

Ecclesiastical (1898) Department.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Churches consecrated for the services of the Church of England

Coming to the Rt Rev the Bishop, the Venble the Archdeacon, the Senior Chaplain Church of Scotland, & the D.H. Madras Command, resolution of the font of India prescribing certain revised rules to regulate the use of — for the services of the denominations.

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16/7/98

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G.O.	No.	Department	Date	G.O.	No.	Department	Date
C.O.	357/98	(Beshlopi chapt)					
C.O.	156/98	(2/4/9)					

Recd.

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Enclosures

1898.

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G.O., No. 92, 16th July 1898.

JULY.

Churches consecrated for the services of the Church of England.

Churches consecrated for the services of the Church of England.

Communicating to the Right Reverend the Bishop, the Venerable the Archdeacon, the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, and the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command, resolution of the Government of India prescribing certain revised rules to regulate the use of — for the services of other denominations.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department (Ecclesiastical), under date Simla, the 17th June 1898, Nos. 271—86.

Read again:—

The Regulations issued by the Government of India, on the 10th September 1860, for the use for Presbyterian worship of Churches consecrated for the services of the Church of England.

Military Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 80, dated the 17th September 1896.

Letters to the Governments of Madras and Bombay and the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland, Calcutta, Nos. 313—315, dated the 2nd November 1896.

Letters to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and the Punjab, Nos. 101—102, dated the 22nd March 1897.

Read—also the undermentioned papers:—

Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 96, dated the 14th December 1896.

Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 25, dated the 18th March 1897.

Letter from the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland, Calcutta, No. 781, dated the 23rd December 1896.

Letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 979, dated the 10th April 1897.

Letter from the Government of the Punjab, No. 857, dated the 28th August 1897.

Communication from the Military Department, No. 1402-C., dated the 2nd August 1897.

Communication from the Military Department, No. 1783-C., dated the 25th September 1897.

Resolution.—The regulations dated the 10th September 1860, referred to in the preamble to this resolution, were designed to enable Churches consecrated for the services of the Church of England to be used, with the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese in each case and under certain restrictions, for Presbyterian worship. In a memorandum presented to Her Majesty's Secretary of State in the year 1896 by a deputation from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, it was represented that the attention of that body had been frequently called to the difficulty experienced in some cases in obtaining the use of Government Churches in India for Presbyterian services under the existing regulations. From inquiries instituted into the matter it appears that the cases of substantial complaint are not very numerous, but the Government of India have noticed with regret that instances have occurred when the use

for Presbyterian worship of buildings provided by Government and consecrated for the services of the Church of England has been disallowed, and further that in one case the use of an unconsecrated building (a regimental school-room) was refused for such worship. The Governor-General in Council trusts that such instances will not be allowed to recur.

2. In 1860, when the rules referred to in the preamble were drafted, the number of Wesleyans was comparatively small. Since that time they have become sufficiently numerous among the soldiers to justify the concession being made to them, which was then granted to the Presbyterians. It is, moreover, in the opinion of the Government of India, desirable to provide that the use of Churches may be allowed to Presbyterian or Wesleyan Ministers ministering to soldiers, even though they are not Chaplains on the regular establishment. The power of allowing or disallowing the use of regimental schools and other unconsecrated buildings for purposes of worship rests with the Officer Commanding the station and not with the ecclesiastical authorities. In case any doubt or uncertainty may arise in the interpretation or application of the rules, a reference will lie in the case of Churches situate in cantonments provided solely for the use of soldiers to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in consultation with the Metropolitan and in the case of other Churches to the Local Government in consultation with the Metropolitan. His Excellency in Council accordingly prescribes for general adoption the following revised rules to regulate the use of Churches consecrated for the services of the Church of England for the services of other denominations:—

(1) A Church provided by Government and consecrated for the services of the Church of England may be used for the services of the Church of Scotland and the Wesleyan Church and for the services of any other denomination to which the Government of India may from time to time make these rules applicable.

(2) The use of the Church shall be permissible both to Scotch Chaplains on the regular establishment and to Presbyterian and Wesleyan Ministers officiating with troops.

(3) It shall be necessary to obtain the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese in each case.

(4) The Bishop, or the Church of England Chaplain, or Clergyman of the Church of England performing the duties of Chaplain, shall, under the Bishop's instructions, fix the hours at which the Church shall be made available to the Presbyterian, Wesleyan or other congregations.

(5) The care of the Church and Church furniture and the expenditure and control of the Church establishment shall remain exclusively in the hands of the Chaplain or Clergyman of the Church of England performing the duties of Chaplain.

(6) The Bishop of the Diocese may withdraw his assent to use the Church for the worship of any congregation other than that of the Church of England whenever he shall think fit.

(7) If in any case dissatisfaction is felt with any order passed under these rules either as to the use of a Church by a congregation not belonging to the Church of England or as to the hour at which it is made available for the use of such congregation, the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland or the General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church, as the case may be, may bring the matter before the Lieutenant-General of the Command through the General Officer Commanding the district and the Lieutenant-General shall then, if he considers this necessary, communicate with the Bishop, in order, if possible, to arrange the matter with him. Should the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland or the General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church, as the case may be, be dissatisfied with the arrangement made between the Lieutenant-General of the Command and the Bishop, he shall be at liberty to ask the Lieutenant-General that the matter may be referred for final decision in the case of Churches situate in cantonments and provided solely for the use of soldiers to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and in the case of other Churches to the Local Government.

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Ecclesiastical (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 207

No. 92, ECCLESIASTICAL, 16TH JULY 1898.

Order—Ordered, that this resolution be communicated to Local Governments and Administrations, the Venerable the Officiating Archdeacon and Bishop's Commissary, the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland, Calcutta, the General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church and the Foreign and Military Departments.
Ordered also, that it be published in the Gazette of India.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) J. P. HEWETT,
Secretary to the Government of India.

To the Government of Madras.

ORDER—No. 92, Ecclesiastical, dated 16th July 1898.

Communicated to the Right Reverend the Bishop, the Venerable the Archdeacon, the Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland, and the Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding.
2. The resolution will be re-published in the Fort St. George Gazette.

(True Extract.)
G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Right Reverend the Bishop.
" Venerable the Archdeacon.
" Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland.
" Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command.
Gazette.

Ed. A. P. Eccleston.

1. Hm. ✓
2. H.E. the Governor

Order
No 92, 8 16 July 1898
11.7.98

Communicated to the
Rt. Rev. the Bishop, the Venerable the
Archdeacon, the Senior Chaplain,
Church of Scotland, and the Deputy
Adjutant-General, Madras Command,
for the information of the Lieut-
General Commanding.

2. The Resolution will be
re-published in the Fort St.
George Gazette

To
The Rt Rev. the Bishop
" Venerable the Archdeacon
" Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland
" Deputy Adjutant Genl, Madras Comm.
Gazette 19/7/98

From
The Govt of India,
Home Dept (rel.)

Nos: 271-26.

Dated 17
Received 27 } June 1898.
Registered

Enclosures -
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SUBJECT.

Comp: certain revised rules
to regulate the use of
Churches consecrated for
the services of the Church
of England for the services
of other denominations.

18/7/98
19/7/98
24/6/98
18/7/98
19/7/98
24/6/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	36	Ecd.	14.6.97
	26	"	14.12.96

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

Number of copies
enclosed.

DATED

Letter only.
Order complete with letter.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Number No.

Enclosure to G. No.

Letter of Government

Letter of Government

Statement with letter.

Papers submitted in which meant for printing
in original.

N.B. -

- A = Print in full.
- B = Not to be printed.
- F = Print abstract only.
- Q = Print heading only.