

(1) Number of pages 34.

(2) Date of repair 29-11-71.

(3) Initials of the Referencer 29.11.71.

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Ecclesiastical. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	55-56.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	22-3-1883	197.

16-17

Not to be folded or roughly handled

20 kg 112

Madras,
March 15th 1883

From

Rev. R. Burnett

15-3-83
15-3-83

Requesting return
of the letter by Burnett
of Non-Conformist in Church
Practical grounds.

Where is the
paper?

CHIEF SECRETARY
15 MAR 83
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Replied 22-3-83

My dear Sir,
There is an error
in the letter I sent
you, by the Bishop's
direction. The other
day, respecting the
Memorial of Antioch
Non-Conformist Minister.

With reference to
funerals of Non-Conformists
in Church burial
grounds. If it has
not yet been sent
to Calcutta, would you
kindly have it returned
in order that the

Mistake may be
rectified? —

Yours faithfully,
Richard P. Burnette
— Bishop's Chaplain

FROM CIRCULATION

WITH REMARKS. 3

Note: The Domestic Chaplain
has asked for the return of
his letter.

Send it — but keep copy —
let the disposal lie over till
reply comes — / First No. 10

take note of Hon D. & J.
remarks. We always
have spare copies of letters
rec^d in print & one of
these sh^d always be cir-
culated for information.
A similar instruction has
been given before.
Noted Sir. 1873

Madras.
March 19th 1873.

My dear Sir,

The Bishop is
much obliged to you
for kindly returning
the letter respecting
the burial of Non-
conformists in Church
of England Burial-
grounds. - I now

Enclose a corrected
copy of the same.

Yours faithfully,

Richard P. Burnett
Bishop's Chaplain

C. J. Mastie Esq.
Secy. L.

No.

25

FROM

A. MACKENZIE, Esq., C.S.,

Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the
Govt. of Madras.

Home Department
Ecclesiastical.

Fort William, the 13 February 1883.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, for the information
of His Excellency the Governor in Council

Letter from the Reverend W. J. Wilkins, dated 20th December 1882, and enclosure. a copy of the paper's marginally noted, from which it will be seen that Ministers of Christian congregations in various parts of India not belonging to the Church of England have submitted a memorial to the Government of India praying, under the circumstances described, that they may in certain cases be permitted to officiate at funerals in burial grounds which may have been consecrated by Bishops of the Church of England. The Governor General in Council is advised that the requirements of the case would be met by a regulation to the following effect, viz.:-

That the existing orders of Government appropriating certain portions of cemeteries to the separate use of the Church of England and of the Church of Rome, and to the joint use of the Non-Conformist Churches, shall be observed in all ordinary cases; but that where in any one of these separate portions there is a family vault or grave, or a reserved plot of ground purchased by a member of the family, or a masonry grave prepared in immediate proximity to such family vault or grave, the religious service at the burial of any member of the family shall be—if the friends of the deceased so request, and give notice of their request to the clergyman ordinarily officiating in that portion of the cemetery—conducted by ministers of other denominations than that for which the portion has been specially appropriated.

2. I am to request that you will be good enough to move His Excellency the Governor in Council to favour the Government of India with an expression of his opinion on the subject after consulting such ecclesiastical authorities in the Madras Presidency as he may think proper.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

[Signature]
for Secretary to the Government of India.

23/11
Enclosure
Dated Hastings, the 20th December 1882.

From—The Reverend W. J. WILKINS, Minister of Union Chapel,
Calcutta, and Minister of Hastings Chapel, Calcutta.

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a petition to His Excellency the Viceroy signed by Ministers of Christian Congregations in various parts of India not belonging to the Church of England, asking that they may be permitted to officiate at funerals in burial grounds that may have been consecrated by Bishops of the Church of England when it is the wish of the friends of the deceased persons for them to do so, and to request that you will kindly present it to His Excellency for consideration at your early convenience.

P. S.—I enclose three extra copies of the memorial. If you need them, I shall be happy to send others.

To

His Excellency the Viceroy and GOVERNOR GENERAL in Council.

