

ADDRESSES, &c.

PRESENTED TO

AND

REPLIES MADE

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD WENLOCK,
G. C. I. E.

ON HIS EIGHTH TOUR.

October and November 1892.

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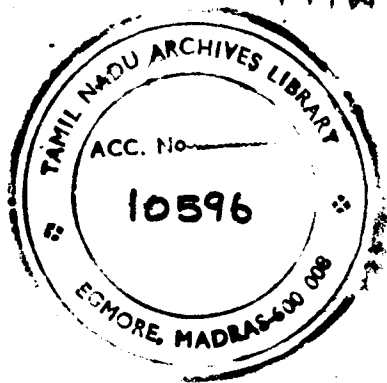
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ADDRESSES, &c., PRESENTED TO AND REPLIES MADE BY HIS
EXCELLENCY THE LORD WENLOCK ON HIS EIGHTH TOUR.

Address by the Numboori Brahmins, Kottayam.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Born of noble parentage in Great Britain, the most civilised country in the world, and shining in the resplendent light of intellectual culture and moral worth, Your Excellency has been raised to the exalted position of Governor of Madras, in appreciation of Your Excellency's merit, by Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen-Empress of India. The self-denial shown by Your Excellency in the discharge of the onerous duties of your exalted position when Your Excellency, regardless of personal comfort and convenience, recently travelled through certain districts of the Madras Presidency, affording relief to the famine-stricken, has not only earned for Your Excellency an undying fame, but has also won the gratitude of millions, and endeared Your Excellency to the hearts of all. Your Excellency's visit to this interesting town of Kottayam, interesting among many other ways as containing an institution, which from ancient times has been opened for imparting Vedic learning to us, is a matter of sincere and special joy to us, the ancient Malayala Brahmin Jenmies of Travancore. The pleasure we feel to-day at being permitted to welcome and present this address, too, to the noble representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress is redoubled by the fact of such an auspicious event occurring in the beneficent reign of His Highness Sree Moolam Tirunal Maharajah, who rules over all his subjects alike, and long may he rule so, with parental affection. Our joy is therefore inexpressible, and we beg to conclude, thanking Your Excellency for your condescension in patiently listening to this address, and praying to God that long life and health and prosperity may be vouchsafed to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and to yourself, her noble and kind-hearted representative in this Presidency.—*Kottayam, 26th October 1892.*

Address by the Inhabitants of Kottayam.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—As loyal subjects of His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore, whose beneficent rule we gratefully and contentedly enjoy, we, the inhabitants of Kottayam, beg to accord to Your Excellency our humble but most hearty welcome. Though comparatively a small town, Kottayam is of interest, as having a history which goes back to remote times when the neighbouring districts, instead of being consolidated into one kingdom, were divided among petty chiefs, and as being a place where the Christian religion found a footing even before it was a century old. Your Excellency is likely to observe, in the course of Your Excellency's drive to-day, that the town is just rising into importance. Henceforth, this day will be associated in our minds with the agreeable recollection of this the first occasion which we have had the rare privilege of welcoming the honoured and noble representative in this Presidency of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, for whose long life and health, and for Your Excellency's too, we will ever pray to God. We beg to conclude, wishing Your Excellency a safe and pleasant journey, and thanking Your Excellency for kindly condescending to accept this address.—*26th October 1892.*

Address by the Syrian Christians of Malabar.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In welcoming Your Excellency to-day with this address, we, the Syrian Christians of Malabar, are actuated with feelings of profound respect as well as gratitude for the interest Your Excellency has condescendingly taken in our community, as evinced in the visit paid to-day to this institution, which has been our head-quarters for nearly a century. Our history has been an eventful one. Its salient points are,—the Apostleship and

arrival of St. Thomas in A.D. 52; the advent of the Syrian merchants and their settlement in this country in A.D. 345; our slow development from a religious sect into a national body with a king of our own; the extinction of our regal dynasty and the subsequent subservency to the crowns of Travancore and Cochin, to the support of whose power our ancestors contributed soldiers and judges; the high and noble privileges accorded to us by the Perumal Kings; our gradual lapse from political and social importance into a form of religious body, and lastly the bright pages of our present history which exhibits us as keeping pace with the progress of Western culture. When we review all these events, we feel proud to say that our present progress, as well as that of Travancore, owes its origin to this ancient institution, which, founded by the ancestor of our present esteemed Metropolitan, Mar Dionysius, attracted the sympathy of the C. M. Society, whose Missionaries established themselves here in co-operation with our community, and eventually became the prime movers of the spread of education in Travancore. We therefore, with feelings of sincere gratefulness, consider it an unparalleled privilege in being allowed to welcome to the Pioneer of education in Travancore Your Excellency, who is the trusted and honoured representative of Her Most August Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, for whose long life and happiness and for Your Excellency we shall ever pray. Thanking Your Excellency once more for the honour conferred on our community, and wishing Your Excellency a pleasant tour throughout our country and many years of happiness and prosperity.—*Kottayam, October 1892.*

Toast by the Rajah of Cochin.

YOUR EXCELLENCY LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is with the greatest pleasure that I now rise to propose the toast of the evening, and that is the health of our distinguished guest, His Excellency Lord Wenlock, Governor of Madras. The sterling good qualities and the benevolent disposition of His Excellency are apparent from what he has done after he came to this strange and distant land—the land not of his birth nor of his adoption—but to one to which merit has brought him. When His Excellency heard that famine was committing havoc in some of the districts under his charge he went to the spot to make personal enquiries, not paying the slightest heed to the inclemency of the weather, and were it not for the untiring zeal and promptitude of our honoured guest in providing means to protect the numberless poor, it would have produced results as disastrous as those of 1877–78. The several tours (this being the 8th His Excellency has made in the short time he has been amongst us) further evince the deep interest he takes in acquainting himself with the various wants and wishes of the subjects entrusted to his care, and we should feel more grateful than ever to His Excellency for these early trips, as they are calculated to do more good to the country by allowing him sufficient time to mature and work out his beneficent designs. I need hardly say that it is not only an honour but also a pleasure and satisfaction to be able to welcome and entertain so illustrious, humane and popular a Governor, and I am highly obliged to His Excellency for kindly condescending to be our guest on this occasion. Ladies and gentlemen, I must request you to drink to the health of His Excellency and I trust you will cheerfully respond to the toast with due honours.—*Cochin, October 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency the Governor thanked His Highness very much for the very flattering remarks he had made regarding his career, in terms more flattering than he deserved. No doubt His Highness' kind feelings had prompted him to express his high opinion of what he had done, but he had done no more than what he considered his duty. The scarcity in South India was due to entire absence of rain; but the condition of the oppressed districts had changed for the better, and all anxiety for the present was happily at an end. His Excellency then said he had long desired to see the Native States of Travancore and Cochin, but with the necessity of alleviating the sufferings of the people and providing them with food, he had had to travel chiefly in the famine districts, and so had been prevented putting his desire, in connection with a visit to those interesting Native States, into execution. He was now glad to be able to say that abundant rain had fallen, for, without it, the Government of Madras would probably have had to face as widespread a calamity as presented itself in 1877–78. It gave His Excellency much pleasure to think that no such thing as famine had threatened or was likely to threaten Travancore and Cochin. He had in all his tours met with the utmost loyalty and affection from all classes of people, and even in this remote part of Her Majesty's dominions he was proud to see the loyalty and affectionate devotion which appeared to actuate the people, as if they were Englishmen, and he sincerely hoped that this affectionate relationship would cause His Highness and the people of Cochin to cling to the Paramount Power. In conclusion, he thanked all present for the hearty manner in which his health was drunk.

Address by the Members of the Cochin Municipal Council.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council, and as such representatives of the rate-payers and inhabitants of British Cochin, very respectfully welcome Your Excellency to our town, rich in historic associations, dating back to centuries, during which the Portuguese, the Dutch, and in more recent times the English, have, each and all, played no small part. To so interesting, therefore, though to so distant a portion of the territories under your sway, it is not surprising that Your Excellency, following in the footsteps of your distinguished predecessors in the Government of this Presidency, and actuated by the same desire to become acquainted with the local wants and conditions of life of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in all portions of the Empire entrusted to your care and rule, should come, if even for a short visit, in the course of a tour in the Native States of Travancore and Cochin. Accept then, Sir, the assurance of our hearty and respectful welcome to you personally, as one of England's Nobility, and of that still further welcome we no less cheerfully and loyally accord you as the Representative of our beloved Sovereign, the Queen-Empress. Exceptionally situated as we are, and living as we do within a very circumscribed area, the sphere and scope of our duties is necessarily limited in proportion. With the meagre income at our disposal we are doing our very best in furtherance of the aims and objects which local self-government imposes upon us. Conservancy, education, the hospital, and such other incidental charges on a Municipal exchequer receive due attention and support at our hands. Nevertheless we must perforce depend on Government for aid in regard to more costly measures connected more especially with sanitation. In common with every other Municipal town but to a very much greater degree, because of the very little depth at which subsoil water is everywhere encountered, do we stand in need of a drainage system; while it may perhaps surprise Your Excellency to learn that we are almost entirely dependent for our water-supply on water brought down in casks by boats a distance of 16 miles from the Alwaye river, in the neighbouring State of Travancore. For generations past, medical authorities and experts have, in various ways, pronounced upon the diseases more or less special to Cochin, and due to the consumption and use generally by the poorer class of inhabitants of water obtained from local wells and tanks, while even the better circumstanced, it is to be feared, are either too insensible of the danger, or too mindful of the expense to be deterred from using what is nearest at hand and most easily obtained. We doubt not that, independently of promises of health in these directions previously made to us, Your Excellency, with that solicitude for local wants and necessities which has characterised all your utterances in reply to addresses from Municipalities throughout the Presidency, will, at the earliest possible opportunity, draw the attention of your Government to these great, urgent and special needs of ours, which, we repeat, can only be met by substantial pecuniary aid from the State. Putting our admitted wants, therefore, as to drainage and water in the forefront of this address, and refraining from occupying Your Excellency's time and attention with comparatively minor matters, we would hope that Your Excellency will do us the honour of visiting Cochin again during your tenure of office, and with due and loyal submission and respect.—*Innacollum, 28th October 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

He thanked the members of the Council for their kind welcome. Cochin was an interesting place. Though circumscribed in area it possessed a considerable population, and doubtless the want of such important things as good water and good drainage were much felt, but His Excellency feared that it was impossible to do anything at the present moment. The drainage question would occupy the early attention of the Government as soon as the survey of the drainage scheme was completed. As regards the water-supply, it would probably be necessary to take borings, which would be done when funds were available, but there was a severe strain on the Provincial funds, which prohibited an immediate consideration of the question of water-supply. Cochin was not the only place which had wants. Very large demands were made by other places. It was not easy, from its position, to set on foot any scheme for obtaining water for Cochin, but probably deep wells would answer, and, if feasible, water could be obtained on the spot, and would be less expensive than obtaining it by means of pipes from the Periyár river. His Excellency did not think there was any possibility of his visiting the town again, but if he did so, it would occasion His Excellency much pleasure to meet the members of the Council once more.

Address from the Students and Pupils of His Highness the Maharajah's College, Trivandrum.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the students and pupils of His Highness the Maharajah's College, Trivandrum, and High School, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with an address of respectful and cordial welcome on Your Excellency's visit to our institution. It is but rarely that the even tenor of our student-life is varied by so important an event as the visit of a Governor of Madras and representative of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, and

therefore, whenever that honour is conferred upon us, we are profoundly grateful for it, and ever afterwards keep the memory of it fresh in our minds. Many of us remember with pleasure the visits that Your Excellency's eminent predecessors in office, Sir M. E. Grant Duff and Lord Connemara, paid to this institution, and we treasure in our hearts the words of wisdom and kindly encouragement they were so good as to address to us on those occasions. We venture to place before Your Excellency a few items of information regarding our institution, in the hope that they may prove interesting. Our College has risen from small beginnings. More than half a century ago, in the year 1834, His Highness the Maharajah's Government established in Trivandrum, under the Headmastership of the late Mr. John Roberts, the pioneer of English education in Travancore, a free school accommodating one hundred pupils. Twenty years later the free school developed into a high school under the late Mr. John Ben-ley, and in 1866 a College department was opened with Mr. John Ross, M.A., of Edinburgh University, as the first Principal and Professor of English and Mathematics. A few years afterwards provision was made for the teaching of Philosophy by the appointment of Dr. Robert Harvey, M.A., of Glasgow University, as Professor in that subject as well as in English. A Law class, teaching for the B.L. Degree, was opened in 1875, with Dr. W. E. Ormsby, M.A., of Dublin University, as Law Professor; His Highness the Maharajah, ever solicitous to place within the reach of his subjects the advantages of European culture, founded shortly after in the year 1884 a Chair of Science, and appointed Mr. Henry Newport Read, M.A., of Cambridge University, to the Professorship of Chemistry and Physics. Three years ago a further expansion of the curriculum was introduced by the institution of a separate Chair of Mathematics and the appointment thereto of Dr. A. Crichton Mitchell, F.R.S.E., of Edinburgh University. The College is provided with a valuable reference library of over 2,000 volumes, and a handsome laboratory has been recently completed, and will soon be equipped with all the appliances needed for the teaching of Chemistry and Physics. Scientific and literary lectures open to the general public are delivered every fortnight in the College hall by gentlemen selected by a Government Lecture Committee, and paid out of a special Lecture Fund. The students maintain among themselves with the aid of the Professors a Debating Society, a Dramatic Society and a few other Literary Clubs. While so much solicitude has been shown for the cultivation of our mental powers, our physical well-being is not neglected. Connected with the College are four tennis courts and a gymnasium. An athletic competition open to all schools of Travancore is held every year at Government cost, to encourage physical culture among the youths of Travancore. His Highness the Maharajah and the British Resident evince their keen interest in our welfare by invariably visiting the College to witness the annual competitions and to distribute the awards on prize distribution days. There are at present 782 students and pupils in our institution. Since its foundation, our College has turned out 925 Matriculates, 398 F.A.'s, 252 B.A.'s, 25 B.L.'s and 7 M.A.'s. A large number of our alumni already occupy responsible offices under the Travancore Government as Peishkars, Judges, Professors, Tahsildars, Munsifs, Doctors and Magistrates. Among the numerous blessings conferred upon this country by the generous and enlightened Maharajahs who have reigned over it, one of the greatest and most precious certainly is that of education scattered broadcast over the land and brought within the reach of all classes and creeds. Deeply sensible as we are of the innumerable blessings we enjoy in this favoured land, it is our ambition and shall be our earnest endeavour to prove by our after-lives—by loyalty to our Maharajah and by unflinching devotion to duty—that we are grateful to the Professors who are training us, and to our liberal-minded Maharajah who has, with so lavish a hand, bestowed on us the precious jewels of Western culture. We tender our thanks to Your Excellency for so kindly encouraging us by honouring our institution with this visit, which we doubt not will be productive of beneficial results to us and to the cause of education in Travancore. Once more we offer Your Excellency our respectful and hearty welcome.—*Trivandrum, October 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I have in the first place to express to you my thanks for the kind manner in which you have welcomed me here on my first visit to Trivandrum, and to this particular institution—the very first I have visited of the numerous institutions which, I believe, I will have the pleasure of visiting while I am here during these two days. I was not aware, till I came here, what excellent arrangements were being made for the provision of proper and suitable education in Trivandrum; and it has given me much pleasure to see, walking round this building, the excellent class-rooms, and the admirable order in which everything appears to be. This is not the time or the moment to enlarge on the great advantages which accrue to any country which takes up the cause of education. I am glad to see here in Trivandrum, the cause of education is being properly looked after and being properly maintained; and the inhabitants of this country recognise to the fullest extent what the great advantages of a superior education are. We have gradually growing up all over the country a large number of highly-educated young men; and it cannot but be to the very great advantage of a country when education is spread from the highest to the lowest, and when not only primary education, but even the education such as is given in a College such as this, is easily obtainable by the inhabitants of the country. The history which you have given of your institution says that it was founded

several years ago, and is being maintained in a vigorous and prosperous condition. I can only say it has given me much pleasure to come here and see you are doing well in this particular department; and I wish you and the country to which you belong the greatest prosperity and happiness, not only in this particular department, but in every department of life. I beg to thank you very much for the kind manner in which you have received me, and express my great pleasure at seeing the evident prosperity of your institution and its surroundings.

His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore proposed the toast for the Queen and then the health of His Excellency Lord Wenlock.

His Excellency's Reply.

