

ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

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

ON HIS

FIFTEENTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.



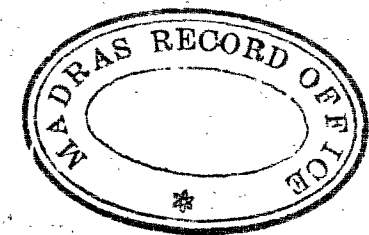
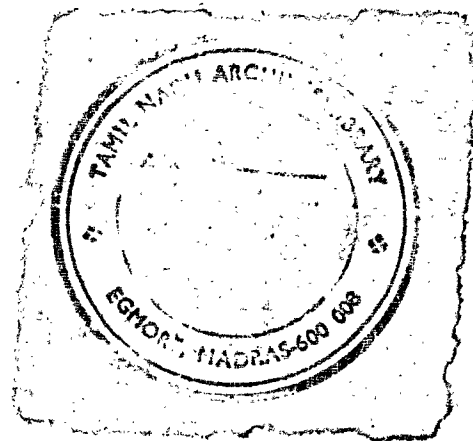
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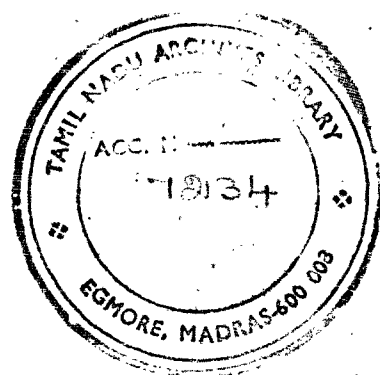
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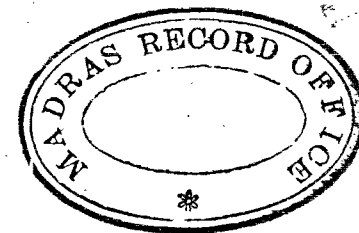
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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS FROM THE RESIDENTS OF RÁNIPÉTTAI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the humble and loyal residents of the ancient and historic township of Ránipéttai, most respectfully beg to welcome Your Excellency, the fit representative of our great and noble Sovereign, Her Majesty the Queen. Ránipéttai was founded by a Raja of Ginjee, in honour of his wife, the then Rani, and was subsequently converted into a cantonment attached to Arcot, the ancient capital of the Carnatic. Since Arcot and the sister town of Wallajanaggar have long lost their ancient greatness and importance, Ránipéttai has sunk into comparative insignificance, though the relics of her former glory have not altogether disappeared. The fact that this town is the headquarters of a Civilian Divisional officer, and the existence of a number of beautiful and valuable buildings in the old European and Native Barracks, lend some importance to the place. It was here that the British and the Native troops, under their illustrious leader, Lord Clive, won immortal fame, the former by their prowess in the field, and the latter by their unselfish loyalty.

.2. In approaching Your Excellency we crave permission to avail ourselves of this opportunity of

submitting to Your Excellency's consideration, certain matters which nearly touch the interests of the Ránipéttai Union, in the confident hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to comply with our humble requests.

3. We would represent to Your Excellency the necessity to transfer the Court of the District Munsif of Sholinghur, to this town. Sholinghur is not a convenient centre for the Court. It is more than nine miles from the railway station. It is not a very healthy town, nor does it command a good water-supply throughout the year. Again, during the rainy season, the roads to Sholinghur become almost impassable, whereas Ránipéttai has a most abundant supply of good water. We have a railway station in the very heart of the town. Perhaps the most pressing need for the transfer of the Court to this place, lies in the fact that over and above the improvement to Ránipéttai, consequent on such a change, the neighbouring towns of Wallajanaggar and Arcot will thereby be restored to their former importance. At the present time Wallajanaggar has lost all her trade; population has decreased and her material resources have been crippled; while in the Arcot taluk, the inhabitants of many villages have to go more than forty miles to Vellore to obtain civil justice. Much relief will be experienced by the people of the major portion of the Arcot taluk, should the Court be transferred to Ránipéttai and Arcot included in its jurisdiction. There are many large buildings in this town which could be used for

the Court house, in the event of the transfer being effected. Before leaving this subject, we beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that when His Excellency Lord Wenlock, Your Excellency's predecessor was here in the year 1892 to open the Wenlock causeway across the Pálár river we approached His Excellency on this subject, and His Excellency promised to give the matter his consideration in due course.

4. The next subject, about which we beg to approach Your Excellency, is the rumoured proposal to reduce our division which is now under a European civilian, to the charge of a Deputy Collector. We believe that we are expressing the view of the bulk of the population of this division, nay even of the district, when we say that such a change would be greatly detrimental to the interests of the public. This division includes the two important Zamin-daries of Kalahasty and Karvetnaggar, the Polliems of Kallur and Pulicherla, as well as the important towns of Tirupati, Tirumalai and Tiruttani, which contain rich temples resorted to by pilgrims from all parts of India. Questions of considerable importance and intricacy often arise in this important division, to decide which it will be more convenient if the divisional officer is a civilian. In the interests of all concerned we earnestly pray that the administration of the division may remain as it is at present.

5. The season out-look seems to be rather gloomy but we hope that through the help of our kind and

energetic district officers, and through such remedial measures as Your Excellency may be pleased to sanction, to ameliorate the condition of the poor and agricultural classes, we will be able to avert all fears of a famine.

6. Lastly, in all true loyalty, and with a sincere regard for the British people, we beg to express our united sympathy with that great people in their war in South Africa, and our anxiety on the score of the same. We pray the Almighty to bring the war to a speedy and successful termination, and to prevent the further loss of the lives of those brave men who may some day prove India's able generals and wise administrators. We also beg permission to thank Your Excellency for the manifold benefits which we have received during Your Excellency's short administration.

7. In conclusion, we pray that Heaven may bounteously endow Your Excellency and Lady Havelock with all good things, and bless Your Excellency with long life and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF
WALAJAPET.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with feelings of profound gratification and pride that we, the Municipal Councillors of Walajapet, beg leave to offer Your Excellency our most hearty welcome to this town.

2. We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to give expression to our heart-felt obligations for the numerous benefits conferred on us by the British rule, not the least of which is local self-government, a monument of British liberality and wisdom, the latest instalment of the continuous and practical interest in it being the restoration of electoral rights to this Municipality by Your Excellency's Benign Government. We feel sure that we only speak the thoughts of those whom it is our high privilege to represent, when we say that this and Your Excellency's numerous other acts of deep solicitude for the well-being of the large population of this vast Presidency, which, Providence, in its infinite mercy, has thought fit to commit to Your Excellency's parental care, are entitled to earn for Your Excellency the name of the 'People's Governor.'

3. We, however, owe it to Your Excellency no less than to ourselves to make a reference to the regrettable circumstance that for the past decade or two, this town has been steadily declining, year after year, in prosperity and commercial activity. Just a twelvemonth ago plague laid its merciless hand on the town, and, of course, told seriously upon it in more respects than one. Again, the aspect of the season is, in the immediate present, a source of not a little anxiety, alike to the authorities and the inhabitants of the town.

4. With a view to arrest the rapid decline of the town and render it more worthy of the enviable

dignity of a Municipality, we beg leave on this rare occasion of Your Excellency's presence here, to pray for the transfer of the District Munsif's Court from Sholinghur to this town, and for the amalgamation of the Ránipéttai Union with this Municipality, with the confidence that our humble requests will commend themselves to Your Excellency, especially as the far-reaching benefits of these changes will not be confined to this town and Ránipéttai. The former request especially, we beg to submit, we make at a very reasonable time, as we learn that it is under contemplation to erect a new building suitable for the location of the District Munsif's Court at Sholinghur.

5. We again offer Your Excellency a most hearty and loyal welcome, and, in conclusion, earnestly pray that the Almighty may be graciously pleased to confer His choicest blessing coupled with long life and prosperity on Your Excellency and Lady Havelock, whose august and gracious presence on this occasion we very much miss.

6. Thanking Your Excellency most warmly for the patient and sympathetic hearing accorded to our humble representations.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF WALAJAPET.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the townspeople of Walajapet, beg respectfully to offer a most cordial and loyal welcome to Your Excellency

personally and as the august representative of Her Gracious Majesty, our most beloved Queen-Empress. In doing so we feel it our bounden duty to give expression to our most sincere feelings of gratefulness and loyalty to Her Majesty, for the manifold blessings which we enjoy under her benign rule.

2. We take this opportunity to acknowledge in person, our deep indebtedness to Your Excellency for the sympathetic restoration of electoral franchise to this Municipality, and for the solicitude evinced by Your Excellency's Government during the prevalence of plague last year and to the District authorities for the earnestness and considerateness with which they carried out the plague operations.

3. Your Excellency may be aware that, for some years past, this town has been gradually declining, so much so, that it at once needs some steps to be taken for the bettering of its condition. In this connection we crave Your Excellency's indulgence for making the following brief quotation from page 432, Vol. II, of the 'North Arcot District Manual':—
 "The town (Walajapet) is situated 68 miles from Madras and 3 miles north of the Pálár, towards which it has a natural drainage. It is a remarkably well built, neatly arranged, and cleanly, town . . .
 . . . The streets which are either parallel or at right angles . . . are broad and well drained, many of them having masonry gutters, and all being a pattern of cleanliness . . . Its site is on high ground . . . Within a

short time Walajapet became one of the busiest marts in Southern India, and it is recorded that a larger assortment of goods could be procured in it than in any other place, south of the Kistna, except Madras. It carried on a very large trade, chiefly in grains and cotton, with the Presidency town on one side, and Mysore and the Ceded Districts on the other. Hundreds of cattle laden with merchandise daily entered and left the town, but now comparatively little trade is carried on The town is evidently decaying The population is now about 16 per cent. less than it was twenty years ago."