The memorial of the undersigned Ministers of
Christian Congregations other than those of the
Church of England.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That your memorialists, Ministers of English Congregations not belonging to the Church of England, from time to time have to suffer very great inconvenience (which is also shared by the friends of the deceased persons) from the fact that they are not permitted to officiate at the funeral of members of their Congregations whose friends may wish them to be buried in vaults or family graves which may happen to be in ground consecrated by the Bishops of the Church of England. At such a time it is a source of pain to the bereaved relatives to be compelled to ask a stranger to officiate at the grave whilst their own Minister, whose ministrations they highly appreciate, has to remain a spectator of the ceremony.

2. Your memorialists are aware that in the large cities, and at some metropolises, part of the burial ground has been left unconsecrated, and in it the bodies of deceased Non-Conformists can be buried by the Ministers of the Churches they attended during life; but they respectfully submit that this does not meet their case, as it very frequently happens that whilst some members of a family belong to the Church of England, others do not; and it is a most natural wish that all the members of a family should, if possible, be buried in the family grave, or in close proximity to it. When the grave is in consecrated ground, this wish cannot be gratified without soliciting the services of a Minister of the Church of England who is often a stranger, and whose ministrations both on religious and personal grounds are naturally less acceptable than those of the Minister of the family.

3. Under these circumstances, your memorialists humbly ask Your Excellency by an Act of Council, or in such manner as may seem best, to grant permission to the Ministers of all Christian Churches to officiate in the Christian burial grounds of British India, whether consecrated or not, whenever it is the wish of the friends of the deceased persons that they should do so. In taking into consideration the humble request of your memorialists, they would remind Your Excellency that this privilege has already been given to the Ministers of religion in England by the Burial Laws Amendment Act of 1880.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

W. J. WILKINS,
Minister of Union Chapel, Calcutta, and
Minister of Hastings Chapel, Calcutta.

GEO. KERRY,
Baptist Missionary and Minister of the
Baptist Chapel, Dum-Dum.

EDWD. S. SUMMERS.

Officiating Principal, Serampore
College, and Baptist Missionary,
Serampore.

W. NORRIS,

Minister of Lower Circular Road
Baptist Chapel, Calcutta.

T. H. WHITAMORE,

Minister of the Wesleyan Chapel,
Sudder Street, and
Officiating Chairman of the
Wesleyan Mission, Calcutta
District.

G. H. HOOK,

Minister of Lall Bazar Baptist
Chapel, 31, Bow Bazar Street,
Calcutta.

G. H. ROUSE, M.A., LL.B.,

Baptist Missionary, Calcutta.

W. MILNE, M.A.,

Minister of the Free Church of
Scotland, Wellesley Square,
Calcutta.

CHARLES JORDAN,

Minister of Howrah English Chapel
and Baptist Missionary.

AND 60 OTHERS.

Burial Law Amendment Act 1880
42. & 44. Vict. Ch. 14.

Eccles. (1883) Dept.
(Burial grounds)

From

The Govt. of India
Home Dept.
No. 1
25

10 26/83 (Vn)

COMMITTEE No. 42

Dated 13. 2. 83) Encl. 1
Dues 18 Feb 1883 + 780.
Sack of
Current Encl.

Requesting opinion
of H.E. the Governor on the
question whether, in certain
cases, ministers not belonging to
Church of England, may be per-
mitted to officiate at funerals
in burial grounds consecrated
by Ep. Bishops

28 Eccell. Department.

15

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

letter from the Govt. of India.
Home Dept. 27/13 Feb. 1883,
No. 15.

Order. 26th Feb/83, No. 36 (Vn)

The foregoing letter
will be forwarded to
the Rt. Rev. the Bishop
of Madras, with a request
that his Lordship will
favor Govt. with an
expression of his opinion
on the subject.

eccell

To the Domestic Chaplain }
to the Rt. Rev. the Bishop }

DESPATCHED

26-2-83

M. 3

Burial rites

DISPOSED OF

26 FEB 83

East

SY G.O. NO 36 (mis)

7th Feb 83.

(Copy)

Madras

March 9th 1883.

No 225.

To

The Chief Secretary to Govt.
Fort Saint-George.