YOUR HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I wish in the first place to thank His Highness the Maharajah for the extremely kind manner in which he has proposed the toast of my health, and you for the manner in which you have received it. I also take this occasion to express, on my own account, what I feel towards the Maharajah for the extremely kind and hospitable manner in which he has received me on my first visit to his dominions. I have, as he has pointed out, commenced my tour in this part of the country by visiting one of the most interesting pieces of engineering that have ever been seen in the world, which is now taking place in the dominions of His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore. I have been through parts of the jungles and forests in the northern part of the country, under the able guidance of Mr. Hannyngton. I have seen what those parts of the country can produce in the matter of beautiful scenery. I have come down here by the most lovely backwaters through a country teeming with prosperity, and with all that makes life most comfortable and happy for those who live in it. I have come down to the capital of this country, and here I have had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of His Highness and others with whom he is associated in the administration of the country. I can readily understand from what I have seen how it is that I have been able to see in my tour in this part of the country, the evident prosperity and contentment which is so manifest on every side. From one part of the country to the other I have been received with the most enthusiastic signs of loyalty and devotion which these people have shown to the humble individual who addresses you now, and who is merely himself the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. It is evident that the feelings which have actuated the head of the kingdom of Travancore actuate his own subjects from one end of it to the other. I can only say that it has given me most extraordinary pleasure and satisfaction to see the feeling which subsists throughout the country. I regret very much, Sir, the absence of my wife, that she was not able to come here; and I only regret it for her sake, because I know she lost the opportunity of seeing a very beautiful country. I hope that the happy and cordial relations existing now, for so many years, between the British Crown and the Travancore Government may continue for many more years, and that both the Governments may go on working in the manner in which they have hitherto done, in the path of progress, peace and prosperity such as, I am glad to see, are now in the province of Travancore. I have had the opportunity this morning of seeing how much His Highness is interested in the particular processes of development in different ways. I have seen the various schools and colleges such as have come before my notice, and I was glad to find that, at all events, Travancore is not behind the rest of India in the manner in which she is taking up the cause of education. I look to that most sincerely, as the almost one means by which prosperity and enlightenment can come to the people. Not only is the means of education which the State has been able to place at the disposal of the people great, but in this particular part of the country there are other agencies worked with the assistance of the State, by means of which I hope and trust every single member of the community, however low and degraded he may be now, may be drawn within the scope of that education which is now being gradually brought within the reach of all. Though this is my first visit to this country, yet there are evident signs on all hands of the most extraordinary prosperity—I may say prosperity so generally diffused as perhaps does not exist in any other part of India. Of course, it is well known that in no civilised community does there exist entire and universal contentment or universal well-being. I know this country, like every other country, has to deal with lower and more degraded classes of people, and I am glad to think they are not going to be left behind in the race of life; and I sincerely hope and trust that the steps now being taken may be able to raise them to a position of comparative affluence and happiness. I am glad to see that His Highness is taking steps which will eventuate in raising the general level of the whole country, so that when he lays down the reins of office, he may say to himself, at all events, he has left the country better than it was when he was called upon to take charge of it. I have also seen in this town of Trivandrum evidence of great care being devoted to the particular subject of female education. That, I consider, in India is one of the processes which will do very much towards improving and raising the general tone of all the communities, and therefore I am glad to find that the people in Travancore are not behind any other portion of India, and are doing their best to give education to the female portion of the community, which, I sincerely

His Excellency in proposing the Maharajah's health said :—

Address from the pupils of the Female Normal School, Travancore.

His Excellency's Replu.

Address from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Tinnevely.

His Excellency's Reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very much for the kind manner in which you have welcomed me to Tinnevely, and assure you that on my part it has given me much pleasure to have had the opportunity of coming down to see your town and your district. Your address, presented as it is by the Municipality, keeps before it two great points—rather two of the great points—which concern municipalities more than any other, that is, the water-supply and sanitation of the town, for the sake of preserving the health of the people committed to your care. You say that these points have occupied your attention and are still engaging your attention, and you ask my assistance as representing Government in the matter of water-supply. Up till now, I am afraid, you have not received much encouragement from Government because Government do not feel themselves at present disposed to launch out any large sums to various bodies in the manner in which they would like to get them. As you know very well the old saying, “you must cut your coat according to the cloth you have,” we must, at all event, distribute the money in a proper and economical manner. At the same time if you manage to get a large, comprehensive scheme for the supply of water in this town, it will be impossible for you, I take it, to carry out the work without the assistance of Government. I understand that Palamcottah and other hamlets are being asked to contribute to the scheme, as they are as much interested in it as Tinnevely, and I believe that before very long you will be in a position to state what your scheme is, and what it will cost, and then you can ask the Government to contribute what they can. Till then I am afraid I cannot say anything; but I should be glad to hear what is proposed to be done in the matter, and you may depend upon it that if it is possible for Government to assist you in this good work, they will not hesitate to do so. As I said before, we shall not commit ourselves to anything, as we have gone far ahead in financial venture.

As regards sanitation and another point which is connected with it, viz., drainage, you say you have during the last 25 years addressed yourselves to this subject, and I believe that you have done some good. But at the same time, as far as I understand the position of affairs in this town, you have those prejudices to which you also refer still to overcome, and more drastic treatment has to be adopted before you can effect proper sanitation within the town. Nobody knows more than I do what the value of manure is to growing crops; but at the same time there are places for manure as there are places for other things. They say that dirt is matter in the wrong place, and we can all agree that dirt and heaps of manure are matters in the wrong place when they are placed in the backyard; and you who are responsible for the health of the people should see that this abominable state of things does not continue any longer. I do not see why there should be any difficulty in providing a dépôt for the storage of manure in some place where the health of the people will not suffer. For enabling you to see that proper sanitation is carried out, put into force the provisions of the Act which apply to this particular point. I should be glad to hear that the Municipality have ventured on this particular point, that they do not suffer any longer from the reproach which rather lies at their door now, that they have not directed their attention to the insanitary places which are so close to places of habitation. At the same time I am glad you have recognised the fact that a certain amount of unpopularity must attach to you, and possibly that popularity that you referred to in the beginning of your address may suffer in consequence; but you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing your duty not only to yourselves but to your neighbours, and you will have gone a long way towards improving the sanitation of this town.

You also allude to another point which has occupied your attention, i.e., vaccination. I am very glad that this matter is receiving your careful attention, and you are doing great good thereby. I believe the body of people are now beginning to feel that the work of Government in this respect can only bring them good and save them from fearful disfigurement and the ravages of such a terrible pest. Your dispensary, I am glad to see, has also become popular, and in all other respects the Municipality is doing very good and excellent work. I am glad to have had this opportunity of coming here and seeing what you are doing. I beg to thank you once more for the kind manner in which you have welcomed me, and I can assure you it has given me very much pleasure to be here to-day.

Address from the Students and Pupils of the Hindu College, Tinnevely.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the students and pupils of the Hindu College, Tinnevely, 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, Tinnevely, was started by public subscription in 1861 as an Anglo-Vernacular school and 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 of the district have been students of the college. The number on the rolls is 415, the College department having 90 in the two F.A. classes. The Committee, assisted by the Government, which has contributed a building grant of about 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 with about 180 volumes of standard reading books which are much used by the members. This library which was originally started by the students of the college, assisted by liberal-minded friends, needs a more generous patronage and encouragement from the public if its sphere of usefulness is to be enlarged. 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 just placed Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" on the boards before a large audience of the friends of the institution, among whom we are proud to reckon Mr. Forbes, the Collector. In conclusion, we beg leave to thank Your Excellency for your great kindness in honoring the college with a visit and for Your Excellency's patience in hearing the address of welcome, and we wish Your Excellency long life and happiness.—*Tinnevely, November 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you, students and pupils of the Hindu College, for the address which has just been presented to me, and I can only say on my part I have much pleasure in coming to see your college, and to find in what flourishing condition it is at present. It appears from what I can see that you have started on a career of usefulness, one that is likely to raise the standard of education in this particular part of the country, and I shall watch your

future career, as long as I am here, with great interest. I have much pleasure in being able to be here to see how you are looked after and the manner in which you are conducting your work. From what you say in your address it is evident that you take a lively interest in the affairs of the day. I have seen your library and the periodicals you taken in; and I find from what you say in your address, you have also started a Debating Society. I have no doubt that in the meetings of the society you will easily have disposed of difficult social problems in a manner satisfactory to yourselves, and I wish every one interested in those questions could dispose of them as readily and as easily as you can. You also tell me that you have started a Dramatic Society and you have taken up Shakespeare as the best author you consider whose works you wish to show to the public. I am glad to hear you have done so, as there is no doubt that in the English language there is nobody to equal Shakespeare as a dramatist; and if you could reproduce his works in satisfaction to yourselves and to the audience, you have undoubtedly undertaken, and succeeded in performing, a great feat. I thank you for the address and the manner in which you have received me and can only say I have much pleasure in finding that you have such a large and flourishing institution.

Address from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Tuticorin.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—On behalf of, and as the representatives of the inhabitants of Tuticorin, we respectfully beg to tender a welcome to Your Excellency on the occasion of this your first visit to the district of Tinnevely. Encouraged by the knowledge of the personal interest Your Excellency takes in everything connected with the welfare of the people you govern, and taking advantage of your presence amongst us, we beg to submit to you kindly consideration some of the principal defects from which the town and port suffer, trusting that Your Excellency will see how greatly they affect a rising town like Tuticorin, and will assist in remedying them. The following figures will, we trust, prove to Your Excellency the rapid increase that has taken place in population and trade during the past 20 years. In 1871 the population was 10,565; in 1891 it had risen to 25,080 besides a large floating population. To procure a sufficient supply of wholesome water for the people has been for years a difficult problem to solve, and it is a matter of great congratulation that we now begin to see a glimmer of hope now that the matter has been taken up by Your Excellency's Government. We are awaiting plans and estimates which we trust have already been taken in hand by the Sanitary Engineer to Government. The amount, we believe, that will be required for the scheme is two lakhs, and we trust Your Excellency's Government will see their way to contributing half the amount, leaving the other half as a loan to be repaid by the Municipality in instalments. With Your Excellency's permission we will now bring forward certain facts to prove how great are the difficulties of the people as regards drinking-water. The present inadequate supply is derived from the Corampallam tank, which is upwards of four miles from the town, and this invariably fails during the longest and hottest part of the year when it is most needed. After the failure of the water-supply, over 25,000 people have to resort to holes dug by the roadside, and other places about a mile from the town, and even then their efforts are rewarded by only a scanty supply of brackish and unwholesome water. We need scarcely say that this is not only highly inconvenient but also conducive to much sickness. The trade also of the town is heavily handicapped by the insufficiency of the water-supply. Under these circumstances, we consider we have a strong claim on the sympathetic assistance of the Government. We now beg to draw Your Excellency's attention to the importance of Tuticorin as a port. 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 increased to almost 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 we are far behind less important places in the following respects. First, we are in urgent want of a proper jetty. The present structure has been for over a year condemned by the Government officials as being past improvement or repair. We believe that since this jetty has been in existence a sum of over one lakh of rupees has been collected as dues, and as at any time serious accidents or damage to cargo may occur through its rotten state, we trust Your Excellency may be pleased to pass urgent orders on the matter. We respectfully suggest that an iron pier of larger dimensions should be erected, and that the same should be placed in connection with the railway, so that loaded trucks may be run down from the station direct to the jetty to facilitate the landing and discharge of cargo. Secondly, we need more accommodation for the storage of cargo. We understand that the Port Fund is in a flourishing condition and that a large sum stands to the credit of the port. Under this impression we trust Your Excellency will be pleased to consider the advisability of spending a portion of that fund in the improvement and reclamation of the foreshore so as to provide more accommodation for the storage of cargo in the vicinity of the Port and Customs offices. 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 Wenlock, and that you may long be spared to contribute to India's welfare and prosperity.—*Tinnevely, November 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I wish to acknowledge in the first place the kind words of welcome which you present to me on my first coming to this part of the country close to the important and thriving port of Tuticorin. You bring to my notice various points in connection with your town and your port, which are certainly of very great interest, and show that at all events yours is a very increasing, and up till now, very prosperous port. You naturally say, as gentlemen responsible for the health of the inhabitants of that part of the country, that your first duty is to supply them with the proper amount of drinking water. As you say, plans and estimates have still to be finished, and before that nothing can be definitely settled about it. I think you made out a very good case for some measure being taken to put this matter on a proper footing. At the same time, as you are well aware, yours is not the only place which is pressing the Government at the present moment for assistance in this particular direction. I am not prepared to say that at this moment we shall be able to meet your wishes in the way you point out. At the same time I quite consider that Government will come to your assistance as soon as it can possibly do so. The means by which you wish to procure water-supply, I understand, have been looked over by Mr. Jones, and he thinks it possible to make use of this particular tank to which you allude by running water from it by gravitation when the tank is full, and you will then be able to get sufficient water by pumping to be carried on during the hot months of the year. It is necessary, I understand, to have filter beds and iron pipes to carry water from the tank to the town, and it will be also necessary to construct reserve reservoirs so as to be able to provide water for the town without interfering with the irrigation under the tank. Naturally you would not wish to see the irrigation under the tank increased beyond its present limits, and I understand the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is quite prepared to draw the line which at present exists—the *ayakat* of the tank should be, as it is now, 1,720 acres. I think when this can be carried out the inconvenience you experience from the want of good drinking water will be done away with. You mention that Tuticorin is a very important port with a large number of ships coming in and going out where exports and imports are increasing, as well as the passengers who arrive at, and depart from, that port, and you want special facilities in the way of jetties. I understand sanction has been given for a new jetty, and a line of railway is to connect it with the South Indian Railway. Colonel Smith is down there to look into this matter, and I have no doubt we shall very soon be able to get this matter put right and arranged for you. As regards the storage of cargo, I hope we shall soon get a report from Colonel Smith, which will enable us to see what can be done and what should be done. You may depend upon it this matter will be carefully looked into, and we shall do what we can to put the matter on a proper footing. I beg to thank you for the kind words of welcome you presented to me, and I hope some day I may have the opportunity of coming down to see your town. At present I have so much to do that I have not the opportunity of coming there.

Address from the Inhabitants of Tinnevely.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the district of Tinnevely, beg to approach Your Excellency on this the happy occasion of your visit to our district to accord to Your Excellency a most cordial and joyful welcome. While expressing our deep gratitude for the manifold blessings conferred on the country by the British rule, we venture to avail ourselves of this opportunity to lay before Your Lordship a few suggestions calculated, in our humble opinion, to ensure further advantages and convenience to the people. One of the foremost among the benefits of the British rule is the system of railways constructed in almost all parts of India. The Rulers of Native States perceiving the advantages, have also introduced them in their territories, and, as Your Excellency is aware, measures are being adopted in the neighbouring State of Travancore for the construction of a line between Nagercoil and Trivandrum. The people of this district naturally regard the formation of a line between Tinnevely and Nagercoil, a distance of about 50 miles, so as to connect the towns of Southern India with the Maharajah's capital as a necessary and desirable measure under the circumstances, and they earnestly hope that the subject will receive Your Excellency's benign consideration and sanction. While on the subject of railways we beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice the inconvenience felt by the public under the present system of train service on the line between Madura and Erode. Passengers travelling along the line are compelled to break their journey at Trichinopoly, and that at a very inconvenient hour in the night. We pray that the train service may be modified, and that a through passenger train may run along the line. We also pray that the through passenger train service between Madura and Tinnevely be so regulated as to obviate the present necessity for over an hour's tiresome stay at Maniyachi. On this occasion we beg to represent to Your Lordship that considerable difficulty is experienced by the ryots of this district in the matter of irrigation under the existing system. Until some years back the Revenue Department had full control over the distribution and supply of water for irrigation purposes, and it was an extremely desirable combination of duties that the same officers who had to do with the collection of land revenue had also to regulate and

control the facilities for the cultivation of the lands. The system was working satisfactorily. Under the present system the Revenue officers have nothing to do with irrigation, and when they inspect the lands for purposes of remission they are seldom able to see whether a particular case of failure of crops is due to deficiency of water or to any negligence on the part of the ryot. The Public Works Department may be left in charge of the *main irrigation works*, and they may determine the maximum quantity of water that may be let into a canal or tank consistently with its safety; but we humbly submit that the *distribution* of the water available in such canal or tank among the different villages under it according to the requirements of each should rest with the Revenue authorities. The subject was once brought to the notice of Your Excellency's predecessor, but His Lordship then replied that the Revenue officers had too much of other work to do to be able to attend to this. Now that Stationary Sub-Magistrates have been appointed to relieve Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars of a good portion of their work, we venture to repeat our prayer in the hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to sanction the revival of the former system. We beg further to refer to the system of granting remissions of land revenue in this district. At the last Revenue Settlement many single crop lands were compounded at the ryots' request as double crop lands with some additional assessment. While remission is now granted for failure of crops on lands that continue to be single crop, no remission or reduction is allowed when either of the crops on the compounded double crop lands completely fails for want of water. Such failures are of frequent occurrence in a considerable portion of this district, viz., Tenkarai taluk. The burden on the ryot has now materially increased, as he has to pay the full assessment besides bearing the expenses of cultivation without being able to recoup them. We submit, for Your Excellency's consideration, the desirability of adopting some system of remission in the case of compounded double crop lands when either of the crops fails by causes beyond the ryots' control. We also most earnestly pray Your Excellency may be graciously pleased to arrange for locating in this district one of the Model Farms and Farm schools to be started in the Presidency. Agriculture is an occupation in which the ryots of this district, Brahmins included, take special care and interest and are adopting, so far as their means allow, the best indigenous methods of cultivation within their knowledge, and we are confident that the arrangement prayed for will greatly advance the interests of agriculture in the district. In this connection we beg also to suggest the desirability of appointing about three Cattle Disease Inspectors for this district. Till recently we had one whose services were found to be of great value to the ryots. Want of sufficient pasturage for cattle is also felt in the district, and we pray that Your Lordship may be pleased to sanction such arrangements as Your Lordship may deem necessary in the matter. 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 Lordship and Lady Wenlock with long life and prosperity.—*Tinnevely, November 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I am much obliged to you for the address which you have just presented to me, in which you accord me a cordial welcome to your district, and take the opportunity of my being here to lay before me certain points which you consider are of great importance, or of particular interest. You have brought them forward in a series of sentences, and you will allow me to take them as they are given, *seriatim*. You first of all allude to the extension of the railway in this part of the country. Now I understand that the extension of the railway from Tinnevely to Trivandrum was looked into some time ago, and two alternative routes were traced out—one by Nagercoil to Trivandrum, and the other by Arienkavu pass to Quilon, and this was considered by the Government of the day, more essentially, one of those lines which should be taken up by private enterprise. The Maharajah of Travancore is himself particularly interested in the matter, and is himself prepared to give the assistance which the Government of India were not prepared to give; and when the choice of routes was left with him to decide, he, after going into the matter, considered that the most feasible route for a railway to take was the most northern one, i.e., by Arienkavu pass to Quilon. Negotiations then proceeded with certain capitalists in London as to the financing of this scheme, and in consequence of certain difficulties which have arisen the matter has been suspended for a time, and it will rest with the capitalists whether they can undertake the work or go on with it, as the period of deliberation is to expire by the first of April next, I hope before that time they will find it possible to undertake the work, and to set it in hand as soon as possible. The Maharajah of Travancore is perfectly willing, as soon as the line is made, to connect it with his own capital of Trivandrum, and the line which has been selected is to go to Quilon. Of course there are two sides to every question; and even if that line were made, it would be of great advantage to the inhabitants of this district to get to Quilon, because by that means they will be able to get direct communication with the coast on that side and also with Trivandrum. In connection with the railways you allude to the inconvenience you feel by the present train service between Erode and Tinnevely branch being so very imperfect as to cause a longer break at Trichinopoly, which you say is very inconvenient to you. I will take care that this matter is brought before the Agent and Manager of the South Indian Railway, and see if it is not possible to have what is of great convenience to this