4. Such was the condition of the town years ago : but latterly people have deserted the place day after day, and the number of houses has fallen off to one-half, and what was once a flourishing city, is fast becoming a desert, whose progress to arrest has become the keen question of the hour.

5. We therefore beg permission to respectfully approach Your Excellency with the prayer that the Ránipéttai Union may be amalgamated with this municipality, and that the Sholinghur District Munsif's Court may be removed to Walajapet.

6. The proposal of extending this municipality so as to include Ránipéttai is calculated, among other things, to lighten the burden of taxation now weighing so heavily on this town, and to place the benefits of a municipality within the reach of Ránipéttai.

7. Adverting to the latter part of our prayer, we beg to submit briefly that Sholinghur is not, as it once was, the centre of the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Court. It is far remote from the railway line and the roads communicating to it are unsafe to travel, ill-adapted for traffic, and almost impassable during the rainy season. The town is over-crowded, and is incapable of extension owing to natural disadvantages, and standing, as it does, on a low level, is highly insanitary, cholera frequently breaking out. A year or two ago the Court was closed for some weeks owing to the prevalence of cholera. The town has not got a telegraph office or a Government treasury, so essential wherever a District Munsif's Court exists, for enabling the litigant population to purchase stamps of higher values, or to pay and withdraw their deposits. The building now in use has been condemned by successive District Judges and by Public Works officers, and there is no site available in or near the town, suitable for the erection of a new Court house.

8. In these points Walajapet compares very favourably with Sholinghur, especially so by reason of its possessing far superior facilities for communication by rail and by road, and being, as will be evident from the above extract, and from Your Excellency's personal knowledge of the town, so advantageously situated.

9. In these circumstances we confidently hope that, as an additional token of Your Excellency's wide-spread and abiding interest in matters affecting

our well-being, Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to confer on us these inestimable boons, which will certainly tend to a restoration of the town to its former prosperous condition.

10. In conclusion, we respectfully beg again to welcome Your Excellency, and pray that in performing the onerous duties attaching to Your Excellency's exalted position, Your Excellency may continue to have the guidance and blessings of the Almighty God and that He may shower His choicest blessings on Your Excellency, and on Lady Havelock, whose genial presence on this auspicious occasion we very much miss.

ADDRESS FROM THE LANDHOLDERS AND RYOTS
OF THE VILLAGES FED BY THE KAVERI-
PAUKAM TANK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the landholders and ryots of the villages, fed by the Kauveripaukam tank, congratulate ourselves on the privilege accorded to us of approaching the august representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen-Empress of India, with this humble address of welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's first visit to this ancient town of Wallajanaggar.

Being fully alive to, and feeling highly grateful for, the deep interest which Your Excellency has always been taking in the well-being of the agricultural population of this Presidency, we crave

leave to invite, in the first place, Your Excellency's kind attention to the defective state of irrigation, afforded at present by the Kauveripaukam tank. It is, as is well known, one of the biggest tanks in the Presidency, and the main source of irrigation for nearly twenty-five villages in this taluk. Most of the lands depending on it for their irrigation were originally classed as double crop lands, as the capacity of the tank was believed to be sufficiently large to supply the requisite quantity of water for a period of about fourteen months. But of late years, the tank has become so much silted up, as to be incapable of holding even half as much water as it formerly used to do. Besides, the channel which was excavated during the famine of 1875-76, from near the sluice known as the Mulai sluice to the sluices known as the Lion and the Fox sluices, has also now become so much silted up, that very little quantity of water flows through that channel, so as to reach the two latter sluices. One main cause for silt having so collected, is the need for repairing the breaches in the supply channel from the Pálár river.

The necessity for the removal of this large collection of silt from the tank, was often pressed upon the attention of the Public Works authorities, and we are given to understand that the Government intended to take up this work during the famine of 1896-97.

The present state of the tank is such that it cannot but be productive of immense loss to the agricultural class and to the Government, which

has to forego large portions of its revenue in the shape of remissions.

We therefore most respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to direct that early steps be taken towards remedying the said defect, by clearing the tank of its silt, by repairing the breaches in the supply channel, and by adopting such other measures as may be necessary for improving the state of irrigation under the tank.

In the next place, we humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to direct the opening of a hospital at Kauveripaukam, which is essential for the welfare of the inhabitants of that place and of the surrounding villages. The nearest hospital to Kauveripaukam is about eight miles distant. There are many other villages still farther away, which are sadly in want of proper medical help, and which will be served by the proposed hospital.

We also beg leave to suggest that the District Munsif's Court which is now located at Sholinghur, may be removed to this place, as it will, in every way be conducive to the convenience of the public.

In conclusion, we crave leave to express our sincere thanks for the kind permission granted to us to present this humble address, and pray for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

I will now proceed to the best of my ability to deal with the various points which have been raised

in the four addresses, which have just been presented to me. I will first take up the points in which the four addresses are in unison. I am glad to say that the first point is in respect of the welcome which you accord to me, and I thank you very heartily for the cordial and kind words of welcome in which you have joined. I cannot but feel gratified, as any one who is acquainted with the history of the British in India must be, to find myself in this part of the country; celebrated as it is in being the scene of many important incidents in the history of conquest in this part of India, by the British arms. The four places which are represented by the addresses which have been presented, are all close together, and more or less connected with the historical incidents to which I have alluded; and we feel we are standing on historic ground. The next point upon which all the four addresses have agreed is the desire for the transfer of the Munsif's Court from Sholinghur. The Ránipéttai address requested that it might be removed to Ránipéttai; the Municipality of Wallajapet and the townspeople of Wallajapet desire that the Munsif's Court should be placed among them; and the householders and landowners from Kauveripauk ask that the Munsif's Court should be placed there. The reason given by the Municipality of Wallajapet and also the people of Wallajapet, and in common with them by the inhabitants of Ránipéttai, is that they are decadent, and that they think the establishment of the Munsif's Court within their limits will tend to



remove this decadence. It is to be observed that the Munsif's Court is now at Sholinghur, and the people of Sholinghur are not represented here; it will be necessary, or desirable at any rate, to know in the first place what the people of Sholinghur think of this proposal. Speaking, however, from the information before me, which is gathered from the statements made in the addresses which I have just heard read, there appear to be some grounds given in favour of some change in the place in which this Munsif's Court sits. I think, I may say at once, that the inhabitants of Kauveripauk are out of it. I think that the position of that town, and various other circumstances, make it clear that it will not be convenient to the general public that this Munsif's Court should be transferred there. Wallajapet and Ránipéttai, therefore, still remain as possible localities. It will be necessary before any decision can be come to upon this important matter, that the High Court and other authorities should be consulted. I can only promise you that the matter will be enquired into, and the *pros* and *cons*, as put forward by Wallajapet and Ránipéttai, and any objections that may have to be raised by Sholinghur, will be carefully considered, before any decision is arrived at. Then there is one request on which the Municipality of Wallajapet and also the townspeople of Wallajapet are in unison, and that is that there should be an amalgamation of the Union of Ránipéttai with the Municipality of Wallajah. Now I have the same observation to make with regard to this request, as

I made with respect to the previous one, and that is that the wishes on this subject of the people of Ránipéttai have not been expressed, and from what I am able to learn, I think it probable that they will be able to give strong reasons why this measure should not be carried out. It will, however, form the subject of enquiry, but I think it right to say at once, that in the interests of the people of Ránipéttai, it is probable that such a measure will be found inexpedient. In the address from Ránipéttai, a request was made—the measure, I believe, has been in contemplation—namely, that the removal of the Civilian Head Assistant Collector from Ránipéttai should not be carried out. With regard to this, I have to tell you there are four sub-divisional districts in the Madras Presidency, in which it has become expedient to substitute for Head Assistant Collectors of the regular Civil Service, officers belonging to the Provincial Service, and Ránipéttai is one of those which has been mentioned. It becomes, therefore, a question to consider whether any other, besides the four sub-divisional districts, which I have in contemplation, can be considered in the same category. Out of respect for the request which the Union of Ránipéttai has now made to me, I will, before making any final decision in this matter, give the question fresh consideration.

