last year and to the District authorities for the earnestness and considerateness with which they carried out the plague operations.

3. Your Excellency may be aware that, for some years past, this town has been gradually declining, so much so, that it at once needs some steps to be taken for the bettering of its condition. In this connection we crave Your Excellency's indulgence for making the following brief quotation from page 432, Vol. II, of the 'North Arcot District Manual':—
 "The town (Walajapet) is situated 68 miles from Madras and 3 miles north of the Pálár, towards which it has a natural drainage. It is a remarkably well built, neatly arranged, and cleanly, town . . .
 . . The streets which are either parallel or at right angles . . . are broad and well drained, many of them having masonry gutters, and all being a pattern of cleanliness . . . Its site is on high ground . . . Within a

short time Walajapet became one of the busiest marts in Southern India, and it is recorded that a larger assortment of goods could be procured in it than in any other place, south of the Kistna, except Madras. It carried on a very large trade, chiefly in grains and cotton, with the Presidency town on one side, and Mysore and the Ceded Districts on the other. Hundreds of cattle laden with merchandise daily entered and left the town, but now comparatively little trade is carried on The town is evidently decaying The population is now about 16 per cent. less than it was twenty years ago."

4. Such was the condition of the town years ago: but latterly people have deserted the place day after day, and the number of houses has fallen off to one-half, and what was once a flourishing city, is fast becoming a desert, whose progress to arrest has become the keen question of the hour.

5. We therefore beg permission to respectfully approach Your Excellency with the prayer that the Ránipéttai Union may be amalgamated with this municipality, and that the Sholinghur District Munsif's Court may be removed to Walajapet.

6. The proposal of extending this municipality so as to include Ránipéttai is calculated, among other things, to lighten the burden of taxation now weighing so heavily on this town, and to place the benefits of a municipality within the reach of Ránipéttai.

7. Adverting to the latter part of our prayer, we beg to submit briefly that Sholinghur is not, as it once was, the centre of the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Court. It is far remote from the railway line and the roads communicating to it are unsafe to travel, ill-adapted for traffic, and almost impassable during the rainy season. The town is over-crowded, and is incapable of extension owing to natural disadvantages, and standing, as it does, on a low level, is highly insanitary, cholera frequently breaking out. A year or two ago the Court was closed for some weeks owing to the prevalence of cholera. The town has not got a telegraph office or a Government treasury, so essential wherever a District Munsif's Court exists, for enabling the litigant population to purchase stamps of higher values, or to pay and withdraw their deposits. The building now in use has been condemned by successive District Judges and by Public Works officers, and there is no site available in or near the town, suitable for the erection of a new Court house.

8. In these points Walajapet compares very favourably with Sholinghur, especially so by reason of its possessing far superior facilities for communication by rail and by road, and being, as will be evident from the above extract, and from Your Excellency's personal knowledge of the town, so advantageously situated.

9. In these circumstances we confidently hope that, as an additional token of Your Excellency's wide-spread and abiding interest in matters affecting

our well-being, Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to confer on us these inestimable boons, which will certainly tend to a restoration of the town to its former prosperous condition.

10. In conclusion, we respectfully beg again to welcome Your Excellency, and pray that in performing the onerous duties attaching to Your Excellency's exalted position, Your Excellency may continue to have the guidance and blessings of the Almighty God and that He may shower His choicest blessings on Your Excellency, and on Lady Havelock, whose genial presence on this auspicious occasion we very much miss.

ADDRESS FROM THE LANDHOLDERS AND RYOTS
OF THE VILLAGES FED BY THE KAVERI-
PAUKAM TANK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the landholders and ryots of the villages, fed by the Kaveripaukam tank, congratulate ourselves on the privilege accorded to us of approaching the august representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen-Empress of India, with this humble address of welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this ancient town of Wallajanaggar.

Being fully alive to, and feeling highly grateful for, the deep interest which Your Excellency has always been taking in the well-being of the agricultural population of this Presidency, we crave

leave to invite, in the first place, Your Excellency's kind attention to the defective state of irrigation, afforded at present by the Kaveripaukam tank. It is, as is well known, one of the biggest tanks in the Presidency, and the main source of irrigation for nearly twenty-five villages in this taluk. Most of the lands depending on it for their irrigation were originally classed as double crop lands, as the capacity of the tank was believed to be sufficiently large to supply the requisite quantity of water for a period of about fourteen months. But of late years, the tank has become so much silted up, as to be incapable of holding even half as much water as it formerly used to do. Besides, the channel which was excavated during the famine of 1875-76, from near the sluice known as the Mulai sluice to the sluices known as the Lion and the Fox sluices, has also now become so much silted up, that very little quantity of water flows through that channel, so as to reach the two latter sluices. One main cause for silt having so collected, is the need for repairing the breaches in the supply channel from the Pálár river.

The necessity for the removal of this large collection of silt from the tank, was often pressed upon the attention of the Public Works authorities, and we are given to understand that the Government intended to take up this work during the famine of 1896-97.

The present state of the tank is such that it cannot but be productive of immense loss to the agricultural class and to the Government, which

has to forego large portions of its revenue in the shape of remissions.

We therefore most respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to direct that early steps be taken towards remedying the said defect, by clearing the tank of its silt, by repairing the breaches in the supply channel, and by adopting such other measures as may be necessary for improving the state of irrigation under the tank.

In the next place, we humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to direct the opening of a hospital at Kauveripaukam, which is essential for the welfare of the inhabitants of that place and of the surrounding villages. The nearest hospital to Kauveripaukam is about eight miles distant. There are many other villages still farther away, which are sadly in want of proper medical help, and which will be served by the proposed hospital.

We also beg leave to suggest that the District Munsif's Court which is now located at Sholinghur, may be removed to this place, as it will, in every way be conducive to the convenience of the public.

In conclusion, we crave leave to express our sincere thanks for the kind permission granted to us to present this humble address, and pray for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

I will now proceed to the best of my ability to deal with the various points which have been raised

in the four addresses, which have just been presented to me. I will first take up the points in which the four addresses are in unison. I am glad to say that the first point is in respect of the welcome which you accord to me, and I thank you very heartily for the cordial and kind words of welcome in which you have joined. I cannot but feel gratified, as any one who is acquainted with the history of the British in India must be, to find myself in this part of the country; celebrated as it is in being the scene of many important incidents in the history of conquest in this part of India, by the British arms. The four places which are represented by the addresses which have been presented, are all close together, and more or less connected with the historical incidents to which I have alluded; and we feel we are standing on historic ground. The next point upon which all the four addresses have agreed is the desire for the transfer of the Munsif's Court from Sholinghur. The Ránipéttai address requested that it might be removed to Ránipéttai; the Municipality of Wallajapet and the townspeople of Wallajapet desire that the Munsif's Court should be placed among them; and the householders and landowners from Kauveripauk ask that the Munsif's Court should be placed there. The reason given by the Municipality of Wallajapet and also the people of Wallajapet, and in common with them by the inhabitants of Ránipéttai, is that they are decadent, and that they think the establishment of the Munsif's Court within their limits will tend to

remove this decadence. It is to be observed that the Munsif's Court is now at Sholinghur, and the people of Sholinghur are not represented here; it will be necessary, or desirable at any rate, to know in the first place what the people of Sholinghur think of this proposal. Speaking, however, from the information before me, which is gathered from the statements made in the addresses which I have just heard read, there appear to be some grounds given in favour of some change in the place in which this Munsif's Court sits. I think, I may say at once, that the inhabitants of Kauveripauk are out of it. I think that the position of that town, and various other circumstances, make it clear that it will not be convenient to the general public that this Munsif's Court should be transferred there. Wallajapet and Ránipéttai, therefore, still remain as possible localities. It will be necessary before any decision can be come to upon this important matter, that the High Court and other authorities should be consulted. I can only promise you that the matter will be enquired into, and the *pros* and *cons*, as put forward by Wallajapet and Ránipéttai, and any objections that may have to be raised by Sholinghur, will be carefully considered, before any decision is arrived at. Then there is one request on which the Municipality of Wallajapet and also the townspeople of Wallajapet are in unison, and that is that there should be an amalgamation of the Union of Ránipéttai with the Municipality of Wallajah. Now I have the same observation to make with regard to this request, as

I made with respect to the previous one, and that is that the wishes on this subject of the people of Ránipéttai have not been expressed, and from what I am able to learn, I think it probable that they will be able to give strong reasons why this measure should not be carried out. It will, however, form the subject of enquiry, but I think it right to say at once, that in the interests of the people of Ránipéttai, it is probable that such a measure will be found inexpedient. In the address from Ránipéttai, a request was made—the measure, I believe, has been in contemplation—namely, that the removal of the Civilian Head Assistant Collector from Ránipéttai should not be carried out. With regard to this, I have to tell you there are four sub-divisional districts in the Madras Presidency, in which it has become expedient to substitute for Head Assistant Collectors of the regular Civil Service, officers belonging to the Provincial Service, and Ránipéttai is one of those which has been mentioned. It becomes, therefore, a question to consider whether any other, besides the four sub-divisional districts, which I have in contemplation, can be considered in the same category. Out of respect for the request which the Union of Ránipéttai has now made to me, I will, before making any final decision in this matter, give the question fresh consideration.