part of the country. You then allude to the question of irrigation and say that the distribution of water should be under the Revenue Department, and that the main irrigation work should be with the Public Works Department. I am afraid that in this matter I am not able to hold out any hopes, for our experience in working the irrigation system is such as to make it almost impracticable to place it under both the departments. We find the greatest inconvenience resulting from it—to say nothing of the heavy work that will be thrown upon the Revenue authorities. I must say I rather fail to make out from the remarks you make in what way the Revenue Department will be more advantageous to you than the Public Works Department, with this single exception that the authorities in granting remission will be able to decide whether the failure of crops was due to deficiency of water or negligence on the part of the ryots. I think in the case of failure of water it is perfectly easy to get a certificate from the Public Works Department that the water had not been supplied. That appears to me a simple matter which ought not to create any difficulty. The Public Works Department are very much more able to bring their professional experience to bear upon the distribution of water than any Revenue authorities can possibly do. Your object is simply the delivery of water fairly and equitably, and, taking the matter as a whole, I think the distribution of water would be fairer and more even, if done by one department than it would be when entrusted to two different bodies, such as the Revenue and the Public Works Departments. The next point you refer to is the granting of remissions of land revenue. You say that at the last Revenue settlement many single crop lands were compounded at the ryots' request as double crop lands with some additional assessment. While remission is now granted for failure of crops on lands that continue to be single crop, no remission or reduction is allowed where either of the crops on the compounded double crop lands completely fails for want of water. You say further that the burden on the ryot has now materially increased, as he has to pay the full assessment, besides bearing the expenses of cultivation, without being able to recoup them. I think in this point he has hardly to pay full assessment. The compounded rate is based upon a lower rate, and it was a voluntary arrangement entered into by the ryots with Government. At the time they made the arrangement they were not compelled to do so, and it was brought forward by them as a means to obviate what are always irritating questions of remission. What was gained in one year went to cover the loss of another year, and the ryot was thus able to make his own bargain. The basis of the rate was agreed upon between the two parties, the character of the sources of irrigation being taken into consideration. Different rates are levied for different lands, and the whole character of the arrangement is a voluntary one entered into by the ryots. Therefore to introduce any other system of remission just now appears to me to be—to say the least of it—inequitable, and at the same time extremely difficult to bring about. In the event of the failure of both the crops, remission is granted at the present time; but in case of failure of one crop, I am afraid it will be almost impossible to re-open the bargain which has been deliberately entered into, and voluntarily agreed upon by those who are concerned in it. In regard to the Agricultural school, that question has been hung up for the present owing to the Government of India asking this Government to suspend operations in this direction till they had before them, and had considered fully, Dr. Voelcker's report on the agricultural condition of India. Therefore we are not in a position to go on with this. I must say that Tinnevely is a very good centre for a school to be started, and whenever we do so, I think your claim is one which certainly deserves the full consideration of Government in that respect. As regards Cattle Disease Inspectors, I will take your demand into careful consideration. At the present time the Veterinary Department and the means by which cattle disease can be best met are still under the consideration of Government, and I am not prepared to make any definite statement at present as to the employment of Cattle Inspectors. You know a great many different opinions prevail in regard to this matter, and it is rather difficult to arrive at a conclusion as to what is best to be done. If at any time it is found feasible to place the Cattle Disease Inspectors on the lines adopted before or on similar lines, I will take care that your demand shall be carefully considered. In conclusion, I thank you very much for the kind words on behalf of myself and Lady Wenlock and am very much obliged to you for your presence here this afternoon.

Address by the Palamcottah Municipal Council.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and Council 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 the people. We are but a poor Municipality compared with the flourishing similar institutions of the larger towns of South India, and though our income at the very highest has never exceeded Rs. 19,400 per annum, yet we flatter ourselves that with our limited means we have thus far earned the good opinion of the sever public officers who have inspected our work in various branches—Education, Conservancy, Sanitation, and General Administration. We owe much of our success to the laudable attitude of the Native community towards us, as is evidenced by the promptness with which they

discharge their obligations. As to our progress during the last 10 years, the following figures will show Your Excellency that it has been steady, though not perhaps remarkable:—

	Tiled buildings.	Terraced.	Thatched buildings.	Assessment.
				RS.
In 1882-83 there were	1,200	1,150	1,370	4,185
„ 1891-92 „ „	1,442	1,349	1,922	4,536

As to the means of transit for the purposes of traffic in the interior which is chiefly carried on by carts and bullocks, as well as for all local purposes, we find that where the number of carts in 1882-83 was 300 it is now 355, and the number of bullocks has increased in proportion, and the assessment on both these sources of revenue has risen from Rs. 1,260 to Rs. 1,490. Other items of revenue show similar increase, and the net revenue obtainable from all sources has risen from Rs. 18,438 to Rs. 19,369. It will thus be seen that the burden of Municipal taxation has not cramped the growth of the material prosperity of the townspeople. With this increase of our revenue we have not neglected to bestow liberal attention upon the wants of the rate-payers, especially in the matter of education, lighting of the streets, and conservancy. Thus in education the charges have risen from Rs. 1,256 in 1882-83 to Rs. 2,216 in 1891-92, in lighting from 151 street-lamps at a cost of Rs. 1,459 to 191 lamps at a cost of Rs. 1,634, and in conservancy and sanitation from Rs. 2,274 to Rs. 2,367. We respectfully bring to Your Excellency's notice that we have suffered from the want of good drinking-water for which we are dependent on wells and reservoirs, more or less drawing their supply from the irrigation channel which goes round two sides of our town. This channel runs dry in the hot months. In our humble opinion no satisfactory water-supply is available except at a cost quite beyond the resources of the town, and the only way of getting over the difficulty seems to be to place a dam across the irrigation channel just above the Protestant burial-ground, and to divert a portion of the water to the Mulikulam reservoir by means of a covered masonry channel as suggested by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner in paragraph 4 of his inspection notes on this Municipality printed with G.O., No. 1229, dated 20th July 1892. We have reason to think that the scheme is feasible and pray that Your Excellency will give the matter your kind consideration. In conclusion, we venture to express the hope that Your Excellency will carry away with you pleasing reminiscences of your visit to our town and have a safe and pleasant journey back.

His Excellency's Reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very much for the kind address which you have just presented to me on my coming to pay your town a visit for the first time since I have been in this Presidency. On this occasion you draw my attention to the various points with which you are chiefly concerned as a Municipality; and you are able to show me that you are carrying on a good and steady work, and also that under your care the general condition of the people is being looked after and is improved. At the same time, you, like other Municipalities, find yourselves face to face with two difficult problems—water-supply and sanitation of the town. I understand that you have considerable difficulty in these two points, and ask me to see if it is not possible for the Government to assist you, at all events in the matter of water-supply. You point out one means by which you think this difficulty can be obviated—by placing a dam across the irrigation channel and so carrying the water to the reservoir, which will then be at the disposal of the people. I am given to understand there are certain difficulties in this matter. In the first place, the water which you take off would be anything but pure; and in the second place, you will be compelled to pay a very large sum in compensation for the irrigation of which you will deprive the people. I do not know whether, off-handedly, I can say this is a good scheme. Apparently there is a better one now before the Municipality of Tinnevely, which, I believe, you are being asked to consider, with a view to make one joint effort to provide water for all the people in this particular vicinity. I cannot help thinking that is the best scheme; and you should take it into your careful consideration, and see if it is not possible for you to join with others, and with the aid of Government, to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion of this difficulty. I know in the matter of sanitation you have your own difficulties to contend against—very much the same as are at Tinnevely. People have got accustomed to having large masses of refuse at their very doors; and the Municipality are beginning to consider that this abnormal state of things should not be allowed to continue. It is now rather an absolute necessity for them to take into consideration the fact that population is increasing, and that, though with a small number of people in small places such things were possible in old times, it is absolutely necessary that the community should bestir itself to see that this disgraceful state of affairs shall no longer continue. We all know that this country is liable to be visited by epidemics of a serious and ravaging character, unless we take, in times of peace and prosperity, measures to put a check to those terrible outbreaks. Otherwise we shall be obliged to put such pressure upon all those who are interested in the welfare of the people, as to see that this condition of affairs does not continue any longer. I hope you may be able to take such measures as are necessary, however drastic they may be, and though I am afraid you will get a certain amount of unpopularity, yet you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done your duty to the town and to the people.

trusted to your care, that they may not be visited by epidemics of a severe character in future. I believe you have difficulties about burial-grounds; and in other matters you are also in trouble. I am glad to think that you are paying such care and attention as you do to the various points which you have enumerated and all of which I have touched upon. I am glad to see that you have as your head a gentleman of such ability and such capability to do good work as your present Chairman. I trust he may long remain at the head of your affairs, and bring to bear upon his work those powers of organisation and ability which he has shown that he so thoroughly possesses. I beg in conclusion to thank you for the kind manner in which you have welcomed me, and express to you my pleasure in being able to be present here this morning.

Address by the Manager of Miss Sarah Tucker's Institution.

MY LORD,—I, in the name of myself and my fellow-labourers, thank Your Excellency for this visit to our institution, and to the Government for its cordial help given to us. This institution was founded in 1862 in honour of a lady named Miss Sarah Tucker, for many years an invalid, who, though not able to visit this country, yet from her brother's accounts of the work in which he was engaged as Secretary to the Church Mission Society in Madras, was able to write some interesting pamphlets on female education in India and in other parts of the Mission fields, by the sale of which after her death it was resolved to perpetuate her memory by founding this institution for training females as schoolmistresses. Though the Misses Meredith and Richard, and Mr. and Mrs. Dibb one after another began this important work, Mr. and Mrs. Lash gave the first impulse to female education both among Christians and Hindus in this part of the country, having charge of this institution for about 14 years. Mr. and Mrs. Harcourt, who succeeded them, carried on the work with much success for another 10 years, and sent up students for the Higher Examination for Women for the first time in 1885, which examination to our great sorrow is to be abolished after December of this year. The Upper Secondary examination, which takes the place of the Higher examination, is not suitable for female Tamil candidates; for, after passing the Lower Secondary examination at the average age of 15 or 16, a girl will have to study more than 3 years before appearing for the Upper Secondary examination, and one year more to gain a Normal certificate for the same grade. In this country marriage generally takes place between the ages of 16 and 18, and the parents, I beg to say, will not allow their girls to remain until they complete the above grade. The Higher Examination for Women, though not so high as the Upper Secondary, was a very good educational test above the Lower Secondary, and within the reach of girls of ordinary ability, and could be completed in the course of one year. After passing this the students were fit to be trained as first-grade Mistresses. Girls of good ability, who are educated from childhood in English, study for Matriculation, but this being also a long course of 3 years very few are able to undertake it. The Upper Secondary, I think, is mainly intended for male candidates who seek employment in Government offices, and needlework, which is the most important subject for females, is not one of the subjects given. We therefore humbly beg Your Excellency to take these into your kind consideration, and to retain the Higher Examination for Women for at least some years more. Mr. Harcourt first sent up students for the Middle School examination in English in 1888. We, in our time, sent up for the first time 3 girls for Matriculation last year; one was successful and 4 are preparing to appear for Matriculation this year, and 13 for the Higher Examination for Women in Tamil. During the last 25 years 1,035 girls have been admitted into the institution, 204 are now on the rolls, 841 having passed out of the institution. During the last 10 years 243 have been sent up for the Special Upper Primary examination, 194 passed; 174 have been sent up for the Middle School examination, 114 passed; 88 have entered for the Higher Examination for Women, of whom 63 have passed. Out of 149, 98, have passed the School Management examination, and we have had all along a pass of nearly 75 per cent. in the different examinations. More than 300 of our students have been or are employed as school mistresses, and 123 are at present employed as school mistresses and Bible-women in different parts of the Madras Presidency and in other places. The Government aided us 3 years ago in repairing this institution, and now we are obliged to add another school-room to meet the present requirements of Government rules. We have applied for aid to Government, but the Director writes that he has no funds at present to give the usual building grant of one-third which we so greatly need, but I hope he will be able to do so next year. The expenses of this institution are met by Government grants and subscriptions from friends in England and in India. The deficiency is borne by the Church Mission Society. There are more than 50 day schools for girls (branch schools of this institution) and 2 girls' boarding schools, in which more than 2,000 Hindu and Christian girls are learning. We are thankful to say both the institution and branch schools are getting on well, by God's blessing. Not only do our girls receive a thorough secular education, but they are also systematically instructed in our Christian religion, which alone can make wise unto salvation. Last year a small hospital was built in connection with this institution for the benefit of our girls, not only that they may be themselves well nursed and cared for when ill, but also that some may be trained in the art of nursing, and so be a help to others in time of sickness. A school for the blind both for girls and boys was opened about 2 years ago, in which there are 25 under instruction. They learn reading in raised type according to Dr. Moore's system, which

is well adapted for Eastern languages, and also other lessons mentally up to the 3rd standard in the Government curriculum. They are taught to work with their hands and so employ their time profitably, and to sing many hymns and songs to cheer themselves and others. We beg leave to send our very humble salaams and thanks to Her Excellency Lady Wenlock for taking a warm interest in female education, and only regret that we are not able to welcome Her Ladyship to-day with Your Excellency.—*Palamcottah, November 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

MISS ASQUITH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I am very glad indeed to hear, from the report which has just been read, of the excellent work of the institution that is being carried on in this part of the Presidency of Madras. I must say I was not aware, till I heard the figures that have just been read, of the great benefits which this institution is conferring upon the people of this part of the country. The large numbers that have been through this institution and that are still within its walls, show, that a very large amount of excellent work is being carried on among the younger members of the community—especially the female younger members. When we consider what the present position of female education in this country is, we can thoroughly understand what huge benefits in that particular direction such an institution as this must confer on the people. As we are all aware, the spread of female education at present is extremely small and slow in this country. But, seeing that a large number of trained mistresses is being turned out every year by this institution, I hope that particular reproach will be taken away, at all events in this part of the country. The education which is here imparted appears to be a very sound one, and a very good one. That particular point which has been raised by Miss Asquith as regards the examination will be submitted to the Director of Public Instruction, and then I shall be able to see what he has to say on it. Naturally we are most anxious to take away, any obstacles that may be in the way of the education of females in this Presidency. Another point of great interest which Miss Asquith has touched upon is that of the Blind School. I am not aware that there is a similar institution in this Presidency—at all events I have come across none yet; and I think those who are carrying on the work of this institution deserve the greatest credit for the care they have taken of those unfortunate people. There can be no greater affliction to persons than to be deprived of their eyesight; any efforts made to alleviate their condition deserve the greatest sympathy and the readiest appreciation from everybody. Therefore I think we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Miss Asquith for the care she is taking of these people to make their life cheerful and pleasant within these walls. I thank you very much for the kind address you have presented to me, and I regret very much that it was not possible for Lady Wenlock to be with me, for I am sure, if she were here, she would have taken the greatest interest in the work of this institution.

Address by Masters and Pupils of St. Francis Xavier's High School, Palamcottah.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the masters and pupils of St. Francis Xavier's High School, Palamcottah, beg to approach Your Excellency to offer our hearty welcome and deep gratitude for the precious boon of the lordly visit of Your Excellency—a visit which will form a brilliant period in the history of our school, and leave a lasting and delightful impression on our minds. One thing, however, is damping our joy, that, although our reception proceeds from the inmost recesses of our hearts, it is far from coping with, and entirely inadequate to, the grandeur of this memorable occasion. A word of our school, though a miniature institution in Your Excellency's vast Presidency, will not, we presume, be out of place here. This school, founded in 1880 by the Reverend Father Rottari on a small scale and called after St. Francis Xavier, one of the greatest philanthropists, kept on growing slowly but steadily until at last it assumed the present magnitude of a High school, and ventured to compete successfully with older and bigger institutions. It is now only a dozen years old. Still how fortunate it has been to receive within its walls the most dignified heads—both political and ecclesiastical—three Governors including Your Excellency, and as many Bishops. We are afraid that we are encroaching upon Your Excellency's precious time, but then we cannot well afford to resist the temptation to seize this opportunity to acknowledge our obligation for the aid received at the hands of the Municipality and of the Government. May Your Excellency be pleased to accept our ardent congratulations on your successful political career, and may heaven shower his richest blessings on Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen-Empress and her worthy representatives, the Viceroy and Your Excellency, and last, but not least, Lady Wenlock, both in this world and in the world to come.—*Palamcottah, November 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

I wish to thank you, masters and pupils, for the very kind address you have presented to me, and express the pleasure that I feel in being able to be present here, though for a short time. I am very pleased to see your institution, and learn that you are doing good work here. You have referred to the assistance derived from Government, without which you will not be able

enough to do so much good work; and you allude to the support you derived from my predecessors. I hope you will find that we shall not withhold from you that assistance which we are only too glad to give for those who take up, as you have taken up, the education of the youth of this country. When we are satisfied that it is being carried on in a manner satisfactory to themselves and the people, I do not think the Government would withhold its support. I beg to thank you very much for your address and express to you my pleasure in being able to be here this morning.