In the address from Ránipéttai, and, I think, also in another one, remarks were made with regard to the present season outlook. I have only just come

into the district, and have not yet had an opportunity of hearing fully from the Collector or from any other well-informed person about the condition of affairs in North Arcot. It will be my duty, as I go through the district, to inform myself fully on the subject, and until I have been able to do that, I do not think it will be quite safe or expedient to give any opinion on the subject. You may feel sure that the wants of the landowners or ryots of North Arcot will be most carefully watched. In the address from the inhabitants of Rānipettai, an earnest hope is expressed that there should be a speedy termination of the war, at present raging in South Africa; and I can most heartily reciprocate this wish, and I join with you in praying that peace may soon be restored. As to the result of the war there is, of course, no earthly doubt. The Municipality of Wallajapet and the townspeople of Wallajapet were good enough to express their appreciation of the favour which has recently been conferred upon them by Government, in the restoration to them of some of their municipal privileges. I have made it my business to look into the reports of the working of the Wallajapet Municipality during the last three years, and I find that for the first two of these three years, the working was considered satisfactory. Some defects in such matters as vaccination, scavenging and registration of births and deaths were mentioned in the criticisms offered by the Government. I wish call to the attention of the Municipal Council to these important points. During the last year there

was a slight falling off in the working of the municipality. This may be in a great measure, however, accounted for by the fact that the town was visited by plague, and consequently the resources of the municipality were diverted from their more usual channels. I trust now that the plague has disappeared from amongst you, that there will be an effort to secure a satisfactory administration for this year, and that you may receive the same satisfactory commendation of the Government, as you received during the previous two years. In the address from the inhabitants of Kauveripauk a request was made with respect to their tank. It was asked that measures should be taken to remove the silt, and that other works should be carried out for the improvement of the tank, and for the extension of the irrigation under it. I have caused some enquiries to be made in the Public Works Department, with regard to this matter; and I am informed that the removal of silt from the Kauveripauk tank has never been included in the programme of the North Arcot division, but that it has been once or twice suggested, as deserving consideration, and would probably make a fairly good relief work; and its advantage would be that for about Rs. one lakh, roughly speaking, an addition will be made to the capacity of the tank, sufficient to irrigate about eighty acres. Its disadvantages are, that it would be but little remunerative—even for a relief work—and that it would involve moving the road from the foot to the top of the bund, as the present road would

be buried by the silt removed from the tank and cause some inconvenience during its progress, and, probably, a heavier permanent maintenance charge after completion. With regard to other works of improvement in the tank which you ask for, the Public Works Department say that these works will be absolutely unremunerative, and are too small to be suitable as relief works, except in combination with the removal of silt from the tank, in case this should be undertaken. Now I wish to say that in deciding upon what works should be carried out as works for relief during famine time, the Government is always anxious to select works which are likely to be useful and reproductive, and the restoration or the construction of tanks most clearly come under this category. It will therefore be with satisfaction, that I shall press an enquiry into the desirability of carrying out the work of clearing the silt in the Kauveripauk tank, and of making other improvements with respect to its power of irrigation, which are indicated in your address. If we find that it is in fact a really useful work for relief purposes, I shall consider it my duty to note it for that purpose. The inhabitants of Kauveripauk further request that a hospital should be established in their town. I am in sympathy with this request, but it all turns on the question of ways and means, and from the knowledge that I have of the position of the District Board Funds here and in other districts of the Presidency, I fear that at the present time, when there are such heavy calls upon the

funds of these Boards, it will be hardly possible to undertake this most useful and desirable work. I wish I could have given you a more encouraging reply on this point, but it would not have been honest for me to do so; for I know, as I have already intimated, that the funds of the District Board are heavily weighted. I think I have now, though perhaps very imperfectly, dealt with the salient points brought forward in the addresses which I have just received. It only remains for me to thank you once more for the kind and cordial welcome which you have accorded to me to this interesting part of the Presidency, and to assure you that it gives me great pleasure to find myself among you and to thank you very heartily for the wish which you have joined in expressing for my health and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE VELLORE
UNION CLUB AND ANJUMAN AHLA ISLAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Vellore Union Club and Anjuman Ahla Islam, most respectfully beg permission to approach Your Excellency with this, our humble address of welcome.

This ancient and historic town was known to the British from early times, as being near the scene of the early victories of Lord Clive, the illustrious founder of the British Empire in India. Later in British Indian history it witnessed the extraordinary

military tactics of General Gillespie, and until recently it was a large Military station. Its strongly built fort and magnificent temple, which abound in works of exquisite architecture, are standing monuments of its former greatness. Further, it has occupied an eminent position as a centre of trade. While these features in themselves would entitle this town to the honour of a visit from Your Excellency, we the people are extremely thankful to Your Excellency, for having undertaken this present tour out of sympathy for the people of this district, which is threatened with scarcity. We hope that, under the mercy of the good God, supplemented by such precautionary measures as Your Excellency's Government may adopt, the impending scarcity may be averted.

We also beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our gratitude to Your Excellency for the kind and sympathetic measures adopted last year, when this town had the misfortune of being visited by plague; and we are happy to state that the excellent result of such measures, was that the dread disease was first arrested in its progress and finally stamped out.

We also take this opportunity to thank Your Excellency's Government for the large-heartedness with which it recognises the claims of educated natives to higher offices, and endeavours to give effect to such liberal recognition.

In conclusion, we pray that, during the rest of Your Excellency's administration, you may be

blessed by the Giver of all good, with firmness and courage to continue along the same liberal lines and thus raise the people of this country, which had once a high civilization of its own, in the scale of the nations of the world.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a prosperous career and a long and happy life.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency's reply was simply of a complimentary character, as was the address itself.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS AND RATE-PAYERS OF THE VELLORE TOWN.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the citizens and rate-payers of the town of Vellore, desire most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency to this ancient and historic town.

2. We beg, in the first place, to express our grateful acknowledgments for the ready and generous relief afforded to us during the prevalence of plague in this town and for the mild and sympathetic measures organised by Your Excellency's Government, to stamp out that dread disease from our midst.

3. We extremely rejoice at the fact that, before scarcity has made itself felt in a more tangible form, Your Excellency has taken time by the fore-lock in undertaking the present tour, with a view to make

yourself personally acquainted with the real condition of the people, and to commence a campaign at the earliest opportunity against the threatened inroads of that fell foe of humanity. We beg next, to lay before Your Excellency our sore grievance with reference to the withdrawal of the elective franchise, for this town. While we do not wish here to enter into a discussion as to the merits of the case against the Municipal Council, we respectfully beg to submit that the punishment inflicted upon the rate-payers, without even a warning, for the errors of "a certain section of the Council", is unmerited. We trust therefore that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to reconsider your decision, and restore to us the full privileges we have been enjoying till now.

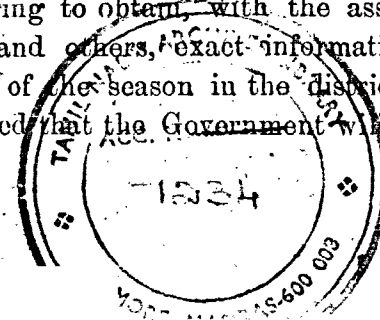
4. We further beg to press upon Your Excellency's attention the fact that the sanitation and cleanliness of the town, so often the subject of adverse comment in the Administration Reports, will never improve unless complete water-works and drainage schemes are introduced into the town, and also the fact that the people of Vellore suffer from scarcity of good drinking-water almost throughout the year. We fervently hope that, during Your Excellency's régime, measures will be inaugurated towards supplying this long-felt want and thus conferring a lasting boon upon the fifty thousand inhabitants of this town.

5. In conclusion, we pray that the Almighty Giver of all gifts may be pleased to bestow on Lady

Havelock and Your Excellency long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

CITIZENS AND RATE-PAYERS OF VELLORE,—I thank you for the kind welcome which you have given me to your town, and I accept with pleasure the address which has just been read. When Vellore was invaded by plague and when the fell disease assumed considerable dimensions here, the Government were naturally considerably alarmed and took such measures as seemed to them prudent and expedient for the suppression of the disease. We were in Vellore, I am happy to say, met with very genuine support from the inhabitants. The measures that we adopted were not, as they are in some places, opposed and looked upon as oppressive, and the result was, as was to be expected, that the disease was successfully met and, as I am happy to say now, has been altogether removed from among you. I hope that you will remember in case of any return of this scare, to adopt the same attitude of support to Government that you did in the past. You make allusion to the possible scarcity in this part of the country, during the coming few months. This is a matter which necessarily engages my attention during my visit to the district, and I am now endeavouring to obtain, with the assistance of the Collector and others, exact information as to the prospects of the season in the district. You may rest assured that the Government will do all it can



possibly do in the matter. All I venture to say at the present moment is that, as far as I have yet been able to gather information, things do not appear to me as bad as they might be.

You then proceed in your address to make reference to the recent action which the Government have felt bound to take, by removing from you some of the privileges of self-government. I can assure you that this step was taken by Government, with the deepest regret. We value very much the lessons taught by these municipal institutions in this country, and consequently, when we found, as we did after careful enquiry, that these privileges were being abused in Vellore, we considered that there was no course open to us, but that which we took. It was not till after you had received warnings, extending over several years, of the displeasure of Government at the inefficient way in which the duties of the municipality were being carried out, and it was not till after your representatives here had failed to profit by the warnings, that this action of Government was taken. Things were really so bad in Vellore as regards Municipal administration, that I can assure you that the Government received from some members of your community, a request that Municipal Government should be entirely removed from the town; and it was therefore a measure of mercy rather than otherwise, that the Government only proceeded to reduce those privileges instead of taking them away altogether. In the Madras Presidency these municipal privileges have in many

cases been availed of, in a way which has brought credit upon the communities which they represent. I believe I am right in saying that as compared with other Provinces, Madras stands very high in the standard of efficiency of Municipal Government. By the inefficiency and, I may say, almost scandalously bad way in which the duties of the municipality were carried out in Vellore, discredit and disgrace were brought on the institution itself and on the Province at large. You ask that these privileges should be restored to you. I assure you, gentlemen, that it will give Government great pleasure to put you in the enjoyment of what you appear to value, as soon as you show yourselves worthy of it. You have got to show during the next year, or two, or three, that you really value these privileges and that you know how to make a proper use of them, to the benefit of those around you; and when this is done in a way satisfactory to the Government, I assure you that the Government will gladly consider the restoration of the advantages, of which you have been temporarily deprived. You next make mention of the necessity, in order to secure a greater sanitary efficiency in Vellore, of water and drainage schemes. I am not aware that anything has yet been done towards investigating the case of the town of Vellore, either in respect of drainage or water-supply. I am certain that we have no scheme for either of these works before us; but I will, as I have received this request from you, cause a preliminary investigation to be made. I have only to remark that through

the bad administration of Municipal finance, I am afraid that you are not at present in a position to undertake such extensive works, a large proportion of the expenditure and cost of which must necessarily fall upon the rate-payers of the town. It is with regret that I have to meet you with condemnatory terms with respect to the work and conduct of the Municipal Council. I wish it had been otherwise, and that the pleasure of my first visit to Vellore had not been marred in this manner. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind welcome and for the good wishes you have expressed for my health and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MASTERS AND STUDENTS, ARCOT MISSION COLLEGE, VELLORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The Arcot Mission College esteems it a peculiar privilege to receive the Governor of this Province into its halls, and to extend to Your Excellency a most cordial welcome therein. While regretting the conditions of the season which have occasioned this visit to our district, we cannot but rejoice in the circumstance of Your Excellency's presence with us here. During the three decades of its history, the Arcot Mission College has enjoyed the privilege of entertaining many guests distinguished in the service of the University, and of the various Departments of the Government of Madras. But this is the first instance in which we have been able to count the

pleasure our own of formally welcoming to our College the Chief Representative in this Province of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India.