Sir, With reference to G.O. 26th Fe.
bruary 1883, I am desired by the
Lord Bishop to state that, in his
opinion — and it is the opinion
also of the Venerable the Archdeacon —
the request of the two non-Conformist
Memorialists is unreasonable.

The existing regulations for
Cemeteries are considerate, and
the Bishop thinks that non-Confor-
mists generally are satisfied
with them. In this diocese, if at
any place the whole burial ground
has been consecrated prior to the
existence of the present regulations,
and no unconsecrated portion has
since been added, the Chaplain,

with

has no reason
to believe that
in this diocese

with the Bishop's sanction, allows the funeral of a dissenter to be conducted by the Non-Conformist Minister whom the family of the deceased may prefer.

But; that no one may find any ground for complaining that the Rules in India are in any respect less favorable to non-conformists than the new Burial Laws in England, His Lordship deems it advisable that the arrangement proposed by the Governor General in Council be adopted.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

/s/ Richard P. Rivett
Bishop's Chaplain

Burial of non-conformists.

Copy of
Bishop's original letter.
with subsequent cor-
rections made by him.
shown in red ink

Recd. J. O. 1856/6

22 March 1883.

Read also the following papers.

48
Madras, 21
March 9th 1883

No 225.

To the Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George.

Sir, With reference to G. O. 26th Feb. 83
No. 36, I am directed by the Lord Bishop
to state that in his opinion —
and it is the opinion also of the
Venerable the Archdeacon — the
request of the Non-conformist
Memorialists is unreasonable.

2. The existing regulations for
funeraries are considerate, and
the Bishop has no reason to
believe that, in this diocese,
Non-conformists are dissatisfied
with them. — If at any place
the whole Burial-ground has been

Consecrated prior to the existence
of the present regulations, and
no unconsecrated portion has since
been added, the Chaplain, with
the Bishop's sanction, allows the
funeral of a dissenter to be conducted
by the non-conformist Minister
whom the family of the deceased
may prefer.

3. But that no one may
find any ground for complaining
that the Rules in India are
in any respect less favorable
to non-conformists than the
New Burial Laws in England,
His Lordship deems it advisable
that the arrangement proposed

23/56
by the Governor General in
Council be adopted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Richard P. Burnette,

Bishop's Chaplain

Letters: (51514) Dep.
(Burial grounds)

From

The Bishop's Chaplain
No. 225

No. 74

Dated 9 March 83
Recd 20/3/83
Regarding the arrange-
ments proposed by the Government
respecting the burial of Roman-
Catholic priests in Church of England burial
grounds

CHIEF SECRETARY
20 MAR 83
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

6P Cell Department.
25

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following letter.

from the Govt. of India 2/13
Feb 83. No 75.

From the Domestic

Chaplain

Chaplain to the Rt. Rev. the
Lord Bishop of G. March 83
No 225.

I never saw India's
either before. I have for
judgment to me that hope
abound; but a copy might
at some time have been
sent. So in all
over cases. By 15/3

Order 22 March 1883, No 55.

Ordered that the
following letter be des-
patched

The Domestic Chaplain

to the Rt. Rev. the Bishop

(H. E. No.)

Despatch 28/3

No. 56.

To

Despatch 28/3
with copy of 18/3

The Secy. Govt. of India
Home Dept.

Sir,

I am directed to
acknowledge the

receipt of your letter
of the 13th Feby. 83 No. 70
relative to the proposed
(with reference to a memorial presented to the Govt. of India)
issue of a regulation per-
mitting Ministers of
Christian Congregations
in India not belonging to
the Church of England,
in certain cases to offi-
ciate at funerals in
burial grounds which
may have been conse-
crated by Bishops of
the Church of England.
7. In reply, I am to
state that his Lordship
the Bishop of Madras-
with whom the Venble
the Archdeacon is in
accord - considers the
request of the memorial-
ists to be unreason-
able. ^{He} and explains

22 7P
that, so far as this Dis-
-cuss is concerned, the
concession now sought
has always been allowed;
but in order to avoid
the complaint that
the rules in India
are in any respect less
favourable to non-con-
formists than the
new Burial laws in
England, the Bishop
deems it advisable
that the arrangement
proposed by H.E. the
Governor General in
Council be adopted -
an opinion in which
I am to express the
concurrence of this Govt.