Address by 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 Tinnevely. We hail with delight the opportunity offered, by your personal presence amongst us, to express to Your Excellency our deep sense of the untiring zeal and disinterested devotion which characterize all your efforts to promote the best interests and welfare of all classes of the community. In particular, we acknowledge with heart-felt gratitude your self-denying labours to relieve the distressed, and to comfort and sustain the suffering populations of the districts visited by the ravages of famine during the past year. 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 assured of Your Excellency's interest in the progress and success of Christianity in this country. Standing, as it does, at the head of 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 nearly 100,000, being ministered to by some 90 Native clergymen, assisted by a large force of catechists and readers, while evangelists from Tinnevely are found preaching the Gospel to the heathen in many other parts of this Presidency as well as in Ceylon, Mauritius, South Africa and other distant countries. From the first, much energy has been expended 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; while the "Caldwell College" at Tuticorin, and the C.M.S. College in Tinnevely place higher education within the reach of all who seek it. 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. So, too, from the very first, female education has had its share of attention and devoted energy. In village and boarding schools infinite pains are taken to instruct young females in all the elements of sound and useful knowledge; while the S.P.G. Girls' schools at Nazareth and Tuticorin, and the C.M.S. Sarah Fucker Institution in Palamcottah, 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 and girls in their houses. The advance in female education is especially gratifying. It is to us a matter of sincere regret that Her Excellency Lady Wenlock has not been able to accompany Your Excellency on this occasion, as we feel confident that the various tokens to be seen in Tinnevely of the progress of female education would have greatly interested her. In conclusion, we beg your kind acceptance of our heartfelt gratitude, and thanks for the honour accorded to us and our district by Your Excellency's visit to-day, as well as for the unremitting zeal you have invariably shown in promoting the best welfare of all sections of the community. And we earnestly pray that the Almighty will 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.—Palamcottah, November 1892.

His Excellency's Reply.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you very much for the address which you have just presented to me, giving an account of your particular labours in this part of the country, and showing how for more than a hundred years the Missionary Societies in Tinnevely have been doing good, constant and steady work, and are able now to say what the result of their efforts and labour during this century is. This shows a great deal of earnest and hard work,

and reflects great credit on those who carried on the labours of this institution for all these years. You must be aware that the Government of this country has to deal with people of different creeds, sects and religions, and therefore it is impossible to hold out its hand to any particular body and to give it special encouragement. I am glad to find we are able to afford support to the Mission for the excellent work it is doing in carrying on the education of the people—especially in the matter of female education. We all look to that, in the future, as being full of the greatest results for the happiness and civilization of the people. We believe that when the female portion of the community are educated as much as the male portion of the community are, there will be a better life and a happier time for those who live in this country; and therefore it is that Government watches with much interest the progress in this great work. I am glad to be able to have the opportunity of seeing for myself what you are doing in this particular district. You mention the names of some who have gone before you—names which are still living in the memory of those who are interested in the welfare of the people of this country, who recognise in them the pioneers of the great movement which, by their particular efforts, was able to bring about the most gigantic and, I hope, the most lasting effects. In conclusion I thank you very much for your kind words of welcome, and regret that Lady Wenlock has not been able to be present with me, as I am sure she would have taken a very great interest in the work you are carrying on here.

His Excellency's address to the Students of the Hindu School, Madura, on the occasion of the Prize Distribution.

Lord Wenlock said that having just had the pleasure of distributing the prizes to the successful students of the College, it only now remained for him to express the great pleasure it had given him to have been present there that evening on such an interesting occasion. As the report said, they were now only three years a second-grade College. From the statement given he was glad to find that they were doing a good work in the city of Madura. There was a good field for work in Madura and he believed that, though they had a large number within their doors at present, there were still many more who might come forward and join the College. It gave him great pleasure to see from the last report of Mr. Logan that the results were so satisfactory, and that the College was doing good work, and was an efficient institution; that the boys were neatly dressed and well behaved, also that there had been an improvement in gymnastics throughout the institution. The report altogether was a favorable one, and he hoped future reports would continue to be as favorable. He was glad also to find that Mr. Turner's efforts to interest himself in the institution were appreciated, and that his prize for gymnastics had brought out a good many competitors. He advocated gymnastics, and thought all would agree with him in thinking that what was essential was a *mens sana in corpore sano*. He was also glad to find that the teaching power in the College was good, and he wished them every success in the future.

His Excellency's Reply to the Chief Priest of the Madura Temple.

I thank you for the extremely kind way in which you have addressed me. It is naturally a great pleasure to me to find a gentleman of your position appreciating all the efforts that the Government has been making in behalf of the people. I can assure you that the one object of Government is to do all it can to improve the condition of the people, and confer as many benefits as it possibly can upon them; and it is a pleasure to find that its attempts to do good are appreciated. But I must say the efforts of Government are limited by the amount of money it has at its hands. The irrigation works, for instance, can only be done one at a time. Now the big irrigation works have been completed on the big delta of the Cauvery, the Kistna and the Godavari, and now there are the Periyar and Rushikulya projects north and south of this Presidency taking away all the money that the Government can have; and its attention is wholly directed to them. I hope, before many years are over, I myself may see the water coming down to Madura from the Periyar. The extension of the railway line is also limited by the amount of money that the Government can afford to spend. I myself am anxious to see the Madura-Pamban line made; but the decision rests entirely with the Government of India. The Government of India spend so many lakhs every year on railways and are responsible for the railways, and also for the protection of the whole country. Their attention is now directed to the improvement of Burma, and when we ask for money in Madras they find that they have not money to give us. I can assure you that no efforts will be wanting on my part to bring the representations made this morning to the notice of the Viceroy, in whose hands the matter rests. He will be coming to Madras in a few days, when I will speak to him on the matter. I beg to express the pleasure I have had in hearing the expressions of loyalty from you, of which I see so much on all hands in the Madura district. Lady Wenlock and myself have had very much pleasure in seeing the temple, and the excellent condition in which it is being preserved.

Address by the Native Christians of Madura.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES LORD AND LADY WENLOCK,—The Christians of Madura rejoice to do their share at this time in welcoming you to this ancient city. It was by the favor of one of your predecessors, Sir Frederick Adam, that in 1834 (58 years ago) the American Missionaries received permission to settle in this district and conduct missionary labor. Eleven years afterwards the Collector of the district gave to the mission this very spot of land for the building of a church. It was then the glacis of the old city fort, and was given on condition that this part of the ditch of the fort should be filled up. From those early times the mission has steadily grown in numbers and influence until the present, when its community comprises 13,607 souls scattered about in more than 400 villages of the district, and representing about 30 different castes. All departments of missionary work, especially the evangelistic, educational, medical and literary departments, have been carefully conducted from the beginning. Our schools include a Theological Seminary, a College, a Normal school for boys and one for girls, 3 High schools, 10 Middle schools, 16 schools for Hindu and Muhammadan girls, and 145 village schools; and these contain altogether 6,410 pupils. Our medical work comprises a hospital in Dindigul, and two here in Madura—one for men and one for women; also two minor dispensaries in the villages. We are disappointed to-day in not having the opportunity of requesting Your Excellencies to open the new building for the women's hospital. The incomplete state of the building has prevented the accomplishment of our purpose in that respect. Here in Madura our Christians number 660, of whom 450, or 68 per cent., can read and write. Three churches, 2 hospitals, 2 high schools, a girls' training school, 4 schools for Hindu and 1 for Muhammadan girls, 4 primary schools, and nearly a thousand families under instruction by the Bible women are represented here before you. Here are also students and others from our Pasmalei College, three miles away. We are striving to do our share in promoting the true spirit of good citizenship, and our Young Men's Christian Association has its representative on the General Committee for promoting temperance among the citizens of Madura, irrespective of religious beliefs. We know of the kindly interest manifested by Your Excellencies in the welfare of the people of the whole Presidency, and gladly embrace this opportunity of expressing our loyalty to Her Majesty's Government and our earnest desires for the divine blessing upon your administration in this Presidency.—*Madura, November 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you very much for the words of welcome which you have so kindly presented to us on our coming here amongst you for the first time. In this address, you point out the very great progress which you have made in your work here in Madura, showing that during the last few years very large strides have been made in the direction in which you are so anxiously striving. I have much pleasure in being here, not only to hear from you what you are doing, but to see for myself what position you occupy in the country, and what great good you are doing amongst its people. Coming as you do from the United States, having friendly relations with the country to which I have the honour to belong, I think I may say, in behalf of my Government, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to you for joining with us in doing all we can possibly do to beat down the great dangers and difficulties that we have to encounter in dealing with such a large and mixed population as the people in India. It is, therefore, with special pleasure that I am able to come here and see this institution, which is carrying on an excellent work. I thank you for your kind words of welcome, and I hope you may long be spared to carry on the good work you are engaged in.

Address by the Madura Municipal Corporation.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Councillors of the Madura Municipal Corporation, beg leave to respectfully approach Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock with a hearty welcome to this our ancient and historic city in Southern India. The tour which Your Excellency condescended to make in the famine-stricken districts in the hottest part of the year, at great sacrifice of personal comfort and convenience, has endeared your name to the hearts of the subjects entrusted to your care. We are glad that Your Excellency has been pleased to take part in the proceedings of to-day, by laying the foundation stone of the Madura Water-works; and the interesting character of these proceedings is greatly enhanced by the presence of Her Excellency Lady Wenlock, and we believe that it will be a source of great satisfaction to you that your name and that of Lady Wenlock will for ever be gratefully associated with the precious gift of pure drinking-water to the people of this city. To supply this town with good drinking-water formed the subject of earnest consideration by successive Collectors of this district since 1849; and we are indebted to Mr. C. S. Crole for a practicable scheme of supplying the town with the spring water from the bed of the Vaigai river, and the experimental works started by him have proved the success of the scheme. Want of funds was our chief difficulty in starting the works, and we are happy that we have been enabled to overcome this difficulty by the liberal pecuniary assistance of the Government in the shape of a grant and a loan at a favorable rate of interest, and we, on behalf of the citizens of Madura, gladly avail ourselves of

this opportunity to personally express to Your Excellency our gratitude for this act of generosity. While we believe that the supply of good drinking-water will go a great way towards the improvement of the sanitary condition of this town, we feel that a complete sanitation of the town cannot be secured until a thorough system of drainage is also introduced, which, it is hoped, the Council will be able to carry out with the liberal help of Government and Your Excellency's kind support. We also beg leave to take this opportunity of inviting the attention of Your Excellency's Government to the defective state of the present District Municipalities Act IV of 1884, and request that the promised legislation regarding the amendment of the Act may form the subject of early consideration at the hands of Government. In conclusion, we thank Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock for having kindly consented to allow Your Excellencies' names to be connected with the Madura Water-works by laying the foundation stone, and fervently pray that Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock may be blessed with long life, happiness and prosperity.—*Madura, November 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF MADURA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is with great pleasure that I find myself present on such an interesting occasion as this, and receiving from you a loyal address of welcome on this my first visit to the City of Madura. You allude in this address to the important ceremony which has brought us together this afternoon, viz., that of the laying of the foundation stone of the water-works by which the town of Madura will, I hope, be shortly provided with a copious and ample supply of pure water. There is no doubt that in these great centres of population in Southern India, no greater demand makes itself manifest to all portions of the community than the want of good water; and it is with the greatest satisfaction I find that gradually schemes are being yet devised for bringing water into these great centres of population. The Municipal Councillors themselves are undertaking a great portion of the responsibility which is involved in finding finances for this purpose. Naturally enough, to give a proper and ample supply of water to all those places a very large outlay has, in the first place, to be found; and recognising fully the importance of the work, and the impossibility in almost every instance of the corporation being able to find sufficient money, Government has consented, when proper schemes have been brought before it, in certain instances to assist the corporations by providing them with the means of proper water-supply; and therefore, as the head of the Government, I have much pleasure in seeing any of these great works inaugurated, and to be completed after a short time. When this work is completed, Madura may consider itself safe against the dangers which always accompany the use of impure water. The Chairman has circulated—I suppose you all have seen it—a report giving the difficulties which have attended the undertaking of this scheme, and also a short history of it. It appears it started in the year 1849—a year of a certain amount of interest to me, because I happened to be born in that year. I find that the scheme and myself have been born in that year; and it was left to this year of grace to bring ourselves together to what, I hope, will be a happy conjunction.

I think we ought not to pass from this question of water without recording our appreciation of the great exertions that have been devoted to this work by several Collectors—gentlemen responsible for Government in this part of the country; and our thanks are especially due to Mr. Crole to whose exertions a great deal of the success of to-day is to be attributed. But in the report which is presented by the Chairman there is an omission, and I hope he will allow me to supplement the name of one gentleman to whom our thanks are especially due, i.e., Lieutenant-Colonel Creighton of the South Indian Railway. Our thanks are due to him for the extremely kind manner in which he has placed all his ability and energy at the disposal of Mr. Crole in a difficult engineering part of the work. It is easy for us here when we see everything ready and quite prepared to go straight ahead, and we forget the great labours of those who have been interested in this work before us. It is only right that we, who, as it were, take the cream off the milk, should remember those who are responsible for the work, and see that their labours are recognised properly at the right moment. The next point you refer to in this address is the question of sanitation. There is no doubt that when a large amount of water is introduced, you must find the proper means of draining it off, if you are to preserve sanitation. This question is now being considered, and I hope it will not be long before Government will be placed in possession of such facts as will enable it to review the whole position and decide what will be the best course to adopt. I hope the plans and estimates will be ready before very long; and the careful survey that is being made will act as the basis that would form the drainage scheme of the town. Therefore when the water-works are finished and the drainage and sanitation are put on a proper footing, Madura may consider itself thoroughly prepared against ravages of diseases which have played such terrible havoc in the history of this country.

The next point you refer to is the defective state of the present District Municipalities Act IV of 1884. To that I can only reply that all Collectors and Chairmen of Municipalities have been asked to send in their views, and the whole question is being carefully considered. I have in conclusion to thank you for your address, and express to you the great pleasure I feel in having been able to be present here on this very important occasion. I must say it has given

me very great satisfaction to find that this work has been carried out. Before leaving, I think we should pass a vote of thanks to those who are responsible for what we see to-day, to Mr. Jones for the great labour and the great care with which he has prepared the estimates, and to Mr. Minchin for the manner in which he is going to carry that out. I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity of witnessing this great work.—*Madura, November 1892.*

Address by Mr. J. A. Jones, the Sanitary Engineer.

I have been deputed to thank you for the honour you have done Madura in laying the foundation stone of these works. It is also mentioned in the programme that I will give a description of the project, but as Your Excellency has still several engagements to fulfil this evening, and as a history of the project has been given by the Chairman of the Municipality, I venture to think that that part of the programme may be judiciously omitted. In thanking you, Sir, therefore, for showing your interest in these works by performing the ceremony of laying the stone, I would merely say that I venture to think that in inaugurating these and similar works you are aiding in the distribution of a much appreciated blessing, that is pure water, than which there is no more precious gift given by God to man. You, Sir, by your endeavour during the late distress saved many thousands of lives, but I shall perhaps not be far wrong in saying that many more lives will be saved by such sanitary works throughout the country,—the results will not be so marked, but they will be far reaching in their effects, and they will bring health, which is better than riches, to the people and thus prosperity. The best thanks of Madura, Sir, are therefore due to you, and your Government for the aid which you have granted, and which has made the inauguration of these works possible to-day. Sanitation, it has been said, Sir, is vexation to the Hindu nation, but I trust, Sir, that you will consider that the reception accorded you on this occasion shows that the saying is one which, at any rate in the case of Madura, may be relegated to the past, and that, in future, sanitation may be linked to a more appropriate word “appreciation.” I beg again, Sir, to tender you the best thanks of Madura, of Mr. Minchin and myself for your presence here to-day.

Address by the Members of the Union Club.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We are happy to welcome you to our Club and to thank you for the kindness with which you have accepted our invitation. We beg leave to take this opportunity of conveying to you our grateful appreciation of the personal interest taken by Your Excellency in the alleviation of human suffering during the recent famine and of the timely measures adopted by Your Excellency's Government to minimise its effects on the agricultural population. Your Excellency's efforts to avert famine, as far as possible, in the affected districts by extending well irrigation, appear to us to be the most effectual means of grappling with it on a permanent basis. We beg leave to assure Your Excellency that if this extension of well-irrigation be kept in view steadily and carried out with the energy which has already characterised Your Excellency's administration, Your Lordship will be laying this Presidency under the deepest obligations. At present, only the affected districts have received the full influence of the impetus given by you, but we hope that before Your Excellency leaves the shores of India, you will ensure a comprehensive system of well-irrigation to all districts likely to be affected by famine according to their respective requirements. Coming to our own district, we feel it our duty to acknowledge the full measure of justice Your Excellency's Government has done to the agricultural population by recognising the fairness of granting waste lands affected by the Periyar Project to the ryots under durkast rules instead of adopting the shortsighted policy of selling them to outsiders in view to showing some saving in the expenditure of the project. The policy adopted by Your Excellency's Government will, we are sure, be rewarded before many years pass away, not only by extended cultivation in full utilization of the project, but by, what is far more important in the true interest of Government, an ever-increasing prosperity of the agricultural population of this district. There is one subject which we purpose to place before Your Excellency as pre-eminently deserving of your consideration, and that is the railway from Madura to Rameswaram. This extension has been considered important and necessary by Government, and it is some years since the line has been surveyed. It has not merely a local importance but will affect beneficially, as Your Excellency's Government is aware, the whole Hindu population from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. Its importance as the means of conveying food-grain to the extensive tracts of Ramnad which are often affected by famine cannot be over-estimated. The whole distance lies through a flat country which presents no difficulty for the construction of a railroad, but which affords few facilities for the construction and maintenance of even a decent road for cart traffic. Large sums of money have already been expended on the present road without corresponding advantages and successive Collectors have felt and expressed the unwisdom of having to sink enormous sums of money on a road which can never be made well, and never can be maintained in anything like an efficient condition. We have many other wants like the Dindigul-Palghat Railway, &c., and if we do not place them all before Your Lordship on this occasion, it is because

we wish to emphasize the great importance of the railway to Rameswaram by presenting it as the one thing which should be taken up before long by Your Excellency's Government. It can safely be predicted that, with the completion of the Periyar Project, the extension of well-irrigation and the opening of a railway to Rameswaram, famine in this district will become a thing of the past, and we fervently hope that it may be given to Your Excellency's Government to carry out the above measures. In conclusion, we have only to thank Your Lordship again for the honour you have done us by visiting our Club, and to convey our best wishes to you and Lady Wenlock.

