

Ecclesiastical (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 3

Dated 14-1-97

INDEXED.

10-10

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing the Rev. W. Roberts of the Unitarian Mission, with remarks, that the Govt is not prepared to modify existing arrangement for burial in the Parasavakkam General Cemetery.

21
14/1

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[Eccl.]
[1.]
200-28-0-06.

Ecclesiastical (189) Department.

End No. 2392.

CURRENT No. 287

Referred to the
Secretary, Madras Missionary
Conference, for favour
of remarks

(By order)

A. L. Hannay
Asst. Secy

From H. A. Stuart Esq. I.C.S.
Private Secretary to
H.E. the Governor.

Order

30/3
17.11.6.

John St George
17 November 1896 }

TO BE RETURNED
WITH REPLY.

No.

Dated 31/10

Received 2/11

Registered 3/11

Enclosures -

Spare copies -

SUBJECT.

Transfers a petition D 29 15
Oct. 1896 from Rev William
Roberts, Unitarian Missionary,
Paseewalkum, Madras, praying
for orders being issued for
the burial of deceased
members of his congregation
free of charge in the
General Cemetery &c

(By order)

(Sd) H. A. Stuart
Private Secy

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CURRENT No. 287

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Sir Arthur Havelock GCMG GCIE
Governor of Madras.
Your Excellency,

I beg leave most humbly and respectfully to approach Your Excellency with this appeal on behalf of my Congregation. The Unitarian Christians of Madras who are labouring under great disadvantages at present with regard to a place for the burial of their dead.

1. My father, the late Reverend William Roberts was the founder of the Unitarian Mission in Madras nearly a century ago. at his own cost built a Chapel which is in Menéndez Lane, Fursewaukham and purchased a piece of ground in the outskirts of the City near Kilpauk for use as a Burial ground. The Chapel was opened in 1813 and the Burial ground in 1800 or 96 years ago. In 1894 a Mr Burns who purchased a house about 200 yards from the Burial ground got a certificate from Dr Brockman reporting that the grave yard was unhealthy - being close to houses, this was supported by the then Sanitary Commissioner Dr Furnell and the grave yard was closed by Government for further burials.

803187
14-2-85
Haggs C.B.
and 25207
21-11-84
Haggs D.
I might here mention for your Excellency's kind consideration that the General Cemetery in Fursewaukham a portion of which is now allotted for Unitarian Christians is surrounded by dwelling houses on all sides and within 10 yards of its compound wall, so is another Cemetery in the same locality but no exception has been taken to these.

4. After our Burial ground was closed a piece of ground was given instead at Kilpauk, about 2 furlong from our old grave yard, and by the side

of a mullah and a village. This was again closed by the Municipality and a portion of the General Cemetery was allotted for Unitarians.

5. The disadvantages which the members of my Congregation are now laboring under are:-
That unless certified by me that the deceased member is a Pauper a charge of Rs 4/8 has to be paid for in the General Cemetery. There have been several cases where I could not certify that the deceased was a Pauper or belongs to a Pauper family yet I am aware that it was with much difficulty and trouble payment had to be made for the grave whereas in the grave yard provided for Unitarian Christians by my father no fee was charged. This was owing to the congregation being composed of very poor people - professing the Unitarian faith for Conscience sake.

6. I hereby quote Paras 5 and 6 of letter No. 475 of 22nd March 1886 from a letter from Deputy Surgeon General Bidie, Sanitary Commissioner, Madras to the Chief Secretary which will enable your Excellency to judge whether the allotment of a portion of the General Cemetery to bury our dead with a payment of Rs 4/8 in some cases is justifiable.

"Para 5.-"I find that the subject was referred to my predecessor under your office docket No. 2265 of 8th October 1884 and that from personal inspection and on a certificate from Surgeon Major Brockman reporting the grave yard as unhealthy, he considered that on Sanitary grounds it should be closed and a piece of ground granted elsewhere."

"Para 6.- I am also of opinion that as a general rule it is most undesirable that
Cemeteries

"Cemeteries should exist in the proximity of houses but as this place presumably existed before the dwellings in the neighbourhood and as the ground is apparently private property it appears to me that Mr Roberts' objections would be best met by the Municipality giving him an equivalent and separate piece of ground in a less objectionable locality with assistance towards levelling and fencing the new site. It will be observed that Mr Roberts does not approve of the ground allotted to him in the General Cemetery."