Our pleasure is heightened by the fact that, in receiving Your Excellency, we are also doing honour to the University of Madras, in the person of its distinguished Chancellor. Those of us who are interested in the progress of collegiate education in this country, know something of the value of association with the University, and of the great benefits which it has rendered to the cause of higher education in this Presidency.

There is still another aspect of our assembling here this evening, under these high auspices, which gives further distinction to the occasion. Those of us who are residing in this country as the representatives of a people with a less historical background, and a more limited sphere of administration, than the Rulers of India, look upon the fact, and the completeness, and the character of the Government of England established here with increasing interest and respect. Nor are we forgetful of the fact that one of our oldest and best known American Universities, Yale, received its first endowment, and its name from one of Your Excellency's predecessors in the Governorship of this Province.

Any participation, therefore, open to us in the large effort put forth by the people of Great Britain to widen the sphere of knowledge, to elevate the standard of morals, and to strengthen and ennoble the character of the people of this great land, we

look upon as a privilege and a responsibility not to be lightly considered, nor easily assumed.

We rejoice in the beneficent reign of your Gracious Queen-Empress, and we trust that our efforts in behalf of the people of India are not altogether without their co-operative effect in making lighter, even in the smallest degree, the stupendous task of England in this country.

For this manifestation of interest in education, of which this visit of Your Excellency is the assurance; for the recognition and assistance rendered to us by the Officers of the Department and of Government, for the many evidences of a kindly consideration shown by the Ladies and Gentlemen of the district and of the station, we are sincerely grateful.

We beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the honour of this visit, and venture to bespeak, for this institution, a measure of that interest in education with which Your Excellency's administration has become already widely associated.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRINCIPAL, MASTERS AND STUDENTS OF THE ARCOT MISSION COLLEGE,—I esteem it a privilege to have this opportunity of making your acquaintance. I thank you for the interesting address which has been read and for the welcome which you have so kindly and graciously accorded to me. I learn from that useful book of reference—the 'North Arcot District Manual'—that you have under this Mission

a hospital and girls' school at Ránipéttai, a girls' school at Chittoor, a seminary at Palmanair, an industrial school at Arnee, and this second-grade College for boys at Vellore. With the first of these institutions I had the pleasure of making my acquaintance on Saturday last, and was much gratified by what I saw. With the last of them I now make acquaintance and I have the pleasure of being in your midst. All these institutions, I understand, are within the District of North Arcot. It would appear, therefore, that the Mission has concentrated its efforts in one locality; and in doing this I would say, if I might, that I think the Mission has exercised a wise discretion; for it is plain that by so concentrating your efforts you economise means and you economise the labour expended. You speak modestly of the part taken by this Mission in the work of advancing and improving this part of India. We, who as rulers of this country are pledged to take an interest in all works having for their object the advancement and progress of the people, owe to you a deep debt of gratitude. To the devotion of the French Roman Catholic Missions we pay great respect and admiration. To the work of the German and Scandinavian nations we accord a high degree of appreciation; but with regard to the American Missions, emanating as they do from that great nation across the Atlantic whom we are proud to call our cousins, we owe in a very special and large degree our thanks and gratitude. This was not always so. I am sufficiently old to recollect that

there was a time when we looked upon Missions of foreign nations with some degree of prejudice and suspicion; but I am happy to say those days are long past, and we are now glad to have among us the representatives of all nations, and to receive from them with cordiality and confidence such assistance as they may be willing to afford us. This particular Mission has a most interesting history, and here again I am indebted for what I know to the District Manual. It began its operations, I think, about the year 1851. Since then, facing many difficulties, connected sometimes with want of funds, sometimes with failing health among the members of the Mission, it has continued—in spite, I say, of these difficulties—to progress until now the Arcot Mission has become an important organisation exercising great power and influence in this part of Southern India. One cannot allude to the history of the Arcot Mission without thinking of the name of Scudder. It was to the brothers Scudder that this institution owed its origin, nearly fifty years ago. During my childhood I was living some time in Southern India, and I distinctly recollect during the lapse of forty or fifty years the name of the Scudder Mission. You make allusion to the stupendous task which England has undertaken in India. I would venture to remind those of our brothers across the Atlantic who may be present here, that they too have lately been following our example, and that they have now opened to themselves fields in one or two quarters of the globe, which will probably

tax their powers of organisation for a good many years to come. The interest which I formerly took in this Mission has been intensified, as it naturally should be, by the personal acquaintance which I have made with it to-day. I sincerely trust that this work, which has already been crowned with such very considerable measure of success, will continue to expand and become more and more a work of usefulness among the people of Southern India.

ADDRESS FROM THE CITIZENS OF CHITTCOR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Chittoor, beg to approach Your Excellency, as the august representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, with this our address, welcoming you to this historic town and expressing our sense of thankfulness that this town has been included in your tour. Though we may not be able to accord to Your Excellency such a magnificent reception as many another town has done, we may beg to assure Your Excellency that we are second to none in the depth of our loyalty or the intensity of our enthusiasm.

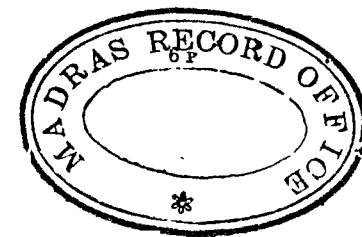
2. Your Excellency has, by your considerate care for the teeming millions of this Presidency and your genuine solicitude for their well-being, justly earned for yourself the appellation of the People's Governor, and has served to strengthen the ties of affection that bind us to our Sovereign. We are

extremely thankful that during hard and troublous times Your Excellency's Government has been characterized by a spirit of thorough confidence in the people and a policy of steady and unfailing attention to the noble Proclamation of 1858 of our beloved Sovereign, fitly termed the *Magna Charta* of India. We beg to express our sense of gratitude to Your Excellency's Government for the effective measures introduced and carried out to combat the plague, and we are particularly thankful that the measures were so contrived as not to alienate the affections of the people and cause friction between the governors and the governed, without, to any the slightest extent, impairing their efficiency.

3. We fear we cannot let slip this opportunity without drawing Your Excellency's attention to certain matters which we think it desirable should be brought to Your Excellency's notice. It is unfortunate that the season, at present, is causing great anxiety, and that there is distress here and all around, which, in course of time, may develop into famine. We are thankful that, at such a time as this, we have in Mr. Campbell a genial and sympathetic Collector, in whose hands the interests of the people are fully safe, and we only beg that he may be so placed as to enable him to grant remissions to ryots with a free and liberal hand. In view of the fact that famine and distress are becoming recurring factors in the economic condition of the country and at short intervals, we would respectfully suggest the desirability of giving some fixity

to the land tenure which will leave to the ryot a larger proportion of the produce of his labour. The necessity of such a measure is somewhat great in this district, as this is one which, from its geographical position, is liable to be seriously affected whenever the seasons are unfavourable.

4. The question of religious endowments has long been before Your Excellency's Government, and we beg to add our feeble voice by way of accentuating the necessity for prompt and early measures being taken to keep the numerous and important religious institutions in the Presidency—some of the important ones being situated in this district—and the vast funds at their disposal on a satisfactory basis. We would specially draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that, in the present state of the law, one who wishes to have removed the trustee of a religious endowment, who has misbehaved himself, and to recover from him what he has misappropriated, has to pay a large *ad valorem* Court-fee. We would respectfully point out that suits such as the above are intended more in the public interests than for private gain, and that it is extremely desirable and conducive to the improvement of the several institutions in the Presidency, that the Court-fee to be levied in the case of such suits, be reduced to a small and fixed amount. There is no fear that vexatious suits will be encouraged by this measure, as the Legislature has provided that the sanction of the District Court has to be obtained before the suit is instituted.



5. Another matter on which we venture to approach Your Excellency in the hope that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to consider and grant our prayer, is the question of the election from Union Panchayats to the Taluk Board. We beg to submit that the time is ripe for a small innovation being made in that direction, and the provisions of the law being given effect to, to this extent, at least in the case of such Union Panchayats as Chittoor.