His Excellency's Reply.

The Governor replied by expressing the great pleasure it had given him to have been present there that day, and to have seen the excellent Club house in which they were located, and he sincerely hoped that it was as prosperous as it looked. Such institutions conferred benefits on the community, as they sought to promote good feeling between all classes. They had been good enough to refer to the efforts of the Government in the time of scarcity. Those were indeed troublesome times; but they were able to carry the people through great perils and troubles and trials, and with the copious showers of the south-west monsoon coming down upon them, all troubles came to an end. They in that district were not much troubled there, though at one time they heard accounts of famine there, but these were afterwards found to have been exaggerated, and nothing serious occurred. From the very first start he became aware of the enormous advantages to be derived from well construction, and he had often noticed that wherever he saw an oasis in a barren spot it was where a well was. By having wells, food was produced and labour found. He determined, therefore to extend wells as much as possible so as to obviate the scarcity of water. Since 1877, the time of the great famine, the great necessities for well sinking had been appreciated. Alluding to their own district, reference was made to the lands which would be effected by the Periyar project. They could not imagine a more beneficent act than to bring down water to that district from Periyar, and they would all look forward to time when the waters would freely flow into their country from the Travancore side. It was an extraordinary feat of engineering, and now all troubles and difficulties were said to be passed and there was now much plain sailing; it only required time to accomplish its object. They also alluded to the non-existence of a railway to Rameswaram. Of this the Government was fully aware, but the question of the construction of railways was a subject entirely in the hands of the Government of India. It was just now working a new construction in Burma, and as it had a limited supply of money he was afraid that they could not get anything just now from them. But he would inform the Viceroy of this matter, and point out to him the necessity for this railway, when he hoped something might be done. The same remarks applied to the Palghat-Dindigul line, and more so than to this local line. The Government of India further was engaged just now on the construction of the East Coast Railway to convey grain, &c., along the coast, and it had only just finished the Villupuram-Guntakul line—all these to overcome the dangers arising from famine and scarcity, and the encouragements the Government derived, financially, from these lines, were, he regretted to say, not very much. So though he could not hold out to them any hopes, yet he would do his best. The idea of gentlemen of the country combining to work such schemes was a satisfactory one, and if any such gentlemen could be found who would independently take up the question of the extension of the railways, he was quite prepared to say that Government would accord them every assistance and facility towards successfully accomplishing their purpose.

A Municipal Deputation.

At noon of the 9th November, a deputation of the Councillors of the Madura Municipality waited on His Excellency, at the Judge's house, to represent the desirability of reconsidering the order of Government in regard to the appointment of a paid Chairman to the Municipality. The deputation consisted of 10 gentlemen, and Mr. G. Srinivasa Row, the spokesman, explained to His Excellency that the Municipality had not failed, and the failure that was alleged to the previous Chairman was not due to his fault, but due to circumstances existing from a long time, i.e., the arrears of taxes, &c. No previous administration report or Government order, he said, spoke about the failure of the Municipality; and supposing one person had failed, it was no reason why Government should take away from them the power of electing their own Chairman. If His Excellency would only patiently go through all the papers, he would come to their conclusion. He then said that they had put their views on paper, and they would send a printed copy of it very shortly to His Excellency. He requested His Excellency's full and careful attention to the matter.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I would commence my remarks in connection with this matter by saying at once that Government is extremely loath to disturb the ordinary arrangements which are now enforced in most parts of the country, where various bodies are provided with the power of electing their own Chairman, and carrying out as far as possible the principles which underlie

the whole system of local self-government. As regards the particular case which we have met here to discuss, it appears that a great deal of latitude has been allowed to the Municipality. Though you refer to one particular Chairman, yet the decision of Government has been arrived at, in consequence of the gradual and long spread out system, of what I may call deterioration in the working of the local self-Government of Madura. It is not the maladministration of a particular year, but for a lengthy period the reports before Government have tended to show that the affairs of Madura cannot be properly administered by an Honorary Chairman. The Government does not wish in any way to suppose that those gentlemen who occupied this position have not done their best. It is clear that the work of such a large Municipality as that of Madura cannot be properly carried on by an Honorary Chairman.

This conclusion has been arrived at in consequence of the reports which have been placed before the Government, and it is evident that, unless a change takes place, affairs will gradually drift from bad to worse, and the position will be such that the Government will be to blame, if it does not, in behalf of the rate-payers themselves, take some steps in the matter, not only in the interests of rate-payers, but in the interests of Government, because Government is just now giving a large sum of money as gift, and a large sum as loan, and it behoves it to see that it is perfectly satisfied with what it advances the money on.

The question as to who should be appointed, rests, in the first instance, with yourselves. I do not know myself that an official will be able to do the work. As a rule, the officials in this country have their work so cut out for them that it is difficult for them to be at the head of a Municipality such as that of Madura, because it is not a question so much of having sympathy with the feelings of the people as one of active routine work. Unless the head of a department is prepared to devote the whole of his time to the watching of the administration of affairs, the collection of taxes, to payments and receipts, it is almost impossible to keep the Municipality in a proper condition. Government, I consider, has given this Municipality a considerable latitude in this direction. One Chairman after another has been tried, and the Government, after trying all these, was fully satisfied that, though the Municipal Councillors have done their best to put the matter on a proper footing, they have not succeeded in doing so. I do not think the Municipality itself will acknowledge that its affairs are in a very satisfactory condition; otherwise I would be very glad to give any encouragement that I can. But considering the circumstances which I know are within your knowledge and mine, I think the time has arrived when the change must take place. I regret it most sincerely if at any time we should be forced to interfere with the principles of local self-government, for I wish to see them extended as widely as possible, and make them progress as much as possible. I believe, generally speaking, the Madras Presidency contrasts favorably with the rest of India in this particular matter, but when one Municipality does not come up to the mark as compared with a good many other Municipalities, it is the business of Government, in the interest of rate-payers and the country, to keep a watchful guard over the Municipal affairs. I would be glad, sir, to be furnished with the statement that you have; and certainly I shall look into the matter with my colleagues. At the same time, I am afraid I can give you very little hope that the Government will depart from the decision already arrived at.

Address by the Muhammadan Community of Madura.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with pleasure and with pride that we the Muhammadans of Madura venture to approach Your Excellency, with expressions of a hearty welcome as the representative of our Sovereign Lady the Queen and Empress of India. It would be superfluous to assure Your Excellency of the loyalty of the Muhammadan subjects to the British Government. As a race, we have always been known for our martial character; as a race, we have always fought well under the British flag; and as a race, we shall always be ready to stand by that flag, which has waved over India with honour and glory for more than a century past. That we have, with the other races of India, benefited by the benign rule of the British power is too well known to be repeated, and while our interests are identical, and we worship the same God, our loyalty to the British Crown and our zeal in its service can never be questioned. But, as a race, we are poor, for the glory of other days has departed from our hands, and we need the fostering care of Great Britain. There was a time when we excelled in science and literature, as we did in arms, and there is no reason why we should not do so again under the guidance and control of the English power. In Madras, Colonel Underwood, the energetic President of the Anjuman-i-Mufid, has done much to improve the condition of the Muhammadan people. In Madura, our popular Collector, Mr. Turner, has spared no efforts towards advancing our interests. But the efforts of solitary individuals are insufficient to accomplish such a mighty task, and we therefore crave the help of the Government to raise us from our fallen condition. Towards attaining this end, we would suggest the founding of educational institutions in each district similar to the Colleges in England, where the youth of the country are kept together, under the strict discipline of those who are entrusted with the training of the mind and the morals of the young men borne on the establishment. It is not in every Presidency that we can boast of a spirit like that of Sir Syed Ahmed, whose mighty work in founding the College at Aligurh, and in giving an impetus to Muhammadan education has given him a prestige, which the British

Government has gracefully acknowledged. We, therefore, earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to give effect to the scheme proposed by the Anjuman-i-Mufid to Your Excellency's predecessor Lord Connemara, for raising funds among the Muhammadans and their well-wishers, to be appropriated in the dissemination of sound learning among the Muhammadan youth of the country. In conclusion, we beg leave to tender to Your Excellency our sincere thanks for giving us this opportunity of approaching your presence with this address. When we remember how Your Excellency, with a perfect disregard for your own health and personal comfort, devoted yourself to the demands of a famine-stricken country, under the burning sun of a tropical climate, we cannot but think ourselves fortunate in having Your Excellency among us to express our feelings of gratitude to Your Excellency in person, and when we remember that, within the short period of Your Excellency's administration, Your Excellency has established that name for justice, impartiality and good Government, which has always been the pride of Old England, we cannot but pray that the blessing of God may attend you and Lady Wenlock, and grant you a long and prosperous career in India, and in your happy home in the West.

His Excellency Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you very much for the address which you have just presented to me, in which you have come forward as the representatives of the Muhammadan community in Madura, and on your own account to express to me your great devotion and loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, pointing out that the English people and the Muhammadan community have often worked hard alongside each other both in fighting and carrying on the administration of the country. I think, I may truly say, that Her Majesty Queen Victoria owns among her subjects a larger number of Muhammadans than any other potentate. She has always experienced from them most ardent and most devoted loyalty; at the same time I am sorry to say that it is a matter of common knowledge that in these parts of Her Majesty's dominions a very large number of the Muhammadan community is in a somewhat backward and unfortunate position as regards their condition and life. I do not say that is their own fault, nor do I blame them in any way for the position in which they find themselves, but unfortunately it is a fact with which we have to reckon. Government, I think you will acknowledge, has done its best as far as it could, to meet your wishes and wants. In the matter of education it has done its best by remission of half the fees to meet the poverty which is unfortunately spread over a large number of the Muhammadan community. I am glad to think the gentleman who has presented this address has distinguished himself in his career; and we hope sincerely this community will not be wanting in providing Government with a certain number of officials on whom it can rely, and in whom it can find that courage and intelligence, which has always distinguished the Muhammadan community. You ask here that Government should meet your wishes, in the matter of education in particular—especially giving prominence to the scheme proposed by the Anjuman that a fund should be raised among the Muhammadans and their well-wishers. And, as I understand it, they should then come forward and ask Government to assist them in maintaining colleges and institutions of your own in different parts of the Presidency. All that I can say is, if any scheme is brought forward by the Muhammadan community showing that they are anxious by their exertion, subscriptions and contributions to do something to raise the Muhammadan community, I think you will find the Government anxious and ready to back you up in any scheme which appears to be reasonable, and which is likely to lead to results which you wish to see effected. Government is anxious to see that the Muhammadans hold their own in all the departments of official life. Therefore, if you can propose any means by which it is possible to raise your condition, or improve your position, you will find the Government anxious and ready to help you. You mention about the Anjuman started by Colonel Underwood, and the work which he has done there. All I can say is, personally I had great pleasure in seeing the work that has been done and that is being done; in my own private capacity I have done my best to encourage such work; it is extremely useful, as it gives an opening for a great number of young boys who would otherwise have been left to do no work. You, gentlemen, must have experienced by this time the absolute necessity there is for you to improve your condition if you wish to maintain your position against other classes of the community in this country. You find the Hindus are themselves putting their shoulders to the wheel and are sparing no pains to improve their condition, and it is only natural that you must feel yourselves that, unless you take special care to improve yourselves, you may be left behind in the race. Government, I can see, is obliged to maintain an absolutely neutral position, as regards the different classes of people. It is impossible for it to give extra facilities to one particular class which it is not prepared to give to all. All I can say is I am much obliged to you for your presence here, and beg to express the pleasure that I had in meeting you this afternoon.

One of the deputation then explained that the scheme proposed was, that Government should take the initiative in collecting subscriptions by calling a public meeting, or collecting some extra money from the Muhammadan Railway travellers, &c.

His Excellency said that he did not know that was the scheme; however, he would look into the matter.

The deputation then withdrew.

An address from the Members of the Victoria Literary Institute.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with feelings of deep respect, loyalty and attachment to the British Throne, under whose benevolent care it has pleased Providence to place the people of this vast peninsula for the last more than half a century, that we, the Members of the Madura Victoria Literary Society, bid Your Excellency a hearty welcome to this the ancient capital of the Pandyan kingdom, and now one of the most flourishing cities in Southern India, which, with its high antiquity, and the hoary traditions connected with it, has always attracted a large number of distinguished visitors. We consider it both a pride and a privilege to bid Your Excellency welcome as a direct representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress (long may she reign!), on whose empire the sun never sets, and whose glorious reign is slowly but surely wielding the heterogeneous population of India into one homogenous whole. manifold are the blessings in the shape of education, sanitation, public works, medical relief, railways and other communications, which, in common with the residents in other parts of India, the people of this town and district enjoy under the British rule; and it will not be our purpose to enumerate them here. But we beg leave to mention three matters in this town and district which are monuments of the British rule in this country, and which have conferred or are to confer at no distant date an invaluable boon on the people. First and foremost, we would refer to the construction of the Vaigai bridge, which owes its existence to the immense interest evinced by the Government in the welfare of the myriads of people, who in times of flood could not, without experiencing great inconvenience and hardship, pass their carts over the river. Side by side with the above, we would refer to the inauguration of the Periyár Project which, when completed, will, it is believed, be ever the means of driving away famine from this part of the country. Another matter for which we are no less indebted to the Government is that through its paternal solicitude for the people, this town is soon to be provided with a good system of water-supply, by which pure drinking-water — one of the indispensable conditions of human existence — will be placed within the easy reach of all. The famine tour which Your Excellency was, not long ago, pleased to make in the distressed portions of this Presidency in the best interests of the people, have rendered Your Excellency's name a house-hold word to us all, and can never be forgotten by a grateful and law-abiding people, such as the people of India are proverbially reputed to be. While realising to the fullest extent the great happiness we feel under Your Excellency's Government, and the lively sense of gratitude we owe to that Government, and to Your Excellency for the thousand and one blessings which we enjoy to-day, we beg to approach Your Excellency on behalf of the many millions of India with a request that the Dindigul-Pálghat and Madura-Pámban Railways — two projects which have engaged for the last several years the deep attention of Your Excellency's Government — may be a *fait accompli* within a measurable distance of time and we have no doubt that these projects will benefit the people not only of this town and district, but of the whole of India. In conclusion, we pray to the

“Father of all in every age
In every clime adored”

to bless Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock with long life, happiness and prosperity.

His Excellency's Reply.

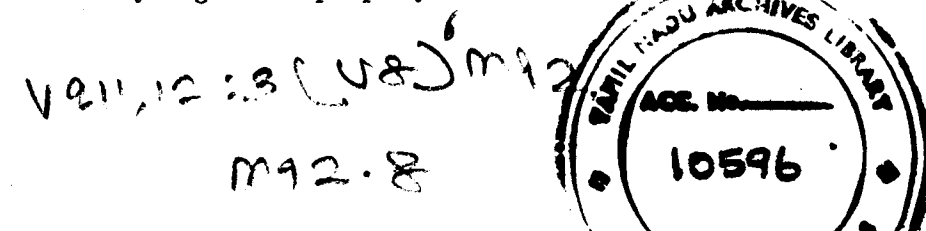
GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very much for the address which you have just presented, in which you are good enough to welcome me to your town, and to express at the same time your deep sense of loyalty and devotion to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress. You mention, among other points, the great advantages which your town has derived from its connection with the British rule, and among others the great work executed over the Vaigai river, in the shape of a bridge, under the management of the Public Works Department, which has enabled you to obtain, at all periods of the year, the advantages on both sides of the river. You also mention that the water-supply of Madura is about to be completed, and naturally you are pleased to find that within a measurable distance of time it is to be completed. The main point to which, I notice, you address your remarks, is the construction of the railways from Dindigul to Pálghat and from Madura to Pámban. In connection with that all I can say is that, as far as I am concerned, I should be glad to see these works completed, as I am quite satisfied that in these parts a very great advantage could be derived by the construction of these railways. I have to point out to you, as I have told those who approached me on this subject, that this matter rests with the Government of India. The Government of India has the absolute disposal of all money for the construction of railways in India; and it rests with them to decide in which part of the country it should be spent. At the present time the Government of India has very large and important projects in other parts of the country, and if it is not able to devote any money to the works which we consider to be of importance and local interest, the reason is that it is obliged to spend the money in other directions. At the same time I can assure you that I will spare no pains in pressing upon the Government of India what the wishes of the people are, as regards the extension of this railway line. I think these railways are most important in this part of the country, and I will urge the Government of India to turn its attention in this direction. I am afraid that is all I can tell you now. I thank you very much for the address you have presented to me.

His Excellency's address to the Students of the Madura College.