7. I therefore beg your Excellency will be kindly pleased to order the burials of deceased members of my Congregation free of any charge in the General Cemetery. Or if this cannot be done that a charge of Rs 4/8 be enforced only for the burials of those who were on the receipt of an Income of more than Rs 30 and their families. Or if this also cannot be done to grant a separate place for burials of deceased members of my Congregation.

8. It was my desire to present this appeal in person to your Excellency but being more than 77 years of age my state of health and circumstances do not allow me to do so at present, however I beg and fully trust that my request on behalf of my Congregation will be taken into your Excellency's most favorable consideration.

9. With every mark of respect and with my earnest wish and prayer that your Excellency's regime will be blessed by the Almighty with the most fruitful results to be a blessing to those over whom your Excellency has been wisely selected to rule.

I beg to remain

Yours

Your Excellency's most
obedient and most humble servant,

William Roberts.

Unitarian Missionary

Menacanda Lane,
Pursewankam,
Madras 29th October 1896.

Ecclesiastical (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 328



Order

From

H. A. Stuart Esq. J. C. S.
Private Secretary to
the Governor

No.

Dated 19th December 1896.

Received 22nd Dec 96.

Registered 5th Jan 97.

Enclosures / (i.e. C. No. 287 of 96) (att)

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Transfers a letter dated 18th
December 1896 from the Rev.
J. W. Kellett, Secretary, Madras
Missionary Conference, Roy-
pettah, in reply to Chief
Secretary's Endorsement
No. 2392 dated 17th November 1896.

/ By Order,

H. A. Stuart

Private Secretary.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	103 59	Public	10-10-89 25-8-92

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Royapettah
18. 12. 1896

From the Rev. H. W. Kellett
Secretary, Madras Missionary Conference.

To the Private Secretary to
H. E. The Governor of Madras

Sir
The enclosed petition from the Rev William Roberts to H. E. the Governor referred to me for remarks has been considered by the Committee in charge of the Pursewalkum General Cemetery and by the Madras Missionary Conference and I am instructed to remark on it as follows:-

2. The claim upon Government to a separate burial-ground for the members of his church which Mr Roberts puts forward is a matter which we are not called upon to discuss. But under the existing arrangements by which his Congregation shares with other non-anglican Protestants the Pursewalkum General Cemetery we are of opinion that Mr Roberts has no substantial ground of complaint. It may be added that this is the first intimation we have received that he had any fault to find with the management of the cemetery.
3. His Congregation labours under no disadvantage but what is common to all

18. 12. 81

18. 12. 1896

congregations which bury their dead in this cemetery. The fees are levied completely without reference to the church to which the deceased belonged.

4. Mr Roberts is wrong in saying (Para 5 of his petition) 'unless certified by me that the deceased is a pauper a fee of Rs 4/8 has to be paid to the General Cemetery'. The Manager of the cemetery has the following instructions:-

- (a) to collect the fees prescribed by the Govern-
ment when the parties are able to pay them
- (b) to make a reduction in these fees when the
parties are not able to pay the full
amount
- (c) in extreme cases to remit all charges
whatever.

whatever.
To the congregation of Mr. Roberts as to others
these rules have been applied.
... of the bunials against which

5 The following list of the burials against which Mr Roberts Name stands in the Register for the last two years, with the fees paid as shown in the account-book of the cemetery, will show how they have been applied to his congregation.

Jan'y 7, 1895 Susan Abel 83 years of age, Jan. do 1.00.00
June 6, 1895 Joseph Benjamin 40 years of age do 1.00.00
August 29, 1895 Solomon Samuel 2 1/2 years do 2.00.00
April 4, 1896 M. Trave (?) do 1.00.00
August 13, 1896 Samuel Meshworth (?) do 2.00.00

In the face of this list, it is difficult to understand Mr. Roberts' contention.

6. With reference to the request made by Mr Roberts

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Lathrop

Royapettah

congregations which bury their dead in this cemetery. The fees are levied completely without reference to the church to which the deceased belonged.