6. The matter of providing the Chittoor Union with a good water-supply, is one which immediately concerns the health and comfort of its rate-payers. That some scheme of water-works shall have to be adopted by which this place can get a copious supply of pure drinkable water, cannot be gainsaid. The question of ways and means is, no doubt, one of great difficulty, and we beg that Your Excellency will, in consultation with the responsible authorities, arrange to have a scheme settled by which this long and keenly felt want may be supplied.

7. We need hardly draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the Forest, Salt, Abkari and Income-tax Laws are, as they have to be worked, productive of considerable hardship to the people, and we beg that Your Excellency may be pleased to so modify their rigour that, while the original purpose of the institution of such laws may not be defeated, the people may not be inconvenienced thereby. We beg to suggest that the orders of

the Board and the Government, that the District Forest Officer should sit with the Revenue Divisional Officer at Jamabandi, and hear the grievances of ryots and grant them such redress as may be called for, may be put into force in this district, and carried out regularly.

8. We are aware that the Tenancy Bill is now pending before Your Excellency's Government, and seeing that it involves new, large and momentous issues and is beset with great many complications, we cannot expect the passing of the Bill into law in the near future. We would therefore request attention to the short amendment Bill introduced by the Honourable Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar, so that it may be taken into consideration and passed early into law. We are sure that the amendment Bill finds acceptance with landlords and tenants alike, and we are confident that it will have the effect of materially diminishing the extent of the litigation between the landlords and their tenants, to the ultimate benefit of both.

9. We cannot close this humble address without once again expressing our deep sense of gratitude for the several acts of Your Excellency's Government, especially in the matter of appointing Indian gentlemen to positions of trust and influence in the public service, and in successfully grappling with the famine of 1897. If, unfortunately, Your Excellency's Government has again to face another famine, the people of this Presidency have no misgivings as to the measures that may be adopted to meet it.

10. We pray that the Ruler of rulers may bless Lady Havelock and Your Excellency with health, long life, and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

INHABITANTS OF CHITTOOR,—I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for the kind and genuine welcome you have given me to your town. I have every confidence in the depth of your personal good-will to myself, individually, and of your loyalty to me as representative of our Gracious Sovereign. You make allusion in your address to the measures taken by the Madras Government to check the advance of that terrible scourge, the plague, which has been amongst us during the last two or three years. It gives me satisfaction to know that you appreciate the measures taken by my Government for this purpose. Our object has been to make our measures as little burdensome and as little obnoxious to the people as is consistent with efficiency. I do not mean to assert that the comparative immunity which the Madras Presidency has enjoyed from this visitation of plague is entirely due to the wisdom of the measures taken by us. I can only point to the fact that such measures have been taken, and that the plague has never at any time up till now assumed anything like serious proportions. In case there should be a further advance of this scourge, we rely upon you to co-operate with us in meeting the enemy.

You next deal with the important question arising out of the recent failure of the monsoon. I have made such enquiry as the short time that I have had at my disposal would allow, from the Collector and other District Officers, as to the exact position of affairs in this North Arcot district. There is no doubt that there has been a very serious failure of the south-west and then again of the north-east monsoon, the result of which is that a very large proportion of your tanks are now absolutely dry. I learn that out of 3,022 tanks 2,332 were a short time ago completely empty, and that 129 at that time had only one month's supply. I gather that as far as your dry crops are concerned, there has been no total failure over any extended area, and that at the present moment, there is no great necessity either for postponement or remission of dry assessment. With regard to your wet crops things are much worse. They have suffered very seriously all over the district, and it is probable that large remissions will have to be made. The Collector and the officers working under him are looking into this matter with great care and circumspection. The prices of grains are very high, and this must tell seriously upon the cooly portion of the agricultural population, who have on the whole less work to do, and consequently earn less wages than they do under normal conditions. But I am informed that there is some alleviation for this state of things inasmuch as a good many of them are employed in baling from the numerous wells which exist in the district. There

is also work to be done in reaping sugarcane and groundnuts; and another source of employment for a certain number of the cooly population is at the Goldfields in Mysore. Things, therefore, are not quite as bad with regard to the cooly population as they might be. And we have here, as we have everywhere else in India, the strong charitable instincts of the nation upon which to found some hope of alleviation. I know that all over India, and especially among the Hindus, there is a very strong desire to help one another in times of distress; and now is the time for those who are better off to assist those who are in a state of destitution, or approaching thereto. The large landed proprietors, who are not suffering in the same way as the coolies, should endeavour to help them by giving them such work as is consistent with the state of affairs, and to display their sympathy with them in every possible way. I learn that as far as cattle are concerned, there is at present no very great distress. I have been this morning in consultation with the Collector and with the Forest Officers; and we have made arrangements with regard to the procuring of food for cattle which, I think, will afford considerable relief. There is another form in which assistance can be given by Government, and which we are very anxious to see taken advantage of freely; that is, by the acceptance of State loans. If, at some future time, it becomes necessary to open relief works, you may be sure that the Government will be prepared to meet the necessities of the case. But I wish you to understand

that we shall, before opening relief works, have occasion to satisfy ourselves, by tolerably severe tests, that there is absolute necessity for adopting this measure.

I now turn to the paragraph in your address in which you speak about the question of religious endowments. I may tell you that this matter has engaged the attention of my Government for the last three or four years, and that we have drawn up a Bill intended to meet the difficulties of this case, and have submitted that Bill to the Government of India. More I cannot tell you at the present moment, because our Bill is, as it were, *sub judice*, and it would be foolish and indiscreet of me to dwell in detail upon the provisions of that Bill. In connection with this matter you go on to say that you would wish that the *ad valorem* Court-fee which has to be paid in suits connected with the Religious Endowments Act, should be reduced to a small and fixed amount; and you observe that there is no fear that vexatious suits will be encouraged by this measure, as the Legislature has provided that the sanction of the District Court has to be obtained, before the suit is instituted. Now, I would suggest, with regard to your remarks on this subject, that the Court-fees have not been fixed at their present high rate so much for the purpose of trying to deter people from vexatious litigation, as it is to provide means to meet the every large expenditure which is incurred by the Government in providing you with the Courts before which these cases are

heard. If anybody connected with the law who is present here will recollect for a moment, he will at once recognise the enormous expenditure incurred by the Government, while these cases are proceeding. The time of the Judge and all the numerous officers connected with his Court is taken up from day to day and from week to week, and other important business is deferred. In this way not only is Government put to a very large expenditure, but the public are put to inconvenience by the time of the Court and its officers being in this way monopolised. For this reason, it appears to me, that it will not be wise to reduce the amount charged as Court fee. I would also observe that the provision to which you allude, that the sanction of the District Court has to be obtained before the suit is instituted, is not after all a very strong safeguard; for, I understand that the application for such a suit is little more than a formal matter.

You next allude, in the fifth paragraph of your address, to your desire that the question of the election from Union Panchayats to the Taluk Board should be considered in view to its being put into operation. This matter has again and again come up for consideration during the last two or three years, and it formed the subject of a question at a recent meeting of the Legislative Council, when the Government expressed its mind in the matter, by saying that it does not consider that the country is yet quite ripe for an advance of this kind in this

direction, and that answer you must accept from me now.

You next allude to the matter of providing the Chittoor Union with a good water-supply. I have no doubt that you would be a great deal better off if you had a good water-supply here; but I imagine that it will be a costly matter to provide you with the necessary works. I do not know that any scheme has ever yet been elaborated for Chittoor; but even a moderate and cheap one will probably cost more than you would care to pay for.

You then proceed to call attention to the way in which the Forest, Salt, Abkari and Income-tax Laws are worked, and you say that they are productive of considerable hardship to the people. I am well aware that in the administration of these various departments there are many shortcomings and, possibly, abuses, and I can assure you that the Government in all of them, and more especially in the Forest Department, which comes so very closely in contact with the ryot class, has been doing its best of late years to bring about a smooth and equitable working of the regulations and laws affecting these subjects. The matter is continually before Government, and you may rest assured that we will do whatever we can to mitigate the evils which you point out. You then proceed to suggest that the orders of the Board and the Government, that the District Forest Officer should sit with the Revenue Divisional officer at Jamabandi and hear the grievances of ryots and grant them such redress as may be called for, may

be put into force in this district, and carried out regularly. I understand that this is already being done.

With regard to the Tenancy Bill, which has been pending before the Legislature for so long, I have to say that the consideration of that Bill in Committee is now coming to an advanced stage, and I trust that the time is not long distant when we may be able to resume consideration of it, and in such case it will be quite unnecessary to consider the Amendment Bill introduced by Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar, to which you make allusion.

I now come to the closing paragraph of your address, in which you express the hope that if this Presidency is again to meet evils of famine, the Government will be prepared with measures to meet it. From what I have already intimated to you, you may rest assured that it will be the case.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH AT THE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT THE LOCAL FUND HIGH SCHOOL, CHITTOOR.