GENTLEMEN,—Having just had the pleasure of distributing the prizes to the successful students of this College, for their past year's work, it only remains for me to express the pleasure that I feel in having been able to be present here, during my visit to Madura, on this very interesting occasion. The report just now read tells us, that this is only the third Anniversary in the life of this institution as a second-grade College, and from the statistics which have been read, it is very evident that it is doing a good and great work within the city of Madura. The numbers that are coming within the walls of this institution, have shown that it is necessary to give increased accommodation to the students, and this extra building which I had the pleasure of declaring open, will, I trust, be found sufficient to accommodate these numbers. I should be very glad to hear that in future years still further accommodation is required, because though there are large numbers at present obtaining education which this institution affords, yet I am quite sure that in such a district as Madura, there are yet a great many young men who should avail themselves of the advantages which such a College as this gives to those who come to it. It gives me very much pleasure to find that good work has been done and is being done; and in the last report Mr. Logan observes that the College is doing good work, and is an efficient institution, and the discipline and the tone of the College are very satisfactory. He further says that there has been an improvement in gymnastics during the past year. This report is very favorable, and I hope we will have as good if not better reports in future. I am glad to find that Mr. Turner's interest in this College is thoroughly appreciated, and the prize he has given has brought forth a good competition among the different candidates who came forward. We are all convinced that it is necessary that physical education should accompany mental, and that we should have *mens sana in corpore sano*; and though there has been a great deal of controversy as to how far gymnastics are useful to Hindu students, yet I think all will recognise the fact that within certain limits all exercises are good for young men, as they give them some relaxation from mental work. Therefore I am glad to find that this institution is not lacking in that particular department, which, I consider, is essential for the education of every young man. I am glad to find the more important part is being steadily attended to, and I believe the teaching power in this College gives every satisfaction to those who preside over its welfare. In conclusion I beg to express the pleasure that I feel in having been able to be present here this afternoon.

Address from the Municipal Council Srirangam.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We the Chairman and the Members of the Srirangam Municipal Council, most humbly and earnestly welcome Your Excellency to our town, celebrated for its temples, which have, from time to time, attracted the attention of illustrious Royal visitors and Foreign Magnates, on account of their antiquity and fine architecture. The town, small and compact as it is, is second to none in the Presidency in its devotion and loyalty to the throne. In welcoming Your Excellency, we cannot but express our warmest gratitude to you, for the unparalleled self-denial and sympathetic energy with which Your Excellency has worked for the poor at a time, when the whole Presidency was in a state of consternation on account of an impending famine of which we had had a bitter experience fifteen years ago. We assure Your Excellency that the benefits of local self-government scheme inaugurated by Earl Ripon, are fully enjoyed by the people here, whose discretion in the exercise of their rights in returning members to represent their wards in the Municipal Council, as occasions have arisen, has been characterized as wise and sound. With a set of representative citizens thus elected from time to time to constitute the Municipal Corporation, the administration of municipal affairs in general has been now and then favorably noticed by Government. We may mention here that our well-known and philanthropic citizen of the metropolis, Raja Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliar, K.T., C.I.E., helped us with a liberal contribution of Rs. 10,000 to restore the portions of the hospital buildings consumed by fire. The growing popularity and the increasing usefulness of the institution are, we hope, a sufficient recompense for the munificent donation of the Raja. We are aware that there are several public wants still to be met, such as, the supply of drinking water to the town, and a systematic drainage &c.; professional suggestions in this direction have also been made. Our financial position, however, precludes us from setting on foot any elaborate scheme which would involve the municipality in heavy costs. We beg to add that the incidence of taxation in this municipality is not comparatively low, and the town consists of but 400,000 houses. We are, however, endeavouring to obtain professional help to find out whether any cheap scheme is feasible, and whether less expensive measures than now suggested cannot be adopted for improving the water now used by the people for drinking purposes, from the two great rivers—the Coleroon and the Cauvery—which run close by the town. We shall ere long, place all these matters in detail before Your Excellency's Government. Wishing Your Excellency long life and prosperity.



His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you very much for the extremely kind terms in which you have couched your address, welcoming me to your town and expressing loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India. You refer in the first part of your address to the fact of my having been compelled to visit certain parts of the Presidency, where famine was almost on the point of attaining very great severity. I am very glad to think that nothing approaching the great disaster to which you allude has ever appeared while I have been here. There is no doubt we were approaching a very great crisis in the middle of this year, from which we were saved by the aid of Providence by means of a very large and copious downfall of rain. I am thankful to say that in this particular part of the Presidency those notes of alarm were never sounded while I have been here, and I sincerely hope that this district of Trichinopoly will never be subjected to the fearful ravages to which some districts are sometimes exposed. You have a large area under irrigation. You are not likely under the circumstances in which you are situated to find yourselves placed in the same troubles as sometimes fall on other districts, not so well situated as yourselves. You then say the Municipal government is well carried out here, and I can assure you I am extremely glad to hear it. Government always records with much satisfaction the efforts of Municipal Councils when they are successfully carried out. It has been, unfortunately, the duty of Government lately every now and then to call attention, in somewhat severe terms, to the manner in which certain Municipal Councils have been failing to do their duty. I am glad to hear that your Municipal Council is doing good work, and I sincerely hope that it will never fall to its fate to come to the serious notice of Government. The Government is anxious to see the principles of local self-government carried out in their fulness and entirety, and, if possible, the Government should never be called upon to interfere with the direct representatives of the people, but at the same time in the interest of the rate-payers and the country at large, it has had to interfere and may have to interfere again. I hope sincerely that that fate will never fall to the Srirangam Municipal Council. Naturally being entrusted with the health of the people of this place, you allude to the measures which have either been taken or still have to be taken. We are now standing in a room of the hospital for which we are very much indebted to our well-known friend Raja Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliar. I am very pleased to find here that the liberality and generosity which characterize him have shown themselves in this particular useful manner which I had the pleasure of seeing just now. I hope this institution will continue to flourish and be, as it is certain to be, the blessing to all people here. As regards the other subjects which are occupying the attention of Municipal Councils, viz., the water-supply and sanitation, you say these points have not escaped your attention, and you are looking up the details of both, and that you hope before long to come before Government, with some scheme which you think may be able to meet this matter in this particular direction. I should like to say, on behalf of Government, that when you do so you will come forward with a scheme which will be more or less favourable and not too expensive. Wishing you all success in the matter, I beg to thank you for the kind way in which you received me, and to express the pleasure I feel in being able to be present here this morning.

The ceremony of opening the Trichinopoly Water Works was performed by His Excellency the Governor. A special train conveyed Lord and Lady Wenlock and a very large number of ladies and gentlemen to Kodurmurti Bridge.

The Governor was presented with an address by Mr. S. T. Rungasawmi, B.A., B.L., Chairman of the Municipality, after which His Excellency proceeded to lay the foundation-stone.

His Excellency then thanked the Municipal gentlemen for the kind words of welcome that had been presented to him, and expressed his very great pleasure on having been able to be present on such an interesting occasion, and to have visited this historic town. They had touched upon the important question of water-supply, and it afforded him great pleasure to be present at the inauguration of the scheme which was to ensure health and happiness to the town. Taking advantage of his presence amongst them they had thought fit to present him with an address in which they alluded to the privilege Government had conferred on them of electing their own Chairman. He was glad to find they appreciated this privilege. He assured them the Government was always glad to see the principle of local self-government carried out, and it would afford it further pleasure to see it reproduced in all places. But it was to the interests of Government to see local autonomy exercised regularly and in a proper manner, and though there were some places which labored under certain drawbacks, yet he was glad to find that the principle of self-government was recognised, and he congratulated them on having worked it so successfully amongst themselves. They had stated, and very naturally so, that this project had caused them a great deal of anxiety and trouble, and had referred to the difficulty they experienced in meeting the yearly interest on the loan granted to them. Well, this was perhaps to be expected and must be carefully looked after. As regards the matter of the extension of the scheme, that was a question which required to be carefully thought over; they would have to devise schemes to be submitted for the consideration and approval of Government. He, however, failed to see, till the present loan was taken up how this extension of water-supply to Wariore and Puttur could be met. It was necessary that they should first see to meeting their own scheme before they turned their attention to other things. They had also suggested that the toll be raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, and one-half of the collections given to them instead of what they got at present; they

thought in addition that the District Board would be no loser by this arrangement, but that the revenue accruing from the re-assessment would compensate for this loss. He had ascertained and found there was no likelihood of this, so for the present it was out of the question. In regard to the removal of their office, he said Government had put certain questions to them which they were expected to answer, after which the subject would be considered. He was, however, of opinion that they had a good case, and by the arrangement suggested they would not only add to the architecture of the town, but improve the sight of a building, which was now going to decay, and he had hopes of their wishes being met in this direction. As for the removal of the Leper hospital, he believed that there was no room at all at Madras, and unless some means could be devised for increasing the accommodation at Madras he was at a loss to see how their present position could be improved. He, however, promised to look into the matter and to see what could be done. In conclusion, he thanked them once more for the address presented to him. He was pleased to lay the foundation-stone of the engine-house and hoped that the Water Works would prove a blessing to the town.

Address by the Muhammadan Community of Trichinopoly.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, on behalf of the Muhammadans of the Trichinopoly town, beg respectfully to approach Your Lordship with an expression of cordial welcome on this occasion of Your Lordship's first visit to this town which was once the seat of the Muhammadan kings who were in alliance with, and who rendered valuable services to, the British Government.

2. In our address presented to His Excellency Lord Connemara, late Governor of Madras, we made a request that some Muhammadans of high official grade, such as Deputy Collectors, &c., might be posted to those districts where the number of the Muhammadans is great, such as this town where their number is more than 12,000. We are glad to say that our humble request has met with success, and two Muhammadans of high rank—one being the Head Assistant Collector and the other the Head-quarter Deputy Collector—were permanently posted to this district. We entertain strong hopes that this arrangement will remain undisturbed during Your Lordship's administration. We feel much pleasure in informing Your Lordship that our excellent Collector, Mr. Welsh, takes keen interest in the welfare of the Muhammadan community and recently promoted to the grade of Stationary Sub-Magistrate one Muhammadan Taluk Sheristadar who has passed the required tests for the appointment of Deputy Collector.

3. The Government of India as well as this Government has, at various times, passed orders directing the several Heads of Departments to see that a fair proportion of appointments is secured to Muhammadans in the Public service; but these orders are not carried out in their integrity in most districts. At the reorganization of Subordinate Magistrates a fair share does not appear to have been given to qualified Muhammadans in other districts. If the Government be pleased to rule that a certain percentage of appointments should be given to qualified Muhammadans in every district, we rest assured that the Muhammadans will be fairly represented in the Public service.

4. To encourage English education amongst the Muhammadans, it was thought advisable during the administration of the late lamented Lord Hobart, Governor of Madras, whose memory the Muhammadan community still cherish, to establish some schools at the Muhammadan centres and to grant them certain concessions, such as the payment of half school-fee, &c. We are glad to state that the scheme produced a good and palpable result, and we see that a few Muhammadan youths pass the different examinations every year. But we regret to say that some obstacles are now put in their way by the new rules which seriously operate as a check on their progress. Under the present Government rules, Matriculated candidates are not to be appointed to posts of even 15 rupees from the year 1893. Your Lordship is perfectly aware of the condition of Muhammadans, and expenses attending education are, in comparison with their poverty as a class so enormous that it is impossible for our community to educate their children up to the higher University examinations. We beg to request that, in consideration of the peculiar circumstances in which our community is placed in respect of official life, Your Lordship will be graciously pleased to allow our youths to compete for Public service with the present examination qualifications for some years more.

5. We are given to understand that an amendment of Act XX of 1863 (*Religious Endowments*) is under contemplation. We beg to state that certain provisions of the Act, as they at present stand, are inefficient and insecure for the purpose for which the Act has been passed. This is not the time and place to enter into details, but we wish to notify the fact and would solicit that Your Lordship will be pleased to cause early measures to be taken to ascertain and remedy them.

6. In conclusion, we pray both day and night to the Almighty Ruler to ever bless Your Lordship as an intelligent administrator of justice, and your noble family of high dignity with good health and prosperity; and hope that, under Your Lordship's benign rule, due attention will be paid to the welfare of Her Majesty's Muhammadan subjects, for so long a time lost sight of and neglected but who are second to none in their devotion and loyalty to the British Government.—*Trichinopoly, dated 10th November 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency in reply said that he had to thank them very much for the address they had presented to him on behalf of the Muhammadan community of the town, which had given him an opportunity of hearing their views on matters connected with administration of the town. They mentioned that, in their address presented to Lord Connemara, a request was made for the appointment of Muhammadans of high official grade, such as Deputy Collectors, &c., to those districts where the number of Muhammadans was great, and that he had acceded to their request by appointing two Muhammadan gentlemen, and they hoped that this arrangement would not be disturbed by him (Lord Wenlock). In regard to this he would have to inform them that in the interests of the public service removal to other parts was necessary, and it was the intention of Government to remove one of these gentlemen alluded to on promotion as Acting Sub-Collector to another district. He would, however, bear in mind their request, and see if it could not be acceded to. With regard to the question of the appointment of Muhammadans as Sub-Magistrates, he thought it was the duty of every Collector to pick out the most qualified men in their districts for these appointments, keeping distinctly in view the fact that Muhammadans were not to be lost sight of when a selection was being made, and that wherever possible posts should be given to qualified Muhammadans. He was, however, afraid that in this matter no hard and fast rules could be laid down allowing a certain proportion of the appointments of a district to be held by Muhammadans. In regard to their request for payment of half school-fees, &c., he was afraid he could not hold out much hopes to them as the same request made by other communities had been rejected. The Government considered it its duty to promote Higher Education, and the only thing for them to do would be to work hard and attain a certain degree of eminence, when they would be sure to get on. Muhammadans were a strong and manly race, and he did not think they would allow themselves to be beaten in the race by other classes. They were possessed with intelligence and a powerful intellect, which, if properly cultivated and utilised, would place them in as good a position as other communities. As for the question relating to religious endowments, His Excellency stated the matter had been most carefully looked into by a Committee of gentlemen appointed for the purpose by Government, which was now only waiting for their report, and he felt sure that when this was received the matter would be put on a good footing. These were the various points mentioned in the address, and although he could not perhaps meet them in the manner best suited to themselves, he was glad to have had an exposition of their views on those questions. In conclusion, he thanked them again for their address and expressed his pleasure at having been able to meet them.

Address from the Inhabitants of Trichinopoly.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the inhabitants of the Trichinopoly District, beg to approach Your Excellency with a hearty welcome on this occasion of your visit to our town so full of historical importance and renown.

2. We embrace this opportunity to express to Your Excellency our warmest thanks for the singular devotedness with which you have laboured to alleviate the sufferings of thousands of Her Majesty's subjects entrusted to your care, when famine threatened to commit a havoc similar to what was painfully witnessed by us in 1876-77.

3. We assure Your Excellency that on our grateful memory are impressed the blessings of your benign administration, and we hope Your Excellency's large-hearted sympathies with the people of this Presidency will be evinced on every occasion throughout your life.

4. In commemoration of Your Excellency's visit to our town we have resolved to erect a fountain in front of these buildings once occupied by the *Royal families of the Nayak and Mahomedan dynasties*, and we crave your Excellency's permission to designate the fountain after Your Lordship's name. We are thankful to the Madras Government for placing this hall at our disposal. It is, we are glad to say, already a centre of attraction with the Prince Albert Victor's Library and the Club attached to it, and the opening of the proposed fountain will be an ornament to it and the town. While on this subject, we cannot fail to express our deep-felt gratitude for the liberal help given by Your Excellency's Government to the local Municipality to carry into effect the *Water-Supply scheme* so wisely inaugurated, which, when completed, cannot but bestow an everlasting benefit on the ever-growing and populous town of Trichinopoly.

5. We are made aware that it is the intention of Your Excellency's Government to suspend temporarily the collection of village cess, wherewith the village officials are paid, apparently, as there is a large surplus left unexpended. We beg leave to state that the proposed concession is not likely to be of any great benefit to the ryots, while on the other hand the accumulated funds may with greater advantage be utilized on some useful purposes.

6. The administration of *Devasthanams (Religious Endowments)* under Act XX of 1863 is so defective and unpopular that it is our earnest prayer that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to take up the matter for early consideration for the introduction into this Presidency of an Act calculated to remedy the existing evils.

Wishing Your Excellency a long life and prosperity.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency, after thanking them very much for the address they had presented him and for the kind words of welcome expressed therein, said that they had alluded to his miseries in other parts of the country when there were grave symptoms of a famine. He was thankful to say that all anxieties were removed, and glad to know that at that particular time there was no great cause for alarm at Trichinopoly, and he hoped they would always be free from famine. In the natural course of events there were always some parts which were more liable to these evils and which consequently called for more attention than others. Some parts were very dry and these districts caused anxiety to the Government, but active measures had been adopted by the extension of railways, &c., and these had done much, and would do more to prevent the rise in prices which generally caused alarm to the people. They next said that they had resolved to erect a fountain in commemoration of his visit to their town, and they asked leave to name it after him. All he could say was that if they did so, it would afford him extreme pleasure, and his visit to that place would by those means be well commemorated. They alluded to the water-supply scheme, the foundation stone of which His Excellency had laid but a short time ago, and he hoped that would prove a source of great comfort and happiness to them; that would keep them in better health, and that the terrible ravages of cholera would thereby be minimised and prevented. The point they had raised especially was in regard to the village cess, the accumulated funds of which they asked might be utilised for other useful purposes. All he could say on this question was that the matter was in abeyance at present. A select Committee of gentlemen was considering the subject, and as far as their wishes went he believed they would be satisfied with the result. As regards the administration of *Devasthanams*, as they were called, a committee had been appointed with Sir T. Muthuswamy Iyer as President, and Government was anxiously awaiting its report. After receipt of it Government would see what could be done. The subject was being carefully gone into and from the constitution of the committee he believed they felt that it was in safe hands.

Address from the Inhabitants of Tanjore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the inhabitants of Tanjore, beg, with all symptoms of loyalty and respect, to thank Your Excellency for this further mark of regard which you have shown for the welfare of the inhabitants of Southern India by coming, at much inconvenience to yourself, this hot afternoon, to cut the first sod, on the Vennaur bank, of the Tanjore Water Project.

Your Excellency's experience of the famine, now happily a thing of the past, has with a keen instinct detected the weak link in the chain of our Indian life, viz., the absence of a free and adequate supply of drinking water, and it was, no doubt, with a view to remedy this re-occurring evil that Your Excellency has everywhere advocated the digging of deep wells, and, in places suited for such, the carrying out of such large schemes as the present.