For L^d George }
22 March 1883 }

GM

Barial Notes

22ND MARCH 1883, Nos. 55, 56, ECCLESIASTICAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper :—

G.O., dated 26th February 1883, Mis. No. 36, Ecclesiastical.

Read—the following letter from A. MACKENZIE, Esq., C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Ecclesiastical), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort William, 13th February 1883, No. 1—25.

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, a copy of the papers marginally noted, from which it will be seen that Ministers of Christian congregations in various parts of India, not belonging to the Church of England, have submitted a memorial to the Government of India praying, under the circumstances described, that they may in certain cases be permitted to officiate at funerals in burial-grounds which may have been consecrated by Bishops of the Church of England. The Governor-General in Council is advised that the requirements of the case would be met by a regulation to the following effect, viz. :—

That the existing orders of Government appropriating certain portions of cemeteries to the separate use of the Church of England and of the Church of Rome, and to the joint use of the Non-Conformist Churches, shall be observed in all ordinary cases; but that where in any one of these separate portions there is a family vault or grave, or a reserved plot of ground purchased by a member of the family, or a masonry grave prepared in immediate proximity to such family vault or grave, the religious service at the burial of any member of the family shall be—if the friends of the deceased so request, and give notice of their request to the Clergyman ordinarily officiating in that portion of the cemetery—conducted by Ministers of other denominations than that for which the portion has been specially appropriated.

2. I am to request that you will be good enough to move His Excellency the Governor in Council to favor the Government of India with an expression of his opinion on the subject after consulting such ecclesiastical authorities in the Madras Presidency as he may think proper.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Rev. W. J. WILKINS, Minister of Union Chapel, Calcutta, and Minister of Hastings Chapel, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Hastings, 20th December 1882.

I have the honor to enclose a petition to His Excellency the Viceroy signed by Ministers of Christian congregations in various parts of India, not belonging to the Church of England asking that they may be permitted to officiate at funerals in burial-grounds that may have been consecrated by Bishops of the Church of England when it is the wish of the friends of the deceased persons for them to do so, and to request that you will kindly present it to His Excellency for consideration at your early convenience.

P.S.—I enclose three extra copies of the memorial. If you need them, I shall be happy to send others.

Let. from W. J. Wilkins
to Secy to Govt of India
Chap. Calcutta 17/12/82

with revised copy
to Bishop
Bishop

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

The memorial of the undersigned Ministers of
Christian Congregations other than those of
the Church of England.

HUMBLY SHOWETH,—That your memorialists, Ministers of English Congregations not belonging to the Church of England, from time to time have to suffer very great inconvenience (which is also shared by the friends of the deceased persons) from the fact that they are not permitted to officiate at the funeral of members of their congregations whose friends may wish them to be buried in vaults or family graves which may happen to be in ground consecrated by the Bishops of the Church of England. At such a time it is a source of pain to the bereaved relatives to be compelled to ask a stranger to officiate at the grave, whilst their own Minister, whose ministrations they highly appreciate, has to remain a spectator of the ceremony.

2. Your memorialists are aware that in the large cities, and at some Mofussil stations, part of the burial-ground has been left unconsecrated, and in it the bodies of deceased Non-Conformist can be buried by the Ministers of the Churches they attended during life; but they respectfully submit that this does not meet their case, as it very frequently happens that whilst some members of a family belong to the Church of England, others do not; and it is a most natural wish that all the members of a family should, if possible, be buried in the family grave, or in close proximity to it. When the grave is in consecrated ground, this wish cannot be gratified without soliciting the services of a Minister of the Church of England who is often a stranger, and whose ministrations both on religious and personal grounds are naturally less acceptable than those of the Minister of the family.