MR. HEADMASTER, MASTERS AND STUDENTS OF THE CHITTOOR HIGH SCHOOL,—It has given me pleasure to have had the opportunity of visiting this school, and of presiding at this interesting ceremony of prize-giving. The first thing that struck me on approaching your school, was the imposing nature of the building in which it is housed. I think Chittoor has good cause to be proud of possessing such a

commodious and handsome edifice in connection with its educational interests. The report, which has been read by the Headmaster, interested and pleased me much. The general result of the working of the school appears to be satisfactory. It is summed up in the remark by the Inspector that "the school, under its popular and efficient Headmaster, is doing very good work. English is taught particularly well," and I wish to lay stress on the last remark made by the Inspector, to the effect that English is taught particularly well. I heard recited the beautiful scene from the *Merchant of Venice*. I must say that comparing the way in which English was pronounced in the recitation this morning, with the pronunciation of English that I have heard in other schools in other parts of the Presidency, I am disposed to agree with the Inspector that for some reason or other, the teaching of English pronunciation has been more perfectly carried out here than it is in other places. (His Excellency then complimented the boys who took part in the performances and spoke a few words of encouragement to each.) There is one point in connection with the history of this school which I should not like to pass over, that is, the number of men well known in connection with Law and general distinction in the Presidency which this school seems to have turned out. Amongst the list of names of men well known, there were many with whom I am acquainted, and whose names are quite familiar to me. It is certainly a cause for pride for the Chittoor High School that its

name should be connected with so many men who have made their mark in the history of this Southern Presidency. I have the satisfaction of announcing that a local gentleman has, in honour of my visit, subscribed a sum of Rs. 200 towards the funds of the High School, in the shape of Government securities, the interest of this sum of money to be devoted to the purchase of prizes to be distributed year after year. Mr. Headmaster, I congratulate you on the efficient working of the school, and thank you for the pleasant reception which you have given me this morning.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF CHITTOOR TALUK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with feelings of loyalty and love, that we, the inhabitants of the taluk of Chittoor, welcome Your Excellency on this visit to our head-quarters.

We take this opportunity to place the following few facts before Your Excellency—our popular Governor and representative of our beloved Sovereign, Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. We are at present in great distress, owing to the want of rains, and the consequent failure of crops. In several villages in this taluk, people are now actually living on aloe and other roots, and the poor are compelled to beg for want of work. In the latest season report published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 23rd January 1900, it is also

reported that "water-supply is generally insufficient and prospects are bad."* Famines have become rather frequent in this country, and in this district in particular. We beg to represent to Your Excellency the necessity and importance of setting apart for each district a portion of the income-tax, which was originally intended to form the Famine Insurance Fund, to be utilised on such occasions as the present. We beg to add that the policy of Government to give relief only to save people from death, when they are in the most critical state, works hardship. The rigor of famine can to a great extent be extenuated by preventive measures taken in the period of transition between the normal and the famine condition, for "prevention is better than cure." At present, the poor helpless people are left to depend upon private charity alone, which, though freely given, as it ought to be, is generally, and cannot but be, inadequate, whereas it is the privilege of a parental Government to support the poor who are in a condition of destitution for no fault of their own, but suffer owing to circumstances over which they have no control, and who cannot look to anybody else than the Government for help. To ensure the above object, we would respectfully request Your Excellency to set apart the Famine Fund annually for each district, which will accumulate

* The Honourable Mr. Nicholson since said in the last Legislative Council that in North Arcot "tank-supplies had failed to a large extent and the rates for staple food-grains were higher than scarcity, whilst everywhere they were higher than the warning rates."

year by year, and be available for use at such transition times, until the Government thinks fit to open relief works. For the satisfactory working of the above object, we would humbly suggest that a District Committee be formed, consisting of an equal number of officials and non-officials, to whom should be left the decision of the necessity and the proper time to give State aid to the people from the Famine Fund at their disposal during the transition period above referred to, thus avoiding the necessity of foreign or other help which, while gratefully acknowledging, we cannot always depend upon.

If, during such seasons as the present, wells for irrigation are dug or railways opened and other similar facilities afforded, distress can to a great extent be mitigated. We request Your Excellency also to enable our kind and sympathetic Collector Mr. R. H. Campbell, to grant remissions freely for wet as well as dry crops, both of which have failed, and to open relief works at an early date. We further pray that the land-tax which is now very heavy (even the dry assessment in this taluk is abnormally high) may be reduced.

We cannot sufficiently express our gratitude to Your Excellency, the people's Governor, for all the acts of good done during the past years, and we pray Your Excellency may be blessed with long life and health, to continue the good and popular work Your Excellency has been doing; and in Your Excellency we feel sure we have a good and sympathetic friend of India and its people. Wishing

Lady Havelock, Your Excellency and Your Excellency's family long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TALUK OF CHITTOOR,—I accept with pleasure the address which has just been read, and I thank you warmly for your kind and gracious welcome. You begin by remarking on the present condition of approaching distress in this district, owing to the failure of rains and the consequent failure of crops. I have already spoken at some length on this subject in my answer to the address of the inhabitants of Chittoor. You have all been present here, and I have therefore no scruple in referring you for an answer on this subject to the reply I gave to the previous address. You proceed to make certain representations with regard to the necessity and importance of setting aside for each district a portion of the income-tax, which was originally intended to form the Famine Insurance Fund, to be utilised on such occasions as the present. I do not consider that this is the proper occasion or place to discuss matters of policy of this kind, and I must, therefore, ask you to excuse my not giving you an answer on this subject. You remark that the poor helpless people are left to depend on private charity alone which, though freely given, as it ought to be, is generally, and cannot but be, inadequate. I wish to emphasise what I said in the previous reply, that we look in India, to an immense amount of good to

be derived from the charitable instincts which are traditional among the Indian people. I think that a substitution for the existing state of things by the enactment of a Poor Law in this country, such as we have in England, would not be at all to your liking. Perhaps you do not know that in England there is a Poor Law which exists, but there are also rates which have to be paid by the people, for the maintenance of the poor. If we introduce the Poor Law here, we would also have to pay Poor Rates, and I think it is probable that it is a state of things which you will not at all appreciate. You next suggest that "a District Committee be formed consisting of an equal number of officials and non-officials to whom should be left the decision of the necessity and the proper time to give State aid to the people from the Famine Fund at their disposal during the transition period above referred to, thus avoiding the necessity of foreign or other help, which, while gratefully acknowledging, we cannot always depend upon." Such a procedure would introduce a completely new system into the administration of the country, and I am not prepared at the present moment to enter into any discussion upon it. You may rest assured, as I informed the gentlemen who presented the last address, that the Collector will receive the fullest authority and discretion to grant such remissions, in such places as after proper enquiry, he finds it to be necessary.

You next pray that the land tax which you describe as being very heavy, may be reduced. This,

as I think you must be aware, is a step which cannot be taken suddenly and without very careful enquiry. I do not remember at the present moment when the last settlement took place in the North Arcot district: but, I am certainly right in saying that you have to wait for any re-consideration of your present settlement system, until the next settlement takes place.

ADDRESS FROM THE PEOPLE OF TIRUPATI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Tirupati, beg to approach Your Excellency with this our hearty welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this ancient and sacred town, which is one of the greatest religious centres of India. We trust that Your Excellency's visit to the hills here, where the chief shrine of Sri Venkateswara is situated, and which attracts pilgrims from all parts of India throughout the year, will be found interesting.

While deeply and gratefully conscious of the several blessings we enjoy under our benign British Government, we respectfully venture to think that it will not be amiss if we lay before Your Excellency a few of our wants, in the ardent hope that Your Excellency may see fit to consider and remedy them as far as possible.

This town which has been a municipality for fourteen years, finds it difficult to bear the burden of the ever-increasing municipal taxation. The



means and resources of the people are very limited and precarious, being chiefly dependent upon the charities of pilgrims that resort to this place. This is not a great trade centre which would find sufficient income for the people, and the impecunious nature of the municipal finance itself, notwithstanding the heavy taxation, amply illustrates our poverty. We would, therefore, respectfully beg of Your Excellency to consider the expediency of converting this town into a major Union, like the head-quarters of the district itself, Chittoor.

If, however, a municipal institution as now existing should be considered absolutely necessary for the needs of this town, we would at least beg of Your Excellency to lighten the burden of taxation somewhat. Out of the maximum of eight and a half per cent. on the assessment of buildings provided by the Act, we are now paying a large proportion of seven and a half per cent. as house-tax. We do not grudge this taxation considering the needs of the municipality here. But the recent addition of four per cent. as water-tax is a burden, which we regret to say we cannot bear. Of late, the value of houses has much depreciated in this town, owing to the comparative decrease in the influx of pilgrims here, and our income from house property has materially lessened. We beg to assure Your Excellency at the same time, that we are not unmindful of the blessing of a pure and wholesome water carried to our doors. We are specially grateful also for the very great help which Your Excellency's Government and the Trustee of

the Devastanam here have rendered to us, in the successful carrying out of a water-supply project to this town. We learn that out of the promised contribution of one-third for the water-works by the said trustee, only a sum of Rs. 36,000 has yet been paid by him, and for the balance of about Rs. 41,000 which has been advanced by the Government, the Local Municipal Council has been charged with the payment of interest on that sum, amounting to about Rs. 2,500 per annum. In consideration of our impoverished circumstances, we would respectfully beg of Your Excellency to excuse the Municipal Council of the payment of this interest and in doing so, prevail upon that body to reduce the water-tax proportionately to the relief from payment of interest which will be secured for them under the proposed arrangement.

Considering the crippled state of the municipal finances here, we would also urge, for Your Excellency's consideration, the exemption of the contribution for tolls to the Local Fund Board, which would give a relief of about Rs. 500 per annum.

A girls' school is maintained in this town by the municipality at a net cost of about Rs. 350 per annum. As the maintenance of girls' school is recognized as a legitimate charge on provincial revenues, we beg leave to suggest that the municipal revenues may be relieved of this burden.

On account of epidemic and festival charges, a sum of about Rs. 1,000 a year is now spent by the municipality. It seems to us that these charges may

more properly be incurred from Provincial funds, or if Your Excellency sees fit, the local Devasthanam, which is primarily benefited by the adoption of these measures, may be asked to incur the same from its resources.