In the address from Ránipéttai, and, I think, also in another one, remarks were made with regard to the present season outlook. I have only just come

rento the district, and have not yet had an opportunity of hearing fully from the Collector or from any other well-informed person about the condition of affairs in North Arcot. It will be my duty, as I go through the district, to inform myself fully on the subject, and until I have been able to do that, I do not think it will be quite safe or expedient to give any opinion on the subject. You may feel sure that the wants of the landowners or ryots of North Arcot will be most carefully watched. In the address from the inhabitants of Ránipéttai, an earnest hope is expressed that there should be a speedy termination of the war, at present raging in South Africa; and I can most heartily reciprocate this wish, and I join with you in praying that peace may soon be restored. As to the result of the war there is, of course, no earthly doubt. The Municipality of Wallajapet and the townspeople of Wallajapet were good enough to express their appreciation of the favour which has recently been conferred upon them by Government, in the restoration to them of some of their municipal privileges. I have made it my business to look into the reports of the working of the Wallajapet Municipality during the last three years, and I find that for the first two of these three years, the working was considered satisfactory. Some defects in such matters as vaccination, scavengering and registration of births and deaths were mentioned in the criticisms offered by the Government. I wish call to the attention of the Municipal Council to these important points. During the last year there

was a slight falling off in the working of the municipality. This may be in a great measure, however, accounted for by the fact that the town was visited by plague, and consequently the resources of the municipality were diverted from their more usual channels. I trust now that the plague has disappeared from amongst you, that there will be an effort to secure a satisfactory administration for this year, and that you may receive the same satisfactory commendation of the Government, as you received during the previous two years. In the address from the inhabitants of Kauveripauk a request was made with respect to their tank. It was asked that measures should be taken to remove the silt, and that other works should be carried out for the improvement of the tank, and for the extension of the irrigation under it. I have caused some enquiries to be made in the Public Works Department, with regard to this matter; and I am informed that the removal of silt from the Kauveripauk tank has never been included in the programme of the North Arcot division, but that it has been once or twice suggested, as deserving consideration, and would probably make a fairly good relief work; and its advantage would be that for about Rs. one lakh, roughly speaking, an addition will be made to the capacity of the tank, sufficient to irrigate about eighty acres. Its disadvantages are, that it would be but little remunerative—even for a relief work—and that it would involve moving the road from the foot to the top of the bund, as the present road would

be buried by the silt removed from the tank and cause some inconvenience during its progress, and, probably, a heavier permanent maintenance charge after completion. With regard to other works of improvement in the tank which you ask for, the Public Works Department say that these works will be absolutely unremunerative, and are too small to be suitable as relief works, except in combination with the removal of silt from the tank, in case this should be undertaken. Now I wish to say that in deciding upon what works should be carried out as works for relief during famine time, the Government is always anxious to select works which are likely to be useful and reproductive, and the restoration or the construction of tanks most clearly come under this category. It will therefore be with satisfaction, that I shall press an enquiry into the desirability of carrying out the work of clearing the silt in the Kauveripauk tank, and of making other improvements with respect to its power of irrigation, which are indicated in your address. If we find that it is in fact a really useful work for relief purposes, I shall consider it my duty to note it for that purpose. The inhabitants of Kauveripauk further request that a hospital should be established in their town. I am in sympathy with this request, but it all turns on the question of ways and means, and from the knowledge that I have of the position of the District Board Funds here and in other districts of the Presidency, I fear that at the present time, when there are such heavy calls upon the

funds of these Boards, it will be hardly possible to undertake this most useful and desirable work. I wish I could have given you a more encouraging reply on this point, but it would not have been honest for me to do so; for I know, as I have already intimated, that the funds of the District Board are heavily weighted. I think I have now, though perhaps very imperfectly, dealt with the salient points brought forward in the addresses which I have just received. It only remains for me to thank you once more for the kind and cordial welcome which you have accorded to me to this interesting part of the Presidency, and to assure you that it gives me great pleasure to find myself among you and to thank you very heartily for the wish which you have joined in expressing for my health and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE VELLORE
UNION CLUB AND ANJUMAN AHLA ISLAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Vellore Union Club and Anjuman Ahla Islam, most respectfully beg permission to approach Your Excellency with this, our humble address of welcome.

This ancient and historic town was known to the British from early times, as being near the scene of the early victories of Lord Clive, the illustrious founder of the British Empire in India. Later in British Indian history it witnessed the extraordinary

military tactics of General Gillespie, and until recently it was a large Military station. Its strongly built fort and magnificent temple, which abound in works of exquisite architecture, are standing monuments of its former greatness. Further, it has occupied an eminent position as a centre of trade. While these features in themselves would entitle this town to the honour of a visit from Your Excellency, we the people are extremely thankful to Your Excellency, for having undertaken this present tour out of sympathy for the people of this district, which is threatened with scarcity. We hope that, under the mercy of the good God, supplemented by such precautionary measures as Your Excellency's Government may adopt, the impending scarcity may be averted.

We also beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our gratitude to Your Excellency for the kind and sympathetic measures adopted last year, when this town had the misfortune of being visited by plague; and we are happy to state that the excellent result of such measures, was that the dread disease was first arrested in its progress and finally stamped out.

We also take this opportunity to thank Your Excellency's Government for the large-heartedness with which it recognises the claims of educated natives to higher offices, and endeavours to give effect to such liberal recognition.

In conclusion, we pray that, during the rest of Your Excellency's administration, you may be

blessed by the Giver of all good, with firmness and courage to continue along the same liberal lines and thus raise the people of this country, which had once a high civilization of its own, in the scale of the nations of the world.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a prosperous career and a long and happy life.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency's reply was simply of a complimentary character, as was the address itself.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS AND RATE-PAYERS OF THE VELLORE TOWN.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the citizens and rate-payers of the town of Vellore, desire most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency to this ancient and historic town.

2. We beg, in the first place, to express our grateful acknowledgments for the ready and generous relief afforded to us during the prevalence of plague in this town and for the mild and sympathetic measures organised by Your Excellency's Government, to stamp out that dread disease from our midst.

3. We extremely rejoice at the fact that, before scarcity has made itself felt in a more tangible form, Your Excellency has taken time by the fore-lock in undertaking the present tour, with a view to make

yourself personally acquainted with the real condition of the people, and to commence a campaign at the earliest opportunity against the threatened inroads of that fell foe of humanity. We beg-next, to lay before Your Excellency our sore grievance with reference to the withdrawal of the elective franchise, for this town. While we do not wish here to enter into a discussion as to the merits of the case against the Municipal Council, we respectfully beg to submit that the punishment inflicted upon the rate-payers, without even a warning, for the errors of "a certain section of the Council", is unmerited. We trust therefore that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to reconsider your decision, and restore to us the full privileges we have been enjoying till now.

4. We further beg to press upon Your Excellency's attention the fact that the sanitation and cleanliness of the town, so often the subject of adverse comment in the Administration Reports, will never improve unless complete water-works and drainage schemes are introduced into the town, and also the fact that the people of Vellore suffer from scarcity of good drinking-water almost throughout the year. We fervently hope that, during Your Excellency's régime, measures will be inaugurated towards supplying this long-felt want and thus conferring a lasting boon upon the fifty thousand inhabitants of this town.