4. Mr Roberts is wrong in saying (Para 5 of his petition) 'unless certified by me that the deceased is a pauper a fee of Rs 4/8 has to be paid to the General Cemetery'. The Manager of the cemetery has the following instructions:-

- (a) to collect the fees prescribed by the Government when the parties are able to pay them
- (b) to make a reduction in these fees when the parties are not able to pay the full amount
- (c) in extreme cases to remit all charges whatever.

To the congregation of Mr Roberts as to others these rules have been applied.

5 The following list of the burials against which Mr Roberts' Name stands in the Register for the last two years, with the fees paid as shown in the account-book of the cemetery, will show how they have been applied to his congregation:-

Jan 7, 1895	Susan Abel	83 years of age	Rs 1.00.0
June 6, 1895	Joseph Benjamin	40 years of age	Rs 1.00.0
August 29, 1895	Solomon Samuel	2 1/2 years	Rs 2.00.0
April 4, 1896	Mr Irave	(?)	Rs 1.00.0
August 13, 1896	Samuel Meshworth	(?)	Rs 2.00.0

In the face of this list, it is difficult to understand Mr Roberts' Contention.

6. With reference to the request made by Mr Roberts

in para 7 of his petition, the conference can see no reason for any discrimination being made in the Pursuvalbum General Cemetery in favor of any one body of Christians, and believes that such discrimination could only be a source of difficulty. If Government wishes the burials of Unitarians to be exempt from fees, the conference would ask that they may have a separate ground.

So far as the conference is aware there has never been any serious difficulty in the settlement of the fees to be paid, and until the working of the present rules is shown to be unsatisfactory, it would seem unnecessary to make new ones

I have the honor to be
Your obedient servant

J.W. Kellett

Jan 7, 1895 Susan Abel 83 years of age 1.00.00
June 6, 1895 Joseph Benjamin 60 years of age 2.00.00
August 29, 1895 Solomon Samuel 2 1/2 years 20.00.00
April 4, 1896 Mr. Isaac (2) 20.00.00
August 13, 1896 Samuel Meadworth (?) 20.00.00

In the face of this list, it is difficult to understand Mr Roberts' contention

6 With reference to the request made by Mr Roberts

congregations which bury their dead in this cemetery. The fees are levied completely without reference to the church to which the deceased belonged. My Roberts is wrong in saying (para 2 of his petition) 'unless certified by me that the deceased is a member or free of the church, the manager of the cemetery has the following instructions: -

- (a) to collect the fee prescribed by the government when the parties are able to pay them
 - (b) to make a reduction in these fees when the parties are not able to pay the full amount
 - (c) in extreme cases to permit all charges to be paid by others
- to the congregation of Mr Roberts as to others these rules have been applied.
- 2 The following list of the burials against which Mr Roberts has made in the register for the last two years, with the fees paid or shown in the account-book of the cemetery, will show how they have been applied to his congregation:

August 13, 1896 Samuel Meadworth (?) 20.00.00
April 4, 1896 Mr Isaac (2) 20.00.00
August 29, 1895 Solomon Samuel 2 1/2 years 20.00.00
June 6, 1895 Joseph Benjamin 60 years of age 2.00.00
Jan 7, 1895 Susan Abel 83 years of age 1.00.00

in the face of this list, it is difficult to understand Mr Roberts' contention. With reference to the request made by Mr Roberts

Now obedient servant
I have the honor to

Ecel: Dept

Cs 287 and 328 of 1896

Hon W. J. Grose C. I. E.

Order N^o 3 of 14-1-97.

M^r. Roberts will be informed, with reference to his communication of the 29th October last, that after considering a report on the subject from the Secretary, Madras Missionary Conference, the Govt is not prepared to modify existing arrangements. M^r. Roberts will be at liberty to specify any case during the past two years in which the full fee of Rs 4/8 has been insisted on.

JG
11/1/97

J.B.
6.1.97.

A.H.
6/1/97

J.B.
9/1/97

To
M^r. H. Roberts
Unitarian Missionary,
Chelcey, Madras Missionary Conference

Dec/ed
19/1/97

11/1/97
2nd 1/4

Then given for copying _____
Then copied _____
Then examined 16.1. } 189
Then signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189 ,

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING WANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.