

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Eccelesiastical DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 28

~~Press~~
Mis. *23*

Dated 12-2-1885

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Madras. 15th January 1885.

No. 250.

To The Hon.
The Chief Secy. to Government.
Fort St. George

Sir, I have the honor to forward for the consideration and Order of Government a letter from the Rev. A. C. Taylor Chaplain of Ottacum, concerning the burial of Native Christians in St. Thomas's Church Cemetery.

2. The question is of some importance as although there is ample space at present in St. Thomas's Cemetery, the future has to be considered.

3. On 1st Decr. 1882 the President of the Municipality in accordance with G. O. No. 69, Eccles. Dept. of 29th April 1881 set apart a portion of ground at Kandal but there appears to be some objection on the part of some of the Non-Conformist bodies to use it for the burial of Native Christians. Under these circumstances I beg to receive the Order of Government.

I have the honor to be,

Yours most Obedt. Servant,
J. F. Browne

RECORDED IN MADRAS

95-15-0-11-
 074-17-5-11-
 140-28-4-11-
 200-31-7-11-
 212-21-9-11-
 265-13-11-11-
 245-20-10-11-
 19-0-75-11-10-11-

Current No: 9

From

Humble the Archdeacon
No: 250

25 Jan 1878

Enclosure

Burial Native Natives
 St Thomas Church Cemetery

Eccles.

The question whether native
 Christians might be buried in
 St Thomas's Church, and
 not at the cemetery was decided
 in the negative in G.O. 31 Dec
 1877 No: 288. The Municipal
 Commissioners have selected
 another site for this purpose.
 Mr Taylor now asks for a
 G.O. to enable him to refuse
 permission for the burial of
 native Christians in St Thomas's
 Church.
 It will perhaps be sufficient
 to refer him to the previous
 orders on this subject, and to
 add that such burials
 should take place in the site
 at Kandal which has been
 especially set apart for this
 purpose.

I think a distinct
 order should issue
 restricting the use of
 the cemetery adjoining
 St Thomas's Church
 to Europeans & East
 Indians.

The officer in charge must have sufficient

For orders.

The suggestion made
 in these papers that
 an order of Government
 should be passed, ~~defining~~
 defining as not fixing
 the Chaplain at Kotaka
 - must authority to
 refuse permission for
 future interments of
 native Christians in the
 cemetery of St Thomas
 may, it is thought,
 be acted on.

It may be well to
 run over the past
 correspondence.

In 1874, the bishop
 proposed to enclose
 the Churchyard of
 St Thomas's, and to
 use it as the burial
 ground for Kotaka
 as the burial ground
 attached to St Stephen's.

was nearly filled with
frames.

This proposal was
agreed to. (G.O. No.
245, October 20th 1874)

In 1877, the Govt.
sanctioned the can-
-secration of the part
of St Thomas's Cemetery
not reserved for the
burial of Non-Confessing
(G.O. No. 212, Sept. 21st 1877)

On the 7th idemo the
Bishop asked for in-
-struction as to whether
the new Cemetery might
be used by Natives
as the old
had till then been
used. He ^{expressed} ~~expressed~~
himself in favour
of this being ~~allowed~~
~~to do so~~ - an religious
grounds - but allowed
that it was contrary
to ~~the~~ the Govt. of

Authority to refuse
compliance with
requests for permis-
sion to inter Native
Christians. Evidently
they will not take
his word for law
for I heard him give
out publicly some
notice last year
to a number of Native
Christians that St Thomas
Churchyard would

not thereafter be
available for them
& they don't seem to
heed what he says.

It is unfortunate
if this gives rise to
any unpleasant
feeling but I hold
it to be a necessary
restriction simply
on the ground of con-
venience. If native
interments continue
there it will be neces-
sary to provide a new
Cemetery in a very
few years. C. J. H.
27/11

I think it will be well to have
a notice Board put up
at each of the Cemeteries

This Cemetery is reserved
for the interment of
Europeans & East Indians

Native Christians

By order of Govt.

H. A. Chief Secretary

India
Rule that Cemeteries
were not to be pro-
-vided at the public
expense for Native
Christian Communities.

The Government then desired
the Commissioners to
report whether the
Municipality could
not provide a separate
burial ground for
Native Christians (See
Commissioner's No. 1735,
September 12th 1877;
and in a subsequent
order (G.O. No. 288,
Dec. 31st 1877) insisted
on a prompt selection
of a site for such
a burial ground.