5. In conclusion, we pray that the Almighty Giver of all gifts may be pleased to bestow on Lady

Havelock and Your Excellency long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

CITIZENS AND RATE-PAYERS OF VELLORE,—I thank you for the kind welcome which you have given me to your town, and I accept with pleasure the address which has just been read. When Vellore was invaded by plague and when the fell disease assumed considerable dimensions here, the Government were naturally considerably alarmed and took such measures as seemed to them prudent and expedient for the suppression of the disease. We were in Vellore, I am happy to say, met with very genuine support from the inhabitants. The measures that we adopted were not, as they are in some places, opposed and looked upon as oppressive, and the result was, as was to be expected, that the disease was successfully met and, as I am happy to say now, has been altogether removed from among you. I hope that you will remember in case of any return of this scare, to adopt the same attitude of support to Government that you did in the past. You make allusion to the possible scarcity in this part of the country, during the coming few months. This is a matter which necessarily engages my attention during my visit to the district, and I am now endeavouring to obtain, with the assistance of the Collector and others, exact information as to the prospects of the season in the district. You may rest assured that the Government will do all it can

possibly do in the matter. All I venture to say at the present moment is that, as far as I have yet been able to gather information, things do not appear to me as bad as they might be.

You then proceed in your address to make reference to the recent action which the Government have felt bound to take, by removing from you some of the privileges of self-government. I can assure you that this step was taken by Government, with the deepest regret. We value very much the lessons taught by these municipal institutions in this country, and consequently, when we found, as we did after careful enquiry, that these privileges were being abused in Vellore, we considered that there was no course open to us, but that which we took. It was not till after you had received warnings, extending over several years, of the displeasure of Government at the inefficient way in which the duties of the municipality were being carried out, and it was not till after your representatives here had failed to profit by the warnings, that this action of Government was taken. Things were really so bad in Vellore as regards Municipal administration, that I can assure you that the Government received from some members of your community, a request that Municipal Government should be entirely removed from the town; and it was therefore a measure of mercy rather than otherwise, that the Government only proceeded to reduce those privileges instead of taking them away altogether. In the Madras Presidency these municipal privileges have in many

cases been availed of, in a way which has brought credit upon the communities which they represent. I believe I am right in saying that as compared with other Provinces, Madras stands very high in the standard of efficiency of Municipal Government. By the inefficiency and, I may say, almost scandalously bad way in which the duties of the municipality were carried out in Vellore, discredit and disgrace were brought on the institution itself and on the Province at large. You ask that these privileges should be restored to you. I assure you, gentlemen, that it will give Government great pleasure to put you in the enjoyment of what you appear to value, as soon as you show yourselves worthy of it. You have got to show during the next year, or two, or three, that you really value these privileges and that you know how to make a proper use of them, to the benefit of those around you; and when this is done in a way satisfactory to the Government, I assure you that the Government will gladly consider the restoration of the advantages, of which you have been temporarily deprived. You next make mention of the necessity, in order to secure a greater sanitary efficiency in Vellore, of water and drainage schemes. I am not aware that anything has yet been done towards investigating the case of the town of Vellore, either in respect of drainage or water-supply. I am certain that we have no scheme for either of these works before us; but I will, as I have received this request from you, cause a preliminary investigation to be made. I have only to remark that through

the bad administration of Municipal finance, I am afraid that you are not at present in a position to undertake such extensive works, a large proportion of the expenditure and cost of which must necessarily fall upon the rate-payers of the town. It is with regret that I have to meet you with condemnatory terms with respect to the work and conduct of the Municipal Council. I wish it had been otherwise, and that the pleasure of my first visit to Vellore had not been marred in this manner. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind welcome and for the good wishes you have expressed for my health and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MASTERS AND STUDENTS, ARCOT MISSION COLLEGE, VELLORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The Arcot Mission College esteems it a peculiar privilege to receive the Governor of this Province into its halls, and to extend to Your Excellency a most cordial welcome therein. While regretting the conditions of the season which have occasioned this visit to our district, we cannot but rejoice in the circumstance of Your Excellency's presence with us here. During the three decades of its history, the Arcot Mission College has enjoyed the privilege of entertaining many guests distinguished in the service of the University, and of the various Departments of the Government of Madras. But this is the first instance in which we have been able to count the

pleasure our own of formally welcoming to our College the Chief Representative in this Province of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India.

Our pleasure is heightened by the fact that, in receiving Your Excellency, we are also doing honour to the University of Madras, in the person of its distinguished Chancellor. Those of us who are interested in the progress of collegiate education in this country, know something of the value of association with the University, and of the great benefits which it has rendered to the cause of higher education in this Presidency.

There is still another aspect of our assembling here this evening, under these high auspices, which gives further distinction to the occasion. Those of us who are residing in this country as the representatives of a people with a less historical background, and a more limited sphere of administration, than the Rulers of India, look upon the fact, and the completeness, and the character of the Government of England established here with increasing interest and respect. Nor are we forgetful of the fact that one of our oldest and best known American Universities, Yale, received its first endowment, and its name from one of Your Excellency's predecessors in the Governorship of this Province.

Any participation, therefore, open to us in the large effort put forth by the people of Great Britain to widen the sphere of knowledge, to elevate the standard of morals, and to strengthen and ennoble the character of the people of this great land, we

look upon as a privilege and a responsibility not to be lightly considered, nor easily assumed.

We rejoice in the beneficent reign of your Gracious Queen-Empress, and we trust that our efforts in behalf of the people of India are not altogether without their co-operative effect in making lighter, even in the smallest degree, the stupendous task of England in this country.

For this manifestation of interest in education, of which this visit of Your Excellency is the assurance; for the recognition and assistance rendered to us by the Officers of the Department and of Government, for the many evidences of a kindly consideration shown by the Ladies and Gentlemen of the district and of the station, we are sincerely grateful.

We beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the honour of this visit, and venture to bespeak, for this institution, a measure of that interest in education with which Your Excellency's administration has become already widely associated.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRINCIPAL, MASTERS AND STUDENTS OF THE ARCOT MISSION COLLEGE,—I esteem it a privilege to have this opportunity of making your acquaintance. I thank you for the interesting address which has been read and for the welcome which you have so kindly and graciously accorded to me. I learn from that useful book of reference—the 'North Arcot District Manual'—that you have under this Mission

a hospital and girls' school at Rānipéttai, a girls' school at Chittoor, a seminary at Palmanair, an industrial school at Arnee, and this second-grade College for boys at Vellore. With the first of these institutions I had the pleasure of making my acquaintance on Saturday last, and was much gratified by what I saw. With the last of them I now make acquaintance and I have the pleasure of being in your midst. All these institutions, I understand, are within the District of North Arcot. It would appear, therefore, that the Mission has concentrated its efforts in one locality; and in doing this I would say, if I might, that I think the Mission has exercised a wise discretion; for it is plain that by so concentrating your efforts you economise means and you economise the labour expended. You speak modestly of the part taken by this Mission in the work of advancing and improving this part of India. We, who as rulers of this country are pledged to take an interest in all works having for their object the advancement and progress of the people, owe to you a deep debt of gratitude. To the devotion of the French Roman Catholic Missions we pay great respect and admiration. To the work of the German and Scandinavian nations we accord a high degree of appreciation; but with regard to the American Missions, emanating as they do from that great nation across the Atlantic whom we are proud to call our cousins, we owe in a very special and large degree our thanks and gratitude. This was not always so. I am sufficiently old to recollect that

there was a time when we looked upon Missions of foreign nations with some degree of prejudice and suspicion; but I am happy to say those days are long past, and we are now glad to have among us the representatives of all nations, and to receive from them with cordiality and confidence such assistance as they may be willing to afford us. This particular Mission has a most interesting history, and here again I am indebted for what I know to the District Manual. It began its operations, I think, about the year 1851. Since then, facing many difficulties, connected sometimes with want of funds, sometimes with failing health among the members of the Mission, it has continued—in spite, I say, of these difficulties—to progress until now the Arcot Mission has become an important organisation exercising great power and influence in this part of Southern India. One cannot allude to the history of the Arcot Mission without thinking of the name of Scudder. It was to the brothers Scudder that this institution owed its origin, nearly fifty years ago. During my childhood I was living some time in Southern India, and I distinctly recollect during the lapse of forty or fifty years the name of the Scudder Mission. You make allusion to the stupendous task which England has undertaken in India. I would venture to remind those of our brothers across the Atlantic who may be present here, that they too have lately been following our example, and that they have now opened to themselves fields in one or two quarters of the globe, which will probably

tax their powers of organisation for a good many years to come. The interest which I formerly took in this Mission has been intensified, as it naturally should be, by the personal acquaintance which I have made with it to-day. I sincerely trust that this work, which has already been crowned with such very considerable measure of success, will continue to expand and become more and more a work of usefulness among the people of Southern India.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF CHITTCOR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Chittoor, beg to approach Your Excellency, as the august representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, with this our address, welcoming you to this historic town and expressing our sense of thankfulness that this town has been included in your tour. Though we may not be able to accord to Your Excellency such a magnificent reception as many another town has done, we may beg to assure Your Excellency that we are second to none in the depth of our loyalty or the intensity of our enthusiasm.