3. Under these circumstances, your memorialists humbly ask your Excellency by an Act of Council, or in such manner as may seem best, to grant permission to the Ministers of all Christian Churches to officiate in the Christian burial-grounds of British India, whether consecrated or not, whenever it is the wish of the friends of the deceased persons that they should do so. In taking into consideration the humble request of your memorialists, they would remind your Excellency that this privilege has already been given to the Ministers of religion in England by the Burial Laws Amendment Act of 1880.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

W. J. WILKINS,

Minister of Union Chapel, Calcutta, and
Minister of Hastings Chapel, Calcutta.

GEO. KERRY,

Baptist Missionary and Minister of the
Baptist Chapel, Dum-Dum.

EDWD. S. SUMMERS,

Officiating Principal, Serampore College, and
Baptist Missionary, Serampore.

W. NORRIS,

Minister of Lower Circular Road, Baptist
Chapel, Calcutta.

T. H. WHITAMORE,

Minister of the Wesleyan Chapel, Sudler
Street, and Officiating Chairman of the
Wesleyan Mission, Calcutta District.

G. H. HOOK,

Minister of Lall Bazaar Baptist Chapel, 31,
Bow Bazaar Street, Calcutta.

G. H. ROUSE, M.A., LL.B.,

Baptist Missionary, Calcutta.

W. MILNE, M.A.,

Minister of the Free Church of Scotland,
Wellesley Square, Calcutta.

CHARLES JORDAN,

Minister of Howrah English Chapel and
Baptist Missionary.
And sixty others.

Order—dated 26th February 1883, Mis. No. 36, Ecclesiastical.

The foregoing letter will be forwarded to the Right Rev. the Bishop of Madras, with a request that His Lordship favor Government with an expression of his opinion on the subject.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Domestic Chaplain to the Right Rev. the Bishop.

READ—also the following paper:—

From the Rev. R. P. BURNETT, M.A., Bishop's Chaplain, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 9th March 1883, No. 225.

With reference to G.O., 26th February, No. 36, I am desired by the Lord Bishop to state that in his opinion—and it is the opinion also of the Venerable the Archdeacon—the request of the Non-Conformist memorialists is unreasonable.

2. The existing regulations for cemeteries are considerate, and the Bishop has no reason to believe that, in this Diocese, Non-Conformists are dissatisfied with them. If at any place the whole burial-ground has been consecrated prior to the existence of the present regulations, and no unconsecrated portion has since been added, the Chaplain, with the Bishop's sanction, allows the funeral of a Dissenter to be conducted by the Non-Conformist Minister whom the family of the deceased may prefer.

3. But that no one may find any ground for complaining that the rules in India are in any respect less favorable to Non-Conformists than the new Burial Laws in England, His Lordship deems it advisable that the arrangement proposed by the Governor-General in Council be adopted.

ORDER—dated 22nd March 1883, No. 55, Ecclesiastical.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,

Chief Secretary.

To the Domestic Chaplain to the Right Rev. the Bishop.

LETTER—to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort St. George, 22nd March 1883, No. 56, Ecclesiastical.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 13th February 1883, No. 1—25, relative to the proposed issue of a regulation (with reference to a memorial presented to the Government of India) permitting Ministers of Christian congregations in India, not belonging to the Church of England, in certain cases to officiate at funerals in burial-grounds which may have been consecrated by Bishops of the Church of England.

2. In reply, I am to state that His Lordship the Bishop of Madras—with whom the Venerable the Archdeacon is in accord—considers the request of the memorialists to be unreasonable. He explains that, so far as this Diocese is concerned, the concession now sought has always been allowed; but in order to avoid the complaint that the rules in India are in any respect less favorable to Non-Conformists than the new Burial Laws in England, the Bishop deems it advisable that the arrangement proposed by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council be adopted—an opinion in which I am to express the concurrence of this Government.

C. G. MASTER,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

[1]
PRESS.

24
Ecclesiastical DEPARTMENT.

G.O. DATED 22 March /83

No. 55756

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature. 28/3

Despatched in print. 28/3

[Despatch Abstract.]

Burial rites. Stating
the opinion of this Govt
regarding the proposed issue
of a regulation permitting
Ministers of Christian
Congregations in India
not belonging to the Church
of England in certain cases
to officiate at funerals in
burial grounds which may
have been consecrated by
Bishops of the Church of
England.