The Commissioners
did not fix on a
suitable site till
April, 1881, and
~~in the meanwhile~~ it
appears (see ~~the~~
Archdeacon Drury's

letter printed with
G.O. No. 148, 31st July
1880) that Native Natives
were buried in a
corner of St Thomas's
Churchyard between
1874 & then.

In April, 1881, a
proper site was
selected for a Native
Natives burial ground
(G.O. No. 69, April 29th,
1881).

And as this was
understood to be
reserved for members
of the Church of
England, half an
acre more of land
was taken in an account
of Native Natives of
other religious bodies
(G.O. No. 93, June
13th, 1881)

It now seems that
some Native Natives

(2)

are most anxious
that St Thomas's Cemetery
shall ^{be, as, as they put it,} continue to
be used as a burial
ground for Natives
as well as Europeans.

An allusion to Non-
conformists is made
in the Chaplain's
letter, but as the
Nonconformists themselves
asked for the half
acre spoken of above
there must be some
misapprehension ap-
parently.

It is not a question
of religious community
that of ~~race~~ ^{religion}
race.

As the use of the
Church Cemetery ~~would~~
by Native Natives
would be against

the spirit, if not
the letter of the Govt.
of India rule; and
as the Govt. of
1877 chose not to
adopt the views of
the Bishop;
and as the Mission-
aries and Govt.
have gone to the
trouble and expense
of ~~for~~ finding
a lotting and ex-
cavating land as
a cemetery for Native
Hindus

it is submitted that
the issue of orders
restricting ^{the use of} St. Thomas'
Churchyard to Europeans
& East Indians is
desirable.

To save this course
may seem to draw
unavoidable distinction,
but, after all, it
is submitted that

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A troublesome &
difficult business.
If interment ^{of persons} have
once been permitted
in St. Thomas' cemetery,
it is difficult to
prevent them continuing
~~there~~ - and.

I think it would be
most unprudent to
take any ^{restriction} action in
the matter; but St.
Thomas' cemetery is

consecrated,
and the
24/1/85

so conspicuous a spot
that it is important
that it should be rightly well
planted & carefully
arranged. Let it be absolutely
open to all, black, white,
Catholic, Protestant but
exact very heavy fees
or demand the money to keep
up the cemetery. This will

prevent over-crowding
& save the community
for a long time from
the expense of ~~burying~~
burying
more ground.

MS
Jan 25/85
Council

is no use to try to
get rid of sentiment-
lace prejudice - 'falsity
of fancy' - or whatever
people may call
the desire of persons
with English blood
in them - to be buried
if not ~~among~~ ^{near} to their
relations & friends,
then at any rate
among their own
countrymen -
English residents
~~at the~~ at Rataca
residents of them -
will have that desire
and it cannot be
satisfied if there
be no cemetery
which can be used
within the town
is thrown open to
Native Hindus - a
body who are likely
to grow in time

numerous at last.

The future too
has to be borne in
mind. When St.
Thomas's Cemetery
is filled,
it will be difficult
to obtain a suitable
site within the Co. of
itself for a new
Cemetery & Chapel
will have to be
built wherever the
new Cemetery is;
so that there will
ultimately be much
trouble and expense.
That will be defered
for many years if
pub. insts. are
Native Missions, whether
Anglican or Roman
Catholic, using
the ground specially
provided some years
ago at the request
of their own Clergy.

14

13

The M. has already provided
a place of interment for
N. X. at bog. — The Govt
has no power to permit N.
X. to be buried in the
Cemetery under Govt. control
near St. Thomas' Church
such interments being
contrary to the 4th canon
of the Act of 17th as contained
in G.O.

The Council 3/12/85

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

Ce No. 9.

(mis)
Order No. 288/12th February 1885

The Governor in Council observes that the Madras Municipality have already provided a place at Kandal for the interment of native Christians.

2. Apart, however, from this fact, the Govt. of India have expressly laid it down in para 5 of their resolution embodied in G.O. 27 Dec. 1877. No. 286 that the Govt. cannot provide cemeteries at

The public expense
for native christian
communities, and under
the spirit of this ruling
it is not in the power
of the Govt. to permit
of the use by native
christians of a cem-
tery which is under
Govt. control.

3. The use of the
cemetery adjoining
St. Thomas' Church
should therefore be
restricted to Europeans
and East-Indians.

4. The reference from the
Chaplain of Ostacumund will be
disposed of by the Archdeacon
in accordance with
these instructions.

Vea. the Archdeacon.
Colt. of the Virgin

St. Thomas Cemetery

No. 178/85

DISPOSED OF

12th 85

BY CO. 28 (mis)

HONORABLE MEMBER

574-
M7/2/5