2. Your Excellency has, by your considerate care for the teeming millions of this Presidency and your genuine solicitude for their well-being, justly earned for yourself the appellation of the People's Governor, and has served to strengthen the ties of affection that bind us to our Sovereign. We are

extremely thankful that during hard and troublous times Your Excellency's Government has been characterized by a spirit of thorough confidence in the people and a policy of steady and unfailing attention to the noble Proclamation of 1858 of our beloved Sovereign, fitly termed the *Magna Charta* of India. We beg to express our sense of gratitude to Your Excellency's Government for the effective measures introduced and carried out to combat the plague, and we are particularly thankful that the measures were so contrived as not to alienate the affections of the people and cause friction between the governors and the governed, without, to any the slightest extent, impairing their efficiency.

3. We fear we cannot let slip this opportunity without drawing Your Excellency's attention to certain matters which we think it desirable should be brought to Your Excellency's notice. It is unfortunate that the season, at present, is causing great anxiety, and that there is distress here and all around, which, in course of time, may develop into famine. We are thankful that, at such a time as this, we have in Mr. Campbell a genial and sympathetic Collector, in whose hands the interests of the people are fully safe, and we only beg that he may be so placed as to enable him to grant remissions to ryots with a free and liberal hand. In view of the fact that famine and distress are becoming recurring factors in the economic condition of the country and at short intervals, we would respectfully suggest the desirability of giving some fixity

to the land tenure which will leave to the ryot a larger proportion of the produce of his labour. The necessity of such a measure is somewhat great in this district, as this is one which, from its geographical position, is liable to be seriously affected whenever the seasons are unfavourable.

4. The question of religious endowments has long been before Your Excellency's Government, and we beg to add our feeble voice by way of accentuating the necessity for prompt and early measures being taken to keep the numerous and important religious institutions in the Presidency—some of the important ones being situated in this district—and the vast funds at their disposal on a satisfactory basis. We would specially draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that, in the present state of the law, one who wishes to have removed the trustee of a religious endowment, who has misbehaved himself, and to recover from him what he has misappropriated, has to pay a large *ad valorem* Court-fee. We would respectfully point out that suits such as the above are intended more in the public interests than for private gain, and that it is extremely desirable and conducive to the improvement of the several institutions in the Presidency, that the Court-fee to be levied in the case of such suits, be reduced to a small and fixed amount. There is no fear that vexatious suits will be encouraged by this measure, as the Legislature has provided that the sanction of the District Court has to be obtained before the suit is instituted.

5. Another matter on which we venture to approach Your Excellency in the hope that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to consider and grant our prayer, is the question of the election from Union Panchayats to the Taluk Board. We beg to submit that the time is ripe for a small innovation being made in that direction, and the provisions of the law being given effect to, to this extent, at least in the case of such Union Panchayats as Chittoor.

6. The matter of providing the Chittoor Union with a good water-supply, is one which immediately concerns the health and comfort of its rate-payers. That some scheme of water-works shall have to be adopted by which this place can get a copious supply of pure drinkable water, cannot be gainsaid. The question of ways and means is, no doubt, one of great difficulty, and we beg that Your Excellency will, in consultation with the responsible authorities, arrange to have a scheme settled by which this long and keenly felt want may be supplied.

7. We need hardly draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the Forest, Salt, Abkari and Income-tax Laws are, as they have to be worked, productive of considerable hardship to the people, and we beg that Your Excellency may be pleased to so modify their rigour that, while the original purpose of the institution of such laws may not be defeated, the people may not be inconvenienced thereby. We beg to suggest that the orders of

the Board and the Government, that the District Forest Officer should sit with the Revenue Divisional Officer at Jamabandi, and hear the grievances of ryots and grant them such redress as may be called for, may be put into force in this district, and carried out regularly.

8. We are aware that the Tenancy Bill is now pending before Your Excellency's Government, and seeing that it involves new, large and momentous issues and is beset with great many complications, we cannot expect the passing of the Bill into law in the near future. We would therefore request attention to the short amendment Bill introduced by the Honourable Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar, so that it may be taken into consideration and passed early into law. We are sure that the amendment Bill finds acceptance with landlords and tenants alike, and we are confident that it will have the effect of materially diminishing the extent of the litigation between the landlords and their tenants, to the ultimate benefit of both.

9. We cannot close this humble address without once again expressing our deep sense of gratitude for the several acts of Your Excellency's Government, especially in the matter of appointing Indian gentlemen to positions of trust and influence in the public service, and in successfully grappling with the famine of 1897. If, unfortunately, Your Excellency's Government has again to face another famine, the people of this Presidency have no misgivings as to the measures that may be adopted to meet it.

10. We pray that the Ruler of rulers may bless Lady Havelock and Your Excellency with health, long life, and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

INHABITANTS OF CHITTOOR.—I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the kind and genuine welcome you have given me to your town. I have every confidence in the depth of your personal good-will to myself, individually, and of your loyalty to me as representative of our Gracious Sovereign. You make allusion in your address to the measures taken by the Madras Government to check the advance of that terrible scourge, the plague, which has been amongst us during the last two or three years. It gives me satisfaction to know that you appreciate the measures taken by my Government for this purpose. Our object has been to make our measures as little burdensome and as little obnoxious to the people as is consistent with efficiency. I do not mean to assert that the comparative immunity which the Madras Presidency has enjoyed from this visitation of plague is entirely due to the wisdom of the measures taken by us. I can only point to the fact that such measures have been taken, and that the plague has never at any time up till now assumed anything like serious proportions. In case there should be a further advance of this scourge, we rely upon you to co-operate with us in meeting the enemy.

You next deal with the important question arising out of the recent failure of the monsoon. I have made such enquiry as the short time that I have had at my disposal would allow, from the Collector and other District Officers, as to the exact position of affairs in this North Arcot district. There is no doubt that there has been a very serious failure of the south-west and then again of the north-east monsoon, the result of which is that a very large proportion of your tanks are now absolutely dry. I learn that out of 3,022 tanks 2,332 were a short time ago completely empty, and that 129 at that time had only one month's supply. I gather that as far as your dry crops are concerned, there has been no total failure over any extended area, and that at the present moment, there is no great necessity either for postponement or remission of dry assessment. With regard to your wet crops things are much worse. They have suffered very seriously all over the district, and it is probable that large remissions will have to be made. The Collector and the officers working under him are looking into this matter with great care and circumspection. The prices of grains are very high, and this must tell seriously upon the cooly portion of the agricultural population, who have on the whole less work to do, and consequently earn less wages than they do under normal conditions. But I am informed that there is some alleviation for this state of things inasmuch as a good many of them are employed in baling from the numerous wells which exist in the district. There

is also work to be done in reaping sugarcane and groundnuts; and another source of employment for a certain number of the cooly population is at the Goldfields in Mysore. Things, therefore, are not quite as bad with regard to the cooly population as they might be. And we have here, as we have everywhere else in India, the strong charitable instincts of the nation upon which to found some hope of alleviation. I know that all over India, and especially among the Hindus, there is a very strong desire to help one another in times of distress; and now is the time for those who are better off to assist those who are in a state of destitution, or approaching thereto. The large landed proprietors, who are not suffering in the same way as the coolies, should endeavour to help them by giving them such work as is consistent with the state of affairs, and to display their sympathy with them in every possible way. I learn that as far as cattle are concerned, there is at present no very great distress. I have been this morning in consultation with the Collector and with the Forest Officers; and we have made arrangements with regard to the procuring of food for cattle which, I think, will afford considerable relief. There is another form in which assistance can be given by Government, and which we are very anxious to see taken advantage of freely; that is, by the acceptance of State loans. If, at some future time, it becomes necessary to open relief works, you may be sure that the Government will be prepared to meet the necessities of the case. But I wish you to understand

that we shall, before opening relief works, have occasion to satisfy ourselves, by tolerably severe tests, that there is absolute necessity for adopting this measure.

