

Ecclesiastical (1897) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 76

DATED 6.10.97

INDEXED.

5-6

[Despatch Abstract.]

The Rev: R. H. Stevenson.

Comg: to the Senior Chaplain,
Church of Scotland, letter from the
G.O. stating that it is unable to
comply with the proposal for the
retransfer of ~~the Rev: R. H. Stevenson~~
— to Secunderabad.

P
21/10/97

Communicating to the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, letter from the Government of India stating that it is unable to comply with the proposal for the retransfer of — to Secunderabad.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. Nos. 47, 48, Ecclesiastical, dated 16th July 1897.

Read—the following letter from the Revd. W. F. ARCHIBALD, Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 5th July 1897, No. 78-A:—

I have the honour to inform you that Revd. B. Pratt, Acting Chaplain, Saint Andrew's Church, Secunderabad, has intimated to me that he desires to be relieved of his appointment as soon as possible, as he is about to leave the station on duty connected with his mission. There is no other clergyman in Secunderabad who can take up the appointment.

2. I have therefore to request that the Government of India be asked to retransfer the Revd. R. H. Stevenson, Chaplain, Sialkot, to his own Presidency, so that he may resume charge of the chaplaincy of St. Andrew's, Secunderabad, without delay.

3. The services of Mr. Stevenson were placed at the disposal of the Government of India on account of "The Royal Scots Fusiliers" requiring a chaplain, but since then the Secretary of State, having seen the necessity of appointing more chaplains to the Bengal establishment so as to prevent as much as possible the borrowing of chaplains from other Presidencies, has sanctioned the addition of two chaplains to Bengal Ecclesiastical department (Church of Scotland).

4. These two chaplains will, I understand, be available for duty at the end of this month or beginning of August. The Chaplain of "The Royal Scots Fusiliers," presently on furlough, returns to duty on 6th October.

5. I have to state that I consider that there will be no difficulty in retransferring Mr. Stevenson at once, as that gentleman informed me a few days ago that he had applied for three months' privilege leave from 1st August, so that satisfactory arrangements must have been made for the work to be carried on during his absence.

6. I have telegraphed to the Senior Chaplain, Bengal establishment, to hold back Mr. Stevenson's application for leave till this question of retransferring his services is settled.

7. If Mr. Stevenson is not sent back as soon as possible, it will be my painful duty to close the church at Secunderabad—a step which, I trust, will not require to be taken.

8. Under these circumstances, viz., that two additional chaplains will be available for duty in Bengal shortly, and that the Chaplain of the Royal Scots Fusiliers at Sialkot is due on 6th October from furlough, I beg most respectfully and earnestly to ask that His Excellency the Governor in Council will request the Government of India to retransfer the Revd. R. H. Stevenson to Secunderabad without delay.

Order—Mis. No. 47, Ecclesiastical, dated 16th July 1897.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.

Letter—Mis. No. 48, Ecclesiastical, dated 16th July 1897, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Ecclesiastical).

I am directed to forward copy of a letter from the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, Madras, reporting that the Revd. B. Pratt, of the Wesleyan Mission, who has been officiating in the room of the Revd. R. H. Stevenson at St. Andrew's Church, Secunderabad, has intimated his desire to be relieved of his appointment as soon as possible as he is about to leave the station on duty connected with his mission, and requesting that the Revd. R. H. Stevenson may be retransferred to Secunderabad as there is no clergyman at that station who can take up the appointment. The Revd. Mr. Archibald observes that the services of the Revd. Mr. Stevenson were required at Sialkot because the Royal Scots Fusiliers were without a chaplain, but that since then the Secretary of State has sanctioned the addition of two chaplains of the Church of Scotland to the Bengal establishment (*vide* despatch No. 33, dated 8th April 1897, communicated with Government of India, Home Department, letter No. 195, of the 22nd ultimo). The Revd. Mr. Archibald understands that these two chaplains will be available for duty very shortly, and that the chaplain of the Royal Scots Fusiliers returns to duty on the 6th October.

2. It is further represented by the Senior Chaplain that there would be no difficulty in retransferring the Revd. Mr. Stevenson at once as he has applied for three months' privilege leave, and satisfactory arrangements must apparently have been made for carrying on his work during his absence.

3. In support of the Senior Chaplain's request that the Revd. Mr. Stevenson may be retransferred to his own Presidency, I am again to invite attention to the declaration in despatch No. 7, dated 20th September 1869, from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, referred to in telegram No. 684, of the 25th November last, that when a church has once been built, the chaplain cannot be removed, and to add that the closing of the church at Secunderabad, which the Revd. Mr. Archibald reports is the only alternative, would, in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, be much to be regretted, as it would deprive a large number of Government servants, Civil and Military (158 in all), of the place of worship which has hitherto been open to them.

4. I am to request the favour of a reply by telegram, as it appears from the letter from the Senior Chaplain that the Revd. Mr. Stevenson's application for leave is held over pending orders on this subject.