In pointing out the three or four sources of relief to municipal revenues above mentioned, our object is to lighten the burden of the municipal liabilities to some extent, and thereby to benefit ourselves, in our hard circumstances, by a reduction of municipal taxation.

This is the most important town in this taluk, and the location of the Taluk Office at Chendragiri has always been a matter of surprise to us. The want of a fully equipped treasury here also inconveniences us a good deal, more especially the Court-going public, who have to carry on their treasury transactions at Chendragiri. We would therefore most respectfully suggest the removal of the Taluk Office and the Treasury to this town from Chendragiri.

As regards the local train service between this town and Rénigunta, we had till two or three years ago an evening train leaving Tirupati at about 9 P.M. for Rénigunta; and there was a return train early in the morning from Rénigunta to this place. The want of these trains for some time past has been a source of great inconvenience to the public and the pilgrims resorting to this place. This train service was very useful to the Postal department also, but the mails are now carried by a special runner to

Rénigunta and back. We would therefore request that the train service referred to may be restored to us, in lieu of an after-noon service which has been started in its place, and which practically is of no use to us.

Between Tirupati East and West stations, there is a stone tunnel on the South Indian Railway at the place where there is a crossing from this town to Avilala and other villages. This tunnel is barely 5 feet high, and not possible for persons with loads to pass through, much less for carts to pass. As this is a much used way, we beg to request that the Railway authorities may be moved either to heighten the tunnel so as to allow of all kinds of traffic to pass conveniently underneath it, or to so arrange the railway line as to give us a level crossing at or near the place referred to.

The recently promulgated Grant-in-Aid Code, which is to take effect from 1st April next, debars all managers of aided institutions and the teachers employed by them from taking any part in politics. We would beg leave to say that this is a sweeping measure and, as it seems to us, an unnecessary restriction. We are afraid that from the definition of the word "manager" in the code, all members of Local Fund Boards and Municipal Councils, as also other private bodies, who have anything to do with the management of aided institutions, whatever their avocations in life may be, will suffer under the disability mentioned. We leave it to Your Excellency to consider whether such a far-reaching rule is at all

necessary, in the interests which Government may have in view.

The long promised Tenancy Bill has not yet been introduced in the Local Legislative Council. The present Rent Recovery Act is admittedly defective and works great hardship both to the landlord and the tenant. May we not therefore request Your Excellency to consider and pass at an early date the small measure which the Honourable Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar has recently introduced on this subject?

The unsatisfactory nature of the Religious Endowments Act has been repeatedly brought to Your Excellency's notice, and we have been anxiously waiting for some reform in this direction. As it does not appear to be possible to frame an Act which will suit the needs of all India, we would respectfully suggest that a local measure, to satisfy the requirements of the Southern Presidency, may soon be taken in hand.

We are unhappily in the throes of a large impending famine, and we have no doubt that when the time comes, ample relief works will be provided by Your Excellency's Government in these parts, to alleviate human suffering. In this connection we may be permitted to state that in our sympathetic and popular Collector, we have a person who will readily attend to our wants. His action in recommending the postponement of the collection of kists in distressed taluks, already lays claim to our gratitude.

In conclusion, while assuring Your Excellency of our deep loyalty to the British Crown and our

lasting contentment for the several benefits which we enjoy under the British rule, we beg to wish Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a long and prosperous life, and beg to subscribe ourselves.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

INHABITANTS OF TIRUPATI,—I thank you for your kind welcome to your ancient and interesting town, and I anticipate with pleasure and great interest my visit to the shrine, which is near by. I have listened with satisfaction to your expressions of appreciation of the blessings of British rule. I will now proceed to answer those paragraphs in your address which deal with subjects affecting your own local interests. You ask in the first place that the municipality which now exists in Tirupati should be reduced to the rank of a Union, in the same manner as the head-quarters of the district, Chittoor; but I would beg to observe that such a change as this would be a retrograde movement, which, I am sure, we should regret see taken. It will have also the practical effect of reducing your local revenue from something like Rs. 14,000 to something like Rs. 2,000. That will be a misfortune which I am sure you will be sorry to suffer. You then proceed to say that the municipal tax to which you are now liable is very heavy, and you suggest means by which it may possibly be reduced. Among them is a request that the interest paid on the loan granted to you by the Government on account of your water-works, should be remitted, and that the municipality

should upon that be asked to reduce the water-tax proportionately to the relief from payment of interest which will be secured by such reduction to you. I have to remark that I know of no precedent for such a proceeding as this, and I am afraid it cannot be carried out. With regard to the loss recently incurred by your town through the danger of plague, I wish to say that plague will not last for ever, and that when plague is gone, I have no doubt that the value of property will revive, and that the returns from pilgrims will probably come in in the same way as they did before. You next suggest that you should be exempted from the contribution for tolls to the Local Fund Board, which will give a relief of about Rs. 500 per annum. I am informed that this contribution has already been reduced from one-third to one-fourth. The question of any further reduction will be a matter for the consideration of the District Board, to which body it will be referred. Your next proposal is that the Girls' school maintained in this town by the municipality, at a net cost of Rs. 350 per annum, should be maintained in the future at the cost of the Provincial revenue. I am not aware that such a transfer of charge has any precedent, and I do not think that it will be possible to attempt it. If the cost of the Girls' school is greater than you can well sustain, your evident course would be to obtain means by the reduction of expenditure in some other direction. You then urge that the Devastanam, which profits by the large number of pilgrims that visit the place, should be

pressed to meet some of your expenditure. I must say that at first thought, looking at the request, this seems not an unreasonable proposal, but I am not in a position to say whether it can be carried out. I cannot think of any means of compelling the Devastanam to contribute to Local funds in this manner. In paragraph nine of your address, you ask that the Taluk Office and the Treasury be removed from Chendragiri to this town. I believe I am right in saying that a new building has recently been put up for the purpose of a Taluk Office at Chendragiri, and that, therefore, it would be costly and very inconvenient to move that office at the present time. It is possible that something may be done to increase the Treasury staff in Tirupati. The next paragraph of your address deals with matters connected with the local train service. They will be referred to the Railway authorities for any remarks they may have to make. You then proceed to make remarks on the subject of the recently promulgated Grant-in-Aid Code, which is believed to take effect from April next, debarring all managers of aided institutions and the teachers employed by them from taking any part in politics. This is a matter which, at the present stage, I must decline to discuss with you. Representations made on the subject are before the Government and are, as you ought to know, now being considered. It is, therefore, not fitting that I should discuss it here. You next refer to the long pending Tenancy Bill and suggest, if that is not passed at an early date, that the small measure

which the Honourable Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar has recently introduced on this subject may be considered and passed at once. I am in hopes that before very long the Tenancy Bill will again be before the Legislative Council. I therefore see no occasion to refer to the passing of the Bill introduced by Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar. You next speak of the unsatisfactory nature of the Religious Endowments Act. This is a matter which has been under the consideration of the Madras Government for several years past, and we have carefully drafted a Bill and sent it up to the Government of India for consideration. Our Bill is now under the consideration of the Government of India, and I, therefore, feel unable in that state of things to express any opinion on the subject. You may be perfectly certain that in case famine should attain serious dimensions in this district it will, as you say, receive the careful attention and consideration of the Collector and the Government.

ADDRESS FROM THE MAHANT OF TIRUPATI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On this memorable occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this cynosure of all India, I esteem it as a great privilege and honour that Your Excellency has been pleased to conduct this auspicious ceremony of opening this new building, which I have been able to provide for the Devasthanam Hindu High School under my management.

Started on the 25th January 1886, under the auspices of Sri Venkateswara and maintained wholly by the Devasthanam Funds, this little institution has been able to turn out considerable good work in its own modest sphere—a fact to which the Inspector of Schools, Central Circle, bears testimony in the following note of his in the recent report: “The Mahant of Tirupati is much to be commended for the interest he takes in education as shown by this institution and others he has lately started in different parts of the country. Good work is being done in this institution. It deserves every encouragement from Government.”

Your Excellency will also be gratified to hear that I have been seriously contemplating raising this institution to the rank of a second grade college, to meet the requirements of a large class of poor men, unable to pass through the expensive course of a collegiate study in Madras, and I pray that, when the happy day arrives, Your Excellency may be pleased to sanction such a step, and to order the affiliation thereof to the University of Madras.

Your Excellency will also be pleased to learn that this Devasthanam maintains, on a very liberal scale, a Sanskrit College known as “Grand Duff's Sanskrit College,” wherein all branches of oriental literature are taught to the pupils.

This humble subject of Your Excellency is also encouraged to find that the Government of Madras has always noted with approval the various acts of

charity that the Temple funds of Tirumalai, Tirupati, have been able to perform and maintain, such as the local dispensary, the donation to water-works, the schools here and elsewhere, &c.

Above all Your Excellency's presence under this modest roof this morning is no small indication of the keen interest Your Excellency takes in the affairs of this country in general, and of this famous institution of Southern India, this Tirupati Devasthanam in particular.

I thank Your Excellency for having declared, with the best wishes, this building open to this and to all succeeding generations of young men.

That Sri Balaji may confer upon Your Excellency His choicest blessings of long life and prosperity, is the earnest and unceasing prayer of

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency in reply complemented the Mahant on his generosity in providing such a splendid building for the High School.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF TIRUPATI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Tirupati, with profound feelings of loyalty and submission, beg most respectfully to approach Your Excellency, and to tender our hearty welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this town, which is one of the most

important places of pilgrimage in all India. The existence of a shrine amidst the most picturesque scenery on the adjoining hill, which is held sacred by all classes of Hindus from the Himalayas to the Cape Comorin, and of the palace at Chendragiri, which was once the seat of a branch of the Vizianagar Dynasty, have contributed in no small measure to the participation of this town in the inestimable honour of occasional visits from the rulers of this province.