I now turn to the paragraph in your address in which you speak about the question of religious endowments. I may tell you that this matter has engaged the attention of my Government for the last three or four years, and that we have drawn up a Bill intended to meet the difficulties of this case, and have submitted that Bill to the Government of India. More I cannot tell you at the present moment, because our Bill is, as it were, *sub judice*; and it would be foolish and indiscreet of me to dwell in detail upon the provisions of that Bill. In connection with this matter you go on to say that you would wish that the *ad valorem* Court-fee which has to be paid in suits connected with the Religious Endowments Act, should be reduced to a small and fixed amount; and you observe that there is no fear that vexatious suits will be encouraged by this measure, as the Legislature has provided that the sanction of the District Court has to be obtained, before the suit is instituted. Now, I would suggest, with regard to your remarks on this subject, that the Court-fees have not been fixed at their present high rate so much for the purpose of trying to deter people from vexatious litigation, as it is to provide means to meet the every large expenditure which is incurred by the Government in providing you with the Courts before which these cases are

heard. If anybody connected with the law who is present here will recollect for a moment, he will at once recognise the enormous expenditure incurred by the Government, while these cases are proceeding. The time of the Judge and all the numerous officers connected with his Court is taken up from day to day and from week to week, and other important business is deferred. In this way not only is Government put to a very large expenditure, but the public are put to inconvenience by the time of the Court and its officers being in this way monopolised. For this reason, it appears to me, that it will not be wise to reduce the amount charged as Court fee. I would also observe that the provision to which you allude, that the sanction of the District Court has to be obtained before the suit is instituted, is not after all a very strong safeguard; for, I understand that the application for such a suit is little more than a formal matter.

You next allude, in the fifth paragraph of your address, to your desire that the question of the election from Union Panchayats to the Taluk Board should be considered in view to its being put into operation. This matter has again and again come up for consideration during the last two or three years, and it formed the subject of a question at a recent meeting of the Legislative Council, when the Government expressed its mind in the matter, by saying that it does not consider that the country is yet quite ripe for an advance of this kind in this

direction, and that answer you must accept from me now.

You next allude to the matter of providing the Chittoor Union with a good water-supply. I have no doubt that you would be a great deal better off if you had a good water-supply here; but I imagine that it will be a costly matter to provide you with the necessary works. I do not know that any scheme has ever yet been elaborated for Chittoor; but even a moderate and cheap one will probably cost more than you would care to pay for.

You then proceed to call attention to the way in which the Forest, Salt, Abkari and Income-tax Laws are worked, and you say that they are productive of considerable hardship to the people. I am well aware that in the administration of these various departments there are many shortcomings and, possibly, abuses, and I can assure you that the Government in all of them, and more especially in the Forest Department, which comes so very closely in contact with the ryot class, has been doing its best of late years to bring about a smooth and equitable working of the regulations and laws affecting these subjects. The matter is continually before Government, and you may rest assured that we will do whatever we can to mitigate the evils which you point out. You then proceed to suggest that the orders of the Board and the Government, that the District Forest Officer should sit with the Revenue Divisional officer at Jamabandi and hear the grievances of ryots and grant them such redress as may be called for, may

be put into force in this district, and carried out regularly. I understand that this is already being done.

With regard to the Tenancy Bill, which has been pending before the Legislature for so long, I have to say that the consideration of that Bill in Committee is now coming to an advanced stage, and I trust that the time is not long distant when we may be able to resume consideration of it, and in such case it will be quite unnecessary to consider the Amendment Bill introduced by Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar, to which you make allusion.

I now come to the closing paragraph of your address, in which you express the hope that if this Presidency is again to meet evils of famine, the Government will be prepared with measures to meet it. From what I have already intimated to you, you may rest assured that it will be the case.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH AT THE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT THE LOCAL FUND HIGH SCHOOL, CHITTOOR.

MR. HEADMASTER, MASTERS AND STUDENTS OF THE CHITTOOR HIGH SCHOOL,—It has given me pleasure to have had the opportunity of visiting this school, and of presiding at this interesting ceremony of prize-giving. The first thing that struck me on approaching your school, was the imposing nature of the building in which it is housed. I think Chittoor has good cause to be proud of possessing such a

commodious and handsome edifice in connection with its educational interests. The report, which has been read by the Headmaster, interested and pleased me much. The general result of the working of the school appears to be satisfactory. It is summed up in the remark by the Inspector that "the school, under its popular and efficient Headmaster, is doing very good work. English is taught particularly well," and I wish to lay stress on the last remark made by the Inspector, to the effect that English is taught particularly well. I heard recited the beautiful scene from the *Merchant of Venice*. I must say that comparing the way in which English was pronounced in the recitation this morning, with the pronunciation of English that I have heard in other schools in other parts of the Presidency, I am disposed to agree with the Inspector that for some reason or other, the teaching of English pronunciation has been more perfectly carried out here than it is in other places. (His Excellency then complimented the boys who took part in the performances and spoke a few words of encouragement to each.) There is one point in connection with the history of this school which I should not like to pass over, that is, the number of men well known in connection with Law and general distinction in the Presidency which this school seems to have turned out. Amongst the list of names of men well known, there were many with whom I am acquainted, and whose names are quite familiar to me. It is certainly a cause for pride for the Chittoor High School that its

name should be connected with so many men who have made their mark in the history of this Southern Presidency. I have the satisfaction of announcing that a local gentleman has, in honour of my visit, subscribed a sum of Rs. 200 towards the funds of the High School, in the shape of Government securities, the interest of this sum of money to be devoted to the purchase of prizes to be distributed year after year. Mr. Headmaster, I congratulate you on the efficient working of the school, and thank you for the pleasant reception which you have given me this morning.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF CHITTOOR TALUK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with feelings of loyalty and love, that we, the inhabitants of the taluk of Chittoor, welcome Your Excellency on this visit to our head-quarters.

We take this opportunity to place the following few facts before Your Excellency—our popular Governor and representative of our beloved Sovereign, Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. We are at present in great distress, owing to the want of rains, and the consequent failure of crops. In several villages in this taluk, people are now actually living on aloe and other roots, and the poor are compelled to beg for want of work. In the latest season report published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 23rd January 1900, it is also

reported that “water-supply is generally insufficient and prospects are bad.”* Famines have become rather frequent in this country, and in this district in particular. We beg to represent to Your Excellency the necessity and importance of setting apart for each district a portion of the income-tax, which was originally intended to form the Famine Insurance Fund, to be utilised on such occasions as the present. We beg to add that the policy of Government to give relief only to save people from death, when they are in the most critical state, works hardship. The rigor of famine can to a great extent be extenuated by preventive measures taken in the period of transition between the normal and the famine condition, for “prevention is better than cure.” At present, the poor helpless people are left to depend upon private charity alone, which, though freely given, as it ought to be, is generally, and cannot but be, inadequate, whereas it is the privilege of a parental Government to support the poor who are in a condition of destitution for no fault of their own, but suffer owing to circumstances over which they have no control, and who cannot look to anybody else than the Government for help. To ensure the above object, we would respectfully request Your Excellency to set apart the Famine Fund annually for each district, which will accumulate

* The Honourable Mr. Nicholson since said in the last Legislative Council that in North Arcot “tank-supplies had failed to a large extent and the rates for staple food-grains were higher than scarcity, whilst everywhere they were higher than the warning rates.”

year by year, and be available for use at such transition times, until the Government thinks fit to open relief works. For the satisfactory working of the above object, we would humbly suggest that a District Committee be formed, consisting of an equal number of officials and non-officials, to whom should be left the decision of the necessity and the proper time to give State aid to the people from the Famine Fund at their disposal during the transition period above referred to, thus avoiding the necessity of foreign or other help which, while gratefully acknowledging, we cannot always depend upon.

If, during such seasons as the present, wells for irrigation are dug or railways opened and other similar facilities afforded, distress can to a great extent be mitigated. We request Your Excellency also to enable our kind and sympathetic Collector Mr. R. H. Campbell, to grant remissions freely for wet as well as dry crops, both of which have failed, and to open relief works at an early date. We further pray that the land-tax which is now very heavy (even the dry assessment in this taluk is abnormally high) may be reduced.

