

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	729	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
Dated	12.5.19	886

129-130

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th May 1866.*

No. 129. Read the following letter from the Reverend T. HEELIS, Baptist Missionary, Nursapore, Godavery District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Nursapore, 21st April 1866.

I beg to enclose, with a request that you will bring it to the knowledge of Government: a copy of a letter which I addressed to the Sub-Collector of this District, also his reply to the same, which I am fully persuaded is not in harmony with the active measures taken by Government a few years ago, when all obscene images—although to the heathen mind “of a purely religious nature”—were destroyed in these parts.

2. The knowledge of this question having been agitated, and an acquaintance with the present decision of the Sub-Collector regarding it, will, I feel sure, have a most deleterious effect upon the Native mind, which, having such a license, would gladly run into every excess, giving it the broad appellation of “a religious nature.”

3. The paintings to which I refer in my letter to Mr. Webster are representations of human beings of both sexes in a state of nudity, and engaged in acts which cannot be mentioned.

From the Reverend T. HEELIS, Missionary, Nursapore, Godavery District, to E. F. WEBSTER, Esq., Sub-Collector, Godavery District; dated Nursapore, 19th April 1866.

I beg to inform you that, when passing through the village of Attily, in the Tanuku Taluq, the other day, I witnessed a Temple devoted to the worship of the Hindu god Rama, with figures of the most disgusting and demoralizing nature, painted in bright colors on its outer walls, and therefore exposed to the view of all passers by. I hear that the worship of their supposed deity, in the form of a light, is carried on in front of these figures every evening.

2. I believe that all such obscenities are prohibited by Government; therefore, feel assured that, for the good of all, you will use decisive measures for the abolition of such abominations, which are of recent date, and which, I think, display the inefficiency or apathy of Police (belonging to a nominally Christian Government), who are stationed within a stone's-throw of the place.

3. Hoping that nothing herein will offend, and that Idolatry may receive a blow through your jurisdiction, I am, &c.

From E. F. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate, Godavery District, to the Reverend T. HEELIS, Missionary, Nursapore, Godavery District; dated Nursapore, 20th April 1866, No. 70.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 19th instant.

2. The paintings to which you refer appear to be of a purely religious nature, and, therefore, under the special protection of the law.

3. The Police would be committing a serious breach of duty were they to take any steps towards the removal of the same.

No. 130. ORDER THEREON, 12th May 1866, No. 729.

The Governor in Council observes that representations engraved or painted upon Temples are expressly exempted from the operation of Section 292 of the Indian Penal Code, which prohibits the exhibition of obscene books and pictures, and that, consequently, the Government have no legal authority to order the removal of the same.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th May 1866.

val of the obscene paintings referred to by Mr. Heelis. His Lordship in Council, however, thinks it very desirable that the Joint Magistrate should point out to the Managers of the Pagoda the very objectionable character of the paintings in question, and should exert his influence to procure their removal.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Reverend T. Heelis.
Magistrate of the Godavery District.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter
from Rev. T. Heelis, Magistrate,
Mudapur-Godavery District.
(Received 21st April 1866)

Order thereon 12 May 1866 No 729.

The Governor in Council
has been informed by the
Joint Magistrate of the Godavery District
that representations engraved or
painted upon temples are frequently
enriched (XXXX) from the operation
of the law which prohibits
the exhibition of obscene books and
pictures and that many of the
books have been found
without authority to be
order the removal of
the obscene paintings
wherever they are
found. The Lordships

of Section 292 of the
Indian Penal Code which
prohibits the

W. H. Burns

To the Rev. T. Heelis, Magistrate of the Godavery District.
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Heelis. The Lordships

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Regarding obscene
representations

knows that it
may diminish but
the first master
should first ask
the managers of
the Capitol the very
objectionable character
of the paintings in
front and then
his influence to produce
their removal.

Dated 12th May 1866

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT

No 229

London 1866 Department

by R

(Council)