We also thank Your Excellency's Government for so liberally coming forward and sharing the cost of the project and for lending at a low rate of interest the other moiety.

Such generous treatment on the part of Your Excellency's Government has ensured the carrying out of such a useful scheme as the Tanjore Water Project, which, but for such generous and timely aid, might still be a thing on paper.

No doubt this, like all other great schemes, has met with a certain amount of opposition on the part of the timid and doubtful; timid and doubtful because they were unprepared to launch such a sum of 4 lakhs of rupees without knowing of their own experience whether the scheme would be successful or not; but we know that such genuine and honest doubts will be treated tenderly and gently by Your Excellency.

Relying then upon the judgment and wisdom of Your Excellency and of Your Excellency's advisers we cordially adopt the Tanjore Water Project nothing doubting but that it will ever remain as a memento of Your Excellency's benign sway over us.

In conclusion, we hope that Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock will be spared to inaugurate and witness many more similar works of public utility.

His Excellency's Reply.

It was with the greatest pleasure that he had just performed the opening ceremony of the Tanjore Water-Works by cutting the first sod and removing it to its appointed place. He was very satisfied to find all the works in such a state of readiness, and there was every likelihood the undertaking being completed in a year, when it was to be hoped that a good supply of drinking water would be obtainable all over the town. They had alluded in their Address to certain doubts that had been felt by some as to the ultimate success of the scheme, but he hoped that the report which had just been read by Mr. Jones would show those timid and doubtful ones that there was no necessity of any doubt being experienced. He had shown early that they could depend for the whole year on a constant supply of good water; that it

had been analysed with the result that it had been pronounced good and drinkable, and it was to be hoped that the ravages of cholera and other diseases, to which so many fall victims, would be successfully prevented, and that their town, which for many years past had been notorious as a centre of illness, would profit by receiving an adequate quantity of pure water, since nearly every form of illness was traceable to bad water, of the evil effects of which they had evidences every day. He had just laid the foundation stones of similar projects at Madura and Trichinopoly, so this was the third place at which he had performed the interesting ceremony of opening Water-works. He hoped they would benefit largely by the scheme. He hoped Mr. Jones would experience no engineering difficulties in carrying out the undertaking, and that Tanjore would be supplied with a good quantity of water. Of course, this could not be done without considerable outlay, but in the interests of public health, and considering the great advantages which a good supply of water would confer on them, he thought they could lay out their money in no better or useful manner. In conclusion, he expressed once more the very great pleasure it had given him in being present on that interesting occasion.

Address from the Municipal Councillors of Tanjore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Tanjore, and as such the legal representatives of the inhabitants, beg to approach you with feelings of loyalty and respect on this Your Excellency's first visit to this town and to offer you a hearty welcome to this ancient and historic place. We hope Your Excellency has enjoyed your stay amongst us, though from unavoidable circumstances Your Excellency has not been able to make it as long as we should wish and to visit all places of interest here.

We have no doubt that the subjects affecting the welfare of the inhabitants will be fully and carefully dealt with by Your Excellency's Government as occasions arise and therefore we will not further encroach upon Your Excellency's valuable time with a detailed statement of our requirements.

We therefore content ourselves with again wishing you a loyal and hearty welcome trusting that the Almighty will confer on you and yours long life and happiness and bless your administration of the Presidency confided to your care with peace and prosperity.

His Excellency's Reply to the address by the Tanjore Municipality.

His Excellency thanked the gentlemen for the Address and for the kind words of welcome to which they had given expression. He regretted very much that his stay amongst them could not be much longer. There were other duties that called him away, but he assured them that in the short time he had remained in their town he had been enabled to see a great many points of interest. He had also been able to ascertain the position of affairs in the town, and he promised them that, should they make any representations to Government at any time, they would receive most careful and serious attention at its hands.

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 to approach Your Excellency with deep feelings of loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress of India, and of gratitude, love, and admiration for the many lasting and inestimable benefits which Your Excellency has conferred on the millions of this Presidency, during Your Excellency's just and paternal administration. In Your Excellency, our Presidency is proud of a Ruler whose sympathies are with the people, and whose ruling ambition is to uphold and maintain the cause of right and justice.

2. We are gratefully alive to the anxious solicitude Your Excellency has evinced to get yourself personally acquainted with the manifold wants and grievances of the millions entrusted to your care, and to the promptitude and alacrity with which Your Excellency, regardless of personal comforts and conveniences, travelled at the call of duty through the famine-stricken districts, initiating measures of timely relief.

3. Our Association represents the agricultural and trading interests of this district, and has on its rolls the leading mirasidars, traders and representatives of the learned professions of law and education, and has for many years enjoyed the privilege of making suggestions to Government on important matters, and of faithfully representing to the authorities from time to time the wants and grievances of the people. We beg to approach Your Excellency with an expression of our views on a subject of vital importance which is now engrossing the attention of the people of this district, viz., the Re-settlement of the Revenue of the Tanjore district.

4. We beg to submit that 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. Unfortunately for us, there exists in the minds of some of the officials an impression that this district is very much richer than the other districts of the Presidency, and that its land-owners are in a high state of prosperity. We submit that its prosperity and condition are much exaggerated. It contains a population of about 2½ million souls, and contributes to the Imperial Exchequer a revenue of about 83 lakhs of rupees every year. This amount does not include those indirect taxes that fall heavily on large consumers of imported products, as the inhabitants of a purely rice-yielding district must needs be; nor does it include those Municipal and Local taxes, which amount annually to about 11½ lakhs of rupees. Thus a Province which consists only of 3,700 square miles and contributes a tax of about Rs. 4-5-0 per head of population—the average for the whole Presidency being about Rs. 2-14-3 per head—can by no means be considered to be lightly taxed, and it deserves a generous treatment at the hands of its Rulers. According to the principle upon which the present system of assessment is based, the cost of cultivation takes away 31·8 per cent. of the gross produce; the Government assessment comes to 46·8 per cent., while the remainder 21·4 per cent. is all what the ryot takes as his net profit.

5. And if the Tanjore district has been comparatively well-off for sometime past, it is, we respectfully submit, mainly due to the fact of the market price of paddy having for some years been above the commutation rate fixed by Government in calculating their share of the produce of the land in coin. Under the existing system, the share of Government in the produce of land is subject to periodical readjustments. And we respectfully submit that they "are a very serious evil, as they, so far from settling, unsettle men's minds, and create uneasiness by reason of their uncertainty. They harass the agricultural classes, and engender discontent by mistakes in assessment; they check expenditure on improvements, and deteriorate the standard of agriculture." Although the Government has done much by way of giving improved irrigation to the district, we beg to submit that much has yet to be done in that direction. The channels branching off from the main sources of irrigation have of late been almost neglected by the authorities. The uncertainty and irregularity of the freshes in the rivers, and the fluctuations of the seasons have of late years contributed their share in depressing the agricultural prospects of the country. We beg to submit also that, generally speaking, the yield is, in a large number of cases, below the average struck when the present rates of assessment were fixed, and in a small number of cases it is above the average.

6. The scheme now submitted by the Settlement Department, as we understand, proposes a sudden augmentation of land revenue by about 46 per cent., which has filled the minds of the mirasidars with grave apprehensions as to the future. We beg leave to observe that the diminished fertility of the soil, the fluctuations in the market prices, the vicissitudes of the season, and such other factors that annually cause a reduction in the net income of the mirasidars have not been sufficiently considered by the authorities concerned.

7. Our several objections to the proposals have been set forth *seriatim* in our District Memorial to the Collector (a copy of which is submitted herewith for Your Excellency's kind perusal). We beg to invite Your Excellency's special attention to the following paragraph in particular:—

"The grinding character of the proposed settlement becomes more glaring on a close scrutiny of the holdings and income of the agricultural population of this district. A glance at the rent roll statement No. 3 given in page 5, Appendix to the Tanjore District Manual, would show that 80,699 pattas are for 10 rupees each and under, the average for each patta being Rs. 3. Taking this Rs. 3 to represent ¼ of the gross produce, Rs. 6 represents the very utmost of the share which so large a proportion as 60 per cent. of the pattadars of this district derive from the soil; and out of this they have to pay for the expenses of cultivation and to maintain themselves during the year. Going a step further we find that there are 82,757 pattadars paying an annual revenue of between Rs. 10 and Rs. 30 each or Rs. 16 on the average for each. A similar calculation leads to the result that a little over 20 per cent. of the total pattadars of the district derive Rs. 32, out of which they have to maintain themselves and defray the expenses of cultivation. The majority of agriculturists have thus a hard struggle for existence and cannot in the least lay by any capital for permanently improving their lands—a state of indigence in which there is neither the wish nor the power to save. Any (the slightest) increase in the burden would tell heavily upon the majority of the mirasidars who live literally from hand to mouth."

8. We feel here constrained to observe that the mirasidars of the district were not afforded an opportunity to represent their grievances to the Commissioner of Land Revenue, who had been deputed to report on the proposals of the Settlement Department on the occasion of his visit to this district. The final orders of Government on the subject are awaited with the keenest anxiety by the agrarian population of this district.

9. The special interest which Your Excellency had all along evinced in the well-being of the agricultural classes while at home, raised in us expectations of agricultural reforms which we have been realizing since Your Excellency assumed the reins of Government. The impetus given by Your Excellency to the cause of reform in that direction by instituting enquiries

about the establishment of Agricultural Banks and farms, fills us with hopes of a brilliant future for the landed interest of the country. We would therefore pray that, in dealing with this important subject of Re-settlement, Your Excellency will be pleased to bestow your wonted sympathetic consideration, and confer on this district the blessings of peace and plenty, by so fixing the land revenue as to secure to the ryot the profits of his own labour in an equitable manner.

10. We take this opportunity of thanking Your Excellency's Government for having ordered the removal of the Collector's office to Tanjore—a measure calculated to remove a standing grievance of the district—and we earnestly hope that the removal ordered will soon become an accomplished fact. We also beg to thank Your Excellency for that most important of reforms which it was reserved for Your Excellency to give effect to—we mean the practical separation of the Judicial from the Executive functions. This is no doubt a small modicum; but we hope that this is only the first instalment of a much needed reform.

In conclusion we beg to pray most devoutly to the Father of All to bless Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock with His choicest blessings and render Your Excellency's administration of our country ever dear to our memories.

ENCLOSURE.

Memorial of the Mirasidars of the Tanjore District to the Collector.

SIR,—With reference to your notice, publishing the memorandum of the Deputy Commissioner, Revenue Settlement, No. III Party, *in re* the re-settlement of the Tanjore district, and inviting the views of the mirasidars on the four main questions raised therein, we the undersigned mirasidars, on behalf of ourselves and other mirasidars of this district, beg to make the following representations for your sympathetic and favorable consideration.

2. The issues raised by the memorandum are so momentous in their character, and the interests they effect are so large and diversified, that we find it difficult within the short period allowed to us to set forth in detail our several objections to the proposals contained in the memorandum. The difficulties and disadvantages your memorialists labour under in formulating their views on a subject which entailed upon the Deputy Commissioner several months of arduous task and hard toil—despite the fact that every facility was afforded to him in the preparation of the memorandum by all the requisite information being promptly supplied from official quarters—can hardly be exaggerated; and if this memorial seems wanting in detail and specification, it is solely due to the fact that, during the short space of two months, we have not been able to collect more information available on the subject. We therefore crave your kind indulgence to be allowed to make further representations at an early date.

3. Before proceeding to express our views on the questions raised, we may premise by stating that the classification and grouping, as proposed, are defective. The importance of dividing the district into groups cannot be over-estimated. In this grouping, the Deputy Commissioner, we are sorry to observe, has been led away by the notion that the lands of this district are generally well-irrigated by the Cauvery and its branches, and that much fertilising matter is annually deposited on the fields. The alluvial deposit, if any, is only confined to a limited area in the western portion of the district. The several branches of the Cauvery, and even the minor irrigation channels, having been brought under the complete control of the Public Works Department which works up the irrigation of the district by anicuts and regulators aided by strong embankments, even the little alluvial is shut out of the fields. Further, portions of this district are irrigated by rivers and channels carrying the surplus drainage of the fields supplied from river channels; their water-supply, though certain, is unmixed with the fertilising silt deposited on those lands fed by the Cauvery direct. All these circumstances have to be considered in the grouping of irrigation tracts. The irrigation has been classified into five groups. The 1st and 2nd groups comprise river-fed wet lands, while the 3rd, 4th and 5th groups appertain to wet lands irrigated otherwise. It is very much to be regretted that in the matter of grouping the Deputy Commissioner did not consult some of the most intelligent and experienced mirasidars, who are generally well acquainted with the relative value of lands in their immediate neighbourhood. They may unquestionably be expected to possess an intimate and accurate knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages which each village or group of villages may possess as regards irrigation, drainage, productive power, vicinity to market and the like.

4. River irrigation is so varied and uncertain in this district, especially in particular parts thereof, that it would be absolutely necessary to institute a third group of river-fed wet lands whose yield is very poor on account of the scarcity and irregularity of water-supply, and the absence of alluvial deposit. The present sub-division into sorts does not meet the requirements of the case, as the same soil under the different conditions above set forth is sure to yield less. Should the suggestions of the formation of a third group and the addition of two more sorts to each group commend themselves to the authorities, we believe that their adoption will minimise the heavy burden that is otherwise sure to oppress lands of very inferior yield.

5. It must be borne in mind that the settlement is intended for the benefit of Government and landholders alike. It is not intended to increase the burden of taxation, but to improve and secure the position of landholders. The success of the ryotwari system depends upon the moderation of the land-tax. The ryot must be assured of the quiet enjoyment of the surplus proceeds of his labour. If, from unfavorable seasons or a season affording a $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ crop or other proportions under a full crop, the land-tax absorbs all his produce, he will be ruined. The burden on the land must, therefore, be fixed after allowing a full margin for the cultivation expenses of the succeeding year, for droughts and other vicissitudes of season and fluctuations in the market price.

6. Due regard must also be had to the peculiar conditions of this district. Tanjore has to depend both on the rains on the Western Coast and on the local rains for its cultivation. Since the last settlement, the uncertainty of seasons has diminished the produce of the lands. In times of heavy rainfall and floods in the rivers, the crops suffer most from want of proper drainage. Nor are there tanks and reservoirs in this district to store up such surplus water against a season of scarcity. Furthermore, the productive power of land has considerably deteriorated since the last settlement, owing to the present system of irrigation and the apparent neglect of the Public Works Department officers to repair irrigation and drainage channels, not to speak of the diminished supply of alluvial deposit by the construction of anicuts and regulators already referred to. The increased cultivation of wet lands by 15 per cent. within the last ten years, though commendable in itself, has also, by diminishing the water-supply and alluvial deposit, contributed to the deterioration in the productive power of land. In proof of this position we beg respectfully to refer you to the crop experiments made during the last 4 or 5 years by the Revenue officers and to the accounts of estates under the management of the Court of Wards—Thiruvananthi, Vadapathimangalam, Mathur, Ukkadei, Alangudicheri—and to the accounts of the Mangalavilasam villages under the management of the Collector, as also to those of the Kallimedu Chattram lands under the management of the District Board. If further proof were needed we are prepared to produce the harvest accounts of several villages in different parts of the district at such time and place as you may be pleased to appoint.

7. In this connection we cannot help referring to the deplorable want of manure throughout the district. Forests so numerous in other districts and whose twigs and leaves abundantly supply manure are very few; and common pasturage grounds so absolutely necessary for the rearing up of cattle are also scarce.

8. Coming to the first question—estimate of the grain outturn of the different classes of soil—we notice that the Settlement Department in estimating the gross outturn has proceeded mainly on the crop experiments made by them in the month of February of fasli 1299. It is observed in the memorandum that fasli 1299 was an extremely unfavorable year, and that the outturn at the crop experiments should be considered as far below the normal yield. To bring it up to what he considers the normal yield, the Deputy Commissioner has added 25 per cent. to the actual outturn. Not satisfied with this, he has added to each sort from 1 to 4 kallams, for which no ostensible reason has been assigned.

9. To justify this addition of 25 per cent. the Deputy Commissioner has characterized the season of 1889-90 as one of the most unfavorable experienced for many years; but that statement is not quite correct. It is true there was a comparative failure of rains in the months of November and December, but the rainfall during the months previous was amply sufficient for purposes of cultivation. Further, unlike the year 1890-91, there was an unfailing supply of water in the rivers, at least in the greater portion of the district during the whole of the cultivation season.

10. The harvest in the year under experiment was on the whole more favorable than in the years immediately preceding it.

11. To justify his statement that 1889-90 was an unfavorable season, the Deputy Commissioner refers to the kadappu crop experiment made by him in November and December which gave 43 kallams to the acre. But kadappu being an inferior kind of grain, 43 kallams of it should be computed as equivalent to only 32 kallams of samba, as one kallam of kadappu is equivalent to $\frac{2}{3}$ kallam of samba. Again in the paddy harvested, there was no chaff owing to the comparative absence of rain at the time of paddy attaining maturity.

12. With regard to the manner in which the experiments were conducted by the Settlement Department, we find that generally the best fields of the several classes of soil were selected, and small portions thereof not exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre and of more than average growth were harvested with the utmost care and vigilance, and that too when the grain was yet half green so that the chaff was not removed by winnowing, but remained with the grain, and the outturn was, as a matter of course, higher than what a ryot under ordinary circumstances could realize. It is needless to add that in a large tract of country like Tanjore comprising lands of varying powers of production, and acted on by circumstances peculiar in their character and in which we experience the extremes of season, a few experiments made by reaping small patches of land here and there for a single year cannot be considered a sufficient criterion to determine the productive powers of the several classes of soil. Should proper allowance be made for the

greenness of the paddy harvested at the experiments, the sundry expenses incurred by the mirasidars at the harvest, the extra cooly they have to pay to cut the crops off the ground before they loosen in the ear, and lastly for the losses incidental to harvesting on a large scale, it will be found that the actual outturn of the crop experiments made by the Settlement Department may be taken as representing more than the average yield of the different sorts of soil. The outturns proposed for the 8th and the 9th tarams are high and are not based upon any experiments. We therefore earnestly pray that the actual outturns at the crop experiments, though high in themselves, may be taken as the standard for the various sorts and classes of soil.