We cannot sufficiently express our gratitude to Your Excellency, the people's Governor, for all the acts of good done during the past years, and we pray Your Excellency may be blessed with long life and health, to continue the good and popular work Your Excellency has been doing; and in Your Excellency we feel sure we have a good and sympathetic friend of India and its people. Wishing

Lady Havelock, Your Excellency and Your Excellency's family long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TALUK OF CHITTOOR,—I accept with pleasure the address which has just been read, and I thank you warmly for your kind and gracious welcome. You begin by remarking on the present condition of approaching distress in this district, owing to the failure of rains and the consequent failure of crops. I have already spoken at some length on this subject in my answer to the address of the inhabitants of Chittoor. You have all been present here, and I have therefore no scruple in referring you for an answer on this subject to the reply I gave to the previous address. You proceed to make certain representations with regard to the necessity and importance of setting aside for each district a portion of the income-tax, which was originally intended to form the Famine Insurance Fund, to be utilised on such occasions as the present. I do not consider that this is the proper occasion or place to discuss matters of policy of this kind, and I must, therefore, ask you to excuse my not giving you an answer on this subject. You remark that the poor helpless people are left to depend on private charity alone which, though freely given, as it ought to be, is generally, and cannot but be, inadequate. I wish to emphasise what I said in the previous reply, that we look in India, to an immense amount of good to

be derived from the charitable instincts which are traditional among the Indian people. I think that a substitution for the existing state of things by the enactment of a Poor Law in this country, such as we have in England, would not be at all to your liking. Perhaps you do not know that in England there is a Poor Law which exists, but there are also rates which have to be paid by the people, for the maintenance of the poor. If we introduce the Poor Law here, we would also have to pay Poor Rates, and I think it is probable that it is a state of things which you will not at all appreciate. You next suggest that "a District Committee be formed consisting of an equal number of officials and non-officials to whom should be left the decision of the necessity and the proper time to give State aid to the people from the Famine Fund at their disposal during the transition period above referred to, thus avoiding the necessity of foreign or other help, which, while gratefully acknowledging, we cannot always depend upon." Such a procedure would introduce a completely new system into the administration of the country, and I am not prepared at the present moment to enter into any discussion upon it. You may rest assured, as I informed the gentlemen who presented the last address, that the Collector will receive the fullest authority and discretion to grant such remissions, in such places as after proper enquiry, he finds it to be necessary.

You next pray that the land tax which you describe as being very heavy, may be reduced. This,

as I think you must be aware, is a step which cannot be taken suddenly and without very careful enquiry. I do not remember at the present moment when the last settlement took place in the North Arcot district: but, I am certainly right in saying that you have to wait for any re-consideration of your present settlement system, until the next settlement takes place.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF TIRUPATI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Tirupati, beg to approach Your Excellency with this our hearty welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this ancient and sacred town, which is one of the greatest religious centres of India. We trust that Your Excellency's visit to the hills here, where the chief shrine of Sri Venkateswara is situated, and which attracts pilgrims from all parts of India throughout the year, will be found interesting.

While deeply and gratefully conscious of the several blessings we enjoy under our benign British Government, we respectfully venture to think that it will not be amiss if we lay before Your Excellency a few of our wants, in the ardent hope that Your Excellency may see fit to consider and remedy them as far as possible.

This town which has been a municipality for fourteen years, finds it difficult to bear the burden of the ever-increasing municipal taxation. The

means and resources of the people are very limited and precarious, being chiefly dependent upon the charities of pilgrims that resort to this place. This is not a great trade centre which would find sufficient income for the people, and the impecunious nature of the municipal finance itself, notwithstanding the heavy taxation, amply illustrates our poverty. We would, therefore, respectfully beg of Your Excellency to consider the expediency of converting this town into a major Union, like the head-quarters of the district itself, Chittoor.

If, however, a municipal institution as now existing should be considered absolutely necessary for the needs of this town, we would at least beg of Your Excellency to lighten the burden of taxation somewhat. Out of the maximum of eight and a half per cent. on the assessment of buildings provided by the Act, we are now paying a large proportion of seven and a half per cent. as house-tax. We do not grudge this taxation considering the needs of the municipality here. But the recent addition of four per cent. as water-tax is a burden, which we regret to say we cannot bear. Of late, the value of houses has much depreciated in this town, owing to the comparative decrease in the influx of pilgrims here, and our income from house property has materially lessened. We beg to assure Your Excellency at the same time, that we are not unmindful of the blessing of a pure and wholesome water carried to our doors. We are specially grateful also for the very great help which Your Excellency's Government and the Trustee of

the Devastanam here have rendered to us, in the successful carrying out of a water-supply project to this town. We learn that out of the promised contribution of one-third for the water-works by the said trustee, only a sum of Rs. 36,000 has yet been paid by him, and for the balance of about Rs. 41,000 which has been advanced by the Government, the Local Municipal Council has been charged with the payment of interest on that sum, amounting to about Rs. 2,500 per annum. In consideration of our impoverished circumstances, we would respectfully beg of Your Excellency to excuse the Municipal Council of the payment of this interest and in doing so, prevail upon that body to reduce the water-tax proportionately to the relief from payment of interest which will be secured for them under the proposed arrangement.

Considering the crippled state of the municipal finances here, we would also urge, for Your Excellency's consideration, the exemption of the contribution for tolls to the Local Fund Board, which would give a relief of about Rs. 500 per annum.

A girls' school is maintained in this town by the municipality at a net cost of about Rs. 350 per annum. As the maintenance of girls' school is recognized as a legitimate charge on provincial revenue, we beg leave to suggest that the municipal revenues may be relieved of this burden.

On account of epidemic and festival charges, a sum of about Rs. 1,000 a year is now spent by the municipality. It seems to us that these charges may

more properly be incurred from Provincial funds, or if Your Excellency sees fit, the local Devasthanam, which is primarily benefited by the adoption of these measures, may be asked to incur the same from its resources.

In pointing out the three or four sources of relief to municipal revenues above mentioned, our object is to lighten the burden of the municipal liabilities to some extent, and thereby to benefit ourselves, in our hard circumstances, by a reduction of municipal taxation.

This is the most important town in this taluk, and the location of the Taluk Office at Chendragiri has always been a matter of surprise to us. The want of a fully equipped treasury here also inconveniences us a good deal, more especially the Court-going public, who have to carry on their treasury transactions at Chendragiri. We would therefore most respectfully suggest the removal of the Taluk Office and the Treasury to this town from Chendragiri.

As regards the local train service between this town and Rénigunta, we had till two or three years ago an evening train leaving Tirupati at about 9 p.m. for Rénigunta; and there was a return train early in the morning from Rénigunta to this place. The want of these trains for some time past has been a source of great inconvenience to the public and the pilgrims resorting to this place. This train service was very useful to the Postal department also, but the mails are now carried by a special runner to

Rénigunta and back. We would therefore request that the train service referred to may be restored to us, in lieu of an after-noon service which has been started in its place, and which practically is of no use to us.

Between Tirupati East and West stations, there is a stone tunnel on the South Indian Railway at the place where there is a crossing from this town to Avilala and other villages. This tunnel is barely 5 feet high, and not possible for persons with loads to pass through, much less for carts to pass. As this is a much used way, we beg to request that the Railway authorities may be moved either to heighten the tunnel so as to allow of all kinds of traffic to pass conveniently underneath it, or to so arrange the railway line as to give us a level crossing at or near the place referred to.

The recently promulgated Grant-in-Aid Code, which is to take effect from 1st April next, debars all managers of aided institutions and the teachers employed by them from taking any part in politics. We would beg leave to say that this is a sweeping measure and, as it seems to us, an unnecessary restriction. We are afraid that from the definition of the word "manager" in the code, all members of Local Fund Boards and Municipal Councils, as also other private bodies, who have anything to do with the management of aided institutions, whatever their avocations in life may be, will suffer under the disability mentioned. We leave it to Your Excellency to consider whether such a far-reaching rule is at all

necessary, in the interests which Government may have in view.

The long promised Tenancy Bill has not yet been introduced in the Local Legislative Council. The present Rent Recovery Act is admittedly defective and works great hardship both to the landlord and the tenant. May we not therefore request Your Excellency to consider and pass at an early date the small measure which the Honourable Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar has recently introduced on this subject?

