

Ecclesiastical (1898) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O. No. 35

DATED 16-3-98

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund

Recording letter from
the Rev the Bishop forwarding copy
of his letter to the Rev C. H. L. Wright
adjudicating on certain questions left
for his disposal regarding the depu-
tations in the accounts of the —

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16/3/98

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

<i>Recd.</i>	} 1898.	<i>Enclosures</i>
<i>Regd.</i>		<i>Spare copies</i>

G.O., No. 35, 16th March 1898.

MARCH.

St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund.

Recording letter from the Right Reverend the Bishop forwarding copy of his letter to the Reverend C. H. L. Wright adjudicating on certain questions left for his disposal regarding the defalcations in the accounts of the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Reverend C. H. PELLY, M.A., Bishop's Chaplain, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 4th March 1898, No. 1751.

With reference to G.O., No. 26, Ecclesiastical, dated 12th February 1898, paragraph 5, I have the honour, by desire of the Right Reverend the Bishop, to forward, for the information of Government, a copy of his letter to Reverend C. H. L. Wright, adjudicating on the questions left for his disposal.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Right Reverend the Bishop of Madras, to the Reverend C. H. L. Wright, Chaplain, dated Madras, 3rd March 1898.

I have received your letter of the 28th ultimo regarding the G.O., No. 26, Ecclesiastical, dated 12th February 1898, on the defalcations found last year in the accounts of St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund.

2. I very much regret that, when you wrote early in 1896 to ask my Chaplain for the papers relating to the charges about the management of the church accounts brought by General Tillard against Dr. Durham, they were not to be found. But I may observe (1) that the purport of General Tillard's letter was not to bring "charges of dishonesty against the clerk" (Government Order, paragraph 4), but to draw attention to the irregularity with which the Chaplain had allowed the accounts to be kept; and (2) that the books and vouchers were carefully examined by the General himself and Mr. Wace (my Chaplain at the time) and no defalcation was found, but serious irregularity.

3. I recognize also that the favourable testimonials given by previous Chaplains to Mr. Stephens were calculated to put you off your guard, and constitute an excuse for some degree of laxity in your dealings with him, but not a justification of it.

4. It appears that the defalcations of last year amounted to Rs. 1,820-7-4.

5. According to paragraph 5, the Government has decided that the sum of Rs. 302-8-0 was the property of Government and has directed that you should make good that amount to Government, and with regard to the remainder, viz., Rs. 1,517-15-4, has left to the Bishop the question of recovering the whole or any part of it, and apparently also the question of the responsibility of the church committee.

6. I do not understand the members of a church committee to be responsible for more than a general supervision of church moneys. They should see that the books are kept up, that the statements of accounts are produced at their meetings and found in order; but cannot be expected to scrutinize every item, or to doubt the Chaplain's word when he represents by word or by his signature that the statements and books are correct.

7. I regret therefore that the burden of making good to the St. Stephen's Church Fund the sum of Rs. 1,517-15-4 or so much of it as has not been, or may not otherwise be, reimbursed rests with you.

8. I understand that the debt is already reduced by Rs. 400 paid by Mr. Stephens; and that the church committee holds a bond for Rs. 500 given as security for Mr. Stephens when he was first appointed clerk. I hope the church committee will be able to recover this.

9. You will no doubt be permitted, if you wish, to make the payment in monthly instalments.

ORDER—No. 35, Ecclesiastical, dated 16th March 1898.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

14.3.98
16.3.98

Ecclesiastical (1898) Department.

CURRENT No.

84



From

The Rev. C. F. Pelly, M.A.
Bishop's Chaplain.

E
Am. & Co.
Order
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29
10/3/98
Recorded

14998

No. *1981*

Dated *4th* March 1898

Received *5 - 3 - 98*

Registered *5 - 3 - 98*

Enclosures *one* *Recd 4.3.98 in H.P.*

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwards for the informa-
- tion of each copy of a letter to
the Rev. C. H. Wright regarding
the defalcations the Potomac
Church Accounts.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
26	12-2	98	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Final copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

Read back G.O. No.

DATE

Number of copies
required

Order complete. 25
Letter only.
Order complete with Letter.

Print only spare
copies please.

Exhibit No. — 84 with enclosure — A.

Enclosure to G. No.

Order of Government

A.

Letter of Government

Statement with Order

Papers not filed up, being sent for revision
in original.

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
C = Printed (not on).
D = Print heading only.