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

READ—also the following paper:—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Ecclesiastical), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 10th September 1897, No. 352.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 48, dated the 16th July 1897, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, Madras, in which he reports that the Revd. Mr. Pratt, of the Wesleyan Mission, who has been officiating in the room of the Revd. R. H. Stevenson at St. Andrew's Church, Secunderabad, has intimated his desire to be relieved of his appointment as

he is about to leave the station on duty connected with his mission. In requesting that Mr. Stevenson may be retransferred to Secunderabad on the ground that there is no clergyman at that station who can take up the appointment, the Revd. Mr. Archibald observes (1) that the services of the Revd. Mr. Stevenson were required at Sialkot, because the Royal Scots Fusiliers were without a chaplain, but that since then the Secretary of State has sanctioned the addition of two chaplains to the Bengal establishment, and (2) that the chaplain who was in charge of the Royal Scots Fusiliers will return on the 6th October next. In your letter forwarding Mr. Archibald's request a reference is made to the despatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, No. 7, dated 20th September 1869, as containing a declaration that when a church has once been built, the chaplain cannot be removed, and it is added that the closing of the church at Secunderabad, which the Revd. Mr. Archibald reports is the only alternative, would, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be much to be regretted, as it would deprive a large number of Government servants of the place of worship hitherto open to them.

2. In reply, I am to say that the proposal submitted in your letter has been carefully considered by the Governor-General in Council in the light of the previous discussion on the subject of the provision of chaplains of the Church of Scotland for India. In order, if possible, to meet, if only temporarily, the wishes of the Government of Madras in the matter, a reference was made to the Government of the Punjab to ascertain whether the Revd. Mr. Stevenson had availed himself of the leave granted to him, as, if he had not, the Governor-General in Council proposed to ask him to forego his leave for the time and proceed to Secunderabad for three months in order to afford temporary aid to the Madras establishment and to enable the Government of Madras to make satisfactory arrangements for the continuance of services at St. Andrew's Church. Mr. Stevenson had, however, already proceeded on leave, and the Government of Punjab report that if the privilege leave granted to him had been cancelled the state of his health was such that it would have been necessary for him to take leave on medical certificate.

3. On the general question of the provision of chaplains of the Church of Scotland in India, the views of the Governor-General in Council have already been

* No. 103, dated 30th March 1896.
" 12 " 13th January 1897.

expressly took account of the despatch, dated 20th September 1869, quoted in paragraph 3 of your letter. The same views were communicated to the Secretary of State in despatch No. 24, † dated 20th January 1897, and they have been endorsed by the Secretary of State in his despatch † of 8th April 1897. It was stated in the despatch

of 20th January 1897 that, while the permanent average of Scotch Regiments in India is seven, the number will be eight for the next five years. Apart from the six chaplains assigned to the Presidency towns, six chaplains, as mentioned in the Secretary of State's despatch of 8th April, were made available for duty with Scotch Regiments, and His Lordship has sanctioned the addition of two, while allowance has to be made for one on leave. So long, therefore, as there are eight Scotch Regiments to each of which a chaplain has to be detailed, the total number of chaplains apart from those in the Presidency towns being nine, there could only be one to spare at times when there happened to be none on leave, a contingency which does not exist at present.

4. Mr. Scott, who was formerly in charge of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and on whose return the Revd. Mr. Archibald reckons in his application for Mr. Stevenson's reversion, has submitted an application for extension of leave for three months, and on his return to duty the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland in Bengal will proceed on furlough. There are at present three Presbyterian Regiments in Northern India without a chaplain, and it will therefore be seen that the arrival of the two new chaplains will not render it possible to dispense with Mr. Stevenson's services consistently with the principle that the first obligation is to provide for the spiritual wants of the troops. In these circumstances, it does not appear that it will be possible,

until the number of Scotch Regiments in India diminishes, to provide a chaplain from the establishment for service in the Madras Presidency. The Governor-General in Council accordingly much regrets that he is unable to comply with the proposal for the retransfer of Mr. Stevenson's services.

ORDER—No. 76, Ecclesiastical, dated 6th October 1897.

Communicated to the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.

(True Extract.)

for Chief Secretary.

To the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.

Ed. C. M. Thambaswamy.

Ecclesiastical (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 235

From the Governor

From

Read again
16.7.97
42-48 Eccl (a)
235 (a)
Order W-7686
A

Communicated
to the Senior Chaplain
Church of Scotland

Dated 10
Received 18
Registered 20
Sept 1997

No. 352

CW
23.9.7.

16.
23/9/97

24/9/7

Enclosures

Spare copies 7 of current

Note these request for 4 of the

has been 4/10/97 has been ignored.

Probably this time to Archbishop's House, but the letter
has gone.

SUBJECT.

2

The Sen. Chap Ch of Scotland

Disallowing the proposal for
the transfer of Mr Stevenson
to Secunderabad.

3 disp
20/10/97

SA
21/10/97

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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