The unsatisfactory nature of the Religious Endowments Act has been repeatedly brought to Your Excellency's notice, and we have been anxiously waiting for some reform in this direction. As it does not appear to be possible to frame an Act which will suit the needs of all India, we would respectfully suggest that a local measure, to satisfy the requirements of the Southern Presidency, may soon be taken in hand.

We are unhappily in the throes of a large impending famine, and we have no doubt that when the time comes, ample relief works will be provided by Your Excellency's Government in these parts, to alleviate human suffering. In this connection we may be permitted to state that in our sympathetic and popular Collector, we have a person who will readily attend to our wants. His action in recommending the postponement of the collection of kists in distressed taluks, already lays claim to our gratitude.

In conclusion, while assuring Your Excellency of our deep loyalty to the British Crown and our

lasting contentment for the several benefits which we enjoy under the British rule, we beg to wish Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a long and prosperous life, and beg to subscribe ourselves.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

INHABITANTS OF TIRUPATI,—I thank you for your kind welcome to your ancient and interesting town, and I anticipate with pleasure and great interest my visit to the shrine, which is near by. I have listened with satisfaction to your expressions of appreciation of the blessings of British rule. I will now proceed to answer those paragraphs in your address which deal with subjects affecting your own local interests. You ask in the first place that the municipality which now exists in Tirupati should be reduced to the rank of a Union, in the same manner as the head-quarters of the district, Chittoor; but I would beg to observe that such a change as this would be a retrograde movement, which, I am sure, we should regret see taken. It will have also the practical effect of reducing your local revenue from something like Rs. 14,000 to something like Rs. 2,000. That will be a misfortune which I am sure you will be sorry to suffer. You then proceed to say that the municipal tax to which you are now liable is very heavy, and you suggest means by which it may possibly be reduced. Among them is a request that the interest paid on the loan granted to you by the Government on account of your water-works, should be remitted, and that the municipality

should upon that be asked to reduce the water-tax proportionately to the relief from payment of interest which will be secured by such reduction to you. I have to remark that I know of no precedent for such a proceeding as this, and I am afraid it cannot be carried out. With regard to the loss recently incurred by your town through the danger of plague, I wish to say that plague will not last for ever, and that when plague is gone, I have no doubt that the value of property will revive, and that the returns from pilgrims will probably come in in the same way as they did before. You next suggest that you should be exempted from the contribution for tolls to the Local Fund Board, which will give a relief of about Rs. 500 per annum. I am informed that this contribution has already been reduced from one-third to one-fourth. The question of any further reduction will be a matter for the consideration of the District Board, to which body it will be referred. Your next proposal is that the Girls' school maintained in this town by the municipality, at a net cost of Rs. 350 per annum, should be maintained in the future at the cost of the Provincial revenue. I am not aware that such a transfer of charge has any precedent, and I do not think that it will be possible to attempt it. If the cost of the Girls' school is greater than you can well sustain, your evident course would be to obtain means by the reduction of expenditure in some other direction. You then urge that the Devastanam, which profits by the large number of pilgrims that visit the place, should be

pressed to meet some of your expenditure. I must say that at first thought, looking at the request, this seems not an unreasonable proposal, but I am not in a position to say whether it can be carried out. I cannot think of any means of compelling the Devastanam to contribute to Local funds in this manner. In paragraph nine of your address, you ask that the Taluk Office and the Treasury be removed from Chendragiri to this town. I believe I am right in saying that a new building has recently been put up for the purpose of a Taluk Office at Chendragiri, and that, therefore, it would be costly and very inconvenient to move that office at the present time. It is possible that something may be done to increase the Treasury staff in Tirupati. The next paragraph of your address deals with matters connected with the local train service. They will be referred to the Railway authorities for any remarks they may have to make. You then proceed to make remarks on the subject of the recently promulgated Grant-in-Aid Code, which is believed to take effect from April next, debarring all managers of aided institutions and the teachers employed by them from taking any part in politics. This is a matter which, at the present stage, I must decline to discuss with you. Representations made on the subject are before the Government and are, as you ought to know, now being considered. It is, therefore, not fitting that I should discuss it here. You next refer to the long pending Tenancy Bill and suggest, if that is not passed at an early date, that the small measure

which the Honourable Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar has recently introduced on this subject may be considered and passed at once. I am in hopes that before very long the Tenancy Bill will again be before the Legislative Council. I therefore see no occasion to refer to the passing of the Bill introduced by Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar. You next speak of the unsatisfactory nature of the Religious Endowments Act. This is a matter which has been under the consideration of the Madras Government for several years past, and we have carefully drafted a Bill and sent it up to the Government of India for consideration. Our Bill is now under the consideration of the Government of India, and I, therefore, feel unable in that state of things to express any opinion on the subject. You may be perfectly certain that in case famine should attain serious dimensions in this district it will, as you say, receive the careful attention and consideration of the Collector and the Government.

ADDRESS FROM THE MAHANT OF TIRUPATI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On this memorable occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this cynosure of all India, I esteem it as a great privilege and honour that Your Excellency has been pleased to conduct this auspicious ceremony of opening this new building, which I have been able to provide for the Devastanam Hindu High School under my management.

Started on the 25th January 1886, under the auspices of Sri Venkateswara and maintained wholly by the Devastanam Funds, this little institution has been able to turn out considerable good work in its own modest sphere—a fact to which the Inspector of Schools, Central Circle, bears testimony in the following note of his in the recent report: “The Mahant of Tirupati is much to be commended for the interest he takes in education as shown by this institution and others he has lately started in different parts of the country. Good work is being done in this institution. It deserves every encouragement from Government.”

Your Excellency will also be gratified to hear that I have been seriously contemplating raising this institution to the rank of a second grade college, to meet the requirements of a large class of poor men, unable to pass through the expensive course of a collegiate study in Madras, and I pray that, when the happy day arrives, Your Excellency may be pleased to sanction such a step, and to order the affiliation thereof to the University of Madras.

Your Excellency will also be pleased to learn that this Devastanam maintains, on a very liberal scale, a Sanskrit College known as “Grand Duff's Sanskrit College,” wherein all branches of oriental literature are taught to the pupils.

This humble subject of Your Excellency is also encouraged to find that the Government of Madras has always noted with approval the various acts of

charity that the Temple funds of Tirumalai, Tirupati, have been able to perform and maintain, such as the local dispensary, the donation to water-works, the schools here and elsewhere, &c.

Above all Your Excellency's presence under this modest roof this morning is no small indication of the keen interest Your Excellency takes in the affairs of this country in general, and of this famous institution of Southern India, this Tirupati Devasthanam in particular.

I thank Your Excellency for having declared, with the best wishes, this building open to this and to all succeeding generations of young men.

That Sri Balaji may confer upon Your Excellency His choicest blessings of long life and prosperity, is the earnest and unceasing prayer of

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency in reply complemented the Mahant on his generosity in providing such a splendid building for the High School.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF TIRUPATI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Tirupati, with profound feelings of loyalty and submission, beg most respectfully to approach Your Excellency, and to tender our hearty welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this town, which is one of the most

important places of pilgrimage in all India. The existence of a shrine amidst the most picturesque scenery on the adjoining hill, which is held sacred by all classes of Hindus from the Himalayas to the Cape Comorin, and of the palace at Chendragiri, which was once the seat of a branch of the Vizianagar Dynasty, have contributed in no small measure to the participation of this town in the inestimable honour of occasional visits from the rulers of this province.

2. Many are the blessings which have been conferred on this town since the establishment of the municipality, but the chief amongst these for which Your Excellency's Government has earned the gratitude of the public and the council, are the recent privilege extended to this municipality according to which four members are now eligible for election, and the introduction of water-works which now supply wholesome water to the resident as well as the floating population of the town, and which are mainly due to the most liberal contributions made by Your Excellency's Government and the Trustee of the Davasthanam here.

3. Since the constitution of the town into a municipality in 1886 its sanitation, especially during the well-known periodical festivals, has always been a source of grave anxiety not only to the Municipal Council but also to Government, as the town annually attracts large numbers of pilgrims from all parts of India, thus affording ample facilities for the introduction of cholera and other epidemics into the

town, and for their rapid extension to other distant places in the Presidency. Neither funds nor efforts on our part are being spared in attending to this important branch of municipal administration, and the direct results of our sanitary precautions and measures achieved up to date, amply justify all the trouble and expense which we have incurred in this direction; for, as a matter of fact, cholera which at one time used to be a necessary concomitant of almost every annual festival, has now become a thing of the past.