13. Next as to the commutation price, we observe that the price of paddy now proposed is very high, higher than what has been actually fixed for any other district heretofore settled. It may be stated here as a matter of our experience that even at the present commutation price at less than $\frac{1}{2}$ rupee a kallam, the mirasidars feel considerable difficulty in paying kist to Government when the paddy sells below one rupee. Proof of this fact will be furnished by the revenue records, which would show the number of demands issued and distraints and sales made during those years for the collection of arrears of revenue. It is not therefore too much to predict that the position of the mirasidars will be rendered far worse if the commutation rate were to be enhanced to such a high figure as Rs. 1-1-8 as now proposed.

14. Ceylon and Madura are at present the only markets for Tanjore paddy; it is an incontrovertible fact that the demand from Ceylon has considerably diminished of late owing to the large importations of paddy made to it from Burmah, Chittagong, Bengal and Arrakan. With the increased paddy cultivation in other districts under improved facilities afforded for irrigation, and with the increased outturn of paddy in Burmah, it may fairly be predicted that the demand from Ceylon will soon cease. It can likewise be asserted without fear of contradiction that with the completion of the Periyar Project work now under construction, large tracts of waste land in the Madura district will soon be brought under paddy cultivation, and even her marts will be closed against Tanjore paddy. These circumstances point to the irresistible conclusion that the price of paddy in Tanjore will fall considerably in the future. The price of paddy being extremely variable to render Government revenue secure and easily recoverable, the commutation price must be so moderately fixed as to endure for a period of 30 years against all contingencies and fluctuations in the market price, and so as to render remissions unnecessary except in times of extraordinary droughts and inundations.

15. It has next to be observed that the average prices for faslis 1277-86 given in the memorandum, differ from those given in the District Manual, the difference between the two prices being considerable, ranging from 2 to 4 annas a kallam; hence in calculating the average prices for 20 faslis taken as the standard period, a reduction of 3 annas in the kallam will have to be made from the average price of Rs. 1-3-8 arrived at in the memorandum.

16. We also beg to take objection to the inclusion in the standard period of faslis 1286 and 1294. The memorandum only excludes faslis 1287 and 1288 as famine years, whereas famine had already commenced its work of havoc in fasli 1286, the average price of paddy during that fasli being so high as Rs. 1-13-0. In fasli 1294 the whole district suffered from floods and inundations; the outturn was very scanty and the prices ran very high.

17. Again the average price has been struck by including the high prices that obtained in out of the way places where paddy is not grown and those of seaport towns. This method of calculation considerably raises the average to the serious detriment of the mirasidars who do not in the least profit by such prices.

18. The difference in the prices of the first and second crop has altogether been ignored in striking the average, and in commuting into money value the Government share of the kar produce.

19. The allowance of 2 annas per kallam for merchants' profit is insufficient. The several factors at work causing the difference between the merchants' and ryots' prices are—

- (1) Dryage in the thrashing floor.
- (2) Cooly to the measurer when paddy is removed from the thrashing floor to the storing place.
- (3) Cost of removing paddy from the thrashing floor to the storing place.
- (4) Wastage of paddy in store.
- (5) Bandy hire from village to market.
- (6) Toil.
- (7) Merchants' profit.

These items represent 4 annas 6 pies per kallam, and a reduction of the same will have to be made on that score from the average price struck for the standard period.

20. G.O., No. 881 of 1885, Revenue, lays down that the lowest price during the standard period should be taken as the commutation price if it should fall short of the average after the usual deductions are made therefrom. Under the circumstances above set forth, we pray that the rule be made applicable to this district also, and that the modification thereof which we understand has lately been made in the case of Cuddalore be not extended to this district.

21. Passing next to the sufficiency of cultivation expenses, we notice that the Deputy Commissioner has adopted a graduated scale of expenditure increasing with the increased productive capabilities of the soil. We find no explanation in the memorandum of the principle on which this method of calculation is based. We can only state as a matter of our experience that the cost of cultivating inferior soils is usually higher than that incurred in the case of superior ones. It is in cultivating inferior soil that more seed, more labour, and more manuring are required, and we therefore pray that on no account whatsoever should the cultivation expenses of inferior soil be estimated at a lower rate than those of superior soil, though in truth we can aver that the former is higher than the latter.

22. Of late years the costs of cultivation have considerably increased owing to the dearness of labour consequent on the facilities for emigration, and the high wages paid to coolies by the Railway Company, the Public Works Department, the Local Fund Department and the District Municipalities. Not only has the price of labour run high but the number of agricultural labourers has also decreased, and the mirasidars justly complain of the difficulties experienced in procuring labourers to cultivate their lands and reap the harvest thereof. We give below a table of expenses incurred in cultivating an acre of the best class of soil which we submit for your favorable consideration.

23. Schedule of cost of cultivating an acre of the best soil—

No.	Items.	Cost proposed by the Settlement Department.	Cost actually incurred by the mirasidars.	Remarks.
		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
1	Cost of a pair of bullocks	1 5 6	2 0 0	Vettian's wages and measuring cooly at the harvest at the thrashing floor have not been included in this.
	Do. of feeding with grain or oil-cakes	...	2 4 0	
	Do. of tending and housing them	...	0 8 0	
2	Do. of plough	1 7 6	1 7 6	
3	Do. of ploughing	1 10 3	3 12 0	
4	Do. of manuring	2 12 0	2 12 0	
5	Do. of lowering the level of fields (kulivettu)	0 10 3	1 0 0	
6	Do. of repairing channels	0 3 0	1 3 0	
7	Do. of seed	2 3 0	2 3 0	
8	Do. of removing seedlings	0 9 0	0 15 0	
9	Do. of transplanting	0 11 0	1 6 6	
10	Do. of weeding	0 11 0	0 12 0	
11	Do. of wages to nirkattu	0 2 6	0 4 9	
12	Do. of kaval or watchman	0 5 0	0 5 0	
13	Do. of coolies for reaping;	1 6 0	1 11 0	
	Total	14 0 0	22 7 9	

24. Lastly, with regard to the 4th question—the justness of the proposed rates of assessment as representing half the net outturn. Our sincere thanks are certainly due to our benign Government for assessing the land-tax on the net outturn. Accepting this principle we beg to suggest that the net outturn should be calculated with reference to the representations made by us on the 3 previous heads. It is not in the belief that all our requests would be fully granted that they have been made, but because it discloses the true condition of the district. Doubtless the revenue would considerably fall if all our prayers be fully conceded; but this is accountable by the circumstances detailed above, such as the diminished productive power of the soil and the higher cost of cultivation arising out of the poor supply of alluvial deposit and the dearness of labour. We have hardly come across any land-holder who has prospered as such, the apparent prosperity of some being due only to their other avocations and in the case of a few others to their stinting the very necessities of life.

25. The present impoverished condition of the landholders, the large and numerous debts incurred by them as evidenced by the debt bonds executed and registered, which can be verified by records in the Registration offices and the number of demands and attachments and the sales of property, both moveable and immoveable, for collecting the arrears of revenue conclusively prove that even the previous settlement at the moderate commutation rate of less than 8 annas was unbearable. What wonder then if a true representation of the hardships of the proposed rates of assessment should reveal our net income to be very low?

26. On the other hand the Deputy Commissioner considers that the mirasidars are prosperous and refers to some instances of sales that have fetched exorbitant prices. But we are assured that such instances are few and that the extent of land sold in each of those cases is very small having been mostly for house sites or other indispensable purposes. In one case notably, a mirasidar who wanted to dig a channel to improve his large extent of land which was almost fallow had to pay a fabulous sum to get a strip of land in the vicinity from a neighbour who took advantage of the necessities of the vendee. Such instances where small

plots of land are purchased under peculiar circumstances for fancy prices without regard to the profit likely to be made by such investments do not indicate the real market value of the property.

27. We have also to observe that the deduction of 15 per cent. for vicissitudes of season is quite insufficient. In dealing with a large tract of country like Tanjore, subject as it is to a large variety of climatic influences and disadvantages and where there is every danger of meeting with the extremes of drought and moisture and which in no degree possesses the fertility of soil and the superior markets of some other districts, the remission allowed for vicissitudes of season should be very liberal. The Deputy Commissioner in determining the gross outturn for the different classes of soil has added 25 per cent. to the actual outturn on account of the supposed unfavorable season of fasli 1299. Proceeding on the same principle we respectfully submit that a deduction of 25 per cent. should be made from the gross outturn on account of the vicissitudes of season in lieu of the meagre allowance of 15 per cent. proposed by the Deputy Commissioner.

28. In proof of the lightness of the proposed rates of assessment the Deputy Commissioner advances the cases of mukasa villages and the villages of Edamanal estate; with reference to mukasa villages it has to be noted that the melvaram is no doubt higher than the Commissioner's rate. But the figures are only proofs of demand and not of collections. The mukasa rates have been repeatedly condemned

Fasli.	Demand. Rs.	Collection. Rs.	Percentage of balance.
* 1296 ...	1,58,037	95,535	39.54
1297 ...	1,44,582	84,610	41.40
1298 ...	1,65,582	1,01,599	38.64

by persons entitled to speak with authority on the matter as being rack rents and the table * hereunto annexed showing the arrears of melvaram accumulating year after year is proof positive of the oppressive nature of the mukasa rates. This position is further borne out by

the large number of suits annually instituted by the receiver against the tenants. The lands of the Edamanal estate are situated on a very low level liable to be inundated in years when there is average rainfall and average water-supply for other lands. These villages thrive well and yield more when other lands suffer from scarcity of water-supply and rainfall, and we have reasons to believe that the leases with respect to these villages relied upon by the Deputy Commissioner refer to such years only. For these reasons we think that the Deputy Commissioner's statement that his rates compare favorably with the two instances referred to by him does not hold good; the one shows the demand only, the other relates to abnormal seasons.

29. With regard to punjah lands we beg to submit that the two groups proposed by the Deputy Commissioner are insufficient as there are several varieties of alluvial dry lands. More sorts will have to be added for dry lands to provide for very inferior kinds. Dry lands being more dependent on rain for cultivation than wet lands, a wide margin will have to be made for vicissitudes of season, say, 35 per cent. It is hardly necessary to add that the costs of cultivation of dry lands and the expenses prior to realization of dry crops are very heavy for which sufficient provision has not been made in the memorandum.

30. The memorandum makes no reference whatsoever to the already existing road cess and the contemplated village cess. In fixing the new assessment we earnestly pray that the effect of these additional burdens upon the already overtaxed landholders may be duly considered.

31. Tanjore is especially an agricultural district and its vast agrarian population depends almost entirely upon the produce of lands for their daily sustenance. Any augmentation of the land revenue would seriously imperil landed interests and diminish the love for landed property. The large investments on land even at the present commutation rate fetch but a low percentage of interest and *even that* would be considerably diminished should the commutation price be enhanced and consequently the land revenue. In determining the advisability of increasing the land-tax which professedly is not the object of Government, we beg you would be pleased to consider whether the real object of the settlement is in any way given effect to by the present proposals. To equalize and adjust the incidents of taxation and thereby to increase the love for landed property ought to be the policy of Government and that is in no way secured by the proposed scheme. On the other hand we apprehend that large vested interests in land would be unsettled and future investments on the same discouraged. In making the above suggestions we cannot help referring to the observations made by no less a person than Sir Charles Trevelyan in connection with the settlement of the Tanjore district which we quote below:—

"This is eminently a case for letting alone. It would from every point of view be a mistake to unsettle such a happy settlement as that which has been arrived at in Tanjore. It would be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs; for the periodical recurrence of an operation the effect of which is to gather into the exchequer an indefinite proportion of the intermediate fruits of industry and investment would not unreasonably be feared and confidence might not be restored for half a century to come. My opinion clearly is that the existing assessment of the land-tax in Tanjore should not be disturbed."

32. The grinding character of the proposed settlement becomes more glaring on a close scrutiny of the holdings and income of the agricultural population of this district. A glance at the rent-roll statement No. 3 given in page 5, appendix to the Tanjore District Manual, would show that 80,699 pattas are for Rs. 10 each and under, the average for each patta being Rs. 3. Taking this Rs. 3 to represent one-third of the gross produce, Rs. 6 represents the very utmost of the share which so large a proportion as 60 per cent. of the pattadars of this district derive from the soil, and out of this they have to pay for the expenses of cultivation and to maintain themselves during the year. Going a step further we find that there are 31,757 pattadars paying an annual revenue of between Rs. 10 and 30 each or Rs. 16 on the average for each. A similar calculation leads to the result that a little over 20 per cent. of the total pattadars of the district derive Rs. 32 out of which they have to maintain themselves and defray the expenses of cultivation. The majority of agriculturists have thus a hard struggle for existence and cannot in the least lay by any capital for permanently improving their lands—a state of indigence in which there is neither the wish nor the power to save. Any the slightest increase in the burden would tell heavily upon the majority of the mirasidars who live literally from hand-to-mouth.

In conclusion, we pray that our humble representations be taken into your benign consideration and such concessions as may be deemed fit be granted to us, as otherwise great hardship would be felt in paying the proposed rates of assessment. In this memorial we have only put forward representations with reference to the whole district in the view that the disadvantages and grievances affecting special localities will find a more appropriate place in taluk memorials which we beg permission to submit hereafter.—30th March 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency, in reply, said that he wished in the first place to thank them for the extremely kind manner in which they had couched their words of welcome to him on this the occasion of his first visit to that district, and for the allusions they had made regarding his recent visits to certain parts of the Presidency where he had to cope with a severe distress which was then prevailing. He was glad, however, that his attention in that connection was not called to the district of Tanjore, which happily had not to contend against the trials and difficulties which other districts of the Presidency were subjected to. Their particular object he believed was to call his attention to one point which had been causing them a good deal of anxiety, viz, the re-settlement of the revenue in that district. On this subject His Excellency felt that very little could be said at the present moment, because the scheme was not before Government, and all he could do would be to accept their statements, with a promise that the scheme would be fully and carefully considered by Government when the subject came before it. In regard to their suggestions about the question of revision of the produce of the land, they stated that they understood that a proposal, submitted by the Settlement Department, suggested an increase of 46 per cent., and they said that this was filling the minds of the mirasidars with grave apprehensions as to the future. He was told that the suggestion was to show an increase of 33 per cent. only. His Excellency here referred to the districts of Godavari, Kistna and North Arcot, where the increases were something like 53, 43 and 70 per cent., while in Nellore and other districts it was 100 per cent. Therefore, if they were unfortunate in this respect, he thought, they were not alone and were suffering along with other districts. Other districts had been subjected to the same process and what was fair to one town was fair to another. The Government was unwilling to put burdens on mirasidars or ryots, but where it was considered necessary and proper it was its duty to do so. He, however, thought the assessment was pressing heavily on some and not on others, and that some were being assessed more than they should be, while others who ought to be assessed were escaping scot free. This would be enquired into and remedied. Government's only object was to carry out the assessment in a fair and reasonable manner, and the matter, he promised them, would receive careful consideration at the hands of Government when the subject came up before it. They had also alluded to their not having been afforded an opportunity of representing their grievances to the Commissioner of Land Revenue on the occasion of his visit to their district. In respect to that matter, His Excellency said he had been told that it was thought unnecessary that they should enter into a discussion on that subject, which had been fully considered at public meetings held at Kumbakonam and other places, where the Collector had met the principal landholders, and the whole matter had been thoroughly discussed, and a further representation would only be going over ground which had already been gone over. They had also been good enough to make a reference to the interest he took in the matter of agricultural reform. He was fully aware of the difficulties and troubles agricultural bodies had to contend with, and he would be glad to improve their condition in any way in which he might be able to do so. Though he was not an agricultural expert, he perfectly conceived that his knowledge of the subject was sufficient to show him that the agriculture of the country required improvement. He thought if any sound system of Agricultural Banks could be introduced, it would do much good in this direction, but he was aware that difficulties would be experienced

To be noted in the Rev. Dept.

even with the introduction of such Banks. They required careful and honest treatment at the hands of those that managed them and the experiences of Banks all over the world were that, when these points were not met properly, confusion and loss were the result. His Excellency next alluded to the large quantity of wealth that was hoarded up in the district in the shape of gold and jewels, which might very profitably be diffused and serve more useful purposes than it was now doing. It was now only a temptation to evil-doers, and he believed a very good idea would be to see this wealth distributed and all institutions in the country improved and benefited thereby. As for the removal of the Collector's Office to Tanjore, he thought such a step would be very desirable and a great improvement, but as the subject necessitated a considerable outlay on the part of the Government, whose hands were already quite full, he believed that subject would have to be deferred for the present. As to the question of the appointment of new Magistrates touched on in the concluding portion of the Address, he mentioned that the introduction of that matter was looked upon with a good deal of pleasurable anticipation. They were not correct in attributing it to him, as he had not taken the initiative in the matter, though he had given effect to it afterwards. It was now too soon to see the results of the experiment, but it would doubtless produce good results. His Excellency concluded by thanking them once more for their kind wishes and expressed the very great pleasure it had given him to visit their district and to see all he had seen.

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The deputation had just retired, when His Excellency called them back and mentioned that, with respect to the subject of irrigation, to which his attention had been called, the Government felt it a want which required improvement, and he promised them that that point would not be lost sight of, but the Government hoped soon to adopt remedial measures on that subject.

The Chairman made a request for copies of all papers dealing with the subject of re-assessment after their consideration by Government in order that they might be able to reply to any matters which might require explanation. The Governor promised this, and the deputation then retired.

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