2. Many are the blessings which have been conferred on this town since the establishment of the municipality, but the chief amongst these for which Your Excellency's Government has earned the gratitude of the public and the council, are the recent privilege extended to this municipality according to which four members are now eligible for election, and the introduction of water-works which now supply wholesome water to the resident as well as the floating population of the town, and which are mainly due to the most liberal contributions made by Your Excellency's Government and the Trustee of the Davasthanam here.

3. Since the constitution of the town into a municipality in 1886 its sanitation, especially during the well-known periodical festivals, has always been a source of grave anxiety not only to the Municipal Council but also to Government, as the town annually attracts large numbers of pilgrims from all parts of India, thus affording ample facilities for the introduction of cholera and other epidemics into the

town, and for their rapid extension to other distant places in the Presidency. Neither funds nor efforts on our part are being spared in attending to this important branch of municipal administration, and the direct results of our sanitary precautions and measures achieved up to date, amply justify all the trouble and expense which we have incurred in this direction; for, as a matter of fact, cholera which at one time used to be a necessary concomitant of almost every annual festival, has now become a thing of the past.

4. It is, however, a matter for deep regret that our municipality is very poor, and that the funds and resources at its command are so limited, that it cannot do adequate justice to the sanitary requirements of a town, where large crowds of ignorant pilgrims, always prone to disregard sanitary regulations, congregate. If the sanitary measures to be adopted here are to be effective, a much larger expenditure of funds than what the municipality can at present spare, without starving other equally important branches of municipal administration, will be necessary. In the present state of municipal finances it is impossible to make adequate provision for all the requirements of the town; and as the Municipal Council is also saddled with the cost of all measures calculated to check the spread of epidemics during festivals, the strain upon our resources is more than what can be easily borne. As all these sanitary measures are taken in the interests of pilgrims, and as all the revenues contri-

buted by them benefit the Devastanam exchequer, we humbly beg to submit that it is but just and equitable that a major, if not the whole, portion of the outlay which the municipality incurs under the head of festival and epidemic charges, should be met from the Devastanam funds, and we beg to commend this proposition for the kind and benevolent consideration of Your Excellency.

5. There is yet another item of municipal expenditure in which, with Your Excellency's kind support, this municipality can effect some economy. Since the year 1895 this municipality has been maintaining, in addition to several other educational institutions for boys, a Primary School for Girls which, owing to its impecunious condition referred to above, cannot be kept up to the required degree of efficiency. Since Government has always taken a very keen and benevolent interest in the promotion of female education, we humbly request, that on this occasion, Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to lend all the support that the cause deserves, and convert the institution into a purely Government one.

6. While we very gratefully acknowledge that a great and long-felt want of the town has been supplied by the construction of water-works, the usefulness of which has been greatly enhanced by the erection of numerous fountains by Mr. Lodd Krishna Doss Balamakur² Dossji, the philanthropic Sowcar of Madras, we feel bound to state, from a sincere sense of duty, that ^{our} ~~that~~ until another important want—the

thorough reformation of the drainage of the town—is effectively satisfied, the main end in view, *i.e.*, the improvement of public health cannot be completely attained. We are perfectly aware that a good scheme of drainage must necessarily be a very costly one. The scanty resources of a petty municipality like ours, preclude even the entertainment of the very idea of having anything to do with such a vast undertaking; and the present condition of the majority of the people whose very living exclusively depends upon the crowds of pilgrims visiting this place, having unfortunately undergone a sudden change during the last three years, owing to considerable reductions in the number of pilgrims, due to the prevalence of plague and famine in other parts of India, we beg to submit that the town is quite unable to bear the burden of increased taxation on this score. Under such circumstances our mainstay is in Your Excellency's Government, and we therefore most respectfully beg to appeal to its broad-minded liberality which has already done so much for the water-supply. We further fervently hope that the Trustee of our Devasthanam will also realise the usefulness of the scheme, and that both the Devasthanam and the Provincial funds will come to our rescue in this matter.

In conclusion, we beg to thank Your Excellency from the bottom of our hearts for the great honour done to our town by the present visit, and for the opportunity it has afforded of personally representing our wants and wishes.

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Wishing long life and prosperity to Your Excellency, to Lady Havelock, and to all the members of Your Excellency's family.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency in reply referred the Municipal Council to the answer given to the People's Address. On the subject of a good drainage scheme for Tirupati, His Excellency pointed out that the water-supply which had been provided for the town had consumed a large sum, and that, therefore, in the present state of their finances, a drainage scheme was out of the question. He advised them to put aside the question of drainage for the present, and carry out simple measures of sanitation which could be worked at small expenditure.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF
CHENDRAGIRI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Chendragiri, respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency with this our hearty welcome to this ancient place of historical interest, a former Hindu Raja of which was the first to cede Fort Saint George and the present populous city of Madras to the British. Your Excellency will find here the relics of former civilization, and we trust that Your Excellency's stay amongst us, brief though it be, may be found interesting.

Our wants here are purely agricultural, and in laying before Your Excellency our few grievances, we venture to express the hope that they may be duly considered and remedied as far as possible.

The forest reserve area known as the 'Chendragiri Mahal Durgham Reserve' is surrounded on all sides by about ten villages yielding a revenue of Rs. and to the ryots of which, therefore, the said reserved forest is of the utmost importance. It contains no trees of any importance, but only such shrubs and small wood that can be used for agricultural purposes. The forest revenue in the reserved tract is about Rs. 60 *per annum* and the cost of management is out of all proportion to the revenue realized. We, therefore, pray that the area in question may be removed from the reserved tract, and made freely available to all ryots.

The Nagapatla Reserved forest was accidentally burnt during last year and thenceforward permits were refused to the cattle usually grazing there. As this entails very great inconvenience and hardship, we beg that orders may be caused to be issued for the issue of permits for grazing cattle in this forest, as usual.

Our next prayer is that in all reserved areas of the Forest Department, free licenses may be given for agricultural cattle to graze, and for removing agricultural manure and for cutting wood for agricultural implements. Though the rules promulgated by our benign Government amply provide for

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these concessions, they are, we regret to say, carried out in practice, in a very stinted form.

The north-west monsoon has entirely failed in these parts and we are in the throes of a large impending famine. Already for want of agricultural work, the people are in sore distress. We beg under the circumstances, to respectfully suggest for Your Excellency's consideration, the expediency of the opening up of famine relief works and kitchens, to provide work and food for the poor and destitute amongst us.

We would also respectfully submit that in view of the present state of the season, the Government demand for kists due from us, should be postponed till the prospect brightens. Remissions are now allowed only for withered crops and waste in nanja lands, but owing to want of seasonable rains, our punja crops have also withered, and several of our wells have got dry. We beg therefore that similar concessions may be shown for punja lands as well.

In conclusion, we heartily wish Your Excellency and staff, a happy and interesting journey in this district.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

INHABITANTS OF CHENDRAGIRI,—I thank you for your kind welcome to this extremely interesting place. The history of it has been made a matter of study by me for the last two or three days. I find that, as you say here, it is the spot on which the

deed was signed, under which the site now occupied by Fort St. George in the City of Madras, was ceded to the East India Company. For that reason alone it would be a spot carrying with it great interest to those who belong to this part of India. You say that your wants are purely agricultural, and that your grievances are connected with agricultural matters. I can of course well understand that, as I know that you are almost entirely a ryot population. There is not much manufacture and there is not much litigation, or business of that sort going on in a small place like Chendragiri. You make a request with regard to the Forest Reserve area known as the "Chendragiri Mahal Durgam Reserve." I have pleasure in telling you that this is one of the reserves proposed to be thrown open for grazing, and it will be open now to free grazing of cattle on account of scarcity that prevails this year. It is not proposed to disafforest it, because there will be inconvenience; at any rate it is a course which we do not wish to take. You next speak of the Nagapatla Reserve Forest, which was accidentally burnt last year. I am informed that this reserve has been entirely thrown open to grazing in 1889, and that it would be in the same way thrown open to grazing during the present year, 1900. I think I may understand, therefore, that your wishes in this respect are fully gratified. Then with regard to your request that free licenses to graze cattle and cut wood in the reserves may be granted to you, I may tell you that it is not in accordance with the letter of our Forest Regulations. You

complain that the rules promulgated by the Government amply provide for these concessions, but I am informed that that statement is not quite accurate. As to the stinted form in which the concessions granted by Government are conceded to you, I have to observe that the Government has given strict directions to all the Forest Officers to treat forest matters in a liberal spirit, having in prominent regard the desire of Government that the forests are reserved for the good of the people, in the first instance, and only in the second place, as a source of revenue. You mention, what I have heard in all directions since I have been in the district, that the north-east monsoon having failed, there is a threat of agricultural distress. I gather from all I have heard that of the dry lands throughout the district, there has on the whole not been so very much to complain of; but there has been a sad loss of crops on the wet lands. The necessity for opening relief works may possibly arise in the future, but at present I am inclined to think that the bad state of things is not sufficiently established to warrant it. In any case, however, it will be necessary before the Government opens relief works, to satisfy itself by test works of a strict nature, that such relief is absolutely necessary. With regard to remissions of kists, the Collector has full instructions on the subject, and will deal with the matter in a prudent and generous spirit.