4. It is, however, a matter for deep regret that our municipality is very poor, and that the funds and resources at its command are so limited, that it cannot do adequate justice to the sanitary requirements of a town, where large crowds of ignorant pilgrims, always prone to disregard sanitary regulations, congregate. If the sanitary measures to be adopted here are to be effective, a much larger expenditure of funds than what the municipality can at present spare, without starving other equally important branches of municipal administration, will be necessary. In the present state of municipal finances it is impossible to make adequate provision for all the requirements of the town; and as the Municipal Council is also saddled with the cost of all measures calculated to check the spread of epidemics during festivals, the strain upon our resources is more than what can be easily borne. As all these sanitary measures are taken in the interests of pilgrims, and as all the revenues contri-

buted by them benefit the Devastanam exchequer, we humbly beg to submit that it is but just and equitable that a major, if not the whole, portion of the outlay which the municipality incurs under the head of festival and epidemic charges, should be met from the Devastanam funds, and we beg to commend this proposition for the kind and benevolent consideration of Your Excellency.

5. There is yet another item of municipal expenditure in which, with Your Excellency's kind support, this municipality can effect some economy. Since the year 1895 this municipality has been maintaining, in addition to several other educational institutions for boys, a Primary School for Girls which, owing to its impecunious condition referred to above, cannot be kept up to the required degree of efficiency. Since Government has always taken a very keen and benevolent interest in the promotion of female education, we humbly request, that on this occasion, Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to lend all the support that the cause deserves, and convert the institution into a purely Government one.

6. While we very gratefully acknowledge that a great and long-felt want of the town has been supplied by the construction of water-works, the usefulness of which has been greatly enhanced by the erection of numerous fountains by Mr. Lodd Krishna Doss Balamakund Dossji, the philanthropic Sowcar of Madras, we feel bound to state, from a sincere sense of duty, that until another important want—the

thorough reformation of the drainage of the town—is effectively satisfied, the main end in view, *i.e.*, the improvement of public health cannot be completely attained. We are perfectly aware that a good scheme of drainage must necessarily be a very costly one. The scanty resources of a petty municipality like ours, preclude even the entertainment of the very idea of having anything to do with such a vast undertaking; and the present condition of the majority of the people whose very living exclusively depends upon the crowds of pilgrims visiting this place, having unfortunately undergone a sudden change during the last three years, owing to considerable reductions in the number of pilgrims, due to the prevalence of plague and famine in other parts of India, we beg to submit that the town is quite unable to bear the burden of increased taxation on this score. Under such circumstances our mainstay is in Your Excellency's Government, and we therefore most respectfully beg to appeal to its broad-minded liberality which has already done so much for the water-supply. We further fervently hope that the Trustee of our Devasthanam will also realise the usefulness of the scheme, and that both the Devasthanam and the Provincial funds will come to our rescue in this matter.

In conclusion, we beg to thank Your Excellency from the bottom of our hearts for the great honour done to our town by the present visit, and for the opportunity it has afforded us of personally representing our wants and wishes.

Wishing long life and prosperity to Your Excellency, to Lady Havelock, and to all the members of Your Excellency's family.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency in reply referred the Municipal Council to the answer given to the People's Address. On the subject of a good drainage scheme for Tirupati, His Excellency pointed out that the water-supply which had been provided for the town had consumed a large sum, and that, therefore, in the present state of their finances, a drainage scheme was out of the question. He advised them to put aside the question of drainage for the present, and carry out simple measures of sanitation which could be worked at small expenditure.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF CHENDRAGIRI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Chendragiri, respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency with this our hearty welcome to this ancient place of historical interest, a former Hindu Raja of which was the first to cede Fort Saint George and the present populous city of Madras to the British. Your Excellency will find here the relics of former civilization, and we trust that Your Excellency's stay amongst us, brief though it be, may be found interesting.

Our wants here are purely agricultural, and in laying before Your Excellency our few grievances, we venture to express the hope that they may be duly considered and remedied as far as possible.

The forest reserve area known as the 'Chendragiri Mahal Durgham Reserve' is surrounded on all sides by about ten villages yielding a revenue of Rs. and to the ryots of which, therefore, the said reserved forest is of the utmost importance. It contains no trees of any importance, but only such shrubs and small wood that can be used for agricultural purposes. The forest revenue in the reserved tract is about Rs. 60 *per annum* and the cost of management is out of all proportion to the revenue realized. We, therefore, pray that the area in question may be removed from the reserved tract, and made freely available to all ryots.

The Nagapatla Reserved forest was accidentally burnt during last year and thenceforward permits were refused to the cattle usually grazing there. As this entails very great inconvenience and hardship, we beg that orders may be caused to be issued for the issue of permits for grazing cattle in this forest, as usual.

Our next prayer is that in all reserved areas of the Forest Department, free licenses may be given for agricultural cattle to graze, and for removing agricultural manure and for cutting wood for agricultural implements. Though the rules promulgated by our benign Government amply provide for

these concessions, they are, we regret to say, carried out in practice, in a very stinted form.

The north-west monsoon has entirely failed in these parts and we are in the throes of a large impending famine. Already for want of agricultural work, the people are in sore distress. We beg under the circumstances, to respectfully suggest for Your Excellency's consideration, the expediency of the opening up of famine relief works and kitchens, to provide work and food for the poor and destitute amongst us.

We would also respectfully submit that in view of the present state of the season, the Government demand for kists due from us, should be postponed till the prospect brightens. Remissions are now allowed only for withered crops and waste in nanja lands, but owing to want of seasonable rains, our punja crops have also withered, and several of our wells have got dry. We beg therefore that similar concessions may be shown for punja lands as well.

In conclusion, we heartily wish Your Excellency and staff, a happy and interesting journey in this district.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

INHABITANTS OF CHENDRAGIRI,—I thank you for your kind welcome to this extremely interesting place. The history of it has been made a matter of study by me for the last two or three days. I find that, as you say here, it is the spot on which the

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deed was signed, under which the site now occupied by Fort St. George in the City of Madras, was ceded to the East India Company. For that reason alone it would be a spot carrying with it great interest to those who belong to this part of India. You say that your wants are purely agricultural, and that your grievances are connected with agricultural matters. I can of course well understand that, as I know that you are almost entirely a ryot population. There is not much manufacture and there is not much litigation, or business of that sort going on in a small place like Chendragiri. You make a request with regard to the Forest Reserve area known as the "Chendragiri Mahal Durgam Reserve." I have pleasure in telling you that this is one of the reserves proposed to be thrown open for grazing, and it will be open now to free grazing of cattle on account of scarcity that prevails this year. It is not proposed to disafforest it, because there will be inconvenience; at any rate it is a course which we do not wish to take. You next speak of the Nagapatla Reserve Forest, which was accidentally burnt last year. I am informed that this reserve had been entirely thrown open to grazing in 1889, and that it would be in the same way thrown open to grazing during the present year, 1900. I think I may understand, therefore, that your wishes in this respect are fully gratified. Then with regard to your request that free licenses to graze cattle and cut wood in the reserves may be granted to you, I may tell you that it is not in accordance with the letter of our Forest Regulations. You

complain that the rules promulgated by the Government amply provide for these concessions, but I am informed that that statement is not quite accurate. As to the stinted form in which the concessions granted by Government are conceded to you, I have to observe that the Government has given strict directions to all the Forest Officers to treat forest matters in a liberal spirit, having in prominent regard the desire of Government that the forests are reserved for the good of the people, in the first instance, and only in the second place, as a source of revenue. You mention, what I have heard in all directions since I have been in the district, that the north-east monsoon having failed, there is a threat of agricultural distress. I gather from all I have heard that of the dry lands throughout the district, there has on the whole not been so very much to complain of; but there has been a sad loss of crops on the wet lands. The necessity for opening relief works may possibly arise in the future, but at present I am inclined to think that the bad state of things is not sufficiently established to warrant it. In any case, however, it will be necessary before the Government opens relief works, to satisfy itself by test works of a strict nature, that such relief is absolutely necessary. With regard to remissions of kists, the Collector has full instructions on the subject, and will deal with the matter in a prudent and generous spirit.

